



AVON SENIORS AIMING HIGH | RANKINGS | PLAYERS TO WATCH AND MORE

# HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2022



# Panthers power up

Elyria Catholic wants more than a regional final appearance this season. Back row, from left, Tavion Thomas, Brady Cook, Travis Merrill, Tony Grasso; Front, Levi Ellis

## High school football area schedule

### Subject to change

#### AUG. 18

Amherst at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 19

Avon vs. Stratford (S.C.) at Orlando, Fla., 6 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Strongsville, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Independence, 7 p.m.  
Edison at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Ravenna, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran West at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
North Royalton at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Chardon, 7 p.m.  
Parma vs. Clearview at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Plymouth at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Collins Western Reserve, 7 p.m.  
West Geauga at Bay, 7 p.m.  
West Salem Northwestern at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Margaretta, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 25

North Ridgeville at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 26

Amherst at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
Bay at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Parma, 7 p.m.  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Toledo Scott, 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Heights at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Bedford, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Sandusky Perkins, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Cloverleaf, 7 p.m.  
Medina at Avon, 7 p.m.  
North Olmsted at Green, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Brunswick, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.  
Rhodes at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Sandusky at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Strongsville at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Mapleton, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 2

Brooklyn at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Smithville, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Northwestern, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Lakewood at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran West at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Normandy at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
North Olmsted at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Norwalk at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Plymouth at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
St. John the Baptist (N.Y.) at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
University at Bay, 7 p.m.



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview opens with a visit from Lutheran West, while Firelands entertains Edison.

Valley Forge at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Warrensville Heights at Westlake, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 8

Fairview at Normandy, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 9

Bay at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Holy Name, 7 p.m.  
North Olmsted at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
Bedford at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Black River at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Avon at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Toledo Scott at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 10

Westlake at Parma, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 16

Elyria Catholic at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Westlake at Bay, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Black River, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Amherst at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran West at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 23

Bay at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
North Olmsted at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Maple Heights, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Black River, 7 p.m.  
Columbia vs. Clearview at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.

Oberlin at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Oak Harbor at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Amherst at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at Avon, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 30

Bay at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Westlake at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Garfield Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Black River, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Port Clinton, 7 p.m.  
Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 7

Elyria Catholic at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Bay, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Shaker Heights, 7:30 p.m.  
Black River at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Huron, 7 p.m.  
Amherst at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Midview at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 14

Bay at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
North Olmsted at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Westlake at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Black River, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Edison, 7 p.m.  
Avon at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Medina at Lorain, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 21

GLC crossover at Bay, 7 p.m.  
GLC crossover at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
GLC crossover at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
GLC crossover at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
GLC crossover at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
GLC crossover at Westlake  
Shaw at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Black River at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Willard at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Amherst at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

## TOP OF THE CROP

### Football

**1:** Avon (12-3 in 2021)

**2:** Olmsted Falls (11-3)

**3:** Avon Lake (7-4)

**4:** Elyria (6-5)

**5:** Elyria Catholic (11-3)

**6:** North Olmsted (6-5)

**7:** Keystone (9-2)

**8:** Rocky River (9-4)

**9:** Columbia (11-2)

**10:** Midview (3-7)

**Watch list:** Firelands (5-5), Bay (5-5)

**Crop comments:** Avon again leads the Crop to start the season. The five-time defending Region 6 champs look to make it six in a row. The Eagles will look to take a step forward after falling to Akron Hoban for the fourth time in the Division II playoffs. Will 2022 be the year they take the next step? The Eagles will have to deal with a competitive Southwestern Conference. ... Olmsted Falls, which shared the conference title with Avon in 2021, is bringing back two All-Ohioans on offense, Rocco Conti and Dominic Rivera, after making a run to the regional semifinal. ... Avon Lake defeated the Eagles in the regular season. However, the Shoremen fell to the SWC's Berea-Midpark (7-5) and Midview the next two weeks after, leading to a first-round exit in the playoffs. ... Elyria played its first season in the SWC, finishing in the middle of the pack. The Pioneers look to build on a season in which they earned the 10th seed in Division I, Region 1. They fell to seventh seed Cleveland Heights, 29-22,

in devastating fashion. ... Expect a tight race for the GLC Western Division title between Elyria Catholic and North Olmsted. The Panthers are coming off a regional final appearance in Division V. In 2022, Elyria Catholic bumps up to Division IV, as it returns numerous All-Ohioans on both sides of the ball, including quarterback Brady Cook and running back Levi Ellis. Finding a replacement for 6-foot-7 wide receiver Jack Kenneally is a tall order, but Colin Ginley caught six touchdown passes for the Panthers and will be returning for his senior year. ... North Olmsted has a nice duo with quarterback Xavier Balson and wide receiver Jared Kelley, who were All-Ohioans in 2021 and will return for their senior seasons. The Eagles look to become top contenders for the GLC crown, which Rocky River took under the new conference format. ... The Pirates lost a lot of seniors, including quarterback Braedon Spies and Matt Wilhelm Award winner Tommy Bebie. But they are still capable of being competitive in the GLC West along with the Demons in Westlake and the Rockets in Bay. Flip-flopping from Division IV to Division V are the Keystone Wildcats. They'll be without 2021 Golden Helmet Award winner Gideon Lampron, who impacted both sides of the ball. However, their offense still has star power with Ryne Shackelford and Konner Roddick coming back to become top contenders for the Lorain County League. The good news for Keystone is that it doesn't have to play in Region 14 in Division IV as they fell to two eventual state champs and state semifinalists Port Clinton in the past three seasons. ... Firelands could put together a fine season if pieces come together after finishing 2021 at .500.

## High school football radio broadcast schedule

### WOBL-FM 107.7, AM 1320

**Aug. 19:** Northwestern at Keystone  
**Aug. 26:** Vermilion at Columbia  
**Sept. 2:** Midview at Elyria Catholic  
**Sept. 9:** Clearview at Brookside  
**Sept. 16:** Oberlin at Firelands  
**Sept. 23:** Brookside at Black River  
**Sept. 30:** Firelands at Clearview  
**Oct. 7:** Clearview at Wellington  
**Oct. 14:** Keystone at Columbia  
**Oct. 21:** Black River at Wellington  
**WDLW-FM 98.9, AM 1380**  
**Aug. 19:** Avon Lake at Strongsville  
**Aug. 26:** Medina at Avon  
**Sept. 2:** Lorain at Elyria

**Sept. 9:** Avon at Avon Lake  
**Sept. 16:** Elyria Catholic at Rocky River  
**Sept. 23:** Midview at Avon Lake  
**Sept. 30:** Elyria at North Ridgeville  
**Oct. 7:** Midview at North Ridgeville  
**Oct. 14:** Bay at Elyria Catholic  
**Oct. 21:** Amherst at Avon

### WEOL-AM 930, FM 100.3, STREAM 1

**Aug. 18:** Amherst at Valley Forge  
**Aug. 19:** Elyria at Elyria Catholic  
**Aug. 25:** North Ridgeville at Valley Forge  
**Aug. 26:** Medina at Avon  
**Sept. 2:** Midview at Elyria Catholic  
**Sept. 3:** Lorain at Elyria  
**Sept. 9:** Avon at Avon Lake

**Sept. 16:** Keystone at Wellington  
**Sept. 22:** Buckeye at Parma  
**Sept. 23:** Midview at Avon Lake  
**Sept. 30:** Wellington at Columbia  
**Oct. 7:** Black River at Keystone

### WEOL STREAM 2

**Aug. 19:** Rocky River at Midview  
**Aug. 26:** Sandusky at Lorain  
**Sept. 2:** Firelands at Vermilion  
**Sept. 9:** Clearview at Brookside  
**Sept. 16:** Olmsted Falls at North Ridgeville  
**Sept. 23:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls  
**Oct. 7:** Westlake at Elyria Catholic  
**Oct. 7:** Midview at North Ridgeville

### WHK-AM 1420, FM 102.5

**Aug. 19:** Brunswick at Cleveland Heights  
**Aug. 26:** Mentor at St. Ignatius  
**Sept. 2:** Stow at Solon  
**Sept. 9:** Elyria Catholic at Holy Name  
**Sept. 16:** Willoughby South at Eastlake North  
**Sept. 23:** Chardon at Kenston  
**Sept. 30:** Brecksville-Broadview Heights at Benedictine  
**Oct. 1:** St. Edward at St. Ignatius  
**Oct. 7:** NDCL at Padua  
**Oct. 14:** Strongsville at Mentor  
**Oct. 21:** Akron Hoban at St. Edward  
**Oct. 28:** Playoff game

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Elyria Catholic ready to run it back

Core seniors are aiming for Panthers' fourth state crown

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
MPerezkrywany@morning-journal.com

There is an empty extra space next to Elyria Catholic's three football state championship banners at Dan Reaser Stadium, as if it's reserved for another Panthers team to reach the mountaintop.

Could 2022 be the year for Elyria Catholic? The senior class has nine players who started as sophomores. Panthers coach Brian Fox saw their potential from the start.

Now that potential is coming together for one more year. They are returning five All-Ohioans, at quarterback, running back and on defense after an 11-3 season with a Division V regional final appearance.

"I think that it's about us being brothers. We have really bought into the program and everything that coach Fox has been doing and preaching. I think us buying into (the process) has really become big for us," said running back Levi Ellis.

Their All-Ohioan backfield of Brady Cook and Ellis made for a lethal combination in 2021. Ellis rushed for 1,675 yards with 28 total touchdowns. He is about 1,900 rushing yards away from becoming Elyria Catholic's all-time leading rusher. Cook, a dual-threat quarterback, threw for over 2,000 yards and rushed for over 400.

"(The running game) is really exciting. Everyone



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic's Tavion Thomas, Brady Cook, Levi Ellis, Tony Grasso and Travis Merrill.

knows what we have in Levi (Ellis). He needs another year like he had last year to become (Elyria Catholic's) all-time leading rusher. ... Tavion Thomas, a spectacular running back, who has taken another step into his speed," said Fox.

Thomas has come into his own as a running back to bolster the backfield. The power linebacker brings the hammer into the backfield. It was put on full display in a 51-21 regional semifinal win over Elmwood. He rushed for 148 yards and two touchdowns while Ellis battled an ankle injury.

Cook threw for 2,198 yards with 21 touchdowns in 2021. He believes his understanding of the offense

had drastically improved along with reading defenses to adjust on the fly.

"(Reading the defense) is pretty much automatic when I see the defense. I can see where they are lining up. Pre-snap, I know where I am going with the ball," he said.

On offense, they will have to make up for the loss of wide receiver 6-foot-7 Jack Kenneally and offensive lineman Hayden Gerhart. The solution will be for the young players to have a next-man-up mentality.

Thomas Neiderst and Colin Ginley both stand at 6-foot-3. They don't have the height Kenneally had. But Ellis and Fox believe that they can still pose a

mismatch in one-on-one coverage.

"Man coverage isn't about your best receiver, it's about their worst defensive back. ... When you have that many threats, (teams) can't hide their worst defensive back," said Fox.

On defense, the Panthers' front seven stands out with All-Ohioans Thomas and Tony Grasso taking the linebacker spots with All-Ohioan nose tackle Travis Merrill anchoring the defensive line.

"There's an incredible amount of talent coming back. We have some goals. But the strength has to be the front seven," said Fox.

Linebacker Colin Kenneally has also received at-

tention from colleges. Even with all of the studs on defense, Ellis was the team's leading tackler at safety.

"We are fast. A lot of the guys, even our defense ends with Travis (Merrill) in the middle. They are all fast. While we do have a lot of power, there is a lot of speed too," said Ellis.

Due to higher enrollment numbers, Elyria Catholic was bumped up to Division IV, Region 14. The region crowned two state champions in the past three years. The Panthers are used to playing bigger schools and are excited to make the jump.

"The most important things happen when you lose. If you go out there

**"The most important things happen when you lose. If you go out there and play a bunch of cupcake games and win them, you aren't learning anything about yourself. I can honestly say that the losses that we had earlier in the year were incredibly important for us to become the team that made (us regional finalist)."**

— Elyria Catholic coach Brian Fox

and play a bunch of cupcake games and win them, you aren't learning anything about yourself," said Fox, a Huron native who is familiar with the western football scene. "I can honestly say that the losses that we had earlier in the year were incredibly important for us to become the team that made (us regional finalist)."

Their Week 2 opponent Perkins (regional semifinalist) will be their first taste of Region 14 competition. The Panthers defeated the Pirates, 68-42, in 2021.

Elyria Catholic will play crosstown rival Elyria at home on Aug. 19 to kick off its season. Their Great Lakes Conference schedule will start in Week 4 at Rocky River, which is the defending GLC champ and defeated the Panthers, 21-20, on a walk-off field goal.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Avon seniors aim to extend legacy past final four

By Mark Perez-Krywany

MPerezkrywany@morning-journal.com

Every year, the Avon seniors have a rock signing day to mark a new year for Avon football.

It is painted over the previous senior classes to represent the legacy they bring to the program and touched by players before heading out to every home game under the lights.

“The significance of (the rock signing) is to remember the tradition of all of the guys that led (Avon football) before you and the responsibilities that come with carrying it forward,” said Mike Elder, Avon’s coach. “We do have great culture and it is built on tradition and responsibility to our school and our community. I think these (seniors) are such a great group and are going to embrace that type of culture and protect it.”

The culture Elder and the Eagles have built since 2007 has resulted in 11 Southwestern Conference titles, a state runner-up (2008), and five straight Division II, Region 6 championships.

With all that success, the one that has eluded is a state championship — especially with D-II powerhouse Archbishop Hoban standing in the way again in 2022. A year ago, Hoban defeated the Eagles, 30-24, in a state semifinal.

All that said, it’s easy to understand defensive lineman Austin Mitchell’s motivation.

“(Losing in the final four is) motivation in the offseason to work harder,” he said. “If you just win, you think you are on a pedestal. But now we know that this season we have to go and work harder than we did last off-season so we can finally get over this hump.”

Elder believes the team



JENNIFER FORBUS — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon quarterback Sam DeTillio looks for an open receiver during a scrimmage against Strongsville on Aug. 11.

has walked the walk and is ready to make another run at the elusive state championship in 2022.

“What I love about this senior class is that they are not satisfied with Final Fours. Their goal is to win the last game and win a state championship,” he said. “Their work ethic has proven that that is their goal. They have backed up their goals with their work ethic. I am excited to see this season.”

What a senior class Avon has. Players such as Amin Abdul (lineman), Sam DeTillio (quarterback), Austin Mitchell (defensive lineman committed to Colegate) and Ethan Holbrook (wide receiver) have received college football offers. They



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon running back Jakorian Caffey follows behind a block from teammate Cam Santee.

are joined by wide receiver Drew Lindsay and All-Ohioan linebacker Gavin Erhardt, who is a baseball commit to Cincinnati.

There is a lot of star-power on offense that should create a dangerous and balanced attack. Four-star recruit and of-

fensive tackle Luke Hamilton (junior) has more than 20 Division I football offers as a returning third-team All-Ohioan selection. All-Ohioan running back Jakorian Caffey will also be in the backfield for his junior season.

“I think that our offense is a lot more comfortable this year. Everybody knows their role on the team. Everybody came back bigger, faster and stronger. We are all mentally on the same page,” said DeTillio.

The 4-2-5 defense will have experienced seniors at every level and is set up to excel in the secondary with returning safeties Cam Santee and Matt Fischer.

“(The secondary) can go up and get intercep-

tions and they can hit just as hard as linebackers do,” said Erhardt.

Erhardt will lead the linebacking corps with Abdul and Mitchell anchoring the defensive line.

“A lot of (offensive) lines double-team guys like Austin Mitchell and Amin (Abdul). So, it opens gaps for me, so I can go downhill and make plays,” said Erhardt.

The first obstacle will be to win the SWC that seems to be loaded yet again. The 2021 season had a different headline for Avon as it fell to their rivals Avon Lake for the first time in eight years, and shared the conference title with Olmsted Falls.

The Eagles took home bragging rights by defeating the Bulldogs in the regular season and in the regional semifinals in 2021.

“We have had a target on our back for the last 10 years. We have won the conference championship for the last six years and have been in the Final Four for the past five years,” said Elder. “We embrace it. We don’t run from it. We understand that every game is a big game when you play for Avon. Our rivalry game will always be the biggest game of the season against (Avon) Lake. Every single team is going to give us their best shot because they want to beat Avon.”

Avon’s out-of-conference schedule includes traveling to Florida on Aug. 19 to face Stratford from South Carolina. Avon then plays Division I regional semifinalist Medina and Division IV powerhouse Glenville before squaring off against Avon Lake in Week 4.

“With our first four games, we recognize that if we don’t play well, we will be 0-4. So, we have to come out of the gates ready to go,” said Elder.



**Come Taste a Touch of the World**

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**THURSDAY** - Beef Stroganoff  
w/Potato Soup \$10.99 • Liver & Onions \$9.99

**FRIDAY** - Tuna Melt w/FF \$7.99  
Lake Yellow Perch Dinner w/Clam Chowder

**SATURDAY** - Slow Cooked Prime Rib Dinner w/Seafood Bisque  
(4:30pm til Close) 10 oz. \$18.99, 12 oz. \$21.79, King Cut \$24.49

**SUNDAY** - Breakfast/Brunch Buffet until 1:00pm • Dutch Fried Chicken  
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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Avon Lake's defense plans to anchor down

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
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Avon Lake is heading into 2022 with a new mindset.

After starting its 2021 season 4-0 and defeating their rival Avon for the first time since 2018, the Shoremen let their guard down against Berea-Midpark and Midview and were handed two SWC losses.

"We are going to put our guys out there to compete. Our goal is to win the conference and that's been our goal, regardless of who's up and who is down," said Kostelnik. "Clearly, last year showed that we need to be ready no matter what. Just because we take down (Avon) doesn't mean that anybody is going to lay down for you."

The upcoming senior class provides experience at the skills positions on offense. Dzik leads the charge



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake coach Matt Kostelnik directs his players during drills at a practice Aug. 3.

with basketball players like Matthew Stuewe and 6-foot-5 Isaac Richardson to throw to with multiple running backs sharing the spotlight in the backfield.

"I challenge them. You have to treat every practice like you are playing (Avon). If you do that, we are going to clean up those little details and put ourselves in

a position to be successful," said Kostelnik.

The defense is led by All-Ohioans Avery Viancourt at defensive end and Keegan Rudduck and Pierden Pepe at the cornerback spots. Five seniors return on the defensive side of the ball, three on defensive line and two in the secondary. The linebacking group will feature new starters.

"I feel pretty good about where we are at right now. We are going to be fast on defense for sure. We have to use that speed and rally behind that football as much as possible," said Kostelnik.

"I think that (the seniors) are ready to go. The thing is how badly do they want to compete?" said Kostelnik. "This senior class has all of the talent in the world. They are great kids and are fun to be around ... Not a lot phases them and when the fire is lit, they are on (point)."

Viancourt is coming in

the season with Division III offers on the table. The consensus about his pass rush is his speed. He described himself as a "loose cannon" in 2021, while leading the conference with 12 sacks.

"I have been more mature (in the offseason). I used to be a loose cannon," said Viancourt. "I would go out there and try to hit the quarterback each time. Now, I am more focused. I know more about what I should do about the little things. I am critiquing everything like my run (defense as well)."

Kostelnik will rely on Viancourt to be the leader of the defensive unit as well as producer.

"(Viancourt leading) is now our expectation. He is going to continue to lead, not just by example like he did last year, but stepping in and (having players) rally around him," said Kostelnik.

The defense can also

rally around Rudduck and Pepe as well as they are expected to have impacts on the opposite cornerback spots.

"I'll take to All-Ohio corners all day, any day. Those two guys are both great athletes, they both are great players (and are) physical," said Kostelnik. "Rudduck is great in zone and is great in man (coverage). He does everything that we need him to do. Pepe is the same way."

Avon Lake is kicking their season off at Strongsville on Aug. 19. The Shoremen will have three weeks of non-conference opponents before hosting Avon in Week 4 on Sept. 9. Kostelnik likes to have a couple of weeks of football before his team's big rivalry game.

"I'd rather play them a little bit later into the season, just so we can get a little more (reps) under our belt. It is going to be a sell-out game no matter what, in my opinion," he said.

## Matt Wilhelm Award preseason watch list

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
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The Matt Wilhelm award is given to The Morning Journal's football player of the year. It is named after the former star of the Elyria Catholic Panthers and Ohio State Buckeyes. He won a BCS national championship in college and the Super Bowl with the Green Bay Packers during his seven-year NFL career.

**RB Jakorion Caffey, Jr., Avon:** Caffey is a returning second-team All-Ohio selection for Division II and the state semifinalist Eagles. He rushed for 1,478 yards and 24 touchdowns. Caffey is described as a complete running back who can make

plays when handed the ball or thrown to. He has multiple Power 5 offers and will look to get more.

**WR Ryne Shackelford, Sr., Keystone:** Over the summer, the four-time state champion sprinter committed to Purdue. He is a third-team All-Ohioan who had 49 receptions for 522 yards and eight touchdowns.

**RB Rocco Conti, Sr., Olmsted Falls:** Was a finalist for the 2021 Wilhelm Award, earning SWC Offensive Player of the Year honors along with Division II District Offensive Player of the Year. Conti rushed for 1,305 yards with 19 touchdowns. Four of the five starters for the offensive line will return for the Bulldogs.

**QB Konner Rodick, Sr., Keystone:** En route to another Lorain County League championship, Rodick threw for 1,908 yards and 18 touchdowns, completing 63 percent of his passes. Filling the void for Golden Helmet Award Winner Gideon Lampron will be tough. Rodick and Shackelford could see more of a workload.

**RB Marco Cirigliano, Jr., Columbia:** The Division VI All-Ohioan was a workhorse with a loaded senior class. He rushed for 1,156 yards and 23 touchdowns, and scored 25 total touchdowns on the season. He gained muscle in the offseason, which should complement his track speed well, making for a lethal weapon in the LC8.

**RB Levi Ellis, Sr., Elyria Catholic:** Was a first-team All-Ohio selection who rushed for 1,600 yards and 27 touchdowns. He also led the Panthers with 124 tackles as a safety. Ellis and quarterback Brady Cook should complement each other well. He is hungry to earn a college offer and plans to make the most of his senior season.

**QB Marc Reed, Sr., Midview:** Reed started 2021 as a backup quarterback to Ethan Surdock. He took full advantage of the opportunity when Surdock was injured, passing for 1,886 yards and 13 touchdowns. His size makes him a tough quarterback to take down, as he rushed for five touchdowns. Mason Kucera

should be a good target to throw to.

**QB Xavier Balson, Sr., North Olmsted:** The Eagles threw for 1,211 yards and 12 touchdowns, while rushing for 469 yards and three touchdowns. All-Ohioan wide receiver Jared Kelley returns for his senior season. Expect Balson to target the track star who runs a 10.68 in the 100 meters.

**RB Lance Glover Jr., Jr., Elyria:** Physical is the best way to describe Glover's running style. The Pioneer rushed for 725 yards with 10 touchdowns. With former quarterback Desmond Whitfield graduating, Glover will be the head of the run-first offense that's supported with solid defense.

**RB John Salamon, Jr., Lorain:** Will be the epitome of the dark horse for the award. Lorain has a developing offensive line with many of the starters returning. Salamon did not play in 2021 due to a knee injury. However, he comes into the 2022 season fully healthy for his junior year. If he can stay healthy, he should be a key component of the Titans' offense.

**QB Sam DeTillio, Sr., Avon:** A third-team All-Ohioan who completed 61 percent of his passes for 2,442 yards and 29 touchdowns. DeTillio has a touchdown-to-interception ratio better than 7-to-1, with four interceptions. He should also be a contender for the 2022 Golden Helmet Award.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Keystone's Shackelford, Rodick stepping up as seniors

By Sean Fitzgerald

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Keystone has been the top team to beat in the Lorrain County League — literally — since the conference came together in 2019.

Don Griswold's Wildcats have a perfect 20-0 conference record, with Columbia's 14-6 record the past three years the second best.

Keystone has some returning star power on the offensive side of the ball, with seniors Konner Rodick and Purdue commitment and multi-time state track winner Ryne Shackelford forming a one-two punch for a quarterback and wideout connection.

"The LC8 isn't very old," Shackelford said. "We won the first LC8 championship our freshman year and we've been the only team to win it in football. I feel like that's something to be proud of and keep it going into our senior year."

"It's just amazing to us that we've gotten this far without losing a game," Rodick added. "But every day we come out to practice and take it day by day, but certainly the job's not done."

Having two returning All-Ohioans certainly makes life a little easier on the coaching staff to plan an offensive attack.

"Our offensive skill is as good as it's ever been," Coach Don Griswold said. "It's obviously led by Ryne and Konner and supported by some other guys. I think the offense is ahead of the defense right now and we're going to score a lot of points this year. The offensive line is gelling together really well."

Griswold also says they have a talented sophomore class that forms a strong base for a more top-heavy team in LaGrange.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone's Ryne Shackelford runs after a catch in practice drills Aug. 2.

"It's fun. There's nothing (Ryne and Konner) haven't seen on a football field, playing snaps since they were freshmen," he said. "They've got super high football IQs and they bring a lot to the table. I'm sure glad they're wearing purple."

If there's one thing the Wildcats are going to miss, it's the presence of running back Gideon Lampron scampering through the backfield and cutting through opposing defenses. With a running-back competition that started in the early days of camp, filling his role will be a unique challenge.

"It's to be determined, we have a bunch of sophomores vying for those snaps," Griswold said. "We're getting them coached up ... But

right now, we're treating it as a camp battle, so to speak, and who's going to fit that role best."

"Gideon was a really big part of the program all four years he was here, but he's gone now and we have to move on," Shackelford said. "We have three or four new coaches and a new offense that's going to be different from the last three years."

Rodick says while new coaches and new players are making their way through, the team still has "the same standards and the same culture that we live by and passing it on to the younger guys, that our legacy lives on."

Keystone is moving from Division IV to Division V this fall. Though it doesn't mean anything comes easy



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone quarterback Konner Rodick looks downfield during practice drills Aug. 2.

for the Wildcats.

"First off with moving divisions, our region in Division V is just as deep and tough as our region in Division IV," Griswold said. "Some schools are moving down as well from our region, and it's not getting any easier just because we're going to a lower division."

As for the LC8, it's still mind boggling to the coach that the school has remained undefeated in football.

"If you would have told me we would go undefeated in three seasons in the LC8, I'd have told you you were crazy," he said with a slight smile. "It's really something that we're proud of and we never saw that coming. There's a lot of really good teams and good coaches (in the conference)."

"I'd be completely ignorant to say that we're the favorites because there's a lot of really good teams and really good kids, and I think it's going to be a dogfight."

For Rodick and Shackelford, they view the competition as "football is football," in the words of Shackelford, with Rodick agreeing with the sentiment.

"There's athletes all over the field at all times," Rodick explained. "Anyone can make a play out there at any time."

That's the mentality that Keystone's younger players have to keep in mind, especially with the loss of Lampron. However, his impact has been felt throughout the entire program from top to bottom.

"One thing that Gideon did that was excellent, he was a phenomenal leader,"



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone's Konner Rodick and Ryne Shackelford prepare for the upcoming season at a practice Aug. 2.

Griswold stated. "The goal of leadership is to produce more leaders. There's a lot of young guys out here who emulate his style and what he brought to the team. It's cool to see that lineage pass on even when he's not out here practicing with us anymore."

Rodick and Shackelford couldn't agree more, with Shackelford calling Lampron a "really unique type of guy."

"He was a great football player and a great teammate as well," he said. "I feel like me and Konner have been among the leaders the past two years on the team. We know a lot of kids look up to us and ask us the questions if they have any. We always help them and try to help them be the best they can be."

Similarly for Rodick, it's returning the favor, in a manner of speaking.

"My freshman year I had Ryne's oldest brother Jacob as my biggest role model," he recalled. "He taught me his ways and I had my ways going for me. Putting those together made me a really good football player. And having all the younger guys now coming to us when they're scared to ask the coaches makes you feel good, where you're helping them and actually keeping the culture alive."

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Bulldogs' Conti ready after recovering from injury

RB focused on delivering after playing through torn labrum

By Sean Fitzgerald  
SFitzgerald@news-herald.com

Olmsted Falls had an impressive year by any stretch of the imagination. The Bulldogs were 10-2 before falling to state semifinalist and fellow SWC rival Avon in the third round of the OHSAA Division II playoffs.

A big part of their success was due to the efforts of running back Rocco Conti. The Matt Wilhelm award finalist rushed for 1,305 yards and 19 scores on the ground and added another 204 yards and two scores on 16 grabs in the aerial attack.

Now imagine Conti at full strength after battling through a fully torn labrum. Putting his body on the line for the team, he still performed at an All-Ohioan level for the Bulldogs. It's a welcome sight for the team to finally have him back healthy after a painful injury.

"If you ask Rocco, he'll tell you it's a team game," head coach Tom Deluca said after an early August practice. "He's not going to accomplish anything without his teammates and there's a lot of good ones surrounding him. That's not to make light of who he is and what he does, he's a phenomenal football player."

Conti feels good after having surgery and going through the rehab process, having to miss his junior lacrosse season last spring. He's finally healthy and ready to roll.

"I'm feeling great. We're looking pretty good at practice, too," Conti said, looking around briefly as his

**"I'm feeling great. We're looking pretty good at practice, too. There's a bunch of young guys that are stepping up and doing very, very well on our O-line and our defense. I'm excited for this year."**

— Olmsted Falls' Rocco Conti

teammates linger off to the side, cognizant of the team that's behind him on and off the gridiron. "There's a bunch of young guys that are stepping up and doing very, very well on our O-line and our defense. I'm excited for this year."

"The recovery process was probably a couple of months. I was grinding my butt in therapy every single week, multiple times a week. I was able to heal pretty quickly, so I was full-go in early June, so that helped out," he said, beating his timetable by "a little bit."

Conti is a team player through and through, seeing his experience as a plus to the overall group that lost a good senior class, including quarterback Charlie Ciolek. The talent that the Bulldogs have back can help offset some of those losses, but he knows it starts with football basics.

"It all starts in the weight room and putting in the work there and on the practice field," he said. "We've been doing pretty good during these first couple of days of practice. We've had camps throughout the summer, and we've just been



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Olmsted Falls running back Rocco Conti goes through team drills Aug. 3.

putting in the work."

But for all the confidence, football is an unforgiving game. Knowing that a new injury could always be around the corner, he's

ready to lay it all on the line to help his teammates get past an Avon team that boasts a similar wealth of talent.

"There's no doubt in my

mind at all," Conti declared. "I'm not worried about that at all. I feel completely fine and I'm completely healthy now."

Conti isn't interested



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Rocco Conti runs off the field during a portion of team practices on Aug. 3.

in his personal accolades or diving into more about himself. It was just like Deluca had says, Conti is a team player.

"(Rocco's) not willing to boast or do any of those things," Deluca noted. "Rocco's going to tell you that it's a team game and we have 10 other guys on the field at the same time as him. Everyone has to execute to make it go. He's usually the one to get his hands on the ball, so when he does, he's pretty explosive. But those 10 other guys make it work."

Conti talked the possibility of playing collegiately, but he still defaulted to talking about the team first.

"Obviously, I'd like to play in college, but the big goal is to go farther than we did last year," he said. "We want to play in four playoff games this year and beat what we did last year. We've got a very tough division, so we'll see what happens."

To take from the Three Musketeers, it's all for one and one for all at Olmsted Falls.





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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Lorain laying foundation for future in 2022

Titans were 1-10 in 2021, a year after dormant season because of COVID-19

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
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Going 1-10 is never easy, especially after Lorain had their 2020 season stripped away from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Titans picked themselves up from humbling experience and are ready lay the foundation for second-year coach Damion Creel's program.

"(We learned) humility (last year)," said Evan Hricovic, Lorain's left guard. "We like to think that we are good and stuff, but when you go out there and go (1-10), we have a lot to learn from. We have learned from it. The hope is that we grow and do way better (than last year)."

The 2021 season could be described as a tough learning curve. However, their young lineup means they have many starters returning, with numerous players still underclassman.

"One thing that is great (about this season) is that we don't have an excuse anymore. We just have to put our heads down and work. We don't have the excuse of missing (2020)," said Shane Ramey-Rowland, Lorain's left tackle.

Quarterback Joseph Wyatt and running back John Salamon will lead the charge, both of which are incoming juniors.

"Our kids right now are where I thought the kids would be at when I took the job last year," said Creel. "We still have a long way to go. They worked tremendously hard and are doing everything we need them to



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Lorain running back breaks through the Westlake defense for a big gain during a scrimmage Aug. 6.

do. We are excited and so are the kids."

Salamon did not play in 2021 due to a torn ACL he suffered before the start of the season. Now, he is fully healthy and is ready to go.

"This year, I feel like I am bigger than I was last year. I feel faster and stronger. I am more ready for this season than I was for last season," he said. "Everything happens for a reason. I feel like we can keep moving forward."

Creel expects him Salamon's rugged running style to have large contri-

butions on the offense after their three-team scrimmage at Lakewood.

"We knew that (Salamone can perform). We knew that he could do it last year. He just unfortunately had his injury," said Creel. "He is back healthy ... Our focal-point of our offense is going to be around him. He is a hell of a kid and a hell of a player."

Wyatt poses as a dual-threat under center, and improved on making his reads as shown in the Lakewood scrimmage.

"I feel like I have de-

veloped a lot. I was doing work over the summer. I was working on my arm and working on my accuracy. I feel like I am doing a lot better than I was last year," said Wyatt.

Being Lorain's quarterback, Wyatt believes he is ready to take the step and become a leader of the offense.

On the offensive line, Hricovic is moving from the left tackle spot to left guard with Ramey-Rowland protecting Wyatt's blindside. Hricovic is excited to moving toward the interior of-

fensive line.

"At left tackle, I didn't really move a lot. Making the switch to guard, I'm pulling more and overall made the game more interesting," he said. "It's fun to go around hitting people more every play."

Lorain opens their season against Ravenna (7-4 in 2021) on the road Aug. 19. The home opener will be in Week 2 against Sandusky on Aug. 26. The Titans are hopeful to start the new season off with a win.

"Morale is a great thing. If you lose that game, you

**"One thing that is great is that we don't have an excuse anymore. We just have to put our heads down and work. We don't have the excuse of missing (2020)."**

— Lorain's Shane Ramey-Rowland



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain football coach Damion Creel motivates his players during practice Aug. 1.

lose a lot of that morale and coming here can start feeling like a chore. But if you start winning, scoring touchdowns, driving down the field and beating up on some people, it feels great," said Ramey-Rowland.

The defense will be led by senior Jaelon Delaine at linebacker. He is the sole senior on their defense. The defense will have seven juniors and three sophomores, each playing on the defensive line, at linebacker and in the secondary.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Vermilion, Oberlin, Westlake start, restart eras

Sailors, Phoenix have new coaches, while Demons' Hall begins his second stint

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
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The 2022 season is a season for high hopes, especially for Westlake, Oberlin and Vermilion.

The three schools had coaching changes and hope it is the beginning of a new era for their programs.

## Bill DiFucci, Vermilion

DiFucci is living the dream. The Sailors alum gets a chance to coach the team he once played for.

"(Coaching Vermilion) is a dream come true. This is something that I dreamed my whole life. I have a great group of kids. I have a fantastic coaching staff. Everybody is buying in. The community is in. It is electric right now," he said.

The 1992 Vermilion graduate served as a defensive coordinator under former coach Brett Colahan, who stepped down after four seasons.

The assistant coach position allowed him to develop relationships with his players, he believes that will play a benefit for the future.

"I've been here (as a coach). I've seen a coach. I know where they fit well already, because I have been in the program," DiFucci said. "I know what the kids' strengths and weaknesses are. Being around them for that long and being familiar of what they are capable of."

Vermilion went 1-9 in 2021 in the SBC Lake Division. The biggest challenge will be to find a replacement for multi-sport Sailor Ben Rini, who was a quar-



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Vermilion coach Bill DiFucci gives instructions during a practice with Brookside on July 14.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Westlake coach Jason Hall watches over a scrimmage against Lorain on Aug. 6.

terback and linebacker.

## Dominique Goodwin, Oberlin

Elyria coach Devlin Culliver's football tree is starting to grow with Goodwin being the first expansion branch. He was the Pioneers' offensive coordinator and has now taken the next step to become the head coach of the Oberlin Phoenix.

"(Coaching Oberlin football) is exciting. It is different from being an assis-

tant, but I have a great staff around me, good kids that are allowing me to coach. I am really excited about this year," Goodwin said.

Goodwin is coming into Oberlin looking to change the culture. The Phoenix have not seen a winning season since 2012 (6-4). Their team went 2-8 (1-6 in LC8) in 2021. Being apart of Elyria's rebuild from 1-9 to 6-5, Goodwin thinks he can apply that formula for Oberlin.

"Everything is a process and I think that is what Devlin Culliver showed



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS HERALD

Oberlin coach Dominique Goodwin gives instructions during a scrimmage Aug. 12 at Fairport.

**"You don't look for the wins and losses right now. You look for the culture change. You look for the little things that builds the culture up and lay the foundation correctly and the rest will go how it's supposed to."**

— Oberlin coach Dominique Goodwin

me," said Goodwin. "You don't look for the wins and losses right now. You look for the culture change. You look for the little things that builds the culture up and lay the foundation correctly and the rest will go how it's supposed to. (Culliver) did a great job laying the foundation (at Elyria) and now they are becoming contenders in Division I, Region 1." With All-Ohioan quarterback Andre Yarber graduating, they will be returning two-sport All-Ohioan Isaac Thompson at tight end and linebacker. Goodwin expects him along with the senior class to set the culture for the future generation.

"(The senior class) are going to lay the foundation. They may not see the reward yet, but in a couple of years, they are going to that (they) are the ones

who starting this," he said. "They have done a great job of being a leader and taking over the little things... and mentoring these younger guys. They are showing them how it should be."

## Jason Hall, Westlake

Hall coached for over 20 years with numerous teams, including the Demons. He paused his career to focus on his family, but now, Hall is ready to lead his former team again.

"Going through the high school process as a parent, I totally have a different perspective of things I will say to kids and how will approach certain situations with kids and families," said Hall, a Westlake teacher and resident. "I have a different light on it now since I have done it with a high school athlete."

Westlake is coming off a 4-5 (1-3 conference record) in its first year in the West Division of the Great Lakes Conference. The Demons will return two-sport athlete and running back Will Ostrowski. He rushed for 600 yards and scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams.

"I like (this upcoming) team. We don't have huge numbers, but our kids have bought in. When I look over (our scrimmage in Lakewood), our kids have bought in," said Hall. "If we keep making corrections and limiting our mistakes over (time), we will have a chance to put ourselves in games, with a chance to win games."

According to Hall, Westlake was in seven games in the second half, winning four. The team's biggest goal is to finish games just like they started.

"When you are in games like that, it is about finishing. I think that is the next step for us. Can we be finishers in games that we were in?" he said.

Westlake has some veterans, but also some new players looking to step up. Sam Bucchieri, stands at 6-foot-2 and will quarterback their offense as a sophomore in their new system led by veteran coordinators in charge of each side of the ball.

"We have a veteran staff of coaches who deserve a lot of credit as well," Hall said. "We got Luke Durbin, who was the head coach at North Ridgeville for seven years running the offense. Defensively, Nick Toth was a defensive coach at Ohio University and has been a defensive coordinator for a state title team and a head coach. Not to mention Rick Lyle, a nine-year ex-NFL veteran, who joined our staff and already works at the school... I am really grateful to have them here."

## High school football conference outlooks

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
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### Southwestern Conference

**FAVORITE** » Avon  
**CONTENDER** » Olmsted Falls  
**DARKHORSE** » Avon Lake, Elyria

Expect the SWC to be competitive this season. The middle-of-the-pack teams are solid, but with Avon returning a lot of their starters along with top underclassmen such as running back Jakorion Caffey and a four-star recruit offensive lineman Luke Hamilton, it is not only the favorite to make it to the top of the conference, but also Region 6 of Division II.

Despite Olmsted Falls graduating quarterback Charlie Ciolek, its offensive line will be almost entirely intact along with All-Ohioan running back Rocco Conti. However, the Bulldogs' defense is only returning three starters. If their running game can be dominant, it will put their first-year quarterback Jimmy Rosol in a position to succeed and dominate time of possession, keeping the defense off the field.

Avon Lake's defense almost always is their identity. Expect the same this year with All-Ohioan defenders Pierden Pepe, Keegan Rudduck and Avery Viancourt coming back. The offense has players returning in all the skills positions with multiple capable running backs in the backfield to complement quarterback Jeremy Dzik.

Elyria is also returning All-Ohioans Jaden Gilbert, Isaiah Johnson, and Jasir Lucky on the defensive side of the ball. The main factor will be at the quarterback and wide receiver spots after graduating Andrew Palos and Desmond Whitfield. Elyria wants to get



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia's Michael Chapman battles Declan Bracken of Keystone at the line of scrimmage Oct. 15.

back to ground-and-pound offense with senior running back Lance Glover Jr. in the backfield.

### Lorain County League

**FAVORITE** » Keystone  
**CONTENDER** » Columbia  
**DARKHORSE** » Black River, Firelands

Keystone is fresh off another LC8 championship with an undefeated conference record in 2021. However, the season ended again at the hands of the eventual Region 14 champs. This year, they were bumped down to Division V, taking them out of Region 14. Keystone should have one of if not the best

passing attacks in the conference with the quarterback, wide receiver duo of Ryan Shackelford and Conner Rodick. There is a void at running back and linebacker with Golden Helmet Award Winner Gideon Lampron playing for the Flyers at the University of Dayton.

Columbia were the main contenders to Keystone in 2021 en route to a regional semifinal, but that was with arguably their best boys senior class in the history of Raider nation. The 2021 LC8 Co-Coach of the Year Jason Ward will have his hands full to fill the void. However, All-Ohioan run-

ning back Marco Cirigliano's gained weight and with his track speed should carry a large portion of the offense.

Black River gave Columbia a tough run in the playoffs. It led in the fourth quarter, before Cirigliano scored his third touchdown late. They always bring a physical team onto the field.

Firelands will have an experienced offense. The make-or-break factors will be their quarterback play after Kyle Ransom graduated. The defense has to replace the front seven, but the unit is returning the secondary.

Elyria Catholic is bringing back five All-Ohioans on both sides of the ball, including a senior-laden backfield of Brady Cook, Levi Ellis and Tavion Thomas. The Panthers with all of that young talent were regional finalists in Division V. They were bumped up to Division IV and look to leave their mark. Taking on the GLC will have to come first.

The Western Division will not be an easy path to the championship game as EC will have to play at North Olmsted in Week 8, which should be a must-watch if both teams come in undefeated. North Olmsted has a much larger student pool, being a Division II team. The Eagles' offense should be soaring in the GLC as they will return All-Ohioans Jared Kelley and Xavier Balson (quarterback). Gavin Beasley will anchor the defensive line for North Olmsted.

Expect the GLC East to take a step back. Valley Forge lost their top running backs, along with Buckeye losing some players as well. Holy Name should be considered the favorites to come out of the east with two All-Ohioans returning on the defensive side of the ball.

### Lake Erie League

**LORAIN** » The Titans are still recovering from their lost 2020 season. There were a lot of growing pains in the 2021 season after going 1-10. They will be returning a lot of young talents on the team. Cleveland Heights should be favored to win the conference again.

### Sandusky Bay Conference-Lake

**VERMILION** » The Sailors will have to find an answer for their star player Ben Rini at behind center. The Sailors could see improvement, but likely not enough to be seen as contenders under first-year coach Bill DiFucci.

### Great Lakes Conference

**FAVORITE** » Elyria Catholic  
**CONTENDER** » North Olmsted

**DARKHORSE** » Holy Name

Rocky River was one of the top teams in its region of Division III and the champs of the GLC. But that was with all their seniors that included Matt Wilhelm Award Winner Tommy Bebie.

Elyria Catholic was a field goal away from securing its spot in the GLC Championship game as they won the rest of their western divisional games. Coming into the 2022 season,

## High school football games to watch

**By Mark Perez-Krywany**  
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### Amherst at Valley Forge, Aug. 18

With the first Friday of the regular season on Aug. 19, the Comets will be the first area team playing on this year, at Byers Field. Amherst went 0-10 in Kenny Fritz's first year as head coach. It will be interesting to see how they bounce back. The Patriots defeated the Comets, 40-9, in the 2021 season opener at Amherst. But Valley Forge will be without star running backs Eddie Starks and Kentrell Marks. The duo rushed for over 400 yards against the Comets.

### Elyria at Elyria Catholic, Aug. 19

It's been over 10 years since the Panthers defeated their crosstown rival Pioneers. Dan Reaser was the quarterback who helped Elyria Catholic beat Elyria, 56-35, in 2010. Since then, the Panthers' stadium has been renamed after Reaser's father, who graduated in 1978. Elyria Catholic will be returning six All-Ohioans from a Division V regional final run. Elyria is coming off a 6-5 season in its first year in the SWC and is returning three All-Ohioans on defense. Elyria won, 20-15, at home in 2021.

### Olmsted Falls at Chardon, Aug. 19

The Chardon Hilltoppers are two-time defending state champions in Division III and were 16-0 in 2021. Olmsted Falls is coming off a SWC co-championship season. This will make a good litmus test for the Bulldogs to see where they rank among the teams in the region. Win or lose, it will prepare them for the grind that the SWC has been for years.

### Glenville at Avon, Sept. 2

Glenville has produced some of the top football talent in the country. According to MaxPreps, the Tarblooders' six NFL draft picks ranks them ninth in the country among high schools. They are expected to have another stacked roster with four-star recruits Bryce West (Ohio State commit) and Damarion Witten leading the team as they have high hopes to leave their mark on Division IV. The Eagles will square off against them in Week 3 after hosting Medina and playing Stratford in Florida. This should make a good tuneup game for Avon as they will take on Avon Lake in Week 4.

### Black River at Columbia, Sept. 9

The Raiders defeated the Pirates, 40-12, in the regular season. They played again in the playoffs, with Columbia surviving, 22-20, thanks to running back Marco Cirigliano's 300 total yards from scrimmage and three touchdowns. Cirigliano is returning and will be a player to watch. This is the first LC8 game of the season. One team will start 0-1 in the conference and the other will be on the way to contending with Keystone for the conference title.

### Avon at Avon Lake, Sept. 9

No matter what, the neighboring cities of Avon and Avon Lake squaring off is must-watch on the gridiron. The Eagles won four straight, including two Division II regional final games, then Avon Lake defeated Avon, 30-24, in 2021. The loss cost the Eagles the outright Southwestern Conference title. Expect them to have revenge on their mind when they play in Week 4.

### Elyria Catholic at Holy Name, Sept. 9

Could the Holy War in Week 4 be a potential preview of



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic's Levi Ellis tries to shake an Ottaw-Glandorf defender in the Division V, Region 18 final Nov. 20, 2021 at Robert J. Bishop Jr. Stadium.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst's defensive unit makes a stop on a Brecksville-Broadview Heights runner short of the goal line during a scrimmage on Aug. 5.

the Great Lakes Conference championship game? In the Eastern Division, the Green Wave are favored with Buckeye and Valley Forge graduating key players from their 2021 teams. Holy Name is returning two all-state players on defense. Elyria Catholic will have

to compete against North Olmsted and the defending conference champion Rocky River. But it would not be surprising if the Panthers keep film on this game to use in Week 10.

### Avon at Olmsted Falls, Sept. 30

The Eagles and the Bulldogs split the SWC championship in 2021. However, Avon defeated Olmsted Falls, 41-29, in the regular season and 49-21 in a regional semifinal. In fact, Avon has defeated Olmsted Falls the past 11 times since 2013. This matchup is expected to have a large impact in the outcome of the conference and seeding for the playoffs. Both teams have highly touted prospects, especially at running back and their offensive line.

### Elyria Catholic at North Olmsted, Oct. 7

This matchup features two teams favored to represent the West Division of the Great Lakes Conference in the conference championship game in Week 10. Elyria Catholic is coming in with an edge as it defeated the Eagles, 30-24, in 2021. However, North Olmsted is returning Division II All-Ohioans Xavier Balson and

Jared Kelley at quarterback and wide receiver.

### Avon Lake at Elyria, Oct. 7

The 2021 matchup between the two SWC contenders was a tightly contested showdown in a downpour. However, the Shoremen came out with a 16-14 win. Both teams are bringing back a solid group of seniors to try to contend for a SWC crown. Conference placement and playoff seeding will be on the line for this matchup.

### Keystone at Columbia, Oct. 14

The Raiders and Wildcats were the top two teams in the conference. Keystone won, 34-24, at home in Week 9 on the way to the Lorain County League title. The Raiders' Marco Cirigliano has this game marked on his calendar not only because of the game, but also because it's his birthday.

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!**



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## Amherst»Comets



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A quarterback for Amherst throws against the pressure by Brecksville on Aug. 5.

### Just the facts

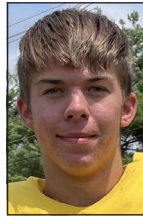
**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Kenneth Fritz, second year (0-10)  
**2021:** 0-10  
**Twitter:** @AmherstFootball  
**Home field:** Memorial Field

### Outlook

Fritz has brought in a new coaching staff with more experience to guide this team. The loss of Torre Weatherspoon is a big void that needs to be filled as a playmaker with the ball and on defense. Their offense plans to be physical and will take what the defense gives them. The Comets will prepare to face Valley Forge in hopes of getting Fritz his first career win.

### Player to watch

Senior Cam Gendics is a dynamic pitcher on the diamond and will be a player to watch on the gridiron. He will be the Comets' captain. Fritz describes him as a coach on the field with great knowledge of the game. Expect to see quarterback Christian Heckman targeting him a lot.



Gendics

**Underclassman to watch:** Tristyn Young flies around the ball. The sophomore will be a second-year letterman for the Comets, who makes a great last line of defense on their back line as their safety. In practice, he is the hammer more often than the nail.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The senior class can set a good example for the underclassmen, **THEN:** 2021 should be a good rebuilding year for the future.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Amherst at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Amherst at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** North Olmsted at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Amherst at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Amherst at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Avon Lake at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Amherst at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Elyria at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Amherst at Avon, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Christian Heckmann\*, Sr., 6-0, 205  
**RB:** Bishop Bryson, Sr., 5-11, 180  
**WR:** Cameron Gendics, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**WR:** Jacob Kraft, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**WR:** Tristyn Young, So., 6-2, 180  
**TE:** Mason Fischer\*, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**LT:** Baylor Gross, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**LG:** Ross Auvil, Jr., 5-10, 215  
**C:** Joey Brooks\*, Jr., 5-10, 195  
**RG:** Braden Carpenter\*, Sr., 6-3, 245  
**RT:** Caden Henry\*, Sr., 6-5, 335  
**K:** Nathan Stewart, So., 5-11, 170

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Carter Poulton, Jr., 6-3, 225  
**DL:** Ross Auvil\*, Jr., 5-10, 215  
**DL:** Joey Brooks, Jr., 5-10, 195  
**DL:** Braden Carpenter\*, Sr., 6-3, 245  
**LB:** Ryan Auvil\*, Jr., 5-10, 205  
**LB:** Mason Fischer, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**OLB:** J.R. Bires, So., 5-8, 185  
**SS:** Jacob Kraft, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**FS:** Tristyn Young, So., 6-2, 180  
**CB:** Ashton Draga, So., 5-8, 175  
**CB:** Landon Fellenstein, Jr., 5-10, 185  
**P:** Carter Poulton, Jr., 6-3, 225  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 10**  
**Key reserves:** WR: Eli Solak\*, So., 6-2, 205, CB: Zachary Cheatham, Sr., 5-11, 165, DE: Henry Cislo, So., 6-2, 200  
**Best in the classroom:** Aiden Workman, 4.0 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Caden Henry 330 pounds  
**Best squat:** Caden Henry 470 pounds

## Avon»Eagles



JENNIFER FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon's Hunter Maxey carries against Strongsville on Aug. 11.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** SWC  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Mike Elder, 16th year (160-28)  
**2021:** 12-3  
**Twitter:** @avoneagles  
**Home Field:** Joe Firment Stadium

### Outlook

Different year, same result for Avon in 2021, meeting their wall in a state semifinal. Avon is reloading for another deep playoff run with experience at every level on offense and defense. The Eagles will bring in new starters in the interior offensive line to go with their two returning tackles. Expect to see a balanced offensive attack with a fly-around defense.

### Player to watch

Quarterback Sam DeTillio is one of the many on offense to watch for. As a junior, he completed 61 percent of his passes for 2,443 yards, and 29 touchdowns with only four interceptions. Elder believes he will be a contender for the 2022 Golden Helmet award.



DeTillio

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior running back Jakorion Caffey will start his second year in the Eagles' backfield. He has received Power 5 recruitment as a returning second-team All-Ohioan. Caffey rushed for 1,478 yards and 24 touchdowns a year ago.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Their interior offensive line can make strides, **THEN:** Avon should make another deep playoff run.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** vs. Stratford (S.C.) at Orlando, Fla., 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Medina at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Avon at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Elyria at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** North Ridgeville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Berea-Midpark at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Avon at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Amherst at Avon, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Sam DeTillio\*, Jr., 5-11, 183  
**RB:** Jakorion Caffey\*, Jr., 5-11, 191  
**WR:** Ethan Holbrook\*, Sr., 5-11, 195  
**WR:** Drew Lindsay, Sr., 5-7, 158  
**WR:** Braden Fitchko, Sr., 5-9, 168  
**LT:** Dylan Hergenroeder\*, Sr. 6-2, 229  
**LG:** Matt Muir, Jr., 6-0, 244  
**C:** Connor Bingham, So., 6-0, 240  
**RG:** Matt Alspach, Jr., 6-3, 240  
**RT:** Luke Hamilton\*, Jr., 6-6, 295

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Moose Frombach, Sr., 6-3, 210  
**DT:** Austin Mitchell\*, Sr., 6-2, 240  
**NG:** Amin Abdul\*, Sr., 6-1, 263  
**LB:** Cole Paonessa, Jr., 5-11, 208  
**LB:** Luke Paonessa, Sr., 5-10, 219  
**LB:** Gavin Ehrhardt\*, Sr., 5-9, 208  
**LB:** Nick Fouts, Sr., 5-10, 203  
**CB:** Evan Garcia, Sr., 5-6, 151  
**SS:** Cam Santee\*, Sr., 6-3, 214  
**FS:** Matt Fisher, Sr., 5-11, 186  
**CB:** Joe Weatherspoon, Sr., 5-10, 172  
**\* returning starter**

## Avon Lake»Shoremen



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake quarterback Jeremy Dzik runs offensive drills at a practice Aug. 3.

### Just the facts

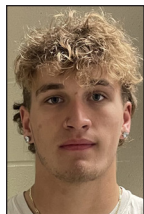
**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division 2, Region 6  
**Coach:** Matt Kostelnik, sixth year (42-13)  
**2021:** 7-4 (4-3)  
**Twitter:** @coachkostelnik  
**Home field:** Avon Lake Memorial Stadium

### Outlook

Avon Lake was in prime position to take the SWC in 2021. But back-to-back conference losses knocked them out of championship contention. In 2022, expect a locked-in Shoremen squad that will not be complacent with wins under their belt. Their defense will bring back two All-Ohioans and the offense will have lots of returning starters at the skills positions.

### Player to watch

Senior Avery Viancourt describes himself a loose cannon in his All-Ohioan junior season as a defensive end. The front four is returning three starters and Viancourt will look to step up as their leader. He led the conference with 12 sacks.



Viancourt

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Kevin Baker is an up-and-coming DB. It is his first year starting on defense as he was the backup QB.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The inexperienced linebacking corps can make strides on the fly; **THEN:** Their defense should return to its elite form.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

**(subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Avon Lake at Strongsville, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Brecksville-Broadview Heights at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** St. John the Baptist (N.Y.) at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Avon at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Avon Lake at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Midview at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Avon Lake at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Avon Lake at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Olmsted Falls at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Avon Lake at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jeremy Dzik\*, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**RB:** Jason Krukowski\*, Sr., 6-0, 184  
**FB:** Jeremy Brausch\*, Sr., 5-10, 195  
**WR:** Derek McCrum\*, Jr., 6-2, 180  
**WR:** Matthew Stuewe\*, Sr., 6-3, 196  
**WR:** Isaac Richardson\*, Sr., 6-5, 202  
**LT:** Caden Peters, Sr., 6-5, 240  
**LG:** Braeden Quigley\*, Sr., 6-2, 242  
**C:** Konner Nilson, Sr., 5-11, 225  
**RG:** Clay Broadhurst\*, Jr., 6-1, 250  
**RT:** Max Riley, Fr., 6-5, 263  
**K:** Ian Walsh, Jr., 6-2, 190

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Avery Viancourt\*, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**DT:** Caden Peters\*, Sr., 6-5, 240  
**DT:** Konner Nilson, Sr., 5-11, 225  
**DE:** Carter Sergeant, Jr., 6-3, 220  
**OLB:** Derek McCrum, Jr., 6-2, 180  
**MLB:** Jeremy Brausch, Jr., 5-10, 195  
**OLB:** Jason Krukowski, Sr., 6-0, 184  
**S:** Kevin Baker, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**S:** C.J. Gurule, Sr., 5-11, 186  
**CB:** Keegan Rudduck, Sr., 6-1, 165  
**CB:** Pepe Pierden, Sr., 6-1, 180  
**P:** Ian Walsh, Jr., 6-2, 190  
**\* returning starter**  
**Key Reserves:** RB: Wade Nelson, Jr., 6-0, 165 WR: Keegan Rudduck, Sr., 6-1, 165, S: Hayden Blosser, Jr., 6-2, 165, LB: Michael Pace, Jr., 6-3, 190

## Bay»Rockets



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Bay receiver tries to turn the corner on a field defender during an Aug. 12 scrimmage.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 10  
**Coach:** Ron Rutt, ninth season (60-29)  
**2021:** 5-5 (2-4)  
**Twitter:** @bayathletics  
**Home field:** Bay Memorial Stadium

### Outlook

Bay returns a ton of experience on the offensive and defensive lines, as well as senior quarterback Tony Buttari after an early season injury in 2021. They'll look to build off a solid campaign with a new offense that could open up more avenues with a two-dimensional look for Ron Rutt's team.

### Player to watch:

Malachi Edgerly has been a wrecker on the defensive side of the ball and a solid tight end at 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds. His progress from the offseason will be a big boost for the defensive line.



Edgerly

**Underclassman to watch:** An All-Ohio honorable mention, Brendan Spellman (5-9, 175) looks to take on a bigger role on both sides of the ball.



Spellman

### Bottom line

**IF:** The offense takes a step up from 2021 with Buttari back under center; **THEN:** Competing for the GLC West is within the realm of possibility.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

**(subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** West Geauga at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Bay at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** University at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Bay at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Westlake at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Bay at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Bay at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Fairview at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Bay at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Tony Buttari\*, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**RB:** Brendan Spellman\*, Jr., 5-9, 175  
**WR:** Charles Rice, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**WR:** Adam Tenerowicz\*, Sr., 6-0, 210  
**WR:** Jace Knapp\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**TE:** Mac Weingart, Jr., 5-9, 205  
**LT:** Malachi Edgerly\*, Sr., 6-3, 235  
**LG:** Sean Anthony\*, Sr., 225  
**C:** Nathan Dacek\*, Sr., 5-9, 235  
**RG:** Jake McCleary\*, Sr., 5-11, 225  
**RT:** Cayden Periandri, Sr., 6-1, 225  
**K:** Millian Evans, Sr., 5-9, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Malachi Edgerly\*, Sr., 6-3, 235  
**DE:** Sean Anthony\*, Sr., 225  
**DT:** Cayden Periandri, Sr., 6-1, 225  
**ILB:** Patrick Lehane\*, Sr., 6-1, 225  
**ILB:** Jack McAlea\*, Jr., 5-11, 165  
**OLB:** Brendan Spellman\*, Jr., 5-9, 175  
**OLB:** Mac Weingart, Jr., 5-9, 205  
**LB:** James Cox, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**CB:** Jace Knapp\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**CB:** Elijah Tarry, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**SS:** Charles Rice\*, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**P:** Carson Gergye\*, Sr., 6-4, 180  
**\*:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 18  
**Key reserves:** Carson Gergye, Sr., 6-4, 180  
**Best in the classroom:** Malachi Edgerly, 4.15 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Malachi Edgerly, 315 pounds  
**Best squat:** Mac Weingart, 440  
**Best 40 time:** Jace Knapp, 4.58 seconds



## Brookside»Cardinals



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Brookside huddles with Coach Scott O'Donnell during a practice on July 14.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14

**Coach:** Scott O'Donnell, fourth year (8-21)

**2021:** 4-5 (3-4)

**Twitter:** @Brooksidefb

**Home Field:** Dick Sevit Stadium

### Outlook

Brookside looks to take a step forward in 2022 after going 4-5 in 2021. However, the loss of Kenny Grobeolek will leave a hole behind center and in the secondary. He was named the team's MVP on both sides of the ball. The battle for the quarterback spot was between Alex Toth and Nick Arra. Before August, Arra held the edge over Toth. The team has plenty of depth at wide receiver.

### Player to watch

Senior running back Michael Gomes is expected to have a key role in the offense. He is described as a guy that is not afraid to run right into you as opposed to eluding tacklers. He also has that breakaway speed once he turns the corner. He rushed for 350 yards, averaging 7.3 yards per carry. On defense, his speed is expected to have an impact at outside linebacker.



Gomes

**Underclassman to watch:** Expect Ben Montgomery to become a creative playmaker with the ball in his hands along with being an impact player at outside linebacker on the opposite side of Gomes. Last year, he averaged 11.5 yards per catch.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Cards' starting quarterback can produce an effective passing game; **THEN:** The offense should balance well with the running game.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Brookside at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Cuyahoga Heights at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Brookside at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Clearview at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Brookside at Black River, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Brookside at Keystone, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Brookside at Firelands, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Wellington at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nick Arra, So., 5-11, 180

**RB:** Michael Gomes\*, Sr., 5-10, 185

**RB:** Ben Montgomery\*, Jr., 5-9, 170

**WR:** Brennen Gainer\*, Jr., 5-9, 160

**WR:** Lincoln Barnhart, Jr., 6-1, 170

**WR:** Anthony Robinson, So., 6-3, 175

**LT:** Pat DiBattiste\*, Sr., 6-0, 250

**LG:** Blake Walls, Jr., 6-0, 210

**C:** Aiden McLaughlin\*, Jr., 6-1, 210

**RG:** Jonah Konaho\*, Sr., 6-0, 280

**RT:** Ryan Kelley\*, Sr., 5-10, 250

**K:** Noah Adkins, So., 5-9, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Aiden McLaughlin\*, Jr., 6-1, 210

**DL:** Pat DiBattiste\*, Sr., 6-0, 250

**DL:** Ryan Kelley\*, Sr., 5-10, 250

**LB:** Michael Gomes\*, Sr., 5-10, 185

**LB:** Lincoln Barnhart, Jr., 6-1, 170

**LB:** Tyler Kitzberger\*, So., 6-0, 180

**LB:** Zander LaCavera, Sr., 6-0, 170

**DB:** Brennen Gainer\*, Jr., 5-9, 160

**DB:** Shawn Moore, Jr., 5-10, 160

**DB:** Anthony Robinson, So., 6-3, 175

**DB:** Alex Toth\*, Jr., 6-1, 170

**P:** Tyler Kitzberger, So., 6-0, 180

\* **returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 25

**Key reserves:** Christian Arend, Jr., 5-10, 160

**Best in the classroom:** Aiden McLaughlin, 3.67 GPA

**Best bench press:** Ryan Kelley, 325 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Brennen Gainer, 4.9 seconds

**Best squat:** Ryan Kelley, 500 pounds

## Clearview»Clippers



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Clearview quarterback is chased out of the pocket by a Vermilion defender Aug. 11

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 18

**Coach:** Mike Collier, 15th year (88-64)

**2021:** 0-9 (0-7)

**Twitter:** @Clipperfb

**Home Field:** Tom Hoch Field

### Outlook

Like Keystone, Clearview bumped down to Division V, Region 18. The Clippers have plenty of athleticism, which can make them dangerous when they get the ball in their hands. Their skills positions are where they have the most depth.

### Player to watch

Junior Ethan Lorenzana was the Clippers' starting running back last season. However, he is returning to become a starting quarterback and middle linebacker. His athleticism should make him a dual-threat under center.



Lorenzana

**Underclassman to watch:** Josiah Longo is one of the most versatile players at Clearview. His wrestling background gives Longo an advantage in the trenches as their outside pass rusher.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Clearview can get the ball their playmakers in open space; **THEN:** their athleticism will become a solid foundation in their rebuild.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Parma vs. Clearview at Lorain, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Clearview at Toledo Scott, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Clearview at Smithville, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Clearview at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Clearview at Black River, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Columbia vs. Clearview at Lorain, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Clearview at Oberlin, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Ethan Lorenzana\*, Jr.

**RB:** Ashton Pabon\*, Jr.

**RB:** Shawn O'Hern, Sr.

**WR:** Keith Colvin\*, Jr.

**WR:** Malcolm Lane\*, Jr.

**WR:** Dominic Jackson, Jr.

**LT:** Cameron Carreras\*, Sr.

**LG:** Isaac Dandrea, Jr.

**C:** Derrick Jones\*, Sr.

**RG:** Noah Christarella, Sr.

**RT:** Jordan Stowers, Jr.

**K:** Ashton Pabon, Sr.

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Greg O'Hern\*, Jr.

**DE:** Josiah Longo, So.

**DT:** Isaac Dandrea, Jr.

**DT:** Derrick Jones, Sr.

**LB:** Shawn O'Hern\*, Sr.

**LB:** Ashton Pabon\*, Jr.

**LB:** Dymias Seagers\*, Sr.

**DB:** Dominic Jackson\*, Jr.

**DB:** Keith Colvin\*, Jr.

**DB:** Malcolm Lane\*, Jr.

**P:** Ethan Lorenzana, Jr.

\* **returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 19

**Key reserves:** P: Ty Pinto, Ayden Cruz, Jr., Daymon Lebron, Sr., Fr., Toriano Goodwin  
**Best in the classroom:** Ayden Cruz 4.391 GPA

## Columbia»Raiders



KELLY MILLUZZI — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia was 11-2 a season ago under Coach Jason Ward.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22

**Coach:** Jason Ward, 17th year (112-60)

**2021:** 11-2 (7-1)

**Twitter:** @\_CHSFootball

**Home field:** Columbia Raiders Stadium

### Outlook

Columbia is looking to reload after its winningest season in the history of the program. On offense, they are losing players on the offensive line and at the skills positions. But quarterback Carter Kalamasz has varsity level experience, even though he backed up Andrew Champagne in 2021. He will have new targets to throw to, but the running game will be the identity of the offense.

### Player to watch

Raiders' senior Vincent Berardi is making a transition from center to wide receiver. He is one of their captains along with one of their impact players as a linebacker. One of his goals is to be the best leader possible.



Berardi

**Underclassman to watch:** Running back Marco Cirigliano enters his second season as the Raiders' starting running back and All-Ohioan in 2021. He brings track speed in the backfield with a north-south running style.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Raiders running game can put Kalamasz in a position to succeed; **THEN:** Their offense should make them contenders in the Lorain County League.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Columbia at Independence, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Vermilion at Columbia, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Columbia at Northwestern, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Black River at Columbia, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Columbia at Clearview, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Wellington at Columbia, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Columbia at Oberlin, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Keystone at Columbia, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Firelands at Columbia, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Carter Kalamasz, Sr., 5-9, 140

**TB:** Marco Cirigliano\*, Jr., 5-10, 180

**FB:** Tony Governale, Sr., 5-9, 180

**WR:** Vince Berardi\*, Sr., 6-3, 175

**WR:** Jacob Sanders, Jr., 5-6, 140

**TE:** Carter Peabody, Sr., 6-0, 190

**LT:** Anthony Fatica\*, Sr., 6-6, 300

**LG:** C.J. Dupaski\*, Jr., 5-8, 180

**C:** Nate Chapman, So., 5-10, 254

**RG:** Michael Chapman, Jr., 5-10, 205

**RT:** Chase Voge, So., 6-2, 230

**K:** Frank Washburn\*, Sr., 6-2, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Gavin Tollett, Jr., 6-4, 200

**NG:** Ben Bowling, Jr., 5-11, 252

**DE:** Michael Chapman\*, Sr., 5-10, 205

**OLB:** Tony Governale, Sr., 5-9, 180

**OLB:** Vince Berardi\*, Sr., 6-3, 175

**ILB:** Hayden Garrow\*, Sr., 6-0, 210

**ILB:** Carter Peabody\*, Sr., 6-0, 190

**S:** Marco Cirigliano, Jr., 5-10, 180

**S:** Jacob Sanders, Jr., 5-6, 140

**CB:** Danny Corrigan, Jr., 5-8

**CB:** Matt Pring, Jr., 5-8, 145

**P:** Frank Washburn\*, Sr., 6-2, 175

**Key reserves:** ILB: Ethan Meier, Jr., 6-0, 200

**Best in the classroom:** Vincent Berardi, Anthony Fatica, Tony Governale

**Best bench press:** Hayden Garrow, 315 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Cirigliano, 4.68 seconds

**Best squat:** Anthony Fatica, 375 pounds

## Elyria»Pioneers



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria players take part in pass rush drills at a practice Aug. 1.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference

**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1

**Coach:** Devlin Culliver, fourth year (10-21)

**2021:** 6-5 (3-4)

**Twitter:** @ElyriaAthletics

**Home field:** Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium

### Outlook

On defense, two All-Ohioans return with some underclassmen ready to take the next step. However, Elyria will have to replace quarterback Desmond Whittfield. Expect the Pioneers to heavily lean on their running game, control time of possession and let the defense go to work.

### Player to watch

Returning All-Ohio linebacker Isaiah Johnson is an experienced leader and someone the Pioneers can rely on to fly to the football. His experience gives him a greater understanding of opposing offenses.

**Underclassman to watch:** Braylon Raise saw varsity time as a freshman. His speed off the edge has the potential to rival his predecessor All-Ohioan defensive ends in the past.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Quarterback play can perform to complement the rushing attack; **THEN:** The Pioneers should become a top-tier team in the SWC.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Elyria at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Elyria at Bedford, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Lorain at Elyria, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Berea-Midpark at Elyria, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Elyria at Avon, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Elyria at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Avon Lake at Elyria, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Elyria at Amherst, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Midview at Elyria, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Ryan Koltz\*, Sr., 5-10, 165

**RB:** Lance Glover\*, Sr., 6-0, 235

**WR:** Jayden Gilbert\*, Sr., 5-10, 185

**WR:** Jasir Lucky\*, Sr., 5-10, 176

**WR:** Andre Lucky, Jr., 6-1, 170

**WR:** B.J. Todd So., 6-2, 200

**LT:** Evan Troutman\*, Sr., 6-3, 275

**LG:** Zyon Newson, So., 6-3, 265

**C:** Marki Boone\*, Sr., 6-0, 268

**RG:** Devon Johnson, Jr., 6-2, 260

**RT:** Joe Mlinko\*, Sr., 6-4, 277

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Darius Atley\*, Sr., 6-3, 245

**NT:** Evan Troutman, Sr., 6-3, 275

**DE:** Joe Mlinko, Sr., 6-4, 277

**LB:** Jayden Gilbert, Sr., 5-10, 185

**LB:** Isaiah Johnson\*, Sr., 6-0, 205

**LB:** Noah Fox, Sr., 6-2, 200

**S:** Cameron Edwards\*, Sr., 5-7, 155

**S:** Daylen Beckett\*, Sr., 5-10, 158

**S:** Laron Anderson, So., 6-0, 160

**CB:** Maurice McCree, Sr., 5-11, 170

**CB:** Jasir Lucky, Sr., 5-10, 176

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

20

**Key reserves:** Kayden Daniels, Jr., 6-0, 155

**Best 40-time:** Jayden Gilbert 4.45 seconds

**Best squat:** Lance Glover 600 pounds



Johnson

## Elyria Catholic»Panthers



MARK PEREZ — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic coach Brian Fox talks to his team after a recent practice.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14

**Coach:** Brian Fox, fifth year (30-13)

**2021:** 11-3 (3-1)

**Twitter:** @ECHSAthletics

**Home field:** Dan Reaser Stadium

### Outlook

Coach Fox saw the high potential from this senior class since they rolled in as freshmen. Now, they have one last season to make the most of it. The Panthers were regional finalists in Division V last year with five All-Ohioan underclassmen. They are now seniors and will look to be state contenders as they jump up to Division IV, Region 14, which has crowned two state champs in the past three years.

### Player to watch

Running back Levi Ellis enters his senior season as a three-time letterman and a returning first-team All-Ohioan. He is 1,900 yards from surpassing Al McKinney as the Panthers' all-time leading rusher. He is a versatile runner and is expected to have a big impact on both sides of the ball as he is their safety as well.



Ellis

**Underclassman to watch:** The one position that needs to be filled is at wide receiver. Jack Kenneally will be a tall order to fill, but Mason Halibert should relieve some of the workload. Fox convinced him to play football and he has developed into a productive underclassman. He is fast with solid hands.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The wide receiving corps can step up to provide a balanced attack; **THEN:** They should be contenders in Division IV.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Elyria at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Elyria Catholic at Sandusky Perkins, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Midview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Elyria Catholic at Holy Name, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Elyria Catholic at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Fairview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Westlake at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Elyria Catholic at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Bay at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Brady Cook\*, Sr.  
**RB:** Levi Ellis\*, Sr.  
**WR:** Sam Krese, Sr.  
**WR:** Colin Ginley\*, Sr.  
**WR:** Mason Haliburton\*, Jr.  
**WR:** Teddy Budinger, Jr.  
**TE:** Ryan Tanner\*, Sr.  
**LT:** Jackson Smith\*, Jr.  
**LG:** Kellen Amador\*, Sr.  
**C:** Ty Roark\*, Sr.  
**RG:** Kyle Faribanks, Jr.  
**RT:** Evan Smith\*, Sr.  
**K:** Sean O'Donnell, So.

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Aiden Knepsheild\*, Sr.  
**NT:** Travis Merrill\*, Sr.  
**DT:** Zach Pearl\*, Sr.  
**LB:** Tony Grasso\*, Sr.  
**LB:** Graydon Rollins, Jr.  
**LB:** Collin Kenneally\*, Sr.  
**LB:** Tavion Thomas\*, Sr.  
**CB:** Teddy Budinger, Jr.  
**SS:** Levi Ellis\*, Sr.  
**FS:** Thomas Niederst\*, Sr.  
**CB:** Colin Doud\*, Sr.  
**P:** Nick Phillips, Jr.

**Key reserves:**  
 \*, returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 30

**Best in the classroom:** Levi Ellis, Tony Grasso, Thomas Niederst 4.0-plus

**Best bench press:** Justice Duerk 350 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Colin Ginley and Ted Budinger 4.5

**Best squat:** Tony Grasso and Tavion Thomas 450

## Fairview»Warriors



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview takes on Firelands in a scrimmage Aug. 12

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17

**Coach:** Sean Ranc, third season (4-14)

**2021:** 2-7 (0-5)

**Twitter:** @FairviewFB

**Home field:** James B. Daley Stadium

### Outlook

Fairview has talent on its roster, plain and simple. However, the roster is still very young. For Sean Ranc and his staff, they'll continue to build the foundation on a solid sophomore class to grow from experience in a tough GLC West division.

### Player to watch

A starting linebacker, Nate Glanc will also take over signal caller duties for the Warriors.



Glanc

**Underclassman to watch:** Danny Larkin lettered as a freshman for Fairview. The coaching staff sees a building block in Larkin for their sophomore class.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Fairview can finish games strong; **THEN:** The Warriors will be a pest for opponents to deal with.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Larkin

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Lutheran West at Fairview, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 26:** Fairview at Parma, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Lakewood at Fairview, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 8:** Fairview at Normandy, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Fairview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Fairview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Rocky River at Fairview, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Fairview at Bay, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Westlake at Fairview, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nate Glanc, Sr., 5-11, 215  
**WR:** Cole Karliak\*, Sr., 5-11, 175  
**WR:** David Medina\* Sr., 5-8, 170  
**WR:** Grant Dalton, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**WR:** Nolan Reis, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**RB:** Jason Courtney\*, Sr., 6-1, 205  
**LT:** Clay Caldwell, So., 6-0, 210  
**LG:** Danny Larkin, So., 5-9, 205  
**C:** Ernie Alcaro, So., 5-8, 230  
**RG:** Kenny Hopkins\*, Sr., 6-0, 280  
**RT:** David Kramer\*, Sr., 6-1, 215  
**K:** Ben Weir, Sr., 6-0, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Kenny Hopkins\*, Sr., 6-0 280  
**NT:** Danny Larkin, So., 5-9, 205  
**DE:** David Kramer\*, Sr., 6-1, 215  
**LB:** Nate Glanc\*, Sr., 5-11, 215  
**LB:** Jason Courtney\*, Sr., 6-1, 205  
**LB:** Cole Karliak\*, Sr., 5-11, 175  
**S:** Aden Stevens\*, Jr., 6-2, 165  
**S:** Xavier DiGennaro\*, Sr., 6-2 195  
**FS:** David Medina\*, Sr., 5-8, 170  
**CB:** Juju Clark, So., 5-8, 140  
**CB:** Nolan Reis, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**P:** Brady Weir, So., 5-8, 140  
 \*, returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 11; Key reserves: Finn O'Maley, Jr., 6-4, 185; Quinn Bruder Jr., 5-10, 175  
**Best in the classroom:** Xavier DiGennaro, 4.43 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Nate Glanc, 295 pounds  
**Best squat:** Nate Glanc, 385 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** JuJu Clark, 4.6 seconds

## Firelands»Falcons



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Firelands runs a play during an Aug. 12 scrimmage against Fairview.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14

**Coach:** Ryan O'Rourke, sixth year (29-21)

**2021:** 5-5 (4-3)

**Twitter:** @CoachR\_orourke

**Home field:** Firelands Stadium

### Outlook

Firelands looks to build off a 5-5 season with Jimmy Aunspaw under center. Aunspaw was a starting linebacker for the Falcons. His toughness will make him tough to bring down. He is surrounded by nine returning starters on the offense. The defense will look to find itself with a new front seven.

### Player to watch

Cory Ransom is one of the many targets first-year starting quarterback Jimmy Aunspaw will have for 2022. Ransom is a two-sport star on the gridiron and an All-Ohioan on the baseball diamond. Caught 17 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown.



Ransom

### Underclassman to watch:

Junior Timmy Phillips was a second-team all-conference selection in 2021. He led the Falcons with four touchdowns, averaging 18.7 yards per catch.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The experienced offense meshes with Aunspaw; **THEN:** The Falcons can be dark horses in the LC8.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Edison at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Rocky River at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Firelands at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Wellington at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Oberlin at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Brookside at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Firelands at Black River, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Firelands at Columbia, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jimmy Aunspaw, Jr., 6-3, 190  
**TB:** Weston Strader\*, Sr., 5-11, 210  
**RB:** Evan Tester\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**WR:** Cory Ransom\*, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**WR:** Abel Coultrip\*, Sr., 6-3, 210  
**WR:** Timmy Phillips\*, Jr., 6-1, 185  
**LT:** Noah Angle, So., 6-4, 240  
**LG:** A.J. Dunn\*, Sr., 6-3, 240  
**C:** Conner Rogers\*, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**RG:** Matthew Ridenour Rogers\*, Sr., 6-1, 280  
**RT:** Shane Stitchick\*, Sr., 6-4, 280  
**K:** Abel Coultrip\*, Sr., 6-3, 210

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Conner Rogers, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**DT:** Shane Stitchick, Sr., 6-4, 280  
**DT:** Colin Adkins, Jr., 5-9, 220  
**DE:** Logan Galligan, Jr., 5-11, 175  
**LB:** Weston Strader, Sr., 5-11, 210  
**LB:** Josh Kovach, Jr., 5-10, 200  
**CB:** Tristan Born\*, Jr., 5-11, 165  
**CB:** Cory Ransom, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**S:** Logan Urban\*, Jr., 6-0, 170  
**S:** Timmy Phillips\*, Jr., 6-1, 185  
**S:** Collin Scott, So., 6-1, 180  
**P:** Abel Coultrip\*, Sr., 6-3, 210  
**\*: returning starter; Returning letter winners:** 26  
**Best in the classroom:** Collin Adkins, Conner Rogers, 4.0 GPA

## Keystone»Wildcats



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone players take part in offensive drills at a practice Aug. 2.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 18

**Coach:** Don Griswold, sixth year (34-16)

**2021:** 9-2 (7-0)

**Twitter:** @TheMrGriz

**Home Field:** Wildcat Stadium

### Outlook

The three-time defending Lorain County league champions return senior quarterback Konner Rodick and multi-time track state champion Ryne Shackelford. With the loss of Gideon Lampron, the blazing-fast Shackelford and steady as always Rodick will need younger players to step up in their quest to remain undefeated in league play.

### Player to watch

An All-Ohioan and Purdue commit, Shackelford is the fastest (without debate) player in Lorain County and one of the most dynamic receivers at 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds.



Shackelford

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore Jordan Folmer (5-11, 215) has been a top riser and performer in camp. Expect him to contribute big early for Keystone's defense.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The underclassmen are able to fill voids left by graduation; **THEN:** Keystone will be looking at a potential fourth straight LC8 title.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** West Salem Northwestern at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Keystone at Cloverleaf, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Lutheran West at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Keystone at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Keystone at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Brookside at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Black River at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Keystone at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Konner Rodick\*, Sr., 6-3, 175  
**WR:** Ryne Shackelford\*, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**WR:** Jacob Linden, Sr., 6-2, 170  
**WR:** AJ Stroud\*, Jr., 5-9, 155  
**RB:** Lucas Hurley\*, So., 5-10, 180  
**WR:** Zack Shackelford\*, So., 5-11, 170  
**LT:** Owen Maiden\* Sr., 5-10, 185  
**LG:** Macin Padin\*, So., 5-10, 220  
**C:** Jordan Folmer, So., 5-11, 215  
**RG:** Alex Spurling\*, Jr., 5-9, 230  
**RT:** Chase Hosey, Jr., 5-9, 165  
**K:** Landon Whitacre\*, So., 5-9, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Owen Maiden\*, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**DT:** Caden Johnson, Jr., 6-0, 215  
**DT:** Alex Spurling\*, Jr., 5-9, 230  
**DE:** Jordan Folmer, So., 5-11, 215  
**LB:** Kadin Stivason, Jr., 6-0, 175  
**LB:** Lucas Hurley, So., 5-10, 180  
**OLB:** Grady Whitacre, So., 6-1, 165  
**OLB:** Jack Sivec\*, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**FS:** Zack Shackelford\*, So., 5-11, 170  
**CB:** Ryne Shackelford\*, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**CB:** A.J. Stroud\*, Jr., 5-9, 155  
**P:** Ryne Shackelford\*, So., 5-10, 180  
**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 20  
**Best in the classroom:** Ryne Shackelford, 4.4 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Owen Maiden, 270  
**Best squat:** Ryne Shackelford, 455  
**Best 40 time:** Ryne Shackelford, 4.41 seconds



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## Lorain»Titans



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Lorain running back breaks through the Westlake defense Aug. 3.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Lake Erie League  
**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1  
**Coach:** Damion Creel, second year (1-10)  
**2021:** 1-10 (1-5)  
**Twitter:** @LorainAthletics  
**Home Field:** George Daniel Field

### Outlook

The Titans are young but are returning a large number of starters on both sides of the ball. They will have an edge to prove themselves as they look to set the tone with a Week 1 game vs. Ravenna.

### Player to watch

Running back John Salamon will show what he can do after suffering a knee injury that sidelined him for the 2021 season. He comes into the season fully healthy and is expected to carry much of the workload on offense.



Salamon

**Underclassman to watch:** Joseph Wyatt was the Titans quarterback last year. With a full sophomore season under his belt, he will be more experienced. He is a dual-threat under center, who can run and throw the ball. Creel sees solid improvement from the junior.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Lorain can establish its running game to dominate possession; **THEN:** It will put the defense and passing game in better situations to stay in games.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

**(subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Lorain at Ravenna, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Sandusky at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Lorain at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Bedford at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Lorain at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Lorain at Maple Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Garfield Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Lorain at Shaker Heights, 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Medina at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Shaw at Lorain, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Joseph Wyatt\*, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**RB:** John Salamon, Jr., 6-0, 190  
**WR:** Noah Buchanan, Jr., 6-3, 170  
**WR:** Jairo Williams, Fr., 5-8, 165  
**WR:** Rico Anderson, Jr., 5-11, 160  
**TE:** Ryan Dibnerd, Sr., 6-1, 220  
**LT:** Shane Ramey-Rowland, Jr., 6-4, 268  
**LG:** Evan Hricovic\*, Jr., 6-2, 270  
**C:** Tyler Fogo, Jr., 5-10, 230  
**RG:** Zaiden Martinez, Sr., 5-10, 240  
**RT:** Isaiah Ray, Sr., 5-10, 240

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Tramaine Suttle, Jr., 6-1, 240  
**N:** Luke Wilson\*, So., 6-1, 270  
**DE:** Julius Manning Jr., 6-0, 240  
**OLB:** Jeremiah Lopez, Jr., 5-10, 200  
**OLB:** Ocir Kimble, So., 6-1, 175  
**ILB:** Noah Smith, Jr., 6-0, 220  
**ILB:** Jaelon Delaine\*, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**CB:** Samir Crawford, So., 5-3, 205  
**CB:** Rico Anderson, Jr., 5-11, 160  
**S:** John Salamon, Jr., 6-0, 190  
**S:** Joseph Wyatt, Jr., 6-0, 180  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 6**  
**Best in the classroom:** N/A  
**Best bench press:** Jaelon Delaine 270  
**Best 40 time:** N/A  
**Best squat:** Eithan Lopez 460 pounds

## Midview»Middies



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Midview's Mason Kucera turns the corner on the Avon Lake defense in 2021.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division 2, Region 6  
**Coach:** Luke Beal, third year, (4-14)  
**2021:** 3-7 (3-4)  
**Twitter:** @Middle\_Football  
**Home field:** Ross Field at Adelsberg Stadium

### Outlook

It's year three under Luke Beal, with a sense of optimism that the Middies are on the right track. Quarterback Marc Reed returns and Mason Kucera is a three-year starter. The Middies have a chance to take the next step in building their program.

### Player to watch

Mason Kucera has been a starter since he was a sophomore. At 6-foot and 185 pounds, he can deliver some plays from downfield to the backfield.



Kucera

**Underclassman to watch:** Dane West started in the secondary down the stretch. Midview hopes to take advantage of his athleticism as a starting wideout.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Midview can find a way to win close games, **THEN:** A winning record is a distinct possibility.

— Sean Fitzgerald



West

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** Rocky River at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Strongsville at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Midview at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Midview at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Amherst at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Midview at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Berea-Midpark at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Midview at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Avon at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Midview at Elyria, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Marc Reed\*, Sr., 6-1, 195  
**RB:** Ethan Beitel, Sr., 5-10, 165  
**Slot/RB:** Mason Kucera\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**WR:** Jeremy Mathes, Sr., 6-1, 180  
**WR:** Dane West, Jr., 6-0, 165  
**TE:** Mitchell Gooch, Sr., 6-1, 195  
**LT:** Collin Thompson, Sr., 6-0, 240  
**LG:** Josh Matesic, Sr., 5-11, 245  
**C:** Austin Dye\*, Jr., 6-0, 245  
**RG:** RJ Lambert\*, Sr., 5-11, 260  
**RT:** Dylan Sees\*, Sr., 6-2, 270  
**P:** Marc Reed, Sr., 6-1, 195

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Josh Matesic\*, Sr., 5-10, 250  
**DL:** RJ Lambert\*, Sr., 6-0, 270  
**DL:** Austin Dye, Jr., 6-0, 245  
**DL:** Collin Thompson, Sr., 6-0, 240  
**LB:** Alex Swirynsky\*, Sr., 5-11, 220  
**LB:** Mitchell Gooch, Sr., 6-1, 195  
**S:** Mason Kucera\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**S:** Jeremy Mathes\*, Sr., 6-1, 180  
**S:** Anthony DiFranco, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**CB:** Dane West\*, Jr., 6-0, 165  
**CB:** Ethan Beitel, Sr., 5-10, 165  
**K:** Ethan Morris, So., 6-0, 175  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 11**  
**Best in the classroom:** Anthony DiFranco, 4.2 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Dylan Sees and Josh Matesic, 285 pounds  
**Best squat:** Name, Squat (pounds): Josh Matesic and RJ Lambert, 440 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Mason Kucera, Sr., 4.6 seconds

## North Olmsted»Eagles



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Olmsted players take a break during a scrimmage against Madison on Aug. 5.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Tim Brediger, 10th season (41-45)  
**2021:** 6-5 (3-2)  
**Twitter:** @NOFBpersist  
**Home Field:** North Olmsted Stadium

### Outlook

North Olmsted had a solid showing last year, reaching the playoffs before making an early exit. With quarterback Xavier Balson returning and now operating in his second year in the offense, things should be much smoother for the Eagles.

### Player to watch

Gavin Beasley is a force to be reckoned with. At 5-foot-11 and 204 pounds, don't let his size fool you.

**Underclassman to watch:** Collin Willard has made strides as a receiver this summer and could be a huge component of a North Olmsted aerial attack.



Beasley



Willard

### Bottom line

**IF:** North Olmsted can eliminate the little mistakes and mental errors;  
**THEN:** They'll be a top contender for the GLC West crown.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

**(Subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** North Ridgeville at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** North Olmsted at Green, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** North Olmsted at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** North Olmsted at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Fairview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** North Olmsted at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Bay at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Elyria Catholic at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** North Olmsted at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Xavier Balson\*, Sr., 6-2, 212  
**RB:** Logan Dangerfield, Jr., 5-9, 182  
**WR:** Jared Kelley\*, Sr., 6-2, 192  
**WR:** Collin Willard\*, Jr., 5-11, 182  
**WR:** Brady Haug\*, Jr., 5-9, 158  
**WR:** Dom Costello\*, Sr., 6-3, 184  
**LT:** Joey Wengstrom\*, Jr., 6-4, 292  
**LG:** Christian Rikken\*, Sr., 5-10, 288  
**C:** Brennan Bonham, So., 6-1, 310  
**RG:** Chris Shea, Jr., 6-0, 255  
**RT:** Jacob Holtz\*, Jr., 5-10, 235  
**K:** Brendan Graf, So., 5-10, 288

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Daniel Furdui\*, Sr., 5-7, 182  
**DL:** Gavin Beasley\*, Sr., 5-11, 204  
**DL:** Joey Wengstrom, Sr., 6-4, 292  
**LB:** Adam Glazer\*, Sr., 5-10, 184  
**LB:** Jio Rodriguez\*, Sr., 5-9, 182  
**LB:** Matthew Chalkwater, So., 5-10, 182  
**LB:** Ashton Oiler, Sr., 6-0, 195  
**DB:** Jared Kelley\*, Sr., 5-11, 192  
**DB:** Collin Willard\*, Jr., 5-11, 182  
**DB:** Brady Haug\*, Jr., 5-9, 158  
**DB:** Logan Dangerfield, Jr., 5-9, 182  
**P:** Brennan Graf, So., 5-10, 235  
**\*returning starter; returning letterwinners: 16**  
**Key reserves:** WR: Nick Tepper, Jr., 6-3, 181  
**Best in the classroom:** Logan Dangerfield 4.33 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Daniel Furdui, 365 pounds  
**Best squat:** Daniel Furdui, 515 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Jared Kelley, 4.45 seconds

## North Ridgeville»Rangers



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A North Ridgeville ballcarrier picks up yards during against Rocky River Aug. 6.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Bryan Morgan, second year (3-7)  
**2021:** 3-7 (1-6)  
**Twitter:** @NRRangerFootba1  
**Home field:** Ranger Stadium

### Outlook

Morgan believes the players in his first year set a good example for the younger players for the years to come. Numbers continue to grow with about half of the roster consisting of sophomores. Being a triple-option team, executing will have a big effect on how they force defenses to adjust to one ball carrier or the other.

### Player to watch

Speed kills and the Rangers will find that from their senior wide receiver Connor Costin, who runs a 4.40 40-yard dash. Expect him to be the threat to stretch the defense and keep the safeties honest and not sneak inside the box. He is also their kick returner along with their safety on defense.



Costin

**Underclassman to watch:** Charlie Steinmetz is a solid player who prefers to line up on the inside before running routes. He is also not afraid to go inside and block. The sophomore started nine of the Rangers' 10 games as a freshman.

### Bottom line

**IF:** North Ridgeville's young offensive line makes big strides; **THEN:** The run game will put opponents on their heels to dominate time of possession, keeping the defense off the field.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

**(subject to change)**  
**Aug. 19:** North Ridgeville at N. Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** N. Ridgeville at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Normandy at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** North Ridgeville at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Olmsted Falls at N. Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** North Ridgeville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Elyria at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Midview at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** N. Ridgeville at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Avon Lake at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Brendan Watchorn, So., 6-1, 170  
**RB:** Kaleb Malone\*, Sr., 6-2, 182  
**WR/TE:** Charlie Steinmetz\*, So., 6-1, 182  
**WR:** Costin Connor\*, Sr., 6-0, 161  
**WR:** Mason Worcester\*, Sr., 6-2, 175  
**OL:** Andrew Flesher\*, So., 5-10, 231  
**OL:** Brady Quinn\*, Sr., 6-0, 265  
**OL:** J.D. Radway\*, So., 6-4, 310  
**OL:** Mitch Waugaman, So., 5-10, 240  
**OL:** Jaxon Reisner, Jr., 6-0, 220  
**K:** Austin DeShazo, So., 6-1, 192

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Jason Costello\*, Sr., 6-2, 210  
**DE:** Kaleb Malone\*, Sr., 6-2, 182  
**DL:** Shane Osborne\*, Jr., 6-3, 296  
**OLB:** Brett Lienerth, So., 5-11, 162  
**OLB:** Carson Madis, So., 5-11, 158  
**OLB:** Tyler Peregorod, Jr., 6-0, 170  
**ILB:** Austin DeShazo, So., 6-1, 192  
**ILB:** Jaden Feather, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**ILB:** Jeremy Michael\*, Jr., 5-11, 270  
**DB:** Evan Monter\*, Sr., 5-8, 157  
**DB:** Malik Abu-Saleh, Jr., 5-10, 155  
**SS:** Jack Palcie, Jr., 6-1, 150  
**FS:** Connor Costin\*, Sr., 6-0, 161  
**SS:** Xavier Compton\*, Jr., 5-11, 155  
**P:** Mason Worcester, Sr., 6-2, 175  
**\*returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 22**  
**Key reserves:** DE: Dylan Fulton, Sr., 6-1, 228, DE: Martin Jayce, Sr., 6-4, 172, RB: Zach Barnhart, Fr., 5-10, 179  
**Best in the classroom:** Jacob Vincent, 4.2 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Brady Quinn, 330 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Connor Costin, 4.49 seconds  
**Best squat:** Brady Quinn, 520 pounds

## Oberlin»Phoenix



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Oberlin player carries against Fairport on Aug. 12

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Lorain County League

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22

**Coach:** Dominique Goodwin, first season

**2021:** 2-8 (1-6)

**Twitter:** @OBPhoenix

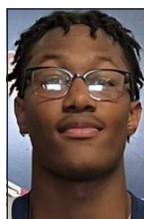
**Home field:** Dick Bailey Field at Knowlton Stadium

### Outlook

It's a new day in Oberlin as former Elyria assistant Dominique Goodwin takes the reins. Experience is at a premium with some of the players hitting the gridiron for the first time. However, they do provide a good amount of athleticism.

### Player to watch

Senior tight end Isaac Thompson was an All-Ohioan for the Phoenix in 2021. Goodwin expects Thompson and the senior class to set the standard for his culture. Thompson was also an All-Ohioan as a center. Rebounders in basketball make great tight ends in football. Expect him to make an impact as a linebacker on defense.



Thompson

**Underclassman to watch:** Isaiah Jones Smith is an athlete and a returning starter for Oberlin. A 5-foot-10 slot receiver should be effective in multiple facets of the passing game. He can also play quarterback as well as a running back. Like Thompson he also is a multi-sport athlete.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The senior class can set the tone for Goodwin's culture; **THEN:** 2022 should be a good building year.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Plymouth at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Oberlin at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Brooklyn at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Keystone at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Oberlin at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Oberlin at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Oberlin at Black River, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Columbia at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Clearview at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Drew Walter, Fr., 5-9, 160  
**RB:** Jameson Clark, Sr., 5-10, 150  
**Slot:** Isaiah Jones Smith\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**WR:** Jordan Parker\*, Sr., 6-1, 210  
**WR:** Kevyn Steen, 6-3, 185  
**TE:** Isaac Thompson\*, Sr., 6-5, 220  
**LT:** Nick Jaworski\*, Sr., 6-5, 250  
**LG:** Isaiah Jackson, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**C:** Nosaj Holley\*, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**RG:** Andrew Knight, Jr., 5-10, 230  
**RT:** Jayden Ritchie, Jr., 5-10, 225  
**K:** Roman Robinson\*, Sr., 5-10, 160

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Nick Jaworski\*, Sr., 6-5, 250  
**DT:** Isaac Thompson\*, Sr., 6-5, 220  
**DT:** Andrew Knight, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**DE:** Jayden Ritchie, Jr., 5-10, 225  
**LB:** Kevyn Steen, 6-3, 185  
**LB:** Isaiah Jones Smith\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**LB:** Tommy Boyer, So., 5-8, 150  
**DB:** Jordan Parker\*, Sr., 6-1, 210  
**DB:** Jameson Clark, Sr., 5-10, 150  
**DB:** Jakshawn Windham, So., 6-1, 165  
**DB:** Quinn Jackson, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**P:** Isaac Thompson\*, Sr., 6-5, 220  
**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 14**

## Olmsted Falls»Bulldogs



JULIE HERZOG — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Olmsted Falls takes on Maple Heights in a scrimmage Aug. 11

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6

**Coach:** Tom Deluca, 10th season (60-39)

**2021:** 11-3 (6-1)

**Twitter:** @OFfootball1

**Home Field:** Charles A. Harding Memorial Stadium

### Outlook

Olmsted Falls lost a number of contributing seniors, including quarterback Charlie Ciolek. This year's senior group is still loaded, with a healthy Rocco Conti and other skill positions ready to contribute. Expect Tom Deluca and Co. to continue winning games in a tough SWC.

### Player to watch

An All-Ohioan and Wilhelm Award finalist who played through a labrum injury, Rocco Conti will be a focal point once again for the Olmsted Falls offense.



Conti

**Underclassman to watch:** Jack Hatgas (6-0, 185) has seen his role grow over the summer and fall camp as he steps into a starting role at linebacker.



Hatgas

### Bottom line

**IF:** Olmsted Falls can stay healthy and get a solid showing from their sophomore class; **THEN:** They can make another deep playoff push.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

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

**Aug. 26:** Olmsted Falls at Brunswick, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** Norwalk at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 9:** Midview at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 16:** Olmsted Falls at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 23:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 30:** Avon at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 7:** Amherst at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Olmsted Falls at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** Berea-Midpark at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jimmy Rosol, So., 6-0, 170  
**RB:** Rocco Conti\*, Sr., 5-9, 190  
**RB:** Jack Pincheck\*, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**RB:** Aiden Hurt\*, Sr., 5-8, 160  
**WR:** Gavin Moore\*, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**WR:** Andy Herzog, Sr., 6-3, 175  
**LT:** Andy Voisinnet\*, Jr., 6-6, 255  
**LG:** Luke Ventimiglia, Jr., 6-1, 220  
**C:** Colin Simon\*, Sr., 6-4, 285  
**RG:** Danny Reiser\*, Sr., 5-10, 215  
**RT:** Dominic Rivera\*, Sr., 6-7, 320  
**K:** Noah Minadio\*, Sr., 6-2, 190

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Colin Singleton, Sr., 6-0, 218  
**N:** Anthony Salamah, Jr. 6-0, 290  
**DE:** Dillon Foulkes, Jr. 6-3, 190  
**OLB:** Rocco Conti, Sr. 5-9, 190  
**MLB:** Danny Reiser\*, Sr., 5-10, 215  
**WLB:** Jack Hatgas, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**WLB:** Derek Neckar, Jr., 6-0, 205  
**CB:** Tyler Jozity, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**SS:** Jack Pincheck\*, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**FS:** Gavin Moore, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**CB:** Mark Vance, Sr., 5-9, 140  
**P:** Noah Minadio\*, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 17**  
**Key reserves:** Patrick Deselich, Sr., 5-8, 150, Peyton Delisio, Jr., 5-8, 155, Jayden Weaver, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**Best in the classroom:** N/A  
**Best bench press:** Anthony Salama, 345 pounds  
**Best squat:** Anthony Salama, 575 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Rocco Conti, 4.50 seconds



## Rocky River»Pirates



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Rocky River players look on during a four-way scrimmage Aug. 6.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 10  
**Coach:** Josh Wells, eighth season (49-26)  
**2021:** 9-4 (4-2)  
**Twitter:** @CoachWells1  
**Home field:** Rocky River Stadium

### Outlook

Coming off what was arguably their best season in a while, Rocky River returns a lot of senior talent while losing a talented group of senior players to graduation. Julian Patti is set to assume QB 1 duties with Stan Heuler a steady target and game wrecker on the defensive end. Expect them to make noise in the GLC West.

### Player to watch

A veteran leader and standout in more ways than one at 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, Heuler will play leading roles on the offense and defense. Look for the All-Ohio honorable mention to make a big impact.

**Underclassman to watch:** Set to be the first-year signal caller, junior Patti (6-1, 170) has looked sharp in preseason action and practices. He'll have a veteran cast of talent around him at the skill positions.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The offense continues to click with a new quarterback; **THEN:** Rocky River can post another deep postseason run.



Heuler



Patti

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Rocky River at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Rocky River at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Valley Forge at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Rocky River at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Elyria Catholic at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Bay at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Rocky River at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** North Olmsted at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Julian Patti, Jr., 6-1, 170  
**RB:** Johnny Bebie\*, Sr., 5-10, 186  
**FB:** Trent Delventhal, Jr., 6-2, 192  
**TE:** Stan Heuler\*, Sr., 6-4, 220  
**WR:** Mack Massad\*, Sr., 5-10, 172  
**WR:** Owen Kleckner\*, Jr., 6-1, 178  
**LT:** Aiden Andrako\*, Sr., 6-4, 242  
**LG:** Charlie Fadel, Sr., 5-11, 242  
**C:** Connor Granzier, Jr., 6-3, 245  
**RG:** Jack McBride, Sr., 6-0, 220  
**RT:** Evan Merk\*, Sr., 6-3, 245  
**P:** Mack Massad, Sr., 5-10, 172

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Stan Heuler\*, Sr., 6-4, 220  
**DE:** Aiden Andrako\*, Sr., 6-4, 242  
**NT:** Charlie Fadel, Sr., 5-11, 242  
**DT:** Evan Merk\*, Sr., 6-3, 245  
**LB:** Zach Wilson, Sr., 5-10, 195  
**LB:** Trent Delventhal, Jr., 6-2, 192  
**SS:** Johnny Bebie\*, Sr., 5-10, 186  
**FS:** Owen Kleckner\*, Jr., 6-1, 178  
**WH:** Mack Massad\*, Sr., 5-10, 172  
**CB:** Cam Bulkowski, So., 5-8, 160  
**CB:** Ryan Ricketti, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**K:** Mack Massad, Sr., 5-10, 172  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 17**  
**Key reserves:** Nick DiSalvo, Jr., 5-9, 185  
**Best in the classroom:** Julian Patti 4.0  
**Best bench press:** Aiden Andrako — 260 LB  
**Best squat:** Stan Heuler 370 LB  
**Best 40 time:** Johnny Bebie 4.68 seconds

## Vermilion»Sailors



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Vermilion running back runs through a Clearview defender Aug. 11.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** SBC Lake  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14  
**Coach:** Bill DiFucci, first season  
**2021:** 1-9 (0-5)  
**Twitter:** @thesailornation  
**Home Field:** Vermilion Sailor Nation

### Outlook

Former assistant coach Bill DiFucci enters his first year as head coach of his alma mater. The defense is moving from a 3-3 stack to a 3-4, which should help put numbers in the front seven and can help out against opposing rushing attacks. Their running game will have three backs.

### Player to watch

Senior Hayden Valenti will be one of three running backs in the Sailors' backfield. He specializes with his physicality to complement the shifty running style of his teammates Tyler McCale and Dylan Willard. He is a state qualifier in shot put and discus.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore quarterback Aaron Mathis dueled it out with the rest of the quarterback room for the starting job. He is a coachable talent with drive and is mobile from the pocket. He is also a hands-on cornerback.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Vermilion can enforce the running game; **THEN:** It will put Mathis in a position to succeed under center.

— Mark Perez-Krywany

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Vermilion at Margaretta, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Vermilion at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Firelands at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Toledo Scott at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Lutheran West at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Oak Harbor at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Vermilion at Port Clinton, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Vermilion at Huron, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Vermilion at Edison, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Willard at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Aaron Mathis, So., 6-2, 176  
**RB:** Hayden Valenti\*, Sr., 5-10, 196  
**RB:** Tyler McCale\*, Sr., 5-9, 155  
**WR:** Keegan Frey\*, Jr., 5-9, 155  
**WR:** Lewis Strama, Sr., 6-0 140  
**TE:** Owen Kyser\*, Sr., 6-0, 162  
**LT:** Trenter Squires Jr., 6-2, 280  
**LG:** Troy Jackson\*, Jr., 5-10, 196  
**C:** Mason Plas, Sr., 6-0, 232  
**RG:** Dylan Mass, Sr., 6-2, 193  
**RT:** Paul Siegfried, Jr., 6-1, 207  
**K:** Caleb German, So.

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Hayden Valenti\*, Sr., 5-10, 215  
**NT:** Troy Jackson\*, Jr., 5-10, 196  
**DE:** Malachi Howell, Sr., 6-0, 183  
**LB:** Owen Kyser, Sr., 6-0, 162  
**LB:** Cohen Mooney, So., 6-1, 194  
**LB:** Dylan Willard\*, Sr.  
**LB:** Beau Benesh, So., 6-1, 171  
**CB:** Hunter Hatten, Sr., 5-10, 145  
**S:** Keegan Frey\*, Jr., 5-9, 155  
**S:** Tyler McCale\*, Sr., 5-9, 155  
**CB:** Aaron Mathis, So., 6-2, 176  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 14**  
**Key reserves:** Payton Birdwell, Sr., 5-11, 160, M.J. McCann Sr., 5-10, 173, Logan Peterson, So., 5-10, 149, Chris Wood Jr., 5-8, 158  
**Best in the classroom:** Cohen Mooney, 4.078 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Hayden Valenti, 325 pounds  
**Best squat:** Hayden Valenti, 465 pounds



Valenti

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## Wellington»Dukes



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Wellington's Devan Diedrick stops Weston Strader of Firelands during a 2021 game.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Lorain County League  
**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22  
**Coach:** Rob Howells, fourth year (14-21)  
**2021:** 4-7 (2-6)  
**Twitter:** @CoachHHowellsWFB  
**Home field:** Wellington Stadium

### Outlook

Rob Howell's team has been looking to build off of a 4-7 campaign where they made the postseason and have a mostly youthful roster. Despite being a more youthful squad, 14 letterwinners return and give Wellington a chance to be competitive in conference play.

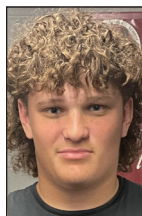
### Player to watch

C.J. Polen, a 6-foot, 205-pound senior, has held off sophomore Landon Wright for the Week 1 starting job after starting part of his sophomore campaign and all of his junior season. He'll also start at linebacker for the Dukes.



Polen

**Underclassman to watch:** Defensive end Devan Diedrick (6-3, 255) was an All-Ohioan as a sophomore. Look for him to crush opponents on the edge and open chances for the rest of the defensive line.



Diedrick

### Bottom line

**IF:** The younger starters continue to develop; **THEN:** Wellington will be competitive in the conference and compete for another playoff berth.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** Wellington at Collins Western Reserve, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Wellington at Mapleton, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Plymouth at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 9:** Wellington at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Keystone at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** Oberlin at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Wellington at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Wellington at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** Black River at Wellington, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** C.J. Polen\*, Sr., 6-0, 205  
**FB:** Devan Diedrick, Jr., 6-3, 255  
**RB:** Nathan Patfield\*, Sr., 5-9, 205  
**WR:** Sam Smith\*, Jr., 5-11, 155  
**WR:** Johnnie Kinter, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**TE:** Nolan Sasack\*, Jr., 6-1, 225  
**LT:** Marshal Mull\*, Sr., 6-1, 215  
**LG:** Nathan Krosse, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**C:** Alex Sparks, Sr., 5-11, 265  
**RG:** Justin Charlton\*, Sr., 6-1, 220  
**RT:** Josh Buck, Sr., 6-1, 240  
**K:** Johnnie Kinter, Sr., 6-1, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Devan Diedrick\*, Jr., 6-3, 255  
**DT:** Dom McDonald, Sr., 5-11, 230  
**NT:** Anthony Schlager, Sr., 6-3, 250  
**DE:** Nathan Krosse, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**LB:** C.J. Polen\*, Sr., 6-0, 205  
**LB:** Hayden Fleming, Sr., 6-2, 170  
**LB:** Nathan Patfield\*, Sr., 5-9, 205  
**CB:** Josh Nocella\*, Sr., 5-9, 170  
**SS:** Trey Lawson, Sr., 6-0, 165  
**FS:** Jonnie Kinter, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**CB:** Connor Sheppard, Sr., 5-8, 145  
**P:** Sam Smith, Jr., 5-11, 155  
**\*, returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 14**  
**Key reserves:** Caiden Karlowicz, Sr., 5-10, 160; Grant Kehl, Sr., 5-10, 150; Ned Gott, Jr. 6-2, 145; Baron Turner Jr., Sr., 6-0, 165  
**Best in the classroom:** Marshal Mull, 4.25 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Nathan Patfield 315 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Josh Nocella 4.5 seconds  
**Best Squat:** Justin Charlton 460 pounds

## Westlake»Demons



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Westlake receiver eyes a pass during a scrimmage against North Ridgeville.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Jason Hall, fifth season (second stint, 12-30)  
**2021:** 4-5 (1-3)  
**Twitter:** @Demonathletics  
**Home field:** Lou Duchez Field at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center Stadium

### Outlook

Westlake enters 2022 with coach Jason Hall returning for his second stint at the helm, surrounded by several veteran coaches from the area and some with college experience and a former NFL player. The Demons can't be counted out of games. But they face a steep climb in the GLC West.

### Player to watch

William Ostrowski is a returning starter at wide receiver and safety. He's shifty at 5-foot-8 and 170 pounds, and his experience will be counted on to help younger starters, both returning and new.



Ostrowski

**Underclassman to watch:** Cooper Rummel (5-7, 165) is projected to spend a lot of time in the slot while playing in the secondary on defense during his junior season. The returning two-way starter will be moving all over the field.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The offense can find a rhythm and cut down on mistakes; **THEN:** Westlake will win games they lost late during last season.

— Sean Fitzgerald

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 19:** North Royalton at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 26:** Rhodes at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 2:** Warrensville Heights at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 10:** Westlake at Parma, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** Westlake at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 23:** North Olmsted at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 30:** Westlake at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 7:** Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 14:** Westlake at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 21:** GLC crossover, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Sam Brucchieri, Sr., 6-3, 185  
**WR:** William Ostrowski\*, Sr., 5-8, 170  
**WR:** Hugh Sullivan, Sr., 6-0, 175  
**WR:** Kaden Cole, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**WR:** Cooper Rummel\*, Jr., 5-7, 165  
**RB:** Matt Porcelli\*, Jr., 5-11, 195  
**LT:** Michael Wood\*, Sr., 6-0, 210  
**LG:** Mahmoud Mustafa\*, Jr., 5-10, 220  
**C:** Robert Huber\*, Sr., 5-10, 230  
**RG:** Mohammed Assad, Jr., 5-10, 230  
**RT:** Paul Granzier, Jr., 6-2, 215  
**K:** Sean Evilsizer, Sr.

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Mahmoud Mustafa\*, Jr., 5-10, 220  
**DL:** Amir Abdelhady\*, Sr., 5-11, 205  
**DL:** Owen Reichenbach, Jr., 6-5, 215  
**OLB:** Matt Randar, Jr., 6-0, 225  
**LB:** Arrington Taylor\*, Sr., 6-1, 215  
**LB:** Harrison Rummel, Jr., 5-8, 165  
**OLB:** Gianni Wright\*, Sr., 6-0, 200  
**CB:** Liam Shields\*, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**FS:** William Ostrowski\*, Sr., 5-8, 170  
**FS:** Cael Cipollone\*, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**CB:** Cooper Rummel\*, Jr., 5-7, 165  
**P:** Sam Brucchieri, Sr., 6-3, 185  
**\*, returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 20**  
**Key reserves:** Sam White, Sr., 6-0, 175, Omar Muntaser, Sr., 6-0, 185, Cooper Pollock, Sr., 5-9, 180  
**Best in the classroom:** Robert Huber, 4.93 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Arrington Taylor  
**Best squat:** Matt Randar  
**Best 40 time:** Liam Shields



*Best Of Luck*

FOR THE

**2022 SEASON!**



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