

FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

INSIDE: One thing to know about every area playoff team; Chardon defense nasty as usual; Three QBs excited to be back



It's 50 games and counting, as Kirtland eyes another state title

Pages 8-9

OPINION

Let's get to know the 18 area playoff teams

Well, we made it.

Granted, there were a handful of bumps in the road along the way because of the continued presence of the novel coronavirus — hold onto the sides of the board come winter season when everybody is back indoors, but that's a different story for a different day.

We've made to Week 11 of the high school football season.

Not Week 6, like last year, when the regular season was shortened because of COVID.

Not the previous spring when everything was wiped out.

A full 10-game schedule was navigated this fall, though again, there were some blips on the radar.

So here we are, heading into Week 11 with 18 News-Herald area teams getting a chip and a chair to take part in the football playoffs.

The OHSAA this past offseason expanded the playoffs to include the top 16 teams in each region.

That has helped account for the highest non-COVID year amount of NH teams to be postseason bound.



John Kampf



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Nathan Tager, kicker for the Chardon Hilltoppers, also plays saxophone with the band.

There is a lot to know about this year's playoff teams, and we hope we'd provided that all year long, including in this preview section.

If not, here's a list of the 18 — in alphabetical order — with one random (interesting, we hope) observation about each team:

▪ **Benedictine:** QB Cee-Jay Yarboro has 1,949 career passing yards and WR Marvin Conkle has 951 career receiving yards. Both should hit milestones early

in the playoff run.

▪ **Berkshire:** John Stoddard, father of Badger standout player Lucas Stoddard, used to be a pro wrestler who went under the name, "Stamp Lickage."

▪ **Brush:** Damari Williams had a game earlier this season in which he had a pick-six and a fumble recovery for a touchdown in the first half, but didn't get to celebrate with his teammates at half-time because he stayed on

the field to play with the marching band at half-time.

▪ **Cardinal:** First-year coach Chris Perrotti always figured he'd follow his father Randy's path into the car business, yet here he is a high school coach and a teacher (currently in the Grand Valley Local School District).

▪ **Chardon:** The next halftime speech senior kicker Nathan Tager hears might be his first. Also a soccer player, Tager plays saxophone in the band and stays on the field during halftime to perform with the Hilltoppers' band.

▪ **Harvey:** The Red Raiders are in the playoffs for the first time since back-to-back years of 1988-1989. Two coaches have play-off experience on those teams — linebacker-receivers coach Marwin Walling and quarterbacks coach Sean Siebert.

▪ **Hawken:** Luke Mangini, one of the leading tacklers and team-leader in tackles for loss for the Hawks, is the son of former NFL (and Browns) head coach Eric Mangini.

▪ **Gilmour:** No school has more head coaching experience on the sidelines than Coach Chris Kosiorrek, who has former head coaches Mark Iammarino, John Kramer and Ryan

Williams on his staff.

▪ **Kenston:** Head coach Jeff Grubich is quite the outdoorsman. Not only do he and his family own a Christmas tree farm, but he's also an avid hunter.

▪ **Kirtland:** Defensive coordinator extraordinaire Ryan Beeler has danced inside a postgame circle of players following Kirtland wins for 82 victories (including 50 in a row) dating to the 2015 season.

▪ **Mentor:** The Cardinals' new quarterbacks coach, Owen Lewis, was a state champion quarterback at Kirtland and got his most recent coaching experience at Minster, which beat Kirtland in a 2014 state championship game.

▪ **NDCL:** Matt Urda is one of the Lions top defenders. His brother, Zach, was the same type of ball-hawking linebacker for NDCL before moving on to play at Hillsdale College.

▪ **North:** Massive offensive tackle Ryan Baer (6-8, 330) is first cousins with Kirtland All-Ohioan Gage Sullivan, and the two can often be seen at Pitt games, where Baer has committed to play college ball.

▪ **Perry:** The Pirates' high-energy defensive end-running back Jadyann has a twin sister, Ja'cana (who is also a multi-sport ath-

lete at Perry), and Jadyann is older by 23 minutes.

▪ **Riverside:** The Beavers' Michael Tromba and Dominic Tromba are twins, with Michael coming into the world three minutes before his little brother.

▪ **South:** Coach Matt Duffy is the all-time winningest football coach at South with 121 wins. The previous record-holder — Jim Chapman with 101 — from 1981 (when he stepped down) to 2016 (when Duffy set the new mark).

▪ **VASJ:** When the Vikings play Hawken in their Division IV playoff opener this week, they will do so at Baldwin Wallace's Finnie Stadium — it's the third "home" venue VASJ has played in this year, along with "home" games at Case Western Reserve and Wickliffe.

▪ **West Geauga:** Kicker Joey DiLalla is a master of sorts with inside kicks. He has an array of on-side kicks in his arsenal. He has the ability to place the ball wherever with or without bounce. West G has recovered four on-side kicks this year.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Chardon defense is nasty — again

By John Kampf

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The question caught Mitch Hewitt a little off guard.

In defense of Chardon's head football coach, he probably never imagined hearing the question at any time this season anyway.

Is it possible that the 2021 Chardon defense is better than that of the 2020 state-champion Hilltoppers?

"Pshew, wow," Hewitt said followed by a six-second pause.

Hewitt's reminded that his team has four shutouts through nine games and that only three foes so far have hit double figures on his team.

Last year's state champs only pitched two shutouts.

"I know, I know," Hewitt said. "They're really good. I know."

He paused again, then came up with the ultimate tie-breaker.

"Let's just say the other defense has a state championship," Hewitt said.

Fair enough.

But the way the Chardon Hilltoppers are playing defense thus far, against a schedule that very well might rival that of the 2020 Hilltoppers, does anyone want to bet against Hewitt, defensive coordinator Brian Landies and a group of



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon's Alex Kisley (53) and Zoran Vujaklija stop a Madison ballcarrier earlier this season.

young men who pined to make a name for themselves last year, but waited until this year to do so?

Probably not.

Chardon enters the rugged gantlet of Division III, Region 9 having given up only 68 points in 10 games — an average of 6.8 points per game. Last year's Hill-

toppers gave up 113 points through 12 games — just under 10 points per game.

Here's the rub: Chardon only has three starters back from last year's state championship defense in linebacker Christian Hall, cornerback Trey Liebhardt and safety Nathanael Sulka.

Everybody else is new.

Six players who were either first- or second-team All-Ohio graduated this past spring.

Most of this year's starting defense spent Friday nights last season standing on the sideline watching with the hopes of MAYBE some late-game mop-up time.

Yet here are the Hilltoppers with an undefeated 10-0 record and giving up 6.8 points and 160 yards per game against a rugged schedule.

It doesn't make sense, except to those wearing red and black.

"That's gotta be coaching right there," said Liebhardt,

a lockdown cornerback who isn't afraid to stick his nose in the box against the run. "Those guys work so hard to get us in position to be successful."

It's a point Hewitt won't debate in the least, lauding the preparation and detail of his defensive coaching staff, including Landies at DC, 31-year defensive line veteran Bob Francis and defensive backs coach Conner Krouse.

Combine that coaching expertise with the physicality gleaned from the regimen put forth by strength/conditioning coach Rob Vujaklija, and it's a recipe for success no matter the year.

"Culture is a big part of it," Liebhardt said. "When someone scores on us, it fires everybody up. It ignites us even if someone gets a first down."

Hewitt agrees with the culture part. He was part of that culture as a player in the 1990s under legendary coach Bob Doyle, and truth be known, the Hilltoppers play with that same edge nearly three decades after their coach graduated.

"You're right when you say it's culture," Hewitt said. "We do something every Wednesday we think is pretty special. It's a drill we call 'The Difference.' It has nothing to do with scheme."

DEFENSE » PAGE 4

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Defense

FROM PAGE 3

“It’s about heart and culture.”

So when the new guys come in — like they did in droves this year — for their first varsity experience, they know what makes “The Difference” under the Friday Night Lights.

Guys like defensive linemen Alex Kisley (19.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks), Cooper Felger (8.5 TFLs, 3 sacks) and Mike Washington (6.5 TFLs, 4 sacks), who were called on to replace 2020 All-Ohioans like Myles Mendeszoon and Gavin Slife.

Guys like Brody Dotson (6 TFLs), Heath Fetchik (9.5 TFLs, 6 sacks) and Rocco Perrico (8.5 TFLs, 3 sacks), who have jumped in at linebacker this year alongside holdover Christian Hall to seamlessly pick up where 2020 All-Ohioans Vince Ferrante and Cade McDevitt left off.

Or sophomore defensive backs like Andrew Bruce and Leo Colombi, who have helped replace 2020 All-Ohioans Brady Toth and Kevin Doyle in the Chardon defensive back end.

“I didn’t take a single varsity snap last year,” said Kisley, a 6-foot-2, 210-pound defensive end. “But I’ve been playing football forever. You do your lifting, you prepare and work hard until your time comes. This year, I don’t know, it’s just all clicked for me.”

Hewitt admitted that at



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Chardon defenders Heath Fetchik (bottom) and Christian Hall (26) swarm South's Gabe Hanslik.

season’s start, many if not most Chardon fans would have needed a numerical roster with names so as to know who was on the field when the Hilltoppers’ defense ran onto the field. Now those guys are virtually household names.

The team has 24 takeaways this year. Included in that are 16 interceptions and eight fumble recoveries.

Add in 31 sacks and 93 TFLs and 56 pass breakups — not to mention 36 points scored off of turnovers — and there’s no mystery why Chardon’s defense has been

so effective this season.

Names go with those stats pretty quickly.

“I knew we’d be pretty good,” Kisley said. “When we were playing JV, we were pretty dominant. The culture here is just different. We’ve been playing together for years and we all love football. We were just waiting for our moment.”

The execution of Chardon’s defense is interwoven like a tight-fitting glove. The front seven is aggressive and unrelenting against the run. The same guys are relentless rushing the passer, which gives the

defensive backs more freedom to play tight knowing the opposing quarterback isn’t going to have much time to throw. The numbers Chardon defenders have accumulated this year attest to that.

“We work so well as a unit,” Liebhardt said. “Sometimes a quarterback doesn’t have time to go to his second read, or he is going to get sacked. We don’t have to chase receivers around or across the field when the pass-rush is making him get rid of the ball so fast.”

WHO Chardon has done

it against is almost impressive is HOW they’ve done it.

The three nonconference opponents were Glenville (28-14 Chardon victory), Akron Buchtel (42-0) and Youngstown Ursuline (36-27). Many feel Glenville and Ursuline are on a collision course for a Division IV state tournament contest.

Both Kenston and South were ranked in the top 10 in Ohio when Chardon beat them, 49-0 and 59-13, respectively.

“Our schedule has a lot to do with our success,” Kisley said. “It’s been good for us, facing adversity against

good teams. That’s the type of teams we’re going to see in the playoffs, so we’ve got to learn how to respond to that.”

To be sure, there is a lot of work to be done over the next handful of weeks for a Chardon football team that is taking a 22-game winning streak into the 2021 playoffs.

That Chardon is A) the defending Division III state champion, B) ranked No. 1 in Division III, and C) has done so against a schedule so rugged that their 35.49 composite in the computer rankings is the third-best in Ohio (Division I St. Edward is 36.33 and Division I Marysville is 38.20), regardless of division, means there’s a target on the Hilltoppers from here on out.

This much is true — the 2021 Chardon Hilltoppers want a state championship ring to go with the one they won in 2020. Kisley admitted as much as he loves the ring and experience from last year, “it would mean a little more for me personally if we repeated because I was on the field and played in this one.”

There’s a bunch of teammates, especially on the defensive side, that might tend to agree. The 2021 Chardon defense came into the season with a lot to prove. To this point, they’ve done it — maybe even more impressively than last year’s defense.

“It’s not crazy to say we have a better defense this year,” Liebhardt said.

They’d just like the ring to validate it.



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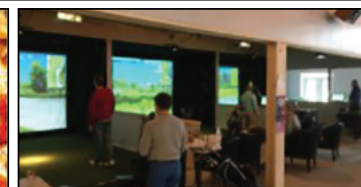
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Three area QBs eye playoffs after injuries

By John Kampf

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Jacob Snow's heart hurt as much as his right hand as he sat on the bench at Lakewood Stadium on Sept. 4.

A handful of minutes earlier, the junior quarterback from Mentor had thrown a touchdown pass to cut St. Edward's lead to 14-7 at the half.

But all Snow could think of was that his season very well might be over.

"When the trainers checked my hand, I felt the bone move," he said. "I knew it was bad. I knew I was done."

He just didn't know for how long.

But come Oct. 29, Snow will be back on the field to lead Mentor in a Division I, Region 1 playoff game against St. Ignatius. He has the chance that, back on Sept. 4, he didn't know he'd have.

Two other area quarterbacks know the feeling.

Kenston's Nikko Georgiou has been out of action since leaving his team's Sept. 4 game against NDCL with a broken bone in his hand, an injury that required surgery.

South's Colin Quinlan has been sidelined since sustaining an ankle injury against Brush in Week 6.

But Georgiou is expected back under center — well, in



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Nikko Georgiou of Kenston scores a touchdown against NDCL earlier this year. Georgiou went out with a hand injury in that game and hasn't played since, but is expected to play in the Bombers' playoff opener this weekend.

Kenston's pistol formation back in his dual-threat role — when the Bombers play for the Rebels when they play Bedford in a Division III regional game on Oct. 29, and Quinlan is expected to be back in his dual-threat role for the Rebels when they play Bedford in a Division II regional game the same night.



PATRICK HOPKINS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

South QB Colin Quinlan looks to make a play in a Week 2 game with Twinsburg.

"You're talking about three really good quarterbacks," South coach Matt Duffy said of Snow, Georgiou and Quinlan. "Guys like that are difference makers."

They're coming back just at the right time — playoff time.

"It's been hard, not being able to play," said Quinlan, who switched from running back to quarterback his freshman year and has been on a rapid ascent since.

"Ankle injuries have been something I've struggled with my entire life... ligaments, breaks, sprains. I have a metal screw in one of my ankles. I have a little history with my ankles."

Which makes it tough when you're a dual-threat quarterback like he is.

Prior to being injured, Quinlan had thrown for 832 yards and eight touchdowns, while also rushing for 472 yards and four scores.

In his absence, youngster Gabe Hanslik stepped in and has guided the Rebels' offense.

"He's done a fantastic job, he really has," Duffy said of Hanslik. "It's a tough position for anyone, especially a sophomore, with the gamut of games we've played. But he's handled it well."

Kenston and Mentor were in the same boat as far as turning the reins over to younger quarterbacks.

Kenston first moved leading receiver J.P. Germano to quarterback, then turned to freshman Dylan Krupp, while Mentor turned to

freshman Scotty Fox.

When Fox went down with an injury, too, senior Brendan Baroni stepped to make his first varsity start.

"J.P. is such a great athlete," said Georgiou. "It had to be a weird transition for him, going from receiver to quarterback, but he took it well."

"Dylan, I'm sure he was nervous. But when he got out there and got past that first drive and settled in, he did great."

Georgiou had thrown for 557 yards and five touchdowns through three games when he went down with a break in his right (throwing) hand.

He had surgery to have four screws put in at the base of his index finger.

He was hurt in the first quarter, but stuck it out the rest of the game.

"I knew something was wrong," he said. "I didn't expect it to be broken, though. But I could barely squeeze a football."

Snow knows that feeling all too well. He ended up with a broken bone in his right thumb, as well as ligament damage.

"Even after I threw the touchdown pass, I went to clap my hands and it hurt so bad," he said. "I knew something was wrong. I couldn't even grip a ball on the sideline."

QBS » PAGE 6

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PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Jacob Snow of Mentor scores a touchdown last week. The Cardinals' junior quarterback missed 3 1/2 games this season with a hand injury.

QBs

FROM PAGE 5

All three quarterbacks — Snow, Georgiou and Quinlan — said they took positives out of their respective injuries.

First, they all became coaches of sorts both during practice and on game nights. Part of being a leader, Georgiou said, is

doing so when your team needs it the most — not checking out when you're hurt.

So during practices, each quarterback took mental reps while the team ran plays. And on game night, each scanned the defenses of the opposition and gave tips to their replacements on the sidelines and at half-time.

"I was at practice every day, helping J.P. and Dylan

out all I could," Georgiou said.

Said Snow, "Coach (Matt) Gray and (quarterbacks coach Owen) Lewis challenged me to be the best coach I could be to my teammates. It was great to see Scotty and Baroni step up like they did."

Injuries have hit Mentor, South and Kenston all season, and not just at the quarterback position.

Mentor has lost lead-



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

Jacob Snow, quarterback for the Mentor football team, has his hand wrapped and inspected by trainer Kat Schuster during the Cardinals' 47-7 loss to St. Edward on Sept. 4. Snow will see a hand specialist this week to determine the severity of the injury to his throwing hand.

ing rusher Brenden Panhorst for the season, not to mention a number of other players missing games with nagging injuries. South's leading rusher, Tyrone Singleton, has missed the last four games with an ankle injury. And Kenston's big, 6-foot-7 tight end (and Indiana commit) Ryan Miller went out in the NDCL game with three broken vertebrae in his lower back.

But come this weekend,

all three teams will have their starting quarterbacks back in action when the playoff season begins.

Snow has a little bit of a jump on Quinlan and Georgiou in that he returned after a 3 1/2 game absence to play the Cardinals' final three regular-season games. But Quinlan and Georgiou will be itching to end their bench streaks this weekend.

"Getting some games in

before the playoffs has been a blessing," said Snow, who has thrown for 1,118 yards and 13 TDs despite missing 3 1/2 games. "I'm just doing the best I can for my team."

Georgiou agreed.

"It's tough not being out there," he said. "The other guys did great. I just had to be patient and be ready for when my time came."

Which is now for himself, Snow and Quinlan.

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Tony Fisher Award watch list

By John Kampf

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The Tony Fisher Award goes to The News-Herald player of the year in football. It is named after the former Ohio Mr. Football recipient, a graduate of Euclid, who went on to star at Notre Dame and play in the NFL. The Fisher Award watch list can and will change on a weekly basis. This is simply an early sample of players to watch based on their performances last season.

The Fisher Award will be presented on Monday, Nov. 22, at a special edition of the Varsity Chalk Talk show at Hooley House in Mentor, with finalists for the Fisher Award and for the Bob Ritley Award (coach of the year) on hand.

This week's watch list, in alphabetical order, is:

Ryan Baer, North, Sr.: The mammoth offensive tackle, a Pitt commit, graded 92 percent with seven knockdown/pancake blocks in the Rangers' loss to Chardon. For the season, he has graded 92 percent with 92 knockdown/pancake blocks.

Derell Bedingfield, Benedictine, Sr.: Was injured and did not play in the Bengals' 23-20 loss to Nor-donia. The Toledo commit leads the team with 23 solo tackles and 47 assists for 70 total tackles. Included in that total are three tackles for losses totaling minus 17 yards. On offense, he has



DAVID TURBEN — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon quarterback Alex Henry has 21 total touchdowns this season.

caught five passes for 66 yards and two touchdown receptions.

Rick Coleman Jr., Harvey, Sr.: Did not play as Harvey did not have a Week 10 game. For the season, he has thrown for 940 yards

and 11 touchdowns, run for 796 yards and 14 touchdowns, leads the team in return yardage and has three interceptions.

JP Germano, Kenston, Sr.: Playing multiple positions this season, he has thrown

for 92 yards and two touchdowns, run for 701 yards and seven touchdowns and caught 20 passes for 220 yards and two scores.

Alex Henry, Chardon, Jr.: He ran for 69 yards and two touchdowns, and threw a

75-yard touchdown in one half of play in a 38-0 win over North. For the season he has run for 688 yards and 16 touchdowns and also thrown for 538 yards and five touchdowns.

Ty Howard, VASJ, Sr.: Did

not play, as VASJ did not have a Week 10 game. For the season (six games), he has run for 632 yards and 13 touchdowns and also has 98 tackles, 22 TFLs, 9 sacks, nine QB pressures and an interception on defense.

Tanelle Rose, Brush, So.: He ran for 137 yards and two touchdowns in the Arcs' 22-21 overtime loss to Lutheran East. For the season he has run for 1,402 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Mason Rus, Kirtland, Sr.: He ran for 103 yards and three touchdowns in limited action in a 41-7 win over Orange. For the season, he has run for 1,265 yards and 15 touchdowns offensively, while accumulating 69 tackles and 14 TFLs on defense.

Gage Sullivan, Kirtland, Sr.: Caught three passes for 98 yards in the Hornets' 41-7 win over Orange. For the season, he has caught 32 passes for 673 yards and 13 touchdowns, run for 106 yards and two touchdowns and 27 tackles, seven PBUs and a pick-six on defense.

Danny Stewart, West Geauga, Sr.: Threw for 116 yards and a touchdown in the Wolverines' 28-7 loss to Perry. For the season, he has thrown for 1,342 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Ceejay Yarboro, Benedictine, Sr.: Completed 9 of 25 passes for 110 yards in a 23-20 loss to Nor-donia. For the season he has thrown for 1,339 yards and 15 touchdowns with four INTs.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Kirtland streak at 50 but another state title is goal

By John Kampf

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Gage Sullivan and Philip LaVerde could hardly believe their eyes.

Then-junior high ball-boys for the prestigious Kirtland football team, Sullivan and LaVerde were used to seeing a running clock in the games in which the Hornets were playing.

They just weren't used to seeing Kirtland on the short end of the running-clock game.

It was a sunny day on Dec. 2, 2017 when Kirtland was losing to Maria Stein Marion Local, 34-3, in the second half before the Hornets scored late to make it a 34-11 loss in the Division VI state championship game.

It was a brutal, humbling loss.

Apparently the Hornets took note of that feeling.

They haven't lost since.

When Kirtland (9-0) takes the field for a first-round Division V, Region 17 playoff game against visiting Cadiz Harrison Central (4-6) on Oct. 29, the Hornets will do so with the longest current winning streak in America — a robust 50-game run.

"I remember we dropped a punt, they scored a few plays later and it was pretty much over after that," said LaVerde, son of Kirtland head football coach Tiger LaVerde and a junior linebacker on this year's team. "It's crazy we haven't lost since. That says a lot about our program."

After losing to Marion Local in the 2017 state championship bout, Kirtland went 15-0 in 2018 (including a 16-7 rematch win over Marion Local in the state title game), 15-0 in 2019 (including a 17-7 win over Ironton in the Division V state title game) and 11-0 in the COVID-shortened 2020 season including a 38-0 whipping of Ironton in a rematch of the 2019 title game).

Kirtland has also run the table



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland's defense makes a stop against Edgewood. As usual, the Hornets' defense is playing a big part in Kirtland's current 50-game winning streak.

so far this year to extend its winning streak to 50 games.

It's a mark Kirtland appreciates, but tries not to spend much time pondering.

"I've never really thought about the streak," Sullivan said.

"Honestly, when I was in junior high, I was just hoping to get one ring in my four years of high school. One would have been good. Maybe two."

Instead, this year's senior class — if it can win six straight playoff games starting this weekend — will walk out of high school with four state championship rings and a four-year varsity record of 56-0.

The last time the Class of 2022 lost a football game? In eighth grade.

"We lost to Perry and tied Geneva," Sullivan said.

Fellow senior Mason Rus shrugged.

"Losing that game in eighth grade stung. But it's so long ago and really, it was in junior high so it didn't hold much value," said the Hornets' leading tackler and leading rusher. "But yeah, it stung to lose. But every year since then we've worked so hard to make sure it doesn't happen again."

So far, it hasn't.

A point that still marvels head coach Tiger LaVerde.

"We went 4-6 my first year and didn't make the playoffs," LaVerde said. "The next year we made the playoffs (at 8-2), drove 2 ½ hours and got destroyed by Barnesville (41-12)."

"The last thing I was thinking was winning a state championship or having a 50-game streak."

Kirtland began the season with the fifth-longest winning streak in America with 41 straight wins, trailing Caledonia (Minn.), South-

ern Columbia (Pa.), Corner Canyon (Utah) and Fyffe (Ala.).

Caledonia was the first team to go down, having its 71-game winning streak snapped on Sept. 7 in a 30-13 loss to Lake Michigan (Minn.).

The first weekend of October, new national leader Southern Columbia had its 65-game streak ended with a 41-21 loss to Wyoming. That elevated Fyffe to No. 1, with Corner Canyon right behind and Kirtland in third.

On Oct. 7, Corner Canyon's 48-game streak was ended with a 41-16 loss to Lone Peak, and then a week after that, Fyffe's 51-game streak came to a halt.

That left Kirtland with the longest winning streak in the nation — 50 games — which is also the third-longest winning streak in Ohio football history, trailing only Delphos St. John (57 games

from 1996-2001) and Versailles (54 games from 1993-1997).

For those wondering, the longest winning streak in the history of high school football is 151 games won by De La Salle (Calif.) from 1992-2003.

"Fifty games. It doesn't really seem real," LaVerde said. "But these kids come to work every day. We've played a lot of good teams, a lot of playoff games, and games against a lot bigger schools. It's something."

Coming off the 2017 state championship loss to Marion Local, the Hornets went on a rampage the following season. Not only did they go 15-0, but it wasn't until the regional final that someone finally scored double figures on them in a 20-14 win over Mogadore.

The rematch against Marion Local was all Kirtland, with Jack Bailey's blocked field goal being instrumental to go with touchdown runs by Jake Neibecker and Luke Gardner.

"After last year, they got us good and was tied one to one in our little series with them. We knew this year that if we got back, we wanted to have them and we wanted the tiebreaker," Neibecker said afterward. "And we got it."

In 2019, Kirtland moved up to Division V and went 15-0 again.

The Hornets shut out six of their first seven opponents, and went on to beat Ironton, 17-7, in the state title game.

A goal-line stand in the waning seconds of the first half, followed by a Gage Sullivan touchdown reception to start the third quarter, led the way against an Ironton team that was significantly bigger in size on the line and one that boasted future Ohio State linebacker Reid Carrico.

The 2020 season, shortened by the COVID pandemic, saw Kirtland ramp up its schedule by facing — and beating — Division I Solon and Shaker Heights. Come state title time, it was Kirtland vs.

Ironton in a rematch.

Kirtland (11-0) left no doubt, hammering an Ironton team, 38-0, that spent all season clamoring for payback against the Hornets.

"All year they were on social media saying they wanted us," said Kirtland's All-Ohio lineman Kiki Grman afterward. "Well, they got us."

With the help of running the table at 9-0 heading into the playoffs, the Hornets have put up some staggering numbers during their current 50-game winning streak, including:

- Kirtland has outscored its 50 opponents, 2,027 to 345, for an average score of 41-7 and outgained the 50 foes, 19,652 to 8,081, for an average yardage differential of 396 to 163 yards per game.

- Despite the lopsided yardage differential, Kirtland has only run 117 more plays than their 50 foes (2,451-2,334). The difference is Kirtland has averaged 8.1 yards per play, while giving up 3.5 yards per play.

- Kirtland has punted only 50 times in the last 59 games, while forcing 234.

- The Hornets have turned the ball over 42 times in the past 50 games, while forcing 93 turnovers.

- The Hornets have committed only 192 penalties in 50 games, an average of 3.8 per game — pretty low for any level football.

"We practice and compete against each other every day," LaVerde said of the key to playing so well and keeping focused during such a long streak. "There's a winner and loser every day at practice. Winners get out of extra conditioning, losers have to do it."

"There's something on the line every day."

Winning three state titles in a row (and six in the past decade) means you get everyone's best shot every Friday night. That means there's no room for mistakes.

"Many people don't want to see a team win 15 in a row or consis-



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland's Tommy Googolin (2) and Ramon Lescano celebrate during an Oct. 8 victory over Lakeside.

tently win, win and win," Rus said. "I know all the teams we play want to take us down. That's a huge accomplishment for them. It's a burden we carry, but we're not playing just for us — we're playing for everybody before us who gave us this opportunity."

As usual, the path to 56 straight wins, which would mean six post-

season victories and a fourth-straight state title, is littered with potential pitfalls. Division V, Region 17 includes three other undefeated teams — South Range (10-0), Sugar Creek Garaway (10-0) and Garrettsville (10-0), as well as other strong teams.

Kirtland defeated South Range, 49-35, in the regional final a year

ago, the Hornets' sternest test of the season.

"We've already watched some film on South Range," Phillip LaVerde said.

Statewide, Tontogany Otsego is 10-0 and — of course — Ironton is still there at 9-1.

Even though Kirtland has a 50-game streak, there's still a long

way to go for the team to reach their goal of another perfect season. As nice as the nation's best 50-game streak is, that's the pot at the end of the rainbow — another undefeated state title.

"We've worked every year since our freshman year to keep winning," Rus said. "That's what matters the most to us."

High school football playoffs capsules

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

(11) MENTOR AT (6) ST. IGNATIUS

What: Division I regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Parma Byers Field, 7600 Day Drive, Parma

Records: Mentor 5-5, St. Ignatius 6-4

Last week: St. Ignatius def. Clarkson, Canada, 58-28

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Canton GlenOak (3-6) and Stow-Munroe Falls (8-2)

For the record: This is a rematch of a Week 2 game held at the JTO, a game Mentor won, 28-26. Mentor hit a little skid in the middle of the season when it lost five of six games, but the Cardinals have gotten healthier in the past few weeks and have won two in a row heading into the playoffs. St. Ignatius has won two in a row, also, with wins over St. Xavier and Clarkson (Canada). ... Despite missing three-plus games, Mentor QB Jacob Snow has thrown for more than 1,000 yards. Mikey Norwood (34 catches, 691 yards) and Sam Kish (20 catches, 296 yards) are the top receivers. Evan Harper can catch or run the ball — and he's dynamic in the return game. Mitchell Waite has stepped in nicely at RB with Brenden Panhorst out. ... St. Ignatius got a 131-yard, three-touchdown passing game from QB Josh



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Willoughby South hosts Bedford on Oct. 29 in the first round of the playoffs.

Papesh, with senior QB Joey Pfaff battling an injury. Joey Georges and Marty Lenehan have run the ball well the past few weeks. ... Expect this to be a usual slugfest between two NE Ohio powerhouses.

(16) AKRON FIRESTONE AT (1) BENEDICTINE

What: Division II regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Euclid Community

Stadium

Records: Akron Firestone 4-6, Benedictine 6-2

Last week: Nordononia def. Benedictine, 23-20, Akron Firestone def. Akron Kenmore-Garfield, 14-12

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Riverside (8-4) and Brush (5-4)

For the record: The Bengals ended their regular season with consecutive losses to Akron Hoban and

Nordononia, but still retained the top seed in the computer ratings. This is the first meeting between the schools. ... Benedictine's offense has been slowed the past two weeks. That being said, QB CeeJay Yarboro has thrown for 1,399 yards and 15 touchdowns, the 1-2 receiving tandem of Brandon Boyd (31 catches, 616 yards) and Marvin Conkle (22-423) and the running of Duane Jackson (688 yards, 9 TDs)

makes the offense potentially electric. Defensively, Derell Bedingfield's 70 stops and James Phillips' 63 lead the way. ... Firestone won three of its final four games after a 1-5 start. It had no wins against teams with winning records.

(10) BEDFORD AT (7) SOUTH

What: Division II regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Harry E. Winters Stadium

Records: South 7-3, Bedford 6-3

Last week: Riverside def. South, 14-7, Bedford def. Maple Heights, 42-30

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Nordononia (8-2) and John Hay (4-6)

For the record: South comes in on a three-game skid after going 7-0 to start the season. But those three losses came to Kenston, Chardon and Riverside. The Rebels are reportedly getting QB Colin Quinlan (ankle) back from injury, so that is big. The RB tandem of Ira Sampson and Andrew Osagie-Erese can wear on teams, and Bryce Figler is a sure-handed playmaker in the passing game. ... Bedford has an athletic quarterback in Raymell Hester, who accounted for six touchdowns in last week's win over Maple Heights. He had 110 yards rushing and 113 yards passing. The Rebels' defense will want to and need to keep him under wraps if they hope to advance to the next round.

(9) BRUSH AT (8) RIVERSIDE

What: Division II regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Riverside Stadium

Records: Brush 5-4, Riverside 6-4

Last week: Riverside def. South, 14-7, Lutheran East def. Brush, 22-21 (OT)

CAPSULES » PAGE 11

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Capsules

FROM PAGE 10

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Benedictine (6-2) and Akron Firestone (4-6)

For the record: These teams have a history of being conference foes, but Brush left the Western Reserve Conference after last season. There still should be plenty of familiarity for each team. ... Brush comes in on a two-game losing streak (North and Lutheran East) by a total of six points. So much of what the Arcs do offensively revolves around 1,400-yard rusher Tanelle Rose behind a big offensive line that includes tackle Maliek Williams and 6-8, 260-pound tight end Antwone Woolfolk (who is also a scary threat in the passing game). Riverside's defense will have to focus on the run to succeed. ... The Beavers have four losses, but the combined record of those foes is 36-3. QB Cameron Simpson has grown into a very good quarterback, Jake Elly is a big-play player on both sides of the ball and the defense can pile up TFLs.

(14) NORTH AT (3) AKRON HOBAN

What: Division II regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Dowed Field, 1 Holy Cross Blvd., Akron

Records: North 4-6, Akron



PATRICK HOPKINS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

North —shown against Brush on Oct. 15— plays at Akron Hoban in Round 1 of the playoffs.

Hoban 6-3

Last week: Chardon def. North, 38-0, St. Edward def. Akron Hoban, 28-16

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Austintown-Fitch (6-3) and Warren Harding (5-5)

For the record: There are certainly easier draws for the North Rangers to have than playing the defending Division II champion Knights. Hoban has three losses this year, but those losses came to national powerhouse Bergen (N.J.) Catholic, St. Ignatius and St. Edward. No slouches there. ... North is at its best when it can run the ball effectively behind a big offensive line led by Pitt commit Ryan

Baer (6-8, 330). Reon'tae Lowery is the leading rusher, but getting the ball in the hands of Mo Morgan and Curtis Thomas is sound as well. ... Hoban running back Lamar Sperling — a junior — is a big-play ready to happen. Pay too much attention to the run and QB Jayvian Crable makes teams pay. The defense is lightning quick and is very good against the run, having held Benedictine to less than 50 yards rushing in a Week 9 win over the Bengals.

(16) AKRON EAST AT (1) CHARDON

What: Division III regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Memorial Field

Records: Chardon 10-0, Akron East 5-5

Last week: Chardon def. North, 38-0, Akron East def. Akron North, 50-0

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Streetsboro (7-2) and West Geauga (7-3)

For the record: Akron East is the last team to beat Chardon at Memorial Field, beating the Hilltoppers, 39-28, in a 2018 playoff opener. Chardon has won 19 straight home games since then. Speaking of streaks, the Hilltoppers — the top-ranked Division III team in Ohio and defending state champions — have won 22 games in a row. ...

The running game has been the linchpin of Chardon's offensive success. QB Alex Henry has run for 688 yards, passed for 538 yards and accounted for 21 touchdowns. FB Sean Carr is a physical runner between the tackles. The defense is closing in on 100 TFLs for the season, and has allowed only 68 points all season. It's a dominating unit. ... Akron East has won five in a row after losing its first five games of the season. That being said, none of the five wins have come against teams with a winning record. The Dragons have outscored their three most-recent foes by a combined score of 129-0.

(14) HARVEY AT (3) KENSTON

What: Division III regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Bomber Stadium

Records: Harvey 5-4, Kenston 9-1

Last week: Kenston def. Mayfield, 17-15, Harvey did not play

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Steubenville (8-2) and Tallmadge (7-3)

For the record: Kenston was the Division III state champion in 2018, but you'd have to go all the way back to 1989 to find the last time Harvey qualified for post-season play. ... Harvey has been powered greatly by QB Rick Coleman Jr., who has thrown for 940 yards run for 796 yards and accounted for 25 touchdowns. That being said, Davon Badley is a talented receiver and Blaise Collins has had some big games in the running game. Harvey should be fresh, since it didn't have a game last week. The Red Raiders have scored double figured nine games in a row, including six games of 20-plus points. ... Kenston is welcoming back QB Nikko Georgiou from a hand injury. He threw for 552 yards and five scores in the first three games before being injured. RB Sean Patrick has run for more than 1,000 yards, and the receiving corp of Tymir Cardona, Carson Rivera-Gebeau and JP Germano is frightening. There could be a lot of points in this game.

CAPSULES » PAGE 12

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Capsules

FROM PAGE 11

(13) NDCL AT (4) CANFIELD

What: Division III regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Cardinal Stadium, 100 Cardinal Drive, Canfield

Records: NDCL 5-5, Canfield, 9-1

Last week: NDCL def. Lake Catholic, 28-7, Canfield def. Youngstown Boardman, 13-6

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Hubbard (9-1) and New Philadelphia (6-4)

For the record: The Lions got some much-needed momentum with a 28-7 win over Lake Catholic in the regular-season finale. That snapped a three-game losing streak. Canfield lost in Week 2 to Dover (21-14), but has since run off eight straight. ... Canfield has a marquee quarterback in Broc Lowry, who set a single-season passing mark with 1,479 yards. He threw a touchdown pass to Drew Carrocce last week in the win over Boardman and also ran in a score. He ended with 118 yards rushing and 82 passing, but that was against a very good Boardman defense. NDCL's defense will need to be on point. ... The Lions' offense has been anchored by the running game of Mark Tomei (who has more than 800 yards this season) and QB Jacob Koenig. WR Will Ep-



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

NDCL travels to Canfield in Round 1 of the playoffs.

pich (36 catches) is among the area's best receivers.

(9) WEST GEAUGA AT (8) STREETSBORO

What: Division III regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Quinn Field at Rocky Stadium, 8585 St. Route 14, Streetsboro

Records: West Geauga 7-3, Streetsboro 7-2

Last week: Perry def. West Geauga, 28-7, Streetsboro def. Akron Springfield, 58-0

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Chardon (10-0) and Akron East (5-5)

For the record: This is a game that was supposed to have been played in Week 2, but Streetsboro had to cancel because COVID-19 protocols. Streetsboro's two losses are to 9-0 Norton and 6-4 Woodridge, while West G has losses to 10-0 Kirtland and 8-2 Perry. ... Streetsboro has a good dual-threat QB in Maysun Klimak (1,098 yards passing,

1,100 yards rushing). Line-man Keisean Johnson-Wilson was an All-Ohio player a year ago. Keep an eye on TE Hunter Hopperton and RB-WR Preston Hopperton, explosive threats in the offense. Preston Hopperton has 11 touchdown receptions this year. ... West G quarterback Danny Stewart has thrown for 1,342 yards and 16 touchdowns, with Torry Stazzone (36 catches, 520 yards) and Chris Ranallo (29-367) his main targets.

David Fofana and Ty Boze anchor the run game. Line-men Luca Gasbarrino and Lucas Sadler are strong, physical players. ... Both teams feature electric playmakers. Which team is going to get the key stops when they need them?

(15) HAWKEN AT (2) VASJ

What: Division IV regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Finnie Stadium, 141 E. Bagley Road, Berea

Records: Hawken 5-5, VASJ 6-1

Last week: Crestwood def. Hawken, 30-0, VASJ did not play

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Glenville (7-3) and Lisbon Beaver (7-3)

For the record: This is an interesting game in that each team is going to be missing a key contributor — Hawken being without QB Terrence Robinson II (season-ending injury) and VASJ without coach Jeff Rotsky (OHSAA three-game suspension). ... Even without Robinson, Hawken has a lot of offensive weapons. RB Dom Johnson is nearing the 1,000-yard mark in rushing, Chris Shea has thrown for nearly 500 yards since replacing injured Robinson, and Ben Elenin is one of many capable receivers. But Hawken hasn't faced any team like VASJ this season. The Vikings simply hammer the ball in the running game behind that big, physical offensive line. The three-headed running back monster of Ty Howard, LaVontae Thornton and Joe Webb wears teams down. QB Jaylen Minter has also thrown for more than 1,000 yards. ... Hawken is going to get a massive test against a motivated VASJ team that has plans for a deep, deep playoff run.

(13) CANAL FULTON NORTHWEST AT (4) PERRY

What: Division IV regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 29

Where: Alumni Stadium

Records: Canal Fulton Northwest 6-4, Perry 8-2

Last week: Perry def. West Geauga, 28-7, Canal Fulton Northwest def. Loudonville, 28-13

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Gilmour (7-2) and Girard (6-4)

For the record: Perry clinched a home game in Week 11 with a win over West Geauga last week. The Pirates' defense has been spectacular, giving up only seven points over the past three games. Going further, Perry has allowed only one team (Kirtland beat Perry, 30-6, in Week 6) to score more than 18 points on them this year. The defense, led by DE Jadyann Anderson who leads the team in sacks and tackles for loss, has been swarming and forceful for most of the season. Offensively, Brayden Richards has been an effective dual-threat QB this year. Aiden Lefelhoc is a battering ram type of running back. Perry runs the ball well to set up the pass, with Brock Sivon, Jaden Hacking and Javin Richards providing big-hitting plays in the pass game. ... Northwest won five of its final six to get to the playoffs. The Indians have had some close losses, 21-7 to undefeated Norton and 28-14 to one-loss Navarre Fairless. The Indians out-score the opposition, 23.7 to 19.9, so expect this to be a close game.

(12) GIRARD AT (5) GILMOUR

What: Division IV regional

playoff game

When: 2 p.m., Oct. 30

Where: Weber Field

Records: Girard 6-4, Gilmour 7-2

Last week: Girard def. Niles McKinley, 49-2, Gilmour def. Trinity, 40-16

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Perry (8-2) and Canal Fulton Northwest (6-4)

For the record: Be cautious when looking at losses in this game. Girard has four losses this season, but they've come to South Range (10-0), Hubbard (9-1) Poland (7-3) and Streetsboro (7-2). Girard's junior running back Michael Palmer ran for 158 yards and two scores in a recent win over Struthers. Girard has had injury problems at QB this year, but Nic Bengala — a converted receiver — threw for 162 yards and ran for 100 in the win over Struthers. ... Gilmour has had its share of injuries, too. Dual-threat Andy Kavcic (collarbone) is out for the year. But his twin brother Jake has been on fire since going back to his QB position after an early season hand injury. Jake Kavcic can throw and run the ball effectively. Getting the ball to Dan Jevnikar and Tommy McCrone in the pass game is big, and Mick Hopkins is a physical runner in the backfield. ... This game is going to come down to defense, and Gilmour's ability to slow down Girard's attack.

CAPSULES » PAGE 13

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FROM PAGE 12

(16) CADIZ HARRISON CENTRAL AT (1) KIRTLAND

What: Division V regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 30

Where: Rogers Field

Records: Harrison Central 4-6, Kirtland 10-0

Last week: Kirtland def. Orange, 41-7, Buckeye Local def. Harrison Central, 25-0

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Akron Manchester (6-4) and Richmond Edison (7-3)

For the record: Harrison Central has nearly a three-hour bus ride to face the team with the longest winning streak in America, as Kirtland comes in on a 50-game winning streak. Harrison Central started 2-0, but went 2-6 the rest of the way, including a shut-out loss in Week 10. ... The Huskies have shown good balance this season. QB Hayden Cassidy has thrown for 1,237 yards and 10 TDs

(though he has 10 interceptions, too). He has also run for 204 yards. Nathan Bertolino has run for 863 yards and eight scores. ... Kirtland has hammered everyone it has played. Lakeside scored 28 on them in Week 8, but no one else has scored in double figures. Mason Rus (1,265 yards) and Tommy Gogolin (473 yards) lead a relentless rushing attack. Ramon Lescano has thrown for 921 yards and 15 TDs,



DAVID C. TURBEN — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Cardinal defeated Berkshire, 48-14, in Week 10. Both team qualified for the playoffs.

with Gage Sullivan (32 catches, 673 yards) his main target. ... A tall task for Harrison Central.

(12) JEROMESVILLE HILLSDALE AT (5) CARDINAL

What: Division V regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 30

Where: Richard A. Moss Field

Records: Cardinal 7-3,

Hillsdale 6-4

Last week: Cardinal def. Berkshire, 48-14, Hillsdale def. Northwestern, 32-20

On deck: Winner will play the winner of Mogadore (7-3) and Canton Central Catholic (4-6)

For the record: Hillsdale comes into the game on a three-game winning streak. The Falcons have three losses this year — to 8-1 Ravenna Southeast, 8-1 Lu-

cas and 8-2 Dalton. Hillsdale has a heady leader in QB Jake Hoverstock. Among his biggest games this season was when he ran for three touchdowns and passed for another in a Week 9 win over Waynedale. Defending against Hoverstock will be a big key for the Huskies. ... Cardinal has won five of its last six games, averaging 37 points in those five wins. Logan Strever has

thrown for 930 yards, Zach Czako has run for 679 and Ethan Detweiler has caught a team-best 17 passes. Cardinal must control the line of scrimmage with John Avalon and Mike Soltis if it wants to advance to the next round. ... This is the first home playoff game for Cardinal since 2002.

(10) BERKSHIRE AT (7) CRESTWOOD

What: Division V regional playoff game

When: 7 p.m., Oct. 30

Where: Jack Lambert Stadium, 10919 Main St., Mantua

Records: Berkshire 6-4, Crestwood 6-3

Last week: Cardinal def. Berkshire, 48-14, Crestwood def. Hawken, 30-0

On deck: Winner will play the winner of South Range (10-0) and Rootstown (5-5)

For the record: This is a rematch of a Week 6 game won by Crestwood, 50-7. The Red Devils entered that game on a three-game losing streak, but they haven't lost since. Crestwood has outscored the opposition, 200 to 40, in this five-game winning streak. ... Berkshire had won three in a row before losing the regular-season finale to Cardinal. The offense has been balanced. Miles Miller (who has missed much of this season) has thrown for 704 yards, with Josh Brown throwing for 504. Lucas Stoddard has run for 631 yards and caught 23 passes for 581 yards. Stoddard is also a dominating defensive player. ... But to have a shot here, Berkshire needs to slow down a Crestwood offense that ran roughshod over the Badgers in Week 6. The Red Devils scored 43 unanswered points in that game. Evan Daniels, Jonas Honeycutt and Louie Blasiole all gave Berkshire fits last time. Can the Badgers turn the table this time?



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High school football statistics

PASSING YARDS

Name, school	Yards
Deonte Rucker, Euclid	1,445
Danny Stewart, West Geauga	1,342
CeeJay Yarboro, Benedictine	1,339
Jaylen Minter, VASJ	1,202
Devin Sperling, Mayfield	1,179
Brayden Richards, Perry	1,130
Jacob Snow, Mentor	1,118
Cameron Simpson, Riverside	1,017
Terrence Robinson II, Hawken	974
Rick Coleman Jr., Harvey	940
Logan Strevler, Cardinal	930
Ramon Lescano, Kirtland	921
Colin Quinlan, South	832
Jacob Koenig, NDCL	824
Joey Zigman, University	715
Miles Miller, Berkshire	704
Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	668
Nicholas Vinci, Chagrin	612
Michael O'Brien, Madison	604
Andy Kavcic, Gilmour	603
Scotty Fox, Mentor	595
Nikko Georgiou, Kenston	557
Alex Henry, Chardon	538
Gabe Lawson, Fairport	536
Wyatt Fuduric, Geneva	518
Josh Brown, Berkshire	504
Jackson Boland, University	457
Chris Shea, Hawken	445
Nick Brandt, Lake Catholic	364

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Name, school	TDs
Danny Stewart, West Geauga	16
CeeJay Yarboro, Benedictine	15
Ramon Lescano, Kirtland	15
Jacob Snow, Mentor	13
Terrence Robinson II, Hawken	13
Cameron Simpson, Riverside	11
Rick Coleman Jr. Harvey	11
Brayden Richards, Perry	10
Logan Strevler, Cardinal	10
Devin Sperling, Mayfield	10
Deonte Rucker, Euclid	10
Jaylen Minter, VASJ	9
Miles Miller, Berkshire	8
Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	8
Andy Kavcic, Gilmour	8
Colin Quinlan, South	8
Josh Brown, Berkshire	7
Nicholas Vinci, Cardinal	7
Scotty Fox, Mentor	6
Nikko Georgiou, Kenston	5
Alex Henry, Chardon	5
Joey Zigman, University	5
Jackson Boland, University	5
Michael O'Brien, Madison	4
Nick Brandt, Lake Catholic	4
Wyatt Fuduric, Geneva	4

RUSHING

Name, school	Attempts	Yards
Tanelle Rose, Brush	145	1402
Mason Rus, Kirtland	124	1265



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

West Geauga's Chris Ranallo has 29 receptions for 367 yards this season.

Sean Patrick, Kenston	200	1,147	Brady Peet, Geneva	100	656
Dom Johnson, Hawken	130	1003	Ty Howard, VASJ	53	632
Donny Hardy, Chagrin	134	1000	Lucas Stoddard, Berkshire	64	631
Alex Henry, Chardon	x	848	Sean Carr, Chardon	92	626
Rick Coleman Jr., Harvey	107	796	Aiden Lefelhoc, Perry	99	613
Alex Henry, Chardon	129	788	David Fofana., West Geauga	101	588
Wyatt Fuduric, Geneva	147	767	Miles Miller, Berkshire	82	572
Carson Alley, Madison	158	705	Terrence Robinson II, Hawken	71	546
Blaise Collins, Harvey	117	702	Josiah Cooper, Fairport	108	536
JP Germano, Kenston	105	701	Jacob Koenig, NDCL	x	532
Reon'tae Lowery, North	154	690	Mitchell Waite, Mentor	112	529
Duane Jackson, Benedictine	123	688	LaVontae Thornton, VASJ	80	518
Josh Brown, Berkshire	133	685	Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	85	512
Leroy Billups, Euclid	147	681	Vincent Garguilo, Wickliffe	114	477
Zach Cako, Cardinal	120	679	Tommy Gogolin, Kirtland	50	473
Dom Tromba, Riverside	126	662	Colin Quinlan, South	59	472

Andy Kavcic, Gilmour	79	458	Gage Sullivan, Kirtland	32	673
Cameron Simpson, Riverside	98	443	Brandon Boyd, Benedictine	31	616
Josh Soltis, Cardinal	63	403	Nathan Moon, Mayfield	30	328

RECEIVING

Name, school	Receptions	Yards
Brian Kellon, University	43	656
Nick Biega, Mayfield	37	673
Tommy McCrone, Gilmour	36	366
Will Eppich, NDCL	36	361
Torry Stazzone, West Geauga	36	520
Mikey Norwood, Mentor	34	691
Bryce Hodge, University	34	489
Jake Elly, Riverside	33	637
Chris Ranallo, West Geauga	29	367
Claishon Ivory, Euclid	29	503
Alonte Pryor, VASJ	26	531
Jakobi Laster, Euclid	26	476
Tyler Seacrist, Lake Catholic	25	221
Ben Elenin, Hawken	24	319
Lucas Stoddard, Berkshire	23	581
Davon Badley, Harvey	23	304
AJ Sands, Hawken	23	262
Tymir Cardona, Kenston	22	231
Marvin Conkle, Benedictine	22	423
Dom Johnson, Hawken	22	250
Dillon Knesebeck, Fairport	22	255

Aidan Fitzgerald, Lake Cath.	21	364
Tyshawn Vance, Harvey	21	426
Sam Kish, Mentor	20	296
Donny Hardy, Chagrin	20	192
Jaden Hacking, Perry	19	491
E.Conwell, Riverside	19	113
Brandon McKnight, Riverside	19	223
Sena Patrick, Kenston	18	151
Damen Kelly, Lake Catholic	18	140
Cole Ettinger, Chagrin	18	240
C. Rivera-Gebeau, Kenston	17	289
Brock Sivon, Perry	17	364
Evan Harper, Mentor	17	375
Ethan Detweiler, Cardinal	17	292
Bryce Figler, South	17	297
Curtis Thomas, North	16	251
Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	15	280
Andy Kavcic, Gilmour	15	207
C. Martin, Madison	15	139
Sam Honkala, Fairport	15	153
Nick Brandt, Lake Catholic	15	144
Danny Grajzl, Hawken	15	159
Perez Lemon, Euclid	15	256
Andrew Thielman, Lake Cath.	14	139
Anthony Soltis, Cardinal	14	235
JR Kochy, Cardinal	14	244
David McClain, South	14	236
Jordan Harrison, Hawken	14	369
Anton Rivers, Euclid	14	35
Mick Hopkins, Gilmour	13	185
James Gadomski, Fairport	13	83
Kaden Ryan, West Geauga	13	143
Delond Moss, South	13	139
JP Germano, Kenston	12	220
Josh Brown, Berkshire	12	302
Mason Mendolera, Berkshire	12	143
Duane Jackson, Benedictine	12	107
L. Albert, Madison	12	184
Jordan Stapleton, Mentor	12	129
Andre Terry, VASJ	12	179

SCORING

Name, school	TD	2Pt	Pts
Dom Johnson, Hawken	18	0	108
Gage Sullivan, Kirtland	16	1	98
Alex Henry, Chardon	16	0	96
Tanelle Rose, Brush	16	0	96
Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	15	2	94
Mason Rus, Kirtland	15	0	90
Sean Carr, Chardon	14	0	84
Rick Coleman Jr., Harvey	14	0	84
Zach Czado, Cardinal	13	0	78
Ty Howard, VASJ	13	0	78
Lucas Stoddard	12	1	74
Donny Hardy, Chagrin Falls	12	1	74
Miles Miller, Berkshire	11	0	66
Duane Jackson, Benedictine	11	0	66
Evan Harper, Mentor	10	1	62
Leroy Billups, Euclid	10	0	60
Wyatt Fuduric, Geneva	10	0	60
JP Germano, Kenston	9	0	54
Sean Patrick, Kenston	9	0	54
Andy Kavcic, Gilmour	9	0	54
Jacob Koenig, NDCL	9	0	54
Torry Stazzone, West Geauga	9	0	54
Mikey Norwood, Mentor	9	0	54

STATISTICS » PAGE 15

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Statistics

FROM PAGE 14

Dom Tromba, Riverside	9	0	54
Brian Kellon, University	9	0	54
Davon Badley, Harvey	9	0	54
Tommy Gogolin, Kirtland	8	0	48
Ethan Detweiler, Cardinal	8	0	48
Brandon McKnight, Riverside	8	0	48
Tyrone Singleton, South	8	0	48
Curtis Thomas, North	8	0	48
Terrence Robinson, Hawken	7	2	46
Josh Brown, Berkshire	7	1	44
Aiden Lefelhoc, Perry	7	1	44
Brayden Richards, Perry	7	0	42
Jadynn Anderson, Perry	7	0	42
Brandon Boyd, Benedictine	7	0	42
Chris Ranallo, West Geauga	7	0	42
Ramon Lescano, Kirtland	7	0	42
Carson Alley, Madison	7	0	42
Jake Elly, Riverside	7	0	42
Mick Hopkins, Gilmour	6	0	36
Aidan Fitzgerald, Lake Cath.	6	0	36
Jaylen Minter, VASJ	6	0	36
LaVontae Thornton, VASJ	6	0	36
Tyshawn Vance, Harvey	6	0	36
Jordan Harrison, Hawken	6	0	36
Reon'tae Lowery, North	6	0	36
Bryce Figler, South	6	0	32
Tymir Cardona, Kenston	5	0	30
Javin Richards, Perry	5	0	30
Tommy McCrone, Gilmour	5	0	30
Brady Peet, Geneva	5	0	30
Nick Biega, Mayfield	5	0	30
Mark Tomei, NDCL	5	0	30
Shaun Derganc, Wickliffe	4	3	30
Trey Liebhardt, Chardon	5	0	30
Cameron Simpson, Riverside	5	0	30
Blaise Collins, Harvey	5	0	30
Hunter Nicholson, Berkshire	4	2	26
Jaden Hacking, Perry	4	1	26
Brock Sivon, Perry	4	1	26
Zoran Vujaklija, Chardon	4	1	26
Nikko Georgiou, Kenston	4	0	24
Jack Kuehn, Berkshire	4	0	24
Dan Jevnikar, Gilmour	4	0	24
Vincent Gargiulo, Wickliffe	4	0	24
Michael Cavasinni, West G	4	0	24
Ty Boze, West Geauga	4	0	24
Danny Stewart, West Geauga	4	0	24
Nathanael Sulka, Chardon	4	0	24
Mitchell Waite, Mentor	4	0	24
JR Kochy, Cardinal	4	0	24
J. Mackey, Riverside	4	0	24
Alonte Pryor, VASJ	4	0	24
Colin Quinlan, South	4	0	24
Jordan Johnson, Hawken	4	0	24

KICKING

H.S. football standings

Name, school **XP** **FG** **Pts**

CVC CHAGRIN

School	Conf.	Overall
Kirtland	7-0	9-0
Perry	6-1	8-2
West Geauga	4-2	7-3
Lakeside	4-2	5-4
Chagrin Falls	3-4	5-5
Geneva	2-5	3-7
Edgewood	1-6	2-8
Orange	0-7	1-9

CVC METRO

Lutheran West	5-0	8-1
Independence	4-1	8-2
Cuyahoga Heights	3-2	5-3
Trinity	2-3	3-7
Brooklyn	0-4	4-6
Wickliffe	0-4	1-8

CVC VALLEY

Crestwood	4-1	6-3
Cardinal	4-2	7-3
Berkshire	4-2	6-4
Harvey	3-2	5-4
Hawken	2-3	5-5
Grand Valley	1-4	1-7
Beachwood	0-4	1-6

CROWN

Walsh Jesuit	4-0	8-2
Padua	2-1	7-2
VASJ	2-1	6-1

Joey DiLalla, West Geauga	35	9	62
Nathan Tager, Chardon	49	3	58
Parker Munday, Kenston	26	8	50
Johnny Raguz, Kirtland	41	3	50
Maclain Robinson, Cardinal	32	6	50
Sean Kerwood, Riverside	x	x	45
Gianni Spetic, NDCL	29	5	44
Christian Cora, Benedictine	28	5	43
Josh Lombardo, Hawken	32	1	35
Sal Vargas, Berkshire	34	0	34
Calvin Rowan, Perry	28	2	34
Anders Sorenson, Gilmour	33	0	33
Sam Patrizi, South	25	2	31
Matt Monah, Brush	24	2	30
A. Soto-Rodriguez, Harvey	29	0	29
Jacob Hite, Lake Catholic	16	3	25
Andrew Kirkpatrick, Chagrin	19	2	25
Daniel Tadic, North	17	2	23
Ethan Yost, Geneva	20	1	23
Joseph Evans, Mentor	15	2	21
Aidan Turos, Euclid	20	0	20

Matt Moegling, Mentor	16	1	19
NDCL	1-3		5-5
Lake Catholic	0-4		1-9

GCC

Medina	5-0	10-0
Brunswick	4-1	6-4
Mentor	2-3	5-5
Strongsville	2-3	5-5
Solon	2-3	4-6
Euclid	0-5	0-10

NAC

Pymatuning Valley	4-0	6-3
Vienna Mathews	3-1	6-3
Fairport	2-2	3-5
Windham	1-3	4-4
St. John	0-4	0-10

WRC

Chardon	6-0	10-0
Kenston	5-1	9-1
Riverside	4-2	6-4
South	3-3	7-3
Mayfield	2-4	2-8
North	1-5	4-6
Madison	0-6	1-9

INDEPENDENTS

Gilmour	7-2
Benedictine	6-2
Brush	5-4
University	1-7

Dylan Colello, Mayfield	8	1	17
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INTERCEPTIONS

Name, school	Int
Jake Elly, Riverside	6
Caleb Pohto, Mentorr	5
Ben DiMarco, Kenston	4
Ryan Moskal, NDCL	4
Ramon Lescano, Kirtland	4
Tony Soltis, Cardinal	4
Lucas Simmons, Kenston	4
Miles Miller, Berkshire	3
Jake Kavcic, Gilmour	3
Antonio Patterson, Benedictine	3
Leo Colombi, Chardon	3
Trey Liebhardt, Chardon	3
Tommy Gogolin, Kirtland	3
Damari Williams, Brush	3
Jahi Hariston, Brush	3

Rick Coleman Jr., Harvey	3
Ben Elenin, Hawken	3
Dom Marciante, North	3
JP Germano, Kenston	2
Nick Cowoski, Kenston	2
Jack Kuehn, Berkshire	2
Matt Urda, NDCL	2
Matt Ferrell, NDCL	2
Ryan Konyecsni, Benedictine	2
Vincent Gargiulo, Wickliffe	2
Lucas Sadler, West Geauga	2
Chris Ranallo, West Geauga	2
Torry Stazzone, West Geauga	2
Andrew Bruce, Chardon	2
Christian Hall, Chardon	2
Ryan Petersen, Chardon	2
Nathanael Sulka, Chardon	2
Gage Sullivan, Kirtland	2
Jimmy Schonauer, Mentor	2
Ethan Smith, Mentor	2
Mike Harrison, Mentor	2
Henry Busch, Riverside	2
Marshawn Taylor, Brush	2
AJ Hanzlik, South	2
Katory Shaw, Harvey	2
Tyshawn Vance, Harvey	2
Sam Honkala, Fairport	2
Christian Palmer, Fairport	2
Zak Hambor, Fairport	2

SACKS

Name, school	Sacks
Austin Pascoe, West Geauga	12
Chase Smith, Euclid	11
Lucas Stoddard, Berkshire	9
AJ Sands, Hawken	8.5
Jadynn Anderson, Perry	7
Nathan Myers, West Geauga	7
Heath Fetchik, Chardon	6
Max Moore, Chagrin	6
Ryan Dondrea, South	6
Antwone Woolfolk, Brush	5.5
Rocco Hice, Gilmour	5
Brady Pietruszka, Gilmour	5
Ryan Zucker, NDCL	5
Lucas Sadler, West Geauga	5
Alex Kisley, Chardon	4.5
Alfred Murray, Brush	4.5
Ira Sampson, South	4.5
CJ Johnson, Gilmour	4
Kareem Jennings, Benedictine	4
Luca Gasbarrino, West Geauga	4
Shawn Leonard, West Geauga	4
Alex McDonald, Chardon	4
Michael Washington, Chardon	4
John Avalon, Cardinal	4
Grant Sellars, Chagrin	4
Maurice Coffee II, Harvey	4
Ryan Merrill, Euclid	4
Lucas Simmons, Kenston	3
Logan Cosiano, Perry	3
Josh Grambo, NDCL	3

Josh Parsons, Fairport	3
Mac Rottinghaus, NDCL	3
Ryan Konyecsni, Benedictine	3
Cooper Felger, Chardon	2
Rocco Perrico, Chardon	2
Chase Simak, Cardinal	2
Collin Fairbanks, Riverside	2
AJ Adams, Riverside	2
Nick Lulow, Riverside	2
Tay Bolden, Harvey	2
Anthony Gallo, North	2
Leith Asad North	2
Ryan Dienes, West Geauga	2
Christian Hall, Chardon	2
Bobby Tomasic, South	2
Ben DiMarco, Kenston	2
Aiden Vanderbilt, Kenston	2
Jack Novak, Kenston	2
Tyler Croyle, Perry	2
Mick Hopkins, Gilmour	2
Matt Urda, NDCL	2
Cam DiFranco, West Geauga	2
Jake Ryan, Riverside	2
Zak Hambor, Fairport	2
A. Moore, Riverside	2
Dom Tromba, Riverside	2
Dylan May, Riverside	2
Alex Mlakar, Riverside	2
Kaden Burkholder, Mentor	2
Brenan Vernon, Mentor	2
Caleb Mitchell, Mentor	2
Jack Cocco, University	2
Jaydon Searcy, South	2
Chris Shea, Hawken	2
Dom Marciante, North	2
Bryant Young, North	2

TACKLES FOR LOSS

Name, school	TFLs
Austin Pascoe, West Geauga	37
Alex Kisley, Chardon	19.5
Jake Ryan, Riverside	18
Luke Mangini, Hawken	17.5
Matt Urda, NDCL	17
Ryan Merrill, Euclid	17
Lucas Stoddard, Berkshire	16
Nathan Myers, West Geauga	16
Lucas Sadler, West Geauga	15
AJ Sands, Hawken	15
Jadynn Anderson, Perry	14
A. Moore, Riverside	14
Chris Shea, Hawken	13.5
Josh Grambo, NDCL	13
Max Moore, Chagrin	12
Logan Cosiano, Perry	12
Lucas Simmons, Kenston	11
Alfred Murray, Brush	11
Forrest Smart, Harvey	10.5
Jack Novak, Kenston	10
Jerad Allen, Perry	10
Tyler Croyle, Perry	10
Heath Fetchik, Chardon	9.5

Tyree Alston, Harvey	9.5
JR Kochy, Cardinal	9
Collin Fairbanks, Riverside	9
Jayden Searcy, South	9
Cooper Felger, Chardon	8.5
Rocco Perrico, Chardon	8.5
John Avalon, Cardinal	8.5
Antonio Soto-Rodriguez, Harvey	8.5
Ben DiMarco, Kenston	8
Rocco Hice, Gilmour	8
Mick Hopkins, Gilmour	8
Ryan Zucker, NDCL	8
Ryan Dienes, West Geauga	8
Alex McDonald, Chardon	8
Zach Czako, Cardinal	8
Henry Busch, Riverside	8
Davon Badley, Harvey	8
Chase Smith, Euclid	8
Tyler Croyle, Chardon	7.5
Ryan Dondrea South	7.5
CJ Johnson, Gilmour	7
Bryson Blair, Chagrin	7
Ira Sampson, South	7
Arvell Reese, Euclid	7
Ryan Hejl, Fairport	7
Ethan McCaskey, Berkshire	6.5
Hunter Nicholson, Berkshire	6.5
Michael Washington, Chardon	6.5
Brady Pietruszka, Gilmour	6
Mario Denegris, West Geauga	6
Luca Gasbarrino, West Geauga	6
Shawn Leonard, West Geauga	6
Dan Faber, West Geauga	6
Brody Dotson, Chardon	6
J. Sanchez, Madison	6
Chase Simak, Cardinal	6
Grant Sellars, Chagrin	6
Lamour Barrett, Brush	5.5
Mike Soltis, Cardinal	5
Jake Elly, Riverside	5
Kaleb Puckett, Harvey	5

TEAM STATISTICS

Team	Offense	Defense	Diff
Kirtland	3806	1555	2251
Chardon	3135	1608	1527
Perry	3154	1776	1378
West Geauga	3045	1780	1265
Cardinal	3086	1826	1260
South	3054	2239	815
Kenston	3078	2335	743
Gilmour	2722	2021	701
Berkshire	3840	3461	379
Benedictine	2450	2118	332
Mentor	3222	3240	-18
Hawken	3424	3551	-127
Chagrin Falls	2118	2283	-165
NDCL	2807	3074	-267
Wickliffe	1323	2439	-1116
Madison	1883	3413	-1530
Riverside	3205	x	x

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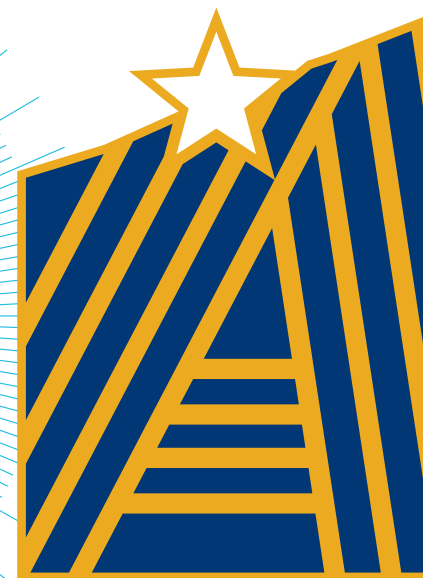
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