

ELYRIA MAKES
DEBUT IN SWC

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ... PLAYOFF EXPANSION, REALIGNMENT

FOOTBALL 20 PREVIEW 21

THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME ... AVON RELOADS FOR ANOTHER TITLE SHOT



Gideon Lampron
Keystone



Kenny Groholssek
Brookside



Trevor Norman
Avon



Ryne Shackelford
Keystone



Lance Glover
Elyria



Gavin Ehrhardt
Avon



Konner Rodick
Keystone

OPINION

High school football just what we need

If the 2020 football season was known as “a season unlike any other,” then that makes the 2021 season “a season just like any other.”



Rob DiFranco
Columnist

In a time where plenty of things are still up in the air around the country and the world, that’s just perfect.

You know what happened last year. The novel coronavirus pandemic halted life as we knew it. Businesses closed down, people were forced to stay inside for months and lives changed forever.

High school student-athletes who played spring sports had their seasons canceled and many fall athletes awaited similar news throughout the summer.

That new never came. There was high school football under the lights again.

Not in any way that anyone had ever experienced before, but it was there. Players dressed in their school colors battling it out for football supremacy.

Several area teams won conference championships. They raised T-shirts emboldened with their accomplishments at Avon. Over at Keystone, their recent dominance continued as they won their second straight Lorain County League title.

At Firelands, they celebrated their first two playoff wins in school history while 30 minutes east, Columbia did the same with a first-round win over Black River.

It wasn’t all roses though. Teams like North



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Players compete for a pass in the end zone during a scrimmage between Avon Lake and Medina Highland on Aug. 7.

Olmsted and Elyria Catholic had their playoff runs ended before they even began. The Eagles won their first-round game over Midview before their second-round game with Avon was ruled a forfeit due to the coronavirus.

The Panthers were readying for their first

playoff game when it was canceled days before they were set to take the field.

In Lorain, George Daniel Field was left dormant on Friday nights as the Lorain football team had its season canceled. After an offseason of excitement with a new head coach, the Titans were forced

to sit back and watch as the rest of Lorain County played on. The Titans are back in 2021 with another new head coach and a renewed sense of gratitude for being able to play the game of football.

That’s the sense that permeates across The Morning Journal’s cover-

age area as players and coaches return to a mostly normal offseason.

Talk to any coach or player and the one thing you’ll constantly hear is how this past year has made them rethink what it means to play high school sports. Not just football, but any sport.

They’ve learned to not take for granted the opportunity to play high school sports. They’ve learned to not take anything for granted, really. Many of the student-athletes you’ll see putting on their school colors to play sports in 2021 had a year of their lives taken from them by the virus.

Instead of a year in the halls of their high school, they spent a large amount of it at home, on their computers in Zoom rooms — trying their best to learn virtually.

The same goes for high school sports where teams had to practice in smaller groups of 10 or smaller. Golf outings were canceled and other team bonding events didn’t happen because of the virus.

In the first half of August, I’ve spent time at several practices across Lorain County. The mood at all of them has been the same — upbeat. Players are happy to be back. It feels like high school football is back for real this time.

High school football in 2020 just didn’t feel right in many ways. But now, finally, in 2021 the equation will be whole again.

The bright lights are on, the band is playing loudly and the players on the field laying it all out for gridiron glory.

You, the fans are back in the stands cheering on those student-athletes.

Welcome back, it’s high school football season again in northeast Ohio. Time to sit back and enjoy the ride.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Avon's experienced defense leads the way

By Rob DiFranco

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It's been 10 years since the Avon football team appeared in the state championship game.

That 2011 team narrowly missed a perfect regular season, losing in Week 10 to Lake Catholic, before making a run through the Division II playoffs on their way to the school's first title berth. In the state title game, they fell just short.

In the 10 years since that 42-28 loss to Trotwood Madison, the Eagles have made the state semifinals four times and the regional finals twice.

They've run into roadblocks from their own conference — Midview and Avon Lake. And ones from elsewhere — Massillon and Hoban — and have yet to make that return trip to the final round of the D-II playoffs.

In 2021, the 10th anniversary of the first and only state finalist football team in school history, the Eagles are looking to finally break through and get to the top of the mountain.

"We're extremely excited for this season. We're tired of losing in the final four. We want to get back to that state championship game again and we're ready," senior linebacker Trevor Norman said.

Norman leads a fast, experienced and hungry defense that will have to carry the load for the Eagles this season as Avon gets its young offense up to speed.

"It's nice to know that you have a defense with experience and guys that have experience at a high level of varsity football coming back," Elder said. "We certainly feel like the defense will be the strength of the



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Avon defense pursues a Lorain ball carrier during an Aug. 12 scrimmage.

team early on as we break in the guys on offense and they get their legs under them."

Avon has nine new starters on offense, including a new starting quarterback and several new faces on its usually stout offensive line. Many of those players have experience of some sort on the varsity level thanks to the Eagles' dominance the past few seasons.

They've also had the opportunity to go up against their own defense in practice and one of those previously mentioned roadblocks in Massillon.

On Aug. 7, the Eagles' held what has become their annual scrimmage against the Tigers. As expected, the defense impressed. The of-

fense showed flashes, but also how long it has to go.

"I think it's pretty sweet that we get to start against such a good team," junior lineman Austin Mitchell said. "We get to see if we can handle the best and if we can do that we gain confidence for the rest of the season. And I think we did really well against them."

Mitchell is a two-way starter for Avon, playing tight end and along the defensive line. Elder described the pass-rusher as a 'freak' and with good reason.

Despite his relative lack of size compared to what you'd expect from an interior defensive lineman, Mitchell has fit perfectly into one of the most important roles on the Eagles'

defense. As the three-technique defensive lineman, Mitchell can use his athleticism and pass rush technique to his advantage in one-on-one matchups with guards.

"I pride myself on my technique. I may not always be the biggest guy, but with my technique, I can hang with those bigger guys," Mitchell said.

Avon plays a true 4-3 defense, with three linebackers — Ehrhardt, Norman and Jackson Blodgett — and four down linemen including Mitchell.

In the day and age of spread offenses, Avon is fortunate to have the linebacking corps it has. The combination of size and speed from the three starters al-

lows them all to stay on the field, even against teams that like to pass the ball.

Ehrhardt is also set to be the team's starting running back with Norman and Jakorian Coffey backing him up in what is always a stacked backfield.

He's better known on the baseball field where he hit in the leadoff spot for Avon.

He also started in center field and has already accepted a D-I baseball scholarship to play at Cincinnati.

In the defensive backfield is Colin Kaufmann, an All-Ohio sprinter this past spring, who starts at cornerback. Kaufmann finished fourth at the D-I state meet and recently posted a 4.38 40-yard dash time at a camp in Indianapolis.

Up and down the Eagles' defense you'll find speed and that has Norman very excited.

"It's so much fun (playing on a defense with the speed we have) everyone is flying around making plays. We've got guys rocking kids, it's just awesome," Norman said. "(The defense) takes some pride in (leading the team). You have to take pride in everything you do out there."

Avon's speed will be put to the test early on in the season, with games against Brunswick, Medina and Glenville kicking off the season. Week 4 is their annual rivalry matchup with Avon Lake. As it has been the last two years, it could very well be the de facto conference title game.

For those first four games, they'll rely on that experienced defense to lead the way as an offense led by a junior quarterback and running back tries to get up to speed.

Sam DeTillio takes over as the man under center. DeTillio beat out a pair of other potential starters in an off-season competition.

The junior's accuracy set him apart from the rest according to Elder, as for the most part that's what they'll need to win games. An accurate passer who can get the ball to a talented stable of playmakers on the outside.

"We feel good about all three of our quarterbacks and that's why it was such a battle," Elder said. "They're all very talented guys and we feel like we can win with any of them. If something were to happen to him we feel confident in the other guys, this wasn't an easy decision. But we're fully behind Sam and we feel like he gives us the best chance to win at the highest level."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Elyria ready for debut season in the SWC

By Rob DiFranco

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“It feels like a fresh start, we’re really confident about where we are heading into this year. We feel like we’re almost a different team.”

Andrew Palos, Elyria senior

Every season brings new challenges for a high school football team. Not every season brings a new conference with new opponents to learn.

For Elyria, that’ll be the case as it makes the move from the Greater Cleveland Conference — where they won five games in five years — to the Southwestern Conference. It’s a move that makes sense not only competitively and geographically.

Gone are the days of the nearly hour-long drives to face conference foes like Medina and Mentor. The Pioneers now play in a conference where they are to compete on a regular basis.

Elyria will play teams in its county regularly for the first time in a long time. The Pioneers will have the chance to rekindle old rivalries and form new ones in the Southwestern Conference, which has players excited.

“The excitement level is way up there,” senior receiver Andrew Palos said. “It’s a good change for us. It feels like a fresh start, we’re really confident about where we are heading into this year. We feel like we’re almost a different team.”

Palos caught 17 passes for 319 yards in Elyria’s run-first offense in 2020 after a 14-catch campaign as a sophomore. He’s one of a handful of returning starters on an offense that has to replace a lot of production.

Jaheim Atkinson, the workhorse running back who put together back-to-back 1,000-plus yard seasons, graduated and left an open spot in the starting backfield. Elyria’s starting quarterback in 2020, Day-



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Players from Elyria and Chaney face off in a scrimmage Aug. 14.

lan Sharlow, also graduated opening that spot for competition.

There’s some reshuffling on the offensive line too. Last year’s starting center, Alex Lowery, is moving to guard to better take advantage of his skill set.

Lowery is a bruiser,

known for his quick first step and mean-streak that shows on tape. Moving to guard will make that first step even quicker as he’ll no longer have to worry about

having his hand on the ball.

“They told me I’m (moving to guard) so I can pull a little more and we can be a little bit more athletic up front,” Lowery said. “I’m liking it a lot because I don’t have to have my hand on the

ball. I’m a little bit quicker, I gained a little bit of weight but I’m still quicker.”

Junior Lance Glover will take over for Atkinson as the lead tailback. Glover ran for nearly 400 yards in 2020 as Atkinson’s backup,



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Players from Elyria and Chaney face off in a scrimmage Aug. 14. The Pioneers play Elyria Catholic on Aug. 20.

averaging 8.8 yards per carry in his first season of varsity action.

Expect the defense to improve too, especially in the major statistical categories, despite the loss of key contributors like Jesse Stevens and Perryion Benton.

The new move to the SWC also coincides with the start of Culliver’s third season as head coach at Elyria. Culliver took over a struggling program in 2019 that had won just one game in the two seasons prior and saw growth from his team in the transition from Year 1 to Year 2.

The Pioneers won three games in 2020, including wins over Lorain County opponents Elyria Catholic and Midview.

“The kids have bought into the program now,” said Culliver. “They know what the expectations are because we set those up in that first year and then followed through with it last season. They know what to do.”

That third victory — an end-of-the-year win over Youngstown Chaney — brought Elyria’s program its 600th win. It was a nice milestone to end an era in the GCC.



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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Creel facing a big challenge at Lorain

By Michael Fitzpatrick

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If he can do it, he might be called The Miracle Worker.

If Damion Creel can turn the Lorain football program into a perennial playoff school, one that produces Division I college talent, ambassadors in the classroom and community, then what else would you call the guy?

Not only does he take over a program that missed the entire 2020 season due to COVID-19, but he also faces the challenge of building a consistently competitive high school football program in an urban school district, which is not an easy thing to do.

Need proof? Aside from Glenville, when was the last time a big-city public school came anywhere close to sniffing a state football title in the Buckeye state? Sure, there are good urban programs. Glenville is one, and Euclid has had a nice run, although it's more a suburban district.

Creel and the program is already facing challenges. The starting running back/linebacker suffered a knee injury in the first scrimmage and it's not known when and if he'll return this year. His starting quarterback hasn't played organized football since he was 10 and never played quarterback.

"Just got to keep on pushing," Creel said when talking about the upcoming season that starts on Aug. 20 when the Titans travel to Olmsted Falls to take on the Bulldogs and their vaunted option offense.

The preparation for the 2021 season began under



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Damion Creel will have his hands full trying to turn Lorain into the football program he envisions.

cold and rainy May skies on the bright green synthetic surface of George Daniel Field. The practice has helped a lot.

Lorain looked rough when it first put on the pads. Improvement has been steady. The Titans have clearly gotten better from an execution standpoint and they look more like a team as the start of the regular season draws ever closer. Those first days of practice in May when it was an accomplishment just to get the center to snap the ball back to the quarter-

back are a distant memory.

Creel has made no bones that his goal is to turn Lorain into a model program. He wants players who achieve on the football field as well as in the classroom and the community. That's why this spring shortly after the team started practicing, Creel took his players off the field, and instead of working on blocking schemes, pass routes, and ball skills, the players attended a team study table to bring their grades up. It was his duty as a coach, Creel said at the time, to

make sure the players on his team were maintaining the "standard" for Lorain football in the classroom.

"Right now as a team we just aren't meeting the standard," he said when he abruptly put football activities on hold. "We have a couple of guys that are, but as a team, our GPA is not where it needs to be nor do we have individuals where they need to be. As a man, as a father, as a teacher, it's unacceptable for me to allow for our standard not to be met."

The move worked. All

of the key Lorain players were eligible for the fall season when practice began. And the players seem to be thriving under Creel and his staff's tough-love, old-school coaching methods that preach responsibility and accountability.

Said junior running back Gabe Lowe when asked about playing for Creel: "I love it. He's positive. I like his energy."

Creel, whose resume includes stints on coaching staffs at Cleveland Heights, Glenville, St. Edward, Bedford, and six years as the

head coach at Beachwood, likely deep down knows this won't be a playoff season in Lorain. Consistent positive plays on offense might be hard to come by, let alone wins.

Keep the faith, a reporter tells Creel at a recent practice, right around the time Creel has learned that his sophomore running back John Salamon will likely miss time with a knee injury.

"Definitely, I wouldn't have taken this job If I didn't think I was going to turn it around," said Creel.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Brookside's Grobolsek brings versatility

By Michael Fitzpatrick

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Kenny Grobolsek is a throwback to the days when high school athletes played three sports, going from one season to the next.

In the year 2021, that makes Grobolsek a rarity in the era of sports specialization, where many young athletes pick the sport they want to focus on and dedicate themselves to it from age 12 until they hang it up.

But not Grobolsek. He is a young man for all seasons. You likely won't see him in the gym working on ball-handling and free-throw shooting in the summer, because he's more likely on the baseball field or a football field.

In the fall, you won't find him playing a doubleheader on a Sunday with his traveling baseball team buddies, but instead recovering from that Friday night's football game in which he probably played every down from scrimmage.

He plays football, basketball, and baseball. He loves football, baseball comes second and he plays basketball to keep in shape.

"I play three sports to stay active," said Grobolsek, who has a 3.5-grade point average and math is his favorite subject. "Baseball is my second love. Without football, I would play baseball and I play basketball to stay active in the winter cause I just don't want to sit and do nothing."

He played well enough as a junior to earn Division IV Northeast District second-team honors as an athlete on offense. He stands 6-foot and weighs 210 pounds.

He's been playing varsity football at Brookside since he was a freshman. As the quarterback on offense and a ball-hawking safety on defense, he will be the face of the franchise for the 2021 Cardinals, who will be heavy on seniors, but low on total numbers.

Grobolsek is the first player whom Brookside coach Scott O'Donnell mentions when he discusses his 2021 squad.

"He's our best player and we want him to get the most touches he can. He's an athlete. He's really a running back playing quarterback because that's what we have," said O'Donnell. "Last year was a learning curve. We've

got to put him in good situations."

A dual-threat quarterback who can run it or throw it, he's put up impressive passing and rushing totals the past two years. In the pandemic shortened 2020 season, he threw for 534 yards and ran for 674 and scored nine times for a team that went 2-8.

"I expect a big run this year. We've got a lot of seniors. A lot of kids are ready to get after it. Our numbers might not be super high, but we've got heart," said Grobolsek.

They also have a quarterback-receiver duo in Grobolsek and junior receiver Jake Montgomery with the chemistry that comes with years of playing pitch and catch. The two are best of friends and have grown up playing football, baseball, and basketball together. In their earlier years, it was Montgomery at quarterback and Grobolsek the running back.

That's changed.

Last year, Montgomery caught 34 passes and was Grobolsek's favorite target. The two have been playing football together since flag football, which is third and fourth grade in Sheffield.

Montgomery has game-time speed, meaning he plays faster than he looks. In a recent 7-on-7, the two lit up defenses from a myriad of high schools.

"We went down to Norwalk and played like nine other teams. Jake probably had 330 yards receiving on just one route, a post. You could tell they've been playing for a decade because Jake knows where to go. It's nice to see them develop," said Brookside defensive coordinator Max Wilson.

The two should also make plays on defense. The two safeties will lead a defense that is built off a nickel package and allows Grobolsek and Montgomery to freelance.

Playing on a team with so few players means that those that do play will get ample reps. But playing four quarters both ways of a high school football game is an exhausting experience.

"It would be nice to have a lot of numbers like a lot of teams have. But I've heard a lot of teams are low on numbers. But I wouldn't say it's disheartening. All of us are brothers. We all are there for each other," Grobolsek said.



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Kenny Grobolsek plays football, basketball, and baseball at Brookside. He's hoping he and a close-knit senior class can lead the Cardinals to a winning 2021 campaign.

Matt Wilhelm Award preseason watch list

By Rob DiFranco

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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 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.

This list is in alphabetical order:

■ **RB Tommy Bebie, Sr., Rocky River:** Committed to play for Wake Forest in 2022, Bebie is a do-it-all player for the Pirates. On offense, ran the ball 136 times for 834 yards and seven scores and caught 11 passes for 173 yards and two scores. On defense had 55 tackles at linebacker.

■ **RB Gavin Ehrhardt, Jr., Avon:** Ehrhardt takes over the starting running back role from Devon Hunter this season. The junior has the combination of speed and physicality to thrive in the Eagles' offense.

■ **RB Lance Glover, Sr., Elyria:** Spent 2020 backing up first-team Morning Journal all-star running back Jaheim Atkinson, while also playing well. Glover ran the ball 43 times for 377 yards and three scores, good enough for an 8.8 average.

■ **ATH Kenny Grobolsek, Sr., Brookside:** Listed as an athlete for a reason. Grobolsek has played all over the Brookside offense over the past two years and excelled everywhere he's played. In 2020 ran for 763 yards and 10 scores, threw for 573 yards and a pair of touchdowns and caught six passes for 39 yards. Also returned 18 kicks for 314 yards.

■ **RB Jason Krukowski, Jr., Avon Lake:** One half of



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Keystone running back Gideon Lampron was the 2020 winner of the Wilhelm Award.

a talented young Shoremen backfield, Krukowski is the leading returning rusher for Avon Lake in 2021. As a sophomore had 177 yards on the ground playing behind a pair of talented backs in Gage Duesler and Mason Wheeler.

■ **RB Gideon Lampron, Sr., Keystone:** The 2020 winner of the Wilhelm Award, Lampron ran for 1,608 yards scoring 19 times in eight games. As a junior, he averaged more than 200 yards per game for a Wildcats team that won its second consecutive Lorain County League title.

■ **WR Owen Menge, Sr., Columbia:** Playing with a pair of quarterbacks in 2020 had an outstanding season. Menge caught 30 balls for 576 yards and five scores for a seven-win

Raiders team.

■ **RB Will Ostrowski, Jr., Westlake:** One of the area's top rushers in 2020 for a surprising Westlake team. Ran for 955 yards and nine scores in nine games. Added 200 yards and a score through the air.

■ **WR Ryne Shackelford, Jr., Keystone:** One of three All-Ohio level players for Keystone. Shackelford is a legitimate Division I football recruit with lightning-fast speed. In 2020 has 728 yards on 34 catches, scoring on nine of those grabs. Also added two scores on the ground and two more on kick returns.

■ **QB Braedon Spies, Sr., Rocky River:** The latest in a long line of talented passers from Rocky River. Spies threw for 1,690 yards and 18 scores in 2020. Added

436 yards and 10 scores on the ground.

■ **QB Ethan Surdock, Sr., Midview:** One of just two starting quarterbacks to return in the SWC this year. Surdock has the tools to be one of the conference's best, throwing a good ball with anticipation. In 2020 had 1,276 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air. Ran for 288 yards and five more scores.

■ **QB Ben Rini, Sr., Vermilion:** The Sailors' main source of offense in 2020, Rini did it all. Threw for 1,132 yards and seven touchdowns with 468 yards and seven scores on the ground.

■ **RB Torre Weatherspoon, Sr., Amherst:** An impressive back with speed and vision. In 2020 ran for 549 yards and four scores.

TOP OF THE CROP

Football

1: Avon 10-1

2: Keystone 7-1

3: Avon Lake 8-2

4: Olmsted Falls 4-3

5: Firelands 8-1

6: Columbia 7-3

7: Rocky River 7-2

8: Elyria 3-7

9: Elyria Catholic 3-3

10: Amherst 4-3

Watch list: Wellington 3-6, North Olmsted 2-4, Westlake 4-5

Crop Comments: A familiar face leads off the first Crop of the 2021 football season in The Morning Journal's coverage area. Avon is looking to make their fifth straight trip to a state semifinal this season and have a solid chance at doing that. The Eagles are again a deep team with experience across the board, even from its younger players. ... Keystone jumps over Avon Lake to take the second spot, and for good reason. The 'Cats return three All-Ohio level players at three important positions on offense. The 2020 Matt Wilhelm Award winner Gideon Lampron returns at running back with signal-caller Konner Rodick next to him in the backfield. Receiver Ryne Shackelford brings blazing speed to the outside edges of the Keystone offense, too. ... Coach Matt Kostelnik's group at Avon Lake is noticeably younger, led by a new tandem in the backfield. The defense will be key as will the veteran leadership of a pair of three-year starters up front on the offensive line. ... It's difficult to count out Olmsted Falls, which

made an early exit from the 2020 playoffs due to a clear-cut case of under-seeding. The Bulldogs will have to replace some key parts of their offense from a season ago, but Coach Tom DeLuca's triple-option attack should allow for that to be a little easier. ... Firelands won a pair of playoff games a year ago and looked pretty good doing it. The Falcons are absent some of the game-breaking speed they had at receiver in 2020, but quarterback Kyle Ransom should be able to lead his new group of weapons to another strong season in the Lorain County League. ... Led by an always strong offense, Rocky River returns to The Morning Journal's coverage area in 2021. The Pirates have a do-it-all back in Tommy Bebie, who is fresh off making a commitment to Wake Forest this offseason. ... Elyria took its lumps but now they'll face more even competition in their first year as members of the Southwestern Conference. ... Elyria Catholic's 2020 season, much like their public school rivals from the same city, was a bit of a let-down. The Panthers struggled in their opening game against Elyria before ripping off three straight wins. But that momentum was squashed with a loss to Valley Forge, followed by a last-minute cancellation of their opening-round playoff game due to COVID issues. ... Columbia picked up a playoff win over conference rival Black River in 2020 and closed out their regular season with two wins after a second-round playoff exit. The Raiders have to find production to replace workhorse running back Joe Governale, but Coach Jason Ward's team should make a lot of noise in the LC8. ... Amherst enters the season as a bit of a wild card in the SWC. The Comets have a new head coach and have to replace some key players that graduated over the offseason.

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Area high school football conference outlook

By Rob DiFranco

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Southwestern Conference

FAVORITE » Avon

CONTENDER » Avon Lake

DARKHORSE » Elyria

Despite the new look for the Southwestern Conference in 2021, there's not much of a change in the hierarchy of the league. The last time a team other than Avon or Avon Lake was crowned champion was 2015, and the Eagles have won the last five.

The favorites have a lot of big names to replace in 2021. Avon's offense will have eight new starters while the Shoremen break in a new starting backfield. The good news for their respective head coaches is that they'll each have three weeks to get those players settled in before their conference opener, which is again against each other.

Avon took both meetings a year ago, including a come-from-behind overtime win in Week 1 and a hotly contested three-point win in a regional final. In the shortened season a year ago, that first win for the Eagles turned out to be the championship-deciding game.

Avon Lake was a play away from knocking off Avon in the regional final in 2021, with a controversial call in the end zone potentially being the difference. The Shoremen have a handful of returners from that team and it's a safe bet they'll be chomping at the bit to get revenge for that loss.

The team to watch in 2021 is Elyria. The Pioneers are making their SWC debut after five years in the difficult GCC, where they won just five conference games. Despite that record, Elyria is uber-talented and fits in well with the SWC both competitively and geo-



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands and Fairview — teams that scrimmaged Aug. 13 — hope to make some noise in 2021.

graphically.

The Pioneers probably won't overtake Avon, Avon Lake or maybe even Olmsted Falls in 2021, but the longer Elyria stays in the SWC the better they should get. Winning a few games could be just what this squad needs to meet its full potential.

Elsewhere, Olmsted Falls promises to have another winning season under head coach Tom Deluca. The Bulldogs — much like the

other teams near the top of the standings — have a lot to replace, but in the triple-option system, the run that shouldn't be a problem.

Quarterback will be a position to watch in this conference with several squads breaking in new players at that position this season. Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Elyria and North Ridgeville all have new signal-callers in 2021 leaving only a pair of returning starters, Midview's Ethan Surdock and

Olmsted Falls' Charlie Cirolek.

Surdock is the one to watch in terms of throwing the ball. The senior had 1,200 yards and added 10 touchdown passes in 2020. As a sophomore, Surdock was named the starting quarterback on short notice, and last season he was the clear-cut starter from the opening of camp. Surdock has the talent to elevate the Middies this year.

Lake Erie League

LORAIN » After a year away from the football field, it's anyone's guess how the Titans will look on the field in the LEL this season. Lorain returns one player with any varsity experience, guard Jacob Addis and had just two scrimmages with new head coach Damion Creel to get prepped for the season. Granted, those scrimmages were against tough competition to get the Titans ready for a tough schedule.

Expect 2021 to be a growth year for the young Titans.

Lorain County League

FAVORITE » Keystone

CONTENDER » Firelands

DARKHORSE » Columbia

In its third year, the Lorain County League has quickly become a super competitive league with multiple teams that should threaten to make playoff runs.

Conference

FROM PAGE 10

It starts at the top with Keystone, which seems primed for a deep run into the D-IV playoffs this year. The Wildcats return a trio of dangerous weapons on offense, including 2020 Matt Wilhelm Award Winner Gideon Lampron, quarterback Konner Rodick and receiver Ryne Shackelford.

Keystone's last two seasons have ended with losses to the eventual D-IV state champions — Clyde in 2019 and Van Wert in 2020. Coach Don Griswold's team projects to be the favorite again, looking to three-peat as champions in the LC8, but their aspirations don't stop there.

With that returning trio, the 'Cats have their eyes set on winning multiple playoff games this season.

Firelands surprised some by finishing second in the LC8 a season ago. Led by quarterback Kyle Ransom and dynamic receiver Caden Bomback, the Falcons lost a single conference game (to Keystone). They followed that up with a pair of playoff wins.

The Falcons return five starters from that offense, including Ransom at quarterback. They also bring back a trio of starters from one of the area's best defensive units in 2020.

Columbia's defense was a large part of their success a year ago, allowing fewer than 12 points in eight of their 10 games — including a 9-0 loss to Firelands.

Running back Dante Cirigliano is a player to watch for the Raiders, looking for the heir to Joe Governale in the backfield. Cirigliano is fast and has put on weight over the offseason according to head coach Jason Ward.

Unless the Falcons or Raiders make a giant leap this season, it's fair to at least pencil in Keystone for the league title. The



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic — which had a playoff game canceled due to the novel coronavirus last season — returns solid depth at its skill positions.

Wildcats have yet to lose a conference game in the league's two seasons of existence and have lost just three times over the last two years.

The question for Keystone is just how far can they go into the playoffs. The talent and the coaching are there.

Great Lakes Conference

FAVORITE » Holy Name
CONTENDER » Rocky River
DARKHORSE » Elyria Catholic

With the addition of North Olmsted and Westlake from the SWC, the GLC will have two divisions in 2021. They'll also have a

conference championship game in the final week of the regular season.

Only one conference features teams from The Morning Journal's coverage area — the west division. Bay, Elyria Catholic, Fairview, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake make up the GLC West, making for an extremely competitive division with plenty of rivalries to go around.

The GLC favorite resides in the east, however as 2020 champion Holy Name returns a large part of its regional final team. The Green Wave didn't lose a conference game a season ago and none of them were really close.

Holy Name shut out Bay,

Rocky River and Normandy and only allowed Parma to score in its conference schedule.

Back in the GLC West, Rocky River returns starters at key positions, most importantly their dangerous starting backfield of Braedon Spies and Tommy Bebie, who also starts on defense at linebacker where he had 55 tackles, 12 for a loss and a pair of interceptions in just seven games.

Newcomers North Olmsted and Westlake could be threats to take the West Division crown. The Eagles won a playoff game in 2020 but had their second-round meeting with Avon canceled due to a coronavirus outbreak. The Demons fin-

ished 4-5 and actually had a win over a GLC opponent in Parma.

Elyria Catholic also had a playoff game canceled due to the novel coronavirus last season, but return solid depth at their skill positions.

Jack Kenneally, Alex Carandang and Colin Gingle return to a stacked receiver corps with Levi Eliis back as the team's starting running back. The offensive line returns just two starters at both tackle spots. The quarterback spot is also up in the air with the graduation of Steven Navalinsky. A pair of juniors will compete for the starting job on coach Brian Fox's squad in 2021, Elyria Catholic isn't much

of a darkhorse, more like a secondary contender in the GLC West.

Elsewhere at Bay and Fairview, the Rockets and Warriors hope to bounce back from down seasons in 2020. Bay won three games last season before falling in the first round of the playoffs. Ron Rutt's team returns some talent, including running back Pawie Ault.

Fairview is looking to build off of a close playoff loss to Orrville in the opening round of the D-V tournament a year ago. With quarterback Sean McNamara having another year of experience, the Warriors should be better under second-year coach Sean Ranc.

Amherst»Comets

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
Coach: Kenny Fritz, first-year
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
2020: 4-3 (4-2)
Twitter: @AmherstFootball
Home field: Memorial Field

Outlook

The Comets lost 24 seniors off last year's squad, including big-play receiver Ty Weatherspoon (28 catches, 553 yards, five TDs). Senior running back Torre Weatherspoon is a nice running back who will get to run behind a big line featuring senior tackles Mark Poalson and Logan Stewart. Senior George Gotsis should make plays at receiver. Defensively, Gotsis at safety and senior outside linebacker R. J. Morales will lead the unit. Giles Little, a returning senior at linebacker, should also be able to make some plays.

Player to watch

Torre Weatherspoon brings experience and athleticism to the offense and defense in key playmaking positions. He has the ability to take the ball to the house anytime he touches it.



Weatherspoon

Underclassman to watch:

Christian Heckmann, a junior, ended up beating out Gotsis for the starting QB spot. Also, look out for Cameron Gendics, a junior safety and wideout. Gendics is an outstanding baseball player and it will be interesting to see if that translates to the gridiron.



Heckmann

Bottom line

IF: the Comets can get the ball to their playmakers on offense. **THEN:** Amherst should have an offense that scores plenty of points.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Valley Forge at Amherst, 7
Aug. 27: Amherst at Riverside, 7
Sept. 3: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7
Sept. 10: Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7
Sept. 17: Midview at Amherst, 7
Sept. 24: Berea-Midpark at Amherst (HC), 7
Oct. 1: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7
Oct. 8: Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7
Oct. 15: Amherst at Elyria, 7
Oct. 22: Avon at Amherst, 7



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Amherst senior running back Torre Weatherspoon should be one of the more exciting backs in Lorain County to watch this fall.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Christian Heckmann, Jr., 6-0, 190
RB: Torre Weatherspoon*, Sr., 5-11, 170
WR: George Gotsis, Sr., 6-3, 185
WR: Tristan Pjor, Sr., 5-9, 165
TE: Giles Little*, Sr., 6-1, 240
LT: Mark Poalson*, Sr., 6-0, 220
LG: Tommy Hall, Sr., 6-4, 300
C: Chaz Woskobnick, Sr., 5-11, 265
RG: Caden Henry, Jr., 6-5, 345
RT: Logan Stewart*, Sr., 6-2, 225
K: Adam Henderson, 6-0, 185

DEFENSE

DE: Logan Stewart*, Sr., 6-2, 225
DT: Ross Auvil, So. 5-9, 195,
DT: Tommy Hall, Sr., 6-4, 300
DE: Braden Carpenter, Jr., 6-3, 225
OLB: RJ Morales*, Sr., 6-0, 200
MLB: Giles Little*, Sr., 6-1, 240
OLB: Colin Norris, Sr., 6-0, 180
FS: Cameron Gendics, Jr., 6-0, 175
SS: George Gotsis*, Sr., 6-3, 185
CB: Torre Weatherspoon*, Sr., 5-11, 170
CB: Tristan Pjor, Sr., 5-9, 165
P: George Gotsis*, Sr., 6-3, 185
 *: returning starter;
Key reserves: Jacob Kraft, So., 5-10, 180; Nick Mazze, So., 5-8, 200; Braden Carpenter, Jr., 6-3, 225
Best bench press: Sam George/Caden Henry 335
Best squat: Chaz Woskobnick 435



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Avon football team opens its season at Brunswick on Aug. 20.

Avon»Eagles

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Mike Elder, 15th year (148-25)
2020: 10-1 (6-0)
Twitter: @avoneagles
Home field: Joe Firment Stadium

Outlook

Fresh off another state final four appearance, the Eagles have an abundance of new faces on offense. Gone are Avon's starting quarterback, running back and a good chunk of its offensive line, leaving first-year starters to fill the gap. The defense is a different story, with eight returning starters, including three of their six leading tacklers from 2020.

Player to watch

Senior linebacker Trevor Norman sets the tone for an Avon defense that will have to carry the load in the early going of 2021. Norman isn't the biggest linebacker on the Eagles' roster, but he's always around the ball making plays.



Norman



Mitchell

Underclassman to watch:

Austin Mitchell will start both ways for Avon this season. The junior is what head coach Mike Elder called a freak, and for good reason. Mitchell has a dangerous combination of speed, technique

and good enough size to be a monster in the middle of the Eagles' defense.

Bottom line

IF: Avon's offense can catch up to speed quickly, **THEN:** the Eagles will once again be among the elite teams in the state.

— Rob DiFranco

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Avon at Brunswick, 7
Aug. 27: Avon at Medina, 7
Sept. 3: Glenville at Avon, 7
Sept. 10: Avon Lake at Avon, 7
Sept. 17: Avon at Elyria, 7
Sept. 24: Avon at North Ridgeville, 7
Oct. 1: Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 (HC)
Oct. 8: Avon at Berea-Midpark, 7
Oct. 15: Midview at Avon, 7
Oct. 22: Avon at Amherst, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Sam DeTillio	Jr.	5-11	185
RB: Gavin Ehrhardt	Jr.	5-11	215
RB: Jakorion Coffey	So.	5-10	190
WR: *Tim Conwell	Sr.	6-0	185
WR: Ryan Ptacek	Sr.	6-3	210
WR: Chase Myers	Sr.	5-11	156
TE: *Austin Mitchell	Jr.	6-1	240
OL: Connor Jones	Sr.	6-0	235
OL: Luke Hamilton	So.	6-5	270
OL: Abe Daghbouche	Sr.	6-0	260
OL: Amin Abdul	Jr.	6-1	200
OL: Michael Dertouzos	Sr.	6-0	260
K: *Nathaniel Vakos	Sr.	6-1	180

DEFENSE

NT: Graham McDougle	Sr.	5-9	260
DE: *Austin Mitchell	Jr.	6-1	240
LB: *Trevor Norman	Sr.	5-10	185
LB: *Gavin Ehrhardt	Jr.	5-11	220
LB: *Jackson Blodgett	Sr.	6-1	184
CB: *Collin Kauffman	Jr.	5-11	170
CB: *Tim Conwell	Sr.	6-0	185
S: Ryan Ptacek	Sr.	6-3	210
P: Nathaniel Vakos	Sr.	6-1	180

Avon Lake » Shoremen

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
Coach: Matt Kostelnik, fifth year (35-9)
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
2020: 8-2 (5-1)
Twitter: @ALFootballClub
Home field: Avon Lake Memorial Stadium

Outlook

On paper, 2020 was another successful year for Avon Lake. The Shoremen went 8-2 and made it back to the D-II, Region 6 championship game against their rivals from Avon. A loss in that game — on a last-second field goal — sent Avon Lake home packing again at the hands of the Eagles. They'll look to get over that Avon-sized hump in 2021 with a new-look backfield and defense that has three weeks to get up to speed before their rematch with the Eagles.

Player to watch

The lone returning starter on the Shoremen defense, edge defender Nate Schillinger, has his work cut out for him. Schillinger — who also starts on offense at tight end — starts opposite his brother Mitchell on an always stout defensive line that will be the strength of the Avon Lake defense in 2021. Nate's size and strength make him a perfect fit on the edge of the Shoremen defense.

Underclassman to watch:

Running back Jason Krukowski takes over for a pair of outstanding rushers from a year ago in Gage Duesler and Mason Wheeler. Krukowski is faster than those two — running a 4.640-yard dash — and will need to make an immediate impact for Avon Lake if they want to keep up their winning ways. The junior stars in a young backfield that will get thrown into the fire right away with a tough opening stretch of games.

Bottom line

IF: the new starters on both sides of the ball can learn quickly; **THEN:** the Shoremen should be right back in the D-II, Region 6 championship game.

— Rob DiFranco



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake players take part in a blocking drill during a practice Aug. 2.

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Strongsville at Avon Lake, 7
Aug. 27: Avon Lake at Brecksville-Broadview Heights, 7
Sept. 3: Avon Lake at Tiffin Columbian, 7
Sept. 10: Avon Lake at Avon, 7
Sept. 17: Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake, 7
Sept. 24: Avon Lake at Midview, 7
Oct. 1: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 (HC)
Oct. 8: Elyria at Avon Lake, 7
Oct. 15: Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7
Oct. 22: North Ridgeville at Avon Lake, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jeremy Dzik	Jr.	6-0	160
RB: Jason Krukowski	Jr.	5-10	160
TE: *Nate Schillinger	Sr.	6-4	247
WR: Jake DePaul	Sr.	5-9	165
WR: *Matthew Stuewe	Sr.	6-2	175
WR: Dylan Welsh	Sr.	5-9	155
LT: *Hunter McHugh	Sr.	6-3	240
LG: Yousif Abuhamedh	Sr.	6-2	255
C: Braeden Quigley	Jr.	6-1	220
RG: *Joe Lubertozzi	Sr.	6-1	262
RT: *Brady Shlidwachter	Sr.	6-2	258
K: *Owen Wiley	Sr.	5-11	165

DEFENSE

DE: *Nate Schillinger	Sr.	6-4	247
DT: Joe Lubertozzi	Sr.	6-1	262
DT: Konner Nilson	Jr.	5-10	215
DE: Mitchell Schillinger	Sr.	6-3	203
MLB: Broc Buchanan	Sr.	6-0	195
OLB: Jamie Heron	Sr.	5-9	189
OLB: Sam Fedders	Sr.	6-0	190
CB: Pierden Pepe	Jr.	5-11	167
CB: Keegan Rudduck	Jr.	6-0	155
S: Kyle Kress	Sr.	5-9	175
S: Matt Banks	Sr.	5-10	170
P: *Owen Wiley	Sr.	5-11	165

*: returning starter; **Key reserves:** Derek McCrum, So., 6-0, 170, Issac Richardson, Jr., 6-5, 180, Avery Viancourt, Jr., 6-1, 176, Clay Broadhurst, So., 6-1, 220;

Best bench press: Joe Lubertozzi, 285

Best 40 time: Jason Krukowski, 4.6

Best squat: Joe Lubertozzi, 405

Bay » Rockets

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference
Coach: Ron Rutt, seventh season
OHSAA: Division III, Region 10
2020: 3-5
Twitter: @bayathletics
Home field: Bay Memorial Stadium

Outlook

Bay will come into the season looking to build on a 3-5 season last year. They bring back a lot of experience and will rely on their depth across the board, their offensive line and defensive line and their balance on offense. They also have great team speed. Attendance was good for offseason workouts and junior Tony Buttari is a returning starter at the quarterback position, which is a big plus for Rutt and the Bay coaching staff.

Player to watch

Anthony Tulli is a returning senior safety and wide receiver for Bay and Coach Rutt will look for him to expand upon a solid season last year on both sides of the football. His leadership is something that coaches have spoke about at camp.



Tulli

Underclassmen to watch:

Brendan Spellman is a sophomore who will be starting at outside linebacker for Bay this season. Coaches will look to him to keep up his solid camp and transfer it into the season.



Spellman

Bottom line

IF: Bay can use its experience and veteran leadership; **THEN:** The Rockets can get to .500 or better this season

— Justin Golba



Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Bay at West Geauga, 7
Aug. 27: Lakewood at Bay, 7
Sept. 4: Bay at University, 2
Sept. 10: Valley Forge at Bay, 7
Sept. 17: Bay at Westlake, 7
Sept. 24: Rocky River at Bay, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: North Olmsted at Bay, 7
Oct. 8: Avon at Fairview Park, 7
Oct. 15: Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7
Week 10: GLC: East vs West

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Tony Buttari*	Jr.	6-1	200
RB: Pawie Ault	Jr.	5-8	160
FB: Jake McCleary	Jr.	6-0	205
WR: Finn Fitzgerald	Sr.	6-0	180
WR: Anthony Tulli	Sr.	5-9	185
TE: Malachi Edgerly*	Jr.	6-2	210
LT: Trevor Prudhoe*	Sr.	6-2	255
LG: Parker Lake	Jr.	6-4	225
C: Sam Honicky*	Sr.	5-11	210
RG: Calvin Good*	Sr.	6-2	225
RT: Sean Anthony*	Jr.	6-2	235
K: Cooper Mendelow	Sr.	5-10	150

DEFENSE

DE: Malachi Edgerly*	Jr.	6-2	210
DT: Nathan Dacek*	Jr.	5-9	260
DE: Sean Anthony	Jr.	6-2	235
OLB: Pawie Ault*	Jr.	5-8	160
ILB: Patrick Lehane*	Jr.	5-9	175
ILB: Jack McAlea	So.	5-10	185
OLB: Brendan Spellman	So.	5-9	165
SS: Anthony Tulli	Sr.	5-9	185
FS: Joe Warnke	Sr.	6-0	170
CB: Finn Fitzgerald*	Sr.	6-0	180
CB: Jace Knapp	So.	5-10	160
P: Cole Tisza	Jr.	6-1	160

*: returning starter; **Key reserves:** Cayden Periandri, Jr., 6-0, 225; Nathan Dacek, Jr., 5-9, 260; Ethan Veselic, Sr., 5-11, 165; Zach Starowsky, Sr., 6-2, 220.

Best bench press: Malachi Edgerly, 285 pounds

Best 40 time: Pawie Ault, 4.7 seconds

Best squat: Zach Starowsky, 420

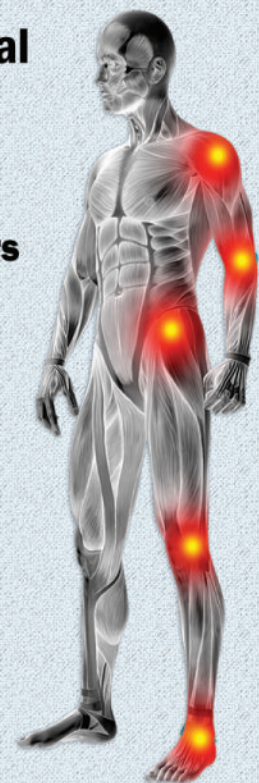
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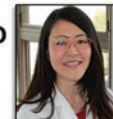
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MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Kenny Grobolssek is an experienced playmaker on both sides of the football for Brookside

Brookside»Cardinals

Just the facts

Conference: LC8

Coach: Scott O'Donnell, third year (4-16)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2020: 3-3

Twitter: @Brooksidefb

Stadium: Dick Sevit Stadium

Outlook

The Cardinals should be a tight-knit group, but during one early season practice, they had 19 available players. Keeping players healthy and on the field, therefore, will be key. "We're a little light up front, but at the skill spots we are talented," Brookside coach Scott O'Donnell said. "I feel good about the running game. In our scrimmage against a very good Bay team, we competed hard." Kenny Grobolssek is one player whom the Cardinals can't afford to lose. The senior quarterback/defensive back can run and throw it on offense. "He's our best player, so we want to give him as many touches as he can," O'Donnell said.

Player to watch

Grobolssek will make plays all over the field on offense and defense. The three-sport athlete is being recruited by some Division III colleges and has garnered the interest of Youngstown State.

Underclassman to watch: Jake Montgomery should be fun to watch at receiver. He and Grobolssek have outstanding chemistry and should be able to use that to torch unsuspecting defenses

Bottom line

IF: Grobolssek can stay on the field and get help; **THEN:** they should be able to remain competitive in LC8.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Wickliffe at Brookside, 7
Aug. 27: Brookside at Cuyahoga Heights, 7
Sept. 3: Chagrin Falls at Brookside, 7
Sept. 10: Brookside at Clearview, 7
Sept. 17: Brookside at Columbia, 7
Sept. 24: Black River at Brookside, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: Keystone at Brookside, 7
Oct. 8: Firelands at Brookside, 7
Oct. 15: Brookside at Wellington, 7
Oct. 22: Brookside at Oberlin, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Kenny Grobolssek*	Sr.	6-2	210
RB: Michael Gomes*	Jr.	5-10	185
FB: Karson Nail*	Sr.	6-0	180
WR: Jake Montgomery*	Jr.	5-10	175
WR: Brenna Gainer	So.	5-9	160
TE: Ryan Scott*	Sr.	6-2	175
LT: Aidan McLaughlin*	So.	6-0	200
LG: Jonah Konho*	Jr.	6-0	290
C: Collin Houpt*	Sr.	6-0	180
RG: Pat DiBattiste*	Jr.	6-0	250
RT: Ryan Kelley*	Jr.	5-9	240
K: Jake Montgomery*	Jr.	5-10	175



Grobolssek

DEFENSE

S: Kenny Grobolssek*	6-0	210
OLB: Michael Gomes*	Jr.	5-10 185
LB: Karson Nail*	Sr.	6-0 180
S: Jake Montgomery*	Jr.	5-10 175
CB: Brennan Gainer	So.	5-9 160
CB: Ryan Scott*	Sr.	6-2 175
OLB: Ben Montgomery	5-9	170
LB: Collin Houpt*	Sr.	6-0 180
DT: Pat DiBattiste	Jr.	6-0 250
DE: Ryan Kelley*	Jr.	5-9 240
P: Kenny Grobolssek*	Sr.	6-0 210

*: returning starter;

Key reserves: Alex Toth, So., 6-0, 170, Ben Montgomery, So. 5-9, 170, Jonah Konho, Jr., 6-0, 290.



Montgomery



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Clearview Clippers during their team practice Aug. 3.

Clearview»Clippers

Just the facts

Conference: LC 8

Coach: Mike Collier 15th year (88-55)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2020: 2-6 (2-4)

Twitter: @clipperfb

Home field: George Daniel Field

Outlook

The Clippers won't be playing their home games at Tom Hoch Field due to a construction project, and instead will play in nearby Lorain at historic George Daniel Field. Tyler Bockwich, a junior, will likely start at quarterback. He'll feed the ball to talented sophomore running back Ethan Lorenzana, who saw varsity action as a freshman and can also play quarterback, according to Collier. "He's kind of dual-threat guy. He's a talented kid. He'll be one of our better runners." The Clippers' receiving corps is a talented one, led by two seniors: Isaac Nicoloff, Terrance Cavin. The offensive line will be anchored by senior Jay Green. The defense returns three starters, but including a pair of returning starters in the back four in Cavin and sophomore Keith Colvin. "We're a young team and I know they'll be some growing pains, but these kids are working really hard and I'm proud of how far we've come throughout the summer," Collier said. "I expect us to get better every single week."

Player to watch

Jay Green is going to anchor the lines for the Clippers and must play well for Clearview to have a chance at being competitive.

Underclassman to watch: Lorenzana is a twitchy athlete following in a long line of playmakers to wear a Clearview uniform. If the offensive line can open any holes, he

has the ability to pop a big play.

Bottom line

IF: The Clippers don't improve on defense from their 2020 version; **THEN:** they'll have a hard time winning games.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Clearview at Parma, 7
Aug. 27: Scott at Clearview, 7
Sept. 3: Clearview at Smithville, 7
Sept. 10: Brookside at Clearview, 7
Sept. 18: Black River at Clearview, 7
Sept. 24: Clearview at Columbia, 7
Oct. 1: Clearview at Firelands, 7
Oct. 8: Wellington at Clearview, 7
Oct. 15: Oberlin at Clearview, 7
Oct. 22: Clearview at Keystone, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Tyler Bockwich	Jr.	
RB: Ethan Lorenzana*	So.	5-10 181
LT: Cecil Woods	Jr.	6-1 207
LG: Camron Carreras*		5-8 328
C: Derrick Jones	Jr.	5-11 247
RG: Daniel Taylor-Shreves	So.	5-9 203
RT: Jay Green*	Sr.	6-2 360
WR: Isaac Nicoloff*		5-10 144
WR: Terrance Cavin*		5-10 154
WR: Malcolm Lane	So.	5-9 133
WR: Ayden Cruz	So.	6-1 137
K: Ashton Pabon		10 5-10 155



Lorenzana

DEFENSE

DL: Jay Green*	Sr.	6-2 360
DL: Camron Carreras*	Jr.	5-8 328
DL: Greg O'Hern	So.	5-11 175
DL: Cecil Woods	Jr.	6-1 207
LB: Ethan Lorenzana*	So.	5-10 181
LB: Ashton Pabon	So.	5-10 155
LB: Dymias Seagers	Jr.	5-10 163
LB: Shawn O'Hern	So.	6-0 175
DB: Terrance Cavin*		5-10 154
DB: Keith Colvin*	So.	6-0 150
DB: Malcolm Lane	So.	5-9 133
DB: Ayden Cruz	So.	6-1 137
P: Isaac Nicoloff*		12 5-10 144.

*: returning starter

Key reserves: Ivan Novak, Sr., OL, 5-10, 210

Best in the classroom: Ayden Cruz, 4.27 GPA



Covid



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia's Owen Menge carries against Brookside in 2020.

Columbia»Raiders

Just the facts

Conference: Lorain County League
Coach: Jason Ward, 16th year (101-58)
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 21
2020: 7-3 (4-2)
Twitter: @_CHSFootball
Home field: Columbia Raiders Stadium

Outlook

Columbia's defense was the story a year ago. The Raiders pitched two shutouts and held opponents to under 12 points eight of the 10 times they took the field. A Week 1 loss to Firelands cost them the opportunity to finish second in the Lorain County League, giving them the motivation to avenge that loss in 2021. On offense, Columbia has impact players at all of its skill positions, starting at wide receiver with Owen Menge. Running back Marco Cirigliano takes over for workhorse Joe Governale this season, with high praise from his head coach.

Player to watch

The last two seasons of quarterback Andrew Champagne's career haven't gone as planned. They've both started with injuries that have knocked Champagne off track during what otherwise were successful years. If the senior can stay healthy for a full season this year, the Raiders could make a run at the LC8 crown.

Underclassman to watch: Marco Cirigliano is what head coach Jason Ward called a "special back". He's got the speed as a member of Columbia's state-qualifying relay teams in track and he's added weight this offseason to help break through tackles. The junior gives the Raiders special talent at quarterback, running back and wide receiver, setting Columbia up for a very special season.

Bottom line

IF: Columbia can stay healthy for the full season; **THEN:** The Raiders have a legitimate shot at making a run at the LC8 title.

— Rob DiFranco

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Independence at Columbia, 7
Aug. 27: Columbia at Vermilion, 7
Sept. 3: Northwestern at Columbia, 7
Sept. 10: Columbia at Black River, 7
Sept. 17: Brookside at Columbia, 7 (HC)
Sept. 24: Clearview at Columbia, 7
Oct. 1: Columbia at Wellington, 7
Oct. 8: Oberlin at Columbia, 7
Oct. 15: Columbia at Keystone, 7
Oct. 22: Columbia at Firelands, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: *Andrew Champagne	Sr.	6-2	170
RB: Marco Cirigliano	So.	5-10	170
FB: *Tom Reljin	Sr.	5-10	190
TE: *Drexton Friscone	Sr.	6-2	170
WR: *Owen Menge	Sr.	5-8	155
WR: *Cody Davis	Sr.	6-3	170
LT: *Nick Stopiak	Sr.	6-6	270
LG: CJ Dupaski	So.	5-10	200
C: *Michael Chapman	Jr.	5-9	190
RG: *Nick Reljin	Jr.	6-0	220
RT: *Anthony Fatica	Jr.	6-5	275
K: *Frank Washburn	Jr.	6-0	180



Champagne

DEFENSE

NT: *Nick Stopiak	Sr.	6-6	270
DT: Erik Pepsin	Jr.	5-10	210
DE: *Nick Reljin	Sr.	6-0	220
ILB: Carter Peabody	Jr.	6-0	180
ILB: *Hayden Garrow	Jr.	6-0	200
OLB: *Tom Reljin	Sr.	5-10	190
OLB: *Dominic Governale	Sr.	5-8	160
CB: *Eli Goodman	Sr.	5-10	170
CB: *Cody Davis	Sr.	6-3	170
S: *Andrew Champagne	Sr.	6-2	170
S: Chris Davis	Sr.	5-9	160
P: *Cody Davis	Sr.	6-3	170

*: returning starter; **Key reserves:** Vince Berardi, Jr., 6-2, 175; **Tony Governale, Jr., 5-9, 180;**
Best in the classroom: Nick Reljin, 4.2
Best bench press: Nick Stopiak, 335
Best 40 time: Marco Cirigliano, 4.63
Best squat: Nick Stopiak, 455



Cirigliano



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

The Elyria Pioneers take on Chanev in a scrimmage Aug. 14.

Elyria»Pioneers

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
Coach: Develin Culliver, third year (4-16)
OHSAA: Division I, Region 1
2020: 3-7 (0-5, GCC)
Twitter: @ElyriaAthletics
Home field: Mercy Health Field at Elyria Stadium

Outlook

A new season brings new challenges for the Pioneers, who now reside in the Southwestern Conference. Elyria replaces a large part of its offense but should be a much better team because of the conference they play in. Now in the SWC, Elyria has the talent to immediately step in and become a major player with Avon and Avon Lake. Look for running back Lance Glover to continue what recent graduate Jaheim Atkinson did a year ago on the ground.

Player to watch

Not many teams have an offensive lineman like Alex Lowery. The Pioneers' starting center from 2020, Lowery is moving to guard this year, where Elyria can take advantage of his speed off the ball. The senior is a large reason why Atkinson had the year he did last season and he'll again be a big reason for the success of Glover in 2021.



Lowery

Underclassman to watch: One of two potential options at quarterback for Develin Culliver, junior Ryan Klotz has the speed to make the Pioneers a dangerous offense. Klotz

didn't play much as a sophomore, recording one catch for six yards, but look for the junior to make an impact for Elyria this year.

Bottom line

IF: Elyria can get strong play from its offense; **THEN:** The Pioneers should be a major player in the SWC and finish in the top half of the conference.

— Rob DiFranco

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Elyria Catholic at Elyria, 7
Aug. 27: Bedford at Elyria, 7
Sept. 3: Elyria at Lorain, 7
Sept. 10: Elyria at Berea-Midpark, 7
Sept. 17: Avon at Elyria, 7
Sept. 24: Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7
Oct. 1: North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 (HC)
Oct. 8: Elyria at Avon Lake, 7
Oct. 15: Amherst at Elyria, 7
Oct. 22: Elyria at Midview, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Ryan Klotz	Jr. or Desmond Whitfield	Sr.	
RB: Lance Glover	Jr.	5-11	229
WR: *Jalen Brown	Sr.	6-3	180
WR: *Jaiden Gilbert	Jr.	5-9	167
WR: *Andrew Palos	Sr.	5-9	162
WR: *Jahsir Lucky	Jr.	5-10	175
LT: Joe Milnko	Jr.	6-4	267
LG: *Marki Boone	Jr.	6-0	260
C: Conner Fees	5-11	276	
RG: *Alex Lowery	Sr.	6-0	270
RT: Tyler Thompson	Sr.	5-11	252

DEFENSE

DE: *Darius Troutman	Jr.	6-3	235
NT: *Evan Troutman	Jr.	6-2	275
DE: Steve Witherspoon		6-0	225
LB: *Isaiah Johnson		6-0	200
LB: *Jaiden Gilbert	Jr.	5-9	167
LB: *Lance Glover	Jr.	5-11	229
DB: *Emery Horton	Sr.	5-9	160
DB: *Andrew Palos	Sr.	5-9	162
DB: *Jalen Brown	Sr.	6-3	180

*: returning starter;



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic readies for a drill during an Aug. 2 practice

Elyria Catholic»Panthers

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Coach: Brian Fox, fourth year (19-10)

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

2020: 3-3

Twitter: @ECHSathletics

Home field: Dan Reaser Stadium

Outlook

The Panthers will have to make up for the loss of two-year starting quarterback Steven Navalinsky, who threw for 3,558 yards and 39 TDs in his career. Brady Cook and Thomas Neiders, a pair of juniors, were in a duel for that spot as preseason practices progressed. Whoever wins out, look for the Panthers to be more of a running offense in 2021. Junior running back Levi Ellis will get plenty of touches on offense. Also expected to make a big contribution on both sides of the ball will be receiver/cornerback Alex Carandang, who is coming off an All-Ohio season in baseball. Senior Hayden Gerhart will provide size and experience on both sides of the football.

Player to watch

Carandang is a superior athlete who should be counted on to make big plays on both sides of the ball.

Underclassman to watch: Ellis is a playmaker on both sides of the ball. During 2020, he averaged 102.3 yards rushing per game and 6.2 yards per carry.

Bottom line

IF: The Panthers get solid quarterback play out of Cook or Neiders **THEN:** they should be able to compete weekly in the GLC.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Elyria Catholic at Elyria, 7
Aug. 27: Perkins at Elyria Catholic, 7
Sept. 3: Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7
Sept. 10: Holy Name at Elyria Catholic, 7
Sept. 17: Rocky River at Elyria Catholic, 7 (HC)
Sept. 24: Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7
Oct. 1: Elyria Catholic at Westlake, 7
Oct. 8: North Olmsted at Elyria Catholic, 7
Oct. 15: Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7
Week 10: GLC: East vs. West

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Brady Cook, Jr., 6-0, 160
QB: Thomas Neiders, Jr., 6-2, 160
RB: Levin Ellis*, Jr., 5-10, 190
WR: Jack Kenneally*, Sr., 6-7, 210
WR: Alex Carandang*, Sr., 6-0, 185
WR: Colin Ginley*, Jr., 6-2, 170
TE: Zach Pearl, Jr., 6-1, 215
LT: Hayden Gerhart*, Sr., 6-3, 270
LG: Kellen Amador, Jr., 6-0, 250
C: Jackson Smith, So., 6-2, 240
RG: Tommy Rauscher, Sr., 6-3, 270
RT: Evan Smith*, Jr., 6-2, 250
K: Riley Huttenpiller*, Sr., 5-8, 160

DEFENSE

DE: Hayden Gerhart*, Sr., 6-3, 270
N: Travis Merrill, Jr., 6-3, 245
DE: Tommy Rauscher*, Sr., 6-3, 270
LB: Tony Grasso*, Jr., 6-0, 215
LB: Archie Kenny*, Sr., 5-10, 180
LB: Tavion Thomas*, 5-8, 195
LB: Colin Kenneally, Jr., 6-2, 205
CB: Jack Budinger*, Sr., 6-2, 185
SS: Levin Ellis*, Jr., 5-10, 190
FS: Thomas Niederest*, Jr., 6-2, 160
CB: Alex Carandang*, Sr., 6-0, 185
P: Ian Woodyard*, Sr., 5-8, 180

* returning starter

Key reserves: Riley Tanner, Jr., 6-0, 190, Nate Scholle, Sr., 6-1, 240, Colin Doud, Jr., 5-10, 160, Graydon Rollins, So., 5-10, 185.
Best bench press: Hayden Gerhart, 350 pounds
Best squat: Hayden Gerhart, 505 pounds
Best 40 time: Jack Budinger 4.49
Best in classroom: Levi Ellis (4.2), J.J. Metzinger (4.2), Collin Willett (4.2), Nate Scholle (4.2).



Cook



Gerhart



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

The Firelands Falcons battle the Fairview Warriors in a scrimmage Aug. 13.

Fairview»Warriors

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Coach: Sean Ranc, second season

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

2020: 2-7

Twitter: @FairviewFB

Home field: Fairview Stadium

Outlook

Fairview is coming off a 2-7 season and the two teams they beat were combined 1-16. They are returning a lot of talent and starters, as they only lost five players from last season. With that experience and talent returning, including quarterback Sean McNamara, Fairview can use the challenges of last season to their advantage heading into 2021. Experience up front and in the backfield will be a key this season.

Player to watch

Ethan Leube is a tight end and safety for the Warriors who will be leading them this season. A college recruit, Leube had an excellent 2020 season and will look to build upon that momentum for the Warriors heading into 2021.

Underclassman to watch: Nate Glanc is a returning starter at linebacker and will look to help plug some holes on a defense that gave up 37 points per game last season.

Bottom line

IF: Fairview can use its returning talent and experience; **THEN:** The Warriors can

build on their two-win 2020 season.

— Justin Golba

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Fairview at Lutheran, 7
Aug. 27: Parma at Fairview, 7
Sept. 3: Fairview at Lakewood, 7
Sept. 10: Normandy at Fairview, 7
Sept. 17: North Olmsted at Fairview, 7 (HC)
Sept. 24: Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7
Oct. 1: Fairview at Rocky River, 7
Oct. 8: Bay at Fairview, 7
Oct. 15: Fairview at Westlake, 7
Week 10: GLC: East vs. West, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Sean McNamara*	Sr.	6-1	170
WR: Xavier DiGennaro	Jr.	6-0	170
WR: Cole Karliak	Jr.	5-10	165
WR: David Medina	Jr.	5-8	160
TE: Ethan Leube*	Sr.	6-3	195
RB: Zach Wilson*	Jr.	5-10	185
LT: Daniel Grealis*	Sr.	6-7	265
LG: Kenny Hopkins*	Jr.	6-0	220
C: David Kramer*	Jr.	6-0	195
RG: Conor Quinn	Sr.	5-10	220
RT: Logan Heath*	Sr.	6-2	235
K: David Nemeth*	Sr.	6-5	200



Glanc

DEFENSE

DE: Jason Courtney*	Jr.	6-2	190
DT: Kenny Hopkins*	Jr.	6-0	220
DT: Daniel Grealis*	Sr.	6-7	265
DE: Gavin Jennings	Sr.	5-9	175
LB: Zach Wilson*	Jr.	5-10	185
LB: Nate Glanc*	Jr.	5-9	180
SS: Cole Karliak	Jr.	5-10	165
WS: Ethan Leube*	Sr.	6-3	195
FS: Xavier DiGennaro	Jr.	6-0	170
CB: Sean McNamara*	Sr.	6-1	170
CB: David Medina	Jr.	5-8	160
P: David Nemeth*	Sr.	6-5	205



Leube

* returning starter; **Key reserves:** TE Jason Courtney, Jr., 6-2, 190; **RB Gavin Jennings, Sr., 5-9, 175; DE David Kramer, Jr., 6-0, 195; LB Quinn Bruder, So., 5-9, 175.**
Best in the classroom: Nate Glanc, 4.2 GPA



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Keystone junior quarterback Konner Rodick will lead one of the more dynamic offenses in Northeast Ohio as the Wildcats look to make a deep postseason run in 2021.

Keystone»Wildcats

Just the facts

Conference: LC8

Coach: Don Griswold, fifth year (25-14)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

Twitter: @KeystoneSchools

2019: 7-1

Home field: Wildcat Stadium

Outlook

Keystone is coming off back-to-back Lorain County League crowns and has three of the biggest offensive playmakers in Lorain County. Senior running Gideon Lampron was the 2020 Golden Helmet Award winner after rushing for 1,608 yards and 19 touchdowns in just eight games. Defenses can't afford to key on him. The passing combination of junior quarterback Konner Rodick and Jacob Shackelford might be one of the most potent in Ohio.

Player to watch

Konner Rodick lit up defenses in 2020 and returns his favorite receiver in Shackelford. Rodick threw for 1,455 yards and accounted for 17 TDs a season ago and should improve on those numbers this year.

Underclassman to watch: Shackelford, who already has offers from West Virginia and Kentucky, caught 34 balls for 728 yards and 13 touchdowns as a sophomore. He's one of the most athletic juniors in the state and won the state title in the long jump this past spring.

Bottom line

IF: The Wildcats can stay grounded and

not get caught up in their own hype; **THEN:** They should repeat as LC8 champs and make a deep run in the state playoffs.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Keystone at Northwestern, 7
Aug. 27: Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7
Sept. 3: Keystone at LaBrea, 7
Sept. 10: Oberlin at Keystone, 7
Sept. 17: Wellington at Keystone, 7
Sept. 24: Keystone at Firelands, 7
Oct. 1: Keystone at Brookside, 7
Oct. 8: Keystone at Black River, 7
Oct. 15: Columbia at Keystone, 7 (HC)
Oct. 22: Clearview at Keystone, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Konner Rodick*	So.	6-2	175
RB: Gideon Lampron*	Jr.	6-0	220
RB: Ryne Shackelford*	Jr.	5-11	180
WR: Deghan Rigda*	Sr.	5-10	170
WR: Evan Maiden*	Jr.	6-0	200
TE: Christian Pataky*	Jr.	6-3	210
LT: Jakob Rich*	Sr.	5-10	220
LG: Leeman Taylor	Sr.	5-11	200
C: Luke Moore*	Sr.	6-7	275
RG: Alex Pataky*	Sr.	6-4	280
RT: Dan Gurich	Jr.	5-11	200
K: Evan Maiden	Jr.	6-0	195

DEFENSE

DE: Jakob Rich*	Sr.	5-10	220
DT: Luke Moore*	Sr.	6-7	275
DT: Alex Pataky*	Sr.	6-4	280
DE: Evan Maiden*	Jr.	6-0	195
OLB: Jack Sivec	So.	5-7	160
LB: Gideon Lampron*	Jr.	6-0	220
LB: Christian Pataky*	Jr.	6-3	190
OLB: Deghan Rigda	Sr.	5-10	175
CB: Jadon Kerr	Sr.	5-9	165
FS: Konner Rodick	So.	6-2	175
CB: Nick Beriswill	Sr.	5-10	165

*: returning starter

Best in the classroom: Jadon Kerr 4.7 GPA, Ryne Shackelford 4.4 GPA

Best 40: Ryne Shackelford



Lampron



Shackelford



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Corey Newark of Firelands runs behind a wall of blockers against the Upper Sandusky on Oct 10.

Firelands»Falcons

Just the facts

Conference: Lorain County League

Coach: Ryan O'Rourke, fifth year (24-16)

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2020: 8-2 (5-1)

Twitter: @CoachR_orourke

Home field: Firelands Stadium

Outlook

The second-place finisher in the Lorain County League a season ago, Firelands returns a stout defense and an offense with plenty of explosiveness. The Falcons' defense shut out four opponents and allowed single-digit point totals twice in 10 games, making it one of the area's best. Only three starters return from that unit, but there's still a lot of talent there. On offense, Kyle Ransom leads that side of the ball for the second straight year.

Player to watch

Quarterback Kyle Ransom had a solid season in his first year under center for the Falcons, leading them to their first playoff wins in school history. He'll look to take the next step in 2021 as a senior. Ransom has his work cut out for him as one of just five returning starters from that unit.

Underclassman to watch: Look for Weston Strader to be a focal point for the Firelands offense in 2021. The junior running back averaged nearly five yards per carry on just 39 totes in 2020. Now as the lead back, Strader has a chance to spread his wings and take off.



Ransom



Strader

Bottom line

IF: Firelands can repeat their defensive performance from 2020; **THEN:** the Falcons could make a return trip to the later rounds of the D-IV playoffs.

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Firelands at Edison, 7
Aug. 27: Firelands at Rocky River, 7
Sept. 3: Vermilion at Firelands, 7
Sept. 10: Firelands at Wellington, 7
Sept. 18: Firelands at Oberlin, 7
Sept. 24: Keystone at Firelands, 7
Oct. 1: Clearview at Firelands, 7 (HC)
Oct. 8: Firelands at Brookside, 7
Oct. 15: Black River at Firelands, 7
Oct. 22: Columbia at Firelands, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: *Kyle Ransom	Sr.	6-1	175
RB: *Weston Strader	Jr.	5-10	210
RB: *Corey Newark	Sr.	5-8	160
FB: *Mason Stanley	Sr.	6-1	185
WR: Austin Copen	Sr.	6-3	175
WR: Abel Coultrip	Jr.	6-2	205
LT: *Gavin Varnell	Sr.	6-3	230
LG: AJ Dunn	Jr.	6-2	230
C: Conner Rogers	Jr.	5-11	200
RG: Shane Stitckick	Jr.	6-4	300
RT: Gavin Pignitella	Sr.	6-0	210
K: Abel Coultrip	Jr.	6-2	205

DEFENSE

DE: Gavin Varnell	Sr.	6-3	230
DE: Gavin Gifford	Sr.	6-4	210
DT: *Weston Strader	Jr.	5-10	210
DT: *Gavin Gede	Sr.	6-1	210
LB: Abel Coultrip	Jr.	6-2	205
LB: Chris Berthold	Sr.	5-10	180
LB: Mason Stanley	Sr.	6-1	185
CB: Timmy Phillips	So.	6-1	175
CB: Caden Domin	Sr.	5-9	165
S: *Corey Newark	Sr.	5-8	160
S: Austin Copen	Sr.	6-3	175
P: Abel Coultrip	Jr.	6-2	205

*: returning starter; **Key reserves:** Collin Adkins, So., 5-9, 210; Josh Kovach, So., 5-10, 200; Cory Ransom, Jr., 5-9, 170; Tristan Born, So., 5-11, 165; Thomas Ives, Jr., 6-0, 170;



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Lorain head football coach Damion Creel leads a team practice Aug. 3.

Lorain»Titans

Conference: Lake Erie League

OHSAA: Division I, Region I

Coach: Damion Creel, first year

2020: DNP due to COVID-19

Twitter: @lorainathletics

Home field: George Daniel Field

Outlook

Football returns after the program was shut down for a year because of COVID-19. Damion Creel is in his first year as head coach of the Titans and has brought new energy to the program. There is some young talent on the squad and it will be interesting to see how it gels and if it does, how quickly. Senior Jacob Addis is one of two returning starters from the 2019 team and he brings size, football IQ, and leadership to the offensive and defensive fronts. Senior linebacker Fredo Gotay-Cotto can make plays in the back seven and provides leadership on that unit. Reyce Perez is a solid two-way lineman on both sides of the football.

Players to watch

Jacob Addis will be the heart and soul of this Titans team. The senior center is the only player with any varsity football experience. He'll lead the offensive line but must remain healthy for Titans to hope for any success.

Underclassman to watch: Quarterback Joseph Wyatt hasn't played organized football since he was 10 and never played quarterback before this spring. He's improved since the start of spring ball and has a good mentor in Creel who played quarterback in college at Hiram, where he's in that school's hall-of-fame.

Bottom line

IF: The Titans continue to improve and stay focused; **THEN:** they should be able to enjoy some success on and off the field.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Lorain at Olmsted Falls, 7
Aug. 27: Lorain at Sandusky, 7
Sept. 3: Elyria at Lorain, 7
Sept. 10: Lorain at Bedford, 7
Sept. 17: Cleveland Heights at Lorain, 7
Sept. 24: Maple Heights at Lorain, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: Lorain at Garfield Heights, 7
Oct. 7: Shaker Heights at Lorain, 7
Oct. 15: Lorain and Medina, 7
Oct. 22: Lorain at Shaw, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Joseph Wyatt	So.	6-0	170
RB: John Salamon	So.	6-0	180
RB: Gabe Lowe	So.	5-10	190
WR: Rico Anderson	So.	5-10	150
WR: Rafiell Hagler	Jr.	5-8	165
LT: Evan Hricovic	So.	6-0	290
LG: Reyce Perez	Jr.	6-0	240
C: Jacob Addis	Sr.	6-3 1/2	265
RG: Luke Wilson	Fr.	6-0	260
RT: Damarion Rivera	Sr.	6-4	270
K: Tyler Kosco	Sr.	5-8	145



Addis

DEFENSE

DE: Reyce Perez	Jr.	6-0	240
N: Anthony Poole	Sr.	5-10	200
DE: Noah Smith	So.	5-11	190
ILB: Naevon Wright	Sr.	6-0	200
ILB: Jaelon Delaine	Jr.	5-9	190
OLB: Fredo Gotay-Catto	Sr.	5-11	190
OLB: Nehemiah Elliott	Sr.	5-8	185
S: John Salamon	So.	6-0	180
S: Rafiell Hagler	Jr.	5-8	165
CB: Rico Anderson	So.	5-10	150
CB: Robert Gonzales	Sr.	5-7	155
P: Robert Gonzales	Sr.	5-7	155

Best bench press: Tracy Williams, 315 pounds

Best squat: Naevon Wright, 515 pounds



Perez



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Running back Tim Henson will get some touches in the backfield this season.

Midview»Middies

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference

Coach: Luke Beal, second year (1-7)

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2019: 1-7

Twitter: @Middie_Football

Home field: Ross Field at Edward T. Adelsberg Stadium

Outlook

It doesn't seem that long ago that the Middies were one of the premier prep football programs in Northeast Ohio, when they had current Kent State quarterback Dustin Crum lighting up defenses. But times have changed. The Middies are coming off a 1-7 season, but do bring back an experienced group.

"Our seniors have demonstrated great leadership throughout the off-season and summer, so we are excited to begin the 2021 campaign," Beal said. "We have a brutal schedule, but we've improved from a year ago."

Player to watch

Ethan Surdock returns at quarterback after starting as a sophomore and junior. He threw for 1,276 yards and 10 touchdowns and ran for 311 yards and six TDs in his junior year after throwing for 1,673 yards and 14 TDs and rushing for 498 yards as a sophomore.

Underclassman to watch: Running back/defensive Mason Kucera led the team in receiving a year ago with 22 catches for 256 yards and a touchdown and should get better with age. He'll also start at cornerback.

Bottom line

IF: The Middies' inexperienced underclass-

man step up, **THEN:** the Midview should be competitive in the SWC.

— Michael Fitzpatrick

Schedule

Aug. 20: Midview at Rocky River, 7
Aug. 27: Midview at Strongsville, 7
Sept. 3: Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7
Sept. 10: Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7
Week 5: Midview at Amherst, 7
Sept. 24: Avon Lake at Midview, 7
Oct. 1: Midview at Berea-Midpark, 7
Oct. 8: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 (HC)
Oct. 15: Midview at Avon, 7
Oct. 22: Elyria at Midview, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Ethan Surdock*	Sr.	6-2	170
OT: Zach Roemer	Sr.	6-2	260
OG: Jaedon Matias*	Sr.	6-2	210
C: Beau Zan	Sr.	6-0	245
OG: Zach Depinet*	Sr.	5-9	185
OT: Dylan Sees*	Jr.	6-2	260
QB: Ethan Surdock*	Sr.	6-1	165
FB: Tim Henson*	Sr.	5-8	230
TB: Mason Kucera*	Jr.	6-0	180
WR: Connor Awad	Sr.	6-3	190
WR: Bryce Newton	So.	5-10	155
WR: Steven Hawkins	Sr.	6-3	185
K: Cade Koch*	Sr.	6-1	185



Surdock

OFFENSE

DL: Josh Matesic*	Jr.	5-10	240
DL: RJ Lambert*	Jr.	6-0	289
DL: Nick Skolnicki*	Sr.	6-4	245
DL: Nick Reynolds	Sr.	6-0	250
LB: Jason Matias	Sr.	6-2	210
LB: Tyler Smith*	Sr.	5-11	205
LB: Marvin DeScott	Sr.	5-8	175
DB: Mason Kucera*	Jr.	6-0	180
DB: Bryce Newton	Sr.	5-10	155
DB: Connor Awad	Sr.	6-3	190
DB: Steven Hawkins*	Sr.	6-3	185
DB: Cai Cooksey	Sr.	6-1	185
DB: Justin Shepherd	Sr.	6-0	165
P: Cai Cooksey*	Sr.	6-1	180

*: returning starter; **Returning letter winners:** 17

Key reserves:

Best in classroom: Tyler Smith, 4.15 GPA

Best bench press: Beau Zan, 300

Best squat: Tim Henson, 475

Best 40: Michael Hazzard, Steven Hawkins, Bryce Newton, all 4.6



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Jared Kelley carries the ball during North Olmsted's playoff game against Midview in 2020.

North Olmsted»Eagles

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Coach: Tim Brediger, ninth season

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2020: 2-4

Twitter: @NOFBpersist

Home field: North Olmsted Stadium

Outlook

North Olmsted is looking to rebound after a 2-4 2020 season in which they lost four games in a row and had two games canceled, including their game against Avon. The Eagles will look to their senior class and experience to lead them into this season. Depth is a concern, but the biggest freshman class in a long time can help out in that regard.

Player to watch

Eric Wasen is a returning senior starter at wide receiver and cornerback for North Olmsted who has solid leadership and will look to help the Eagles transition to a new quarterback.



Wasen

Underclassman to watch:

Jared Kelley is a returning receiver and safety that is getting Division I college looks for North Olmsted. Kelley will look to improve upon a big season. Kelley has blistering speed for a junior that he uses to hit open gaps and get yards after the catch.

Bottom line

IF: The Eagles can use their strong senior

leadership; **THEN:** They can get back to .500.

— Justin Golba

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7
Aug. 27: Green at North Olmsted, 7
Sept. 3: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7
Sept. 10: Buckeye at North Olmsted, 7
Sept. 17: North Olmsted at Fairview, 7
Sept. 24: Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: North Olmsted at Bay, 7
Oct. 8: North Olmsted at Elyria Catholic, 7
Oct. 15: Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7
Week 10: GLC: East vs. West, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Xavier Balson	Jr.	6-2	192
WR: Jared Kelley*	Jr.	5-11	182
WR: Eric Wasen*	Sr.	5-10	167
TB: Sammy Capps*	Sr.	6-1	208
TB: Bryson Burgess*	Sr.	5-10	187
LT: Joey Wengstrom*	Jr.	6-4	308
LG: Gio Frazier*	Sr.	6-2	252
C: Brandon O'Boyle*	Sr.	6-2	265
RG: Unlisted			
RT: Unlisted			
K: Gannon Graf*	Sr.	5-10	188

DEFENSE

ILB: Taedon Beasley*	Sr.	6-1	202
OLB: Sam Gioia*	Sr.	6-3	192
DT: Daniel Furdul*	Jr.	5-6	197
DT: Gio Frazier*	Sr.	6-2	252
NT: Gavin Beasley	Jr.	5-10	198
CB: Eric Wasen*	Sr.	5-10	167
CB: Joey Burns	Sr.	5-10	164
FS: Jared Kelley*	Jr.	5-11	182
SS: Jaden Roman*	Sr.	5-9	165
OLB: Adam Glaser	Jr.	5-10	181
P: Gannon Graf*	Sr.	5-10	188

*: returning starters; **Returning letterwinners:** 17; **Key reserves:** Jaeden Roman*, Sr., 5-9, 165, Collin Willard, So., 6-0, 168

Best in the classroom: Jaeden Roman, 4.12 GPA

Best bench press: Gio Frazier, 345 pounds

Best 40 time: Jared Kelley, 4.57 seconds

Best squat: Gio Frazier, 515 pounds



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Ridgeville ball carrier Dominic Farago carries against Avon in 2019.

North Ridgeville»Rangers

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference

Coach: Bryan Morgan, first year

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2020: 2-8

Twitter: @NRRangerFootbal

Home field: Ranger Stadium

Outlook

The 2021 season brings a chance for a fresh start to the North Ridgeville football program. The Rangers have a new head coach and new energy as they look to once again compete in the SWC. That may take a while, however, as Bryan Morgan's team returns two starters on offense. The Rangers are a very young team that may have as many as three freshmen on the field at one time.

Player to watch

Dom Farago spent last season as the starting running back for the Rangers. Now with numbers in the program up, he'll move to defense full-time. Farago starts at inside linebacker for a young defense that will take some time to get up to speed.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Mason Worcester takes over Farago's old starting spot as the H-back. It's not necessarily the same position in a new offense, but Worcester has the speed and talent to fill in an important position.

Bottom line

IF: The Rangers can buy into their new system; **THEN:** 2021 could be an important

step toward getting the program back to where it needs to be.

— Rob DiFranco

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7
Aug. 27: Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, 7
Sept. 4: North Ridgeville at Normandy, 7
Sept. 10: Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7
Sept. 17: North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7
Sept. 24: Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7
Oct. 8: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7
Oct. 15: Berea-Midpark at North Ridgeville, 7
Oct. 22: North Ridgeville at Avon, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jacob Madis, Sr.
RB: Mason Worcester, Jr.
WR: Kosta Thrasivoulou, Sr.
WR: Connor Costin, Jr.
WR: Nate Bayer, Sr.
LT: *Dain Bartlebaugh, Sr.
LG: Andrew Flesher, Fr.
C: Brady Quinn, Jr.
RG: Andrew Hoch, Sr.
RT: *Hunter Stephanchick, Sr.
K: Bella Antonio, So.

DEFENSE

DE: Andrew Hoch, Sr.
NT: Thomas Eskra, Sr.
DE: *Dain Bartlebaugh, Sr.
OLB: Jason Costello Jr., Jr.
OLB: *Kaleb Malone, Jr.
ILB: Ethan Kirchner, Sr.
ILB: *Dom Farago, Sr.
CB: Mason Worcester Jr.
CB: *Evan Monter, Jr.
S: *Kosta Thrasivoulou, Sr.
S: Connor Costin, Jr.
P: Charlie Steinmetz, Fr.
***:** returning starter; **Key reserves:** Stephen Greaf, Sr.
Best bench press: Dain Bartlebaugh, 300
Best 40 time: Kosta Thrasivoulou, 4.6
Best squat: Dain Bartlebaugh, 515



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MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Oberlin quarterback Andre Yarber runs through the Clearview defense for a big gain during the first quarter Sept. 5, 2020.

Oberlin»Phoenix

Just the facts

Conference: Lorain County League

Coach: Mike Akers, fifth year

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21

2020: 0-7

Twitter: @OBPhoenix

Home field: Dick Bailey Field at Knowlton Stadium

Outlook

Oberlin was a team without a true home in 2020. The Phoenix played their home games on Saturday mornings at Elyria's Ely Stadium. This year they'll play in their city on a college field at nearby Oberlin College, a welcome change for a young Oberlin squad. The Phoenix have a small roster, but what they lack in numbers they make up for in speed.

Player to watch

Entering his second season as the starting quarterback for Oberlin, Andre Yarber should make a leap in 2021. The senior has the talent to help the Phoenix win games, he just needs help from the rest of his teammates.

Underclassman to watch: Isaiah Jones-Smith is as fast and exciting an underclassman as you'll find in the LC8. Starting in the defensive backfield, Jones-Smith has the speed to cover and make tackles if need be.

Bottom line

IF: the Phoenix can use their speed to their advantage; **THEN:** they should be able to pull out a win or two in the LC8.

— Rob DiFranco

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Oberlin at Plymouth, 7
Aug. 27: Lutheran East at Oberlin, 7
Sept. 3: Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7
Sept. 10: Oberlin at Keystone, 7
Sept. 18: Firelands at Oberlin, 7
Sept. 24: Wellington at Oberlin, 7
Oct. 1: Black River at Oberlin, 7
Oct. 8: Oberlin at Columbia, 7
Oct. 15: Oberlin at Clearview, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: *Andre Yarber	Sr.	5-11	175
LT: *David Mendez	So.	5-8	240
LG: *Luke May	Sr.	6-2	240
C: Aaron Rottenborn	Fr.	5-10	190
RG: *Brandon Eason	Sr.	6-0	245
RT: Matt May	So.	5-10	170

DEFENSE

NT: *Devin Johnson	Jr.	5-10	250
DE: *Dayvion Witherspoon	Sr.	6-2	240
ILB: *Issac Johnson	Jr.	6-5	225
MLB: Isaiah Jackson	So.	5-9	155
OLB: *Jonathan Frazier	Sr.	5-10	165
CB: *Nas Roundtree	Sr.	6-0	150
CB: Jordan Parker	Jr.	6-0	160
S: *Isaiah Jones-Smith	So.	6-0	160
P: Andre Yarber	Sr.	5-11	175

*: returning starter; **Key reserves:** Chris Frank, Sr., 6-6, 165;

Tommy Boyer, Fr., 5-9, 150;

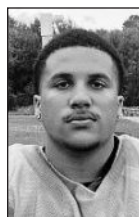
Best bench press: Dayvion Witherspoon

Best 40 time: Jonathan Frazier

Best squat: Dayvion Witherspoon



Smith



Yarber



MORNING JOURNAL FILE

Olmsted Falls' Jack Pinchek tries to stay ahead of North Royalton's Jake Csincsar on Oct. 15, 2020.

Olmsted Falls»Bulldogs

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference

Coach: Tom DeLuca, ninth season

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2020: 4-3

Twitter: @OFFootball1

Home field: Charles A. Harding Memorial Stadium

Outlook

Olmsted Falls is coming into the 2021 season with high expectations, led by senior quarterback Charlie Ciolek. Olmsted Falls has a solid group of seniors coming back to lead and can help the new starters adapt into their roles. They will look to build off their 4-3 record last season, when they only lost by three to 10-1 Avon.

Player to watch

Charlie Ciolek is a returning second-team All-Southwestern Conference selection. Ciolek threw for 688 yards and four TDs on 50-of-75 passing. He ran for 215 yards and two scores. Ciolek is a great athlete that can use his dual-threat ability to keep defenses guessing.

Underclassman to watch: Rocco Conti will be a player whom the coaching staff will look to take the next step in his development. The 5-9, 180-pound Conti was a starter last year and will be a great complement of Ciolek in the backfield.

Bottom line

IF: Olmsted Falls gets solid production

from its seniors; **THEN:** The Bulldogs can be a team to watch in the SWC.

— Justin Golba

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Lorain at Olmsted Falls, 7
Aug. 27: Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7
Sept. 3: Olmsted Falls at Norwalk, 7
Sept. 10: Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7
Sept. 17: North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7
Sept. 24: Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 (HC)
Oct. 1: Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7
Oct. 8: Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7
Oct. 15: Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7
Oct. 22: Olmsted Falls at Berea-Midpark, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Charlie Ciolek*	Sr.	6-4	180
FB: Clay Vormelker	Sr.	5-6	180
Slot: Rocco Conti*	Jr.	5-9	180
Slot: Jack Pinchek*	Jr.	5-11	190
Slot: Michael Candow*	Jr.	5-10	165
WR: Carson Atkins*	Sr.	6-0	170
WR: Gavin Moore	Jr.	6-1	180
LT: Dominic Rivera*	Jr.	6-7	310
LG: Colin Simon	Jr.	6-3	255
C: Danny Shepherd	Sr.	5-10	205
RG: Brenden Corrigan	Sr.	6-1	255
RT: Ramee Awad*	Sr.	6-4	245
K: Noah Minadio	Jr.	6-0	170



Conti

DEFENSE

DE: Nate Urry	Sr.	5-11	180
NT: Brenden Corrigan*	Sr.	6-1	255
DE: Colin Simon	Jr.	6-3	255
OLB: Markus Criswell*	Sr.	6-1	211
OLB: Adam Varga*	Sr.	5-11	170
ILB: Luke Dieckman*	Sr.	6-3	200
ILB: Danny Reiser	Sr.	5-10	220
S: Zach Clute	Sr.	5-8	170
S: Ryan Burkhart	Sr.	5-9	170
CB: Sean Hollenbeck*	Sr.	6-1	170
CB: Robbie Kaminowski	Sr.	5-11	170
P: Noah Minadio	Jr.	6-0	170

*: returning starter



Ciolek

Rocky River»Pirates

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Coach: Josh Wells, seventh season

OHSAA: Division III, Region 10

2020: 7-2

Twitter: @CoachWells1

Home field: Rocky River Stadium

Outlook

With 20 returning lettermen, including player to watch Tommy Bebie and senior quarterback Braedon Spies, the Pirates are looking to build upon their 7-2 2020 season. They ended the season with three big wins over Buckeye, Copley and Valley Forge and can build upon that momentum. The Pirates have plenty of seniors that have been 2-3 year starters and they will try to end their high school careers on a high note.

Player to watch

Senior running back and linebacker Tommy Bebie is a returning top-five tackler on the team and their top offensive threat. Wells described Bebie as "one of the best players to come through the program" and "one of the best teammates, leaders and people" on the team. Holds others accountable and leads by example.



T. Bebie



Heuler

Underclassman to watch:

Stan Heuler is a returning defensive end for the Pirates and with his size at 6-3, 215, you can expect a big season for Coach Wells and the Pirates.

Bottom line

IF: The Pirates can build off momentum from last season; **THEN:** They can be a force against any team that they play.

— Justin Golba



Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Midview at Rocky River, 7
Aug. 27: Firelands at Rocky River, 7
Sept. 2: Rocky River at Valley Forge, 7
Sept. 10: Lakewood at Rocky River, 7
Sept. 17: Rocky River at Elyria Catholic, 7
Sept. 24: Rocky River at Bay, 7
Nov. 1: Fairview at Rocky River, 7
Nov. 8: Westlake at Rocky River, 7
Nov. 15: Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Braedon Spies*	Sr.	6-0	184
RB: Tommy Bebie*	Sr.	6-1	205
RB: Johnny Bebie*	Jr.	5-10	185
WR: Jacob Gura	Sr.	6-1	184
TE: Patrick Lange*	Sr.	6-2	180
WR: Mack Massad	Jr.	5-9	155
LT: Aiden Andrako*	Jr.	6-4	230
LG: Jackson Herrmann*	Sr.	5-11	220
C: Evan Merk	Jr.	6-2	255
RG: Charlie Sobol*	Sr.	6-1	240
RT: Aidan Coyne*	Sr.	6-2	285
K: Mack Massad	Jr.	5-9	155

DEFENSE

DE: Stan Heuler*	Jr.	6-3	215
DT: Charlie Fadel*	Jr.	6-0	260
NT: Evan Merk*	Jr.	6-2	255
DE: Charlie Sobol*	Sr.	6-1	240
LB: Tommy Bebie*	Sr.	6-1	205
LB: Patrick Lange*	Sr.	6-2	180
SS: Johnny Bebie*	Jr.	5-10	185
FS: Michael Somers	Sr.	5-9	165
Whip: Braedon Spies	Sr.	6-0	175
CB: Jacob Gura*	Sr.	6-1	184
CB: Tommy Vacca	Sr.	5-11	155
P: Braedon Spies*	Sr.	6-0	184

*. **returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 20: **Key reserves:** Stan Heuler*, Jr., 6-3, 215, Aidan Konet, Jr., 6-3, 190, Aidan Coyne Sr., 6-2, 285, Kai Delventhal, Sr., 6-0, 195
Best in the classroom: Michael Somers, 4.3 GPA
Best bench press: Jackson Herrmann, 300 pounds
Best 40 time: Jacob Gura, 4.65 seconds
Best squat: Jackson Herrmann, 470 pounds

Vermilion»Sailors

Just the facts

Conference: Sandusky Bay Conference

Coach: Brett Colahan, fourth season

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

2020: 3-8

Twitter: @thesailernation

Home field: Vermilion Sailor Field

Outlook

Vermilion comes into the season with high hopes and with a returning starting quarterback and three returning wide receivers, the Sailors' offense should be able to make some waves in the conference. The team attitude and work ethic is high and should be able to make up for a lack of depth in the skill areas.

Player to watch

Ben Rini is a returning starter for Vermilion and will look to take the Sailors to the next level. The 6-3, 220-pound senior is a three-year starter and is described as "sky's the limit" by head coach Brett Colahan. Rini is the leader of the offense and will use that experience to bring the younger guys along as well.



Rini



McCale

Underclassman to watch:

Tyler McCale is a returning wide receiver for the Sailors and with the experience of him and quarterback Rini, they should be able to make a mark for the Sailor offense.

Bottom line

IF: The Sailors get the production they are expecting from Ben Rini; **THEN:** They can put Vermilion back in the top part of the conference.

— Justin Golba



Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Margaretta at Vermilion, 7
Aug. 27: Columbia at Vermilion, 7
Sept. 3: Vermilion at Firelands, 7
Sept. 10: Vermilion at Scott, 7
Sept. 17: Vermilion at Lutheran, 7
Sept. 24: Vermilion at oak Harbor, 7
Oct. 1: Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7 (HC)
Oct. 8: Huron at Vermilion, 7
Oct. 15: Edison at Vermilion, 7
Oct. 22: Vermilion at Willard, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Ben Rini*	Sr.	6-3	219
WR: Bryce Hoerig*	Sr.	6-5	175
WR: Ayden Bath*	Sr.	6-5	167
WR: Tyler McCale*	Jr.	5-7	147
WR: Cole Groene	Sr.	6-0	152
WR: Keegan Frey	So.	5-7	150
LT: Troy Jackson	So.	5-8	195
LG: Charles Piddock	Jr.	6-3	363
C: Mike Grable*	Sr.	5-9	243
RG: Cohen Palmer	So.	5-7	183
RT: Dylan Mass	Jr.	5-11	186

DEFENSE

DE: Troy Jackson	So.	5-8	195
NT: Dylan Willard	Jr.	5-5	149
DE: Dylan Mass	Jr.	5-11	186
OLB: Keegan Frey	So.	5-7	150
ILB: Payton Birdwell	Jr.	5-10	154
ILB: Ben Rini*	Sr.	6-3	219
ILB: AJ Jackson	Sr.	6-0	169
OLB: Tyler McCale*	Jr.	5-7	147
CB: Ayden Bath*	Sr.	6-5	157
CB: Cole Groene	Sr.	6-0	152
S: Bryce Hoerig*	Sr.	6-5	175
P: Ben Rini*	Sr.	6-3	219

*. **returning starter; Key reserves:** AJ Jackson, Sr., 6-0, 169, Owen Kyser, Jr., 5-10, 159, Hunter Hatten Jr., 5-10, 135.
Best bench press: Ben Rini
Best 40 time: Keegan Frey
Best squat: Ben Rini



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Wellington's Ty Moore carries against Brookside in 2020.

Wellington»Dukes

Just the facts

Conference: Lorain County League

Coach: Rob Howells, fourth season

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21

2020: 3-6

Twitter: @CoachHowellsWFB

Home field: Wellington Stadium

Outlook

With the highest numbers they have had in a while, Wellington will look to use that added depth and 14 returning letterwinners to move back into the top half of the conference. They have five two-way players returning who will help, including player to watch Jon Brasee. Howells has been at the program for four years and has had multiple players on his team for all four years.

Player to watch

Jon Brasee is the senior leader on the team heading into the 2021 season. Brasee had over 500 yards receiving last season and five touchdowns and was one of Wellington's top tacklers last season. One of the best two-way players and leaders on the team.

Underclassman to watch: CJ Polen is 6-0, 220 pound junior linebacker that has impressed coach Howells last season and will look to build upon that momentum heading into this season.

Bottom line

IF: Wellington can use its senior-laden group; **THEN:** The Dukes can finish in the top half of the conference.

— Justin Golba

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Western Reserve at Wellington, 7

Aug. 27: Mapleton at Wellington, 7

Sept. 3: Wellington at New London, 7

Sept. 10: Firelands at Wellington, 7

Sept. 17: Wellington at Keystone, 7

Sept. 24: Wellington at Oberlin, 7 (HC)

Oct. 1: Columbia at Wellington, 7 (HC)

Oct. 8: Wellington at Clearview, 7

Oct. 15: Brookside at Wellington, 7

Oct. 22: Wellington at Black River, 7

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Ty Moore	Sr.	5-9	165
FB: Drew Unangst	Sr.	6-0	200
RB: Kaleb Taylor*	Sr.	6-1	190
WR: Jon Brasee*	Sr.	6-0	175
WR: Justin Yeager	Sr.	5-7	145
TE: Trey Lawson	Jr.	6-0	160
LT: Jace Diedrick*	Sr.	6-2	250
LG: Cayden Sherepita*	Sr.	6-3	215
C: Josh Buck	Jr.	6-1	250
RG: Justin Charlton	Jr.	6-1	205
RT: Hunter Cantwell*	Sr.	6-2	365
K: Derrick Andolsek*	Sr.	6-1	175



Brasee

DEFENSE

DL: Cayden Sherepita	Sr.	6-3	215
DL: Hunter Cantwell*	Sr.	6-2	365
DL: Jace Diedrick*	Sr.	6-2	250
DL: Devan Diedrick	So.	6-2	230
LB: Kaleb Taylor*	Sr.	6-1	190
LB: Drew Unangst*	Sr.	6-0	200
LB: CJ Polen*	Jr.	6-0	220
DB: Justin Yeager*	Sr.	5-7	145
DB: Jon Brasee*	Sr.	6-0	175
DB: Ty Moore*	Sr.	5-9	165
DB: Amir Abeid	Jr.	6-2	150
P: Cayden Sherepita*	Sr.	6-3	215



Polen

. returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 14; Key reserves: Marshal Mull, Jr., 6-1, 235; Nathan Patfield, Jr., 5-9, 200; Nolan Sasack, So., 6-0, 210; Josh Nocella, Jr., 5-8, 175
Best bench press: Cayden Sherepita, 315 pounds
Best 40 time: Cayden Sherepita, 4.5 seconds
Best squat: Jon Brasee, 410 pounds

Westlake»Demons

Just the facts

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Coach: Dan LaRocco, fourth season

OHSAA: Division II, Region 6

2020: 4-5

Twitter: @_Demonfootball

Home field: UH St. John Medical Center Stadium

Outlook

The Demons are returning nine defensive starters and eight offensive starters, mainly in their skill positions. Between the experience and leadership returning, they have gone from 0-10 in 2019 to 4-5 in 2020, so 2021 could be a special year. They are returning to the Great Lakes Conference this season and are excited to get back to those old and renewed rivalries.

Player to watch

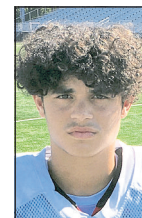
Mack Keenan is the Demons returning starting quarterback and will look to improve upon an impressive 2020 campaign. With almost all of his skill positions returning on offense, Keenan will look to build on their 4-5 season last year



Keenan

Underclassman to watch:

Will Ostrowski is a returning starter in the backfield and was a nice compliment to Keenan last season. He will look to improve upon his sophomore season and help the Demons take the next step.



Ostrowski

Bottom line

IF: The Demons get the production they expect from the returning starters; **THEN:** they can be a top team in the Great Lakes Conference.

— Justin Golba

Schedule (subject to change)

Aug. 20: Westlake at North Royalton, 7

Aug. 27: James F Rhodes at Westlake, 7

Week 3: Warrensville at Westlake, 7

Sept. 10: Parma at Westlake, 7

Sept. 17: Bay at Westlake, 7 (HC)

Sept. 24: Westlake at North Olmsted, 7

Oct. 1: Elyria Catholic at Westlake, 7

Oct. 8: Westlake at Rocky River, 7

Oct. 15: Fairview at Westlake, 7



JUSTIN GOLBA — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Westlake huddles during its scrimmage against Columbia.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Mack Keenan*	Sr.	6-5	215
RB: Will Ostrowski*	Jr.	5-7	165
WR: Arrington Taylor*	Jr.	6-1	205
WR: Jason Eason*	Sr.	6-1	150
WR: Cooper Rummel*	So.	5-6	150
WR: Josh Bauer*	Sr.	6-0	170
LT: Michael Wood	Jr.	6-1	200
LG: Mo Mustafa	So.	5-11	220
C: Robbie Huber*	Jr.	5-10	180
RG: Mo Assad	So.	6-0	240
RT: Sam Prexta*	Sr.	6-2	250
K: Basheer Alramahi	Sr.	6-0	150

DEFENSE

Anchor: Angel Jiminian*	Sr.	6-0	200
Nose: Karim Sadik	Sr.	5-10	190
End: Michael Wood*	Jr.	6-1	200
Stud: Arrington Taylor*	Jr.	6-1	205
Mike: Ben Grudzien*	Sr.	5-10	165
Will: Sam Prexta*	Sr.	6-2	250
Bandit: Mack Kennan*	Sr.	6-5	215
DB: Josh Bauer*	Sr.	6-0	170
DB: Will Ostrowski*	Jr.	5-7	165
DB: Liam Shields*	Jr.	5-8	150
DB: Braelon Burnett	So.	5-7	150
P: Mack Keenan	Sr.	6-3	215

*. returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 17; Key reserves: Matt Porcelli, So., 5-10, 160; Andrew Palka, So., 5-11, 190; Nick Demyan, Jr., 5-7, 150; Sam White, Jr., 5-11, 165.
Best in the classroom: Mack Keenan 5.1 GPA
Best bench press: Sam Prexta, 265 pounds
Best 40 time: Cooper Rummel, 4.6 seconds
Best squat: Sam Prexta, 375 pounds

State finals results

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
2019: Pickerington Central 21, Cincinnati Elder 14
2020: Cincinnati St. Xavier 44, Pickerington Central 3

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)



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon and Lorain shake hands before their Aug. 12 scrimmage.

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 20
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
2019: Cincinnati LaSalle 34, Massillon Washington 17
2020: Akron Hoban 35, Massillon Washington 6

2020: Akron Hoban 35, Massillon Washington 6

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 33
2007: Sunbury Big Walnut 17, Newark 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 Svm 42, Bellevue 21
2013: Akron Svm 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
2019: Trotwood-Madison 14, Mansfield Senior 7 (OT)
2020: Chardon 31, Columbus DeSales 28 (2 OT)

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
2019: Clyde 42, Newark Licking Valley 14
2020: Van Wert 31, Lake Catholic 28

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 John F. Kennedy 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 Catholic 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
2019: Kirtland 17, Ironton 7
2020: Kirtland 38, Ironton 0

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
2019: Anna 48, New Middletown Springfield 14
2020: Coldwater 38, New Middletown Springfield 35

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
2019: Maria Stein Marion Local 28, Lucas 6
2020: New Bremen 31, Warren JFK 0

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SEASON READY FOR KICKOFF



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands practices its kicking game against Fairview during an Aug. 13 scrimmage. See a photo collection from the scrimmage at MorningJournal.com,

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