



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2019 SEASON PREVIEW



STRENGTH OF STEEL

Missing the playoffs last season has Lorain motivated for this year

The Titans' Tyshawn Lighty, Daylin Dower, Jordan Jackson (red jersey), Savon Chavis, Anthony Harley

OPINION

Let's go! It's anyone's year on area fields in 2019

It's hard to picture a more wide-open playing field than what we're facing this football season in our area.



Marissa McNeas
Columnist

Last year, Avon entered as the team to beat, having come off a state-semifinal season and returning their All-

Ohio quarterback among a host of other Division I college recruits, and after that, everyone pretty much knew where the best talent could be found across the county and beyond.

But this year there are a few more question marks than there have been in the past.

Yes, Avon is coming off yet another season in which it advanced to the D-II state semifinals, but graduated three-year starting quarterback, Ryan Maloy, as well as nine other starters including most of the offensive and defensive lines.

The Eagles aren't the only team that lost a lot either.

Possibly the team hit hardest by graduation is Olmsted Falls, which lost 18 starters — all seniors, including All-Ohioans Jack Spellacy, Nick Vance, Sam Lofton and Trae Henderson — from a 2018 team that finished 8-3 and made the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

Then there's Columbia, which graduated one of the best football players in Ohio: Brandon Coleman, who took his talents to Kent State after graduation, and features only



KELLY MILLUZZI — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia's quarterback looks to pass against Trinity on Aug. 23.

two seniors in its entire starting lineup this season.

Avon Lake, Bay, Clearview and Elyria Catholic round out the seven area teams to make the playoffs last season. All four lost crucial pieces to their lineups that will no doubt prove difficult to replace heading into Week 1.

With the disbanding of the Patriot Athletic Conference, the creation of

the new Lorain County Conference and the shifting of local teams to different leagues in the area, the dynamic of the 2019 season is already intriguing with days to go before the season officially opens.

There are three teams with first-year coaches, too: Scott O'Donnell at Brookside, Devlin Culliver at Elyria and Dan LaRocco at Westlake, to add to the

many new faces fans will see on the field this year.

It's unusual to head into a season with so many unknowns and no clear front-runner, but that's going to be what makes the 2019 season an exciting and memorable one.

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Preseason Top of the Crop



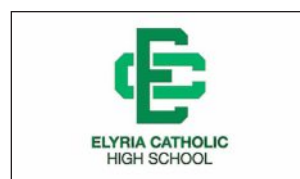
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2 Avon Lake: The Shoremen have lots to replace on offense but a solid defense should carry them this year.



3 Olmsted Falls: The Bulldogs haven't missed the playoffs since 2014 but graduated 18 seniors from last year's team.



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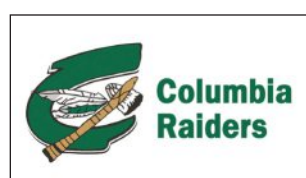
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7 Lorain: The Titans won't be satisfied with anything less than a reclaiming of the LEL title and a spot back in the postseason.



8 Columbia: Coach Jason Ward will have his team in conference and playoff contention as the season progresses.



9 Amherst: The Comets are young across the board, but have shown steady improvement since Coach Mike Passerrello took over in 2017.



10 North Olmsted: The Eagles have plenty to replace thanks to graduation, but could make some noise in the SWC again in 2019.

Watch list: Keystone, Fairview

Matt Wilhelm Award watch list

By **Marissa McNees**
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The Matt Wilhelm Award goes to The Morning Journal's football player of the year.

A watch list for the top players in the area will be published each week leading up to the presentation of the Matt Wilhelm Award. This list is fluid and can change week to week. The opening list is a guideline for some of the area's top returners and a benchmark to start the season.

WR Alex Angle, Jr., Firelands: Angle finished as the second-best statistical receiver as a sophomore with 832 yards and seven touchdowns on 57 receptions and averaged 14.6 yards per catch. The junior will be tasked with much of the offensive load this season as the Falcons look to rebound from a sub-par 2018 season.

RB Daylin Dower, Sr., Lorain: Dower was a top 10 rusher in 2018, finishing with 1,204 yards and 11 touchdowns on 107 carries, good for 11.3 yards per carry. The senior can do it all for the Titans and will likely have to catch passes as well as carry the ball this season.

RB C.J. Fleming, Sr., Clearview: The graduation of starter Drew Engle places more offensive responsibility on Fleming this season, but the senior enters the season as one of the area's leading tacklers, finishing with eight sacks in 2018.

TB Joe Governale, Jr., Columbia: Governale arguably has the most pressure of any incoming offensive player in the area, taking over for 2018 Lorain County Mr. Football and All-Ohioan Brandon Coleman. But Coach Jason Ward has been encouraged by what he's seen from the junior this preseason and has high expectations for Governale.

RB Chris Jackson, Sr.,

Elyria Catholic: Jackson takes over for former Panthers running back Leighton Banjoff who led the high-powered Elyria Catholic offense last season, and according to Coach Brian Fox has made great strides in the preseason as a projected starter.

QB Jordan Jackson, Sr., Lorain: Jackson finished among the top 10 area quarterbacks last season with a 19-3 touchdown-to-interception ratio, a 61 percent completion percentage and 1,572 yards. Coach Dave McFarland has said many times during the preseason that the Titans will go as Jackson goes in 2019.

WR Tyshawn Lighty, Sr., Lorain: Lighty enters the season as one of the most dynamic receivers in Northeast Ohio and as a top playmaker on the Lorain roster. He finished in the top 10 of area receivers as a sophomore with 582 yards and eight touchdowns on 33 receptions, averaging 17.6 yards per catch.



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain wide receiver Tyshawn Lighty (1) gains 39 yards against the Elyria Pioneers last season.

RB Nick Perusek, Sr., Avon: Injury kept Perusek from reaching his full potential last season but the senior is back and ready to power the Avon offense. He finished with 976 yards

and 12 touchdowns on 98 attempts in 2018, averaging 10 yards per carry for the state-semifinalist Eagles.

QB Jacob Shackelford, Sr., Keystone: Shackelford finished among the area's

best quarterbacks last season, completing 86 of 162 passes for 1,034 yards and five touchdowns. The senior will be leaned upon heavily in 2019 as the Wildcats look to improve upon a .500 season.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lorain coming together, eyeing a return trip to the D-I playoffs

By Marissa McNees

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In the early days of Lorain High School, the idea of the football team playing into November was virtually unheard of and there was never much to be excited about during the final weeks of the season.

The Titans' first playoff appearance came in 2014 — four years after the consolidation of Lorain City Schools — but the celebration ended soon after when they were bounced in the first round by eventual regional finalist and perennial state power Mentor.

It turns out a taste of the postseason was all Lorain needed and the Titans advanced two of the next three seasons, including a run to the Division I regional finals in 2016 that ended in a heart breaking 24-20 loss to Olentangy Liberty.

So last season when losses to Lake Erie League rivals Cleveland Heights and Maple Heights effectively eliminated Lorain from the playoffs for the first time since 2015, there was nothing short of anger and disappointment felt throughout the program.

"Those two games hurt," senior Savon Chavis said. "It didn't feel right not being in the playoffs."

And he and the rest of the seniors don't plan on letting it happen again.

Chavis, a running back, is one of a handful of returners on arguably one of the most dynamic offenses in Northeast Ohio, including quarterback Jordan



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A fumble by Avon Lake turned into a recovery and a return for a touchdown by the Lorain defense during a scrimmage Aug. 22. The Titans open their regular season on Aug. 30 at Brunswick.

Jackson, running back Daylin Dower and wide receiver Tyshawn Lighty.

They've all used that year of real varsity experience and the pain of losing what they feel is rightfully theirs to fuel them this offseason as they chase what would be the program's third conference title and playoff berth in four years.

"One of our main goals

is to make sure we all have chemistry because last year at the end of the season we lost all our chemistry, which is why we were playing bad," Lighty said. "This year we told all our younger guys we got to have chemistry, and since we're the senior leaders we told all them we have to come together."

Lighty finished tied for

second-most touchdown receptions (8) in Lorain County during last year's regular season and 10th in total yards (582).

Meanwhile, Jackson was among the top 10 quarterbacks with 1,572 yards and 19 touchdowns, Dower was a top-10 running back with 1,204 yards and 11 touchdowns and Chavis added six rushing touchdowns of his

own. And to think they're back for another go-round.

"We've been working all summer long on the offense, watching film, and they help me a lot," Jackson said of his fellow seniors. "If they see something I don't, we'll run it."

"We know last year was a letdown, especially those hard fought games against Maple Heights and Cleve-

land Heights, but this year it's different," Chavis added. "We're not gonna fall short. We're not gonna not finish. Our goal is to finish this year."

The Titans certainly have the talent of a playoff team, but know they need the defensive energy to match that of the offense if they want to avoid last year's disappointment.

In a scrimmage with D-II state champion Akron Hoban on Aug. 9, Lorain finally got a glimpse of what kind of potential lies within its defense when they laid big hit after big hit on a team full of D-I college recruits. It only served to motivate the Titans even more as opening night draws near.

"We might not have the biggest D-line but we've got some players," Chavis said. "It's all about having heart. You don't got to be the biggest person."

But as is true with virtually every Lorain team, playing for pride is just as important as playing to win, and this football team is all about pride — in themselves, in each other and in Lorain.

"We've worked too hard, spent too much time together working not to be all-state, all-whatever," Dower said. "This year we want to win the LEL and bring it back to The Steel and just going out every game and playing hard for each other. We're gonna carry the team," Chavis added. "We're gonna do whatever we've got to do to make this senior season what we've been waiting for. It's gonna be special."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lorain County Conference brings new opportunities for area teams

By Marissa McNees

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For nearly 15 years the Patriot Athletic Conference served as a home for teams across Lorain, Cuyahoga and Medina Counties, starting with 10 teams in 2005 and ending with 12 before its disbandment last year.

There were rivalries built over the years and relationships with opposing teams fostered on and off the field, but in the end the Lorain County coaches felt an imbalance throughout the PAC and thought it best to form their own league moving forward: the Lorain County Conference.

“What happened with the PAC is very similar to what happens with a lot of conferences,” Columbia coach Jason Ward said. “You always seem to get a school or a couple schools that kind of outgrow everybody else and I think that’s what happened with Buckeye.

“Buckeye was far and away the largest school in the league, and I think in terms of the number of championships they won, that kind of showed. When you’re dealing with a Division III school in a conference that is primarily made up of D-V’s and D-VI’s, there was an imbalance there. I think when you look at conferences and travel and all those things, and you’ve got Lutheran West and Fairview and Brooklyn in there and Cuyahoga County schools, not that it’s extremely far, but I think



AIMÉE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands coaches talk to their players after a scrimmage with Rocky River on Aug. 10.

when you bring everybody together like that, those schools are a little bit different. We’re all kind of rural areas and they are not.”

The new Lorain County Conference features eight teams, including: Black River, Brookside, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Oberlin and Wellington.

The remaining four teams found new homes around Northeast Ohio, with Fairview and Buckeye joining the Great Lakes Conference

and Brooklyn and Lutheran West joining the Chagrin Valley Conference.

It was shocking at the time, but for the Lorain County coaches, the move has been a long time coming.

“To be honest, I love the new conference,” Wellington coach Rob Howells said. “I’m from Lorain County. I originally grew up in North Ridgeville and from North Ridgeville, so I’m a little familiar with the old (West Shore) conference. Avon and Midview are bigger

now, and they’re out. You insert Columbia and Black River, and I think it’s going to get back to some of those old school, small school rivalries, which will be nice for everybody.”

The sense of community is what was seemingly most appealing to both the coaches and players, not just within the smaller conference but actual proximity between schools.

Now, there are shorter driving distances for games and a smaller-town men-

talities a lot of the Lorain County teams share.

“We’re very familiar with one another,” Ward said. “Some of my best friends are in and coaching in this league. I think you are dealing with like-minded athletes, coaches, communities and physically you’re dealing with similar people as well, so I think it’s extremely balanced in that regard.

“We’re so close too and our kids are so much alike with the Keystones and the Wellingtons and they are

like-minded coaches and like-minded communities. To only play those schools twice in a row and then not see them again for a number of years, it just felt wrong. So this is really an exciting thing for everybody.”

It’s what the players are most excited about with the new conference.

“I can’t wait to go up against these new schools like Clearview, Columbia, all the teams on the other side of the conference that we never got to go against,” Firelands junior Alex Angle said. “I think it will be a great matchup between us and the other teams.”

“More rivalries will start,” Columbia senior Drew Saki added. “Before, I thought our only rivalry was Lutheran West but now, in all sports, Keystone is a big one that could start and then Clearview as well so there’s just a lot more local competitiveness.”

And while it was maybe difficult to initially get off the ground, there’s a strong sense of relief for these Lorain County coaches who have been looking forward to starting fresh for some time.

“This just seems to be what it should have been for a long time,” Ward said. “I hope that it’s a conference that does have staying power, that 10 years from now, we’re talking about new rivalries and they are being really tough and getting four schools into the playoffs and all those things.”

Sports reporters Adam Schabel and Simon Hannig contributed to this story.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Pioneers have big goals set for 2019

By Simon Hannig

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There's a lot new about the Elyria football team this season.

At the forefront is a new mindset and direction.

The Pioneers are coming off an 0-10 season that they are more than happy to leave in the rearview mirror so as to focus on the future under first-year coach Devlin Culliver, who has a penchant for building programs.

The first step in this reclamation project comes Aug. 30 when the Pioneers head to Midview for a 7 p.m. kickoff against the tradition-rich Middies.

"I'm not a cop-out type of coach so I'm not going into the season talking about, 'Let's just be competitive because we were 0-10 last year.' To me that's a cop out," Culliver said. "We're trying to win a championship. We're trying to win a league championship and go to playoffs. That's it. I don't know another kind of way."

The league championship of which Culliver & Co. seeks would come in the rugged Greater Cleveland Conference, which sent four teams to the Division I, Region I postseason last year — tri-champions Mentor, Solon and Euclid, as well as Strongsville.

The Pioneers are not only part of that juggernaut of a league, but are also in that hammer house of Division I, Region I in the playoff system

None of which is scaring off the 2019 Pioneers.

"I want to make a play-off appearance," said senior right tackle Nate Bryant. "People don't think we can do it. We got a lot of people



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria quarterback Daylan Sharlow throws downfield against Avon during a scrimmage Aug. 17. The Pioneers open their season Aug. 30 against Midview.

doubting us. We'll make it happen."

To make that happen, scoring will need to increase over last season when they averaged 9.1

points per game.

Elyria only crossed the goal-line 10 times last season — seven on the ground and three through the air.

That being said, Culliver

and his staff have spent the offseason and preseason implementing a new offensive set geared toward putting points on the scoreboard, among other things.

"They're picking up on it pretty well," Culliver said. "It's a new defense and a new offense. Offensively, it's sort of familiar with the things they did last year. It was just the verbiage is different and the way I run offense is a little bit different in what they've been used to, but they're picking along pretty good."

Offensively, junior quarterback Daylan Sharlow is returning for another season.

Last year, he completed 40 passes, and 93 attempts. He finished with 454 passing yards, along with two touchdowns.

Returning junior's running back Jaheim Atkinson, and half back Jesse Stevens III are also back offensively, along with a-back Daveon Drummer, who will be a senior this season.

Junior left tackle Simon France, junior Bryce Badford, junior right guard Kobe Thomas and senior right tackle Nate Bryant are the last returning bunch offensively.

On the defensive side, senior nose tackle Nate Bryant, defensive end senior Tim Kenska, junior defensive end Jesse Stevens III, senior outside linebacker Mike Knapp, senior middle linebacker Ben Doehr and junior corner back Perryion Benton are all returning to the Pioneers.

When Culliver, who had previous successful building projects at Painesville Harvey and Maple Heights, took over in January, changing the culture and expanding expectations were among his first lessons he wanted to instill.

As Week 1 approaches, he is pleased with the rapidity of that quest.

"Yeah, it's night and day from when I first got here," Culliver said. "They

just weren't used to certain things."

Culliver noted the youth on the 2-8 team and acknowledged the difficulty a young team might have playing in the loaded GCC. That youth is now a year older and more experienced.

"I'm just trying to take advantage of (the experience) and use the building blocks that were already put in place," Culliver said. "I'm just trying to add onto what (former coach Sean Arno) already did already."

Early indications are that Culliver's message is being heard loud and clear by his new players.

"He's amazing," Bryant said.

"He's a father figure. He's a motivational speaker. Someone I look up to."

When Culliver was hired, the administration beamed with excitement over the potential of the program under his tutelage.

"We are looking forward to Coach Culliver joining our staff," said athletic director Heather Beck after the hiring. "He brings a lot of knowledge with him to the program and success in every coaching position he's held, but it goes beyond success on the field."

"Coach Culliver builds relationships with former players and coaches that last a lifetime. He has helped student athletes attain their goals of going to college to get an education, and to play football."

For the better part of seven months, Culliver's plan has been in the works.

A new direction. A new attitude. New goals.

The next step in that project comes Aug. 30 when the Pioneers venture to Midview to see how far they've come.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Avon retooling in 2019 after two straight trips to state final four

By Adam Schabel

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Avon is looking to keep the momentum going after a 12-2 season in 2018 and is seeking its third-straight state tournament appearance after making the state final four the past two seasons.

The Eagles' head coach Mike Elder said his team's approach doesn't change from year to year.

"We've been in the playoffs nine straight seasons and, honestly, our approach has never been different," Elder said. "It began all the way back in January for us and even after our loss to (Akron) Hoban, some of those guys were in the weight room right away. The process is in place here and our kids understand there is a checkpoint of things that we need to do to prepare ourselves and hopefully put ourselves in a position to compete in our league and then if you get into the playoffs.

"We really didn't do anything different, it's just a matter of grinding it out and doing all of the little things right and I think our kids so far this year have done that."

Senior running back Nick Perusek echoed Elder's sentiment that the process doesn't change much.

"We have some new coverages and plays that we are putting in but besides that, it's pretty much the same practice routine as last year and the year before," Perusek said. "It's been fun."



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon quarterback Danny Zae avoids the rush and throws downfield against Elyria during a scrimmage Aug. 17.

Senior offensive lineman Joe Svec likes what he sees so far but also realizes that his team has some things to work on.

"The last few scrimmages we saw what we can do and we saw what we are good at, however, we also saw what we are bad at," Svec said. "So right now it's just time

to grind it out and fix those things that we're bad at so we can take it to them in week one."

The Eagles have the task of replacing 10 starters from last season, however, Elder is used to the cycle of players graduating.

"Every year we lose a lot of starters at Avon," Elder

said. "Every year our kids graduate, and the truth is that new guys have to step up and so there are certainly some talented kids that left us. But the kids moving in have worked just as hard. I'm excited as they get older and grow through your program to see who the next version of the Avon

Eagles will be."

Avon will also have a new look under center this season.

Senior Danny Zeh is taking over at quarterback for 2018 starter Ryan Maloy, who graduated and committed to play football at Bowling Green State University. Maloy passed for 2,050 yards and 25 touchdowns last season while also rushing for 1,059 yards and 15 touchdowns. He earned first team All-Ohio, first team All-District, first team All-Northeast Ohio and first team All-SWC honors in 2018 while also winning the Matt Wilhelm Award in 2017.

Elder likes what he sees so far from Zeh and believes the senior is ready to take the reins and lead the offense.

"Danny has worked really hard and he has paid attention," Elder said. "He was a student as he backed up Ryan for those couple years. He was dialed in and engaged in getting better while waiting for his opportunity.

"If we had to call upon him last year, he would have been ready to walk into a situation. He just played behind a really talented kid so I'm excited for him. Kids like him who wait their turn and now get the opportunity to play as a senior, you are excited for them because they've really paid their dues and he's ready to roll."

Svec has been impressed by the way Zeh runs the offense.

"I think he's doing amazing," Svec said. "Every play

he is cool, calm and under control. He's running our offense, he's not letting it take him and he knows his stuff. I think he is going to be amazing this year."

Despite losing 10 starters from last season, the Eagles have five starters returning on offense and seven returning on defense this season.

On offense these include Perusek, who ran for 1,274 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, offensive tackle Tommy Lorincz, who is a Ball State University commit and offensive tackle Svec.

Other key offensive returners include wide receiver Tommy Purcell, who had 53 catches for 477 yards and five touchdowns last season, center Mason Bingham and wide receiver Joe Lance who had 27 catches for 274 yards and three touchdowns last year.

On the other side of the ball, there are several key players returning for the Eagles including linebacker Jake Wilson, who was the team's second leading tackler last year with 95 tackles, defensive end Chris Pepe, who had six tackles for loss and three sacks last season, and safety Joey Lance who had 68 tackles and two interceptions.

Other key returning defensive players include corner back Kam Erskine, who had 38 tackles and two interceptions last season, nose tackle Greg Sedlak, who had 16 tackles and three sacks last season, and safety Niko Pappas, who had 40 tackles and five interceptions last year.

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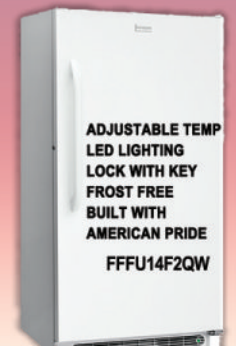
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Elyria Catholic continues to build

By Adam Schabel

aschabel@morningjournal.com

com

@AdamSchabel13 on Twitter

Elyria Catholic head coach Brian Fox led the Panthers to their most successful season in nearly a decade in 2018.

The team finished with a 9-3 overall record and a 5-1 Great Lakes Conference record, and in 2019 and beyond, he is looking to do more than just post successful records.

He wants to build a successful program.

“There’s a difference between a successful year and a successful program,” Fox said. “To go from a good team to a good program is going to take certain characteristics and understanding what it takes to be great. A lot of that is your preparation, your mental approach to the game and doing the right things day in and day out. When you have that mental toughness and understanding of what it takes to be great, that’s when you become a good program and you’re not just sitting around hoping that a lot of talent comes comes through.”

The Panthers have a good chance of replicating last year’s success in 2019. They have 25 returning lettermen and 10 returning starters, six on offense and four on defense.

Fox says the expectations for his team are high this season.

“We have the opportunity to be great,” Fox said. “After two offseasons in the weight room and understanding where we’re at, we probably have more talent than we did last year. So the expectations are really high, it’s just all about making the effort, the at-



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic quarterback Steven Navalinsky throws against the Columbia pass rush during a scrimmage Aug. 16.

tention to detail and all of those small aspects mirror what we do on the field.”

While Elyria Catholic has 10 returning starters, the Panthers lost starting quarterback Cameron Engrish to graduation.

Engrish, an Otterbein commit, he completed 50 percent of his passes for 2,435 yards with 28 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

in 2018.

Junior Steven Navalinsky is slated to take over under center for the Panthers and Fox likes what he sees so far.

“He’s a very talented kid, he has a big arm, he’s very tall and he has all the measurables,” Fox said. “However, as a kid who has not taken a varsity snap, it’s going to be a transition and

there’s small things that he has to get better at. He needs to understand the goals of the play, he has to play within the system and that’s all going to come with reps. Until then, we need to keep growing and hammer home film.”

Navalinsky is still getting used to the transition between the JV and varsity levels and wants to help

Elyria Catholic get further into the playoffs this season.

“I’m just trying to adjust from the JV level to the varsity level because it’s a lot different,” Navalinsky said. “(We want) to make it further into the playoffs and build on what we started last year in the program.”

Navalinsky won’t have to

worry much about on his blind side this season as he has 6-foot-7, 310 pound senior Branson Taylor blocking for him at the left tackle position.

Fox said it’s easy to coach a guy like Taylor because of his attitude and character.

“Branson makes us all look really good,” Fox said. “I coached with a guy who said he had coached three NFL players in his time and he did not like any of them. He said they had weak character, they had problems, they were headaches and they were high-maintenance type kids. Branson couldn’t be farther from that.”

“Branson is a hard working leader who is a good kid who thoroughly enjoys interacting with the younger guys. If you saw him in the weight room, you wouldn’t be at all surprised why all of these schools are after him.”

Taylor is a four-star recruit and had offers from 23 schools. He announced on his Twitter account on Jul. 26 that he has narrowed his decision down to two schools; West Virginia University and the University of Pittsburgh.

On Aug. 23, following a scrimmage against Oberlin, Taylor made his commitment to Pitt.

“It’s very exciting (to be recruited), but I don’t really let it bother me,” Taylor said. “I just want to do my part for the team and do what’s best for the team.”

Taylor wants his team to build upon last year’s success and make a deep run in the playoffs in 2019.

“We have to keep building on last year and keep motivated,” Taylor said. “Last year we went to the regional semifinals but we are looking for states this year, that’s our motivation.”



Outlook

In 2018, Mike Passerello's second season at the helm, the Comets posted a 7-4 record and showed that they can compete for a playoff berth in the tough Southwestern Conference. Amherst was competitive last season and nearly pulled out a win against Avon Lake. The Comets will likely be in the playoff conversation this season with 13 returning lettermen.

Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Mike Passerello, third year (13-8)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2018: 7-4 (5-4)

Twitter: @amherstfootball

Home field: Mercy Health Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Amherst at Lakewood, 7	W, 56-0
Sept. 6: Firelands at Amherst, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Midview at Amherst, 7	W, 55-13
Sept. 20: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7	L, 23-17
Sept. 27: Olm. Falls at Amherst, 7 (HC)	L, 27-2
Oct. 4: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7	L, 32-28
Oct. 11: Berea-Midpark at Amherst, 7	W, 45-38
Oct. 18: Amherst at Westlake, 7	W, 55-7
Oct. 25: North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7	W, 38-9
Nov. 1: Amherst at Avon, 7	L, 47-27

Game to watch: Week 6 against Avon Lake will be a good measuring stick for the Comets.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Tyler Brezina	Jr.	6-2	210
RB Jonathan West	Jr.	5-9	190
RB Aidan Johnson	Sr.	5-8	190
WR Kyle Ferguson	Sr.	5-8	170
WR Ty Weatherspoon	Jr.	6-5	175
TE Josh Crosten	Sr.	6-3	185
*LT Jarid Hellinger	Jr.	6-1	280
LG Matt Mendak	Jr.	5-6	245
C Brett Fly	Jr.	5-11	225
*RG Clay Carpenter	Sr.	6-0	208
RT Lavell Gibson	Jr.	6-2	245
K Adam Henderson	So.	6-0	190

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
*DE Lavell Gibson	Jr.	6-2	245
*DE Clay Carpenter	Sr.	6-0	208
NT Ben Roberts	Sr.	6-0	250
LB Macky Perdue	Jr.	5-10.1	80
LB Alex Woods	Sr.	6-4	165
*LB Aidan Johnson	Sr.	5-8	190
LB Xavier Rivers	Sr.	5-8	170
LB Logan Hoopes	Jr.	5-11	190
SS Alden Steele	Jr.	5-8	145
FS Cameron Moss	Sr.	5-9	165
CB Dom Deshuk	Sr.	6-0	155
CB Casey Hamrick	Jr.	5-11	160
P Aidan Johnson	Sr.	5-8	190

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Casey Hamrick, Jr., 5-11, 160, Torre Weatherspoon, So., 5-10, 155, AJ Woods, Sr., 6-3, 155, Coleton Baron, Jr., 5-10, 155

Returning lettermen: 13



Jackson

Player to watch

Jonathan West has the task of replacing Kennedy Scagliozzo at running back. Nicholas Jackson will look to make big contributions for Amherst.

Underclassman to watch: Junior left tackle Jarid Hellinger is one of two returning starting offensive linemen. He will look to protect first year starting quarterback Tyler Brezina's blind side. The Comets will also look to kicker Adam Henderson for production.

Best bench press: Matt Mendak, 315 pounds



Henderson

Best squat: Matt Mendak, 535 pounds

+ **Online:** Coach Mike Passerello and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Running back Jonathan West follows his blocker to move up field during Amherst's scrimmage against Valley Forge on Aug. 16.

Bottom line

IF: The young players step up and play well after losing 17 starters from last season, **THEN:** Amherst can compete and be in the hunt for a playoff spot.

— Adam Schabel



Outlook

The Eagles are a perennial playoff team as they have made the playoffs in nine straight seasons. They lost 10 starters from last year's team, including starting quarterback Ryan Maloy. Senior quarterback Danny Zeh is poised to take over the starting spot after backing up Maloy the past two seasons. Avon is favored to win the SWC once again and after a 12-2 season in 2018, expect the Eagles to post a similar record en route to a deep playoff run in 2019.

Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Mike Elder, 13th year (125-23)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2018: 12-2, shared SWC

Twitter: @avoneagles

Home field: Joe Firment Chevrolet Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Avon Lake at Avon, 7	L, 31-28
Sept. 6: Avon at Lorain, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Avon at Lakewood, 7	W, 56-7
Sept. 20: Berea-Midpark at Avon, 7	W, 77-47
Sept. 27: Avon at Midview, 7	W, 49-6
Oct. 4: Westlake at Avon, 7 (HC)	W, 42-7
Oct. 11: Avon at North Olmsted, 7	W, 49-21
Oct. 18: North Ridgeville at Avon, 7	W, 56-21
Oct. 25: Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7	W, 52-14
Nov. 1: Amherst at Avon, 7	W, 47-27

Game to watch: The Eagles will have a tough match up against Olmsted Falls in Week 9 on the road.

+ **Online:** Coach Mike Elder and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM

Projected lineup

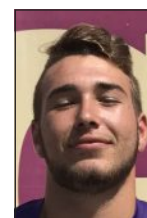
OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Danny Zeh	Sr.	5-11	167
RB Nick Perusek	Sr.	5-11	175
WR Joey Lance	Sr.	5-11	175
WR Colin Mangan	Sr.	5-11	158
WR Tommy Purcell	Sr.	5-11	158
TE Andrew Smith	Sr.	6-2	209
LT Joe Svec	Sr.	6-2	209
LG Justin Clay	Sr.	5-8	217
C Mason Bingham	Jr.	5-10	223
RG Nick Gardner	Jr.	5-10	223
RT Tommy Lorince	Jr.	5-10	223

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Chris Pepe	Sr.	6-2	209
NG Jacob Sedlak	Sr.	6-1	190
DE Joe Svec	Sr.	6-2	209
LB Jake Wilson	Sr.	6-1	190
LB Seth Broadbent	Sr.	6-2	209
OLB Kaya Yonkers	Sr.	5-11	175
OLB David Behrend	Sr.	5-11	175
SS Joey Lance	Jr.	5-9	158
FS Nico Pappas	Jr.	5-8	137
CB Cameron Erskine	Jr.	5-8	137
CB Mike Matlak	Jr.	5-8	137

(* - returning starter)



Zeh



Broadbent

+ **Online:** Coach Mike Elder and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon quarterback Danny Zeh avoids the rush and throws downfield against Elyria during a scrimmage Aug. 17.

Bottom line

IF: Avon doesn't get in their own heads, **THEN:** The Eagles should be making another deep run into the playoffs.



Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Matt Kostelnik, third year (16-6)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

Twitter: @AvonLakeSports

2018: 10-2 (8-1)

Home field: Avon Lake Memorial Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Avon Lake at Avon, 7	W, 31-28
Sept. 6: AL at Clinton-Massie, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: AL at Berea-Midpark, 7	W, 49-21
Sept. 20: Westlake at Avon Lake, 7	W, 42-7
Sept. 27: AL at North Ridgeville, 7	W, 35-21
Oct. 4: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 (HC)	W, 32-28
Oct. 11: Avon Lake at Lakewood, 7	W, 49-0
Oct. 18: Midview at Avon Lake, 7	W, 45-7
Oct. 25: AL at North Olmsted, 7	W, 49-14
Nov. 1: Olmsted Falls at AL, 7	L, 34-31, W, 44-28

Game to watch: Avon Lake will take on Avon Week 1 on Aug. 30. They are rivals looking to make an early statement.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Harry Hebert	Sr.	6-0	200
QB Michael Corbo	Jr.	6-2	170
RB Gage Duesler	Jr.	5-10	170
RB Sean Summers	Jr.	5-10	180
WR Creed Bologna*	Sr.	6-5.5	180
WR Nate Sidloski*	Sr.	6-4	200
WR Jared Krukowski	Jr.	5-10	155
WR Matt Oehlstrom	Sr.	5-9	165
WR Nate Cikalo	Jr.	5-11	175
TE Nick Marsh*	Sr.	6-3	220*
LT Alex Padgett*	Jr.	6-5	270*
LG TBA			
C Griffin Romes	Jr.	6-0	280
RG TBA			
RT Max von der Lieth*	Sr.	6-3	270
K Harry Herbert*	Sr.	6-0	200

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jack McCrum*	Sr.	6-2	190
DT Zack Kovacs*	Sr.	6-1	205
NT Jacob Sintic	Jr.	5-10	175
DE Nick Marsh*	Sr.	6-3	220
MLB Griffin Lidyard*	Jr.	6-1	230
OLB Nico LaBianca*	Sr.	6-1	220
OLB Sean Summers	Jr.	5-10	180
S Josh Vlasak*	Sr.	6-0	170
S Billy Simpson	Jr.	6-2	170
CB Kai Kuwalu*	Sr.	5-11	165
CB TBA			
P Harry Herbert*	Sr.	6-0	200

(* - returning starter)
Key reserves: Michael Stuewe
Returning lettermen: 20

Outlook

Avon Lake was a dangerous team last season, but they also lost a lot of seniors, especially on offense. They are looking for their underclassmen to step up in a big way this upcoming season. If the underclassmen can come through, the Shoremen are a team to look out for during the 2019 campaign. They have one of their top guys in Nate Sidloski returning for one last season. He is one of the key components for Avon Lake.



Sidloski



Kostelnik

Best bench press: Nico LaBianca

Best squat: Nate Cikalo

+ **Online:** Coach Matt Kostelnik and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake quarterback Harry Hebert throws under pressure from the Lorain pass rush during a scrimmage Aug. 22.

Bottom line

IF: the underclassmen step up, **THEN:** Avon Lake will be a force in the Southwestern Conference.

— Simon Hannig



Just the facts

Conference: GLC

Coach: Ron Rutt, sixth year (45-15)

OHSAA: Division III, Region 10

2018: 8-3 (5-1)

Twitter: @BayAthletics

Home field: Bay Memorial Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Keystone at Bay, 7	W, 27-6
Sept. 6: Bay at Medina Buckeye, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7	L, 28-21
Sept. 20: Valley Forge at Bay, 7 (HC)	W, 14-13
Sept. 27: Bay at Fairview, 7	W, 28-14
Oct. 4: Holy Name at Bay, 7	W, 17-14
Oct. 10: Bay at Normandy, 7	W, 42-6
Oct. 18: Bay at Rocky River, 7	W, 21-6
Oct. 25: Parma at Bay, 7	W, 38-13
Nov. 1: Bay at Revere, 7	L, 27-14

Game to watch: A Week 3 showdown at home against Elyria Catholic has likely been circled on the Rockets' calendar since last year's loss to their eventual conference co-champion.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Logan LaMere*	Sr.	6-0	185
RB Nick Buttari	Jr.	5-11	188
RB Joe Galati*	Sr.	5-10	190
WR Cullen Geryge	Jr.	6-1	180
WR Hudson Cisneros	Jr.	6-1	215
TE Zak Crabb	Sr.	6-1	215
LT Klevin Mici*	Sr.	6-1	230
LG Keller Liptrap	Jr.	5-9	215
C Jon Koss	Sr.	6-2	215
RG Sage Long	Sr.	6-0	230
RT Michael Hartman	Sr.	5-10	220
K Cooper Mendelow	Jr.	5-10	160

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jon Koss	Sr.	6-2	215
DT August Reichard	Sr.	5-10	230
DE Henry Rankin*	Sr.	6-0	190
OLB Luke Herbruck	Sr.	5-9	180
MLB Keller Liptrap	Jr.	5-9	215
MLB McClain O'Donnell*	Sr.	6-1	200
OLB Mitch Cooke	Sr.	6-0	205
CB Cullen Geryge*	Jr.	6-1	180
CB Anthony Tulli	So.	5-9	185
SS Nick Buttari*	Jr.	5-11	188
FS Hudson Cisneros	Jr.	6-1	177
P Cullen Geryge	Jr.	6-1	180

(* - returning starter)
Key reserves: Pawie Ault, Fr., 5-9, 155, Ben Anderson, Sr. 5-9, 160
Returning lettermen: 13

Outlook

On paper it would appear Bay is looking at a down year with only three returners on offense and four on defense. But Coach Ron Rutt seems to always have his team ready to go come Week 1. The Rockets have won at least a share of the Great Lakes Conference title every year since its inception in 2015 so it's hard to imagine them as anything other than a conference favorite once again.

Player to watch

Quarterback Logan LaMere is back to run the offense as one of three returning starters, and will be faced with more pressure than ever considering the level of inexperience in the lineup.

Underclassman to watch: Anthony Tulli is the only sophomore in the starting lineup on either side of the ball and will be targeted plenty at cornerback this year.

+ **Online:** Coach Ron Rutt and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Bay quarterback Logan LaMere attempts to avoid the tackle by Griffin Davies of Elyria Catholic on a first quarter run Oct. 12, 2018.



JEN FORBUS — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Bay fullback Joe Galati tries to run around Normandy's Cory Bower on Oct. 4, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: Bay stays true to form, **THEN:** the Rockets will continue their reign of the Great Lakes Conference.

— Marissa McNees



**Brookside
Cardinals**

Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Scott O'Donnell, first year

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

Twitter: @brooksidespports

2018: 2-8 (1-4)

Home field: Dick Sevit Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Brookside at Cloverleaf,	7 DNP
Sept. 6: Lutheran West at Brookside,	7 DNP
Sept. 13: Cle. JFK at Brookside,	7 DNP
Sept. 20: Brookside at Oberlin,	7 L, 46-21
Sept. 27: Brookside at Wellington,	7 W, 28-21
Oct. 4: Firelands at Brookside,	7 (HC) L, 35-0
Oct. 11: Keystone at Brookside,	7 L, 46-0
Oct. 18: Black River at Brookside,	7 L, 40-7
Oct. 25: Brookside at Columbia,	7 DNP
Nov. 1: Brookside at Clearview,	7 L, 44-7

Game to watch: A Week 4 meeting with Oberlin will be a good test for Brookside near the halfway point in the season.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Donovan Davis	Sr.	6-0	170*
RB Kenny Grobolssek	So.	6-0	180*
RB Karson Nail	Jr.	6-0	175
WR Zak Csalos	Sr.	6-0	160*
WR Matthew O'Donnell	Jr.	6-2	170
WR Miguel Gonzalez	So.	6-0	160
LT Adam Borgmann	Sr.	6-1	220*
LG Eric Kebeiks	Sr.	6-1	260*
C Collin Houpt	So.	5-10	180
RG Josh Eschke	Jr.	5-10	230*
RT Josh Sarvas	So.	6-3	240*
K Matthew O'Donnell	Jr.	6-2	170

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DB Donovan Davis	Sr.	6-0	170*
DB Zak Csalos	Sr.	6-0	160*
DB Kenny Grobolssek	So.	6-0	180*
DB Jake Montgomery	So.	6-0	170
DL Collin Thompson	Fr.	6-0	190
DL Eric Kebeiks	Sr.	6-1	260*
DL Jon Whitmer	Jr.	6-1	230
LB Adam Borgmann	Sr.	6-1	220*
LB Karson Nail	So.	6-0	180
OLB Christian Adkins	Sr.	6-0	180*
P Matthew O'Donnell	Jr.	6-2	170

Key reserves: Dan Davis, Christian Adkins, Gavin Schuster

Returning lettermen: 10

Outlook

It will be a transition year for Brookside as they have a new coach in Scott O'Donnell. O'Donnell is trying to rebuild a program that has posted only one winning season the past 15 years. It will be an interesting year for Brookside, who also has a lot of young players on the team that will have to step up in big roles.



O'Donnell

Player to watch

Senior returning quarterback Donovan Davis is a player to watch for Brookside. He finished 28-of-76 for 346 yards and had one passing touchdown on the season. It will be interesting to see how well he picks up the new system under a new head coach.



Grobolssek.

Underclassman to watch: Sophomore running back Kenny Grobolssek had a stellar freshman season finishing with 109 carries for 563 yards and four touchdowns.

+ **Online:** Coach Scott O'Donnell and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



DAVID SCHNEIDER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Brookside's Kenny Grobolssek is quickly swarmed by Clearview's defense as Julian Colbert grabs for the ball during the first quarter on Sept. 21, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: Brookside players can quickly pick up the new system with all the talent they have, **THEN:** they will be a threat and a team to watch.

— Simon Hannig



**Clearview
Clippers**

Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Mike Collier, 13th year (78-47)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2018: 9-1 (5-0)

Twitter: @clipperfb

Home field: Tom Hoch Field

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Clearview at Toledo Scott,	7 DNP
Sept. 6: Clearview at Vermilion,	7 DNP
Sept. 13: John Hay at Clearview,	7 W, 12-8
Sept. 20: Clearview at Keystone,	7 DNP
Sept. 27: Oberlin at Clearview,	7 W, 65-20
Oct. 4: Wellington at Clearview,	7 (HC) W, 49-0
Oct. 11: Clearview at Firelands,	7 DNP
Oct. 18: Clearview at Columbia,	7 W, 28-22
Oct. 25: Black River at Clearview,	7 DNP
Nov. 1: Brookside at Clearview,	7 W, 44-7

Game to watch: Clearview travels to Columbia in Week 8 to face a team it beat last season to all but ensure a conference championship.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Chase Christensen*	Sr.		
WR Joseph Norris*	Sr.		
WR Jordan Reed*	Sr.		
WR Mason Argenti	Jr.		
RB C.J. Fleming*	Sr.		
RB Robert Davis*	Jr.		
LT Victor Molina*	Sr.		
LG Stacey Littlejohn*	Sr.		
C Josiah Moon	Jr.		
RG David Fitzpatrick*	Jr.		
RT Nathan Emmerling	Jr.		
K C.J. Fleming	Sr.		
K Josiah Moon	Jr.		

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Stacey Littlejohn*	Sr.		
DL C.J. Fleming*	Sr.		
DL George Hatcher*	Jr.		
LB Mason Argenti*	Jr.		
LB Tyler Green	Jr.		
LB David Fitzpatrick	Jr.		
LB Miguel Negron	Sr.		
DB Joseph Norris*	Sr.		
DB Jordan Reed*	Sr.		
DB Robert Davis*	Jr.		
P C.J. Fleming*	Sr.		

(* - returning starter)
Returning lettermen: 17

Outlook

Clearview returns eight starters on each side of the ball from a team that won its first playoff game in 15 years last season. Needless to say expectations are high throughout the Clippers' locker room, but they're not baseless. Many major players return to the lineup, including quarterback Chase Christensen, running back C.J. Fleming and almost the entirety of both lines. It will be exciting to watch Clearview continue to make noise around Lorain County this season.



Christensen



Fleming

Player to watch

Quarterback Chase Christensen returns to lead an offense that averaged 32.1 points per game over 12 games in 2018. He's back with with two returners at receiver and one of the area's top runners in senior C.J. Fleming.

Underclassman to watch: Mason Argenti, a junior, is one of only a handful of non-senior starters but adds another layer to the Clippers' offense at wide receiver.

+ **Online:** Coach Mike Collier and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Clearview's Joseph Norris looks over his shoulder as he runs back a punt 68 yards for a touchdown against Wellington on Sept. 14.

Bottom line

IF: The Clearview offense returns to match the play of its defense, **THEN:** the Clippers could be looking at back-to-back seasons with playoff victories.

— Marissa McNees

Best Wishes for a Winning Season. GO TITANS!



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Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Jason Ward, 14th year (90-49)

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 22

2018: 7-4 (4-1)

Twitter: @CHSFootball

Home field: Columbia Raiders Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Independence at Columbia, 7	W, 35-6
Sept. 6: Columbia at Waynedale, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: W. Salem NW at Columbia, 7	W, 41-7
Sept. 20: Columbia at Firelands, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Columbia at Keystone, 7	W, 41-0
Oct. 4: Oberlin at Columbia, 7 (HC)	W, 48-0
Oct. 11: Columbia at Wellington, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Clearview at Columbia, 7	L, 28-22
Oct. 25: Brookside at Columbia, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Columbia at Black River, 7	DNP

Game to watch: A Week 8 matchup against Clearview will be a good test for Jason Ward's young squad.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Andrew Champagne	So.		
RB Joe Governale	Jr.		
*WR Drew Saki	Sr.		
WR Owen Menge	So.		
FB Alec Campana	Jr.		
TE Josh DeLisle	So.		
*LT Carson Heidecker	Sr.		
LG Eli Caraballo	Jr.		
*C Lukas McKee	Jr.		
RG Nick Reljin	So.		
RT Nick Stopiak	So.		
K Drew Saki	Sr.		

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
*T Carson Heidecker	Sr.		
NT Cameron Coleman	Jr.		
T Eli Caraballo	Jr.		
OLB Tom Reljin	So.		
OLB Dom Governale	So.		
ILB Joe Governale	Jr.		
ILB Lukas McKee	Jr.		
S Andrew Champagne	So.		
S Drew Saki	Sr.		
CB Owen Menge	So.		
CB Elijah Goodman	So.		
P Drew Saki	Sr.		

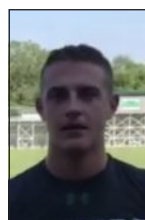
(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Elijah Goodman So., Tyler Sayles Jr.

Returning lettermen: 14

Outlook

The Raiders have just two seniors in their lineup: Drew Saki and Carson Heidecker. Outside of them, there isn't a large veteran presence and Columbia also has one returning starter outside of Saki and Heidecker. Workhorse running back Brandon Coleman graduated and Andrew Champagne is taking over for Jared Bycznski at quarterback. The Raiders will need some of the younger players to step up in order for Columbia to compete for a playoff spot in 2019.



Saki

Player to watch

Drew Saki is a versatile senior who plays four positions including; wide receiver, safety, kicker and punter. Watch for Saki to contribute on all sides of the ball.



Heidecker

Underclassman to watch: Junior Joe Governale is taking over for Brandon Coleman at running back.

Best in the classroom: Andrew Champagne, 4.2 GPA

Best bench press: Carson Heidecker, 305 pounds

Best squat: Carson Heidecker, 425 pounds

+ **Online:** Coach Jason Ward and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia running back Joe Governale drags two Elyria Catholic defenders for a gain during a scrimmage Aug. 16.

Bottom line

IF: The younger players step up, **THEN:** Columbia could be in the playoff race in 2019.

— Adam Schabel



Just the facts

Conference: GCC

Coach: Devlin Culliver, first year

OHSAA: Division I, Region 2

Twitter: @ElyriaAthletics

2018: 0-10

Home field: Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Elyria at Midview, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Bedford at Elyria, 7	L, 36-0
Sept. 13: Elyria at Lorain, 7	L, 40-7
Sept. 20: Mentor at Elyria, 7	L, 48-0
Sept. 27: Elyria at Euclid, 7	L, 55-0
Oct. 4: Medina at Elyria, 7	L, 51-7
Oct. 11: Shaker Heights at Elyria, 7	L, 51-22
Oct. 18: Elyria at Strongsville, 7	L, 42-19
Oct. 25: Elyria at Brunswick, 7	L, 31-0
Nov. 1: Solon at Elyria, 7	L, 44-21

Game to watch: Going up against a powerhouse such as Mentor could certainly test the Pioneers during the early portion of the season.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Dylan Sharlow	Jr.	6-2	170*
RB Jaheim Atkinson	Jr.	5-10	202*
HB Jesse Stevens III	Jr.	6-3	235*
A-Back Daveon Drummer	Sr.	5-11	172*
WR Mike Harris	Sr.	6-0	165
WR Jaylen Brown			
LT Simon France	Jr.	6-1	250*
LG Bryce Badford	Jr.	6-1	275*
C Alex Lowery	Jr.	6-0	260
RG Kobe Thomas	Jr.	6-3	300*
RT Nate Bryant	Sr.	6-2	289*
K Noah Emerson			

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
NT Nate Bryant	Sr.	6-2	289*
DE Tim Kenska	Sr.	6-0	260*
DE Jesse Stevens III	Jr.	6-3	235*
OLB Mike Knapp	Sr.	6-0	220*
OLB Nehemia De Los Santos	Sr.	5-8	140
MLB Ben Doehr	Sr.	6-2	245*
MLB Jazariean Cannon	Jr.	5-11	180
CB Perryion Benton	Jr.	5-9	155*
CB Kameron Nestor	Jr.	5-9	155
SS Adaveon Drummer	Sr.	5-11	172
FS Mike Harris	Sr.	6-0	165
P Mike Harris	Sr.	6-0	165

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Offense: Coreian Washington Andrew Palos; **Defense:** Anthony Tipton Dillon Hendricks.

Outlook

Devlin Culliver is the new head coach for the Pioneers. It will be a transition year, but with the amount of players returning from last year, the transition should go smoothly. The team is also learning a new system, but mostly on the defensive side, so, there could be a lot of highs and lows on that side of the ball. Despite all of that, the Pioneers are one of more intriguing teams in the GCC.



Drummer

Player to watch

Daveon Drummer is returning for his final season at Elyria. Last season, he finished with 47 carries and 267 total rushing yards, along with one rushing touchdown. On the receiving end, he finished with 17 receptions and collected 224 receiving yards, with one touchdown.

Underclassman to watch: Returning junior quarterback Dylan Sharlow Jr. had a decent season last year. He completed 40 of 93 passes for 454 yards. He threw for two touchdowns, and his longest pass went for 67 yards.

Best in the classroom: Mike Knapp, 3.8, Ben Doehr, 3.8, Dylan Sharlow, 3.0.



Bryant

+ **Online:** Coach Devlin Culliver and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria running back Jaheim Atkinson is stopped by the Avon defense after a short gain during a scrimmage Aug. 17.

Bottom line

IF: the players can pick up the new system quickly, **THEN:** Elyria will be one of the more dangerous teams in the GCC due to their experience.

— Simon Hannig



Just the facts

Conference: GLC

Coach: Brian Fox, second year (9-3)

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

2018: 9-3 (5-1)

Twitter: @ECHSAthletics

Home field: Knights of Columbus Field

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Perkins at Elyria Catholic, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Parma at Elyria Catholic, 7	W, 63-14
Sept. 13: Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7	W, 28-21
Sept. 20: EC at Medina Buckeye, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Padua at Elyria Catholic, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Valley Forge at EC, 7 L, 31-13	
Oct. 11: Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Holy Name at EC, 7	W, 30-7
Oct. 25: EC at Normandy, 7	W, 51-14
Nov. 1: EC at Rocky River, 7	W, 33-13

Game to watch: The Panthers will have a tough road matchup against Bay in Week 3.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Steven Navalinsky	Jr.	6-3	185
RB Chris Jackson	Sr.	6-2	205
WR Jaret Frantz*	Jr.	6-4	200
WR Connor Trockley*	Sr.	6-3	175
WR Jack Griffin	Sr.	5-11	165
TE Nate Damron*	Sr.	6-5	220
LT Branson Taylor*	Sr.	6-7	310
LG David Leeper	Sr.	6-0	255
C Darius Randleman*	Sr.	6-1	295
RG Ryan Roark	Jr.	6-3	295
RT Tommy Marquitz	Sr.	6-1	250
K Steven Gabel	Sr.	5-9	155

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jon Pearl	Jr.	6-1	245
NT Darius Randleman	Sr.	6-1	295
T Hayden Gerhart	So.	6-2	250
LB Nate Damron*	Sr.	6-5	220
LB David Leeper	Sr.	6-0	255
LB Luke Constantino*	Sr.	6-2	215
S Josh Miller*	Sr.	6-1	205
CB Jack Griffin*	Sr.	5-11	165
SS Zach Gorczyca	Sr.	6-0	170
FS Nick Bender	Sr.	5-10	175
CB Alex Carandang	So.	5-11	165
P Sadie Hutsenpillar	Sr.	5-6	130

Key reserves: OL Hayden Gerhart, So., 6-2, 250, WR/RB Zach Gorczyca, Sr., 6-0, 170, Jordan S/CB Taylor, Sr., 6-0, 175, CB Costa Bryan, Sr., 5-10, 155

Returning lettermen: 25

Outlook

The Panthers are loaded with talent coming off their best season in nearly a decade. Elyria Catholic has 21 seniors, 10 returning starters and 25 returning lettermen back for 2019. Four-star recruit Branson Taylor is back for his senior season and will look to protect first-year starting quarterback Steven Navalinsky's blind side. In his first year as head coach, Brian Fox led the Panthers to a 9-3 finish last year en route to winning a playoff game against Anna High School. Expect the Panthers to be in the playoffs again this season as they look to make a deep playoff run.



Taylor

Player to watch

It's no secret who Branson Taylor is and what he can do. Standing at 6-foot-7, 310 pounds, Taylor is a force to be reckoned with on the offensive line.



Navalinsky

Underclassman to watch: Junior quarterback Steven Navalinsky is coming up from the JV ranks and stepping in to replace 2018 stater Cameron Engrish.

Best in the classroom: Luke Costantino, 4.1 GPA, Tommy Marquitz, 4.0 GPA, Darrius Randleman, 3.9 GPA, Josh Miller, 3.8 GPA

Best bench press: Branson Taylor

Best squat: Darrius Randleman

+ **Online:** Coach Brian Fox and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Steven Navalinsky throws downfield against the Columbia pass rush during a scrimmage Aug. 16.

Bottom line

IF: The Panthers stay healthy and Navalinsky makes the transition from JV to varsity **THEN:** Elyria Catholic will be a force to be reckoned with in 2019.

— Adam Schabel



Outlook

Fairview has a lot of new faces on its roster this season and is looking at a rebuild with only five returning lettermen. There will no doubt be growing pains, especially on an offense with three returners, but the defense could keep the Warriors competitive in games with seven starters from last year's team.

Player to watch

Quarterback Declan Jewitt is one of three returners on offense, with only two linemen with any other significant varsity experience. The junior will be heavily relied on to lead the Warriors this season.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Isaac Paxton will be Jewitt's main target at wideout this season, and will have to be a big time playmaker to keep Fairview competitive this year.

+ **Online:** Coach Dave Latkovic and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM

Just the facts

Conference: GLC

Coach: Dave Latkovic, sixth year (19-31)

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

2018: 4-6 (3-2)

Twitter: @FPWarriorSports

Home field: James B. Daley Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Fairview at Lutheran West, 7	W 30-22
Sept. 6: Fairview at Normandy, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: River at Fairview, 7	L 30-24 (3OT)
Sept. 20: Fairview at Parma, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Fairview at Bay, 7 L 28-14	
Oct. 4: Fairview at Medina Buckeye, 7	DNP
Oct. 11: Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Fairview at Valley Forge, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: John Marshall at Fairview, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Holy Name at Fairview, 7	DNP

Game to watch: Fairview hosts Rocky River in Week 3 and a three-overtime loss to the rival Pirates in 2018 has been on the Warriors' minds all off-season.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Declan Jewitt*	Jr.	5-11	175
RB Matt Kaufmann	Sr.	5-6	145
RB Ian McClintock	Sr.	5-10	175
WR Isaac Paxton	Jr.	5-11	170
WR Dylan Pecchio	Jr.	5-11	155
TE Luke Chambers	Sr.	6-2	195
LT Collin Hill	Sr.	6-1	230
LG Conner Klotzbach	So.	5-10	185
C Alex Barnhart*	Jr.	5-10	200
RG Collin Jenkins*	Sr.	5-10	200
RT Kaiden Hopkins	Jr.	6-0	170
K David Nemeth	Sr.	6-2	175

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Collin Jenkins*	Sr.	5-10	200
DL Collin Hill	Sr.	6-1	230
DL Alex Barnhart*	Jr.	5-10	200
ILB Ian McClintock*	Sr.	5-10	175
ILB Ethan Luebe	So.	5-10	180
OLB Joe Rizzo*	Sr.	5-7	145
OLB Isaac Paxton*	Jr.	5-11	175
FS Dylan Pecchio	Jr.	5-11	155
SS Matt Kaufmann	Sr.	5-8	145
CB Patrick Comerford	Jr.	5-11	145
CB Sean McNamara*	So.	5-10	180
P David Nemeth	So.	6-2	175

(* - returning starter)

Returning lettermen: 5



JEN FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview quarterback Declan Jewitt lines up to take the snap under center Colin Jenkins against Clearview on Oct. 12, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: The offense develops early, **THEN:** Fairview can at least match its win total from a year ago.

— Marissa McNees



Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Ryan O'Rourke, third year (12-8)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2018: 4-6 (2-3)

Twitter: @CoachR_Orouke

Home field: Firelands Stadium

Schedule

Opponent 2018	result
Aug. 30: Firelands at Edison, 7	L 41-23
Sept. 6: Firelands at Amherst, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Vermilion at Firelands, 7	W 21-19
Sept. 20: Columbia at Firelands, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: B. River at Firelands, 7 (HC)	L 64-28
Oct. 4: Firelands at Brookside, 7	W 35-0
Oct. 11: Clearview at Firelands, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Keystone at Firelands, 7	L 28-25
Oct. 25: Oberlin vs. Firelands, 7:30	DNP
Nov. 1: Firelands at Wellington, 7	W 35-7

Game to watch: The annual meeting with Vermilion is always circled on the Falcons' calendar, but a Week 4 matchup with Columbia is an exciting one for the two former Patriot Athletic Conference powers who spent time in separate divisions.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jacob Farley*	Jr.	6-1	185
RB Donald Crawford*	Jr.	5-10	170
RB Carter Janicek	So.	6-0	205
WR Alex Angle*	Jr.	6-3	175
WR Caden Bomback*	Jr.	5-10	170
WR Austin Copen	So.	6-2	165
LT Jacob Schmitz*	Sr.	6-6	235
LG Kevin Guillemot*	Jr.	5-9	180
C Seth Robinette*	Jr.	6-3	275
RG Sam Solowiej*	Jr.	5-9	200
RT Caden Boetticher*	Jr.	6-4	270
K Chance Coultrip	Sr.		
K Austin Schuler	Sr.		

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Casey Kelley*	Jr.	6-2	205
DE Jack Valerius*	Jr.	6-3	210
DT Sam Solowiej*	Jr.	5-9	200
DT Gavin Pignatella	So.	5-10	240
LB Nat Pignatella*	Sr.	6-0	200
LB Bryce Keown*	Sr.	5-10	185
LB Matt Loranger*	Sr.	5-10	180
S Alex Angle*	Jr.	6-3	175
S Donald Crawford*	Jr.	5-10	170
CB Caden Bomback*	Jr.	5-10	170
CB Josh Yost*	Jr.	5-10	170
P Chance Coultrip	Sr.		
P Austin Schuler	Sr.		

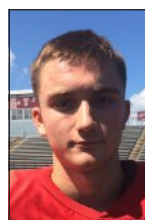
(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: QB Ethan Cordy, Sr., 6-3, 185, WR Caden Domin, So., WR Kyle Ransom, So., S Corey Newark, So., 5-9, 160, DT Alex Kyer, So., 6-3, 260

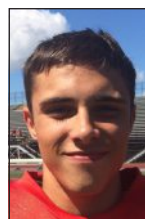
Returning lettermen: 20

Outlook

Firelands is still a very young team despite returning 20 lettermen from last season, but the experience will serve it well heading into the newly-formed LCC. The Falcons are speedy and athletic to make up for being generally undersized and return nine starters on offense and 10 on defense. Coach Ryan O'Rourke is pleased with the intensity he's seen during the preseason and Firelands firmly believes last year's four-win season was a fluke and that the Falcons will be in the playoff hunt come November.



Angle



Bomback

Player to watch

Alex Angle enters the 2019 season as one of nine returning starters on offense at wide receiver and will be targeted by quarterback Jacob Farley. The junior has the size and speed to make noise after finishing among the top 10 receivers in the area in most statistical categories last year and will likely build on that as the Firelands offense improves.

Underclassman to watch: Carter Janicek was a key reserve for the Falcons at tailback last year and the sophomore has earned a starting spot this season — one of only three sophomores to do so on either side of the ball.

Best in the classroom: Alex

Angle, 4.0 GPA, Sam Solowiej, 4.0 GPA, Seth Robinette, 4.0 GPA

Best squat: Sam Solowiej, 405 pounds

Best 40 time: Caden Bomback, 4.53 seconds

+ **Online:** Coach Ryan O'Rourke and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Firelands defender chases down the Rocky River running back during a scrimmage Aug. 10.

Bottom line

IF: Firelands can maintain the competitive edge it developed during the preseason, **THEN:** they will be in the hunt for a LCC title and first playoff berth since 2015.

— Marissa McNees



Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Don Griswold, third year (9-11)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

Twitter: @KHSathletics

2018: 5-5 (4-1)

Home field: Wildcat Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Keystone at Bay, 7	L 27-6
Sept. 6: Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7	L 38-32
Sept. 13: South Central at Keystone, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: Clearview at Keystone, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Columbia at Keystone, 7 (HC)	L 41-0
Oct. 4: Keystone at Black River, 7	W 46-42
Oct. 11: Keystone at Brookside, 7	W 46-0
Oct. 18: Keystone at Firelands, 7	W 28-25
Oct. 25: Wellington at Keystone, 7	W 54-14
Nov. 1: Oberlin at Keystone, 7	DNP

Game to watch: The Wildcats face an early test in Week 4 against last year's PAC champion Clearview.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jacob Shackelford*	Sr.	6-0	195
RB Dylan Naylor*	Sr.	5-9	209
RB Gideon Lampron	So.	5-11	205
WR Dominic Torok	Sr.	5-9	170
WR Evan Miaden	So.	6-0	185
WR Deghan Rigda	Jr.	5-10	175
LT Jakob Rich*	Jr.	5-9	205
LG Alex Patakay*	Jr.	6-2	225
C Luke Moore*	Jr.	6-7	300
RG Jared Wallace*	Sr.	5-10	190
RT Gavin Norris*	Sr.	6-0	225
K Zac Marsh	Sr.		

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jared Wallace*	Sr.	5-10	190
DT Luke Moore*	Jr.	6-7	300
DT Jakob Rich*	Jr.	5-9	205
DE Alex Patakay*	Jr.	6-2	225
ILB Gavin Norris*	Sr.	6-0	225
ILB Gideon Lampron	So.	5-11	205
SS Isaac Manning*	Sr.	6-0	175
QS Anthony Provagna	Sr.	5-10	170
FS Dylan Naylor*	Sr.	5-9	209
CB Dominic Torok	Sr.	5-9	170
CB Nick Beriswell	Jr.	5-10	165

P TBA

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: RB Hudson Hall, OLB Deghan Rigda, DL Brandon Smith

Returning lettermen: 13

Outlook

After a 5-5 season, the Keystone Wildcats are looking for a rebound year with a team that has some returning players on both sides of the ball. The two main returning players, Jacob Shackelford and Dylan Naylor, are looking to carry the team offensively in their final season. It will be interesting to see how everyone jells together this upcoming season with the team looking to make strides in 2019.

Player to watch



Naylor



Shackelford

Dylan Naylor had 1,012 yards and 17 touchdowns on 147 carries for the Wildcats last season. With such an impressive year in 2018, Keystone is looking for Naylor to build on those numbers and once again carry the Wildcats' offense.

Underclassman to watch: Alex Patakay will be one to watch at defensive end. Last season, he had 46 solo tackles and totaled 61 tackles on the season while averaging 6.1 tackles per game.

+ **Online:** Coach Don Griswold and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



JEN FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone's defense brings down the Edison ball carrier during a scrimmage Aug. 10.

Bottom line

IF: The Wildcats' new starters can mesh and play well with the veteran starters, **THEN:** they will have a much better record than last year's 5-5.

— Simon Hannig



Just the facts

Conference: LEL
OHSAA: Division I, Region 2
Coach: Dave McFarland, sixth year (36-19)
2018: 6-4 (3-2)
Twitter: @lorainathletics
Home field: George Daniel Field

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug 30: Lorain at Brunswick, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Avon at Lorain, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Elyria at Lorain, 7	W 40-7
Sept. 20: Clarkson (Canada) at Lorain, 7	L 31-28
Sept. 27: Toledo Scott at Lorain, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Cleveland Hts. at Lorain, 7 (HC)	L 31-23
Oct. 11: Lorain at Warrensville Hts, 7	W 50-20
Oct. 18: Maple Heights at Lorain, 7	L 44-38
Oct. 25: Lorain at Bedford, 7	W 39-2

Game to watch: The Titans face LEL rival Cleveland Heights in Week 6 for a homecoming showdown that will likely have conference championship implications on the line.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jordan Jackson*	Sr.	6-4	190
RB Daylin Dower*	Sr.	5-11	185
RB Savon Chavis*	Sr.	6-0	202
WR Tyshawn Lighty*	Sr.	5-11	185
WR Devante Jackson	Jr.	6-2	175
LT Khalyn Thomas*	Sr.	6-0	180
C Jacob Addis	So.	6-2	230
K Marc Rodriguez	Sr.	6-0	165

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
OLB Jalin Cheers			
DB Savon Chavis*	Sr.	6-0	202
DB Tyshawn Lighty*	Sr.	5-11	185
DB Devante Jackson	Jr.	6-2	175
DB Daylin Dower*	Sr.	5-11	185
DB Jaevon Manning	Jr.	6-3	180

(* - returning starter)
Returning lettermen: 8

Outlook

Lorain is looking to rebound from a disappointing 2018 in which it missed the playoffs after two straight appearances and handed over the Lake Erie League crown to Maple Heights. But expectations are high among the program. The Titans return all of their big-time playmakers from last season including quarterback Jordan Jackson. But with only eight returning starters there are plenty of holes to fill, most importantly on the offensive and defensive lines. Lorain hasn't forgotten what it felt like to be knocked down from the top spot in the LEL and has turned it into motivation to earn back the championship and get back to the postseason in 2019.



Jackson



Lighty

Player to watch

Quarterback Jordan Jackson has a year under his belt, and after working tirelessly all preseason has been handed play-calling responsibilities. The senior's got plenty of playmakers at his disposal, including Tyshawn Lighty, Daylin Dower and Savon Chavis — all players to watch in their own right — and Coach Dave McFarland has said the Titans will only be as good as Jackson this season.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Devante Jackson brings some size to the high-powered Lorain offense and gives Jackson yet another option at wide receiver.

+ **Online:** Coach Dave McFarland and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain quarterback Jordan Jackson throws to a receiver against the Glenville rush during a scrimmage Aug. 9.

Bottom line

IF: The Lorain lines can shape up on both sides of the ball, **THEN:** This Titans team will be hard to stop this year.

— Marissa McNeese



Outlook

The Middies had a tough season last year as they finished with a 2-8 record after posting a strong finish in 2017. The good thing for Midview is that it has 13 starters, eight on offense and five on defense, returning from last year coupled with 12 returning lettermen. That's a large veteran presence in the locker room which should help the younger players develop. The SWC is a tough conference to play in, however the returning players know what to expect.

Just the facts

Conference: SWC
Coach: D.J. Shaw, fifth year (42-15)
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
2018: 2-8 (2-7)
Twitter: @MiddleUpdates
Home field: Ross Field at Ed Adelsburg Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Elyria at Midview, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7	L 31-30
Sept. 13: Midview at Amherst, 7	L 55-13
Sept. 20: Lakewood at Midview, 7	W 49-14
Sept. 27: Avon at Midview, 7	L 49-6
Oct. 4: Midview at North Olmsted, 7	L 33-27
Oct. 11: OFalls at Midview, 7 (HC)	L 62-27
Oct. 18: Midview at Avon Lake, 7	L 45-7
Oct. 25: Berea-Midpark at Midview, 7	L 52-16
Nov. 1: Midview at Westlake, 7	W 42-28

Game to watch: A week 5 matchup against Avon could be a good test for the Middies.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Zac Gill	Sr.	6-0	185
RB T.Y. Nelson*	Sr.	6-1	235
RB Domenic Roman*	Sr.	5-9	165
WR Nathan Bashak*	Sr.	5-9	190
WR Joey Bratkovich	Jr.	5-9	160
TE Bryce Sanders	Jr.	6-3	220
LT Jacob Schmitz	Jr.	6-0	255
LG Jeremiah Bryan*	Jr.	6-1	280
C Joe Diedrick*	Sr.	5-10	225
RG Josh Blaine	Sr.	5-10	190
RT Daniel Bucknavich*	Sr.	6-4	275
K Christian Roig*	Sr.	5-8	185

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE T.Y. Nelson*	Sr.	6-1	235
DE Bryce Sanders*	Jr.	6-3	225
DT Daniel Bucknavich*	Sr.	6-4	275
DT Josh Blaine	Sr.	5-10	190
LB Preston Botos	Jr.	5-11	205
LB Christian Roig	Sr.	5-8	185
LB Nathan Bashak*	Sr.	5-9	190
LB Nicolas Swirynsky	Sr.	5-10	180
S Zac Gill*	Sr.	6-0	185
CB Domenic Roman	Sr.	5-9	165
CB Joey Bratkovich	Jr.	5-9	160
P Domenic Roman	Sr.	5-9	165

(* - returning starter)
Key reserves: QB Nicolas Swirynsky, Sr. 5-10 180
Returning lettermen: 12



Gill



Bashak

+ **Online:** Coach D.J. Shaw and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



ADAM SCHABEL — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Midview huddles during Day 1 of football practice Aug. 1.

Bottom line

IF: The veteran players get the newcomers up to speed, **THEN:** Midview could be back in the playoff hunt this season.

— Adam Schabel

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Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Tim Brediger, seventh year (30-30)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

Twitter: @NOEaglesFB

2018: 5-5 (4-5)

Home field: North Olmsted Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: N. Olmsted at Eastlake North, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Westlake at N. Olmsted, 7	L 34-33
Sept. 13: N. Olmsted at N. Ridgeville, 7	L 42-28
Sept. 20: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7	W 23-17
Sept. 27: N. Olmsted at Lakewood, 7	W 42-20
Oct. 4: Midview at North Olmsted, 7	W 33-27
Oct. 11: Avon at North Olmsted, 7	L 49-21
Oct. 18: N. Olmsted at Olmsted Falls, 7	L 56-14
Oct. 25: Avon Lake at N. Olmsted, 7	L 49-14
Nov. 1: N. Olmsted at Berea-Midpark, 7	W 56-54

Game to watch: The Eagles travel to Olmsted Falls in Week 8 and will look to make a statement toward the end of the season.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Anthony Guercio*	Jr.	5-11	188
RB Cam Bellamy	Sr.	5-10	185
RB Sammy Capps	So.	6-0	182
WR Kyle Connolly	Sr.	6-0	168
WR Avery Jones*	Sr.	5-9	158
WR Zack Doucette	Sr.	5-10	160
WR Eric Wasen	So.	5-10	155
LT Collin Strong*	Jr.	6-3	258
LG Salah Al-Najjar	Sr.	6-0	225
C AJ Luby	Sr.	6-2	270
RG Nick Rodriguez	Jr.	5-10	235
RT TBA			
K Gannon Graf	So.		

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Nick Rodriguez	Jr.	5-10	235
DB Avery Jones*	Sr.	5-9	158
DB Sam Roach*	Sr.	5-11	160
DB Sammy Capps	So.	6-0	182
DB Eric Wasen	So.	5-10	155
OLB JAEDON Roman	So.	5-9	158
LB Cam Bellamy	Sr.	5-10	185
LB Xavier Liddic	Sr.	6-1	192
LB Kosta Ermidis	Jr.	5-10	180
ILB Taedon Beasley	So.	5-11	180
DT Collin Strong*	Jr.	6-3	258

P TBA

(* - returning starter)

Reserves: Zach Doucette, Bradley Gribble, Jameel Darabed

Returning lettermen: 14

Outlook

North Olmsted is looking to build off its 5-5 season from last year. The team will also have a new quarterback in Anthony Guercio, who started for the team as a defensive back last season. It will be an interesting season for North Olmsted. They do have a lot of lettermen returning to the team, including six starters, and a mix of veterans and young players make the Eagles a dangerous team in the Southwestern Conference.

Player to watch



Wide receiver Avery Jones is returning for his final season with the team. He is a three year letterman.

Underclassman to watch: Junior quarterback Anthony Guercio is entering his first year at the position. How he fares will be something to watch throughout the season.

Best in the classroom: Collin Strong, 4.12 GPA

Best squat: Collin Strong, 425 pounds

+ **Online:** Coach Tim Brediger and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



DAVID SCHNEIDER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Olmsted's Avery Jones makes a touchdown catch despite the efforts of Amherst's Stockton Tarbush (23) and Joey Tomaro late in the second quarter Oct. 12, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: everything meshes together within the team, **THEN:** North Olmsted will be a sleeper in the always-tough Southwestern Conference.

— Simon Hannig



Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Luke Durbin, sixth year (22-29)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2018: 4-6 (4-5)

Twitter: @RangerPrideFB

Home field: Ranger Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: N. Royalton at NR, 7	L 42-25
Sept. 6: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7	W 31-30
Sept. 13: North Olmsted at NR, 7	W 42-28
Sept. 20: NR at Olmsted Falls, 7	L 46-14
Sept. 27: Avon Lake at NR, 7 (HC)	L 35-21
Oct. 4: NR at Berea-Midpark, 7	L 52-27
Oct. 11: Westlake at NR, 7	W 42-21
Oct. 18: North Ridgeville at Avon, 7	L 56-21
Oct. 25: North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7	L 38-9
Nov. 1: NR vs. Lakewood, 7	W 56-13

Game to watch: A Week 4 matchup at Olmsted Falls will be an early season test for the Rangers.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Caden Masterson	Jr.	6-2	185
RB Shane Swindig	Sr.	5-10	175
FB Jacob Flesher*	Jr.	6-0	200
WR Tyler Richmond*	Sr.	5-10	165
WR Mason Grow	Sr.	6-0	185
TE Bryce Howell*	Sr.	6-0	215
LT John Leili*	Sr.	6-4	320
LG Evan Conley	Jr.	5-10	220
C Dustin McElhaney*	Sr.	5-10	300
RG Dain Bartlebaugh	So.	6-1	230
RT Patrick Casselberry	Sr.	6-3	270
K Aden Vanover	Jr.	5-10	170

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Alex Haybl	Jr.	6-1	210
DE Carter Grow	Jr.	6-2	205
DT Bryce Howell*	Sr.	6-0	215
NT Chris Douglas	Jr.	5-11	190
LB Tyler Richmond*	Sr.	5-10	165
LB Mason Grow*	Sr.	6-0	185
LB Jacob Flesher	Jr.	6-0	200
DB Shane Adams	Jr.	5-10	160
DB Martin Cannon	Sr.	6-1	185
DB Dom Farago	So.	6-1	185
DB Caden Masterson	Jr.	6-2	185
P Erik Taylor	Jr.	6-1	160

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Dom Farago, So., 6-1, 185, George Allen, Jr., 5-9, 150, Patrick Casselberry, Sr., 6-3, 270, Evan Monter, Fr., 5-8, 135

Outlook

The Rangers are looking to bounce back after missing the playoffs the past three seasons. They have eight returning starters: five on offense and three on defense, and there are also 11 senior starters who can help the younger players develop. North Ridgeville plays in the tough Southwestern Conference, however, head coach Luke Durbin and his veteran squad know what to expect when it comes to division foes.

Player to watch



Swindig



Richmond

+ **Online:** Coach Luke Durbin and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



DAVID SCHNEIDER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Ridgeville's Marcus McLean makes a catch during the first quarter as Amherst's Stockton Tarbush bears down on him Sept. 7, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: The veterans can get the younger players up to speed, **THEN:** North Ridgeville could be in the playoff hunt.

— Adam Schabel



Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Michael Akers, third year (8-12)

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21

2018: 3-7 (1-4)

Twitter: @OBPhoenix

Home field: Oberlin Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Oberlin at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Oberlin at South Central, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Trinity at Oberlin, 7	W 30-24
Sept. 20: Brookside at Oberlin, 7	W 46-21
Sept. 27: Oberlin at Clearview, 7	L 65-20
Oct. 4: Oberlin at Columbia, 7	L 48-0
Oct. 11: Black River vs. Oberlin, 7:30	L 66-20
Oct. 18: Overlin vs. Wellington, 7:30	DNP
Oct. 25: Oberlin vs. Firelands, 7:30	DNP
Nov. 1: Oberlin at Keystone, 7	DNP

Game to watch: A Week 6 road game against Columbia will be a good measuring stick for Oberlin

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Azare Hairston	Sr.	6-0	165
RB Aaron Hopkins	Sr.	6-2	225
RB Donte Colbert	Jr.	5-9	170
WR Sam Fairplay	Sr.	6-4	205
WR Quest Ramon Beebe	Jr.	5-9	155
WR Davan Bell	Sr.	5-9	150
T Charles Hershberger	Jr.	5-6	200
T Sam Thompson	Sr.	6-5	225
C Riley Horning	Sr.	6-0	235
G Alex Rucker	Sr.	6-2	270
G Jadon Turner	Jr.	6-0	265

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
NG Jeremiah Sutton	Sr.	6-0	300
DT Jadon Turner			
DT Alex Rucker			
DE Sam Fairplay			
DE Sam Thompson			
ILB Riley Horning			
ILB Aaron Hopkins			
SS Cory Middlebrooks	Sr.	6-0	175
CB Jaydon Harris	Jr.	5-11	170
CB Anthony Hodge	So.	5-9	160
FS Mikah Jones-Smith	Jr.	5-9	170

Key reserves: DT Cory Jones Sr. 5-9 235, RB Dayveon Witherspoon So. 6-0 230

Outlook

Oberlin took a step back last season as they finished with a 3-7 overall record and a 1-4 conference record after posting a 5-5 overall finish in 2017. The Phoenix have a veteran squad with over 10 returning starters in 2019. Quarterback Azare Hairston is established as a second season as starter. Look for Oberlin to be competitive in the new LCC this season.



Hairston

Player to watch

Senior quarterback Azare Hairston is back under center for the Phoenix and is ready to lead the offense once again.



Hopkins

Underclassman to watch: Sophomore Anthony Hodge is the youngest player in Oberlin's secondary.

+ **Online:** Coach Akers and players discuss the season in a video interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



AIMEE BIELOZER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Oberlin quarterback Azare Hairston hands off to Ravon Eison on Oct. 5, 2018 against Fairview.

Bottom line

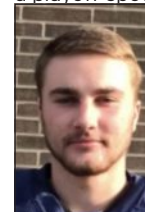
IF: The veterans on the team help the younger players develop, **THEN:** the Phoenix should show vast improvement from last season.

— Adam Schabel



Outlook

Olmsted Falls makes the playoffs frequently, and with success comes expectations. The Bulldogs are coming off of yet another playoff appearance last season when they lost to Avon Lake in the first round. This 2019 squad has a lot of inexperience as they lost 18 senior starters from last year and have just two returning starters on offense and four on defense. That is a lot of experience and veteran leadership to replace. However, head coach Tom DeLuca and his team are up for the challenge. Expect Olmsted Falls to compete for a playoff spot once again this season.



Wall



Schompert

Player to watch

Keep an eye on senior starting linebacker Alec Wall, who is just one of six returning starters from last season. He will be a big part of the Bulldogs' defensive strategy.

Underclassman to watch: Sophomore quarterback Charlie Ciolek is stepping in to replace Teddy Grendzynski under center in 2019.

Best bench press: Nedal Abu-Ukkaz, 315 pounds

Best squat: Patrick Slama, 450 pounds

+ **Online:** Coach DeLuca and players discuss the season in a view interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: OFalls at Brecksville, 7	W 55-28
Sept. 6: Berea-Midpark at OFalls, 7	L 70-57
Sept. 13: Olmsted Falls at Westlake, 7	W 48-14
Sept. 20: North Ridgeville at OFalls, 7	W 46-14
Sept. 27: Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7	W 27-2
Oct. 4: Lakewood at OFalls, 7 (HC)	W 49-14
Oct. 11: Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7	W 62-27
Oct. 18: North Olmsted at OFalls, 7	W 56-14
Oct. 25: Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7	L 52-14
Nov. 1: Olmsted Falls at Avon Lake, 7	L 44-28

Game to watch: If the Bulldogs are in playoff contention, they can use an Oct. 25 game against Avon to test their readiness for the playoffs.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Charlie Ciolek	So.	6-3	175
RB Devontae Boyd	So.	5-10	205
RB Alec Wall	Sr.	5-11	185
RB Stephen Elis	Sr.	6-0	185
WR Dylan Varga	Sr.	6-0	180
WR Domnyck Newson	Sr.	6-4	185
LT Patrick Slama	Sr.	6-3	290
LG Auggie Stallman	Sr.	6-0	245
C Thomas Vas	Jr.	6-0	260
RG Jacob McCabe	Jr.	6-4	240
*RT Tyler Schompert	Sr.	6-5	250
T Aidan Martinez	Sr.	6-1	195
TE John Moore	Sr.	6-0	190
*K Jake Politowski	Sr.	5-10	165

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Tyler Shompert	Sr.	6-5	250
DE Jacob McCabe	Jr.	6-4	240
DE Nedal Abu-Ukkaz	Sr.	6-1	205
NT Ryan Herzog	Sr.	6-4	295
OLB Dylan Varga	Sr.	6-0	180
*ILB Devontae Boyd	So.	5-10	205
ILB Andrew Parkowski	Jr.	6-0	205
*OLB Alec Wall	Sr.	5-11	185
OLB Gavin Kerr	Sr.	5-11	180
*S Keegan Skoczen	Sr.	6-0	180
S Stephen Elis	Sr.	6-0	185
CB Will Alton	Sr.	6-0	175
CB Luke Turski	Sr.	5-11	170
CB Tyler Urban	Sr.	5-11	170
*P Andrew Kanaba	Jr.	5-10	165

(* - returning starter)
Returning lettermen: 8



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Olmsted Falls ball carrier reaches for a touchdown as he is tackled Aug. 22.

Bottom line

IF: The younger players come together and not let expectations affect their play, **THEN:** The Bulldogs will be competing for a playoff spot once again.

— Adam Schabel



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Just the facts

Conference: SBC

Coach: Brett Colahan, second year (3-7)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14
2018: 3-7 (1-3)

Twitter: @TheSailorNation

Home field: Sailor Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 29: Vermilion at Toledo Bowsher, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Clearview at Vermilion, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Vermilion at Firelands, 7	L 21-19
Sept. 20: Vermilion at Perkins, 7	L 38-7
Sept. 27: Tiffin at Vermilion, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Vermilion at Oak Harbor, 7	L 38-0
Oct. 11: Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7	L 47-10
Oct. 18: Huron at Vermilion, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Edison at Vermilion, 7 (HC)	W 36-35
Nov. 1: Vermilion at Willard, 7	DNP

Game to watch: Vermilion was dealt a crushing loss at the hands of rival Firelands at home last season so the Sailors are looking forward to returning the favor on the road in Week 3 this year.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Ben Rini	So.	6-3	188
RB Justin Wagner	Jr.	5-10	168
RB Hayden Valenti	Jr.	5-8	159
WR Bryce Hoerig	So.	6-4	164
WR Uriah Rhoades	Jr.	6-3	172
WR Ethan Young	Jr.	5-11	172
LT Otto Schaefer*	Jr.	6-3	241
LG Kanon Wright	Jr.	5-8	185
C Aiden Smith	Jr.	5-9	189
RG Drake Shaw*	Jr.	5-8	208
RT Xander Neiger	So.	6-3	224
K Riley Baxter	Sr.	5-9	155

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Kanon Wright	Jr.	5-8	185
DL Otto Schaefer	Jr.	6-3	241
DL Xander Neiger	So.	6-3	224
DL Drake Shaw	Jr.	5-8	208
LB Uriah Rhoades	Jr.	6-3	172
LB Aiden Smith	Jr.	5-9	189
DB Ben Rini*	So.	6-3	188
DB Bryce Hoerig	So.	6-4	164

DB Justin Wagner Jr. 5-10 168

DB Ethan Young* Jr. 5-11 167

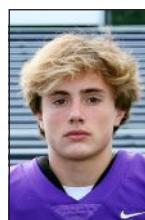
(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Mike Grable, So., 5-9, 218, Clay Reichert, So., 5-8, 141

Number of returning lettermen: 6

Outlook

Vermilion graduated lots of talent from last year's team, and is lacking in experience and size this season. The Sailors are likely looking at a tough road in 2019 and will have to rely on their large core of juniors to pave the way. With both a difficult nonconference and SBC schedule, quick development on both sides of the ball will be crucial to stay competitive in games.



Rini

Player to watch

Quarterback Ben Rini will lead the Sailors' offense this year, and despite being a sophomore, has the size and athleticism to make plays for Vermilion.

Underclassman to watch: Uriah Rhoades brings some much-needed size to the offense at wide receiver and will likely be one of Rini's main targets this year.

+ **Online:** Coach Colahan and players discuss the season in a view interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



KYLE SOOY — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands' Blake Ruffner gets wrapped up by the Vermilion defense after a short gain Sept. 7, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: Vermilion can make big plays on offense, **THEN:** the Sailors will steal a few wins in 2019.

— Marissa McNees



Just the facts

Conference: LCC

Coach: Rob Howells, second year (1-9)

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 22

2018: 1-9 (0-5)

Twitter: @WEVSD_sports

Home field: Wellington Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Collins Western Reserve at Wellington, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Mapleton at Wellington, 7	L 56-21
Sept. 13: Wellington at New London, 7	W 34-22
Sept. 20: Wellington at Black River, 7	L 56-10
Sept. 27: Brookside at Wellington, 7	L 28-21
Oct. 4: Wellington at Clearview, 7	L 49-0
Oct. 11: Columbia at Wellington, 7 (HC)	DNP
Oct. 18: Wellington at Oberlin, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Wellington at Keystone, 7	L 54-14
Nov. 1: Firelands at Wellington, 7	L 35-7

Game to watch: Wellington will be at Black River on Sept. 20, which looks like a very intriguing game at the halfway point of the season.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Ben Higgins	Sr.	6-0	180*
RB Mason McClellan	Sr.	6-1	170*
FB Kaleb Taylor	So.	6-1	200*
WR Jayden Skinner	Jr.	6-1	150*
WR Ty Moore	So.	5-10	160*
TE Nick Laposky	Sr.	6-3	180*
LT Jace Diedrick	So.	6-3	255*
LG Jayson Keenan	Sr.	6-0	190*
C Dylan Lawson	Jr.	6-2	235*
RG Ryan Greene	Sr.	6-1	195*
RT Cam Brinker	Jr.	5-10	250*
K Grace Dudziak	Sr.	5-5	150*

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jayson Keenan	Sr.	6-0	190*
Nose Bert Parsons	Jr.	6-0	295*
DT Dylan Lawson	Jr.	6-2	235*
DE Jace Diedrick	So.	6-3	255*
LB Kaleb Taylor	So.	6-1	200*
LB Mike Kidd	Sr.	5-11	165*
LB Nick Laposky	Jr.	6-3	180*
CB Jayden Skinner	Jr.	6-1	150*
FS Mason McClellan	Sr.	6-1	170*
SS Ty Moore	So.	5-10	160*
CB Jon Brasee	So.	6-0	150*
P Ben Higgins	Sr.	6-0	180*

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Jon Brasee, Michael Hartman, Brayden Cole, Drew Unangst.

Returning lettermen: 18

Outlook

Wellington is looking to rebound after a 1-9 season last year. The Dukes are one of the youngest team in the LCC. They have added depth from last season, which should help this year. The team also has 10 returning starters on both sides of the ball. They may be one of the youngest teams in the LCC, but they should still be a team to keep an eye on. The second year under head coach Rob Howells should be an easier transition for the team. Wellington could certainly be a threat in its conference.



Laposky

Player to watch

Senior tight end Nick Laposky is returning for his final season. Last season, he finished with 10 total catches, along with 90 total receiving yards. He also collected three touchdowns.

Underclassman to watch: Junior wide receiver Jayden Skinner is someone to keep an eye out for Wellington. Last season, he finished with 17 catches for 212 yards. He also had one touchdown.

Best in the classroom: Cam Brinker, 4.33 GPA.

Best bench press: Kaleb Taylor.

Best squat: Dylan Lawson.

+ **Online:** Coach Howells and players discuss the season in a view interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



NICHOLAS PFEIFER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Wellington's Parker Adler reels in the pass off a trick play to score a touchdown against Firelands on Oct. 5, 2018.

Bottom line

IF: their offensive weapons step up this season, **THEN:** they will be a threat offensively, and also in the conference.

— Simon Hannig



Just the facts

Conference: SWC

Coach: Dan LaRocco, first year

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

Twitter: @DemonAthletics

2018: 1-9

Home field: Lou Duchez Field at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center Stadium

Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 9: Rocky River at Westlake, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Westlake at North Olmsted, 7	W 34-33
Sept. 13: Olmsted Falls at Westlake, 7	L 48-14
Sept. 20: Westlake at Avon Lake, 7	L 42-7
Sept. 27: Berea-Midpark at Westlake, 7	L 57-35
Oct. 4: Westlake at Avon, 7	L 42-7
Oct. 11: Westlake at North Ridgeville, 7	L 42-21
Oct. 18: Amherst at Westlake, 7 (HC)	L 55-7
Oct. 25: Westlake at Lakewood, 7	L 35-26
Nov. 1: Midview at Westlake, 7	L 42-28

Game to watch: Westlake will play Rocky River on Aug. 29 for the Westwood Cup. This will be an intense game that will set the stage for the rest of the season for both teams.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Travis Monken	Sr.	6-0	215
QB Jake Collins	Sr.	5-10	170
RB Connor Gregory	Jr.	5-10	205
WR Joe Klesel*	Sr.	6-5	210
WR Austin Norris	Jr.	6-5	195
Slot Lamar Griggs	Sr.	6-0	180
TE Dylan Bednar*	Jr.	6-2	215
TE Tyler Malin*	Sr.	6-1	210
LT Nick Gaunter	Sr.	6-0	215
LG Nolan Dacek*	Jr.	6-2	235
C Hunter Palmisano	Jr.	6-0	285
RG Aidan Cunningham	Sr.	5-10	185
RT Tim Gerent*	Sr.	6-2	180
K Aidan Sharak	Sr.	5-10	170

DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Tyler Malin*	Sr.	6-1	210
DE Tim Gerent*	Sr.	6-2	180
DT Nick Gaunter*	Sr.	6-0	215
NT Colin Hastings	Jr.	5-10	245
LB Dylan Bednar*	Jr.	6-2	215
LB Connor Gregory*	Jr.	5-10	205
LB Aidan Cunningham	Sr.	5-10	185
DB Lamar Griggs*	Sr.	6-0	180
DB Cal Reghi*	Jr.	6-0	175
DB Jake Collins	Sr.	5-10	170
DB Luca Della Vella	Sr.	5-8	145

P TBA

(* - returning starter)

Key reserves: Jack Kerr, Ajay Singh

Outlook

Despite going 1-9 last season, the Demons will be one of the more interesting teams to watch during the 2019 season. They have a ton of talent, but it isn't always easy in a transition year with a new head coach in Dan LaRocco trying to teach a new system. There will be plenty of highs and lows, but there are still a lot of talented kids on the team that will impress a lot of people. Even though the Demons are in a transition year, they will be a team to watch in the Southwestern Conference.



Bednar

Player to watch

Senior wide receiver Joe Klesel finished with 164 yards and one touchdown last season and will be a main target in the Westlake offense in 2019.

Underclassman to watch: Dylan Bednar is returning to the Demons for another season. Last year he finished with 29 receptions and 344 receiving yards, with an average of 11.9 yards per catch. He had four touchdowns on the season.

Best in the classroom: Jake Collins, 4.5 GPA (32 ACT).

Best bench press: Connor Gregory

Best squat: Tyler Malin

+ **Online:** Coach Dan LaRocco and players discuss the season in a view interview at MORNINGJOURNAL.COM



DAVID SCHNEIDER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Midview's Andrew Philion has his catch broken up early in the first quarter by Westlake's Jordan Taylor, Lamar Griggs, Jr. and Michael Augustyn on Oct. 5.

Bottom line

IF: the team plays with heart all season, **THEN:** they will be a great team, no matter what the weaknesses are.

— Simon Hannig

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

OUT OF MY WAY



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Olmsted Falls' running back stiff arms a Willoughby South defender during a scrimmage Aug. 22.

High school football » Games to watch

By Marissa McNees

MMcnees@morningjournal.com

@MarissaNM on Twitter

Week 1

AVON LAKE AT AVON

What: Southwestern Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Aug. 30

Where: Joe Firment Chevrolet Stadium, 3075 Stony Ridge Road, Avon

2018 result: Avon Lake won, 31-28.

For the record: Avon has been bested by the Shoremen twice in the past three seasons, but this year the rivals aren't waiting weeks before meeting. The teams' most anticipated game of the season is happening Week 1 and will likely feature an atmosphere and result similar to that of the playoffs.

LORAIN AT BRUNSWICK

What: Division I nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Aug. 30

Where: Brunswick Auto Mart Stadium, 3581 Center Road, Brunswick

2018 result: Did not play.

For the record: Lorain enters the season with a lot of question marks that can only be answered by taking the field and seeing what this team can do. A win on the road will do a lot to prove the Titans' down year in 2018 was a bit of a fluke. At the very least, the season-opener will no doubt showcase Lorain's D-I caliber athletes across most of its skill positions.

ELYRIA AT MIDVIEW

What: Division I nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Aug. 30

Where: Lou Duchez Field, Midview High School, 38199 W. Capel Road, Grafton

2018 result: Did not play.

For the record: Both teams have plenty to prove this season after less-than-stellar finishes in 2018. Elyria went 0-10 and features first-year



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands' quarterback gets ready to pass during a scrimmage against Rocky River on Aug. 10.

head coach Devlin Culliver, while Midview was 2-8, losing games by an average of 18 points. Starting off 2019 with a win is crucial for a pair of programs looking to keep last season in the past.

Week 2 AVON AT LORAIN

What: Nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 6

Where: George Daniel Field, 2601 Oberlin Avenue, Lorain

2018 result: Did not play.

For the record: This has become one of the most anticipated nonconference games of the 2019 season. Avon is a back-to-back D-II state semifinalist, and though Lorain missed the

playoff cut last season, it returns arguably some of the most dynamic skill players in Northeast Ohio. The result should be one of the most thrilling offensive performances of the year.

FIRELANDS AT AMHERST

What: Nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 6

Where: Mercy Health Stadium, Marion L. Steele High School, 450 Washington Street, Amherst

2018 result: Did not play.

For the record: Current Amherst coach Mike Passerello is facing his former team for the first time in the Comets' only nonconference game of the year. Both Firelands and Amherst

lost some key players to graduation but feature some young talent on both rosters that should make for an exciting matchup before returning to league play.

NORTH RIDGEVILLE AT MIDVIEW

What: Southwestern Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 6

Where: Lou Duchez Field, Midview High School, 38199 W. Capel Road, Grafton

2018 result: North Ridgeville won, 31-30.

For the record: Since 2015, this matchup has been decided by a touchdown or less three out of four times, with the teams playing to overtime in 2016. Midview

hosts the 2019 version and the Middies always provide a playoff-like atmosphere.

CLEARVIEW AT VERMILION

What: Nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 6

Where: Sailor Stadium, Vermilion High School, 1250 Sanford Street, Vermilion

2018 result: Did not play.

For the record: Vermilion plays in the Sandusky Bay Conference, so it's not too often the Sailors get to play host to many local teams. They picked one of last season's best in Clearview, which finished 10-2 in 2018. For Vermilion, it's about gauging whether it can rebound from a three-win season, and Clearview will

be looking to continue its historic run from a year ago.

Week 3 ROCKY RIVER AT FAIRVIEW

What: Great Lakes Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 13

Where: James B. Daley Stadium, Fairview High School, 4507 W. 213th Street, Fairview Park

2018 result: Rocky River won, 30-24 (3OT).

For the record: This annual rivalry game has a new twist this season as Fairview joins the Great Lakes Conference. Now, league standings are at play rather than just bragging rights. Fairview has not beaten Rocky River since 2013.

Games

FROM PAGE 25

ELYRIA CATHOLIC AT BAY

What: Great Lakes Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 13

Where: Bay Memorial Stadium, Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Road, Bay Village

2018 result: Elyria Catholic won, 28-21.

For the record: Last season was the first time Elyria Catholic beat GLC rival Bay since 2014, but the Panthers have emerged as a yearly contender for the league title. This game will have championship implications at play between two teams coming off playoff seasons.

VERMILION AT FIRELANDS

What: Nonconference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 13

Where: Firelands Stadium, Firelands High School, 10643 Vermilion Road, Henrietta Township

2018 result: Firelands won, 21-19.

For the record: Last season's matchup between these rivals did not disappoint, with Firelands eventually coming away with its fifth-straight victory over the Sailors. Vermilion hasn't beat Firelands since a 28-21 victory in 2013, but with rivalry games, anything can happen.

Week 5 BROOKSIDE AT WELLINGTON

What: Lorain County Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Sept. 27

Where: Wellington Stadium, Wellington High School, 398 Dickson Street, Wellington

2018 result: Brookside won, 28-21.

For the record: This game was a good late-season measuring stick for both teams last year and will likely be the same this season. With only a combined three



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone quarterback Jacob Shackelford hands off to running back Dylan Naylor on Aug. 10.

wins between them in 2018, the pressure is on to string some wins together in 2019.

Week 6 AMHERST AT AVON LAKE

What: Southwestern Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 4

Where: Avon Lake Memorial Stadium, Avon Lake High School, 175 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake

2018 result: Avon Lake won, 32-28.

For the record: Amherst was within minutes of beating Avon Lake for the first time in nearly two decades before a last-second touchdown gave the Shoremen the win. But the Comets continue to improve under third-year Coach Mike Passerello and it's not out of the question to steal a win against 2018 SWC co-champion Avon Lake.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AT LORAIN

What: Lake Erie League game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 4

Where: George Daniel Field, 2601 Oberlin Avenue, Lorain

2018 result: Cleveland Heights won, 31-23.

For the record: Lorain didn't schedule an easy game for homecoming, taking on league rival Cleveland Heights. These teams always play each other tough, and the Titans have the bitter taste of missing the playoffs and giving up the LEL title last season.

Week 8 CLEARVIEW AT COLUMBIA

What: Lorain County Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 18

Where: Columbia Raiders

Stadium, Columbia High School, 14168 West River Road, Columbia Station

2018 result: Clearview won, 28-22.

For the record: This win was huge for Clearview last season in its quest for the final Patriot Athletic Conference title and eventual playoff run. Columbia hosts this season, however, and the Raiders will bring the energy in the rematch between two teams who will likely finish near the top of the new Lorain County Conference standings.

KEYSTONE AT FIRELANDS

What: Lorain County Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 18

Where: Firelands Stadium, Firelands High School, 10643 Vermilion Road, Henrietta Township

2018 result: Keystone won,

28-25.

For the record: The Wildcats pulled off a Week 10 win over conference rival Firelands to finish .500 in 2018, while Firelands ended the season at 4-6. Both teams are looking to make strides this year in a brand new conference and have the playmakers to make it happen.

Week 9 EDISON AT VERMILION

What: Sandusky Bay Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 25

Where: Sailor Stadium, Vermilion High School, 1250 Sanford Street, Vermilion

2018 result: Vermilion won, 36-35.

For the record: The Sailors started 2-0 last year then didn't win again until beating Edison in Week 9. They'll need this win among others to become a contender in the

SBC this season.

Week 10 OLMSTED FALLS AT AVON LAKE

What: Southwestern Conference game

When: 7 p.m., Nov. 1

Where: Avon Lake Memorial Stadium, Avon Lake High School, 175 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake

2018 result: Olmsted Falls won, 34-31, during the regular season. Avon Lake won, 44-28, in the first round of the playoffs.

For the record: Each meeting between these two teams last season, two of the best in the SWC, was thrilling in its own right. With the conference title and likely playoff spots on the line this time of year, this Week 10 matchup will no doubt be another battle.

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High school football schedule

AUG. 29

FOOTBALL

Rocky River at Westlake, 7
Vermilion at Toledo Bowsher, 7

AUG. 30

FOOTBALL

Amherst at Lakewood, 7
Avon Lake at Avon, 7
Brookside at Cloverleaf, 7
Clearview at Toledo Scott, 7
Collins Western Reserve at Wellington, 7
Elyria at Midview, 7
Fairview at Lutheran West, 7
Firelands at Edison, 7
Independence at Columbia, 7
Keystone at Bay, 7
Lorain at Brunswick, 7
North Olmsted at Eastlake North, 7
North Royalton at North Ridgeville, 7
Oberlin at Wickliffe, 7
Olmsted Falls at Brecksville, 7
Sandusky Perkins at Elyria Catholic, 7

SEPT. 6

FOOTBALL

Avon at Lorain, 7
Avon Lake at Clinton-Massie, 7
Bay at Medina Buckeye, 7
Bedford at Elyria, 7
Berea-Midpark at Olmsted Falls, 7
Clearview at Vermilion, 7
Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7
Columbia at Waynedale, 7
Fairview at Normandy, 7
Firelands at Amherst, 7
Lutheran West at Brookside, 7
Mapleton at Wellington, 7
North Ridgeville at Midview, 7
Oberlin at South Central, 7
Parma at Elyria Catholic, 7
Westlake at North Olmsted, 7

SEPT. 13

FOOTBALL

Avon at Lakewood, 7
Avon Lake at Berea-Midpark, 7
Cleveland JFK at Brookside, 7
Elyria at Lorain, 7
Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7
John Hay at Clearview, 7
Midview at Amherst, 7
North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7
Olmsted Falls at Westlake, 7
Rocky River at Fairview, 7
South Central at Keystone, 7
Trinity at Oberlin, 7
Vermilion at Firelands, 7
Wellington at New London, 7
West Salem Northwestern at Columbia, 7

SEPT. 20

FOOTBALL

Amherst at North Olmsted, 7
Berea-Midpark at Avon, 7
Brookside at Oberlin, 7
Clarkson (Canada) at Lorain, 7
Clearview at Keystone, 7
Columbia at Firelands, 7
Elyria Catholic at Medina Buckeye, 7
Fairview at Parma, 7
Lakewood at Midview, 7
Mentor at Elyria, 7
North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7
Valley Forge at Bay, 7 (HC)
Vermilion at Sandusky Perkins, 7
Wellington at Black River, 7
Westlake at Avon Lake, 7

SEPT. 27

FOOTBALL



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Olmsted Falls player eyes a kickoff during a recent scrimmage. The Bulldogs travel to Brecksville-Broadview Heights to open the season.

Avon at Midview, 7
Avon Lake at North Ridgeville, 7 (HC)
Bay at Fairview, 7
Berea-Midpark at Westlake, 7
Black River at Firelands, 7 (HC)
Brookside at Wellington, 7
Columbia at Keystone, 7 (HC)
Elyria at Euclid, 7
Fairview at Bay, 7
North Olmsted at Lakewood, 7
Oberlin at Clearview, 7
Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 (HC)
Padua at Elyria Catholic, 7
Tiffin at Vermilion, 7
Toledo Scott at Lorain, 7

OCT. 4

FOOTBALL

Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 (HC)
Cleveland Heights at Lorain, 7 (HC)
Fairview at Medina Buckeye, 7
Firelands at Brookside, 7 (HC)
Holy Name at Bay, 7
Keystone at Black River, 7
Lakewood at Olmsted Falls, 7 (HC)
Medina at Elyria, 7
Midview at North Olmsted, 7
North Ridgeville at Berea-Midpark, 7

Oberlin at Columbia, 7 (HC)
Valley Forge at Elyria Catholic, 7
Vermilion at Oak Harbor, 7
Wellington at Clearview, 7 (HC)
Westlake at Avon, 7 (HC)

OCT. 10

FOOTBALL

Bay at Normandy, 7

OCT. 11

FOOTBALL

Avon at North Olmsted, 7
Avon Lake at Lakewood, 7
Berea-Midpark at Amherst, 7
Black River vs. Oberlin (at Oberlin College), 7
Clearview at Firelands, 7
Columbia at Wellington, 7 (HC)
Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7
Keystone at Brookside, 7
Lorain at Warrensville Heights, 7
Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 (HC)
Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7
Shaker Heights at Elyria, 7
Westlake at North Ridgeville, 7

OCT. 18

FOOTBALL

Amherst at Westlake, 7 (HC)
Bay at Rocky River, 7
Black River at Brookside, 7
Clearview at Columbia, 7
Elyria at Strongsville, 7
Fairview at Valley Forge, 7
Holy Name at Elyria Catholic, 7
Huron at Vermilion, 7
Keystone at Firelands, 7
Maple Heights at Lorain, 7
Midview at Avon Lake, 7
North Olmsted at Olmsted Falls, 7
North Ridgeville at Avon, 7
Wellington vs. Oberlin (at Oberlin College), 7:30

OCT. 25

FOOTBALL

Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7
Avon Lake at North Olmsted, 7
Berea-Midpark at Midview, 7
Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7
Black River at Clearview, 7
Brookside at Columbia, 7
Edison at Vermilion, 7 (HC)

Elyria at Brunswick, 7
Elyria Catholic at Normandy, 7
John Marshall at Fairview, 7
Lorain at Bedford, 7
North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7
Parma at Bay, 7
Wellington at Keystone, 7
Westlake at Lakewood, 7
Oberlin vs. Firelands (at Oberlin College), 7:30

NOV. 1

FOOTBALL

Amherst at Avon, 7
Bay at Revere, 7
Brookside at Clearview, 7
Columbia at Black River, 7
Elyria Catholic at Rocky River, 7
Firelands at Wellington, 7
Holy Name at Fairview, 7
Midview at Westlake, 7
North Olmsted at Berea-Midpark, 7
North Ridgeville vs. Lakewood, 7
Oberlin at Keystone, 7
Olmsted Falls at Avon Lake, 7
Solon at Elyria, 7
Vermilion at Willard, 7

On the air

WEOL-AM 930 AND WEOL-FM 100.3

Aug. 30: Avon Lake at Avon
Aug. 30: Elyria at Midview, WEOL.com
Aug. 30: Lorain at Brunswick, WEOL.com
Sept. 6: Avon at Lorain
Sept. 6: Firelands at Amherst, WEOL.com
Sept. 13: Vermilion at Firelands
Sept. 13: Elyria Catholic at Bay, WEOL.com
Sept. 20: Clearview at Keystone
Sept. 20: Columbia at Firelands, WEOL.com
Sept. 20: Elyria Catholic at Buckeye, WEOL.com
Sept. 27: Padua at Elyria Catholic
Sept. 27: Avon Lake at North Ridgeville, WEOL.com
Oct. 4: Amherst at Avon Lake
Oct. 4: Wellington at Clearview, WEOL.com
Oct. 4: Keystone at Black River, WEOL.com
Oct. 11: Avon at North Olmsted
Oct. 11: Shaker Heights at Elyria, WEOL.com
Oct. 18: Clearview at Columbia
Oct. 18: Maple Heights at Lorain, WEOL.com

WDLW-AM 1380 AND WDLW-FM 98.9

Aug. 29: Vermilion at Bowsher
Aug. 30: Elyria at Midview
Sept. 6: Avon at Lorain
Sept. 13: Elyria Catholic at Bay
Sept. 20: Berea-Midpark at Avon
Sept. 27: Avon Lake at North Ridgeville
Oct. 4: Valley Forge at Elyria Catholic
Oct. 11: Lorain at Warrensville Heights
Oct. 18: Midview at Avon Lake

WOBL-AM 1320 AND WOBL-FM 107.7

Aug. 30: Western Reserve at Wellington
Sept. 6: Firelands at Amherst
Sept. 13: Vermilion at Firelands
Sept. 20: Brookside at Oberlin
Sept. 27: Columbia at Keystone
Oct. 4: Wellington at Clearview
Oct. 11: Black River at Oberlin
Oct. 18: Clearview at Columbia

WKNR-AM 850

Aug. 30: Strongsville at Berea
Sept. 6: Chardon at Perry
Sept. 20: Brecksville at Strongsville
Sept. 27: 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: Nardon 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

High school football state finals

CLASS A/DIVISION I

1972: Warren Western Reserve 37, Cincinnati Princeton 6
1973: Cardinal Mooney 14, Warren Western Reserve 3
1974: Warren Harding 41, Upper Arlington 8
1975: Cincinnati Moeller 14, St. Edward 12
1976: Cincinnati Moeller 43, Gahanna Lincoln 5
1977: Cincinnati Moeller 14, Canton McKinley 2
1978: Cincinnati Princeton 12, Berea 10
1979: Cincinnati Moeller 41, Padua 7
1980: Cincinnati Moeller 30, Massillon Washington 7
1981: Canton McKinley 13, Cincinnati Moeller 0
1982: Cincinnati Moeller 35, Massillon Washington 14
1983: Cincinnati Princeton 24, Akron Garfield 6
1984: Toledo St. Francis 17, North Canton Hoover 14
1985: Cincinnati Moeller 35, Canton McKinley 11
1986: Fairfield 21, St. Edward 20
1987: Cincinnati Princeton 14, Youngstown Boardman 7
1988: St. Ignatius 10, Cincinnati Princeton 7
1989: St. Ignatius 34, Cincinnati Moeller 28
1990: Warren Harding 28, Cincinnati Princeton 21
1991: St. Ignatius 24, Centerville 21
1992: St. Ignatius 24, St. Xavier 14
1993: St. Ignatius 38, Cincinnati Moeller 20
1994: St. Ignatius 20, Westerville South 3
1995: St. Ignatius 41, Brunswick 21
1996: Lima Senior 38, St. Ignatius 30
1997: Canton McKinley 31, Cincinnati Moeller 16
1998: Canton McKinley 33, Cincinnati St. Xavier 10
1999: St. Ignatius 24, Huber Heights Wayne 10
2000: Upper Arlington 15, Solon 9
2001: St. Ignatius 37, Cincinnati St. Xavier 6
2002: Cincinnati Elder 21, Warren Harding 19
2003: Cincinnati Elder 31, St. Edward 7
2004: Cincinnati Colerain 50, Canton McKinley 10
2005: Cincinnati St. Xavier 24, Massillon Washington 17
2006: Hilliard Davidson 36, Mentor 35 (2OT)
2007: Cincinnati St. Xavier 27, Mentor 0
2008: St. Ignatius 28, Cincinnati Elder 20
2009: Hilliard Davidson 16, Glenville 15
2010: St. Edward 35, Huber Heights Wayne 28
2011: St. Ignatius 34, Pickerington Central 13
2012: Cincinnati Moeller 20, Toledo Whitmer 12
2013: Cincinnati Moeller 55, Mentor 52
2014: St. Edward 31, Huber Heights Wayne 21

2015: St. Edward 45, Huber Heights Wayne 35
2016: Cincinnati St. Xavier 27, St. Ignatius 20
2017: Pickerington Central 56, Mentor 28
2018: St. Edward 24, Colerain 10

DIVISION II

1980: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 50, Lebanon 0
1981: Benedictine 28, Trotwood-Madison 7
1982: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 12, Toledo St. Francis 0
1983: Brecksville-Broadview Heights 12, Celina 6
1984: Steubenville 12, Whitehall-Yearling 9 (OT)
1985: Galion 6, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 0
1986: Cincinnati Purcell Marian 26, South 7
1987: Akron Buchtel 26, Steubenville 14
1988: Akron Buchtel 28, Steubenville 21 (OT)
1989: St. Joseph 21, Fostoria 14
1990: St. Marys Memorial 14, Columbus St. Francis Desales 3
1991: Fostoria 21, Uniontown Lake 6
1992: St. Marys Memorial 28, Fostoria 14
1993: St. Marys Memorial 21, Uniontown Lake 0
1994: Chardon 17, Rayland Buckeye Local 6
1995: Dublin Scioto 21, Akron Buchtel 14 (OT)
1996: Fostoria 14, Akron Buchtel 6
1997: Defiance 36, Uniontown Lake 10
1998: Lebanon 27, Chardon 21
1999: Walsh Jesuit 19, Sylvania Southview 18
2000: Olmsted Falls 21, Piqua 0
2001: Toledo St. Francis 28, Columbus Bishop Watterson 14
2002: Dayton Chaminade-Julienne 41, Nordonia 26
2003: Avon Lake 10, Trenton Edgewood 7
2004: Columbus Brookhaven 42, Avon Lake 21
2005: Toledo Central Catholic 31, Canfield 29
2006: Piqua 26, Pickerington Central 7
2007: Cincinnati Anderson 31, Louisville 25
2008: Sylvania Southview 29, Cincinnati Anderson 25
2009: Cincinnati Winton Woods 42, Maple Heights 12
2010: Maple Heights 45, Trotwood-Madison 33
2011: Trotwood-Madison 42, Avon 28
2012: Toledo Central Catholic 16, Trotwood Madison 12
2013: Loveland 41, Glenville 23
2014: Cincinnati Lasalle 55, Nordonia 21
2015: Cincinnati Lasalle 42, Massillon Perry 0
2016: Cincinnati Lasalle 14, Massillon Perry 7
2017: Akron Hoban 42, Winton Woods 14
2018: Akron Hoban 42, Massillon Washington 28

CLASS AA

1972: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 28, Columbus Bishop Watterson 7
1973: Benedictine 38, Ironton 13
1974: Norwalk 27, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 17
1975: Holy Name 19, Cincinnati Wyoming 14
1976: Elyria Catholic 34, Brookville 10
1977: Cincinnati Wyoming 26, Elyria Catholic 14
1978: Brookfield 28, Hamilton Badin 0
1979: Ironton 7, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 6

DIVISION III

1980: Benedictine 9, Hamilton Badin 3
1981: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 48, Washington Court House Washington 7
1982: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 21, Ironton 14
1983: Elyria Catholic 14, Urbana 9
1984: Elyria Catholic 45, Cincinnati Archbishop Mcnicholas 20
1985: Columbus St. Francis Desales 21, Orrville 13
1986: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 7, Kenston 6
1987: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 30, Thornville Sheridan 7
1988: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 14, Ironton 12
1989: Ironton 12, Campbell Memorial 7
1990: Hamilton Badin 16, Richfield Revere 6
1991: Lake Catholic 45, Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 20
1992: Lake Catholic 31, Ironton 7
1993: Wauseon 13, Ironton 10
1994: Beloit West Branch 28, Clyde 11
1995: Clyde 3, Kenston 0
1996: Benedictine 14, Columbus St. Francis Desales 3
1997: Columbus St. Francis Desales 17, Youngstown Chaney 14
1998: Columbus St. Francis Desales 21, Walsh Jesuit 14
1999: Poland Seminary 20, Columbus Bishop Watterson 13
2000: Canton Central Catholic 27, Van Wert 26 (2OT)
2001: Lake Catholic 27, Columbus St. Francis Desales 21 (OT)
2002: Columbus Bishop Watterson 28, Benedictine 7
2003: Benedictine 12, Kenton 0
2004: Benedictine 27, St. Marys Memorial 14
2005: Steubenville 28, Columbus St. Francis Desales 7
2006: Steubenville 34, Kettering Alter 37
2007: Sunbury Big Walnut 17, Newar Licking Valley 10
2008: Aurora 21, Columbus Eastmoor Academy 10
2009: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 35, Columbus St. Francis Desales 17
2010: Columbus Bishop Watterson 13, Akron Buchtel 12
2011: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 21, Springfield Shawnee 14

2012: Akron Svsm 42, Bellevue 21
2013: Akron Svsm 24, Trotwood-Madison 0
2014: Toledo Central Catholic 56, The Plains Athens 52
2015: Akron Hoban 33, Toledo Central Catholic 20
2016: Akron Hoban 30, Trotwood-Madison 0
2017: Trotwood-Madison 27, Dresden Tri-Valley 19
2018: Kenston 42, Kettering Alter 6

DIVISION IV

1980: Trinity 19, Cincinnati Mariemont 14
1981: Nelsonville-York 34, Tontogany Otsego 16
1982: West Jefferson 6, Archbold 0
1983: Columbus Bishop Ready 43, Orrville 15
1984: Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 23, Columbus Bishop Hartley 0
1985: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 27, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 0
1986: Columbus Bishop Hartley 47, Castalia Margaretta 0
1987: Gahanna Columbus Academy 21, Hawken 0
1988: Canton Central Catholic 21, Versailles 6
1989: Wheelersburg 14, Warren John F. Kennedy 7
1990: Versailles 29, Loudonville 26
1991: Warren John F. Kennedy 20, Springfield Catholic Central 7
1992: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 17, Warren John F. Kennedy 16
1993: Versailles 16, Huron 6
1994: Germantown Valley View 34, Orrville 24
1995: Versailles 50, Bellaire 44 (2OT)
1996: Germantown Valley View 37, Bellaire 12
1997: Germantown Valley View 31, Akron Manchester 24 (5OT)
1998: Orrville 23, Coldwater 21
1999: Sandusky Perkins 16, Ironton 14
2000: Youngstown Ursuline 49, Coldwater 37
2001: Kenton 40, Newark Licking Valley 13
2002: Kenton 45, West Portsmouth Portsmouth West 13
2003: Versailles 26, Vasj 0
2004: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 28, Versailles 6
2005: Coldwater 33, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 9
2006: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 26, Plain City Jonathan Alder 12
2007: Coldwater 28, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 27
2008: Kettering Alter 21, Steubenville 6
2009: Kettering Alter 37, Chagrin Falls 7
2010: Columbus Bishop Hartley 34, Chagrin Falls 13
2011: Creston Norwayne 48, Kenton 42
2012: Clarksville Clinton-Massie 46, St. Clairsville 36
2013: Clarksville Clinton-Massie 27, Cardinal Mooney 21
2014: Benedictine 21, Kettering Alter 14

2015: Columbus Hartley 31, Steubenville 28
2016: Columbus Hartley 24, Steubenville 21
2017: Steubenville 50, Clinton-Massie 36
2018: Cincinnati Wyoming 42, Girard 14

CLASS AAA

1972: Marion Pleasant 20, Lorain Clearview 14
1973: Middletown Bishop Fenwick 27, Montpelier 7
1974: Middletown Bishop Fenwick 21, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic 0
1975: Carey 15, Newark Catholic 7 (OT)
1976: West Jefferson 21, Ashtabula St. John 0
1977: Crooksville 8, Ashtabula St. John 7
1978: Newark Catholic 21, Lorain Clearview 0
1979: Mogadore 23, Covington 17 (2OT)

DIVISION V

1980: Tiffin Calvert 22, Newark Catholic 0
1981: Tiffin Calvert 3, Newark Catholic 0
1982: Newark Catholic 14, Fostoria St. Wendelin 7
1983: Mccomb 6, Newark Catholic 0
1984: Newark Catholic 14, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 6
1985: Newark Catholic 19, Delphos Jefferson 0
1986: Newark Catholic 28, Defiance Ayersville 27
1987: Newark Catholic 16, Mogadore 13
1988: Archbold 42, Mogadore 14
1989: Minster 16, Mcdonald 7
1990: St. Henry 20, Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic 17
1991: Newark Catholic 34, Bluffton 13
1992: St. Henry 7, Newark Catholic 3
1993: Steubenville Catholic Central 17, Liberty Center 14 (OT)
1994: Versailles 28, Wellsville 7
1995: Lisbon David Anderson 34, Cincinnati Mariemont 31 (2OT)
1996: Marion Pleasant 26, Versailles 14
1997: Liberty Center 49, Amanda-Clearcreek 8
1998: Versailles 28, Liberty Center 7
1999: Amanda-Clearcreek 35, St. Henry 20
2000: Amanda-Clearcreek 21, Chanel 10
2001: Chanel 44, Marion Pleasant 27
2002: Marion Pleasant 33, Smithville 18
2003: Gahanna Columbus Academy 13, Amanda-Clearcreek 8
2004: St. Henry 35, Amanda-Clearcreek 7
2005: Hamler Patrick Henry 42, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy 30
2006: St. Henry 28, Warren JFK 7
2007: Maria Stein Marion Local 20, Youngstown Ursuline 14
2008: Youngstown Ursuline 21, Findlay Liberty-Benton 0
2009: Youngstown Ursuline 55, Coldwater 25
2010: Youngstown Ursuline 51, Coldwater 21

2011: Kirtland 28, Coldwater 7
2012: Coldwater 10, Kirtland 9
2013: Coldwater 24, Bishop Hartley 7
2014: Coldwater 62, Canton Central Cathoic 21
2015: Coldwater 35, Canton Central Catholic 18
2016: Canton Central Catholic 16, Coldwater 13
2017: Wheelersburg 21, Pemberville Eastwood 14 (OT)
2018: Orrville 49, Johnstown-Monroe 34

DIVISION VI

1994: St. Henry 21, Mcdonald 7
1995: St. Henry 10, New Washington Buckeye Central 7
1996: Mogadore 61, St. Henry 58 (3OT)
1997: Delphos St. John's 42, Norwalk St. Paul 28
1998: Delphos St. John's 26, Lancaster Fisher Catholic 16
1999: Delphos St. John's 42, Norwalk St. Paul 10
2000: Maria Stein Marion Local 54, Mogadore 0
2001: Maria Stein Marion Local 63, Mogadore 7
2002: Mogadore 27, Dola Hardin Northern 7
2003: Columbus Grove 28, Maria Stein Marion Local 26
2004: Dola Hardin Northern 20, Norwalk St. Paul 8
2005: Delphos St. John's 28, Steubenville Catholic Central 0
2006: Maria Stein Marion Local 17, Shadyside 0
2007: Newark Catholic 28, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon 14
2008: Delphos St. John's 34, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon 14
2009: Norwalk St. Paul 24, Delphos St. John's 21
2010: Delphos St. John's 77, Shadyside 6
2011: Maria Stein Marion Local 61, New Washington Buckeye Central 21
2012: Maria Stein Marion Local 28, Newark Catholic 21
2013: Kirtland 44, Wayne Trace 16
2014: Minster 46, Kirtland 42
2015: Kirtland 22, Maria Stein Marion Local 20
2016: Maria Stein Marion Local 21, Cuyahoga Heights 17
2017: Maria Stein Marion Local 34, Kirtland 11
2018: Kirtland 16, Maria Stein Marion Local 7

DIVISION VII

2013: Maria Stein Marion Local 33, Trimble 0
2014: Maria Stein Marion Local 41, Norwalk St. Paul 0
2015: Fort Recovery 33, Mogadore 14
2016: Warren Jfk 24, Minster 6
2017: Minster 32, Cuyahoga Heights 7
2018: McComb 28, Glouster Trimble 3



CLEVELAND BROWNS PREVIEW

On September 6, our award winning sports staff will be publishing an in-depth look at our Cleveland Browns.

Be sure to look for it only in The Morning Journal.

OHIO FLAGS OF HONOR

The City of Sheffield Lake proudly welcomes the Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation to our city on September 13th-15th, 2019

The Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation was founded to honor the men and women from our state that paid the ultimate price protecting our freedom in the service of their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To memorialize our Fallen Heroes, the foundation has created a traveling display of over 900 United States flags. Over 300 of the flags represent those brave Ohioans that lost their lives and have individual flag poles inscribed with each service member's name.

The Flags of Honor will be on display at Shoreway Shopping Center 4128 Lake Rd, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054. The Opening Ceremony will be Friday, September 13th at 6:00 p.m. with the posting of the Flags of Honor. The Closing Ceremony will be on Sunday, September 15th, at 2:00 p.m.

This display was brought to Our City in part by Joe & Rosa Gee

Please join us as we remember and honor our Fallen Heroes.

Volunteers needed call 440-949-4883 for details.



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THE CHASE BEGINS



JEN FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Amherst defender breaks through to stop Valley Forge's quarterback in the backfield during a scrimmage Aug 16.



PRESS PLAY ON FAMILY FUN!



Join us for our Open House September 29 at 10am -2pm for a whole new level of Family Fun!



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