



LOSS IN FINAL MOTIVATES KIRTLAND | RANKINGS | PLAYERS TO WATCH AND MORE

# HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2022

## Top of the line



Defense is a pillar of consistency for two-time defending state champion Chardon. Returning starters Heath Fetchik (7), Alex Kisley (53), Andrew Bruce (1), Leo Colombi (24), Cooper Felger (9), Trey Liebhardt (5) and defensive coordinator Brian Landies



## OPINION

# Football is in the air, so let's appreciate it

Football is in the air. And no, it's not because of the cooler-than-normal

temperatures across northern Ohio this past week.

The sights, the sounds, the FEEL of high school football has



**John Kampf**

returned.

You can SEE it when you drive by the local high schools, such as at Chardon where the football program from youth to varsity boasts more than 325 players.

You can HEAR it just walking down the street, whether it's the whistles of multiple practice fields such as Mentor or when you're walking down Bank Street in Painesville and you can hear the Riverside Regiment practicing their halftime show a mile away.

And as soon as boosters such as at Kirtland or Cardinal fire up their concession stand grills, you'll be able to SMELL it, too.

Yes, high school football is sensory overload — or at the very least sensory therapy.

So enjoy it.

If there's one thing that we've learned since the coronavirus pandemic cast a shadow on us the past



The scene from Mentor's night football practice July 28.

TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

two years, it's that time is precious. Once it's gone, you don't get it back. That goes for everybody, but for our purposes let's focus on Friday nights, where players, cheerleaders, marching band members and athletic trainers have 10 weeks — maybe a few more — to live

out their fall dreams.

At a recent scrimmage, sweat glued rubber pellets from the turf at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium all over the face and arms of Mentor senior Jacob Snow as he flexed his sore hand sustained in a hard-hitting scrimmage with Chardon.

Did he care about the pellets, sweat and soreness? No.

A trip to Berkshire's new Taj Mahal of a high school revealed members of Berkshire's flag line forced indoors by a driving rain storm. It was hot and a little stuffy in the

room where they practiced, but did they care? Did the rain stop their practice? No.

It was hot. And I mean HOT the first week of August over at South High, where the proud Rebels marching band shrugged off the steaminess to work

on their music, which will be used both at halftime shows and at contests this fall.

Did the heat shut them down? No.

What do they all have in common, players such as Snow, bands such as South's and auxiliary such as the Badgerettes (Is that the proper term?)

They are all taking advantage of the gift of time because the term of a high school student is four years. Then it's gone and you don't get it back.

With that in mind, allow us to give a little advice: Enjoy this fall.

Every second of it.

Players — play and PRACTICE with your entire heart. Cheerleaders — spread your spirit. Musicians — enjoy coming together to make a beautiful sound as a unit.

And everyone else, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells provided by Friday Night Lights because after the past two years, we know what it's like to NOT have it. Appreciation is at an all-time high.

Football is in the air in Northeast Ohio, and there really isn't anything like it.

*Kampf can be reached via email at JKampf@News-Herald.com; On Twitter @NHPreps*

**SCORE A BIG SALE!**  
Best of Luck to all of the Fall Sports Athletes!




COUPON

\$100 OFF

ANY PURCHASE OF \$1,000 OR MORE

Walker Floors & Window Fashions  
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Offer exp. 10/15/22

Large Selection of USA Made Products!

0% INTEREST\* 1 YEAR

\*See store for Details

We have all the Newest Waterproof Flooring!



Walker Floors & Window Fashions    3325 N. Ridge Road, Perry • 440-259-1086 • www.walkerfloors.com



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Kirtland motivated by rare season-ending loss

Hornets had longest winning streak in country before losing in D-V state final

By John Kampf  
JKampf@news-herald.com

The lights were already on in the Kirtland football team's weight room as George Prusock and Philip LaVerde wandered in for a morning lift.

Muscles were still sore and wounds were still fresh from the previous day, when the Hornets dropped a 20-16 decision to Versailles in the Division V state championship game at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

The feeling that morning was somewhat unfamiliar — almost weird — since it was the first time in their high school careers that Prusock, LaVerde and their teammates had lost a game. The state championship game loss ended Kirtland's 55-game winning streak, which was the longest winning streak in the nation at that time.

As the clanking sound of weights getting clamped onto bars filled the room, Prusock, LaVerde and other underclassmen got back to work for a 2022 season that was eight months away.

"Ever since that game, we've worked out and have



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Three-time All-Ohioan George Prusock III returns to anchor the Kirtland offensive line this year. The Hornets will again be a favorite to win a state title this season.

done everything as a team," LaVerde said. "That (loss) helped us."

Helped the Hornets come closer together and realize that a missed step here and missed step there is the difference between a gold trophy and a silver one.

Not that EITHER trophy is bad. Heck, most — if not all — programs in Ohio would love to have the trophy collection Kirtland has

accumulated in the past decade, which includes six state championships trophies and four state runner-up awards.

But when your program has entered an offseason on a losing note only FOUR times in a 10-year span, well, that's a bitter pill.

That's why the Hornets were back in the weight room — on their own accord in a non-mandatory

lift — the day after the state championship loss.

"The fact we probably played our worst game of the year ..." Prusock lamented. "I've watched it multiple times and you can see the mistakes — all around. That motivates us."

When the whistle blew for the first official day of practice Aug. 1, it really wasn't the first day of preparation for the Hor-

nets. Countless lifting sessions, summer 7-on-7s and 10 OHSAA-approved "acclimation" days did that.

But suffice to say, this is a hungry swarm of Hornets — with their edge sharpened that much more because of a taste of defeat that hadn't touched their lips in quite some time.

"That game, that loss prepared us for anything now," said senior Tommy Gogolin. "Now we have something to work for."

Coach Tiger LaVerde takes the loss in stride. He shrugs and says, "We didn't play well enough to win. We didn't execute well enough and lost by four. But it was still a great year."

What the highly successful Kirtland coach has seen all fall camp is a motivated, high-energy — perhaps a tinge angry — team. The Hornets have dominated all four teams they've seen in scrimmages, including a four-way scrimmage that included Division I Strongsville, Division II North and Division V West Lafayette Ridgewood.

The 27-0 walloping of Division III powerhouse Poland in a half of game-situation scrimmaging Aug. 11 sends Kirtland into a Week 1 game against Harvey on a high note, brimming with confidence.

"I think we're a lot closer team than last year," Gogolin said. "We've been to-

gether from Kindergarten all the way through. We work hard together, and that's what has gotten us to where we are today."

The 2022 Hornets are similar to previous editions in that they'll hang their hats — as usual — on a run-oriented offense and a fast, aggressive defense. While there are 22 returning letterwinners, one deviation from the past is a small senior class, 11 of them in all.

The small senior class is a reflection of sorts of Kirtland dropping from Division V last year to Division VI this year.

"We've had 15-22 seniors the last 10 or 12 years," Coach LaVerde said. "This year's 11 is definitely the smallest we've had. It's a concern, but these kids have played a lot of football. A lot of our juniors played last year as sophomores. And we started a few freshmen last year, too."

"We have a lot of guys back, but the senior class is small."

Despite the small senior class, five starters return on offense and seven return on defense.

While 2021 Tony Fisher Award Mason Rus and fellow All-Ohio playmaker Gage Sullivan are gone, the next two leading rushers — Gogolin and Philip LaVerde — are back.

KIRTLAND » PAGE 4

## Hooley At Your House!

PUT A LITTLE HOOLEY IN YOUR PARTY PLANNING!

DELIVERY & ON-LINE ORDERING

Dine In or Carry Out  
From your computer or phone



www.1funpub.com

## HOOLEY HUNKS OR WINGS HOOLEY PACKS

(Take the guesswork out of your party planning.)

SLIDERS • WRAPS • SALADS • SIDES • PIZZAS  
ORDER ONLINE OR CALL YOUR NEAREST LOCATION.

7861 Reynolds Rd., Mentor, OH 44060 • 440-942-6611



# Kirtland

FROM PAGE 3

The line returns the left side — guard Prusock and tackle Joey Pekar — as well as tight end Adam Knack.

The big question is at quarterback, where senior Luke Chuko and freshman Jake LaVerde have both impressed in the fall game. Both could play on Friday nights this fall.

“Both Luke and Jakey had good summers,” LaVerde said. “Chuko is an AP student. Very intelligent. Jakey has been quarterbacking this offense since first grade. They are both capable.”

“What we ask of our quarterback in this offense is to take care of the ball, play-action pass, hide the ball and when you’ve got a guy open, hit him. They can both do that. Our offense is designed for running backs to get a bulk of the carries. The quarterback is kind of a facilitator.”

Defensively, sophomore Danny Alfieri and senior Daven Paten return on the line, Philip Laverde and junior MacGuire Boyd are back at linebacker, and all three defensive backs return — junior Gino Blasini, junior Will Sayle and senior Gogolin.

Being healthy is a big key. After all, Boyd and Knack missed most of last season with leg injuries, and Philip LaVerde battled a back fracture and a late-season concussion.

All are difference-makers



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland football coach Tiger LaVerde attentively watches his team scrimmage against North on Aug. 6.

in a big way, Prusock noted.

“I call (Phillip) Psycho,” the three-time All-Ohioan said. “When he’s healthy and on the field, he’s flying around. When he’s in the game, he’s flying through holes and making tackles. He’s just a psycho.”

The challenges of filling holes created by graduation and overcoming a small senior class are joined by another challenge, as Kirtland moves from Division V to Division VI this year. Rest assured, moving down a division isn’t a break.

Not only did Division V state runner-up Kirtland

move down, but so did Division V state champ Versailles. Moving up from Division VII is 2021 state champion Marion Local. Last year’s Division VI state champion (Carey) and runner-up (Coldwater) are still in that division.

In short, Division VI is a hammer house of talent this year.

“Lotta big teams and big names,” Gogolin said.

But their coach has them focused in on the task at hand — not Week 16.

“All that is out of our control. It doesn’t matter to me,” LaVerde said of the

divisional change. “We can only control what we can control, and that’s how we prepare every day in practice.”

After losing a rare game, albeit in a state championship game, each and every one of those practices and lifting sessions have been on point. It had been so long since Kirtland had ended a season with a loss, the bitter taste of it energized the offseason that much more.

“We probably thought we were better than we were,” Philip LaVerde said. “That loss showed us we can’t take anything for granted.”

## TOP OF THE CROP

### Football

1: Chardon

2: Mentor

3: Riverside

4: Kirtland

5: VASJ

6: Benedictine

7: South

8: Kenston

9: Mayfield

10: Gilmour

**Watch list:** North, University, Lake Catholic, NDCL, Brush

**Crop comments:** The Hilltoppers have the state’s longest winning streak at 28 games and look ultra-impressive — especially on defense — in a scrimmage against Mentor. So Coach Mitch Hewitt’s team gets the preseason nod. ... Mentor has improved dramatically from the first practice to now. The Cardinals are stacked on defense. The young offense is coming along just fine. ... Riverside has every

intention of contending for a WRC title and making a deep Division II playoff run. That schedule early on is brutal, though. ... Kirtland has looked like a team on a mission in preseason scrimmages. Anyone wanna bet on the Hornets losing in the regular season? Didn’t think so. ... South just needs to stay healthy, and the Rebels will be dangerous. ... Benedictine has so many holes to fill after graduation took most of the Bengals’ top skill players from a year ago. But those lines, anchored by Anthony Iliano, are special. ... VASJ graduated a lot, too, but the Vikings had a ton of underclassmen last year. Bo Jackson is elite at running back. ... Kenston starts at No. 8. The defense will carry the load while the young offense gets its feet wet. ... Mayfield has looked strong in the preseason. The Wildcats start off at No. 9, but might be underrated here. ... Gilmour starts off at No. 10. The Lancers need to keep the Kavcic twins healthy. If they do that, then look out for this team. ... It’s early — obviously — so you never know how things work out. Expect Lake, NDCL, Brush, North and others to come out of the gate strong and make Crop bids.

## EASY COMMUTE

Check the road conditions before you get stuck.

VISIT [NEWS-HERALD.COM/TRAFFIC](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM/TRAFFIC)

## NOW BOOKING FALL FIREPLACE INSTALLS



Gas Inserts - Fireplace



Wood Fireplace Inserts



Wood & Gas Stoves



Custom Fireplaces/Mantles/Stone



[www.american-home.com](http://www.american-home.com)

1270 Mentor Ave., Painesville Twp.

**(440) 358-5858**

(Across from the Lake Co. Fairgrounds)

Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30; Saturday 9-4



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Players injured in 2021 itching for grand return

By John Kampf

*JKampf@news-herald.com*

Thousands of fans were packed into South's Harry E. Winters Stadium on Sept. 24, 2021, but the painful scream from Tyrone Singleton dwarfed anything the roaring fans could muster on that night.

Hammering into the line of scrimmage near the goal line, Singleton — the junior marquee running back for Coach Duffy's Rebels — crumpled to the turf in agony as he felt the tibia in his lower right leg snap when another player was blocked into him.

Singleton's scream of pain silenced the crowd, and moments later he was wheeled from the turf on a stretcher.

"Oh yeah, I knew it was broken," Singleton said. "I was hoping it was a just a sprain, but I knew. I didn't HEAR it break, but I felt it break."

Season-ending injuries — even though not as bad as the one Singleton experienced last season — are an unfortunate commonality. While some athletes sustain such injuries in their senior year and don't get a chance to come back the following season, a number of others have the luxury of battling back through grueling rehabilitation sessions to play again this fall.

Players such as:

- South quarterback Co-

lin Quinlan, who sustained a high-ankle sprain when the Rebels were 7-0 last season and couldn't help his team from a 1-4 finish down the stretch.

- Kirtland's Macguire Boyd (fractured and dislocated hip) and Adam Knaak (torn ACL), who spent most of the Hornets' 2021 state runner-up season on crutches or in a wheelchair.

- Perry lineman A.J. Kifus, whose torn ACL in the early-season Kirtland game shelved him for the rest of the season, and

- Chardon's Trey Liebhardt, who broke his leg in Chardon's state semifinal victory and spent the championship game in street clothes as Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

All of the aforementioned players are healthy this fall camp and itching to get back on the football field after finishing last season on the sidelines.

"My injury ...," Boyd said, "it gave me a very different appreciation for sports. I thought I might not ever get to play football again, and it's my favorite sport. Being injured like that and seeing your team do stuff without you, it sucks."

As brutal as Singleton's injury was last fall, that of Boyd probably trumps them all. He took a hit in an early-season practice and was piled up when he felt his hip dislocate and fracture. It wasn't a dirty



SUBMITTED

Macguire Boyd of Kirtland arrives at a game last year in a wheelchair after breaking and dislocating his hip at practice.

play — stuff like that would never fly at a Kirtland practice — just a wrong-place-wrong-time happening.

Boyd, a sophomore up-back and tight end, spend nearly three months in a wheelchair and another few months on crutches before

he could walk again.

Suffice it to say, his one-yard touchdown plunge in the opening scrimmage on Aug. 6 against Strongsville was more significant than most scrimmage scores. Macguire Boyd was back.

RETURN » PAGE 6



SUBMITTED

Tyrone Singleton of South chats with trainer Renee DiSalvo on the sideline weeks after Singleton broke his lower leg in a game against rival North.



## We teach the child. We reach the heart.

The opportunities at Gilmour empower students to achieve their goals and discover their passions.

To learn more or schedule a personal tour, visit [gilmour.org/admission](http://gilmour.org/admission)



GILMOUR  
ACADEMY

EDUCATING THE MIND  
EMPOWERING THE HEART



## High school football games to watch

By John Kampf

[JKampf@news-herald.com](mailto:JKampf@news-herald.com)

### Olmsted Falls at Chardon, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.:

Chardon went 16-0 last year, while Olmsted Falls went 10-3 with two losses to Avon. This is the area's best opener and must-see football.

### Canton McKinley at Mentor, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.:

The only thing that keeps this from being top billing is the Olmsted Falls-Chardon game. The Cardinals are itching to erase last year's 5-6 memory. It starts here.

### Hamilton Badin at VASJ, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.:

What a way to start off the season for the Vikings, against defending Division III state runner-up Hamilton Badin.

### Madison at Geneva, Aug.

**19, 7 p.m.:** Pundits say Geneva has never beaten Madison four years in a row. That's what's on the line in this one.

### Walsh Jesuit at Benedictine, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.:

Walsh won the opener a year ago, 35-34, in double overtime. This has turned into a fun rivalry.

### Mentor vs. St. Ignatius at First Energy Stadium, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.:

The Cardinals and Wildcats tangle at the home of the Browns in Iggy coach Chuck Kyle's final season.

### Trinity at Berkshire, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.:

The Badgers open Great Lakes Cheese Stadium. If you get there early, you can stop by the Great Gauga County Fair next door for pregame dinner.

### Gilmour at Hawken, Sept.

**2, 7 p.m.:** The Battle of Gates Mills has a new twist to in in that Gilmour's football staff from last season is now running the show at Hawken.

### Riverside at Mentor, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.:

This is the first time Mentor has played another Lake County school in the regular season since 2010 when the Cardinals slipped past South, 48-47.

### Chardon at Riverside, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.:

The WRC opener for both teams, many feel this is the de facto WRC championship game, though everyone else in the league will have something to say about that.

### Erie (Pa.) at Lake Catholic, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.:

It's a nice tradition Lake has started, playing an afternoon game

at their campus on Bellflower. Bring your lawn chairs, though. There's not a lot of bleacher seating.

### Benedictine vs. DeMatha (Md.) at Ironton, Sept. 10, 5 p.m.:

Two decorated programs gather in southern Ohio during a football showcase. It's worth the drive, but the game is also supposed to be televised. Station TBA.

### South at North, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.:

The Border Battle will be a hotly contested contest this year, unlike last year when the Rebels dominated.

### Kenston at Lake Catholic, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.:

These teams don't have much of a football history playing each other. It's a fun, new local nonconference game.

### Brush at South, Sept.

**23, 7 p.m.:** The Arcs are no longer in the WRC, but they retained their rivalries with South and North (Oct. 14) as non-conference games.

**Walsh Jesuit at NDCL, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.:** Is this the Crown Conference championship game? Very well might be.

### Kirtland at Lakeside, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.:

These might be the top two teams in the CVC Chagrin Division, though the previous week's game (Perry at Kirtland) is going to be among the league leaders, too.

### Kenston at Riverside, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.:

The Bombers upended the Beavers last year, 21-14. It's safe to say Riverside hasn't forgotten that.

### VASJ at Lake Catholic,

**Oct. 15, 7 p.m.:** Say what you will, but this battle between East Side parochial schools is developing into quite the grudge match.

### Lake Catholic at NDCL, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.:

The Holy War of the East Side never disappoints. Having it in Week 10 makes it that much more special.

### Mayfield at Kenston, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.:

This will be a track meet, as both teams play fast-paced offense with quick-hitters to get athletes in space.

### West Gauga at Perry, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.:

Former Perry coach Matt Rosati leads the Wolverines to face the Pirates. That'll be an interesting week in Perry, as Rosati still teaches there.

## Return

FROM PAGE 5

"I'll never get a chance to play on the same team with my big brother, Pierce, like I would have last year," Boyd said with a tinge of regret, mentioning his brother who graduated last spring, "but it feels so good to be back out here."

Boyd's teammate — Knaak — would love to tell you his injury was more of the glorious type sustained on a game-winning play, but said he'd be lying.

"I went up for a pass in

Week 6 against Chagrin, no one within 25 yards of me," Knaak said. "I dropped the ball and tore my ACL. That was an all-around embarrassing moment."

Knaak tore the ACL in his other leg as a sophomore, so it's safe to say this senior year is loaded with all kinds of marks for making up for lost time.

"I'm holding nothing back," Knaak said. "I've come to the realization that if you're not going to go all-out, you're not going to be effective. I won't be tentative. I can't be. You have to go all-out and not be afraid."

Whereas Knaak's injury came on a play he'd pretty much prefer to forget, Liebhart's came on one that few will ever forget — especially him.

Early in the first quarter of Chardon's 41-7 pile-driving of West Holmes in a Division III state semifinal, Liebhart scooped up a fumble and returned it for the score, getting upended at the goal line but flying across the line for six points.

Liebhart, then a junior, thought he just got a Charlie Horse from the hit. But the pain never went away, and a halftime examination

sent him to the hospital.

"It's bittersweet because while I scored on the play, my leg was broken," Liebhart said.

So instead of playing in the state championship game the following week, a game Chardon won, 21-14, over Hamilton Badin, Liebhart stood ... and watched.

"It lights a fire," he said of the pep in his step this fall camp. "Obviously I wanted to be out there playing last year (in the title game), but not being able to has made me want it 10 times more now."

Quinlan echoed those words. Even though he tried

to come back late in the season, he admitted a high-ankle sprain on a dual-threat quarterback is near impossible to overcome.

He's healthy now and ready to go.

"Very excited," Quinlan said. "It's my senior year, we're healthy, I've played with these guys a while now. ... I'm ready to go."

While every player has Aug. 19 circled on their calendar for the excitement of opening night of the 2022 high school football season, the players who missed most — if not all — of their 2021 seasons have more than that circled. Ev-

ery practice day is circled, too, because — well — they know how precious playing time, time with their teammates and time in front of their family and friends mean to them after it was all taken away last year.

They don't want their last memory of high school football to be like Singleton's, waving the the crowd while being carted off the field on a stretcher.

"It was so hard because I had so many high hopes last season," Singleton said. "I'm ready. I'm very motivated. You learn to appreciate it a lot more when you can't be out there."

**BUYING OR  
SELLING  
A HOME?**



Elizabeth Sill  
Broker/Owner  
440-983-1071



Steve Kerestman  
Agent  
440-622-6415



Good Luck to all the Football Teams this Season!



Jana Burke  
Agent  
440-813-6791



John Sill  
Agent  
440-983-7739

Call today for all your Real Estate needs. Office: 440-428-8803 • 440-576-4663  
Buying, Selling, Rental or Investments. FAX: 440-428-2466

Like us on Facebook  
[www.innovationsforhomes.com](http://www.innovationsforhomes.com)



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# There are familiar faces in new places among coaches

By John Kampf

[JKampf@news-herald.com](mailto:JKampf@news-herald.com)

The West Geauga football team won't play its homecoming game for another month or so.

Head football coach Matt Rosati, however, celebrated his homecoming at West Geauga back in January.

When Rosati leads the Wolverines onto the field for an Aug. 19 game at Bay, he will be rekindling feelings that he experienced when he coached West Geauga's football program from 1996 to 2006.

"Opening night is going to be very sentimental, very special," Rosati said — both at Bay in the season-opener and on Aug. 26 at home against Streetsboro.

"I spent so much time trying to build the program, and we did some pretty special things here at West Geauga when I was here before. To be able to come out and run out again with this program is going to be a thrill."

There are a number of new coaches in The News-Herald area this fall, some very familiar faces in new places. The list includes:

- Mark Iammarino, the all-time winningest coach in Chagrin football history, who is now the head coach at Hawken.

- Ricky Powers, who left his head coaching spot at his alma mater Akron Bu-

chtel to take over at Brush.

- Scott Fischer, formerly an assistant at Beachwood who has now been elevated to head coach of the Bison.

- Robert Andrews, who experienced great success at Rhodes before being tapped as Euclid's new coach.

- Don Shymske, a longtime assistant at his alma mater Geneva before being named the Eagles' head coach.

Additionally, Tim Glodowski had the "interim" tag removed from his coaching position at Fairport and is the Skipper's — ummm — skipper.

Rosati piled up 111 wins at Perry before stepping down and being replaced by current Pirates coach Bob Gecewich. He accumulated 69 wins at West G's coach, putting him in the arena of possibly winning more than 100 games at two different schools.

"I never thought this would happen," Rosati said of his return to West G. "When the opportunity presented itself, I looked at it as a great way to finish off what I started many years ago."

Rosati, a Ledgemont alum who just turned 55, reached back to the Wolverines of yesteryear to fill out his staff, including Aaron Perusek, Wes Rogge, Bob Leppla, Chuck Steimle and Eric Stendalen — all of



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

Mark Iammarino is the new head coach at Hawken. He is Chagrin Falls' all-time winningest coach, but has taken over the Hawks' program this season.

whom graduated from West G or coached with Rosati there before.

He also has former Perry All-Ohioan and All-America running back at Mount Union Josh Petrucci on his staff.

Coaching roots also came into play when Iammarino put together his staff at Hawken. His staff includes two colleagues with whom he coached the past two years at Gilmour — Chris Kosiorek and John

Kramer — as well as Dominic Petrella (with whom he coached with at Chagrin Falls), Dan Walton (son of legendary Hawken coach Cliff Walton), and two other with Hawken experience — Ed Suggs and David Mur-

ray. Iammarino's son, Tommy, is also on staff.

"There are a lot of familiar faces who I have a high level of comfort with," Iammarino said.

NEW » PAGE 8

## SAGE

### KARMA KITCHEN

Historic Downtown Willoughby  
4051 Erie Street  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
**(440) 946-2300**

[www.sagekarmakitchens.com](http://www.sagekarmakitchens.com)

**Kitchen Hours** Tuesday-Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. • Friday-Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. • Sunday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
**HAPPY HOUR!** Tuesday through Friday 3 to 7 PM



At Sage Karma Kitchen we are committed to serving you with clean eating and healthy options. Your meal is prepared fresh when ordered using organic food and produce from our scratch kitchen.

## TAVERN

# SIX

KIRTLAND · OH

7592 Euclid Chardon Rd.,  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094  
**440-256-1100**  
[www.tavernsixkirtland.com](http://www.tavernsixkirtland.com)

**JOIN US FOR**  
**HAPPY HOUR**

**MONDAY THRU**  
**FRIDAY 3 PM - 7 PM**

- \$4 HOUSE WINE
- \$2.50 WELL DRINKS
- \$1 OFF DRAFTS
- \$2.50 DOMESTIC BOTTLES (MILLER LITE, BUD LIGHT, MGD, BUDWEISER, COORS LIGHT, MILLER HIGH LIFE)



**KITCHEN**  
**HOURS**

Sunday & Monday 11:00am - 8:00pm  
Tuesday - Thursday 11:00am - 9:00pm  
Friday & Saturday 11:00am - 10:00pm



## New

FROM PAGE 7

“That really helped with the transition. We meshed really well, the guys who came with me and the staff that decided to stay over.”

Like Rosati, Iammarino didn't necessarily seek out a new head coaching job. He stepped down in 2019 after becoming the program's all-time winningest coach with 184 career wins and state runner-up finishes in 2009 and 2010.

While he did assist at Gilmour the past two years, he didn't envision a return to the helm of a program. Yet, here he is.

“When you coach at the same place for 26 years like I did and now you're in a different place, it's an adjustment,” he said. “The people at Hawken have been unbelievably helpful and supportive. They're excited to get the program back up to where it used to be and are affording me the opportunity to do that.”

While Rosati will remain teaching at Perry, Iammarino — who retired from Chagrin as a guidance counselor — will be in a position at Hawken where he said he will be “working with student-athletes and their transition to college, supporting the counseling office and the coaches.”

Said Iammarino of the new full-time gigs of coaching and instructing, “I wasn't looking for it, but I realized that yeah, this is a good thing for me. It



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Matt Rosati, longtime head coach of the Perry football team, is now the head coach at West Geauga.

seemed like a no-brainer.”

Hawken opens its season at home against Trinity on Aug. 19.

Powers is no stranger to the Brush community. While he coached at his alma mater Akron Buchtel, he has been serving at South Euclid-Lyndhurst schools (i.e. the Brush district) as a Youth Development Specialist in recent years.

Fischer, a 1995 Beachwood grad, was on his alma mater's staff from 2009-2012 and then returned in 2015. This time he's the head coach.

Andrews was the Senate League's coach of the year last season at Rhodes. Prior to Rhodes, Andrews was an assistant coach at Glenville, where the Tarblooders advanced to the state final in 2009 and 2013 with Andrews as the defensive coordinator.

Shymske is a 2000 graduate of Geneva, where he helped lead the Eagles to four straight Northeastern Conference championships. He had been an assistant under former coach Chip Sorber before being elevated to head coach this year.

## Tony Fisher Award watch list

By John Kampf

JKampf@news-herald.com

The Tony Fisher Award goes to The News-Herald's football player of the year, and is named after the former star of the Euclid Panthers and Notre Dame Fighting Irish running back who went on to play for the Rams in the NFL.

The Tony Fisher Award will be presented the Monday of Thanksgiving week as part of a special edition of The Varsity Chalk Talk Show at Hooley House in Mentor. That same night, The News-Herald's Bob Ritley Award, given to the season's football coach of the year, will also be presented.

The Fisher Watch List can and will change on a weekly basis. This preseason list, in alphabetical order, is a starting point of what to look for at season's start. The preseason list includes:

**Nick Biega, Mayfield, Sr.:**

He had 37 catches for 673 yards last year. He ran a 10.49 100 and a 21.27 200 this past spring in track. If he gets the ball in space, it's going to be six points.

**Jake Elly, Riverside, Sr.:** He can do it all. A year ago, he had 38 catches for 697 yards and seven touchdowns, and also had 59 tackles and six picks on defense.

**Aidan Fitzgerald, Lake Catholic, Sr.:**

A three-year starter, Fitzgerald will be one of the area's top receivers this year. Good things happen when this young man has the ball in his hands.



**Scotty Fox, Mentor, So.:**

If scrimmages are any indication, Fox is going to get the starting nod and the most reps as the Cardinals' quarterback this year. He threw for 595 yards and six touchdowns as a freshman pressed into duty when Jacob Snow broke his thumb.

**Nikko Georgiou, Kenston, Sr.:**

He missed a big chunk of last season with a hand injury. But he's back for his third year under center and is among the area's best dual-threat quarterbacks.

**Bo Jackson, VASJ, So.:**

He was the No. 3 running back last year, but picked up offers from Ohio State and Penn State in the offseason. He's a big-time talent primed for a big-time year.

**Kareem Jennings, Benedictine, Jr.:**

A 6-4, 230-pounder, Jennings was a wrecking ball on defense last year. Now he's going to be a double threat as a tight end for the Bengals' offense.

Look out.

**Tommy Gogolin, Kirtland, Sr.:**

He ran for 729 yards and 10 touchdowns last year as the Hornets' No. 2 back behind Tony Fisher Award winner Mason Rus. He should be well over 1,000 yards this year.

**Donny Hardy, Chagrin Falls, Sr.:**

He ran for more than 1,000 yards last year, averaging nearly eight yards per carry. He can also be a threat out of the backfield.

**Alex Henry, Chardon, Sr.:**

He earned All-Ohio honors last year after running for 1,191 yards and 20 touchdowns to go with 747 passing yards and seven scores.

**Dominic Johnson, Hawken, Sr.:**

He ran for 1,032 yards and 15 touchdowns last year to go with 30 catches. No doubt he'll be a focal point of the Hawks' offense this year.

**Lucas Kaltenbach, Benedictine, So.:**

Don't know this young man's name yet? Well, you will soon. The 6-foot-4, 200-pound sophomore got some varsity time last year as a freshman and is primed for a big year as the Bengals' starter behind the big line anchored by Anthony Iliano.

**Andy Kavcic, Gilmour, Jr.:**

Just like his brother, Jake, he can play multiple positions and do them all well. As a sophomore, he ran for 458 yards and five touchdowns and threw for 603 yards and eight scores.

**Jake Kavcic, Gilmour, Jr.:**

An injured hand shifted him from QB to receiver last year, and he still flourished. He's

back behind center this year and primed for a big season.

**Phil LaVerde, Kirtland, Sr.:**

A two-way starter at line-backer and running back for the Hornets, LaVerde should put up gigantic numbers on both sides of the ball this season.

**Trey Liebhardt, Chardon, Sr.:**

An All-Ohio defensive back a year ago, he is coming off a junior year in which he had 18 PBUs and three picks. He'll also run the ball for the Hilltoppers this year.

**Sean Patrick, Kenston, Jr.:**

He ran for 1,127 yards and nine touchdowns. His star is majorly on the rise, as he picked up a handful of FBS Division I offers in the offseason.

**Colin Quinlan, South, Sr.:**

He threw for 1,039 yards and 13 touchdowns in an injury-riddled junior campaign. He's healthy this year and could be a 1,000-1,000 type of player for the Rebels.

**Tanelle Rose, Brush, Jr.:**

He had a breakout sophomore season when he ran for 1,475 yards with 18 touchdowns. When he gets to open space, it's off to the races.

**Tyrone Singleton, South:**

He ran for 444 and eight touchdowns — averaging more than 10 yards a carry — before his season ended in a Week 5 game against Brush. He has lightning speed.

**Mitchell Waite, Mentor, Sr.:**

Most teams fear Mentor's spread offense and passing game, but the Cardinals can run the ball very effectively. Look for Waite to have a big year.



# 440-946-4100

**DELIVERY • DINE IN • CARRY OUT • CATERING**

**34500 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby**

**HOMEMADE TASTE MADE TO ORDER WITHOUT THE WAIT!**

**ASK ABOUT OUR CATERING DEALS FOR TEAM OR SCHOOL EVENTS!**

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



[www.freshlys.net](http://www.freshlys.net)







## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Stadium upgrades add zest to season

Berkshire's new stadium, Gilmour's lights, Mentor's scoreboard and NDCL's changes are eye-openers

By John Kampf  
JKampf@news-herald.com

Tip-toeing across a pair of wooden pallets to stay out of the damp soil, Brian Hiscox stopped and took a deep breath as he glanced at the spectacle before him.

"This," the Berkshire athletic director said, "is going to be something, isn't it?"

To Hiscox's left, the finishing touches were being put on a set of bleachers, out in front of him was a cement truck spreading its load in precision form, and to his right, workers lined block in a newly formed walkway just north of the town square.

Great Lakes Cheese Stadium was coming to life right before his eyes.

For years, the Berkshire football team called Dr. William A. Reed Field home. But thanks to a brand-new school that rests just north or the fairgrounds and right behind KSU-Geauga's campus, the district also has a new football stadium with all the frills, from artificial turf and video scoreboard to all-weather track.

The Badgers' first home game, slated for Friday, Aug. 19, has been moved to

Cuyahoga Heights so Great Lakes Cheese Stadium can be completed. But come Sept. 3 when Trinity comes to town, Berkshire Badger football be on display like never before — and the fervor is building.

"Just the anticipation is amazing," head football coach Josh DeWeese said. "Opening night is going to be amplified that much more. That buzz. The atmosphere is going to be great and (the players') want to perform is going to be amplified."

A number of area football stadiums got a face-lift of sorts, or are going through a facelift, this fall, including:

- Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin is revamping its football stadium to build new home-side bleachers, bring in a new and larger press box and construct two buildings for concessions, restrooms and storage.

- Gilmour, for the first time in school history, is constructing light poles so the Lancers can play night games, and

- Mentor is adding a massive video board/scoreboard, while also constructing a new ticket office, en-



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

Berkshire athletic director Brian Hiscox points to progress being made in the construction of Great Lakes Cheese Stadium in Burton, the new home of the Berkshire Badgers.

try way and weight room facility at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium.

But the biggest project that'll be on display this fall — by far — is Great Lakes Cheese Stadium, made possible by state funds that helped build the school, a levy passed by the district voters, a \$2 million donation from the Great Lakes Cheese Corp. and \$200,000 donation from Pat Preston and the Preston automobile

super store.

"I give a lot of credit to our superintendent, treasurer and board of education for having the goal to create something like this," Hiscox said. "To be where we are now compared to where we were last year is quite a change. We used to joke that one heavy rain in August and the field is going to be trashed the rest of the year. We don't have to worry about anything like

that anymore."

Aside from football, boys and girls soccer, track and field and even baseball and softball (for practice purposes) will use the new turf-laden stadium.

Making the project that much more meaningful is that local companies such as Ronyak Paving and Steve Smetana — whose company is putting down the field turf — are local names and businesses.

For Berkshire alums like DeWeese and Hiscox, leaving Dr. William A. Reed Field is sentimental, but memories last forever.

"Tradition and history stay with us," DeWeese said. "We take those to the new field. (Reed Field) will be missed. It's a big part of Badger football. But we take that history with us to our new home."

Over at Gilmour, Saturday afternoon football was the tradition for years. Now the Lancers will get to experience Friday Night Lights at Weber Field for the first time. Athletic Director Sean O'Toole said the addition of lights was made possible as part of a multi-phase project to improve facilities. Among the other phases are adding a softball field and improvements to Figgie Fieldhouse, but football lights came first.

The lights will be unveiled on opening night, Aug. 19, against visiting Rhodes.

"We are very appreciative of the donations that made this happen," O'Toole said. "I'm so excited for our community. We enjoyed the ability to rent Euclid High School for one game a year so the players could experience lights. But I've never seen the kids and community as excited as they are now for Friday nights."

UPGRADES » PAGE 10



## OUTBACK AUTO WASH

Join our Monthly Wash Club!!  
1/2 Price First Month!!!

outbackautowash.com  
1547 Mentor Ave. Painesville, OH  
2116 East Prospect, Ashtabula, Ohio





TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor's new scoreboard is the second-largest high school scoreboard in the state, according to AD Jeff Cassella.

## Upgrades

FROM PAGE 9

O'Toole pointed out that not only does the football team benefit, but also the student body and athletes in other sports such as golf, volleyball, cross country and soccer who used to miss out on watching football on Saturday afternoons because they were playing sports of their own.

"You'll see our student section grow that much more," O'Toole said.

That'll be the case at NDCL's Lion Stadium, too, if for no other reason than the seating capacity is so much larger now because of the new home bleachers. As part of the project, the home and visitor's sides were flip-flopped. The home bleachers, which

now face east, easily double the previous home bleachers. Add in the concession stand, main gate, restroom facilities and aluminum patio and Lion Stadium is a sight to see more than ever.

"(Sports) is a community event," Athletic Director Jim Clark said. "It'll be nice to be able to provide these facilities to our community. I can't say enough about the advancements we've made here for our athletes who participate here in Lion Stadium."

Said school president Dr. Michael Bates, "Building upon the investment by the Notre Dame Schools Board of Directors to provide a new permanent restroom building, concessions, stand, spirit wear shop, ticket booth, and welcome plaza, the additional improvements to Lion Stadium include a new 1,400 seat grandstand, press box, and an alumni patio. These improvements will continue to ensure a dynamic and winning athletic program which call our community to celebrate the many successes of our student-athletes and to harness the championship legacy of Lion athletics."



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin has new stadium seating and a press box, among other improvements at Lion Stadium this fall.

**"(Sports) is a community event. It'll be nice to be able to provide these facilities to our community. I can't say enough about the advancements we've made here for our athletes who participate here in Lion Stadium."**

— NDCL athletic director Jim Clark

Let's say enough about the advancements we've made here for our athletes who participate here in Lion Stadium."

Let's say enough about the advancements we've made here for our athletes who participate here in Lion Stadium."

Let's say enough about the advancements we've made here for our athletes who participate here in Lion Stadium."

years. While the weight room facility, entry plaza, ticket booth and picnic plaza will not be ready for opening night, the new — and gigantic — video board is ready for action.

"It's massive, that's for sure," said AD Jeff Cassella. "It was done by WatchFire, a scoreboard company, and they told us it's the second-largest scoreboard in the state besides Massillon's."

Cassella said the stadium improvements are part of a five-year facility improvement plan by the school district. The stadium project is slated to be completed by December.

## High school football 2021 standings

### CVC CHAGRIN

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
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

# SMALL JOB WASTE REMOVAL

## (9, 12, 15, 20 & 30 Yd. Containers)

Perfect for garage, basement & estate cleanups, roofers and do-it-yourselfers! We drop off — We pick container up.

[www.affordablerolloffinc.com](http://www.affordablerolloffinc.com)



CALL FOR OUR UNBEATABLE PRICES!



IN  
BUSINESS  
28 YEARS



AFFORDABLE ROLL-OFF, INC. • 1-800-688-9592 • 440-417-1561



## High school football conference outlooks

By John Kampf

[JKampf@news-herald.com](mailto:JKampf@news-herald.com)

### CVC Chagrin Division

**Favorite:** Kirtland

**Darkhorse:** Lakeside

**Don't forget about:** Perry

**Analysis:** The Hornets haven't lost a league game since 2016, a span of 37 straight CVC victories in a row. You'll be hard-pressed to find someone who will bet against them in league play this year, even with the Division VI Hornets playing a slate of 10 games against schools bigger than them. The offensive line is punishing, the running game is as good as ever and the defense has been the linchpin of the team's decade of dominance. ... Lakeside has four starting linemen back this year to go with 1,000-yard rusher J'Shon Sanders. Coach Buzz Edwards, a North alum, has a good thing going at Lakeside, and the Dragons will be a factor in this year's CVC Chagrin race. ... Perry is a little thin at offensive line compared to years past, but there's an awful lot of skill and speed to buoy the Pirates' hopes this year. ... The Sept. 30 game between Kirtland and Perry and the Oct. 7 game between the Hornets and the host Dragons will be ones to keep an eye on.

### CVC Metro Division

**Favorite:** Lutheran West

**Darkhorse:** Independence

**Don't forget about:**

Cuyahoga Heights



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Quarterback Scotty Fox and the Mentor Cardinals are the preseason favorite to win the Greater Cleveland Conference.

**Analysis:** The Longhorns are loaded this year, and even though it's a long season and anything can happen, Coach John Parrella's team looks to be the class of the CVC Metro. All-district defensive lineman Dimarion Gill anchors a strong and physical defense for the Longhorns. ... Independence sustained some heavy graduation losses, but Ryan Corrigan returns at running back and Evan Beacher at receiver. The Blue Devils will be in the mix for the conference title. ... Cuyahoga Heights, coached by legendary Al Martin, returns David Collins at receiver and Andy Jakubczak at linebacker. They'll be in the mix, too. As usual, these three tradition-rich programs should lead the way in the Metro.

### CVC Valley Division

**Favorite:** Hawken

**Darkhorse:** Crestwood

**Don't forget about:** Berkshire, Harvey

**Analysis:** Crestwood was last year's divisional champion and will again vie for that mark this season. But we're going with the Hawks, under first-year coach Mark Iammarino, as the top team here. Behind a big and athletic offensive line anchored by Chris Shea, Hawken will look to pound teams into the ground with a running game including the Johnson brothers — senior Dominic and sophomore Jordan. First-year QB Lucas Brandt could surprise with his strong arm. The league title could (should?) come down to the Week 10 battle when Hawken travels to

Crestwood. ... Berkshire and Harvey will want their say in the division as well, but they key for those teams — as well as everyone else in the division — will be handling the physical, run-oriented games of both Hawken and Crestwood.

### Crown Conference

**Favorite:** Walsh Jesuit

**Darkhorse:** NDCL

**Don't forget about:** Padua, Lake Catholic

**Analysis:** There's only four teams in the Crown Conference, so there isn't a lot of leeway in terms of rebounding from a loss. Coach Nick Alexander is building a powerhouse at Walsh. They lost three games last year and two of them were high-scoring shootouts against Akron Hoban. ... NDCL has a strong defense and the area's best kicker in Gianni Spetic, but can the Lions slow down Walsh's high-scoring offense enough? ... Padua and Lake are both on the rise, but the guess here is that the conference is Walsh's to lose.

### Greater Cleveland Conference

**Favorite:** Mentor

**Darkhorse:** Medina

**Don't forget about:** Brunswick

**Analysis:** After a rare down season in which the Cardinals finished 5-6 for their first non-winning season in more than a decade, Coach Matt Gray's crew is ready for a big bounce-back this

year. Injuries played a big part in last season's collapse, but the Cardinals refuse to give excuses. Having two capable quarterbacks, Scotty Fox and Jacob Snow, is a luxury. Snow has looked tremendous at safety on defense, adding to what is already the league's best defensive backfield. DE Brennan Vernon and those two stud linebackers — Collin Orosz and Kady Burkholder — can help Mentor control the box on Friday nights. ... The graduation of QB Drew Allar, now at Penn State, leaves defending league champ Medina as a little bit of a question mark. Receiver Brennen Schramm might be the best receiver in the league, but Danny Stoddard is an unknown at quarterback. The Sept. 30 game against visiting Mentor will be a biggie. ... Brunswick went 5-5 in the regular season last year and beat Mentor, so it's difficult to count out the Blue Devils.

### Western Reserve Conference

**Favorite:** Chardon

**Darkhorse:** Riverside

**Don't forget about:** South

**Analysis:** Whew. What a slugfest this is going to be. Chardon is riding the crest of a 28-game winning streak and has back a slew of starters, especially on the defensive side of the ball. With QB Alex Henry back and a deep stable of running backs, they key to success is a young offensive line. But then again, Chardon had

to replace all five starting linemen a year ago and still became the first 16-0 team in Ohio high school history. ... Riverside is loaded and very much is in the mix to win a title. The Beavers have an experienced line, super skill on the offensive side of the ball, a stud linebacker in Jason Ryan and ball-hawking defensive backs. The conference opener on Sept. 9 between Chardon and Riverside is must-see football ... South, Kenston and the rest of the league all have very good skill but can they hang with the physicality in the trenches that Chardon and Riverside bring? That's a high bar to reach.

### Northeast Athletic Conference

**Favorite:** Pymatuning Valley

**Darkhorse:** Windham, Vienna Mathews

**Analysis:** The Lakers are the only non-Division VII team in the NAC and will have a size advantage over everyone else in the league. Coach Neal Croston's Lakers have thrived — and loaded up conference titles — because of their superior size on the offensive and defensive lines that enable them to control games and wear the opposition down. ... Windham and Vienna Mathews were the only NAC teams to score on the Lakers last season, so it stands to reason that the Bombers and Mustangs are the primary threat to Pymatuning Valley's reign of excellence in league play.

**BEST OF LUCK**  
**IN THE 2022 SEASON**  
**TO THE**  
**KIRTLAND HORNETS**  
**FOOTBALL TEAM!**

From the  
**KIRTLAND HORNET**  
**BOOSTER CLUB**



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Kenston's Patrick motivated by first college offers

Iowa State, Toledo, Boston College and Akron have offered Bombers back

By John Kampf  
JKampf@news-herald.com

Sean Patrick slipped his feet into a pair of slippers, grabbed his book bag and ran out the door.

It was a big day for the Kenston sophomore, with a Biology test on tap that morning, and Patrick nearly missed his ride to school that day, hence the slippers and sprint out of the house.

He didn't know just how big of a day it was going to be.

That morning, near the end of his Biology test, Patrick got called down to the office of head football coach Jeff Grubich, where he received his first college commitment — this one from the Iowa State Cyclones.

As the 2022 football season nears, Patrick, now a junior at Kenston, boasts an offseason that included his first four official college offers. Those offers — Iowa State, Boston College, Toledo and Akron — have ignited something special inside the 5-foot-10, 175-pounder.

Now he wants more.

And for that opposing teams should be wary be-

cause Patrick is that much hungrier.

He wants more. "The offers have definitely put more of a chip on my shoulder," Patrick said. "I know there are people always looking at me now. I have to work way harder than I did before."

It's not that Patrick was ever a slacker. On the contrary. His star was on the rise when he took the field as a starting cornerback as a freshman, and that star rose even more when he took a pick-6 to the house as a ninth-grader.

He's always been a hard worker in the weight room and on the field. Additionally, he's a strong student.

But when college offers start coming in, well, let's just say Patrick's competitive nature and knack for perfection get cranked up a notch.

"After that (visit from Iowa State), I was like, 'Ok, you've got one,'" Patrick said. "I wasn't satisfied, so I worked that much harder."

Everyone at or around 9500 Bainbridge Road — home of the Kenston Bombers — has noticed, from teammates to coaches to family and friends.

Patrick has two more years of high school football remaining, and he's going to make the most of it and collect college offers like some people collect

baseball and football cards.

"Football is really important to the kid, and he's so good at it," Grubich said. "He eats, breathes and lives it. He's always doing work. He's been all over the state and Midwest for camps. He's a football junkie. It's a pleasure to coach him."

Patrick's freshman season saw him primarily play defense, as the Bombers had plenty of skill-position players on offense to let their talented freshman get his feet wet. A year ago as a sophomore, he ran for 1,127 yards and nine touchdowns as the marquee back that could also make life miserable for defenders by coming out of the backfield on pass patterns.

The highly productive sophomore season, as well as his performance at college recruiting camps, started opening eyes. First in line was Iowa State, which made the trip to Kenston on the day of Patrick's big Biology test. There, Cyclones offensive coordinator Tom Manning had a message for Patrick.

Iowa State wanted him. "I was so excited, I ran around the whole school," Patrick said.

Near the end of the school year, an offer from Boston College came after Patrick wowed everyone at a Walsh University camp. A trip to



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kenston junior Sean Patrick picked up his first four college offers this past spring.

a Toledo camp gleaned an offer from Coach Jason Candle, and not long after that, the Akron Zips came a'knocking.

"We've got lifting class in the fourth block. I took that more serious," Patrick said. "I took track more serious to get faster and get my mechanics down. I wanted to get better at everything."

As his junior year nears, Patrick knows the going is only going to get tougher. He said he needs to not only be stronger and faster than he was in the past, but he has to be a bigger and better leader for his teammates and he needs to be mentally strong.

He's part of a decorated offense that includes three-year starting quarterback

Nikko Georgiou, returning receiver Tymir Cardona and lineman anchors Sean Doyle and Luke Leygraaf. His presence and skill set make the rest of the team better, hence the accentuation on mental toughness.

"If teams are targeting me, that opens up holes and plays for my teammates," he said.

Because, as Grubich said, Patrick is a matchup nightmare for defenders.

"He's not a guy you want to cover with an inside linebacker," Grubich said. "If he's coming out of the backfield, you better find a safety or corner to put on him. He'll flat outrun a linebacker. .... You've got to know where he is at all times on the field."

Just before fall camp started, Patrick said he took a look at his highlight compilation on Hudl and took note of how far he has come from size to speed to mental sharpness since his freshman year. But now that he has his first handful of college offers in hand, he didn't look long at the past. There's a reason the rearview mirror is that much smaller than the windshield — because what is in front is more important than what's behind.

And Patrick knows the sky is the limit for him now.

"I'm ready for the season," he said. "I can't wait."



Monday through Friday 11am until 12am  
Saturday and Sunday 6:30am until 12am

**GOOD LUCK**  
TO THE  
**KIRTLAND HORNETS**  
AND ALL OF THE  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**FOOTBALL TEAMS!**

9378 Chillicothe Rd., Kirtland, Ohio • 440-256-1134

Stop in for burgers, wings, and beer every day of the week!  
Serving Breakfast Saturdays and Sundays 6:30am until Noon





## High school football playoff region projections

By Chris Lillstrung

CLillstrung@news-herald.com

**Note:** Despite this being the second year of expanded playoffs to 16 per region, for consistency with years past and to not make projections a “by default” exercise since well more than half of each region qualifies, the projection number will stay at 12.

### DIVISION I, REGION 1

(in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Berea-Midpark (6-4), Brunswick (6-4), Canton McKinley (6-4), Cleveland Heights (8-2), Elyria (6-4), Massillon Jackson (8-2), Medina (10-0), MENTOR (5-5), St. Edward (8-1), St. Ignatius (6-4), Stow-Munroe Falls (8-2), Strongsville (5-5)

**What to look for:** Starting with The News-Herald coverage area ranks first like usual, the hope would be for rebound campaigns from Mentor and Euclid. ... The Cardinals' problem was two-fold in 2021 — they needed one more nonconference win, and the struggles in Greater Cleveland Conference play early were a backbreaker as well. Looking at the 2022 slate, it feels like that Week 2 trip to First Energy Stadium to face St. Ignatius is a must-have to build confidence out of the gate. Mentor has to solidify its skill-position turnover and transition on a senior-heavy

defense. The Cardinals could climb a bit out of that .500 middle-of-the-pack range in the region, but how high will be interesting to watch transpire. ... Obviously, the Panthers have nowhere to go but up following an uncharacteristic 0-10 season. With a new coach in Robert Andrews and building blocks on defense in Chase Smith and Ryan Merrill, getting Euclid back in the win column more consistently is doable and would be a welcome sight.

... As far as the class of the region, we'll lean toward the safe route and side with St. Edward. The Eagles will be stout in the defensive trenches paced by returning All-Ohio performers Michael Kilbane and Wyatt Gedeon. ... Medina will undoubtedly miss 2021 Ohio Mr. Football Drew Allar at quarterback, but having prolific WR Brennan Schramm (82 catches, 1,333 yards, 14 TDs) back in the fold is a start. ... Don't be surprised if Elyria improves on a 6-4 season, led by RB Lance Glover (665 rushing yards, nine TDs in 2021). ... Last fall, 12 of the teams in this region had six wins or fewer. If it winds up like that again, and especially with only 17 teams in the region of course, Week 11 home field contention won't be quite as daunting as it typically can be.

**DIVISION II, REGION 5**  
(in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Riverside, shown against Brecksville-Broadview Heights in a scrimmage, has several intriguing tussles this season, including a trip to Mentor.

### in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Akron Hoban (6-3), Akron SVSM (4-6), Austintown-Fitch (6-3), Barberton (9-1), Hudson (8-2), Nordonnia (8-2), RIVERSIDE (6-4), Shaker Heights (3-6), Solon (4-6), SOUTH (7-3), Walsh Jesuit (8-2), Warren Harding (5-5)

**What to look for:** While not wanting to be a jinx in the process in this space — and granted, this is a brutal region to contend for anything top to bottom — but it seems like this could be a special year for Riverside. The Beavers won seven games a year ago, including a playoff win over Brush, return All-Ohioans Jason Ryan and Jake Elly on defense

amid a largely experienced group and weren't far off from accomplishing more in 2021. Watch for how Riverside navigates Weeks 2 and 3 trips to Aurora and Mentor, especially the latter. If the Beavers could emerge 2-1 or even 3-0 into Western Reserve Conference play, look out because contending for the top four in turn is there for the taking. ... South should be solid once again, paced by QB Colin Quinlan. The Rebels are done no favors in 2022, either, with the breakdown of their WRC slate, drawing Kenston, Chardon and Riverside to close once more, so maximizing nonconference play will be key — notably Week 1

hosting NDCL. ... Elsewhere area-wise, Brush could be in the top-12 hunt but needs to give workhorse RB Tanelle Rose (1,475 yards, 18 TDs) some help under first-year coach Ricky Powers. ... In addition to how competitive this region will be, it will have a new complexion, too. Shaker Heights and Solon come in from Region 1, as do tough programs such as Akron SVSM (Region 9) and Barberton (Region 6). ... The Fighting Irish should be improved after a 4-6 season with a young core. ... You know what you're getting from Akron Hoban by now, so not much more needs to be said there. ... Hudson brings back QB Jagger Pal-

lay (2,190 yards, 20 TDs) but must replace its skill position corps almost in entirety. ... Another non-area squad that should be better in this region vs. 2021 is Warren Harding, with dual-threat QB Dalys Jett (2,201 yards passing and rushing, 34 total TDs) and a seasoned defense.

### DIVISION III, REGION 9

(in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Alliance (3-7), Aurora (8-2), BENEDICTINE (6-2), Canfield (9-1), CHARDON (10-0), CVCA (5-5), GILMOUR (7-2), KENSTON (9-1), NDCL (5-5), Tallmadge (7-3), Ursuline (6-3), VASJ (6-1)

**What to look for:** Until proven otherwise, two-time defending Division III state champion Chardon is the class of this region — and with those state crowns, a lengthy ongoing win streak and so much quality back, it's not outlandish to say with room to spare. The Hilltoppers return QB Alex Henry and RB AJ Bruce to fuel the vaunted Wing-T, and that defense is going to be fierce with its high level of talent. As Coach Mitch Hewitt has noted, some work needs to be done on the line. But Chardon will be a load as usual. That non-conference slate is unusual, with out-of-state foes from New Jersey and Florida.

PLAYOFF » PAGE 14

**DBB ELECTRIC**  
*Semper-Fi*  
Residential • Senior Discount  
Licensed, Insured  
Free Estimates  
**(440) 463-4795**



**Wheeler & Son Cement**  
Concrete, Waterproofing,  
Sewer  
**Fall Savings - Call Now!**  
**(440) 953-0184**



# Playoff

FROM PAGE 13

However, it should provide enough point potential. ... It's not unreasonable to see Kenston, even with the seniors it graduated, factoring toward the top six led by RB Sean Patrick (1,127 rushing yards, nine TDs in 2021). ... Benedictine graduated a ton but always find a way to be in the mix. A particularly key two-week stretch for the Bengals will be in Weeks 3 and 4, with D-I points on the table hosting Cleveland Heights, then taking on Maryland power DeMatha Catholic. ... Gilmour and Villa Angela-St. Joseph have a lot returning, but the reality is the road naturally becomes tougher moving up from D-IV, Region 13. That's not to say Region 13 was a cakewalk, of course — it's not. Region 9 is more treacherous, though. Each has four regular-season opponents in smaller divisions, so while making it at all won't be a problem with a top 16, lunging toward home field contention could be more tricky. ... Tallmadge has QB Ty Hurst (3,241 passing yards, 31 TDs) back at the controls and top target Collin Dixon (69 catches, 1,461 yards, 18 TDs) at WR, so that offense will be something. ... If you want a deep sleeper, how about Alliance? Although the Aviators were 3-7 last fall, three losses were by three points or fewer and QB Brendan Zurbrugg (1,815 yards, 14 TDs), RB Kayden Davis (843

rushing yards, 16 TDs and 41 catches) and WRs K'vaughn Davis and Ramhir Hawkins (40 catches each) were all underclassmen in 2021.

## DIVISION IV, REGION 13 (in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Beaver Local (7-3), Canton South (7-3), Girard (6-4), Hubbard (9-1), Lutheran East (5-5), Niles McKinley (4-5), Poland Seminary (7-3), Ravenna (7-3), Salem (7-3), Streetsboro (7-2), West Branch (10-0), Woodridge (6-4)

**What to look for:** The lone News-Herald coverage area team in this region is Lake Catholic. Last season, from a won-lost standpoint, was not remotely what anyone on that proud corner of Bellflower and 306 has in mind, as the Cougars went 1-9. Not including Lake as a contender here comes with two justifications and a caveat. Region 13 has eight teams coming down from D-III, Region 9, including perennially playoff-vying programs such as Hubbard and Streetsboro. So what was already a rocky road for anyone in Region 13 becomes ever more so. Also, after a 1-9 year, the Cougars have to show they're ready to take that next step. Lake has shown to be at its best at times when it's undervalued from the outside — the naysayers certainly didn't see that magical state final run two years ago coming. In turn, the caveat is this is not to say the Cougars can't be a contender. They just



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Donny Hardy of Chagrin Falls carries against Perry during a 2021 game.

need to earn their way there. ... West Branch will be a lot of fun to watch offensively with QB Dru Deshields (3,661 passing yards, 40 TDs; 1,126 rushing yards, 15 TDs), although it'll need to find a replacement for RB Steven Marra and his 30 TDs to take some of the load off Deshields. ... Girard was junior-heavy at the skill positions a year ago, including RB Michael Palmer (1,174 rushing yards, 14 TDs), so an uptick from 6-4 is possible. ... One of the premier workhorses in this region should be Niles McKinley RB Antuan Gardner (1,514 yards, 18 TDs), so keep an eye on the Red Dragons faring better than 4-5 in 2022 as they move from Region 9.

## DIVISION V, REGION 17 (in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** BERKSHIRE (6-4), CHAGRIN FALLS (5-5), Fairless (9-1), Garaway (10-0), Garrettsville (10-0), Norwayne (7-3), PERRY (8-2), Richmond Edison (7-3), South Range (10-0), Triway (7-1), Waynedale (5-5), West Lafayette Ridgewood (9-1)

**What to look for:** Prefacing this is more of an observation than a projection, but it feels odd to have Chagrin Falls and Perry in Division V now. One benefit of moving down, though, will be virtually every game will be larger-division points at stake. Every little bit helps in that regard. ... With the Pirates, such a capable senior class exiting the program is concerning. But Perry has earned the trust to figure it out, especially with talented underclassmen who earned playing time a year ago. It's only on paper in mid-August, but that Week 2 clash hosting Kenston feels

really important for Perry. ... Chagrin Falls will be in flux on the line with Nick Dalessandro graduated. But versatile RB Donny Hardy showed promise last fall, and there is opportunity to slot into the upper echelon of the CVC Chagrin. Kirtland is the favorite of course, but it could be wide open after that. Not to be repetitive, but Kenston, in the Tigers' case a Week 1 game, looms large as well. ... With Josh Brown and Miles Miller back, Berkshire seems like a squad with which bullish prospects are reasonable — how bullish depends on rebuilding the lines, which were senior-heavy in 2021. ... With Kirtland dropping back to D-VI, Region 21, the best team in this region now is probably Garaway. The Pirates, who won 12 games last fall, return a plethora of All-Ohioans including first-teamers Jarett Wallick and Brady Roden on defense. That group was one of the best in the Buckeye State in 2021, yielding 88 points in 13 games and posting five shutouts. QB Logan Yoder and RB Ethan Miller also earned All-Ohio distinction and should be a handful again. ... Richmond Edison, with 6-foot-6 QB Gage Cline, could also intrigue.

## DIVISION VI, REGION 21 (in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Brookfield (6-3), Canton Central Catholic (4-6), CARDINAL (7-3), Columbiana Crestview (5-4), Cuyahoga Heights (5-3),

Dalton (8-2), Independence (8-2), KIRTLAND (9-0), Mogadore (7-3), Newton Falls (3-7), Rootstown (5-5), Valley Christian (7-2)

**What to look for:** In Kirtland we trust. In Tiger we trust. In the Hornets we trust. Whatever the iteration, you get the point. Kirtland will be just fine back in Division VI, especially with its pedigree and especially with all those larger-division points available as a CVC Chagrin team. The Hornets will plug in really good, tough football players, handle their business week after week and be the class of Region 21. Enough said. ... Cardinal's seven-win campaign a year ago was one of the feel-good stories of the year in News-Herald coverage area football. Graduating four All-Ohioans and filling those shoes will be a tall order, though, notably in the trenches with Mike Soltis and John Avalon. But here's to hoping the Huskies can keep that feel-good run going with another charge toward the top 12. ... Hopes are high at Brookfield with QB Donovan Pawlowski (2,509 total yards, 25 TDs) and LB AJ Bartolin (108 tackles) pacing an experienced defense. ... Canton Central Catholic, which went 4-6 last fall, could be improved with prolific dual-threat QB Jack Talkington (2,730 total yards, 20 TDs) and versatile RB Alexander Anderson. ... Valley Christian is in Year 2 under former longtime Berlin Center Western Reserve coach Andy Hake and could be a threat coming up from Region 25. ...

PROJECTION » PAGE 15

You Belong Here!

Call 440-942-1632 to attend a free business networking event with other like minded businesses and find out how you can receive a free advertisement with your membership. Offer valid thru 12/31/2022.

**Willoughby  
Western Lake County**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
www.lcchamber.com



# Projection

## FROM PAGE 14

Newton Falls admittedly might be a reach as a sleeper coming off a 3-7 season. But the Tigers boast two high-caliber RBs in Carter Rapczak and Camryn Brainard, who combined for nearly 1,800 yards and 17 TDs a year ago, along with three of their top five tacklers. So it's worth a shot. ... Three other staples also came up from Region 25 in Cuyahoga Heights, Dalton and Independence. You can trust the two CVC representatives and the Bulldogs to figure it out regardless of personnel.

## DIVISION VII, REGION 25 (in alphabetical order, with 2021 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

**Contenders:** Conotton Valley (5-4), Danville (4-6), Hillsdale (6-4), Lowellville (7-2), Lucas (8-1), New Middletown Springfield (9-1), Norwalk St. Paul (8-1), Plymouth (5-4), Salineville Southern (7-3), Steubenville Catholic Central (3-7), Toronto (5-5), Warren JFK (6-2)

**What to look for:** The lone News-Herald coverage area squad in this region is Fairport. Fortunately, things appear quieter on the home front than they were this time last year amid a late coaching change and concerns over low roster

numbers. The Skippers do return experience in spots and did win three straight to close 2021. But low numbers again, any bout with the injury bug and an inability to score consistently (they scored 44 points in two wins over St. John to end the year and 26 in their other six games) will make it tough to get to .500. ... Even with the exodus to Region 21, this is still a formidable region. Every year, you know it will be top-heavy, and this season is no exception with Lucas, Norwalk St. Paul, Warren JFK and more. What takes it up a notch in 2022 are squads ready for an upswing. Danville, for example, is a newcomer from Region 27 that went 4-6 in the regular season in 2021. The Blue Devils return multi-faceted senior Max Payne, who played QB and was also their leading rusher with 714 yards and 11 TDs, along with WR Kaiden Colopy (57 receptions) and four of their top five tacklers, including Levi Lyons (89 tackles). Sounds like a bounceback candidate. ... Also keep an eye on Lowellville, with 6-foot-4 All-Ohio QB Vinny Ballone, who accounted for nearly 3,000 yards through the air and on the ground and 39 total TDs. ... This is not typically the case in this region, where three wins was enough last year, but it might take 6-4 to vie for the playoffs, even in the expanded format, between the newcomers and the improved.

## High school football area schedule

### Subject to change

#### AUG. 19

Akron North at Fairport, 7 p.m.  
Aurora at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Badin vs. VASJ at CWRU, 7 p.m.  
Beachwood at Orange, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Brush at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
Canton McKinley at Mentor, 7 p.m.  
Cardinal at Garrettsville, 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Heights at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
Kenston at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Kirtland at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
Madison at Geneva, 7 p.m.  
Mayfield at Shaw, 7 p.m.  
NDCL at South, 7 p.m.  
North at Garfield Heights, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Chardon, 7 p.m.  
Perry at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.  
Rhodes at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
Trinity at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
University at Columbus Academy, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Bay, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 20

Dover at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Walsh Jesuit at Benedictine, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 26

Akron North at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Benedictine at Toledo Central Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Berkshire at Coventry, 7 p.m.  
Chagrin Falls at Trinity, 7 p.m.  
Euclid at Hudson, 7 p.m.  
Geneva at Struthers, 7 p.m.  
Gilmour at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.  
Harvey at Jefferson, 7 p.m.  
Hawken at Chippewa, 7 p.m.  
Jackson at Mayfield, 7 p.m.  
Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.  
Lakeside at Madison, 7 p.m.  
Lisbon Anderson at Fairport, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran West at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
Mentor vs. St. Ignatius at FirstEnergy Stadium, 7 p.m.  
NDCL at Lewis Center Olentangy, 7 p.m.  
Pymatuning Valley at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
Revere at North, 7 p.m.  
Riverside at Aurora, 7 p.m.  
South at Twinsburg, 7 p.m.  
South Range at University, 5 p.m.  
Streetsboro at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
Toledo Bowsher at Brush, 7 p.m.  
VASJ vs. Cleveland JFK at Collinwood, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 27

Beachwood at John Marshall, noon  
Chardon vs. Camden (N.J.) at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, 5 p.m.  
Lake Catholic at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 2

Beachwood at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Brush at Sylvania Southview, 7 p.m.  
Coventry at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Fairport at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.  
Geneva at New Middletown Springfield, 7 p.m.  
Gilmour at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
Harvey at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Lakeside at North, 7 p.m.  
Massillon Perry at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Mayfield at Nardon, 7 p.m.  
NDCL at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
Parma at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
Perry at Madison, 7 p.m.  
Riverside at Mentor, 7 p.m.  
South at Maple Heights, 7 p.m.  
Trinity at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
University at Bay, 7 p.m.  
VASJ at Youngstown East, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 3

Buchtel at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Cleveland Heights at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
First Baptist Academy (Fla.) at Chardon, 3:30 p.m.

#### SEPT. 9

Berkshire at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
Chagrin Falls at Perry, 7 p.m.  
Harvey at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Hawken at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
Kenmore-Garfield at Mayfield, 7 p.m.  
Kirtland at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
Lakeside at Geneva, 7 p.m.  
Trinity at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
Chardon at Riverside, 7 p.m.  
Madison at South, 7 p.m.  
North at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
Akron East at Brush, 7 p.m.  
Clarkson at Mentor, 7 p.m.  
Gilmour at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
Shaker Heights at University, 5 p.m.  
Wheeling Park (W.Va.) vs. VASJ at JCU, 7 p.m.  
Wickliffe at Fairport, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 10

Benedictine vs. DeMatha (Md.) at Ironton, 5 p.m.  
Erie (Pa.) at Lake Catholic, 1 p.m.  
Euclid at St. Ignatius, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 16

Brooklyn at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Cardinal at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
Chagrin Falls at Orange, 7 p.m.  
Crestwood at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
Edgewood at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
Grand Valley at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
Geneva at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
Independence at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
Perry at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
Euclid at Brunswick, 7 p.m.  
Madison at Riverside, 7 p.m.  
Mayfield at Chardon, 7 p.m.  
South at North, 7 p.m.  
Akron North at Brush, 7 p.m.  
Cardinal Stritch at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
Fairport vs. North Central at Fremont Ross, 7 p.m.  
Taft at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
University at Shaw, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 17

Benedictine at Buchtel, 1 p.m.  
Kenston at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
VASJ at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1 p.m.

#### SEPT. 23

Beachwood at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
Crestwood at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
Edgewood at Perry, 7 p.m.  
Geneva at Orange, 7 p.m.  
Harvey at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
Hawken at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.  
Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Medina at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Mentor at Brunswick, 7 p.m.  
Fairport at Pymatuning Valley, 7 p.m.  
Padua at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Chardon at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
North at Madison, 7 p.m.  
Riverside at Mayfield, 7 p.m.  
Benedictine at Boardman, 7 p.m.  
Brush at South, 7 p.m.  
East Liverpool at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
VASJ at Collinwood, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
Wickliffe Lutheran West, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 24

Gilmour at University, 2 p.m.

#### SEPT. 30

Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
Cardinal at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
Edgewood at Geneva, 7 p.m.  
Mentor at Medina, 7 p.m.  
Lake Catholic at Canton Central Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Lakeside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
Walsh Jesuit at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
Vienna Mathews at Fairport, 7 p.m.  
Madison at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
North at Riverside, 7 p.m.  
South at Mayfield, 7 p.m.  
Brush at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.  
Erie at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran East at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
University at Mogadore, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Orange, 7 p.m.  
Wickliffe at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Youngstown Chaney at Harvey, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 1

Bishop Hartley vs. VASJ at CWRU, 7 p.m.  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
Gilmour at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1 p.m.

#### OCT. 7

Beachwood at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
Berkshire at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
Chagrin Falls at Edgewood, 7 p.m.  
Crestwood at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
Geneva at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
Independence at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Kirtland at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

Orange at Perry, 7 p.m.  
Lake Catholic at Walsh Jesuit, 7 p.m.  
NDCL at Padua, 7 p.m.  
Solon at Mentor, 7 p.m.  
Strongsville at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Fairport at Windham, 7 p.m.  
Chardon at Madison, 7 p.m.  
Kenston at South, 7 p.m.  
Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.  
Benedictine at Erie Cathedral Prep, 7 p.m.  
Gilmour at Brush, 7 p.m.  
Youngstown Ursuline vs. VASJ at BW, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 8

Bedford at University, 2 p.m.  
Riverside at Martinsburg (W.Va.), 1 p.m.

#### OCT. 13

Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 14

Akron Hoban at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
Beachwood at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
Cardinal at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.  
Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
Kirtland at Edgewood, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Euclid at Solon, 7 p.m.  
Strongsville at Mentor, 7 p.m.  
Kenston at Riverside, 7 p.m.  
Madison at Mayfield, 7 p.m.  
North at Brush, 7 p.m.  
South at Chardon, 7 p.m.  
Fairport at St. John, 7 p.m.  
NDCL at Louisville, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 15

VASJ at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Warrensville Heights at University, 2 p.m.  
Wickliffe at Trinity, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 20

Nardon at Benedictine, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 21

Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
Chagrin Falls at Geneva, 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Heights at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Garfield Heights at Madison, 7 p.m.  
Grand Valley at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
Hawken at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran West at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
Orange at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Perry, 7 p.m.  
Lake Catholic at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
Mentor at Euclid, 7 p.m.  
Chardon at North, 7 p.m.  
Mayfield at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
Riverside at South, 7 p.m.  
Brush at Padua, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran East at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
St. John at Fairport, 7 p.m.  
VASJ at Wooster, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 22

Warren Howland at University, 2 p.m.

# shannon Fence

440-255-1330 • Where Quality Work At Reasonable Prices Make the Difference

Providing the highest in quality materials  
and workmanship since 1986.

[www.shannonfence.com](http://www.shannonfence.com)

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR LOCAL TEAMS THIS SEASON!



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# GO AHEAD, TRY TO GET THROUGH

Chardon's defense has been a pillar of consistency during 28-game winning streak and two state championships

By John Kampf

*JKampf@news-herald.com*

Chardon football coach Mitch Hewitt isn't much of a card player, but he sure knows how to stack a deck.

When formulating plans of how to fill out positions for his highly successful Hilltoppers football team, Hewitt and his staff treat it somewhat like a lopsided fantasy football draft.

"Offense gets the first pick, which is the quarterback, and from there the defense gets the next 11," Hewitt said.

That doesn't mean the Chardon offense is understaffed. On the contrary. Chardon's Wing-T offense, now in its 42nd year of employment in the program, is one of the most consistently dominating offenses in the state of Ohio.

But the defense is stacked — with talent and draft picks.

That defense is a major reason why the Hilltoppers will enter the 2022 season with the longest current winning streak in Ohio at 28 games.

Chardon's defense is, by Hewitt's estimation, loaded yearly with the No. 2-through-12 draft picks on his team's roster. They play fast, violent and with the mindset that demands they run to the ball as fast as they can, and get their in a bad mood.

Talent plus effort equals ... well ... 28 wins in a row.

"Effort is the thing we coach the hardest because it's the one thing year in and year out that you can hang your hat on," Hewitt said. "There are so many variables you can't account for in football. All you can do is control what you control, and that's effort."

"If you can't run to the ball and play hard, you can't play for us."



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Defensive coaches for the Chardon football team are, from left, Cade Acitelli, Bob Francis, Rob Vujaklija, Brian Landies, Connor Krouse and Rick Mysyk. Not pictured is Shane Quin.

The proof is certainly in the numbers.

Over the past two seasons — a 12-0 record in 2021 and a 16-0 mark in 2022 — Chardon has outscored the opposition 1,117 to 229, an average score of 39.9 to 8.2. Yes, the Chardon offense has piled up a lot of points, but the defense has been punishingly effective, limiting teams to 181 yards per game while piling up 62 takeaways via fumble recoveries or interceptions. One could go back into the 2019 season and see the dominance start there. Chardon won seven straight before watching a 19-0 halftime lead against Aurora disappear in a regional semifinal loss, 22-19.

Including the ending of the 2019 season, Chardon has won 35 of 36 games, outscored those 36 teams by an average score of 38.0-8.6 and outgained those 36 teams by 193 yards per game — with a monstrous 77 take-

**"Effort is the thing we coach the hardest because it's the one thing year in and year out that you can hang your hat on. There are so many variables you can't account for in football. All you can do is control what you control, and that's effort."**

— Chardon coach Mitch Hewitt

aways (48 interceptions and 29 fumble recoveries).

Yes, offense lights up the scoreboard, but defense wins championships.

"You've got to be dedicated to it," said Chardon defensive coordinator Brian Landies when asked what makes the Chardon defense so effective. "You have to know what you're doing, you have to be violent and you have to be fast."

"I always tell our guys there are two certainties — 1, Mistakes are going to be made, 2,

our effort and speed will make up for all of those mistakes."

In short, defenders must get there, get there fast and arrive in a bad mood.

If there were mistakes made last year, they weren't very evident on the scoreboard. Youngstown Ursuline was the only team to score more than 14 points on the Hilltoppers, falling in Chardon, 36-27, on Sept. 3. Five teams were shut out by Landies' defense and 11 of the 16 foes were held to seven points or less.

And that was with a defense



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon's success on the defense is a combination of high-end talent and coaching. This year's team has six returning starters from last season's 16-0 state championship team. From left are Heath Fetchik, assistant Cade Acitelli, Trey Liebhart, assistant Rick Mysyk, Leo Colombi, assistant Rob Vujaklija, defensive coordinator Brian Landies, Alex Kisley, assistant Bob Francis, Cooper Felger, assistant Connor Krouse and Andrew Bruce.

that returned only three starters from the 2021 state championship team — lineman Alex McDonald, linebacker Christian Hall and safety Nathanael Sulka.

When the Hilltoppers take

the field for an Aug. 19 season-opener against visiting Olmsted Falls, they will do so with twice as many returning starters as last season — six — including defensive linemen Cooper Felger and Alex Kis-

ley, linebacker Heath Fetchik and defensive backs Trey Liebhardt, Andrew Bruce and Leo Colombi. Colombi, Fetchik, Kisley and Liebhardt all return having earned All-Ohio honors a year ago.

"A.J Bruce has D-I offers, Leo is a D-I and — no knock on them — but Trey is our best and he doesn't have a D-I yet," Hewitt said. "I think we have the best defensive backfield in the state. "Kisley and Coop are men-

aces. They are good kids — foxhole kids — who love the weight room. They have that senior 'It' factor."

Fetchik had the game-clinching interception in the state final against Hamilton Badin

last year.

"We like our numbers at linebacker," Hewitt said. "I remember the days when we were lucky to find a 170-pound kid there. Now we're 200 (pounds) across the board with kids who can run and jump."

AND play with an edge, which makes all the difference at Chardon.

"All game, go as hard as you can and be as violent as you can until you can't go no more," said Felger, a physical defensive tackle.

"Yeah," said Kisley, who had more than 30 TFLs last year. "I feel like we rely on the defense to set the tone for the whole game."

When the defensive front seven gets the fast, disruptive pressure, that means the talent-rich defensive backfield can pile up the PBUs and picks. Such as Colombi, who hauled in seven interceptions a year ago.

"You can't dog it," Colombi said of the defensive mindset. "Run to the ball ... every single play ... no matter what."

If you DO dog it?

"Oh, you're going to get yelled at, pulled out and you're gonna run," Colombi said. "No matter who it is. If you don't show the effort, you're going to the sidelines and you're going to run."

"That what makes us special (on defense) — it's 11 hats to the ball every play."

Not everything is perfect. Yet.

While Chardon does return six starters to the defensive side of the ball, there will be five new starters this year. But it's a group of players that has practiced and waited diligently for their turn. That time as arrived for guys. Players such as linebackers Mario Tolo, Jacob

Green and Austin Leszynski, linemen Maddox Ciancibello, Kyle Kisley, Caleb Scheutzman and Robert Vunderink, and defensive backs Will Francis and Caleb Hewitt.

One thing is for certain — numbers won't be a problem. The Hilltoppers have 91 players from grades 10 through 12 and on a much broader scale, more than 300 players from youth through varsity.

It's a young Chardon team by recent standards, with only 14 seniors, but it's a hungry team.

Hewitt quickly points out that the past two state championship seasons means nothing toward this season. Many, if not most, of those players are gone.

And there's a whole new list of teams who want to say they are the ones that knocked the Hilltoppers off their pedestal.

"Olmsted Falls called us," Hewitt said of the Week 1 foe. "The last team to call us was Canfield, and they beat our faces in (35-13 in 2018). For (Olmsted Falls) to do that, they want a shot at Chardon."

With two out-of-state teams following the Olmsted Falls opener, then a Week 4 game against Riverside that many feel is a battle between the top two teams in the Western Reserve Conference, the schedule is stacked against the Hilltoppers. But Hewitt admitted his program will lean on what has gotten it to this point.

"We're going to hang our hats on our defense, especially early on," Hewitt said. "We're taking 90 (stereotypically) selfish adolescent males and telling them we have to work together for a championship. That's a hard thing to do this day and age."

But the results of the last two seasons show it's attainable.



## Beachwood»Bison

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Coach:** Scott Fischer, first year  
**Twitter:** @BisonAthletics  
**2021:** 1-6  
**Home field:** Allen D. McCullough Field

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Beachwood at Orange, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 27:** Beachwood at John Marshall, noon  
**Sept. 2:** Beachwood at Kirtland, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Trinity at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Crestwood at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Beachwood at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Lutheran East at Beachwood, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Beachwood at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Beachwood at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Grand Valley at Beachwood 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Marquis Pickney\* Sr., 5-9, 175  
**RB:** Jaymon Caldwell\* Sr., 6-4, 210  
**RB:** Martez Pickney\* Jr., 5-10, 205  
**FB:** Jake Burkons\* Sr., 5-1, 180  
**WR:** Jovon Kirby, Sr., 5-8, 170  
**WR:** Ezra German\* Sr., 5-11, 175  
**LT:** Jace Stimpert, Sr., 6-3, 260  
**LG:** London Pope, Jr., 5-11, 300  
**C:** Jack Felder\* Jr., 6-0, 250  
**RG:** Uzona Nzekwe\*, Sr., 6-3, 230  
**RT:** Abdou Dieye\* Jr., 6-4, 280  
**K:** Gili Avitan\* Sr., 6-0, 180

#### DEFENSE

**DT:** Jace Stimpert, Sr., 6-3, 260  
**NT:** Abdou Dieye\* Jr., 6-4, 280  
**DT:** Jack Felder\* Jr., 6-0, 250  
**LB:** Eric Steckner\* Sr., 5-10, 190  
**LB:** Jack Burkons\*, Sr., 5-11, 180  
**LB:** Uzona Nzekwe\* Sr., 6-3, 230  
**LB:** Marquis Pickney\* Sr., 5-9, 175  
**LB:** Martez Pickney\* Jr., 5-10, 205  
**CB:** Jonathan Owens, So., 5-9, 170  
**CB:** Jeremiah Croff, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**S:** Jaymon Caldwell\* Sr., 6-4, 210  
**P:** Gili Avitan, Sr., 6-0, 180  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 17  
**Key reserves:** Joshua Greenwood, Sr., 5-9, 175  
**Best in the classroom:** Jack Felder, 4.2 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Uzona Nzekwe 365 pounds  
**Best squat:** Uzona Nzekwe, 535 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Marquis Pickney 4.5 seconds

### Outlook

What Beachwood lacks in numbers it more than makes up for with experience going into the 2022 season. The Bison have 17 returning starters on a 24-player roster. New head coach Scott Fischer is not new to Beachwood — he's an alum and a longtime assistant coach, and served as offensive coordinator last season. The Bison look to form a multi-faceted attack on offense, led by an experienced backfield that includes senior QB Marquis Pickney and senior RB Jaymon Caldwell. Fischer cited the offensive line, which averages 250 pounds and features four returning starters, as a team strength. Conditioning will be critical, as many players will be tasked with starting on both sides of the ball and on special teams. Fischer is pleased with the offseason weight room work put in by his players, who come in to this season much bigger, faster, and stronger.

### Player to watch

Senior Uzonna Nzekwe, referred to Fischer as a "man-child" and a hard worker, will start at guard and linebacker. Fischer believes Nzekwe, who can bench nearly 400 pounds, has the ability to play football in college.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Abdou Dieye, a 6-foot-4, 280-pound offensive tackle and nose tackle, has put a lot of time in the weight room, is long and athletic, and his footwork has drawn the praise of his coaches. Fischer said Dieye was dominant in a recent scrimmage.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Beachwood can stay healthy and build upon its experience, athleticism and improved size and strength; **THEN:** The Bison can be a factor in the CVC Valley and Division V, Region 17 races.



Nzekwe



Dieye

— Jay Kron

## Benedictine»Bengals

### Just the facts

**School:** Benedictine  
**Conference:** Independent  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Coach:** Jarritt Goode, fourth year (20-9)  
**2021:** 8-3  
**Twitter:** @BeneBengalsFB  
**Home field:** Euclid Community Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 20:** Walsh Jesuit at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Benedictine at Toledo Central Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 3:** Cleveland Heights at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 10:** Benedictine vs DeMatha Catholic (Md.) at Ironton, 5 p.m.  
**Sept. 17:** Benedictine at Buchtel, 1 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Benedictine at Boardman, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Brecksville at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Benedictine at Erie Cathedral Prep, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Hoban at Benedictine, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Nardonina at Benedictine, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Lucas Kaltenbach\*, So., 6-3, 205  
**RB:** Luke Reed, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**Z/TE:** Kareem Jennings\*, Jr., 6-4, 240  
**WR:** Erik Cloud\*, Jr., 5-9, 170  
**WR:** Jace Ellis, Sr., 5-11, 160  
**WR:** JJ Baldwin, So., 5-11, 152  
**LT:** Anthony Illiano\*, Sr., 6-4, 260  
**LG:** Patrick Morse\*, Sr., 6-1, 250  
**C:** Brian Underwood\*, Sr., 6-0, 290  
**RG:** DiVontae James\*, Jr., 6-0, 240  
**RT:** Eddie Dinwiddie\*, Jr., 6-3, 255  
**K:** James Cole, Sr., 5-10, 170

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Kareem Jennings\*, Jr., 6-4, 240  
**DT:** Anthony Illiano\*, Sr., 6-4, 260  
**DT:** DiVontae James\*, Jr., 6-0, 240  
**DE:** Calvin Gore, Sr., 6-1, 210  
**LB:** AJ Slemc, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**LB:** Ryan Konyecski\*, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**LB:** Kenmari Hayes, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**CB:** Sharmar Darling, Jr., 6-0, 168  
**CB:** Christopher Maloney, Jr., 5-9, 170  
**SS:** Robert Wesley, Jr., 6-1, 185  
**FS:** Antonio Hobbs, So., 5-8, 150  
**P:** Aaron Green Jr., Sr., 6-3, 230  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12  
**Best in the classroom:** Gabriel Beltavski, 4.3 GPA; **Patrick Morse, 4.15;**  
**Best 40 time:** Erik Cloud, 4.39 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Benedictine's Duane Jackson carries during a 2021 game against Cleveland Central Catholic.

### Outlook

A year after a regional semifinal appearance, a new challenge has emerged for Benedictine as the Bengals enter the meat grinder that is Region 9. The Bengals feature a mixed bag of experience and new faces in their starters. Players including Davonte James and Kareem Jennings have taken on a leadership role for the Bengals this season, and Lucas Kaltenbach earned valuable experience in Benedictine's first playoff game last season.

### Player to watch

Up front, the action is led by Maine commit Anthony Illiano. The two-year starter has helped get the players around him to get used to the atmosphere of a Friday night. He will be asked to be an offensive leader and help the younger skill position players behind him get time to develop.



Illiano

**Underclassman to watch:** Chris Maloney has taken strides to be in a position to help both the Bengals' offensive and defensive backfields. He has gotten a grasp of the Bengals philosophy and is willing to learn everyday at practice.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Veteran offense can help a youthful defense to mature; **THEN:** Another deep playoff run is possible.

— Ben Hercik

**Nick's Auto Care Center**  
 30017 Euclid Ave. • Wickliffe  
 Entrance on 300th St. or behind Servco



**\$20 OFF** WITH THIS COUPON!  
 Cars ~~\$189~~  
**\$169**

Van, Trucks & SUV's ~~\$209~~  
**\$189**

Bug/Tar/Oxidation & Minor Scratches Removed Expertly Buffed by Professionals • Hand Waxed w/Canauba Wax  
 Tires Dressed • Door Jams Steamed Cleaned • Trunk, Headliner, Windows & Wheels Cleaned  
 Leather Cleaned & Conditioner Applied • Interior Steam Cleaned & Detailed  
 Expires soon!

**NEW! Professional photo booth for online ads to sell your car!**  
 \*\*\*additional charge applies



**440-585-3494**

Business Days 8:00 am to 5:00 pm • Call for an appointment today!



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





## Berkshire»Badgers

### Just the facts

**School:** Berkshire  
**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Head Coach:** Josh Deweese, 10th year (38-52)  
**2021:** 6-4  
**Twitter:** @Badgersfbal  
**Home field:** Great Lakes Cheese Stadium

### Schedule

#### (subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Berkshire at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Berkshire at Coventry, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Trinity at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Berkshire at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Independence at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Crestwood at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Berkshire at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Beachwood at Berkshire, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Miles Miller\*, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**RB:** Josh Brown\*, Sr., 5-11, 170  
**SB:** Jack Hastings\*, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**WR:** Mason Mendolera\*, Jr., 6-0, 175  
**WR:** J.R. Ricci\*, Jr., 6-0, 176  
**TE:** Amadeus Kosova, Sr., 5-7, 170  
**LT:** Hunter Nicholson, Sr., 5-9, 260  
**LG:** Caleb Corbett, So., 6-0, 230  
**C:** Jason Brent, So., 5-10, 235  
**RG:** Darren Wasley, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**RT:** Vinny Crea, So., 6-2, 260  
**K:** Sal Vargas\*, Sr., 5-8, 155

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Darren Wasley, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**DT:** Hunter Nicholson, Sr., 5-9, 260  
**DT:** Vinny Crea, So., 6-2, 260  
**DE:** J.R. Ricci, Jr., 6-0, 175  
**LB:** Josh Brown\*, Sr., 5-11, 170  
**LB:** Elijah Southern, Sr., 5-11, 230  
**OLB:** Jack Hastings, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**CB:** Paul Brent, So., 5-9, 160  
**CB:** Louis Filby\*, Jr., 5-9, 140  
**SS:** John Heiden\*, Sr., 5-11, 150  
**FS:** Miles Miller, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**P:** Josh Brown\*, So., 5-9, 160  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 16  
**Key reserves:** Justin Phillips, So., 5-11, 170, Abram Southern, So., 5-9, 160, Danny Tiller, Fr., 5-11, 175;  
**Best in the classroom:** Amadeus Kosova, 4.2 GPA; Mason Mendolera, 4.13;



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Berkshire's Josh Brown carries during a 2021 game against Cardinal.

### Outlook

It's an interesting dynamic this year for the Badgers. While all of their skill position players are back from last season, the entire offensive line is brand new. Defensively, it is a carbon copy as the back four are all back for another season but the front seven is brand new. While it's a bevy of new names, they do bring some experience with them with the likes of Hunter Nicholson, who was all-conference last year. The playmakers for the Badgers have the ability to make plays with little daylight, it will allow for that offensive line to get more confidence.

### Player to watch

Miles Miller again is going to be asked to lead the offense. After a good first year under center, the coaching staff expects Miller to take another step and has grown into a leader in all capacities of the game.

**Underclassman to watch:** Jack Hastings had a strong start for Berkshire last season but broke his collarbone against Grand Valley. He has slotted back into his strong safety and slot receiver roll and emerged as a leader on both sides of the ball.

### Bottom line

**If:** Veteran skill positions allow for the new offensive line to find their rhythm; **THEN:** A CVC Valley title is a possibility.



Miller

— Ben Hercik

## Brush»Arcs

### Just the facts

**School:** Brush  
**Conference:** Independent  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Coach:** Ricky Powers, First year  
**2021:** 5-4  
**Twitter:** @BrushAthletics  
**Home field:** Korb Field

### Schedule

#### (Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Brush at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Bowsher at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Brush at Sylvania Southview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Akron East at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Akron North at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Brush at South, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Brush at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Gilmour at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** North at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Brush at Padua, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Dimario Ballom\*, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**RB:** Tanelle Rose\*, Jr., 6-0, 204  
**WR:** Terrance Williams\*, Jr., 5-5, 150  
**WR:** Edward Flakes, Jr., 5-8, 165  
**WR:** Damari Williams\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**WR:** Desmond Kelson, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**LT:** Antonio Heath, Jr., 6-5, 317  
**LG:** Mu'Tazz Lewis, Jr., 6-2, 184  
**C:** Corey Harden\*, Jr., 6-0, 270  
**RG:** Kenneth Ray III\*, Jr., 5-10, 304  
**RT:** Glen Larry IV\*, Sr., 6-3, 265  
**K:** Matthew Monah, Sr., 6-0, 180

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Isaiah Parker, So., 6-1, 220  
**DT:** Corey Harden, Jr., 6-0, 270  
**DT:** Kenneth Ray III\*, Jr., 5-10, 304  
**DE:** Glen Larry IV\*, Sr., 6-3, 265  
**LB:** David Williams\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**LB:** Lamour Barrett\*, Sr., 5-7, 240  
**Rover:** Chaz Brown, Jr., 5-9, 190  
**Dog:** Damari Williams, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**FS:** Matthew Monah, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**CB:** Terrance Williams\*, Jr., 5-5, 150  
**CB:** Tyrell Cloud, Jr., 5-8, 160  
**P:** Tyrell Cloud\*, Jr., 5-8, 160  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 15  
**Key reserves:** Damarr Harris, So., 5-9, 165, Kevin Powell, So., 5-10, 170, Israel Powers, So., 6-1, 180, Marlon Nesbitt Jr., So., 6-1, 165;



PATRICK HOPKINS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Brush's Tanelle Rose makes a cut against Kenston.

### Outlook

It's a whole new look for the Arcs as just three offensive linemen return and on defense only four starters are back. Yet Powers has been impressed with the work that he has seen up front during camp. The Arcs will also need to see the new faces in their receiving corps with the likes of Edward Flakes and Desmond Kelson to go with senior quarterback Dimario Ballom. The defense will be led by Glen Larry IV and linebacker duo Lamour Barrett and David Williams Jr. to lead the young defensive front, while junior Tyrel Williams will be called on to lead an inexperienced secondary.



Larry IV

### Player to watch

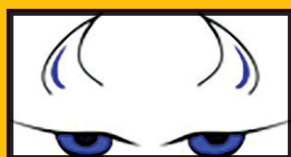
Junior Tanelle Rose put together a stellar sophomore campaign where he recorded 1,475 yards and 18 touchdowns. The Arcs hope to be able to rely on Rose while their receiving corps gets their legs under them.

**Underclassman to watch:** TJ Williams made an impression early in camp, having an on button that he refuses to flip to off. His willingness to do everything at maximum effort regardless of the drill is something that coaches took notice of.

### Bottom line

**If:** Both Arcs lines continue to take strides in the right direction; **THEN:** Another trip to the playoffs is possible.

— Ben Hercik



## GOOD LUCK IN THE 2022-2032 SEASON, BLUE DEVILS!

From, the Wickliffe Football Parents Club

Thank you to all of the booster patrons and members, for your support on behalf of our team, the schools and the community.

Follow us:

Facebook @WickliffeFootballParentsClub | Twitter #WFPC2022

GO WICK!





## Cardinal»Huskies

### Just the facts

**School:** Cardinal  
**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division VII, Region 21  
**Coach:** Chris Perrotti, second year (7-3)  
**2021:** 7-3  
**Twitter:** @CHS\_HUSKIES\_FB  
**Home field:** Richard A. Moss Field

### Schedule

**Aug. 19:** Cardinal at Garrettsville, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Pymatuning Valley at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Coventry at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Hawken at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Cardinal at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Beachwood at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Cardinal at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Crestwood at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Cardinal at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Logan Strever\*, Jr., 5-11, 165  
**RB:** Josh Soltis\*, Sr., 5-9, 170  
**WR:** Aiden Gallagher\*, Jr., 5-9, 150  
**WR:** Kyle Sinclair, Jr., 5-11, 180  
**WR:** Christian Cowle, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**WR:** Reese Soltis, So., 5-11, 165  
**LT:** Max Soltis\*, So., 6-2, 215  
**LG:** Ty Simms\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**C:** Trent Mooney, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**RG:** Cameron Dimos, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**RT:** Andrew Tucholski\*, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**K:** Landon Gallagher, Fr., 5-10, 140

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Josh Ripley\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**DL:** Max Soltis\*, So., 6-2, 215  
**DL:** Cameron Dimos, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**DL:** Andrew Tucholski\*, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**LB:** Aiden Cox, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**LB:** Neil Lucariello, Jr., 6-1, 220  
**LB:** Ty Simms, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**LB:** Kyle Sinclair, Jr., 5-11, 180  
**CB:** Christian Cowle\*, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**CB:** Troy Domen, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**S:** Reese Soltis, So., 5-11, 165  
**P:** Kyle Sinclair\*, Jr., 5-11, 180  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 11  
**Key reserves:** Troy Domen, Jr. 5-9, 170, Josh Ripley, Sr. 6-0, 170, Josh Soltis, Sr. 5-9, 170, Trent Mooney, Sr. 5-8, 165;  
**Best in the classroom:** Ethan Detweiler, 4.5;  
**Best bench press:** Max Soltis  
**Best squat:** Max Soltis  
**Best 40 time:** Kyle Sinclair



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Cardinal's Logan Strever carries during a 2021 game against Berkshire.

### Outlook

After a successful first year for head coach Chris Perrotti and the return of the Kinsman Cup to Middlefield, the Huskies look to continue their progression. They will have to do so with a new roster of skill position players on offense. Quarterback Logan Strever will see new faces in the backfield and on the outside of him but will have plenty of time to make decisions with an experienced offensive line in front of him. But the philosophy has changed up front, as they don't want to just play smashmouth football. Rather, they have a more diverse attack. Defensively, only four players return.

### Payer to watch

Aiden Gallagher is the lone returning receiver after Ethan Detweiler's injury. But Gallagher has emerged as a leader among the skill position players.

**Underclassman to watch:** Reese Soltis has stepped into Detweiler's position at safety after his injury while also a key on offense. His listening skills and ability to soak in information have been big in camp. Has worked his way into one of the starting receiver spots.

### Bottom Line:

**IF:** The young defense is able to keep games close for experienced offense; **THEN:** The Huskies could host another home playoff game.



Gallagher

— Ben Hercik

## Chagrin Falls»Tigers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Head coach:** John Scott, second year (5-5)  
**2021:** 5-5 (3-4)  
**Twitter:** @chagrinAD  
**Home field:** C.S. Harris Stadium

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Kenston at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 27:** Chagrin Falls at Trinity, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Brookside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Chagrin Falls at Perry, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Chagrin Falls at Orange, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Lakeside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Chagrin Falls at Edgewood, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** West Geauga at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Chagrin Falls at Geneva, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nicholas Vinci\*, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**RB:** Donny Hardy\*, Sr., 6-1, 195  
**WR:** Jackson Beavers, Sr., 6-3, 180  
**WR:** Drew Zelch, So., 5-8, 155  
**WR:** Spencer Kaas, So., 6-1, 165  
**TE:** Aiden Beresford, Jr., 6-4, 175  
**LT:** Sam Stauffer, Sr., 6-1, 235  
**LG:** Tyler Saccone, Jr., 5-8, 175  
**C:** Luke Cornell\*, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**RG:** Clayton Briggs, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**RT:** Parker Courtright, So., 5-11, 250  
**K:** Ben Cowan, Jr., 5-9, 155

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Dylan Babic, Jr., 6-1, 210  
**NT:** Tristan Norton, Sr., 6-1, 215  
**DE:** Johannes Rohr, So., 5-10, 185  
**OLB:** Luke Munday, Sr., 5-11, 150  
**ILB:** Charlie Frederick, Sr., 5-10, 160  
**ILB:** Grant Sellars\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**OLB:** Sean McKee, So., 5-11, 170  
**CB:** Julian Hink\*, Sr., 5-8, 140  
**CB:** Michael Moissis\*, Sr., 6-0, 165  
**S:** Grant Alberts\*, Jr., 6-3, 170  
**S:** Cole Ducas, So., 6-2, 170  
**P:** Donny Hardy, Sr., 6-1, 195  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12  
**Key reserves:** WR Jack Gaizutis, Sr., 6-0, 155, OL Mason Hart, So., 5-11, 255, DL Jake Evans, So., 6-1, 200, DB Brandon Castelluccio, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**Best in the classroom:** Sean McKee 4.278 GPA, Duncan Scott 4.123, Luke Neimeier 4.062, Aiden Beresford 3.963, Johannes Rohr 3.929  
**Best bench press:** Donny Hardy, 275 pounds  
**Best squat:** Donny Hardy, 485  
**Best 40 time:** Donny Hardy, 4.59 seconds



FRANK GAMBATESE — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chagrin Falls' Julian Hink looks upfield during a 2021 game against West Geauga.

### Outlook

The Tigers want to be a playoff contender after a .500 campaign that left them one spot out in 2021. They'll have to do so with one of the younger and smaller-sized groups they've had in recent memory. Scott is bullish on his sophomore class, which will garner more reps this fall, and Vinci, Hardy and a seasoned secondary are also building blocks.

### Player to watch

Donny Hardy, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound senior, is the epitome of "the man" for Chagrin. He rushed for over 1,000 yards and caught 20 passes last fall and will be a focal point again offensively.

**Underclassman to watch:** Scott believes he has a "true leader" for the present and future in S Grant Alberts, a 6-3, 170-pound junior.

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Tigers can regularly get Hardy out in space and the underclassmen develop; **THEN:** an above-.500 season in the playoff hunt is doable.



Hardy

— Chris Lillstrung



# V

## GO VIKINGS!

Good luck this season!

@VASJHighSchool

vasj.com



## Chardon»Hilltoppers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9

**Coach:** Mitch Hewitt, 12th year (98-31)

**Twitter:** @topperfb

**2021:** 16-0

**Home field:** Chardon Memorial Field

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**

**Aug. 19:** Olmsted Falls at Chardon, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 27:** Chardon vs. Camden (N.J.) at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, 5 p.m.

**Sept. 3:** First Baptist (Fla.) at Chardon, 3:30 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Chardon at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Mayfield at Chardon, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Chardon at Kenston, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** OPEN

**Oct. 7:** Chardon at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** South at Chardon, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Chardon at North, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Alex Henry\* Sr., 6-3, 195

**RB:** Daniel Pettyjohn\* Sr., 5-11, 210

**RB:** Zach Fay, Sr., 6-0, 200

**RB:** Drago Vujaklija, Jr., 5-10, 168

**TE:** Charlie Brock, Jr., 6-0, 202

**SE:** Zach Hoenigman, Jr., 6-0, 170

**LT:** Colin Youdath, Jr., 6-0, 221

**LG:** Tredell Graves, So., 6-2, 221

**C:** Dylan Jenkins, Sr., 6-2, 270

**RG:** Mark Hall, So., 6-3, 240

**RT:** Logan Bryant, Jr., 6-0, 255

**K:** Joseph Evans, Sr., 6-0, 160

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Alex Kiskey\* Sr., 6-3, 229

**DT:** Cooper Felger\* Sr., 6-1, 240

**DT:** Ayden Smith, Sr., 6-0, 215

**LB:** Heath Fetchik\* Sr., 6-0, 204

**LB:** Mario Tolo, Jr., 6-1, 203

**LB:** Austin Leszynski, Jr., 6-3, 211

**LB:** Kenny Frihauf, Jr., 6-3, 203

**DB:** Caleb Hewitt, So., 5-10, 160

**DB:** Trey Liebhardt\* Sr., 6-0, 180

**DB:** Andrew Bruce\*, Jr., 6-0, 174

**DB:** Leo Colombi\* Jr., 6-4, 192

**P:** Joseph Evans, Sr., Sr., 6-0, 160

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 22

**Key reserves:** Robert Vunderink, Sr., 5-11, 210,

Will Francis, Jr., 5-9, 160, Vinny Colombi, So.,

5-10, 178, Andrew Baggott, Fr., 6-3, 240, Derek

Galinac, Jr., 5-10, 160

**Best in the classroom:** Charlie Brock, 4.0 GPA

**Best bench press:** Cooper Felger 330 pounds

**Best squat:** Logan Bryant 545 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Caleb Hewitt 4.6 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Alex Henry passes during a scrimmage at Mentor.

### Outlook

Chardon enters the season with a 28-game winning streak and two straight state titles. Many starters return, but it's still a young team with only four seniors among its 90 players in grades 10-12. Six starters return on defense, the linchpin to Chardon's success. The defensive backfield is the area's best. QB Alex Henry is a potential 1,000-1,000 player this year. The stable of backs behind him is impressive and deep. Chardon has to replace four graduated offensive linemen.

### Player to watch

Senior quarterback Alex Henry has the size, skill set and experience to be an All-Ohio player this year. He's big and physical and can run away from defenders in the open field. His decision-making in Chardon's complex, run offense is paramount to the Hilltoppers' success.

**Underclassman to watch:** Safety Leo Colombi burst onto the scene last year as one of the state's best defensive backs. He is great at tracking the ball for interceptions and packs a punch while tackling.



Colombi

### Bottom line

**IF:** The young offensive line grows up quickly; **THEN:** The Hilltoppers could make another run at the state title.

— John Kampf

## Euclid»Panthers

### Just the facts

**School:** Euclid

**Conference:** GCC

**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1

**Coach:** Robert Andrews, first year

**2021:** 0-10

**Twitter:** @EUCFOOTBALL

**Home field:** Euclid Community Stadium

### Schedule

**Aug. 19:** Aurora at Euclid, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Euclid at Hudson, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Massillon Perry at Euclid, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 10:** Euclid at St. Ignatius, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Euclid at Brunswick, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Medina at Euclid, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Erie (Pa.) at Euclid, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Strongsville at Euclid, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Euclid at Solon, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Mentor at Euclid, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Daemari Robinson, Sr., 6-2, 215

**RB:** Amaru Rand\*, Sr., 5-10, 210

**WR:** Jamall Jefferson Jr., Jr., 6-0, 173

**WR:** Richard Buchannon, Sr., 5-7, 150

**WR:** Isaih Mock, Sr., 5-10, 160

**WR:** Marckez Eades, Sr., 6-0, 170

**TE/FB:** Ryan Merrill, Sr., 5-11, 215

**LT:** Chase Smith\*, Sr., 6-2, 260

**LG:** Jaylin Turner, Sr., 6-1, 280

**C:** Deshawn Wiggins, Sr. 5-10, 260

**RG:** Brandon Parker, Jr., 6-2, 250

**RT:** Myshaun Turner\*, Sr., 6-6, 290

**K:** Charles Atwell, Jr. 5-10, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Chase Smith, Sr., 6-2, 260

**DL:** Mekhi Sikes, Sr., 6-2, 240

**DL:** Nylan Thompson, Jr., 6-3, 210

**LB:** Ryan Merrill, Sr., 5-11, 215

**LB:** Taevon Meredith, Jr., 5-10, 180

**OLB/S:** Amaru Rand, Sr., 5-10, 200

**FS:** Isaih Mock, Sr., 5-10, 160

**CB:** Marckez Eades, Sr., 6-0, 160

**S:** Jamal Jefferson Jr., Jr., 6-0, 173

**S:** Malachi Solomon, Sr. 6-2, 235

**P:** Dray Fazl, Jr., 6-0, 235



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Euclid's Amaru Rand makes a tackle against Cleveland Heights in 2021.

### Outlook

It's a new regime at Euclid for this season as Robert Andrews is the new head coach. With a schedule that includes eight playoff teams from a season ago, they will need the experience from the likes of Myshaun Turner on the offensive line. Turner currently hold multiple college offers. Multiple different skill players are expected to split time and the defense is led by Ryan Merrill, and with a young secondary behind him, will be asked to do a little bit of everything for the defense.

### Payer to watch

Senior tight end/linebacker Merrill has reshaped himself in the offseason. He has been arriving multiple hours early to practice to put in extra work and will once again be the anchor of the defense.

**Underclassman to watch:** Jamal Jefferson has slotted in well to one of the cornerback slots on defense. With experience around him, Jefferson is expected to be able to handle add to a skilled secondary.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Players continue to buy into new culture and rely on veteran leadership, **THEN:** The Panthers will factor more into the playoff picture.



Merrill

— Ben Hercik

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

**SMITH BROTHERS FALL SALE 8/17 - 8/31!**

**FULLER**  
FLOORING & DESIGN

Carpet ~ Hardwood ~ Tile  
Laminate ~ Luxury Vinyl  
Area Rugs ~ Furniture

38028 Third Street, Willoughby  
440.942.1288

**SALE ON ALL CUSTOM ORDERS AND FLOOR SAMPLES!**

SMITH BROTHERS  
OF BERNE

*Your style  
fabric or leather*



## Fairport»Skippers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** NAC

**OHSAA:** Division VII, Region 25

**Head coach:** Tim Glodowski, second year (3-5)

**2021:** 3-5 (2-2)

**Twitter:** @SkippersFB

**Home field:** Greig Field

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**

**Aug. 19:** Akron North at Fairport, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Lisbon Anderson at Fairport, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Fairport at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Wickliffe at Fairport, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Fairport vs. North Central at Fremont Ross, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Fairport at Pymatuning Valley, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Vienna Mathews at Fairport, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Fairport at Windham, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Fairport at St. John, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** St. John at Fairport, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Gabe Lawson\*, Sr., 5-11, 185

**RB:** Maverick Piotrowski\*, Jr., 6-2, 210

**RB:** James Gadomski\*, Jr., 6-1, 175

**FB:** Zak Hambor\*, Sr., 5-9, 175

**TE:** Josh Parsons\*, Jr., 6-5, 215

**TE:** Michael Hess\*, Jr., 6-0, 190

**LT:** D.J. Dambolena, Fr., 6-1, 250

**LG:** Colin Lafaye\*, So., 5-9, 225

**C:** Will Fazekas\*, Sr., 6-2, 270

**RG:** Trey Vaughan, Fr., 5-6, 150

**RT:** Jake Stead, So., 6-2, 245

**K:** Zane Malkamaki\*, Sr., 5-10, 160

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Colin Lafaye, So., 5-9, 225

**DT:** D.J. Dambolena, Fr., 6-1, 250

**DT:** Jake Stead, So., 6-2, 245

**DE:** Will Fazekas\*, Sr., 6-3, 270

**LB:** Maverick Piotrowski\*, Jr., 6-2, 210

**LB:** Josh Parsons\*, Jr., 6-5, 215

**LB:** Zak Hambor\*, Sr., 5-9, 175

**LB:** Dimari Payne, Sr., 6-2, 190

**DB:** Jeremy Sundman\*, Sr., 5-11, 150

**DB:** James Gadomski\*, Jr., 6-1, 175

**DB:** Zane Malkamaki\*, Sr., 5-10, 160

**P:** Maverick Piotrowski\*, Jr., 6-2, 210

\*: returning starter

**Key reserves:** Kevin Castellano, Jr., 5-5, 140

**Best in the classroom:** Will Fazekas

**Best bench press:** Jake Stead, 245 pounds

**Best squat:** Will Fazekas, 405

**Best 40 time:** Maverick Piotrowski, 4.70 seconds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS HERALD

Fairport huddles during its Aug. 12 scrimmage against Oberlin.

### Outlook

As opposed to this time last fall, all is quiet and stable at "The Port," which is a plus. The scenario is similar to 2021 with depth, with eight two-way starters and having a roster around 15. But it's clear this group has great camaraderie and has emphasized conditioning to prepare for the rigors of the fall.

### Player to watch

Will Fazekas, a 6-foot-3, 270-pound senior, will anchor both lines as a C/DE. Glodowski raves about his value. Having played QB previously shows his athleticism.

**Underclassman to watch:** Maverick Piotrowski, an affable 6-2, 210-pound junior, will be vital as a bellcow RB and active LB.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Skippers' eight two-way starters remain healthy; **THEN:** Making a run back toward .500 and pushing for the playoffs in an expanded Region 25 is achievable.

— Chris Lillstrung



Fazekas



Piotrowski

## Geneva»Eagles

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9

**Coach:** Don Shymske, first year

**Twitter:** @FbGeneva

**2021:** 3-7

**Home field:** SPIRE Institute

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**

**Aug. 19:** Madison at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Geneva at Struthers, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Geneva at New Middletown Springfield, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Lakeside at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Geneva at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Geneva at Orange, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Edgewood at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Geneva at West Geauga, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 13:** Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Chagrin Falls at Geneva, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Kenny Young, Jr., 6-1, 155

**FB:** Jacob Wilson, Sr., 6-0, 205

**RB:** Luke Smith\* Jr., 6-1, 175

**RB:** Hayden Diemer, So., 6-1, 175

**SE:** Luke Barbo, So., 6-0, 175

**LT:** John Alley\* Jr., 6-3, 305

**LG:** John Haeseler\* Sr., 5-11, 215

**C:** Matt Hoover, Sr., 5-9, 205

**RG:** Jason Thrower, Jr., 5-10, 250

**RT:** Jackson Furlan\* Jr., 5-9, 320

**K:** Owen Pfeifer, Jr., 5-11, 160

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Jake Wilson\* Sr., 6-0, 205

**DT:** Kenny Pavlisin, Jr., 6-1, 195

**DT:** Jason Thrower, Jr., 5-10, 250

**DE:** John Haeseler\* Sr., 5-11, 215

**OLB:** Matt Wright\* Jr., 5-10, 180

**ILB:** Logan Queen\* Jr., 6-1, 160

**ILB:** Bryce Peet, Fr., 5-10, 195

**OLB:** Hayden Diemer, So., 6-1, 175

**CB:** Will Torres-Mook, Sr., 5-9, 155

**CB:** Kenny Young\* Jr., 6-1, 155

**S:** Luke Smith\* Jr., 6-1, 175

**P:** Kenny Young, Jr., 6-1, 155

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 10

**Key reserves:** Giovanni Rice, Jr., 5-9, 150

**Best in the classroom:** Jackson Furlan, 4.0

GPA, Owen Pfeifer 4.0, Logan Queen 4.0, Luke Smith 4.0

**Best bench press:** Johnny Haeseler 300

pounds

**Best squat:** Giovanni Rice 4.6 seconds

**Best 40 time:** Jackson Furlan 510 pounds



# Geneva Eagles

### Outlook

There are a lot of new faces on the team including at head coach, where Don Shymske takes over his alma mater's reins. The depth and athleticism at the skill positions is prolific. QB Kenny Young is an athletic playmaker, and the Wing-T offense will have plenty of backs to run with the ball. The depth on the lines is a concern, but there is good size and experience to lean upon there. The front seven on defense should be a team strength.

### Player to watch

Johnny Haeseler is a returning starter who will anchor both the offensive and defensive lines. He's extraordinarily strong and has good footwork, which makes him dangerous on both sides of the ball.

**Underclassman to watch:** Luke Smith is back at running back and safety. The Wing-T offense means lots of carries. This is his year to shine.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The offensive and defensive lines can hold their own; **THEN:** The Eagles have the talent and skill to run the ball and wear down teams.



Haeseler



Smith

— John Kampf

**FORGING HIS OWN PATH TO SUCCESS.**

**UNIVERSITY SCHOOL**



## Harvey»Red Raiders

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Mick Mohner, third year (9-11)  
**2021:** 5-5 (3-2)  
**Twitter:** @GooooooRaiders  
**Home field:** Jack Britt Memorial Stadium

### Schedule

#### (Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Kirtland at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Harvey at Jefferson, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Harvey at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Harvey at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Cardinal at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Harvey at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Youngs. Chaney at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Berkshire at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Lutheran West at Harvey, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Cavon Wise, Jr., 6-1, 190  
**RB:** Blaise Collins\*, Sr., 6-1, 193  
**RB:** Shahn Alston, Fr., 5-10, 196  
**WR:** Tyshawn Vance\*, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**WR:** Davon Badley\*, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**WR:** Antonio Soto-Rodriguez, So., 5-8, 150  
**LT:** Anthony Albritton\*, Sr., 5-11, 260  
**LG:** Christian Cowlin, Jr., 6-3, 250  
**C:** Zhavier Nurse\*, Jr., 6-1, 310  
**RG:** Conner Zadrozny\*, Sr., 5-8, 225  
**RT:** Prentice Edwards, So., 6-3, 235  
**K:** Antonio Soto-Rodriguez\*, Sr., 5-8, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Kaleb Puckett\*, Sr., 5-9, 230  
**DL:** Forrest Smart\*, Sr., 5-10, 285  
**DE:** Amarey Bouldin, Jr., 5-11, 230  
**LB:** Davon Badley\*, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**LB:** Shahn Alston, Fr., 5-10, 196  
**LB:** Levi Mullen, So., 5-8, 160  
**LB:** Chris Burt, Fr., 5-6, 175  
**CB:** Mareon Jackson, Jr., 6-1, 160  
**CB:** Solomon Gaston\*, Jr., 5-10, 150  
**FS:** Tyshawn Vance\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**SS:** Trent Hull, So., 6-2, 165  
**P:** Davon Badley\*, Jr., 6-1, 195  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 19  
**Key reserves:** Chase Goines, Fr., 6-0, 150, Ish Jackson, So., 5-6, 150, Katory Shaw\*, Jr., 6-0, 165, Avion Gaines\*, Jr., 5-9, 180, Tyree Alston\*, Sr., 5-10, 240, Ethen Eudell, Fr., 6-2, 155  
**Best in the classroom:** Edson Pacheco, 4.31 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Forrest Smart, 315 pounds  
**Best squat:** Kaleb Puckett, 575  
**Best 40 time:** Shahn Alston, 4.55 seconds

### Outlook

The Red Raiders took a notable step in 2021 in their program reclamation project with a .500 campaign that was agonizingly close to being better, with three one-possession losses. This group is an intriguing mix of experience, offensive play-making diversity, size and youth that could yield more progress in 2022. Harvey is hungry to turn the proverbial corner — perhaps this is the year.

### Player to watch

Blaise Collins, a 6-foot-1, 193-pound senior, is going to be a workhorse RB, the performer to whom Mohner would turn and get “go run” trust if key yards are required.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Solomon Gaston (5-10, 150) has impressed Mohner as a vocal leader and with his growth over the last two seasons.

### Bottom line

**IF:** This group takes ownership over its present and future and finds its way in close games vs. 2021;  
**THEN:** Harvey’s first seven-win campaign since 1994 is doable, which would be transformative for the program.

— Chris Lillstrung



BARRY BOOHER —  
FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Harvey’s Blaise Collins carries during a 2021 game against Wickliffe.



Collins

## Hawken»Hawks

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Coach:** Mark Iammarino, first year  
**Twitter:** @HawkenFootball  
**2021:** 5-6  
**Home field:** Walton Stadium

### Schedule

#### (Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Trinity at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Hawken at Chippewa, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Gilmour at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Hawken at Cardinal, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Grand Valley at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Hawken at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Beachwood at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Hawken at Crestwood, 7 p.m..

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Lucas Brandt, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**RB:** Dom Johnson\* Sr., 5-6, 155  
**RB:** Jordan Johnson, So., 5-8, 150  
**RB:** Luke Mangini\*, Jr., 6-0, 200  
**WR:** Julian Javoris, So., 6-0, 180  
**WR:** Ryan Whiting, So., 5-9, 140  
**LT:** Jackson Hedin, So., 6-4, 230  
**LG:** Chris Shea\* Sr., 6-1, 235  
**C:** Louie Justice\* Sr., 6-6, 265  
**RG:** Tyler Gipson\* Sr., 6-3, 300  
**RT:** Manan Raina, So., 6-2, 215  
**K:** Julian Javoris, So., 6-0, 180

#### DEFENSE

**DT:** Jack Bellar, Jr., 6-0, 215  
**NT:** Tyler Gipson\* Sr., 6-3, 300  
**DT:** Matt Young, So., 6-3, 250  
**LB:** Luke Mangini\* Jr., 6-0, 200  
**LB:** Chris Shea\* Sr., 6-1, 230  
**LB:** Paxton Laschinger, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**CB:** Julian Javoris, So., 6-0, 180  
**CB:** Ryan Whiting, So., 5-9, 140  
**S:** Lucas Brandt, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**S:** Jordan Johnson, So., 5-8, 150  
**S:** Dom Johnson\* Sr., 5-6, 160  
**P:** Julian Javoris, So., 6-0, 180  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** N/A  
**Key reserves:** Danny Grajzl, Sr., 5-11, 170, Will Greenberg, So., 6-0, 280



SUBMITTED

Hawken’s football team is under the direction of first-year coach Mark Iammarino, formerly of Chagrin Falls.

### Outlook

First-year coach Mark Iammarino has a nice blend of experience to go with a very talented sophomore class. Keep an eye on the Johnson brothers — senior Dom and sophomore Jordan. They could have huge years running the ball in the ground-oriented offense. New QB Lucas Brandt has a very good arm to keep defenses honest in the passing game. Defensively, the strength is the linebacker corps, led by senior Chris Shea. The lines should be a strength also.

### Player to watch

Dominic Johnson can flat-out fly. The senior running back is coming off a 1,000-yard season last year and with a big, experienced line in front of him, he could do even more damage this season.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior linebacker Luke Mangini is a hammer of a hitter in the middle of the defense at linebacker. He can also add a power punch at running back.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The sophomores grow up quickly;  
**THEN:** The Hawks very well could win the CVC Valley title.



Johnson



Mangini

— John Kampf



Each year, University School awards ten fully-funded, four-year scholarships, regardless of family income, to students entering the ninth grade.

The application process is now open for boys entering the ninth grade in fall 2023 at [www.us.edu/jarvis](http://www.us.edu/jarvis).





## Gilmour»Lancers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Independent  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Tommy Zagorski, first year  
**2021:** 7-3  
**Twitter:** @GALancerAD  
**Home field:** Weber Stadium

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Rhodes at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Gilmour at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Gilmour at Hawken, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Gilmour at NDCL, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Cardinal Stritch at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 24:** Gilmour at University, 2 p.m.  
**Oct. 1:** Gilmour at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Gilmour at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Shaw at Gilmour, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Lutheran East at Gilmour, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jake Kavcic\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**RB:** Andy Kavcic\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**Y:** Will Lazzaro, Sr., 6-4, 230  
**H:** Tommy McCrone\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**Z:** Jesse Shepherd\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**X:** Sean Dillard, So., 6-1, 185  
**LT:** Paul Keibler, Sr., 6-4, 260  
**LG:** Griffin Johnson\*, Sr., 6-0, 220  
**C:** Nick Speyer\*, Jr., 6-0, 210  
**RG:** Louka Babic\*, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**RT:** Hunter Sebulsky\*, Sr., 6-1, 245  
**K:** TBD

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Aaron McCarter, So., 6-0, 215  
**DT:** Hunter Sebulsky\*, Sr., 6-1, 245  
**DT:** Brody Lennon, So., 6-4, 220  
**DE:** Aiden McNamara, So., 6-1, 190  
**LB:** Alex Melaragno, Jr., 6-2, 220  
**LB:** Rocco Hice\*, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**Nickel:** Andy Kavcic\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**CB:** Bray Green\*, Jr., 6-1, 170  
**CB:** Darrion Clark, So., 6-1, 170  
**FS:** Jake Kavcic\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**SS:** Lars Broberg, So., 6-1, 160  
**P:** Andy Kavcic\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 20  
**Key reserves:** Quinn Cavanaugh, So., 5-10, 180, Matt Lambert, So., 5-11, 160



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Gilmour's Jake Kavcic eludes pressure during a 2021 game against Girard.

### Outlook

Aspiration should be bold in Gates Mills coming off a seven-win campaign, in Year 1 under Zagorski with no dearth of returnees and night home football for the first time. The Kavcic brothers are the building block with their two-way efficiency and production. The size and experience on the offensive line, along with the athleticism on defense, is encouraging.

### Player to watch

QB/FS Jake Kavcic, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound junior and returning second-team News-Herald honoree, accounted for 1,700 yards from scrimmage and 23 TDs last fall. Improvements in both could be in the offing for this workhorse.

**Underclassman to watch:** Zagorski lauds Sean Dillard, a 6-1, 185-pound sophomore, for his ball skill and potential invaluable contribution in all three facets.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Kavcics stay healthy and the defense is as active as it appears it could be, **THEN:** Another season around 7-3 or better challenging for a home playoff game is doable for this talented group.

— Chris Lillstrung



Kavcic

## Kenston»Bombers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Coach:** Jeff Grubich, 11th year (71-39)  
**Twitter:** @Bomber\_Football  
**2021:** 11-2  
**Home field:** Bomber Stadium

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Kenston at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** NDCL at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** North at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 17:** Kenston at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Chardon at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Madison at Kenston, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Kenston at South, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Kenston at Riverside, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Mayfield at Kenston, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nikko Georgiou\* Sr., 6-1, 190  
**RB:** Sean Patrick, Jr., 5-9, 185  
**WR:** Thomas O'Brien, Sr., 6-3, 185  
**WR:** Jimmy Richmond, Jr., 5-11, 175  
**WR:** Tymir Cardona, So., 5-7, 155  
**TE:** Brandon Bell\* Jr., 5-10, 180  
**LT:** Sean Doyle\* Jr., 6-1, 295  
**LG:** Leo DeLuca, Sr., 5-10, 275  
**C:** Ben Burlinghaus, Jr., 5-10, 210  
**RG:** Ethan Ballantyne, So., 6-2, 250  
**RT:** Luke Leygraff\* Sr., 6-4, 250  
**K:** Parker Munday\* Sr., 5-8, 155

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Sam Meeks, So., 5-10, 190  
**DL:** Jack Novak\* Sr., 5-10, 185  
**DL:** David Clossin\* Sr., 6-0, 210  
**OLB:** Charlie Kress\* Sr., 6-0, 195  
**ILB:** Ben DiMarco\* Sr., 5-10, 195  
**ILB:** Josh Hallen, Jr., 5-10, 205  
**OLB:** Ashton Kolenic\* Jr., 5-10, 180  
**DB:** Tyler Schurr\* Sr., 5-11, 180  
**DB:** Logan Toft\* Sr., 5-10, 185  
**DB:** Charlie Thompson, So., 5-10, 165  
**DB:** Jeremy Hajdu\* Jr., 5-10, 185  
**P:** Nikko Georgiou\* Sr., 6-1, 190  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 20  
**Key reserves:** Colin Weiland, Fr., 5-8, 185, Z'yar Scott, So., 5-8, 165, Max Robarge, Jr., 5-8, 205, Cohen Clark, So., 5-10, 175  
**Best bench press:** Sean Doyle 410 pounds  
**Best squat:** Sean Doyle 500 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Tymir Cardona 4.6 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Coach Jeff Grubich gives direction during the Bombers' scrimmage with Mentor on Aug. 6.

### Outlook

For as injury-riddled as the team was last season, 11-2 was quite a year for the Bombers. Getting QB Nikko Georgiou back healthy this year is a biggie. The skill around him is very good, but inexperienced. The offensive line's depth is a concern for Coach Jeff Grubich, but looked formidable in scrimmages. The defense is anchored by hard-hitting linebacker Ben DiMarco, who is quick and physical. With eight starters returning on that side of the ball, defense should be the strength.

### Player to watch

Nikko Georgiou missed most of last season with a broken hand. That injury changed the Bombers' offensive game plan immensely. Georgiou is a very good dual-threat quarterback who can get the ball downfield with his arm and also pile up the rushing yards.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sean Doyle is only a junior, but he has loads of experience anchoring both the offensive and defensive line. He plays with a hard-nosed disposition and dominates the players across from him.



Doyle

### Bottom line

**IF:** The question marks on the lines are shored up; **THEN:** The Bombers have the talent to contend for the WRC and make a playoff run again.

— John Kampf



**Chardon Smile Center  
VOTED THE  
BEST  
of the Best**

**2019, 2020,  
2021 & 2022**

# We are currently accepting ALL new patients

**Chardon Smile Center • (440) 286-2474**  
**Painesville Dental Group • (440) 354-2183**  
**Hilltop Family Dental • (440) 285-8211**  
**Dental Group of Jefferson • (440) 576-7040**  
[painesvilledentalgroup.com](http://painesvilledentalgroup.com)

**Zoom in Office Teeth Whitening**  
 \* AT Home Teeth Whitening  
 \* Clear Braces For Adults  
 \* Botox/Dysport & Filler Veneers  
 \* Cosmetic Bonding



## Kirtland»Hornets

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 21

**Coach:** Tiger LaVerde, 17th year (199-18)

**Twitter:** @kirtlandsports

**2021:** 14-1

**Home field:** Rogers Field

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Kirtland at Harvey, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Lutheran West at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Beachwood at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Kirtland at West Geauga, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Geneva at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Kirtland at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Kirtland at Edgwood, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Orange at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Luke Chuko, Sr., 5-11, 175

**RB:** Tommy Gogolin\* Sr., 5-8, 170

**RB:** Philip LaVerde\* Sr., 5-10, 190

**RB:** Rocco Alfieri, Jr., 5-10, 185

**TE:** Adam Knaak\* Sr., 6-1, 225

**WR:** Will Sayle, Jr., 5-11, 170

**LT:** Joey Pekar\* Sr., 6-0, 210

**LG:** George Prusock\* Sr., 6-1, 235

**C:** Matthew Kahley, So., 5-11, 225

**RG:** Brady Burich, Jr., 5-10, 215

**RT:** Casey Carkhoff, So., 5-11, 195

**K:** Nick Barisic, Jr., 6-0, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Danny Alfieri\* So., 6-1, 200

**DL:** Daven Patel\* Sr., 6-0, 180

**DL:** Mitch Carestio, Sr., 5-11, 180

**DL:** Will Bates, Jr., 5-9, 185

**LB:** Philip LaVerde\* Sr., 5-10, 190

**LB:** Rocco Alfieri, Jr., 5-10, 185

**LB:** Macguire Boyd\* Jr., 6-0, 215

**LB:** Bobby Whittaker, Sr., 6-0, 190

**DB:** Gino Blasini\* Jr., 6-2, 195

**DB:** Will Sayle\* Jr., 6-0, 170

**DB:** Tommy Gogolin\* Sr., 5-8, 170

**P:** Rocco Alfieri, Jr., 5-10, 185

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 21

**Key reserves:** Jake LaVerde, Fr., 5-11, 180, Will Beers, Jr., 5-11, 175

**Best in the classroom:** Bobby Whittaker, 4.5 GPA, Philip LaVerde 4.5

**Best bench press:** George Prusock 335 pounds

**Best squat:** Matthew Kahley 510 pounds

**Best 40:** Tommy Gogolin 4.60 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland tested itself against Strongsville, North, Ridgewood and Poland in scrimmages.

### Outlook

Coming off a 20-16 loss to Versailles, Kirtland is motivated. There are a lot of returning starters on both sides of the ball. As usual, the Hornets will look to pound teams with their punishing running game. The lines on both sides lack the size of previous years, but they're strong and physical. The QB position could see both senior Luke Chuko and freshman Jake LaVerde get action this year.

### Player to watch

George Prusock is a two-time, first-team All-Ohioan and he is back to anchor the offensive line. He's a freakishly strong athlete with tremendous footwork. Don't be shocked to see him on defense, too.

**Underclassman to watch:** Rocco Alfieri will do it all this year as a up-back on offense, linebacker on defense and as the team's punter.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Hornets stay healthy, especially on the offensive line; **THEN:** Kirtland should make another run at a state championship.



Prusock III

— John Kampf

## Lake Catholic»Cougars

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Crown

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13

**Head coach:** Marty Gibbons, fourth year (13-18)

**2021:** 1-9 (0-4)

**Twitter:** @LCCougarFB

**Home field:** Jerome T. Osborne Sr. Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change; home games at Mentor unless noted)

**Aug. 20:** Dover at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 27:** Lake Catholic at Card. Mooney, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 3:** Buchtel at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 10:** Erie (Pa.) at Lake Catholic (on Lake campus), 1 p.m.

**Sept. 17:** Kenston at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Padua at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Lake Catholic at Canton CC, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Lake Catholic at Walsh Jesuit, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 15:** VASJ at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Lake Catholic at NDCL, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Frankie Trinetti, So., 6-1, 170

**TB:** Greg Thomas, Jr., 5-11, 180

**WR:** Aidan Fitzgerald\*, Sr., 6-4, 190

**WR:** Nick Brandt\*, Sr., 5-10, 175

**WR:** Jimmy Rhodes, Jr., 5-8, 150

**TE:** T.J. Gibbons, Sr., 6-2, 185

**LT:** Frank Bares\*, Sr., 6-2, 240

**LG:** Nathan Zappitelli, Fr., 6-3, 220

**C:** Greg Bares\*, Jr., 6-0, 230

**RG:** Wyatt Kaufman, Jr., 6-0, 230

**RT:** Nick Pisano\*, Sr., 6-1, 250

**K:** TBD

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** D.J. Sears, So., 6-2, 220

**DT:** Luke Richards, Jr., 5-10, 190

**DT:** Nick Pisano\*, Sr., 6-1, 250

**DE:** Cross Nimmo, So., 6-5, 200

**ILB:** Johnny Smeltzer\*, Sr., 5-11, 190

**ILB:** Carter Cantrell, Sr., 5-9, 200

**Nickel:** T.J. Gibbons\*, Sr., 6-2, 185

**CB:** Damen Kelly\*, Sr., 5-10, 165

**CB:** Danny Malchesky, Sr., 5-11, 175

**FS:** Patrick Radigan, So., 5-11, 160

**SS:** Josh Styles\*, Jr., 5-10, 185

**P:** Patrick Radigan, So., 5-11, 160

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12

**Key reserves:** Chris Vanjo, Jr., 5-10, 210, Jimmy Gibbons, So., 6-1, 175

**Best in the classroom:** Nick Brandt 3.56 GPA

**Best bench press:** Nick Pisano

**Best squat:** Nick Pisano

**Best 40 time:** Greg Thomas



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic's Gregory Thomas carries during a 2021 game against Padua.

### Outlook

The Lake Catholic standard was indisputably not met in 2021 with a 1-9 season — there were moments, though, with tight losses to powerful Erie McDowell and Kenston that showed capability. The energy in turn to get back to the Cougars' lofty standard is palpable. It's a new-look group, arguably unusually youth-laden for Lake, but one with options, talent and upward trajectory potential.

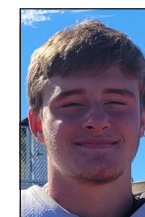
### Player to watch

Among a team with 97% multi-sport student-athletes, one of the best is undoubtedly senior WR Aidan Fitzgerald. At 6-foot-4, he'll provide a big, athletic target, especially in the red zone.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior RB Greg Thomas (5-11, 180) saw varsity time as a sophomore, and Gibbons has been pleased with the strides he has made.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Cougars can instill some confidence early on both sides of the ball with a younger group; **THEN:** At least .500 and a playoff return amid a tough schedule is not out of the question.



Fitzgerald

— Chris Lillstrung



## ALBRECHT FAMILY DENTISTRY

We perform all types of dentistry for all ages.  
**Emergencies Welcome!**

Weekday, Evenings & Saturday Appointments

Rusty M. Albrecht, D.D.S. • Lundon R. Albrecht, D.D.S.  
Chandice A. Richards, D.D.S.  
*Welcoming New Patients*

## Now Placing Dental Implants

### Need a Dentist?

*Our Dental Family would be honored to serve your Family.*

**Call today for an appointment**  
**(440) 358-0495**

9659 Old Johnnycake Ridge Rd. Mentor (behind Lowes)  
Visit us at: [www.albrechtdental.com](http://www.albrechtdental.com)



## Madison»Blue Streaks

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9

**Coach:** Mike Gilligan, third year (1-17)

**Twitter:** @MadFootball212

**2021:** 1-9

**Home field:** Dick Hamblin Field

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Madison at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Lakeside at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Perry at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Madison at South, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Madison at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** North at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Madison at Kenston, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Chardon at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Madison at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Garfield Heights at Madison, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Carson Alley\* Jr., 5-7, 175  
**RB:** Bryant Perkins\* Jr., 5-10, 210  
**RB:** Sonny Salajcik, Jr., 5-9, 175  
**WR:** Ben Amos, So., 6-2, 160  
**WR:** Chase Martin\* Sr., 6-0, 210  
**TE:** Noah Barnes\* Jr., 6-1, 205  
**LT:** Joey Sanchez, Jr., 6-2, 210  
**LG:** Jackson George, So., 5-10, 210  
**C:** Nick Moretti\* Jr., 5-11, 205  
**RG:** Andrew Molnar\* Sr., 5-10, 210  
**RT:** Drew Laurie\* Sr., 6-1, 245  
**K:** Gavin Svagerko\* Sr., 5-11, 170

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Joey Sanchez\* Jr., 6-2, 210  
**DL:** Kodey Quiggle\* Jr., 6-0, 240  
**DL:** Demetrius Williams, Jr., 5-11, 190  
**DL:** Drew Laurie, Sr., 6-1, 245  
**LB:** Jesse May, Jr., 5-7, 170  
**LB:** Bryant Perkins\* Jr., 5-10, 210  
**LB:** Chase Martin\* Sr., 6-0, 210  
**CB:** Will Smith, So., 5-10, 155  
**CB:** Julian Zappitelli\* Sr., 5-10, 165  
**S:** Joey Fioritto, So., 6-0, 160  
**S:** Noah Barnes, Jr., 6-1, 205  
**P:** Joey Sanchez, Jr., 6-2, 210

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12

**Key reserves:** Dom Lawrence, 5-10, 165, Ben Gelfosack, Jr., 5-11, 225

**Best in the classroom:** Nick Moretti, 4.0 GPA, Julian Zappitelli 3.9, Drew Laurie 3.9, Noah Barnes 3.9

**Best bench press:** Andrew Molnar 290 pounds

**Best squat:** Drew Laurie, Bryant Perkins 435 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Connor Stevens 4.5 seconds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Madison's Carson Alley carries during a 2021 game against Chardon.

### Outlook

The backfields on both sides of the ball are fast and athletic. Offensively, Carson Alley — last year's leading rusher — moves to quarterback where he can make plays with his arms and legs. Martin, Perkins and Barnes are all back in pass-catching capacities. Defensively, five starters return in the front seven. Senior Drew Laurie will be an anchor on both sides of the ball. With only five seniors, it's a tough team. Depth is a concern, too, with many two-way players.

### Player to watch

As a two-way starters at right tackle and defensive line — and as one of Madison's five seniors — Drew Laurie will have to be a leader in the trenches for the youthful Blue Streaks.

**Underclassman to watch:** Carson Alley will be a big impact player this year both running the ball and passing as the Blue Streaks quarterback.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Blue Streaks' youth, especially on the lines, grows up fast; **THEN:** Then Madison will improve on last year's record.



Laurie

— John Kampf

## Mayfield»Wildcats

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5

**Coach:** Ross Bandiera, seventh year (33-28)

**2021:** 2-8

**Twitter:** @MayfieldSports

**Home field:** Wildcat Park

### Schedule

**Aug. 19:** Mayfield at Shaw, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Jackson at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Mayfield at Nardon, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Kenmore-Garfield at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Mayfield at Chardon, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Riverside at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** South at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Madison at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Mayfield at Kenston, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Rocco Monastero, Jr., 6-1, 175  
**RB:** Anthony Santoro, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**WR:** Nick Biega\*, Sr., 6-0, 175  
**WR:** Mason Arth\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**WR:** Mikey Storey, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**WR:** Dylan Parnell, Jr., 5-10, 165  
**LT:** Luke Durosko\*, Jr., 6-0, 265  
**LG:** Kade Woods\*, Jr., 6-1, 255  
**C:** Nick Sperling, Sr., 6-1, 250  
**RG:** Anthony Brack\*, Sr., 5-10, 230  
**RT:** Nick Januszewski\*, Sr., 5-10, 225  
**K:** Nick Biega, Sr., 6-0, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Daron Arnold\*, Jr., 5-10, 235  
**DL:** Kade Woods, Jr., 6-1, 255  
**DL:** Niko Traczyk, Jr., 6-4, 285  
**DL:** Mikey Traczyk\*, Sr., 6-0, 245  
**LB:** Joey Barch\*, Jr., 5-10, 205  
**LB:** Dom Milano\*, Jr., 5-10, 210  
**LB:** Bo Lewis, Jr., 6-0, 205  
**CB:** Luis Vasquez\*, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**CB:** Vince Caspio, Sr., 5-10, 165  
**S:** Aidan Arth, Sr., 6-0, 175  
**S:** Lance Reed, So., 5-9, 155  
**P:** Dylan Parnell, Jr., 5-10, 165  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 14  
**Key reserves:** Dylan Colello, Jr., 5-10, 165, Chris Fero, Sr., Position, 5-10, 265, Owen Moon, Jr., Position, 5-9, 165, Anthony Howard, Jr., Position, 5-10, 170;  
**Best in the classroom:** Mackenzi Neil, 4.27 GPA; **Aidan Arth, 4.0; Nick Biega, 4.0**  
**Best bench press:** Luke Durosko, 350 pounds  
**Best squat:** Luke Durosko, 455 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Nick Biega, 4.4 seconds



FRANK GAMBATESE — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mayfield's Nick Biega looks to evade a tackler during a 2021 game against South.

### Outlook

After an un-Mayfield like year in 2021, the Wildcats look to return to form in 2022. Building confidence as the season progresses is one of Ross Bandiera's biggest goals this season. The Wildcats feature junior quarterback Rocco Monastero, who in his first year as a starter will have experience on the outside with three returning receivers. Up front, the Wildcats see four of their offensive linemen back as well.

### Payer to watch

Mikey Traczyk has made the move from linebacker to defensive end during training camp. The transition was a challenge at first but his athleticism has allowed him to still be a dominant defensive force.

**Underclassman to watch:** Both junior linebackers Dom Milano and Joey Barch have slotted into Traczyk's spot. Both have put in extra time in the weight room during the offseason.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Skill players take strides behind an experienced line, **THEN:** Wildcats can contend in the top of the WRC.



Traczyk

— Ben Hercik

FLOORING!

# Lake Carpet & Mattress

MATTRESS SALE TOO!  
IN-STOCK ONLY!

LUXURY  
VINYL  
PLANK

\$2.59 Sq. ft.



Reg. \$3.89 sq. ft.  
Pet Proof, Waterproof,  
Kid Proof Flooring

BEST  
SELLING  
CARPET

\$2.29 Sq. ft.



Gray with  
Beige Fleck  
Installed with padding  
Many colors to choose from.

6656 N. Ridge Rd., Madison  
(corner of Rt. 528 & Rt. 20)

440-428-1400

NOW OPEN EVERYDAY!

12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH

See Store for Details

Monday-Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-3

Call Today for your FREE Measurement!

QUEEN  
MATTRESS



\$499

Extra Thick Mattress  
10 Year Warranty



SHAW CARPET SALE!

Gray Fleck .....\$2.29 sq. ft.  
Beige or Gray (6 colors) .....\$2.59 sq. ft.  
Beige or Gray Super Soft .....\$2.99 sq. ft.  
(Installed with Pad)



## Mentor»Cardinals

### Just the facts

**Conference:** GCC

**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1

**Coach:** Matt Gray, second year (14-8)

**2021:** 5-6

**Twitter:** @MentorRedline

**Home field:** Jerome T. Osborne Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Canton McKinley at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Mentor vs. St. Ignatius at FES, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Riverside at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Clarkson at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** OPEN

**Sept. 23:** Mentor at Brunswick, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Mentor at Medina, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Solon at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Strongsville at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Mentor at Euclid, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Scotty Fox\* So., 6-2, 205  
**RB:** Mitchell Waite, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**WR:** Jordan Stapleton\* Sr., 6-0, 164  
**WR:** Nick Jares, Sr., 5-9, 175  
**WR:** Holden Cerny, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**WR:** Henry Schenk, Jr., 6-0, 195  
**LT:** Michael McClure\* Sr., 6-4, 275  
**LG:** Jack O'Neil, Jr., 6-0, 240  
**C:** Joey Jonke, Sr., 6-1, 250  
**RG:** Jares Hines, Jr., 6-1, 240  
**RT:** Tony Pastore\* Sr., 6-1, 245  
**K:** Dylan Tackett, So., 5-11, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Brennan Vernon\* 6-5, 275  
**DE:** Ryan Lawson\* Sr., 5-11, 235  
**DE:** Andrew Fedor, Sr., 6-0, 220  
**LB:** Kady Burkholder\* Sr., 6-0, 210  
**LB:** Collin Orosz\*, Sr., 6-0, 210  
**LB:** Jack Geduldig\* Sr., 6-0, 205  
**LB:** Jase Burgett, Sr., 6-1, 180  
**CB:** Chase Hull, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**CB:** Kellen Graham, Jr., 5-11, 170  
**S:** Caleb Pohto\* Sr., 5-9, 170  
**S:** Jacob Snow\* Sr., 6-2, 205  
**P:** Jacob Snow\* Sr., 6-2, 205  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12  
**Key reserves:** Joey Bakos, Sr., 6-2, 255, Mason Coughlin, So., 5-9, 195, Aidan Schwalm, Jr., 6-0, 185, Ryan Saley, Jr., 5-10, 225  
**Best in the classroom:** Tony Pastore 4.0 GPA, Aidan Schwalm 4.0, Mitchell Waite 3.9, Holden Cerny 3.8, Michael McClure 3.8  
**Best bench press:** Caleb Pohto 315 pounds  
**Best squat:** Brennan Vernon 495 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Trey Fisher 4.55 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor's defense, swarming to the ball in a scrimmage with Kenston, should be a strength.

### Outlook

This is a very hungry team after an injury-ravaged 2021 season gleaned a 5-6 record. The defense is experienced, talented and hard-hitting. Notre Dame recruit Brenan Vernon anchors the line, while linebackers Kady Burkholder and Collin Orosz are hammers. Caleb Pohto and Jacob Snow are among the area's best safeties. There are only three returners on offense. QB Scotty Fox, though a sophomore, is a heady leader.

### Player to watch

Brenan Vernon is one of the top-rated seniors in the nation as a disruptive, 6-5, 275 defensive end. He'll make a ton of plays, and even when he doesn't, double-teams on him should open defenders around him to make plays. He can be the area's most dominant defender.

**Underclassman to watch:** Scotty Fox got a lot of time last year when Jacob Snow (hand) went down with an injury. He will guide the Cardinals' offense this year.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The young and inexperienced offense grows up quickly; **THEN:** The Cardinals will win the GCC and make a nice playoff run.

— John Kampf



Vernon

## NDCL»Lions

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Crown

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9

**Head coach:** Andrew Mooney, eighth year (44-31)

**2021:** 5-6 (1-3)

**Twitter:** @NDCLathletics

**Home field:** Lozick Field at Lion Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** NDCL at South, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** NDCL at Lewis Center Olentangy, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** NDCL at Kenston, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Gilmour at NDCL, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Taft at NDCL, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** East Liverpool at NDCL, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Walsh Jesuit at NDCL, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** NDCL at Padua, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** NDCL at Louisville, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Lake Catholic at NDCL, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Ryan Lipowski, So., 5-11, 170  
**RB:** Burke Buell, Sr., 5-11, 190  
**WR:** Brandon Smul\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**WR:** Hayden Dixon, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**WR:** Brayden Buell, So., 5-10, 175  
**TE:** Ryan Callahan\*, Sr., 5-10, 210  
**LT:** Aiden Purcell, Sr., 6-2, 240  
**LG:** Joey Valentino\*, Sr., 6-2, 210  
**C:** Brendan O'Brien, Sr., 5-9, 220  
**RG:** Ryan Pesho\*, Sr., 6-3, 245  
**RT:** Brody Seibert\*, Sr., 6-2, 241  
**K:** Gianni Spetic\*, Sr., 6-1, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Luke Peroni\*, Sr., 6-1, 230  
**DL:** Bryce Wheatley\*, Jr., 6-1, 205  
**DL:** Simon Paulic\*, Sr., 5-10, 200  
**LB:** Matt Urda\*, Sr., 5-11, 225  
**LB:** Josh Grambo\*, Jr., 6-3, 215  
**LB:** Angelo Tamburrino, So., 6-0, 190  
**LB:** Mac Rottinghaus\*, Jr., 6-0, 200  
**DB:** Brandon Smul, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**DB:** Griffin Moskal, Jr., 5-9, 175  
**DB:** Aaron Tate, Sr., 5-10, 175  
**DB:** J.P. Nowak, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**P:** Gianni Spetic\*, Sr., 6-1, 175  
 \*: returning starter  
**Key reserves:** Caleb Cirino, Jr., 5-9, 165, Conner Hernan, So., 6-3, 180



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

NDCL's Simon Paulic lines up for the snap during a 2021 game against Lake Catholic.

### Outlook

The Lions' primary strength will be a quick, play-making defense with six returning starters — although yes, a new-look secondary has to jell. That offensive line, averaging 230 pounds across, could be a calling card as well. Spetic is one of Ohio's premier specialists. That skill position group must find its way — and fast. But the potential is there.

### Player to watch

LB Matt Urda, a 5-foot-11, 225-pound senior, is a leader and stalwart on defense, coming off 108 tackles, including 17 TFLs, in 2021. It wouldn't be a surprise to see more prolific totals.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Josh Grambo (6-3, 215) is one of this area's brightest young defenders, moving to LB from DL after 81 tackles and 2021 first-team all-district plaudits.

### Bottom line

**IF:** That offense gets rolling and the secondary develops to complement that standout front seven; **THEN:** At least six wins and playoff contention is there for the taking.



Urda



Grambo

— Chris Lillstrung





# TORCHLIGHT

Youth Mentoring Alliance

## Ignite the Light!

### High School Mentors Needed!

# 440.352.2526



## North»Rangers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5

**Coach:** Shawn Dodd, seventh year (25-44)

**Twitter:** @northrangers

**2021:** 4-7

**Home field:** Nick Carter Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** North at Garfield Heights, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Revere at North, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Lakeside at North, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** North at Kenston, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** South at North, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** North at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** North at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** North at Brush, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Chardon at North, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Zach Rummel\* Jr., 6-2, 170

**RB:** Reontae Lowery\* Jr., 5-9, 180

**RB:** Austin Gracie\* Jr., 5-10, 185

**WR:** Brendan Kuhse\*, Sr., 6-1, 160

**WR:** Curtis Thomas\*, Sr., 5-8, 160

**WR:** Kevin Stolny, Sr., 5-11, 160

**LT:** Nate Gangloff\* Jr., 6-1, 260

**LG:** Dre Coleman, Sr., 5-11, 230

**C:** Owen Sincel, Jr., 5-10, 215

**RG:** Laith Asad, Sr., 6-3, 240

**RT:** Antonio Golemovic\*, Sr., 6-5, 290

**K:** Daniel Tadic\* Jr., 6-0, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Joey Gucalae, Jr., 6-1, 215

**NG:** Dre Coleman\* Sr., 5-11, 230

**DE:** Laith Asad, Sr., 6-3, 240

**LB:** Bryant Young\* Sr., 6-0, 205

**LB:** Chris Stinson\* Sr., 5-9, 190

**LB:** Dylan Hargas\* Sr., 6-1, 200

**CB:** Reontae Lowery, Jr., 5-9, 180

**CB:** Jayden Teague\* Jr., 5-11, 170

**S:** Curtis Thomas\* Sr., 5-8, 160

**S:** Na'shon Ivey, So., 6-1, 165

**S:** Connor Sartain, Jr., 5-8, 160

**P:** Zach Rummel\* Jr., 6-2, 170

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 20

**Key reserves:** Isaac Wilson, Jr., 5-11, 165, Rashaun Washington, Jr., 6-2, 240, Nolan Sechler, Jr., 6-2, 205

**Best in the classroom:** Brendan Kuhse, 4.46 GPA

**Best bench press:** Antonio Golemovic 335 pounds

**Best squat:** Laith Asad 505 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Curtis Thomas 4.5 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Line play will be a big key for the North Rangers this season, on both sides of the ball.

### Outlook

The Rangers have the game-breaking speed to make their offense fun to watch. Reontae Lowery is primed for a big year carrying the ball and Zach Rummel is the Rangers' best pure quarterback in some time. The key will be the blocking on the offensive line. Defensively, eight starters return. The front seven should be formidable. Depth might be a concern, and the offensive line is relatively new, but the program is on the upswing. Kicker Daniel Tadic is one of the area's best.

### Player to watch

Curtis Thomas can fly, with his 4.5 time in the 40. He's a game-breaker at wide receiver and will also be a key starter on the defensive side. When this kid has the ball in his hands, hold your breath because something electric is about to happen.

**Underclassman to watch:** Reontae Lowery, only a junior, is in his third year as a starter. Like Thomas, he has the jets to go to the house every time he touches the ball.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The lines on both sides of the ball do their job; **THEN:** The Rangers have so much athleticism they give opponents a headache all season.

— John Kampf



Thomas

## Perry»Pirates

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17

**Coach:** Bob Gecewich, second year (10-3)

**Twitter:** @Perry\_Pirates

**Playoff record:** 15-18 in 18 appearances

**2021:** 10-3

**Home field:** Alumni Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Perry at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Perry at Madison, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Chagrin Falls at Perry, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Perry at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Edgewood at Perry, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Orange at Perry, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 13:** Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** West Geauga at Perry, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB-WR:** Brayden Richards\* Jr., 6-0, 177

**QB-WR:** Walter Moses, So., 6-2, 162

**RB:** Jayden Studio, Jr., 6-1, 195

**WR:** Jaden Hacking\* Sr., 5-11, 168

**WR:** Charlie Rockwell, Sr., 6-3, 201

**WR:** Luke Sivon, So., 5-11, 163

**LT:** Chuck Thomas, So., 6-2, 186

**LG:** A.J. Kifus\* Sr., 6-5, 290

**C:** Jack Knisely, Jr., 6-0, 219

**RG:** Gavin Nickerson, Jr., 5-9, 208

**RT:** Anthony Zagrocki, So., 6-2, 168

**K:** Jaden Studio, Jr., 6-1, 195

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Brian Cox\* Sr., 5-11, 196

**DL:** Jayden Studio, Jr., 6-1, 195

**DL:** Andrew Smith, So., 5-5, 148

**DL:** A.J. Kifus, Sr., 6-5, 290

**LB:** Owen McKoon\* So., 6-0, 174

**LB:** Dominick LaMacchia, Jr., 5-10, 166

**CB:** Jaden Hacking, Sr., 5-11, 168

**CB:** Owen Tomasic, Sr., 5-10, 185

**S:** Brayden Richards, Jr., 6-0, 177

**S:** Brock Christian, Sr., 5-8, 141

**S:** Datone Washington, Sr., 5-11, 162

**P:** Brian Cox\* Sr., 5-11, 196

\*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 7

**Key reserves:** Armani Chiappone, So., 5-10, 157, Cade Schiano, Sr., 5-10, 138

**Best bench press:** Brian Cox 300 pounds

**Best squat:** Brian Cox 425 pound

**Best 40 time:** Jaden Hacking 4.56



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Brayden Richards will play both quarterback and receiver this year for the Pirates.

### Outlook

Under second-year coach Bob Gecewich, the Pirates are pretty young. There's plenty of skill on both sides of the ball, but linemen depth is a concern. Both Brayden Richards and Walter Moses are capable of running the ship at quarterback. Jaden Hacking had a breakout season last year at receiver and will be the go-to guy there. Multiple backs will carry the ball, but big 200-pound Jayden Studio is a mountain of a man to bring down. Defensively, the team swarms and is aggressive.

### Player to watch

Brian Cox is going to be a busy young man this season, and rightfully so. He moves from safety to linebacker/defensive end this year, is likely the area's best punter and could also get snaps on offense. He's a high-energy, high-producing senior.

**Underclassman to watch:** Owen

McKoon, grandson of legendary Perry coach Bob Ritley, started as a linebacker as a freshman. He's back at linebacker this year and also carry to ball this year. Does NOT play like a sophomore.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Pirates' lines develop on both sides of the ball; **THEN:** Perry will be a factor in the CVC Chagrin Division race.

— John Kampf



Cox

**FLOORING!**

# Lake Carpet & Mattress

**MATTRESS SALE TOO!  
IN-STOCK ONLY!**

**LUXURY  
VINYL  
PLANK**

**\$2.59** Sq. ft.



**Reg. \$3.89 sq. ft.**  
Pet Proof, Waterproof,  
Kid Proof Flooring

**BEST  
SELLING  
CARPET**

**\$2.29** Sq. ft.



**Gray with  
Beige Fleck**  
Installed with padding  
Many colors to choose from.

6656 N. Ridge Rd., Madison  
(corner of Rt. 528 & Rt. 20)

**440-428-1400**

**NOW OPEN EVERYDAY!**

**12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH**

See Store for Details

Monday-Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-3

Call Today for your FREE Measurement!

**QUEEN  
MATTRESS**



**\$499**

Extra Thick Mattress  
10 Year Warranty



**SHAW CARPET SALE!**

Gray Fleck .....\$2.29 sq. ft.  
Beige or Gray (6 colors) .....\$2.59 sq. ft.  
Beige or Gray Super Soft.....\$2.99 sq. ft.  
(Installed with Pad)



## Riverside»Beavers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5

**Coach:** Dave Bors, 13th year (64-59)

**Twitter:** @\_RHSFootball

**2021:** 7-5

**Home field:** Riverside Stadium

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**

**Aug. 19:** Perry at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Riverside at Aurora, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Riverside at Mentor, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Chardon at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Madison at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Riverside at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** North at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 8:** Riverside at Martinsburg (W.Va.), 1 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Kenston at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Riverside at South, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Mikey Maloney, Jr., 6-1, 185

**RB:** Jason Mackey, Jr., 5-10, 175

**WR:** Erren Conwell\* Sr., 6-0, 175

**WR:** Brady McKnight\* Jr., 5-11, 175

**WR:** Jake Elly\* Sr., 6-1, 180

**WR:** Ethan Ross, Jr., 6-3, 190

**LT:** Carter Rudler\* Sr., 6-1, 250

**LG:** Brett Stephens, Sr., 5-11, 220

**C:** Isaiah Walter, Jr., 6-0, 275

**RG:** Nick Lulow\* Sr., 5-11, 245

**RT:** Raj Singh\* Sr., 6-3, 275

**K:** Sean Kerwood\* Sr., 5-11, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Dylan May, Sr., 6-0, 230

**DL:** Collin Fairbanks\* 5-8, 205

**DL:** AJ Adams\* Sr., 6-1, 210

**LB:** Sam Salminen, Jr., 5-10, 185

**LB:** Max Borris, Sr., 6-2, 210

**LB:** Jason Ryan\* Sr., 6-2, 230

**LB:** Cam Simpson\* Sr., 5-11, 190

**DB:** Brady McKnight\* Jr., 5-11, 175

**DB:** Adam Becker\* Jr., 5-10, 175

**DB:** Jake Elly\* Sr., 6-1, 180

**DB:** Trey Reutter\* Sr., 6-0, 175

**P:** Sean Kerwood\* Sr., 5-11, 175

**\*:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 24

**Key reserves:** Drew Fisher, Sr., 6-1, 190, Antonio Bottiggi, Jr., 6-3, 235, Dez Kirks, Jr., 6-3, 200, Jacob Sholtz, 5-9, 200

**Best in the classroom:** Cam Simpson, 4.4 GPA, Max Borris 4.2, Connor Hackle 4.2, Ethan Ross 4.2, Brady McKnight 4.1

**Best bench press:** Collin Fairbanks 355 pounds

**Best squat:** Erren Conwell 4.49 seconds

**Best squat:** Nick Lulow 550 pounds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Riverside's defense swarms to make a tackle in a scrimmage with Brecksville on Aug. 11.

### Outlook

With seven starters returning on offense and nine on defense (including punter and kicker), the Beavers have a ton of experience to go with their high-end talent. The offense can throw it around and also run the ball behind the veteran offensive line. Defensively, few teams have the linebacker and defensive back skill set that Riverside has. Sean Kerwood is a dynamic punter and kicker. This is a team Riverside has been waiting to see for quite some time.

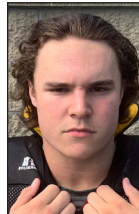
### Player to watch

Jason Ryan is a 6-2, 230-pound battering ram at linebacker. He commands attention from blockers so much that his presence will open up opportunities for unblocked teammates to make stops. A total game-changer.

**Underclassman to watch:** Brady McKnight came onto the scene a year ago as a talented sophomore. As a junior, he'll start at receiver and defensive back and be a difference-maker.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Beavers stay healthy, especially through a rough stretch to start the season; **THEN:** They will make a long playoff run and contend for the WRC title.



Ryan

— John Kampf

## South»Rebels

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5

**Coach:** Matt Duffy, 19th year (122-72)

**Twitter:** @southathletics

**2021:** 8-4

**Home field:** Harry E. Winters Stadium

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**

**Aug. 19:** NDCL at South, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** South at Twinsburg, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** South at Maple Heights, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Madison at South, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** South at North, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Brush at South, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** South at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Kenston at South, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** South at Chardon, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Riverside at South, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Colin Quinlan\* Sr., 6-0, 195

**RB:** Tyrone Singleton\* Sr., 5-8, 180

**WR:** Konner Brancatelli, Sr., 6-0, 165

**WR:** Bryce Figler\* Sr., 5-11, 175

**WR:** Delond Moss\* Jr., 6-1, 170

**WR:** Chris Miller, Sr., 5-10, 170

**LT:** Charles Young, Sr., 6-0, 220

**LG:** Mike Karabinus, Jr., 6-0, 260

**C:** Joseph Mateosky\* Sr., 5-11, 270

**RG:** Alex Azre\* Sr., 6-2, 280

**RT:** Mac Tobin, Jr., 6-1, 220

**K:** Tommy Funk\* Sr., 6-0, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Vince Jones\* Sr., 6-1, 210

**DL:** Bobby Tomasic\* Sr., 5-11, 200

**DL:** Quintin Wilson, Jr., 6-1, 210

**LB:** Niko Frizell, Jr., 6-1, 185

**LB:** Jason Panich\* Sr., 5-10, 185

**LB:** Nick Manzi, Sr., 5-11, 180

**LB:** Riley Vilik, Sr., 5-11, 180

**DB:** Ashton Namestnik, Sr., 5-10, 165

**DB:** Terrell Mitchell, Sr., 5-10, 165

**DB:** Gavin McArthur, Jr., 5-10, 165

**DB:** Noah Miller, Sr., 5-10, 165

**P:** Tommty Funk\* Sr., 6-0, 175

**\*:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 21

**Key reserves:** Jordan Ivey, Jr., 5-11, 175, Luca Soric, Jr., 5-11, 205, Nathan Soto, Sr., 5-10, 205, Terrion Singleton, Jr., 6-3, 170

**Best in the classroom:** Daniel Palamino, 4.41 GPA, Chris Miller 4.33, Bryce Figler 4.33, Eric Lufi 4.0

**Best bench press:** Joe Mateosky 315 pounds

**Best squat:** Alex Azre 465 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Tyrone Singleton 4.5 seconds



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Colin Quinlan is back at quarterback for the South Rebels this season.

### Outlook

The Rebels are a little shy on experience and have a number of players coming off injuries, but the athleticism, speed and toughness is off the charts. The experience is on offense, where QB Quinlan, RB Singleton and receivers Figler and Moss return. If the line gives this group time and space to operate, the Rebels could have an electric offense. There's a lot of inexperience on the back end of the defense. Specialist Tommy Funk is a game-changer.

### Player to watch

Tyrone Singleton was averaging more than 10 yards per carry when he went down with a leg injury last year. His running ability opens everything for the South offense. When he's healthy and productive, the rest of the offense — especially play-action passing — clicks.

**Underclassman to watch:** Delond Moss returns to start at receiver. With all the attention Quinlan and Singleton get, Moss could be primed for a breakout season.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Rebels can play good run defense in a run-oriented WRC; **THEN:** South will score more than enough points to be a league threat.



Singleton

— John Kampf

## High School and Adult Workforce Education Programs

High school students earn industry-recognized certifications and college credit for **FREE** - some programs offer up to 24 college credits; get real-world, hands-on learning experiences and gain internship opportunities - most paid!

Adult Workforce Education classes offer training to get you into a high demand career field! **FREE\*** tuition for Fall Machining/CNC, Welding and Certified Production Technician programs!

\*Free tuition for Fall 2022 only. Other fees apply.

[www.auburncc.org](http://www.auburncc.org)

440-357-7542

8140 Auburn Rd., Concord Twp.



Auburn  
Career Center



## University»Preppers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Independent  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Ben Malbasa, eighth year (34-34)  
**2021:** 1-7  
**Twitter:** @USFootball1890  
**Home field:** Scovill Field

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** University at Columbus Acad., 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** South Range at University, 5 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** University at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Shaker Heights at University, 5 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** University at Shaw, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 24:** Gilmour at University, 2 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** University at Mogadore, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 8:** Bedford at University, 2 p.m.  
**Oct. 15:** Warrensville Hts. at University, 2 p.m.  
**Oct. 22:** Warren Howland at University, 2 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jackson Boland\*, Jr., 6-1, 205  
**RB:** Ryan Pattison, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**WR:** Brian Kellon\*, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**WR:** Duke Brennan\*, Jr., 6-2, 155  
**WR:** Johnny Diaz\*, Jr., 5-10, 165  
**TE:** Sammy Martin\*, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**LT:** Chris Jackson\*, Sr., 6-1, 255  
**LG:** Gavin Ippolito\*, Sr., 6-1, 290  
**C:** Sean Fioritto\*, Jr., 5-11, 215  
**RG:** Vir Patel, Jr., 5-11, 285  
**RT:** Cameron Beiswenger\*, Jr., 6-2, 240  
**K:** Matteo Morelli, Fr., 6-1, 180

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Sammy Martin\*, Jr., 6-2, 190  
**NT:** Lex Kekic\*, Jr., 5-11, 240  
**DE:** Chris Jackson\*, Sr., 6-1, 255  
**LB:** Jack Cocco\*, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**LB:** Ryan Pattison\*, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**LB:** Noah Tidmore, Jr., 5-11, 220  
**CB:** Kameron Shiver, So., 5-11, 160  
**CB:** Duke Brennan, Jr., 6-1, 155  
**S:** George Minello\*, Jr., 5-9, 175  
**S:** Johan Guy, Sr., 5-10, 145  
**S:** Mikey Malone, So., 5-11, 160  
**P:** Duke Brennan, Jr., 6-1, 155  
**\***: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 37  
**Key reserves:** Jordan Heiser, Sr., 5-10, 165, Tristan Jackson, So., 5-11, 215, Theo Dengler, So., 6-2, 190  
**Best in the classroom:** Julian Berger 4.11 GPA, Jack Cocco 3.86, Brian Kellon 3.85  
**Best bench press:** Chris Jackson, 375 pounds  
**Best squat:** Ryan Pattison and Chris Jackson, 425  
**Best 40 time:** Brian Kellon, 4.50 seconds



### Outlook

If you want a prime bounceback candidate, look no further than Hunting Valley. With nine returning starters on offense, six on defense and one of The News-Herald coverage area's largest lines, there's a lot to like. US could not catch a break last fall, losing seven straight to close. But this group is eager — and capable — of turning the page.

### Player to watch

Brian Kellon, a 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior, is one of this area's most dynamic vertical threats, coming off a 43-catch campaign. An outstanding jumper in track and field, Kellon can go get it.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior safety George Minello (5-9, 175) is the lone returning starter in the secondary. Malbasa lauds his presence as key on defense.

### Bottom line

**IF:** QB Jackson Boland Boland gets time to find his arsenal behind that experienced line and the secondary jells; **THEN:** The Preppers could be primed for this area's premier year-over-year won-lost improvement.

— Chris Lillstrung



Kellon

## VASJ»Vikings

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Crown  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Coach:** Jeff Rotsky, second year (7-2)  
**2021:** 7-2  
**Twitter:** @Vikings\_AD  
**Home field:** Multiple

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Badin vs. VASJ at CWRU, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** VASJ vs. Cle. JFK at Collinwood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** VASJ at Youngstown East, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Wheeling Park (W.Va.) vs. VASJ at JCU, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 17:** VASJ at Cleveland CC, 1 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** VASJ at Collinwood, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 1:** Bishop Hartley vs. VASJ at CWRU, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Youngs. Ursuline vs. VASJ at BW, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 15:** VASJ at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** VASJ at Wooster, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Kylan Steuball, So., 6-3, 215  
**FB:** Devin Hendricks, Sr., 5-7, 230  
**TB:** Amani Powell, Jr., 5-5, 155  
**WR:** Kayin Cooper\* Sr., 5-10, 175  
**WR:** Dom Kirks, Jr., 6-5, 255  
**WR:** Brian Kortovitch, So., 6-3, 180  
**LT:** Brandon Johnson\* Jr., 6-4, 280  
**LG:** Robert Smith, So., 6-2, 250  
**C:** Sean Didonna, Jr., 6-0, 240  
**RG:** Rashawn Black\* Sr., 5-11, 245  
**RT:** John Pitts, Sr., 6-3, 320  
**K:** Aiden Staunton\* Sr., 5-10, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Dom Kirks\* Jr., 6-5, 255  
**DE:** David Jones, Jr., 6-2, 205  
**DL:** Devin Hendricks\* Sr., 5-7, 235  
**DL:** Corey Smith, Jr., 6-10, 255  
**LB:** Shelton Brown, Sr., 5-11, 180  
**LB:** Eric Elder, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**LB:** Tim Ginakis, Jr., 5-9, 185  
**CB:** Dante Landers\* Jr., 5-10, 160  
**CB:** Davion Taylor, So., 5-9, 155  
**S:** Bo Jackson\* So., 6-0, 195  
**S:** Christian Chase, So., 5-9, 165  
**P:** Aiden Staunton, Sr., 5-10, 150  
**\***: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 15  
**Key reserves:** Andre Spinks, Jr., 5-11, 170  
**Best in the classroom:** Tim Gonakis 4.5, Sean Didonna 4.3, Sheldon Brown 4.1, Max Gembus 4.2  
**Best bench press:** Devin Hendricks 340 pounds  
**Best squat:** John Pitts 525 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Bo Jackson 4.55 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

VASJ's Amani Powell looks upfield during a 2021 game against Lake Catholic.

### Outlook

It's Year 2 of the Rotsky Era at VASJ, and the Vikings have what Rotsky described as the "youngest team in 26 years of coaching." There are 45 freshmen on the 95-player roster, and a large group of sophomores. Kylan Steuball and Kayin Cooper, who transferred from St. Edward two years ago, are battling it out to start at QB. Sophomore RB Bo Jackson, the younger brother of graduated standout Ty Howard, has an offer from Ohio State and will run out of the I-formation behind a rotation of three talented fullbacks and a promising offensive line. Amani Powell is another key playmaker. The Vikings' defensive line, led by Devin Hendricks, Rayshawn Black and Dom Kirks, is expected to be a strength.

### Player to watch

Senior Devin Hendricks is one of three players who will see playing time at fullback in the run-oriented VASJ attack. He'll also start at defensive tackle.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore Bo Jackson, who received a scholarship offer from Ohio State this summer, will be the featured back in the Vikings' offense. Rotsky says that Jackson will be just as important at strong safety.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The young Vikings grow and mature at the rate Rotsky thinks they can; **THEN:** They can return to the playoffs.



Hendricks

— Jay Kron

Roofing by  
**KLEMENC**  
 CONST. CO., INC.  
 440-951-2033

*Happy Holidays from Klemenc Construction!*  
 It is that time of year to gratefully remember our wonderful customers, and business associates who have made our success possible all year. We wish to simply and sincerely Thank You! We wish you and your families best wishes for the Holiday Season and a very Happy & Blessed New Year!  
 Sue & Mike Klemenc

Visit Our Website @  
[Roofingbyklemencconstruction.com](http://Roofingbyklemencconstruction.com)  
 Like us on Facebook



## West Geauga»Wolverines

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Head coach:** Matt Rosati, 12th year (second stint; 69-44)  
**2021:** 7-4 (4-2)  
**Twitter:** @WestGFootball  
**Home field:** Howell Field

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** West Geauga at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Streetsboro at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Parma at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Kirtland at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Edgewood at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** West Geauga at Lakeside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** West Geauga at Orange, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Geneva at West Geauga, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** West Geauga at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** West Geauga at Perry, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Travis Veleba, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**TB:** Justin Artino, Sr., 5-8, 175  
**FB:** Niko Kless, Jr., 6-0, 220  
**WR:** Christian Mulica, Jr., 5-9, 190  
**WR:** Joe Coneglio, Sr., 5-11, 180  
**LT:** Scott Purchase\*, Sr., 6-2, 260  
**LG:** Brody Gruber, Jr., 5-11, 250  
**C:** Eli Mlinar, Jr., 6-0, 260  
**RG:** James Hammonds, Sr., 5-10, 220  
**RT:** Paul Flowers, So., 5-9, 205  
**K:** Nate Mikonsky, Jr., 6-2, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Elija Maldonado, Sr., 6-1, 230  
**DT:** Austin Pascoe\*, Sr., 5-11, 195  
**DT:** Shawn Leonard, So., 5-10, 225  
**DE:** Cameron DiFranco, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**LB:** Justin Artino, Sr., 5-8, 175  
**LB:** Niko Kless, Jr., 6-0, 220  
**LB:** Ethan Bartlett, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**DB:** David Fofano, Sr., 5-7, 165  
**DB:** Carson Weisman, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**DB:** Johnny Julian, Jr., 5-7, 150  
**DB:** Nasir Levy, So., 5-10, 180  
**P:** Nate Mikonsky, Jr., 6-2, 175  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 8  
**Key reserves:** Richard Kretschman, Sr., 5-8, 150, Jacob Reed, Sr., 5-8, 165, Nick Donofrio, Sr., 6-0, 170, Pat Federico, Sr., 5-11, 160  
**Best in the classroom:** James Hammonds, 4.03 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Travis Veleba, 335 pounds  
**Best squat:** Travis Veleba, 450  
**Best 40 time:** David Fofana, 4.60 seconds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

West Geauga's Austin Pascoe defends against Chagrin Falls during a 2021 game.

### Outlook

The process really begins anew in Chester Township, as Rosati begins his second stint and the Wolverines return two starters. Graduations and a rash of ACL injuries did a number on that total. That noted, there's size in place, DT Austin Pascoe (37 TFLs in 2021) is a hammer and West G has a penchant for dealing with prolific starter turnover.

### Player to watch

Travis Veleba, a 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior, succeeds Danny Stewart at QB. His development and handle of Rosati's offensive vision will be paramount to the Wolverines' fortunes.

**Underclassman to watch:** Among a wealth of new starters is junior LB Ethan Bartlett (5-10, 170), a key cog on a young defense.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The abundance of first-year starters handles their acclimation well under the heady tutelage of Rosati; **THEN:** The Wolverines will threaten for six wins and Week 11.

— Chris Lillstrung



Veleba

## Wickliffe»Blue Devils

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Coach:** Marce Porcello, 12th year (55-57)  
**2021:** 1-8  
**Twitter:** @wickliffefb  
**Home field:** Memorial Stadium

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Brookside at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Akron North at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Harvey at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Wickliffe at Fairport, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Brooklyn at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Wickliffe Lutheran West, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Wickliffe at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Independence at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 15:** Wickliffe at Trinity, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Cuyahoga Heights at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** EJ Mester\* Jr. 5-10, 150  
**RB:** Vincent Gargiulo\* Sr., 5-10, 180  
**RB:** Nunzio Zivnoska, So., 5-7, 145  
**RB:** Bobby Plumb\* 5-7, 175  
**WR:** Brady Gilbride, Jr., 5-11, 150  
**WR:** Jake Beal, So., 5-8, 135  
**LT:** Noah Dohm, Jr., 6-0, 190  
**LG:** Ryan Quinn\* Jr., 6-1, 185  
**C:** Ryan Meitzner, So., 6-1, 234  
**RG:** Mitchell Lindsey\* 6-6, 290  
**RT:** Noah Garrison\* Sr., 6-5, 315  
**K:** Nunzio Zivnoska, So., 5-7, 145

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Blake Primozic\* Jr., 5-11, 160  
**DL:** Noah Dohm, Jr., 6-0, 190  
**DL:** Patrick Quinn\* Sr., 6-1, 190  
**DL:** Mitchell Lindsey, Jr., 6-6, 290  
**LB:** Robert Quinn\* Jr., 6-1, 185  
**LB:** Gavin Szczerbaty, Jr., 5-7, 150  
**LB:** Vincent Gargiulo\* Sr., 5-10, 180  
**LB:** Bobby Plumb\* Sr., 5-7, 175  
**DB:** EJ Mester\* Jr., 5-10, 150  
**DB:** Chase Bonadio\* Jr., 5-10, 155  
**DB:** Logan Ruscin\* So., 5-8, 150  
**P:** Gio Martinez, Fr., 5-11, 195  
 \*: returning starter, **Returning letterwinners:** 11  
**Key reserves:** Ralph Jackson, Fr., 5-10, 160  
**Best in the classroom:** EM Mester, 4.3 GPA, Ryan Quinn 4.0, Vincent Gargiulo 3.9, Noah Garrison 3.9  
**Best bench press:** Noah Dohm 275 pounds  
**Best squat:** Mitchell Lindsey 400 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Vincent Gargiulo



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Wickliffe's Shaun Derganc evades pressure during a 2021 game against Akron Kenmore-Garfield.

### Outlook

There was only one senior on last year's team. So this year there is experience — yet there are only three seniors. The size up front, with 6-6, 290 Mitchell Lindsey and 6-5, 315 Noah Garrison is impressive. Couple that with the speedy backs, and Wickliffe should be able to run the ball in its Wing-T sets. Eight starters return on defense, including most of the back seven. It's still a young team, but the Blue Devils are on the upswing.



Gargiulo

### Player to watch

Vincent Gargiulo will be a primary ball-carrier and also be a hammer at linebacker. He's fast, athletic and packs a punch when he hits on defense. He's one of three seniors on the team.

**Underclassman to watch:** Don't look past Bobby Plumb being 5-foot-7. He runs the ball hard on offense and can also deliver hard hits on defense.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The young players, and there are a lot of them, continue to progress; **THEN:** The Blue Devils are going to top last year's record with ease.

— John Kampf



**Gregory Gilson**  
440-537-3701  
greggilson@remax.net

**Erin Sikora**  
440-479-5999  
erin.sikora@remax.net

Looking for an agent who will go the extra yards?  
 Need a free play by play of our current market?  
 Buying or Selling? We are here to coach you either way.

**WE CAN HELP!**



9954 Johnnycake Ridge Rd  
Concord, Oh 44077 440-354-3334

Each RE/MAX offices is independently owned and operated



# EXPLORE Lakeland

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Top 10 reasons to choose Lakeland Community College:

1. More than 140 degree and certificate programs.
2. Tuition that is one-third the cost of most four-year public universities.
3. Credits guaranteed to transfer to any Ohio public four-year university plus many others.
4. Accredited institution and faculty with real-world experience.
5. Small classroom sizes that allow for personalized attention.
6. Convenient day, evening, weekend, accelerated, online and hybrid classes.
7. A clean, friendly and safe environment protected by Lakeland's Campus Police Department.
8. Partnerships to complete a bachelor's degree from leading colleges at Lakeland's Holden University Center.
9. A variety of support services, including free tutoring, a Veterans Center and career services.
10. More than 90% of Lakeland graduates find employment or continue their education.

**Explore Lakeland at  
[Lakelandcc.edu/visit](https://lakelandcc.edu/visit).**

Lakeland offers many types of financial assistance, including federal and state grants, loans, work-study employment and over 130 scholarships that can reduce the costs of a college education. Visit [lakelandcc.edu/financialaid](https://lakelandcc.edu/financialaid) for more information.



**Opportunity**  
starts **HERE**

