



# HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2023 SEASON PREVIEW

TEAM CAPSULES | TOP OF THE CROP | WILHELM AWARD WATCH LIST

# RUN IT BACK

After achieving the best season in school history, Columbia is aiming for more



Columbia's Chase Voge, Nathan Chapman, Marco Cirigliano, CJ Dupaski and Gavin Tollett

## Area schedule

### Subject to change

#### AUG. 18

Brooklyn at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Brunswick at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Cincinnati Princeton at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Collins Western Reserve at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Copley at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Heights at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Liberty Benton, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Edison, 7 p.m.  
Harvey at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Independence at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at West Salem Northwestern, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Brush, 7 p.m.  
Margaretta at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Plymouth at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
Solon at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Strongsville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Toledo Scott at Clearview, 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 19

Bay at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1 p.m.

#### AUG. 24

Avon Lake at Benedictine (at Euclid), 7 p.m.

#### AUG. 25

Avon at Canton McKinley, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Huron, 7 p.m.  
Buckeye at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Field at Bay, 7 p.m.  
John Marshall at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Mapleton at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.  
Perkins at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Rhodes at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 1

Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Chardon, 7 p.m.  
Bay at University, 5 p.m.  
Elyria at Akron East, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Poland Seminary, 7 p.m.  
Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
John Hay at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Sandusky, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at North Royalton, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Canfield, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Perkins, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Willard, 7 p.m.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A North Ridgeville ballcarrier runs a drill during practice July 31.

Wellington at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
West Salem Northwestern at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Westlake at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 8

Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
Buckeye at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Clearview at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Greenwich South Central at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Holy Name at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
Lakewood at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
Lorain at Firestone, 7 p.m.  
Lutheran East at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Normandy at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Valley Forge at Bay, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Black River, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 14

Bay at Normandy, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 15

Wellington at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
Avon Lake at Midview, 7 p.m.  
Black River at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
Berea-Midpark at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
Columbia at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Buckeye Valley, 7 p.m.  
Oberlin at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.  
Sandusky at Vermilion, 7 p.m.  
Westlake at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
Willoughby South at Lorain, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 16

North Olmsted at Holy Name, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 22

Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7 p.m.  
Fairview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
Firelands at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
Garfield Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
Keystone at Black River, 7 p.m.  
Midview at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.

Oberlin at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.  
Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
Vermilion at Norwalk, 7 p.m.  
Wellington at Clearview, 7 p.m.

#### SEPT. 29

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

#### OCT. 6

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

#### OCT. 12

Lorain at Bedford, 7 p.m.

#### OCT. 13

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

#### OCT. 20

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

## TOP OF THE CROP

### Football

**1:** Avon (12-2 in 2022)

**2:** Avon Lake (9-3)

**3:** Olmsted Falls (10-3)

**4:** North Ridgeville (5-6)

**5:** North Olmsted (8-4)

**6:** Columbia (13-1)

**7:** Westlake (5-6)

**8:** Clearview (3-7)

**9:** Elyria Catholic (10-3)

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

**Watchlist:** Bay (5-6), Lorain (3-8), Keystone (4-6), Firelands (7-4)

**Crop comments:** Avon starts out at the top of the Crop. It has held the Southwestern Conference crown for seven consecutive years. ... Avon Lake seems to be the biggest contender for the SWC and the No. 1 spot, with players returning on the offensive line and at the skill positions. ... Olmsted Falls will always bring a physical brand of play. The Bulldogs may be in a rebuild, but remain a tough team. ... North Ridgeville returns 15

starters, many of whom are young. New starting quarterback Cole Miller adds a new ripple to the offense. ... North Olmsted is also retooling its passing game with Division I recruit Collin Willard and quarterback Tommy Horsfall. ... Columbia's run-first offense will return three offensive linemen and running back Marco Cirigliano. The Raiders will be serious contenders in the Lorain County League and a higher seed in Division VI, Region 22. ... Westlake's offense has talent at the skill positions, but the success of the offensive line will be key. The Demons also forced a high turnover rate on defense. ... Clearview has projected stars on both ends, especially at the skill positions. It returns four All-Ohioans on defense. The Clippers could be Columbia's biggest threat in the LC8. ... Elyria Catholic is showing potential, but lacks experience after graduating 17 starters. ... Elyria graduated a big class, as well. Pioneers coach Brian Fox will have his work cut out for him, but has talented players on the come-up. ... Depending on how the season goes, Lorain could end up in the top 10, based on how many starters returned. Putting it all together will be key for the Titans.



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Elyria Catholic football team practices on July 31.

## Radio schedules

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

**Aug. 18:** Princeton at Elyria  
**Aug. 24:** Avon Lake at Benedictine  
**Aug. 25:** Avon at Canton McKinley  
**Sept. 1:** Elyria Catholic at Midview  
**Sept. 8:** Columbia at Firelands  
**Sept. 15:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls  
**Sept. 22:** Elyria Catholic at Bay  
**Sept. 29:** Elyria at Avon Lake  
**Oct. 6:** Keystone at Firelands  
**Oct. 12:** Lorain at Bedford  
**Oct. 13:** Wellington at Keystone  
**Oct. 20:** Avon Lake at Avon

### WEOL.COM STREAM 2

**Aug. 18:** North Olmsted at North Ridgeville  
**Aug. 25:** Vermilion at Firelands  
**Sept. 1:** Glenville at Avon

**Sept. 8:** Midview at Amherst  
**Sept. 15:** Columbia at Keystone  
**Sept. 22:** Keystone at Black River  
**Sept. 29:** North Ridgeville at Midview  
**Oct. 6:** Shaw at Lorain  
**Oct. 13:** Black River at Clearview  
**Oct. 20:** Brookside at Clearview

### WOBL-FM 107.7, AM 1320, WOBLRADIO.COM

**Aug. 18:** Western Reserve at Wellington  
**Aug. 25:** Northwestern at Black River  
**Sept. 1:** Elyria Catholic at Midview  
**Sept. 8:** Brookside at Oberlin  
**Sept. 15:** Columbia at Keystone  
**Sept. 22:** Wellington at Clearview  
**Sept. 29:** Keystone at Brookside  
**Oct. 6:** Clearview at Columbia  
**Oct. 13:** Black River at Clearview  
**Oct. 20:** Columbia at Black River

### WDLW-FM 98.9, AM 1380, WDLWRADIO.COM

**Aug. 18:** North Olmsted at North Ridgeville  
**Aug. 25:** Elyria at Lorain  
**Sept. 1:** Glenville at Avon  
**Sept. 8:** Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake  
**Sept. 15:** Avon at North Ridgeville  
**Sept. 22:** Elyria Catholic at Bay  
**Sept. 29:** Olmsted Falls at Amherst  
**Oct. 6:** Clearview at Columbia  
**Oct. 13:** Elyria at Midview  
**Oct. 20:** Avon Lake at Avon

### WOBL/WDLW YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM

**Aug. 18:** Plymouth at Oberlin  
**Aug. 25:** Perkins at Elyria Catholic  
**Sept. 1:** John Hay at Clearview  
**Sept. 8:** Columbia at Firelands  
**Sept. 15:** Avon Lake at Midview

**Sept. 22:** North Ridgeville at Elyria  
**Sept. 29:** Black River at Oberlin  
**Oct. 6:** Keystone at Vermilion  
**Oct. 13:** Edison at Vermilion  
**Oct. 20:** Amherst at North Ridgeville  
**WHK-AM 1420, FM 102.5**

**Aug. 18:** Pauda at Holy Name  
**Aug. 25:** St. Ignatius at Mentor  
**Sept. 1:** Glenville at Avon  
**Sept. 8:** Buckey at North Olmsted  
**Sept. 15:** Akron Hoban at St. Ignatius  
**Sept. 22:** Mentor at Solon  
**Sept. 29:** Kenston at Mayfield  
**Sept. 30:** St. Ignatius at St. Edward  
**Oct. 6:** Medina at Cleveland Heights  
**Oct. 13:** Olmsted Falls at Berea-Midpark  
**Oct. 20:** St. Edward at Akron Hoban

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Cirigliano, Columbia ready to run again

With offensive engine back, Raiders want more this season

By Sean Fitzgerald  
SFitzgerald@MorningJournal.com

There was a buzz of excitement in the air right before midnight on July 30. Columbia was ready to kick off 2023 with a midnight madness practice ahead of a season full of expectations.

This will be a big year for tailback Marco Cirigliano and his Raiders teammates. In 2022, they went 10-0 in the regular season and won the conference title with a double-overtime victory over Firelands. In Week 10, Columbia pushed deep into the postseason but fell a game short of the state final four, finishing 13-1. It was the best campaign in school history.

The player who put up over 2,500 yards on the ground and added 45 total touchdowns rushing and receiving will lead the backfield one more time.

“What we did last year, we’re here to bring the same stuff this year,” Cirigliano said as he walked outside the locker room on a sidewalk overlooking Columbia Raiders Stadium. “Although we lost a lot of seniors, we still have the majority of our (offensive) line (coming back) and some big things are coming this year. We’ve still got some things to work on as a team. Obviously it’s early in the year. I think we’re looking great right now and we’re here to bring back the LC8 (title) like last year.”

Cirigliano is a tough, solid and hard-nosed worker who doesn’t take many things for granted. His style of play and his



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia players Marco Cirigliano, front, and back row, from left, Gavin Tollett, Chase Voge, Nathan Chapman and CJ Dupaski.

leadership are an embodiment of the Columbia program, given all of the bigger schools in the Lorain County League it competes with year in and year out.

“We’ve got a really tough team, tough players. Everyone’s in there playing their hardest, working their hardest,” the tailback said. “It’s all the time at practice and all the time we put in the weight room.”

It’s not lost on the coaching staff after two fantastic seasons that what Cirigliano has done has given so much confidence to the rest of the roster.

“Coming off the two seasons he’s had, it makes ev-

erything a lot more comfortable for the new guys that are here,” head coach Jason Ward said. “When they’re able to look into the backfield and see somebody who’s done it at that level — at a high level for two years... He’s a playmaker, a game breaker, somebody that we can trust with the ball in his hands. It just makes it that much easier and more comfortable for everyone around him.”

Three of the five guys on the offensive line who helped pave the way for his massive season in 2022 return once more as starters: Chase Voge, CJ Dupaski and Nathan Chapman.



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Marco Cirigliano, center, will look to carry Columbia all the way this season on the backs of his returning blockers. From left, tight end Gavin Tollett, guard CJ Dupaski, and tackles Nathan Chapman and Chase Voge.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Marco Cirigliano of Columbia turns the corner on the Firelands defense for a gain on Oct. 21, 2022.

“They’re talented. There’s no question about it,” Ward said of the aforementioned three. “They’re built different size-wise, but they’re very talented. They each have a very high football IQ and they know our system inside-out. It really allows us to focus on the rest of the parts on that offensive line.

“We’re going to really need to be on it with the guys we’re plugging in on the rest of the line, but it’s nice to know those three are back and highly motivated.”

Those three and Cirigli-

ano all want to run it back and finish the job after falling just short of a state title while also capturing a second straight conference crown in 2023.

“I know after last year we have a target on our back,” Dupaski said. “I’m coming out here this year knowing I’m giving it my all to win conference. I don’t care what team’s out there. We almost did it back in eighth grade with this group of seniors, and we’re going to do it this year.”

Knowing that the Raiders have the kind of top-

flight talent like Cirigliano gives a lot of confidence to the Raiders, as Chapman put it.

“Having a guy like Marco, like yeah you have those good guys who are able to run through holes but Marco, he’s different,” Chapman explained. “You know he’s going to hit that hole. You know he’s going to make that play. You can really depend on Marco, it’s a thing where I can trust him and he can trust me.

“We have that connection and I believe that’s what really allows us to be so good and work so well as a team. And (Marco’s) like a superstar to this team, he really brings us over the top. We have great people around us, but Marco gives us the edge over every other team in the conference.”

“It’s really great to have a team that knows everything and a (offensive) line that’s like a family out here,” Chase Voge added. “We all know what we’re going to do and we’re able to block (upfront) for Marco and the team. Being able to let him rush down the field and get him touchdowns is great.”

It all wouldn’t be possible without Ward, who has established Columbia’s identity and culture by empowering his players to enforce it. It allows the team to continue to reload every year, despite losing its historic senior class this past spring and elevate the entire team.

“I think our team is really unified and the coaches help a lot,” Dupaski said. “But without the chemistry and the family aspect we had on that team last year, we wouldn’t be able to do a lot of what we did. The coaches give their all and when we see them doing that, it makes the players want to step up and give their 110% every single play.”

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# New faces, same drive for Avon this season

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
mperezkrywany  
@morningjournal.com

When it comes to football in Avon, the Eagles don't have rebuilding years. All they do is reload.

Despite losing 15 starters from its 12-2 Division II, Region 6 finalist team, the message and goals remain the same as they introduce a new generation of Avon football.

"The team goals generally don't change. It is to win a (Southwestern Conference) championship, go in the playoffs and win a state championship. We set our goals high (at Avon)," Avon coach Mike Elder said.

From the new generation to the old, Division I recruits will lead the way emotionally and by example. Paul Balazy, Jakorion Caffey, Luke Hamilton, Evan Huff, Matthew Muir, Cole Paonessa and Connor Rowilson were selected as 2023 team captains. Together they have the responsibility to lead this year's team.

"Being a captain, I kind of have to (be more vocal)," Hamilton said. "This year, I have been trying to give pre-game speeches and getting people hype. That is fun for me this year, because they are my brothers and I want to lead them. Them picking me as a captain was an honor and I have to step up as a vocal leader now."

Deja vu-like feeling is in the air at Avon.

The feeling of the unknown circles around the Avon camp, as new players make the jump to varsity football. Elder isn't willing to bet against his program, which sprouts talented athletes.

"I would say that we are reloading every year," Elder said. "That is the goal. When players graduate,



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon running back Jakorion Caffey follows blocking against Massillon for a gain during a scrimmage on Aug 5.

they are learning from them and they are learning the same process that is laid out to them by coaches. In the end, I feel like our players are doing a really good job."

Offensively, the Eagles bring back four starters on the offensive line, one of whom is Hamilton, who committed to Michigan. In the backfield is senior running back Jakorion Caffey, who committed to the University of Cincinnati over the summer.

Caffey enters the season as the Eagles' fourth all-time leading rusher at 3,051 yards. Bob LaRosa (3,860 rushing yards) is the record holder.

"(Caffey), in my opinion, is the top running back in the state," Hamilton said. "I know that recruiting services don't give him that respect. But with my eyes, that is what I see. With the (offensive line) that we have

this year. We are all nasty. If we all do our job, he will run for record-breaking yards."

Joining Hamilton on the offensive line are Matt Muir, Matt Alspach, Connor Bingham and Trent Jeske. Hamilton loves the offensive line's experience, as well as its mean streak.

"All of us have the same mindset, which is that we want to bury people," he said. "I know Matt (Muir) has that. Me and Matt fit the same persona. Trent (Jeske) is hot-headed and Alspach is the same way. Having that with (Caffey) in the backfield is a big thing. We will open up the wholes and he will hit them."

Avon's goals are always to balance the offense's options. If the Eagles are unable to throw the ball effectively, teams can load the box to the run, which could put pressure on a passing attack devoid of varsity

playing time experience.

"I definitely think that we can be balanced this year," Caffey said. "With (quarterback) Nolan (Good) stepping up, we may need to run first, but we can't run all the time. There are going to be games that we are going to need to pass the ball. We know that some teams are going (game plan against the run) and we are going to have to pass the ball. I think we will get there, but even if it's a process, I think we will get there. Nolan is definitely capable of getting (the job done)."

Good will start for the Eagles. He is described as an athlete with raw talent. With a highly touted basketball and starting defensive back background, Good uses his athleticism to become a dual-threat quarterback.

"Nolan Good is ultra-athletic," Elder said. "He has an ability to run it and throw

**"I would say that we are reloading every year. That is the goal."**

— Avon coach Mike Elder

it. We will build around that, but we will have some dynamic guys on the edges too. I hope that we have a physical offense, because that is what we always have been."

The 2023 season will be Good's first year at quarterback. He replaces Division II first-team All-Ohioan Sam DeTillio (Case Western Reserve).

"(Being Avon's quarterback) is special," he said. "This is something that any quarterback in the youth program really dreams about, playing on Friday night with all of the kids that you have been able to grow up with. Those memories that you create with teammates are something that you will remember for the rest of your life."

Other than Good, Paonessa is the only full-time starter to return to the lineup. However, former rotational players such as Rowilson, Carson Canning and Jack Hrivovec will make the step up. Hamilton could also be seen in the trenches.

"All of our players are super fast. Even our defensive linemen can run a 4.60 (40-yard dash). Our linebackers can go sideline-to-sideline," Rowilson said. "The speed only helps us flying sideline-to-sideline. All of us are confident thanks to the (coaching staff). We can fly downhill and fly back if it's a pass."

Rowilson is a Division I recruit who recently received an offer from Holy Cross, which also nabbed former Eagle Cam Santee.

"(Rowilson) is long and is over 6-foot-2 and he weighs over 215 pounds. He has

worked hard on his body and his strength," Elder said. "He is ultra-athletic. As a defender, he will strike you and run through you. He is good at putting people to the ground and has a physicality that colleges are looking for."

Avon's three out-of-conference games will start off with Brunswick on Aug. 18 and will follow up at Canton McKinley and Glenville (2022 Division IV state champion).

Elder said the league has numerous quality teams, who could threaten Avon as it goes for its eighth straight SWC championship.

"At the end of the day, (the SWC) is a great league," Elder said. "(Avon) Lake is always talented. They play us Week 10 and we are excited about that. I think Berea-Midpark has a really good team coming back and North Ridgeville is much improved. Olmsted Falls is the standard of physicality. If you don't work hard in the weight room in the off-season, you won't be able to stop (the Wing-T). ... There is no game where you think that you can show up and win in the SWC. That's not how it works."

According to Hamilton and Caffey, the rumbling of a potential down-year at Avon gives them an extra sense of urgency for their senior year.

"I like having a chip on my shoulder, because it gives me something to work for and it gives us something to look forward to. It gives us a reason to shut people up, honestly. I like the pressure that comes with it and gives me an edge," Caffey said.

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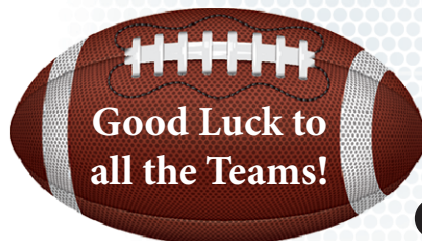
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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Area landscape changes with five new coaches

By Travis Nelson  
tnelson  
@morningjournal.com

Coaching changes aren't anything new, but Lorain County got its fair share of them in 2023.

Amherst, Elyria, Elyria Catholic, Midview and Oberlin all have first-year head coaches, and all five programs are in different spots right now. A few of the new coaches are veterans and some have never been a head coach.

Amherst and Oberlin are trying to find success this season after each finished 0-10, and Midview looks to find its footing again. Elyria and Elyria Catholic don't play this year, but they are linked no matter what, with Brian Fox heading over to Elyria after five years with EC.

Elyria Catholic lost a strong senior class and Fox, so that leaves Chase Farris with some work to do. Not only is Farris the new coach, but the Panthers have become the Ohio State Buckeyes. Farris won a national title as a player at OSU, and he's joined by former Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith as his offensive coordinator and former Buckeye teammate Doran Grant as defensive coordinator.

With only five starters back, it will be a new-look Panthers squad. There's been a lot of competition this offseason to fill the open spots.

"(The players) have been separating themselves (to become starters) since March 18. One thing for sure is that they want to work," Farris said. "Think about it like this: Competition breeds excellence. Each and every day, you have to have that competitive edge and spirit to come out here. They want to be a part of something that is greater



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst coach Tom Thome coaches his defense during the Amherst-Clearview 7-on-7 on July 11 at Clearview.

than themselves."

Farris graduated from Elyria and is now at Elyria Catholic, so him and Fox did a swap. Under Fox, EC had a lot of success, but he's now with the Pioneers. There may be more growing pains for Elyria as Fox enters his first season there, but that means there is a lot of room to grow over the course of the season.

Both Elyria teams lost good senior classes and are in sort-of rebuilding phases. The Pioneers have to come together as a team over the course of the year to get to where they want to be. The culture change is underway.

"It's about rolling all in the same direction," Fox said. "We'll get on the same page and get going in the right way. You definitely see a lot of great things, and it's looked better every single day. It's not perfect and I know that can frustrate the kids, but better is always the result you're looking for."

While there was a swap



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria coach Brian Fox instructs his team during practice July 31.

for Elyria and Elyria Catholic, Midview is getting an alum in Jack Armstrong to coach the program. The Middies have had their share of struggles, but the former assistant is motivated to bring the team back up.

Transition and trying to build a foundation are things that can make a coaching change difficult, and Armstrong is trying to see progress this year in setting the tone for years to come. Midview has had



TRAVIS NELSON — MORNING JOURNAL

Midview coach Jack Armstrong addresses his team after the Middies completed their midnight madness practice on July 30.



COURTESY WISPER CARTER

Elyria alum Chase Farris will be Elyria Catholic's new head football coach.

tough sledding facing the SWC gauntlet as of late, and there are goals in place to help revive the program.

"It's going great. We have great kids, great parents, a great community," Armstrong said. "I have a great coaching staff that's very supportive. We're all there for each other. I'm super excited and motivated to bring this program back and it's all about the kids."

Midview certainly has a challenge on its hands, but Amherst and Oberlin are both trying to back in the

win column in 2023. Tom Thome and Mark Campo have been around football for a long time, and both will have their work cut out for them.

Thome already got Lake-wood to the playoffs for the first time in 18 years, so he knows what it takes to turn things around. Amherst was consistently around .500 about five years ago, but the Comets haven't won a game in the past two years.

After hiring Thome in January, Amherst has hit



Campo

the ground running. The players aren't feeling sorry for themselves, and they've been working to get the feeling

of a victory.

"We could complain all we want about what has happened, or what people are going to say about us. At the end of the day, you just have to punch your clock in and go to work and worry about yourself and the guys that are going with you," Thome said.

Oberlin is in a different situation now with its third coach in three years. Campo seems to be a different hire with the success that he's had over the years. He was the head coach at Admiral King and Westlake at different points.

The Phoenix have a young team, and Campo is focusing on getting his players to understand the fundamentals. He feels like leaders on this team have emerged and that they've bought in. Campo has had to turn around programs before, and he's going to try again at Oberlin.

"I think it's very similar to my other two stops, it's a program that hadn't won and we're trying to change that," Campo said. "I think it starts that we have a great AD, we have a great coaching staff. They're good teachers of the game and the kids are starting to pick it up. As long as we get better every day, I'm encouraged."

Every team is focused on getting better in the pre-season, but there's a difference with coaching changes. Foundations need to be set, and these five new coaches are going to be trying all season long to make that happen.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Lorain football team practices on July 31.

# Lorain looks to turn experience into wins

By **Travis Nelson**  
tnelson  
@morningjournal.com

In the blink of an eye, Lorain football went through a youth movement and is now a veteran team.

The first two years of head coach Damion Creel's tenure were tough on the Titans, finishing 1-9 and 3-7. However, the 2021 team that finished 1-9 was full of sophomores at the time. Now in 2023, they're seniors, and this is an old team now. The struggles of the past two seasons were about making it to this point.

"They've been developing the leadership since the winter time and off-season," Creel said of this year's senior group. "We have a large number of seniors returning, we return four out of five starters on the offensive line, our tailback, our receivers. It's im-

portant for them because we've been through the process of stacking days. Now is the year where we hope things turn around and the kids play and feel the success that they deserve."

In 2021, Creel said that his one-win team should have only had one win. Last year with a 3-7 record, he feels like they let a couple of games slip away by not knowing how to win. Lorain already improved last year, and it looks to take that next step and do it again this year.

Stacking days and building a foundation are what the program has been about for the past two years. With that being said, the expectations are different now. The Titans feel good about the talent and experience on the team, so after building a culture, wins are supposed

to come next.

"They have to make plays, that's what it boils down to," Creel said. "For us to be successful, we have to put it on film. Our kids have to execute. They've been in the same offensive system for three years, same defensive scheme, same coaches. Everything is there, the table is set. It's just time for us to eat."

Lorain's seniors have seen a lot of downs in their careers as young players and want to change the narrative surrounding Lorain football. After not getting a season in 2020 as freshmen, they had to sink or swim right away on the varsity as sophomores.

They took their lumps, but they swam. Finally, it's their team now, and all they've ever wanted to do is eat.

"We just need to stay consistent throughout the whole game," senior run-

ning back John Salamon said. "Even if we have a bad play, just stay levelheaded. We need to keep playing every quarter, every game. We all started off as sophomores, so we've never had our fair opportunity. We had to learn our own way since then and we're improving."

Salamon will be the focal point of Lorain's offense as a run-first team again this season. Retaining players is always a good thing, especially mostly an entire unit like an offensive line. Lorain has that luxury, but even more than that, it's just different when you're a run-first team.

With four returning linemen in left tackle Shane Ramey-Roland, left guard Evan Hricovec, center Tyler Fogo and junior right tackle Isaiah Ray, there's a lot of chemistry that has been built over time. Julius Manning III is a senior

who is the only new starting lineman at right guard, but he was a defensive starter a year ago.

When the wins came last season, there was a formula to success. Salamon got his touches before and he will again. When he and his linemen are seeing the same thing, it can be a scary sight.

"Just the other day at practice, it was a perfect scenario. I was pulling through the hole and I just felt his hand on my back," Hricovec said. "He knew where I was going, he knew where he was going. It just worked, touchdown. That's the relationship that we have and I love it."

That relationship built over time also has the linemen wanting to do their jobs even more. Protecting Salamon and seeing him run and run is all the motivation that these guys need in the trenches.

"The best part of the game is when I see John Salamon breaking free," Ramey-Roland said. "I'd do anything for John Salamon. He's the guy on the field that makes me want to bring it."

Lorain is expected to start eight seniors on offense and six on defense, and they've worked to get to this point. Talent and experience are important things, but having motivation just adds fuel to the fire. The Titans have been getting after it since March, and the season is finally here. They might've been down the past couple years, but they're not out.

"We didn't really do good the past two seasons, so everybody is counting us out," Manning III said. "It really makes us want to work hard every day and put our all into the game so that they can't."

## Matt Wilhelm Award preseason watch list

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
mperezkrywany  
@morningjournal.com

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.

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

This list is in alphabetical order:

**RB Zack Barnhart, So., North Ridgeville:** Barnhart came into his freshman year as a running back in a rotation and quickly became the featured running back. He rushed for 856 yards and 11 touchdowns in the Southwestern Conference.

**QB Sam Brucchieri, Jr., Westlake:** At 6-foot-3, Brucchieri proved to be a quality starter for Westlake, in Jason Hall's first year of his return. Will Ostrowski's athleticism will be missed from last year, but targets such as Cooper Rummel and Kaden Cole led the Demons in receiving yards as juniors. Running back Matthew Porcelli returns as their leading rusher from 2022.

**RB Jakorion Caffey, Sr., Avon:** A recent commit to the University of Cincinnati. Caffey was a Wilhelm Award semifinalist and Division II second-team All-Ohioan. He is one of four Avon running backs with over 3,000 career rushing yards and is about 800 yards away from being at the top of the list.

### WILHELM AWARD WINNERS

**2016:** Dustin Crum, Midview, QB  
**2017:** Ryan Maloy, Avon, QB  
**2018:** Brandon Coleman, Columbia, RB  
**2019:** Jacob Shackelford, Keystone, QB  
**2020:** Gideon Lampron, Keystone, RB/LB  
**2021:** Tommy Bebie, Rocky River, RB/LB  
**2022:** Levi Ellis, Elyria Catholic, RB/S

**QB Cy Christensen, Jr., Clearview:** A dark horse candidate in the 2022 season. Christensen was named the Clippers' full-time starter after Week 1 and had 16 touchdowns to four interceptions. He completed 65.2% of his passes for 1,486 passing yards. He has gained weight in the offseason to handle hits quarterbacks inevitably take. Clearview also brings back a host of skill position players.

**RB Marco Cirigliano, Sr., Columbia:** Is the only returning Matt Wilhelm finalist returning for the 2023 season, as well as a Division VI All-Ohioan, and Division VI Northeast Lakes District Offensive Player of the Year. Cirigliano led the area with 2,561 rushing yards and scored 45 touchdowns. Columbia will return most of its offensive line, which can only help his numbers. He is also a returning defensive back.

**RB Wade Nelson, Sr., Avon Lake:** Shoremen coach Matt Kostelnik is determined to run the ball and they have the linemen to make it happen. Nelson was injured at the end of the 2022 season, but is fully healthy to be go to playmaker for Avon Lake. Teams should think twice before kicking it to him on special teams. Avon paid the price with a 90-yard touchdown kick return in its



SHANE PABON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain's John Salaman is building on an All-Ohio season in 2022.

showdown in 2021.

**RB John Salaman, Jr., Lorain:** The Titans come back with much more experience on the offensive end, and Salaman headlines the running game as a Division I All-Ohioan in the backfield. Rushed for 1,330 yards and 13 touchdowns. Lorain went through quarterback turnover, but Chase Davis experienced a full off-season to prepare as the starter.

**QB Zack Shackelford, Jr., Keystone:** Football runs deep in the Shackelford family. Older brothers Jacob (Golden Helmet award winner) and Ryne (four-time All-Ohioan) did great things for Keystone in their days and Zach Shackelford is driven to leave his



MARK KEMPTON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake running back Nelson Wade eludes the tackle of Avon's Matt Fischer en route to a touchdown in the second quarter Sept. 9, 2022 at Avon Lake Memorial Stadium.

mark. He secured his first All-Ohioan selection as a sophomore. Shackelford will

be Keystone's most dynamic playmaker and will have the ball on every snap as its

quarterback.

**RB Brendan Spellman, Sr., Bay:** Was an All-Ohioan his sophomore season. His junior year was plagued with injuries that he battled through. Spellman rushed for 588 yards and eight touchdowns. Will also be a returning starter on the defensive side of the ball.

**WR Colin Willard, Sr., North Olmsted:** A dangerous second option out wide beside All-Ohioan Jared Kelley. Caught 53 passes for 911 yards and 12 touchdowns. He was named 2022 second-team all-district and was on the cusp of an All-Ohioan selection, but it wasn't meant to be. Ball skills translate on the defensive side, with three interceptions and two pick-sixes.





### PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THIS SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023 - FREE DAY

- 3:00 pm HTCS Harness Racing
- 5:00 pm Flag Raising Ceremony – Pavilion 1 Stage Official Opening with 4-H Band Crowning of Junior Fair King and Queen 4-H Special Awards
- 5:30 pm Judging of Paintings & Drawings
- 6:00 pm Judging of Antiques
- 6:00 pm Judging of Arts & Crafts
- 6:00 pm Judging of Ceramics
- 6:00 pm Judging of Culinary Arts - Books 701-704 and 710-716
- 6:00 pm Judging of Lapidary Art

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

- 8:00 am Gates Open
- 8:00 am Junior Fair Dog Show - Show Barn 4
- 8:30 am Junior Fair Fowl Show - Barn 15
- 9:00 am Judging of Culinary Arts - Books 705-709 and 717-718
- 9:00 am Judging of Needlework
- 9:00 am Honey Judging
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Hobbies & Collectibles
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Spinning
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Vegetables & Fruits and Bees
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Boer Goats - Pavilion 2
- 10:00 am Open Class Judging - Registered Haffingers, Draft Horses & Draft Ponies - Pony Ring
- 11:00 am Open Class Judging - Photography
- 11:00 am HTCS Harness Racing
- 12 noon Junior Fair Boer Goat Show - Show Barn 4
- 12 noon Junior Fair Draft Horse Halter Show - Pony Ring
- 12:30 pm Open Class Judging - Draft Horses - Pony Ring
- 1:00 pm Voting for Directors of Lorain County Agricultural Society - Senior Fair Office
- 2:15 pm FFA Special Awards - Barn 14
- 5:00 pm Culinary Arts Bake Sale - Pavilion 2
- 5:30 pm Junior Fair Sheep Show - Show Barn 4
- 8:00 pm **THE GUESS WHO**

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

- 8:00 am Gates Open
- 8:00 am Open Class Judging - Rabbit & Cavy - Barn 39
- 8:30 am Junior Fair Swine Show - Barn 9
- 9:00 am Junior Fair Miniature Horse Show - Ring A
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Dairy Cattle - Show Barn 4
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Sheep - Pavilion 2
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Silage & Hay Show, Grain Show
- 10:00 am Open Class Judging - Poultry - Barn 38
- 12:30 pm Open Class Judging - Department 1, Books 4-7 - Pony Ring
- 2:30 pm Junior Fair Cavy Judging - Barn 15
- 4:30 pm Fowl Costume and Poultry Judging Contest - Show Ring - Barn 15
- 5:30 pm Junior Fair Pack, Harness, Pygmy Goat Show - Show Barn 4
- 8:00 pm **ROOTS AND BOOTS - SAMMY KERSHAW, COLLIN RAYE, AARON TIPPIN**

#### LORAIN-MEDINA RURAL ELECTRIC DAY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

##### - KIDS' DAY see our website for details

- 8:00 am Gates Open - KIDS' DAY - special activities throughout fairgrounds!
- 9:00 am Junior Fair Dairy Goat/Market Dairy Goat - Barn 9
- 9:00 am Junior Fair Draft Horse Cart Show - Pony Ring
- 9:00 am Junior Fair Saddle Horse Judging - Ring A
- 9:00 am Open Class Ponies and Stalled Hitch Classes - Grandstand
- 12 noon Junior Fair Beef Breeding Show - Show Barn 4
- 12 noon Open Class Judging - Flowers
- 1:00 pm Junior Fair Judging - Rabbit Breed - Barn 15
- 1:00 pm Miniature Horse Pull - Pony Ring
- 2:00 pm Junior Fair Market Beef Show - Show Barn 4
- 7:00 pm **OSTPA TRUCK PULL**

Please use this QR code to check for any updates or changes to this schedule.



### Save the Dates

2024 Aug 18-25    2025 Aug 17-24    2026 Aug 23-30

### MIDWAY RIDES

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\$10 Kids' Day Special:

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(available through August 20)

must be at least 21 years old and Lorain County resident to purchase

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(available through August 20)

Both provide seven admissions to the fair - the difference is a Membership Pass includes voting privileges for Lorain County Agricultural Society Directors and Constitutional changes.

177<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



loraincountyfair.com

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\*credit/debit cards accepted at Gates 1, 3, 4, and 6

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#### NORTHCOST WIRELESS DAY

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

#### SENIOR CITIZENS / VETERANS DAY

- 8:00 am Gates Open - Senior Citizens (65 and older) and Veterans & Military Personnel with ID – **FREE ALL DAY**
- 8:30 am Junior Fair - Rabbit Showmanship - Barn 15
- 8:30 am Junior Fair Judging - Beef Showmanship, BBR Market Steer - Show Barn 4
- 8:30 am Pony Pull - Grandstand
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Dairy Goats - Pavilion 2
- 9:00 am 4-H Open Mini Horse Fun Show - Ring A
- 8:30 am - 11:00 am County Fair Kids Fun Show - Barn 9
- 12 noon Horse Pull - Grandstand
- 1:00 pm Junior Fair Auction - Meat Chickens, Market Ducks, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Meat Rabbits, Turkeys - **REFER TO JUNIOR FAIR BOOK FOR SALE ORDER**
- 4:00 pm Pigeon Rolling and Homing Pigeon Demonstration - Barn 38
- 5:30 pm Junior Fair Small Animal Sweepstakes Showmanship - Barn 9
- 6:00 pm Junior Fair Dog Agility Show
- 6:00 pm **COUNTY TRACTOR PULL**

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023

- 8:00 am Gates Open
- 9:00 am Junior Fair Dairy Judging - Show Barn 4
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Miniature Horses - Ring A
- 12 noon Junior Fair Dairy Auction - Show Barn 4
- 12 noon Rooster Crowning, Turkey Calling, and Fowl Race - Barn 15
- 4:00 pm Draft Horse/Draft Pony Fun Pull (stabled entries only) - Pony Ring
- 4:00 pm Adult Poultry Showmanship - Barn 38
- 4:30 pm Junior Fair Large Animal Sweepstakes Showmanship - Barn 4
- 6:30 pm **NTPA GRAND NATIONAL PULL**

#### M&J BUILDING & EXCAVATING DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

- 8:00 am Gates Open
- 8:30 am Junior Fair Livestock Auction - Market Beef and Market Hogs - Barn 9 - **REFER TO JUNIOR FAIR BOOK FOR SALE ORDER**
- 9:00 am 4-H Open Saddle Horse Fun Show - Ring A
- 9:00 am Open Class Judging - Beef Cattle - Show Barn 4
- 10:00 am Open to the World Draft Horse & Pony Hitch - Grandstand
- 1:30 pm Kiddie Pedal Pull - Pavilion 2
- 4:00 pm Pigeon Rolling and Homing Pigeon Demonstration - Barn 38
- 7:00 pm **COMBINE DERBY AND PICK-UP TRUCK DERBY**

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

- 8:00 am Gates Open
- 9:00 am Interdenominational Worship Service - Show Barn 4 **\*\*If a Catholic mass is desired, please visit St. Patrick Church's website for worship times\*\***
- 9:30 am 4-H Saddle Horse Versatility Show - Ring A
- 10:00 am Pony Fun Show - Pony Ring
- 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Spinners & Weavers - Pavilion 2
- 1:00 pm Power Wheel Derby
- 4:00 pm **DEMOLITION DERBY - GRANDSTAND GATES OPEN AT 3:00 PM**
- 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Premium Check Distribution for Depts. 8-10 - between Buildings 25 & 26
- 6:00 pm Dismiss Entries
- 7:00 pm Release Commercial Exhibits

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance Lorain County through an annual celebration promoting agriculture, education, entertainment, and encouraging positive youth development and leadership skills

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Clearview's experienced defense sets high goals

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
mperezkrywany  
@morningjournal.com

It is often told that experience is the best teacher.

In the case of Clearview's defense, an abundance of seniors on the 2023 defense have started since they were freshmen.

The fruits of the players' labor resulted in four returning All-Ohioans on defense, as they are driven to make a run in the Lorain County League.

"The beginning stages had a lot of freshmen getting time," Clearview coach Mike Collier said. "They have been able to grow under the Friday night lights and they have been able to understand what it is about and everything. That experience is going to pay off this year finally."

The bar has been set very high for the Clippers, as they recognize their potential for what could be a special season.

"We laid (our expectations) out from the very get-go that our expectations are much higher than what they have been," Collier said. "These kids have worked hard, and they want those high expectations. As a coaching staff, it is up for us to pull it out of them and continue to push them."

All-Ohioans Keith Colvin (second team), Ayden Cruz (honorable mention), Greg O'Hern (honorable mention) and Josiah Longo (third team) give the defense a versatile presence that has at least one All-Ohioan in each position group. Clearview has eight returning defensive starters.

"We have players from every position that we need from the (defensive) line, linebackers and defensive backs. I think we are there," Colvin said.

Upfront, the defensive line is anchored by the motor of O'Hern and Longo. They each recorded at least seven sacks in 2022.

"The thing that makes O'Hern and Longo stick out is their motor. They continue to work hard. Even when they are in a bad position, they are able to work out of it," Collier said.

Pursuit of the ball carrier has become a competition for the two. The iron-sharpens-iron mentality resulted into a double-trouble pass rush.

"I like to compete with O'Hern and see who gets more sacks in a game and more tackles. That goes back to seventh and eighth grade when we were playing and wrestling together," Longo said. (The competition) motivates me more. It motivates me in the weight room and on the field. It is always nice to know that there is someone always out there chasing you."

Speed and power backs the defensive line in the linebacking corp. Cruz is paired with Dominic Jackson and Ethan Lorenzana. The trio have a nose for the football and mean business when they are in striking distance.

Jackson was a cornerback. His weight room dedication in the offseason bulked him to linebacker size, but he maintained his speed. Cruz, who didn't play football his freshman year, possesses great versatility that will be used as a linebacker-safety hybrid.

"We are flying around to the ball," Cruz said. "We are able to get fast stops, bring the ball down. Let's say that a guy does catch the ball, we are able to fly to it quickly, stop it in a very short amount of time. We won't let them get extra yards."

Colvin is the last line of



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Clearview defense stops a Sandusky ball carrier for no gain during a scrimmage Aug. 4.

defense at the safety spot. He is a playmaker on the ball when it's in the air. Colvin and cornerback MacLom Lane each recorded three interceptions in one game in 2022, which tied the school record.

Clearview's Week 1 matchup will be at home against Toledo Scott (Aug. 18). Scott defeated the Clip-

pers, 20-14, in double-overtime last year. The players are excited for the rematch, this time on their home field.

"A lot of emotions were fought through that game last year. It was a physical and emotional game. Thinking about it gives me goosebumps down my arms," Cruz said.

The Scott loss was the first of five games Clearview dropped that were decided by one possession or less. Finishing has been a calling card, as the first week could potentially set the tone for the season.

"The double-overtime loss to Scott, we think about that every day. We are working out to beat Scott every

day," Longo said. "We are motivated on that and will take it one week at a time. Our main goal is playoffs, but all the teams that we lost to closely, we are coming back for this year."

Toledo Scott was a ninth seed in the Division III Region 10 tournament. It went 7-3 (4-0 in Toledo City League).

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# North Olmsted's Willard ready to step up

Senior speedster becomes the No. 1 option for Eagles

By Sean Fitzgerald

SFitzgerald@MorningJournal.com

North Olmsted's Collin Willard is as good as they come.

Last year, he formed one of the better area wide receiver combos with now Kent State wideout Jared Kelley. Both of them have blazing speed, with Willard having posted a 4.54-second laser-timed 40-yard dash.

Willard also managed to best Keystone's reigning 100-meter state champion Ryne Shackleford, one of the best runners in the state and a Purdue signee in the event during the 2023 track and field season.

While he does play a good bit of safety on defense, all eyes turn to Willard as the No. 1 option on the Eagles' offense following the graduations of Kelley and quarterback Xavier Balson. It's the senior's time to step up and embrace the lead role as a three-year starter.

"Last year, we had Jared as the lead role for us. This year, it's finally time for me to step up and kind of lead the team to what we want to do," Willard said.

He'll be doing it with a new starting quarterback in junior Tommy Horsfall. The backup to Balson in 2022, the one advantage the new North Olmsted quarterback has is having a third year of experience running Coach Tim Brediger's offense to Balson's two seasons.

"This offense has a lot of potential to do a lot of great things. I'm really excited," Horsfall said.

Willard's speed helps



SEAN FITZGERALD — THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Olmsted's Collin Willard gets some pointers from one of his coaches during an Aug. 1 practice.

open up the playbook, with jet sweeps and other crazy ideas within the realm of possibility. Perhaps more importantly, having an experienced weapon like Willard helps Horsfall feel confident in his new role as the QB1 and to provide a jolt to the offense.

"Having a player like Jared (last year) or like Collin is something most teams don't have," Horsfall said. "With Collin, he's a guy

you can always count on. He can play any position... He's just a natural athlete, really gifted, a beast. He's fast and can do anything that your offense needs."

Those attributes have made the wideout invaluable to North Olmsted. His leadership and his ability to perform aren't in question. Though without Kelley, who steps up alongside Willard?

"Collin will be a three-year starter for us on both

sides of the ball and this year he obviously is a focal point," Brediger said. "And a lot of times last year he was too, him and Jared. The question for us really is if there's going to be one other guys that takes over Collin's role or is it going to be by committee? That's kind of what we're trying to figure out but that's what we're trying to figure out on the offensive side of the ball."

Brediger knows they'll

be looking for more ways to get Willard the ball, be it on jet sweeps, different wideout alignments, whatever that may be. They want to stress the defense and put the pressure on the opposing defender. As Willard put it, "you just can't teach speed."

There will be that adjustment period on Willard's part to working with Horsfall, given the prior chemistry he had with Balson.



SEAN FITZGERALD — THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Olmsted's Collin Willard is ready to step up into the No. 1 option on the Eagles offense.

However, it won't be as difficult as people think, given all the offseason work the pairing has gotten in during the summer and early fall practices.

"Everyone knew Tommy had that arm strength and he had that good accuracy," Willard explained. "It's just all in the head and seeing his reads. This year, I think he's really seen and made those reads so far."

With significant progress made a year ago to crack the postseason field, expectations to make another trip back with the experience under their belt. Horsfall spoke to Willard's leadership credentials, credentials that will help drive the senior wideout and his teammates to keep pushing for a deeper postseason run than before, keeping up the discipline and upholding standards.

"Collin is just a great leader on and off the field," Horsfall said. "After last year's loss versus Highland, he really brought me in to work as his new quarterback. We've been training for a while now throughout this whole offseason. There's been a lot of team bonding with me and the guys and he's a great leader — all of these guys are."

## Conference outlooks

By Mark Perez-Krywany

*mperezkrywany*  
@morningjournal.com

### SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE

**Favorite:** Avon

**Contender:** Avon Lake

**Darkhorses:** Berea-Midpark, Olmsted Falls, North Ridgeville

Could this be the year Avon gets dethroned from the top of the SWC? After winning seven consecutive conference titles, the Eagles will return seven starters. All-Ohioans and Division I commits Jakorion Caffey and Luke Hamilton should give the Eagles a potentially devastating rushing attack, but graduating five All-Ohioans presents big shoes to fill. It is important to note that Avon has won 58 of its 61 SWC games (5-1 in postseason), since 2016. The SWC belongs to the Eagles until someone knocks them off the pedestal. Avon Lake could easily be the biggest contender in the SWC, which can only enhance the rivalry between the Shoremen and Eagles. During the Eagles' dominance, Avon Lake handed Avon those three losses in 2021, 2018 and in the 2016 postseason. The Shoremen lost three All-Ohioan talents on defense. Offensively, they are loaded with returning talent in nearly every phase to go with first-year quarterback Alex Affolter. His management of the offense will be key to the Shoremen's season. Berea-Midpark has solid prospects who could potentially pose a threat, such as defensive lineman Devyn Zahursky. He is a University of Cincinnati commit with Caffey. Year in and year out, Olmsted Falls can produce a quality program. Under Coach Tom DeLuca, they advanced to back-to-back Division II Region 6 semifinals, but faltered to Avon both times. They will bring back Jimmy Rosol, who excelled at running the Wing-T offense. North Ridgeville

has a combined 15 returning starters on both sides of the ball and took fourth seed Anthony Wayne to the brink in the first round of the Division II, Region 6 tournament. Despite the Rangers going 2-5 in the SWC, their potential cannot go without notice. If North Ridgeville doesn't win the conference, it could be the most improved team in the SWC, compared to 2022.

### LORAIN COUNTY LEAGUE

**Favorite:** Columbia

**Contender:** Clearview

**Darkhorse:** Firelands

Columbia may have new faces, but it seems to be a danger to the LC8 and Division VI, Region 22. The running game led by Division VI Offensive Player of the Year Marco Cirigliano will headline the Raiders' offense. Though Ethan Meier will enter his first year as the starter, he is reliable to make plays when needed and will run the offense effectively. Defensively, All-Ohioan Gavin Tollett will anchor the defensive line. However, Columbia will have its work cut out for it, as he will be the only returning starter in the front seven. The secondary on the other hand, is much more experienced as they will return the entire core, including All-Ohioan Jacob Sanders. Sanders will also be a reliable running back in the backfield and Tollett will play tight end on offense. Clearview looks geared to potentially make a run this year. The Clippers faced an 0-9 (0-7 in LC8) season, but that was with a young core. That core is much older and has sophomore quarterback Cy Christensen under center. They are loaded with skill players on offense. Line play could make or break the offense. Clearview's defense has four All-Ohioans. If the Clippers can make the next step and win close games, then they can pose a big threat for the LC8 title. Firelands always finds a way to get into the mix as the



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Collin Willard and North Olmsted will be battling Elyria Catholic and others for the final Great Lakes Conference title.

largest school in the LC8. Last year, the Falcons were a double-overtime game away from winning a share of the title with Columbia and Black River. The Falcons have lost a lot, but quarterback Jimmy Aunspaw and running back Josh Kovach are back for another season.

### GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

**Favorite:** North Olmsted

**Contender:** Westlake

**Darkhorse:** Elyria Catholic, Bay

This is the last year of the Great Lakes Conference, as it will disband after the 2023-24 school year. Elyria Catholic and Holy Name will go to the North Coast Conference and the rest of the GLC programs will play in their own league. The league has also added another crossover game, rather than having a conference championship game between the winner of the east and west divisions in Week 10. North Olmsted lost three All-Ohioans on offense,

All-Ohioan Gavin Beasley on the defensive line and Denver Scott transferred to Lutheran West. However, they could still possess an exciting offense, as wide receiver Collin Willard will lead the Eagles. Tommy Horsfall will start in his first season behind center. Bay looks like it is on the rise as it plans to implement a new offense that balances the running and passing games. If the Rockets can make teams respect the pass, then teams will have no need to stack the box against All-Ohioan running back Brendan Spellman. Westlake's passing attack should improve, as well, despite the loss of athlete Will Ostrowski. Wide receivers Cooper Rummel and Kaden Cole are two of the top three receiving targets for second-year quarterback Sam Bruchhieri. The offense will also have running back Matthew Porcelli in the backfield. Elyria Catholic has lost a lot. But so did North Olmsted and Rocky River, which were

the best the GLC West had to offer in 2022. Elyria Catholic is a wild card. There is a severe lack of varsity experience, but the Panthers have a lot of talent on both sides of the ball. Combine the factors with new coaches Chase Farris, Troy Smith and Doran Grant, all of whom are former Ohio State and NFL players. Elyria Catholic could potentially win a first-round playoff game in Division IV, Region 14, or it could finish second in the GLC West and be a low Region 14 seed for the postseason.

### LAKE ERIE LEAGUE

Lorain has improved in its second year back from the COVID-19 pandemic. The LEL underwent changes, as four-time conference champ Cleveland Heights moved to the Greater Cleveland Conference along with Shaker Heights. In a five-team league, Maple Heights seems to be the biggest contender to take the conference, but Lorain is not a team to sleep on.

Based on potential and the number of returning starters coming back, a potential LEL championship run could potentially be in the cards. However, a lot has to go right for the Titans in order for it to happen.

### SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE-LAKE

Vermilion navigated tough waters as the SBC Lake was one of the tougher conferences among mid-size schools. Oak Harbor and Huron dominated the conference for a top six seedings for the Division V, Region 18 tournament. Bellevue moved to the Bay Division, as it was swapped out with Willard (to SBC River) and Oak Harbor (to SBC Lake). Edison was also a Division V playoff team. The Redmen went 7-5, won their first-round playoff game and lost to the eventual Division IV state champion Glenville. The Sailors should expect a tough conference schedule for another year.

## Games to watch

By Mark Perez-Krywany  
mperezkrywany  
@morningjournal.com

### Toledo Scott at Clearview, Aug. 18

The Bulldogs and Clippers went to double overtime in Toledo, which went Scott's favor. That was the first of five Clearview losses that was decided by one possession or less. This game could possibly go down to the wire again. A potential close win would be major for Clearview, as a team that has four returning All-Ohioans on defense and could be players in the Lorain County League.

### Elyria at Lorain, Aug. 25

Lorain vs. Elyria is always an intense rivalry game between two local Division I, Region 1 schools. Elyria dominated the Titans, 26-0, at home last year. However, Elyria graduated a large senior class and is building under first-year coach, Brian Fox. Lorain, on the other hand, returns the majority of its starters on both sides of the ball. Expect a much more level playing field at George Daniel Field.

### Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, Aug. 25

A thrilling showdown from 2022 comes back for a rematch in Week 2. North Ridgeville trailed the Patriots, 20-7, to start the fourth quarter and came back to win, 21-20. Zack Barnhart burst onto the scene as the full-time starting running back to rush for 176 yards. Barnhart is back with many returning starters from that game. This game will be at Ranger Stadium and Valley Forge will be out for revenge.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Several Avon defenders bring down a Massillon receiver during a scrimmage on Aug 5.

### Perkins at Elyria Catholic, Aug. 25

Elyria Catholic has a couple of must-watch games, alongside North Olmsted, Liberty Benton and Holy Name. If it wants to compete at a high level in the Division IV, Region 14 buzzsaw, Perkins will be a good matchup to show its merit. The Pirates won the Sandusky Bay Conference Lake Division in 2022 and their matchup against Elyria Catholic, 42-41, in overtime. Playoff seeding will be on the line for this showdown. Perkins will return All-Ohioan quarterback Logan Lesch, wide receiver Braylon Collier and line-backer Mikey Young.

### Olmsted Falls at Canfield, Sept. 1

For the second year in a row, Olmsted Falls will go on the road to play the Division III state champion. Last year, the Bulldogs fell to Chardon, 14-7. Olmsted Falls will at least get two weeks to prepare against Brunswick and Solon. Both teams will have new faces leading their squads, after they graduated key players on both sides. Regardless, expect this game to be a dog-fight.

### Glenville at Avon, Sept. 1

Two state powerhouse programs, Avon and Glenville, enter their third sea-

son playing each other. Glenville is the defending Division IV state champion and returned players, such as Bryce West, Demarion Witten, Fred Johnson and Kareem Jennings, all of whom are three-star or higher recruits on 247Sports. The Tarblooders got the better of the Eagles, 27-21, in 2022, and that was with Avon's loaded senior class. This could be one of the rare occasions Avon comes into a game as the underdog.

### Northwestern at Columbia, Sept. 1

The Raiders and Huskies were each premier teams in Division VI, Region 22. They also had a thrilling game in

2022, which Columbia won, 42-41, in overtime. Columbia running back Marco Cirigliano rushed for a school-record 409 yards. This game helped Columbia gain a higher seed for the Region 22 tournament, which resulted in a regional finals appearance. Expect the same to be on the line for the showdown in Week 3.

### Columbia at Firelands, Sept. 8

In a battle to decide if Firelands would win its first Lorain County League championship, Falcons were denied by Columbia, 29-28, in a double-overtime thriller. Columbia's running game looks dangerous, with the return of Division VI Of-

fensive Player of the Year Marco Cirigliano and more than half of the offensive line.

### Avon Lake at Avon, Oct. 20

The rivalry between the Shoremen and Eagles usually has major Southwestern Conference implications. This season is no different as Avon and Avon Lake aim to be big players in the SWC and the Division II, Region 6 landscape. Each team will have new quarterbacks under center, talent at the skills positions and dominant offensive linemen. These teams could potentially see each other again in the Division II Region 6 tournament.

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RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst passes against Clearview during a 7-on-7 earlier this summer.

## Amherst » Comets

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Copley at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Buckeye at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Berea-Midpark at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Amherst at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Avon at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Cole Norris\*, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**RB:** J.R. Bires\*, Jr., 5-7, 185  
**H:** Mason Fisher\*, Sr., 6-1 215  
**WR:** Tristyn Young\*, Jr., 6-3, 180  
**SLOT:** Jonathan Williams\*, Sr., 5-6, 150  
**WR:** Eli Solak\*, Jr., 6-3, 210  
**LT:** Henry Cislo\*, Jr., 6-4, 205  
**LG:** Ryan Auvil\*, Sr., 5-11, 215  
**LG:** Joey Brooks\*, Sr., 6-0, 205  
**RG:** Ross Auvil\*, Sr., 5-11, 225  
**RT:** Baylor Gross\*, Sr., 6-2, 270  
**K:** Nathan Stewart\*, Jr., 5-11, 145

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Eli Solak\*, Jr., 6-3, 210  
**DT:** Carter Poulton\*, Sr., 6-4, 220  
**NT:** Patrick Fellenstein, So., 5-11, 195  
**DE:** Henry Cislo\*, Jr., 6-4, 205  
**SAM:** Mason Fisher\*, Sr., 6-1 215  
**MIKE:** Ryan Auvil\*, Sr., 5-11, 215  
**WILL:** Nick Costello, Sr., 5-9, 195  
**CB:** Landon Fellenstein\*, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**FS:** Jacob Kraft\*, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**SS:** J.R. Bires\*, Jr., 5-7, 185  
**CB:** Ashton Draga\*, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**P:** Cole Norris, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**\*. returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 38**  
**Keys Reserves:** Oliver Fekete, Tyler Denn, Shaddai Cooper, David Dudziak, Brayden Rosebeck  
**Best in the classroom:** Ashton Draga, 4.178 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Name, Nick Costello, 325 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** N/A  
**Best squat:** Baylor Gross, 475 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Tom Thome Jr., first year  
**2022:** 0-10 (0-7)  
**Twitter:** @AmherstFootball  
**Home Field:** Memorial Field

### Outlook

Amherst is back and with a new head of its program — Tom Thome Jr., formerly the coach of Lakewood. Thome has installed an air-it-out offense that can potentially pose matchup problems. They have great size on the outside and shifty receivers in the slot. The number continues to improve for the Comets, and they plan to use their returning varsity experience.

### Players to watch

Quarterback Cole Norris will lead the offense. He has varsity experience from 2022 as a sophomore. Decisive decision-making will be key. Jonathan Williams is quick in the slot. Tristyn Young and Eli Solak can showcase their basketball abilities on the outside on corner fades.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior cornerback Ashton Draga tore his ACL in Week 1 of the 2022 season at Valley Forge. He was not scheduled to make the comeback as quickly as he did, but his intense recovery process allowed him to suit up for Week 1. He will be a player to watch on the outside to limit the team's No. 1 options.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The offensive line can keep Norris up and help bring balance to the offense; **THEN:** then Amherst should put themselves in multiple positions to win.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Norris



Draga



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Avon offensive line clears a lane for the running back against Massillon at a scrimmage on Aug 5.

## Avon » Eagles

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Brunswick at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Avon at Canton McKinley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Avon at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Midview at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Avon at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Avon Lake at Avon, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nolan Good, Jr., 6-1, 195  
**RB:** Jakorion Caffey\*, Sr., 5-11, 200  
**WR:** Paul Leftrict, Sr., 5-10, 180  
**WR:** Matt Maxey, Jr., 5-9, 160  
**WR:** Cole Kepner, 5-10, 160  
**TE:** Evan Huff, Sr., 5-10, 207  
**LT:** Matt Alspach\*, Sr., 6-3, 250  
**LG:** Matt Muir\*, Sr., 6-2, 244  
**C:** Connor Bingham\*, Jr., 6-0, 245  
**RG:** Trent Jeski, Sr., 6-1, 233  
**RT:** Luke Hamilton\*, Sr., 6-6, 299  
**K:** Owen Warrick, Jr., 5-8, 131

#### DEFENSE

**NT:** Jeramiah Kelly, Jr., 6-2, 275  
**DT:** Jason Gillespie, Jr., 6-1, 241  
**DE:** Jack Hricovec, Jr., 5-9, 240  
**LB:** Cole Poanessa\*, Sr., 6-0, 216  
**LB:** Owen Garcia, Jr., 5-9, 190  
**Star:** Ryan Stolarki, So., 6-1, 203  
**Jack:** Hayden Dietrich, Sr., 5-10, 172  
**CB:** Jakob Weatherspoon, So., 6-0, 175  
**CB:** Jake Graham, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**S:** Carson Canning\*, Sr., 5-11, 180  
**S:** Connor Rowlinson\*, Sr., 6-2, 200  
**P:** Jakob Weatherspoon, So., 6-0, 175  
**\*. returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 22**  
**Key reserves:** Tyler Kauffman, Sam Toniolo, Paul Balazy, Nick Colburn, Nick Wise, Ty Beerbohm

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division 2, Region 6  
**Coach:** Mike Elder, 17th year (172-30)  
**2022:** 12-2 (7-0) Division II Region 6 finalist  
**Twitter:** @avoneagles  
**Home Field:** Mark Wahlberg Chevrolet Stadium

### Outlook

Avon has a new look for 2023, but the running game will easily be the team's strength. The offense will return four linemen and running back Jakorion Caffey, who is a University of Cincinnati commit. Even though Avon's five-year reign in Division II Region 6 ended, its aspirations go further than regaining the regional crown — they want to win the state championship.

### Player to watch

Senior Luke Hamilton is a four-star recruit on 247Sports and a University of Michigan commit to play offensive tackle. Saying he is a dominant presence could be an understatement. He is one of two All-Ohioans to return and will turn Avon into a powerhouse rushing attack.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior quarterback Nolan Good will start his first year at quarterback. His athleticism from basketball made him a starting cornerback last year and he will be a dual-threat quarterback behind center. His performance is critical to ensure the balance in the offense.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** Avon's offense can dominate possession and pass when it needs to; **THEN:** The Eagles should be Division II Region 6 contenders.



Hamilton

— Mark Perez-Krywany



JOE COLON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake attempts a field goal during a scrimmage against Medina Highland on Aug. 4.

## Avon Lake » Shoremen

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 18: Strongsville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Aug. 24: Avon Lake at Benedictine (at Euclid), 7 p.m.

Sept. 1: Avon Lake at Chardon, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8: Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Sept. 15: Avon Lake at Midview, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29: Elyria at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6: Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: North Ridgeville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20: Avon Lake at Avon, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Alex Affolter, Jr., 5-11, 175  
**TB:** Wade Nelson\*, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**WR:** Luke Stuewe\*, Jr., 6-2, 190  
**WR:** Birk Carter\*, Sr., 5-9, 155  
**WR:** Derek McCrum\*, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**WR:** Aidan Stewart, So., 6-0, 170  
**LT:** Maxwell Riley\*, 6-5, 263  
**LG:** Otto Burmeister, 6-1, 235  
**C:** Timmy Kemer, Jr., 6-0, 230  
**RG:** Clay Broadhurst\*, 6-1, 240  
**RT:** Joe McNulty\*, Jr., 6-3, 240  
**K:** Ian Walsh\*, Sr., 6-2, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Carter Sergent\*, Sr., 6-3, 220  
**DT:** Thomson Michael, Sr., 6-4, 235  
**DT:** Lewis Gallagher, 6-1, 270  
**DE:** Tyler Fuente, 6-1, 210  
**LB:** Michael Pace\*, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**LB:** Felipe Covarrubias, Sr., 6-2, 206  
**LB:** Derek McCrum\*, Sr., 6-2, 180  
**DB:** Will Sindelar\*, Sr., 5-9, 175  
**DB:** Jake Bova, Sr., 5-10, 177  
**DB:** Nate Haven, Jr., 5-8, 155  
**DB:** Luke Stuewe\*, Jr., 6-2, 190  
**P:** Ian Walsh\*, Sr., 6-2, 165  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 23  
**Key reserves:** Heron Joseph, DB, Fach Owens, LB, Antony Benedict, RB, Tyler Carter, WR  
**Best in the classroom:** Kevin Baker, 4.0 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Clay Broadhurst, 305  
**Best 40 time:** Luke Stuewe, 4.5 seconds  
**Best squat:** Clay Broadhurst, 435 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6

**Coach:** Matt Kostelnik, seventh year (51-17)

**2022:** 9-3 (5-2) Division II Region 6 quarterfinalist

**Twitter:** @coachkostelnik

**Home Field:** Avon Lake Memorial Stadium

### Outlook

Avon Lake returns a lot of offensive talent. Even with wide receivers, such as Division I prospects Derek McCrum and Luke Stuewe, they plan to stick with the running game that returns four of its five offensive linemen. Alex Affolter is the projected quarterback for Week 1. The Shoremen lost All-Ohioan talents Avery Vi-ancourt, Keegan Rudduck and Pierden Pepe. A daunting task, but they still have impact players to stop opposing teams as well.

### Player to watch

Wade Nelson was arguably the most explosive Shoremen playmaker, including a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Avon. His season was cut short due to injury, but he has fully recovered and will be one of three featured tail backs in Avon Lake's offense.



Nelson

**Underclassman to watch:** Offensive tackle Maxwell Riley has quickly risen to become one of the most highly recruited sophomores in the country. Few offensive linemen have the combination of footwork and size. He enters this season as a second-year starter who has offers from juggernauts in the Big Ten (Ohio State and Michigan) and several programs in the SEC and ACC.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** the team puts Affolter in positions to succeed, **THEN:** Avon Lake should be serious a contender in the SWC and Division II, Region 6.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Bay runs a play during a 7-on-7 against Amherst on July 24.

## Bay » Rockets

### Schedule

(subject to change)

Aug. 19: Bay at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1 p.m.

Aug. 25: Field at Bay, 7 p.m.

Sept. 1: Bay at University, 5 p.m.

Sept. 8: Valley Forge at Bay, 7 p.m.

Sept. 14: Bay at Normandy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22: Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7 p.m.

Sept. 29: Bay at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6: Bay at Westlake, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: Rocky River at Bay, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20: North Olmsted at Bay, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Michael Farrell, Jr., 6-0, 160  
**RB:** Brendan Spellman\*, Sr., 5-10 180  
**TE:** Charles Rice\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**WR:** Jace Knapp\*, Sr., 5-11, 175  
**WR:** Wondu Evans\*, Jr., 5-11, 180  
**FB:** Mac Weingart\*, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**LT:** Liam Albright, Jr., 6-3, 260  
**LG:** Braydon Capretto\*, Jr., 5-9, 225  
**C:** Evan Manderine, Jr., 5-10, 225  
**RG:** Cole Manos\*, Sr., 5-10, 225  
**RT:** Derrick Gura, Jr., 6-2, 235  
**K:** Casey Medley\* 12 6 1 155  
**DEFENSE**  
**DL:** Mac Weingart\*, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**DL:** Michael Foreman, So., 6-1, 210  
**DL:** Derrick Gura, Jr., 6-2, 235  
**OLB:** James Cox\*, Sr., 6-0, 180ILB Rocco Ereditario, So., 5-10, 175  
**ILB:** Jack McAlea\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**OLB:** Evan Taulbee, So., 5-9, 160  
**CB:** Jace Knapp\*, Sr., 5-11, 175  
**S:** Charlie Rodgers\*, So., 6-0, 210  
**S:** Charles Rice\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**CB:** Wondu Evans\*, Jr., 5-11, 180  
 \*, returning starter;  
**Key reserves:** Charlie Rodgers\*, So., 6-0, 210, Billy Wilmitch, Jr., 6-0, 225, Robert Corbin, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**Best bench press:** Mac Weingart, 330  
**Best 40 time:** Brendan Spellman 4.72  
**Best squat:** Mac Weingart 500

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 10

**Coach:** Ron Rutt, 10th season (65-35)

**2022:** 5-6 (2-3)

**Twitter:** @bayathletics

**Home Field:** Bay Memorial Stadium

### Outlook

This year's Bay team had a number of juniors starters come in as first-teamers as sophomores a year ago, and it results in more than 16 returning starters for a darkhorse Bay squad. They have size at the tackle spots and experience in the secondary against teams that can air it out in the GLC West.

### Player to watch

Brendan Spellman was a versatile weapon for the Rockets out of the backfield a year ago and will be a heavily relied-upon figure in the offense. He'll be the head of a veteran skill position corps.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore Charlie Rodgers (6-0, 210) was put into prominent spots as a freshman and has earned a bigger role in the team's 2023 plans.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** The underclassmen can fill the voids left by graduation; **THEN:** Bay will be in a good position to win games with their returning talent.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Spellman



Rodgers





COURTESY AIDAN MCLAUGHLIN

Brookside's Ben Montgomery excels in all three phases of the game.

## Brookside » Cardinals

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Brooklyn at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Brookside at Huron, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Fairview at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Brookside at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Firelands at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Keystone at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Black River at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Brookside at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Brookside at Clearview, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Nick Arra\*, Jr., 5-10, 175  
**RB:** Tyler Kitzberger\* Jr., 5-11, 205  
**WR:** Lincoln Barnhart\*, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**WR/RB:** Ben Montgomery\*, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**WR:** Shawn Moore\*, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**WR:** Brennen Gainer\*, Sr., 5-9, 160  
**LT:** Aidan McLaughlin\*, Sr., 6-2, 210  
**LG:** Blake Walls\*, Sr., 6-0, 200  
**C:** Carter Schuster, So., 6-1, 235  
**RG:** Zy'aire Marn, So., 5-10, 200  
**RT:** Michael Borgmann, So., 6-3, 220  
**K:** Noah Adkins\*, Jr., 5-10, 140

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Aidan McLaughlin\*, Sr., 6-2, 210  
**DL:** Dylan Dennis\*, 6-1, 210  
**DL:** Carter Schuster, 6-1, 235  
**DL:** Blake Walls\*, 6-0, 200  
**LB:** Tyler Kitzberger\*, 5-11, 205  
**LB:** Nick Arra\*, 5-10, 175  
**OLB:** Lincoln Barnhart\*, 6-1, 170  
**CB:** Shawn Moore\*, 6-0, 160  
**S:** Brennen Gainer\*, 5-9, 160  
**S:** Ben Montgomery\*, 5-10, 185  
**CB:** Christian Arend, 5-10, 150  
**P:** Tyler Kitzberger\*, 5-11, 205  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 25: Key reserves: Brody Hamilton, Fr., 5-11, 210, Andy Bilczo, So., 5-9, 140  
**Best in the classroom:** Nick Arra, 4.1 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Tyler Kitzberger 225 pounds  
**Best squat:** Tyler Kitzberger

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17

**Coach:** Scott O'Donnell, fifth year (9-30)

**2022:** 1-9 (1-6)

**Twitter:** @Brooksidefb

**Home Field:** Dick Sevit Stadium

### Outlook

Brookside is back down to Division V, after it spent the 2022 season in Division IV. The Cardinals come back with quality athletes at the skill positions and the athleticism they have translated to a senior-laden secondary. More than half of the offensive line returns, with Aidan McLaughlin anchoring the trenches on both sides of the ball.

### Player to watch

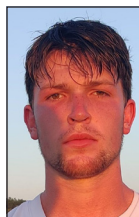
Senior Ben Montgomery possesses great athleticism that has earned Division III college looks. Brookside suffered injuries throughout the 2022 season and the Cardinals used Montgomery's versatility to fill in several voids, which helped him earn a Division IV All-Ohioan selection. He is also a fly-around player on defense.

**Underclassman to watch:** After fighting for the starting position last year, junior quarterback Nick Arra will start for the second year in a row. He's paired with a ton of talent, such as Montgomery and running back Tyler Kitzberger. Arra's judgment at the moment has progressed a ton. With all of the talent at the skill positions, he will be spoiled with options.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** the offensive line can make strides, **THEN:** 2023 will be a bounce-back year in Brookside.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Montgomery



Arra



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Clearview ballcarrier tries to elude an Amherst defender during a 7-on-7 July 11.

## Clearview » Clippers

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Toledo Scott at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Clearview at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** John Hay at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Clearview at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Oberlin at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Wellington at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Clearview at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Clearview at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Black River at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Brookside at Clearview, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Cy Christensen\*, So., 6-0, 160  
**RB:** Ethan Lorenzana\*, Sr., 5-9, 192  
**RB:** Ashton Pabon\*, Sr., 5-10, 175  
**RB:** Dominic Jackson\*, Sr., 5-7, 170  
**WR:** Ayden Cruz\*, Sr., 6-2, 170  
**WR:** Malcom Lane\*, Sr., 5-8, 140  
**WR:** Keith Colvin\*, Sr., 5-11, 157  
**LT:** Avion Thomas, Sr., 6-6, 330  
**LG:** Anthony Lachman\*, So., 6-2, 273  
**C:** Jordan Stowers\*, Sr., 6-0, 247  
**RG:** Isaac Dandrea, Sr., 5-10, 175  
**RT:** Greg O'Hern, Sr., 5-11, 190  
**K:** Ty Pinto, So., 5-6, 130

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Greg O'Hern\*, Sr., 5-11, 190  
**DL:** Josiah Longo\*, Jr., 5-8 158  
**DL:** Issac Dandrea, Sr., 5-10, 175  
**DL:** Anthony Ruiz, Sr., 5-9, 180  
**LB:** Ethan Lorenzana, Sr., 5-9, 192  
**LB:** Ashton Pabon, Sr., 5-10, 175  
**LB/DB:** Ayden Cruz, Sr., 6-2, 170  
**LB/DB:** Dominic Jackson, Sr., 5-7, 170  
**DB:** Malcom Lane, Sr., 5-8, 140  
**DB:** Keith Colvin, Sr., 5-11, 157  
**DB:** Isiah Garcia, Jr., 5-9, 130  
**P:** Cy Christensen, So., 6-0, 160  
**Best in the classroom:** Ayden Cruz, 4.391 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Dominic Jackson, 275 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Ashton Noble & Dominic Jackson 4.55 seconds  
**Best squat:** Ethan Lorenzana & Ashton Pabon, 415 pounds  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 15: Key reserves: Ashton Noble, Sr., Manny Moore, So. Elias Simon, Sr., Connor Lane, Sr., Jason Evans, Sr.

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17

**Coach:** Mike Collier, 17th year (91-71)

**2022:** 3-7 (2-5)

**Twitter:** @Clipperfb

**Home Field:** Tom Hoch Field

### Outlook

Clearview looks loaded on both sides of the ball. However, there are still strides to be made in order to make a run for the LC8 championship and the Division V postseason. The defense returns All-Ohioans Keith Colvin, Ayden Cruz, Greg O'Hern and Josiah Longo. The Clippers lost five games that were decided by one possession in 2022. The Week 1 matchup against Toledo Scott will be a game that can set the tone for the 2023 season.

**Players to watch:** Senior defensive back Keith Colvin was a Division V second-team All-Ohioan back to shut down opposing teams' aerial assault. Malcom Lane intercepted four passes last year and tied single-game school record with three interceptions. Expect him to be an impact player on both sides of the ball at wide receiver as well.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore Cy Christensen impressed as a freshman starting quarterback. He threw 16 touchdowns against three interceptions and had a passer rating of 100.5. They have great senior leadership at the skill positions to assist him.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** Clearview can perform well in close games, **THEN:** it should be an LC8 title contender.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Colvin



Christensen



SEAN FITZGERALD — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia players huddle around head coach Jason Ward during their July 30 midnight madness practice.

## Columbia » Raiders

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Independence at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Columbia at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** West Salem Northwestern at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Columbia at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Oberlin at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Columbia at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Clearview at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Brookside at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Columbia at Black River, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Ethan Meier, Sr., 6-1, 190  
**TB:** Marco Cirigliano\*, Sr., 5-10, 190  
**FB:** Brian Jones, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**WR:** Jacob Sanders\*, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**TE:** Gavin Tollett, Sr., 6-2, 215  
**WR:** Jimmy Stofey, Sr., 5-9, 170  
**LT:** Chase Voge\*, Jr., 6-4, 250  
**LG:** CJ Dupaski\*, Sr., 5-10, 220  
**C:** Fred Goebel, Sr., 5-9, 225  
**RG:** Dan Maiorino, Jr., 6-0, 215  
**RT:** Nathan Chapman\*, Jr., 6-0, 260  
**K:** Jack Washburn, Fr., 5-9, 165

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Gavin Tollett\*, Sr., 6-2, 215  
**NG:** Ben Bowling, Sr., 6-0, 275  
**DE:** Nathan Chapman, Jr., 6-0, 260  
**OLB:** Marco Cirigliano\*, Sr., 5-10, 190  
**ILB:** Gage Maruna, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**ILB:** CJ Dupaski, Sr., 5-10, 220  
**OLB:** Jimmy Stofey, Sr., 5-9, 170  
**CB:** Danny Corrigan\*, Sr., 5-11, 170  
**S:** Isaac Ciryak, Sr., 6-1, 170  
**S:** Jacob Sanders\*, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**CB:** Matt Pring\*, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**P:** Ambrose Beach, Fr., 5-8, 165  
**\* returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 22; **Key reserves:** Alex Andrews, Fr., 5-10, 215, Mason Goodman, Jr., 5-10, 195, Chase Voge, Jr., 6-4, 250, Jose Rivera, So., 5-9, 185  
**Best bench press:** Chase Voge, 295 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Marco Cirigliano, 4.62 seconds  
**Best squat:** Nate Chapman, 415 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22 finalist

**Coach:** Jason Ward, 18th year (125-61)

**2022:** 13-1 (7-0) Division VI Region 22

**Twitter:** @CHSFootball

**Home Field:** Columbia Raiders Stadium

### Outlook

The Raiders went unbeaten in the 2022 regular season, capturing a conference crown and falling a game short of the state final four. Marco Cirigliano was the engine of the offense a year ago with more 2,500 yards rushing. He has three returning starters from last year's offensive line and the Raiders sport an experienced secondary. It'll be fascinating to see how Columbia follows up a 13-1 campaign.

### Player to watch

Marco Cirigliano was one of the top 10 rushers in Ohio last year, recording 45 total touchdowns. The All-Ohioan and Division VI co-offensive player of the year is a nightmare for opposing defenses.

**Underclassman to watch:** Jimmy Stofey will be a jack of all trades as a sophomore, working as a pass catcher and linebacker for Columbia. He's earned high praise from coach Jason Ward.

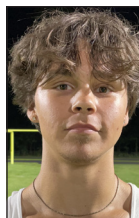
### Bottom Line

**IF:** The new starters can fill the void left by graduated seniors, **THEN:** Columbia can run the table again in the LC8 and make a deep playoff run.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Cirigliano



Stofey



JEN FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria's Steven Gilbert tries to get past the Avon defense Sept. 16, 2022.

## Elyria » Pioneers

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Cincinnati Princeton at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Elyria at Akron East, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Elyria at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Amherst at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Elyria at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Elyria at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Justin Godbolt, Jr., 6-0, 170  
**RB:** Kevin Jordan, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**WR:** Steven Gilbert, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**WR:** Andre Lucky, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**WR:** Larico Baker, Sr., 5-9, 160  
**WR:** Steve Maiher, Jr., 6-1, 175  
**TE:** Teo Perez, Jr., 6-2, 210  
**LT:** De'von Johnson\*, Sr., 6-4, 280  
**LG:** Mike Alvarez Jr., 6-0, 285  
**C:** Jamil Abernathy, Sr., 6-0, 280  
**RG:** Zyon Newson\*, Jr., 6-4, 275  
**RT:** Jackson Goodspeed, So., 6-4, 300  
**K:** Tim Rader\*, Sr., 6-0, 160

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Braylon Riase\*, Jr., 6-2, 215  
**DT:** Kemarion Wimberly, Jr., 5-10, 220  
**DT:** Zyon Newson, Jr., 6-4, 275  
**LB:** BJ Todd, Jr., 6-3, 230  
**LB:** Adrien Williams\*, Sr., 6-1, 200  
**LB:** Terrell Calhoun, Jr., 5-9, 185  
**LB:** Zavier Stephens, Jr., 5-9, 185  
**DB:** Kayden Daniels\*, Sr., 5-10, 165  
**DB:** Danjalo Childress, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**DB:** Laron Anderson\*, Jr., 5-10, 170  
**DB:** Xavier Church, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**P:** Tim Rader, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 8  
**Key reserves:** Will Woodrum, Sr., 6-0, 250, Jaziher Flowers, Sr., 6-4, 300; **Jaden Norris, Sr., 6-3, 220**  
**Best in the classroom:** Teo Perez, 4.3 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Kevin Jordan, 315 pounds  
**Best squat:** Kemarion Wimberly, 450 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Larico Baker, 4.5 seconds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference

**Coach:** Brian Fox, first year

**2022:** 5-6 (3-4)

**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1

**Twitter:** @ElyriaAthletics

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

### Outlook

Elyria has a lot of talent on both sides of the ball; athleticism won't be an issue. The Pioneers got back on track last year as a program with a 5-6 record, and now Brian Fox comes over from Elyria Catholic to take over as coach. In his first season, the team looks to continue on the upward trajectory.

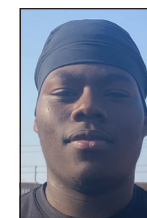
### Player to watch

Zyon Newson will lock down the trenches on both sides of the ball for Elyria, and he's getting Division I looks for a reason. Only a junior, he will be a force to be reckoned with as he progresses.

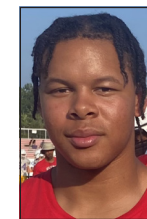
**Underclassmen to watch:** Elyria has a lot of weapons to watch out for this season, and BJ Todd is a player whose athleticism will be hard to match. He brings a lot of upside on defense and can also line out at wide receiver. With a roster full of versatile players, the junior stands out.

### Bottom line

**IF:** The players can continue building chemistry, **THEN:** Elyria will be a tough out for every opponent on the schedule.



Newson



BJ Todd

— Travis Nelson



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

The Elyria Catholic football team practices on July 31.

## Elyria Catholic » Panthers

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Elyria Catholic at Liberty Benton, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Perkins at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Holy Name at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Elyria Catholic at Lakewood, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Elyria Catholic at Bay, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** North Olmsted at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Rocky River at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Elyria Catholic at Westlake, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Darrell Shumpert Jr., Jr., 5-11, 165  
**RB:** Anthony DeMartinis, Sr., 5-10, 155  
**WR:** Graydon Rollins, Sr., 6-1.5, 210  
**WR:** Teddy Budinger\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**WR:** Timmy Phillips, Sr., 6-1, 190  
**LT:** Jackson Smith\*, Sr., 6-2, 260  
**LG:** Kevin Milchen, Sr., 5-10, 260  
**C:** Justin Vogel, Sr., 5-8, 230  
**RG:** Kyle Fairbanks\*, Sr., 6-0, 260  
**RT:** Bryan Kelley, Jr., 6-1, 245  
**K:** Sean O'Donnell, Jr., 5-10

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Jackson Smith, Sr., 6-2, 260  
**NT:** Justin Vogel, Sr., 5-8, 230  
**DT:** Bryan Kelley, Jr., 6-1, 245  
**DE:** Trent Merrill, So., 6-1, 210  
**LB:** Graydon Rollins\*, 6-1, 215  
**LB:** Yadi Perez, Jr., 5-11, 190  
**DB:** Brady Engle\*, Jr., 6-0, 170  
**DB:** J.J. Metzinger, Sr., 5-5, 140  
**DB:** Alexander Rodriguez, Sr., 5-10, 145  
**DB:** Anthony DeMartinis, Sr., 5-6, 150  
**DB:** Deinye Campbell, Jr., 5-6, 140  
**P:** Sean O'Donnell, Jr., 5-10  
**\*, returning starter; Returning letter winners: 7**  
**Key reserves:** Grayson Kramer, Connor Petrus, Amari Lind, Mason Haliburton\*  
**Best in the classroom:** J.J. Metzinger, 4.5 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Bryan Kelley, 265 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Connor Petrus, 4.5 seconds  
**Best squat:** Jackson Smith, 405 pounds

### Just the facts

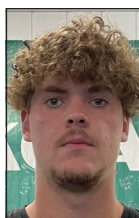
**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14  
**Coach:** Chase Farris, first year  
**2022:** 10-3 (5-0), GLC runner-up, Division IV Region 14 semifinalist  
**Twitter:** @ECHSAthletics  
**Home Field:** Dan Reaser Stadium

### Outlook

The Brotherhood of Ohio State has made its appearance at Elyria Catholic. The Panthers have their work cut out for them, as they have five returning starters. However, Farris has young and hungry players to fill in the spots across the board for the next generation. The offense should have a solid rush-pass blend with athletic receivers. Senior linebacker Graydon Rollins will anchor the defense in the middle.

### Player to watch

Offensive tackle Jackson Smith is the only Division IV All-Ohioan selection to return out of nine in 2022. He excels at pass protection and down blocking in Elyria Catholic's run schemes. Expect Smith to have a major impact in the trenches.



Smith



Petrus

**Underclassman to watch:** Sports runs deep in Connor Petrus' family. His uncle Brent is an Elyria Sports Hall of Famer at Elyria Catholic and is a cousin to the Kenneally family. Petrus has great speed that's utilized at cornerback and wide receiver. He is not afraid to hit his hands dirty in bump-and-run coverage on the narrow side of the field.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** The locker room maintains strong leadership, **THEN:** Elyria Catholic could potentially be a top-eight seed in the Division IV Region 14 tournament.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



SEAN FITZGERALD — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview football players work on a drill during their second practice session Aug. 3.

## Fairview » Warriors

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Cuyahoga Heights at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Columbia at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Fairview at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Lutheran East at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Fairview at Buckeye Valley, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Fairview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Bay at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** North Olmsted at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Elyria Catholic at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Fairview at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Burke Lowry\*, So., 6-3, 175  
**SLOT:** Juju Clark, Jr., 5-8, 145  
**SLOT:** Pat Canfield, Jr., 5-8, 145  
**WR:** Nolan Reis\*, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**WR:** Sal Rizzo\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**RB:** Quinn Bruder, Sr., 5-8, 175  
**LT:** Quinton Harris, So., 6-2, 300  
**LG:** Danny Larkin\*, Jr., 5-10, 220  
**C:** Tyler Zellmer, So., 5-10, 245  
**RG:** Ernie Alcaro\*, Jr., 5-10, 230  
**RT:** Ben Conley\*, Sr., 6-3, 210  
**K:** Brandon Zimmerman, Sr., 6-1, 150

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Danny Larkin\*, Jr., 5-8, 220  
**DT:** Tyler Zellmer, So., 5-10, 245  
**DT:** Ernie Alcaro\*, Jr., 5-10, 230  
**DE:** Ben Conley\*, Sr., 6-3, 210  
**LB:** Quinn Bruder\*, Sr., 5-8, 175  
**LB:** Sal Rizzo\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**SS:** Brady Weir, Jr., 5-10, 155  
**S:** Savijan Harris, So., 5-11, 170  
**S:** Pat Canfield, Jr., 5-8, 145  
**CB:** Nolan Reis\*, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**CB:** Juju Clark\*, Jr., 5-8, 145  
**P:** Burke Lowry\*, So., 6-3, 175  
**\*, returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 12**  
**Key reserves:** Savijan Harris, So., 5-11, 170, Vinny Rizzo, So., 5-10, 165, Michael Marrie, Sr., 6-1, 190  
**Best in the classroom:** Cody Weise, 4.2 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Ernie Alcaro, 235 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Pat Canfield, 4.7 seconds  
**Best squat:** Danny Larkin, 415 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Coach:** Sean Ranc, fourth season (5-23)  
**2022:** 1-9 (0-5)  
**Twitter:** @FairviewFB  
**Home Field:** Fairview Stadium

### Outlook

Coach Sean Ranc is in his fourth year leading the Warriors and is ready to take a step up by making the playoffs. They'll be returning a sophomore quarterback in Burke Lowry — who started three games down the stretch last year — along with 12 other starters, including five of seven returning defensive starters in the front seven. This will be their last season competing in the GLC West before heading off to play in the Chagrin Valley Conference come 2024.

### Player to watch

Senior Quinn Bruder was named a captain this year after playing a starters role between linebacker and fullback in 2022 without initially being named one. Look for him to help set the tone early and lead by example.

**Underclassman to watch:** Burke Lowry gained valuable experience as a freshman in the final three games as the starting signal caller in 2022. It'll help elevate an offense returning both starting wideouts and multiple linemen.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** Fairview can take care of the little things during the game, **THEN:** The Warriors will be able to put together a winning football outfit on the field.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Bruder



Lowry



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Firelands ball carrier runs upfield during a game last season.

## Firelands » Falcons

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Firelands at Edison, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Firelands at Poland Seminary, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Black River at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Firelands at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Clearview at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Keystone at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Firelands at Oberlin, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Firelands at Wellington, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jimmy Aunspaw\*, Sr., 6-2, 188  
**RB:** Collin Scott, Jr., 5-11, 203  
**FB:** Josh Kovach\*, Sr., 5-10, 195  
**WR:** Kevin Williams\*, Sr., 5-9, 140  
**WR:** Liam Varnell, Sr., 6-4, 170  
**LT:** Noah Angle\*, Jr., 6-3, 250  
**LG:** CJ Gilles, Jr., 6-3, 275  
**C:** Brayden Rowley\*, Sr., 5-10, 294  
**RG:** Brandon Adkins, Jr., 6-0, 281  
**RT:** Patrick Geist, Jr., 6-2, 285  
**K:** Rocco Iafolla\*, Sr., 6-1, 180

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Noah Angle\*, Jr., 6-3, 250  
**NT:** Collin Adkins, Sr., 5-9, 240  
**DE:** CJ Gilles, Jr., 6-3, 275  
**OLB:** Logan Galligan\*, Sr., 5-8, 160  
**ILB:** Josh Kovach\*, Sr., 5-10, 195  
**ILB:** Collin Scott\*, Jr., 5-11, 203  
**OLB:** Michael Lewis\*, Jr., 6-3, 170  
**CB:** Devin Linn\*, Sr., 5-10, 146  
**S:** Tristan Born\*, Sr., 5-10, 150  
**S:** Logan Urban\*, Sr., 6-1, 166  
**CB:** Kevin Williams, Sr., 5-9, 140  
**P:** Collin Scott, Jr., 5-11, 203  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 23

**Key reserves:** Roberto Flores, Jr., 6-2, 267. Jimmy Berry, So., 6-0, 180. Carter Lehman, Jr., Luke Gibson, Jr.  
**Best in the classroom:** Collin Adkins, 4.2 GPA

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14

**Coach:** Ryan O'Rourke, seventh year (36-25)

**2022:** 7-4 (5-2)

**Twitter:** @Coach\_Rorourke

**Home field:** Firelands Stadium

### Outlook

Firelands had a nice season last year and came up just short of an LC8 title share. The Falcons lose all-time leading rusher Weston Strader, but return a lot of key pieces on both sides of the ball.

### Player to watch

Senior fullback Josh Kovach will now be heavily relied on as the veteran in the backfield. As a junior, he rushed for 229 yards and six touchdowns on 36 carries. There will be a lot more carries up for grabs in 2023, and it seems like he could be the one to take them. Like many of the Falcons' players, he is a two-way starter, and will hold down his middle linebacker spot again this year.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior left tackle Noah Angle is one of three returning offensive linemen, and he left an impact last season starting as a sophomore. Also a starter at defensive end, Angle will be protecting quarterback Jimmy Aunspaw's blind side once again whenever the Falcons do pass the ball.

### Bottom line

**If:** The new running backs can step up, **Then:** Firelands has the making of an LC8 contender.

— Travis Nelson



Kovach



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone quarterback Zach Shackelford throws to a receiver at a practice on Aug 3.

## Keystone » Wildcats

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Keystone at West Salem North-western, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Keystone at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Clearview at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Columbia at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Keystone at Black River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Keystone at Brookside, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Keystone at Firelands, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Wellington at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Oberlin at Keystone, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Zach Shackelford\*, Jr., 5-11, 180  
**RB:** Kadin Stivason\*, Sr., 5-11, 185  
**RB:** Lucas Hurley, Jr., 5-10, 190  
**WR:** Tyler Ohl, Jr., 6-0, 165  
**WR:** Vince Taylor, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**TE:** Grady Whitacre\*, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**LT:** Macin Padin\*, Jr., 5-9, 210  
**LG:** Alex Spurling\*, Sr., 5-9, 235  
**C:** Jordan Folmer\*, Jr., 5-11, 225  
**RG:** Chase Hosey\*, Sr., 5-10, 240  
**RT:** Caden Johnson\*, Sr., 6-2, 195  
**K:** Grady Whitacre\*, Jr., 5-10, 170

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** William Axford, So., 5-9, 225  
**DT:** Kyle Naylor\*, So., 5-10, 230  
**DT:** Lucas Secrist\*, Sr., 6-1, 255  
**DE:** Jordan Folmer\*, Jr., 5-11, 225  
**LB:** Kadin Stivason\*, Sr., 5-11, 185  
**LB:** Lucas Hurley\*, Jr., 5-10, 190  
**QS:** Shane Ohl, So., 6-0, 185  
**SS:** Grady Whitacre\*, Jr., 6-1, 180  
**FS:** Zach Shackelford\*, Jr., 5-11, 180  
**CB:** Wyatt Rose, Jr., 5-9, 170  
**CB:** Tyler Ohl, Jr., 6-0, 165  
**P:** Paul Horten, Sr., 5-11, 160  
 \*: Returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 26  
**Best in the classroom:** Zach Shackelford, 4.1 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Landon Whitacre, 275 pounds  
**Best squat:** Landon Whitacre, 400 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17

**Coach:** Don Griswold, seventh year (29-20)

**2022:** 4-6 (4-3)

**Twitter:** @TheMrGriz

**Home Field:** Wildcat Stadium

### Outlook

Graduated Wildcats Konner Rodick and Ryne Shackelford present huge voids to fill, but Keystone comes into the season with more experience on the offensive line. That will be major for new quarterback Zach Shackelford and quality athletes at the skill positions. Keystone hopes to use the athleticism on the defensive end of the ball.

### Player to watch

Senior Caden Johnson will return as a second-year starter on the offensive line. He will also play defensive end and provides a consistent impact in the trenches. Johnson has endured multiple injuries, but his offseason training has prepared him to be effective.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Zach Shackelford is a Division V All-Ohioan selection and the younger brother of highly accomplished Wildcats Ryne and Jacob. That was at wide receiver. He'll transition to quarterback, as he had experience with taking snaps. Keystone's best playmakers will have the ball to initiate every play.

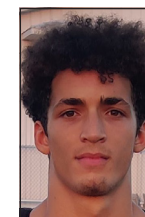
### Bottom Line

**IF:** The Wildcats can follow Shackelford's lead, **THEN:** Keystone should be able to contend with the LC8's elite teams.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Johnson



Shackelford

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SHANE PABON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain battles Shaw in a 2022 game. The Titans are vying for Lake Erie League supremacy this year.

## Lorain » Titans

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Lorain at Brush, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Lorain at Sandusky, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Lorain at Firestone, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Willoughby South at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Garfield Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Lorain at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Shaw at Lorain, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 12:** Lorain at Bedford, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Maple Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Chase Davis\*, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**RB:** John Salamon\*, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**WR:** Noah Buchanan\*, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**WR:** Joseph Wyatt, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**WR:** Jairo Williams\*, So., 5-10, 180  
**Y:** Jeremiah Lopez, Sr., 5-9, 180  
**LT:** Shane Ramey-Rowland, Sr., 6-4, 280  
**LG:** Evan Hricovic\*, Sr., 6-2, 270  
**C:** Tyler Fogo, Jr., 6-1, 210  
**RG:** Julius Manning II, Sr., 6-0, 245  
**RT:** Isaiah Ray\*, Sr., 5-10, 275  
**K:** Reggie Johnson, Sr.

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Camryn Sledge, Sr., 6-1, 250  
**N:** Luke Wilson\*, Jr., 6-1, 230  
**DE:** Julius Manning\*, Sr., 6-0, 245  
**OLB:** Jeremiah Lopez\*, Sr., 5-9, 180  
**ILB:** Noah Smith\*, Sr., 6-0, 200  
**ILB:** Jay'I Diaz, So., 5-10, 180  
**ILB:** Armand Brown, Jr., 6-0, 200  
**OLB:** Avery Martin, So., 6-0, 180  
**CB:** Ocir Kimble, Jr., 6-1, 185  
**S:** Noah Buchanan, Sr., 6-2, 190  
**S:** Joseph Wyatt, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**CB:** Johnny Geiger, Jr., 6-0, 160  
**\*:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 17  
**Best In The Classroom:** Shane Ramey-Rowland, Evan Hricovic, Joey Hall

### Just The Facts

**Conference:** Lake Erie League  
**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1  
**Coach:** Damion Creel, third year (4-18)  
**2022:** 3-8 (2-4)  
**Twitter:** @LorainAthletics  
**Home field:** George Daniel Field

### Outlook

Lorain has been a young team over the past couple of seasons under Damion Creel. But the Titans are much older in 2023. The team improved its record by two wins in 2022, and that was despite leaving a couple of winnable games out there. Improvement is expected again this season, and a now veteran team looks to make it happen.

### Player To Watch

Running back John Salamon is back for another year as Lorain's bell cow. The senior will get a lot of carries once again as the Titans will try to control the line of scrimmage. Lorain is a run-first team, and it's hard not to be with a player of this caliber in the backfield.

**Underclassman to watch:** Quarterback Chase Davis returns under center after taking over in Week 4 of last season. Now with a full offseason under his belt, he looks to take his play to the next level.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** The running game can sustain drives to keep Davis comfortable; **THEN:** Lorain can have a two-dimensional offense and be in a better position to win close games.

— Travis Nelson



Salamon



Davis



JEN FORBUS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Rocky River's Ryan Ricketti, left, lunges for a tackle attempt on Midview's Dane West.

## Midview » Middies

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Avon Lake at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Midview at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Midview at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Elyria at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Ethan Elbert, Sr., 6-4, 170  
**QB:** Cody Martin, Jr., 6-4, 195  
**RB:** Hunter Anderson\*, Sr., 5-9, 160  
**WR:** Dane West\*, Sr., 5-11, 156  
**WR:** Cameron West, Jr., 5-10, 180  
**WR:** Dior Jones, Jr., 6-0, 195  
**WR:** Cross Wervey, Jr., 5-8, 163  
**LT:** Makai Massey, Jr., 6-0, 275  
**LG:** Danny Dular\*, Sr., 5-10, 220  
**C:** Leo Swyrinsky, Jr., 5-10, 235  
**RG:** Maxwell Scott, Jr., 5-10, 195  
**RT:** Antonio Jackson, Jr., 6-2, 241

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Maxwell Scott, Jr., 5-10, 195  
**DL:** Gabe Borrer, Sr., 5-8, 190  
**DL:** Makai Massey, Jr., 5-8, 170  
**DL:** Nathaniel Shenberger, Jr., 6-0, 190  
**LB:** Connor Rose\*, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**DB:** Dane West\*, Sr., 5-11, 156  
**DB:** Cross Wervey\*, Jr., 5-8, 163  
**DB:** Cameron West\*, Jr., 5-10, 180  
**DB:** Michael Passerello, So., 6-1, 170  
**\*:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 10  
**Best bench press:** Makai Massey, 275 pounds  
**Best squat:** Connor Rose, 455 pounds

### Just The Facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**2022:** 2-8 (1-6)  
**Coach:** Jack Armstrong, first year  
**Twitter:** @MiddieUpdates  
**Home field:** Ross Field at Adelsberg Stadium

### Outlook

Midview is in a rebuilding phase as the Middies lost a lot of senior starters, and new coach Jack Armstrong enters the fold. Facing off against the SWC and three GLC nonconference opponents, the schedule doesn't stand down either. Armstrong is a former assistant and Midview alum, and he's looking to revive the program.

### Player To Watch

Dane West is an athlete Midview will rely on at wide receiver and cornerback. The senior is poised to go out with a bang and have a can't-miss season for the Middies. He became a two-way starter as a junior and posted 26 catches for 309 yards and three touchdowns as a wideout.

**Underclassman to watch:** One of the returning underclassman starters, Cameron West will have a big impact for Midview. You will hear a lot about West in the Middies' receiving core and secondary with Dane and Cameron. The younger West will make plays with his versatility.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** Midview can get acclimated with its new starters; **Then:** Armstrong can build a strong foundation in his first season.



D. West



C. West

— Travis Nelson



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A North Olmsted ballcarrier picks up yards against Brecksville on July 18.

## North Olmsted » Eagles

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Buckeye at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 16:** North Olmsted at Holy Name, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** North Olmsted at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** North Olmsted at Fairview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** North Olmsted at Bay, 7p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Tommy Horsfall, Jr., 6-2, 172  
**RB:** Logan Dangerfield\*, Sr., 5-10, 182  
**RB:** Matthew Chalkwater\*, Jr., 5-10, 185  
**WR:** Collin Willard\*, Sr., 6-0, 194  
**WR:** Brady Haug\*, Sr., 5-9, 158  
**ATH:** Michael Passafiume\*, Jr., 5-11, 195  
**LT:** Dean Cullup\*, Jr., 6-3, 245  
**LG:** Chris Shea, Sr., 6-0, 240  
**C:** Brendan Bonham\*, Jr., 6-2, 305  
**RG:** Jacob Holtz\*, Sr., 5-11, 238  
**RT:** Brian Kohuth\*, Sr., 5-10, 230  
**K:** Brendan Graf\*, Jr., 5-10, 232

#### DEFENSE

**DT:** Jacob Holtz\*, Sr., 5-11, 238  
**DT:** Brendan Graf, Jr., 5-10, 232  
**DT:** Mohammed Mohahmed, Jr., 5-10, 225  
**LB:** Matthew Chalkwater\*, Jr., 5-10, 185  
**LB:** Jackson Thogmartin\*, Sr., 6-1, 184  
**LB:** Michael Passafiume\*, Jr., 5-11, 195  
**DB:** Logan Dangerfield\*, Sr., 5-10, 182  
**DB:** Collin Willard\*, Sr., 6-0, 194  
**DB:** Hayden Rios\*, Sr., 5-9, 159  
**DB:** Brady Haug\*, Sr., 5-9, 158  
**DB:** Brayden Pavlus, Jr., 5-9, 172  
**P:** Brendan Graf\*, Jr., 5-10, 232  
**\*. returning starter**  
**Best in the classroom:** Logan Dangerfield 4.33, GPA  
**Best bench press:** Michael Passafiume 225 pounds  
**Best squat:** Jacob Holtz 465 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Collin Willard 4.54 seconds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Tim Brediger, 11th season (49-49)  
**2022:** 8-4 (4-1) Division II Region 6 quarterfinalist  
**Twitter:** @NOFBpersit  
**Home Field:** North Olmsted Stadium

### Outlook

North Olmsted made strides last year in the second year of its new offense, making the playoffs with weapons like Collin Willard and Jared Kelley. While Kelley and quarterback Xavier Balson are gone, Willard headlines a group of 17 returning starters from 2022. This experienced group could push their way to the top of the GLC field and make some noise if they can gel after an 8-4 campaign.

### Player to watch

Collin Willard steps into the lead role as the No. 1 option on offense. His blazing speed will allow North Olmsted to be creative in how they utilize him across the formation.

**Underclassman to watch:** Tommy Horsfall may be a first-year starter at quarterback, but this is the junior's third season in the Eagles' offensive system.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** The team continues to cut down on penalties, **THEN:** A repeat playoff trip will be in the offing.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Willard



Horsfall



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Ridgeville coach Brian Morgan speaks to his team during practice July 31.

## North Ridgeville » Rangers

### Schedule

(Subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** North Ridgeville at North Royalton, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Berea-Midpark at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** North Ridgeville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Cole Miller, So.  
**RB:** Zack Barnhart\*, So., 5-10, 205  
**H:** Charlie Steinmetz\*, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**Slot:** Ryan Augaman\*, So., 6-0, 185  
**WR:** Austin Young, Sr., 5-9, 150  
**WR:** Jack Palcic, Sr., 6-1, 175  
**LT:** J.D. Radway\*, Sr., 6-4, 320  
**LG:** Jaxon Reischer\*, Sr., 6-0, 265  
**C:** Mitch Waugaman\*, Jr., 6-0, 265  
**RG:** Andrew Flesher\*, Jr., 5-10, 260  
**RT:** Cooper Riley, Jr.,  
**K:** Austin DeShazo: 11, 6-0, 205

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Jeremy Michael\*, Sr., 5-10, 270  
**NT:** Shane Osborne\*, Sr., 6-3, 280  
**DE:** Ashton Cassetto\*, So., 6-0, 170  
**ILB:** Nate Bober\*, Sr., 5-9, 165  
**ILB:** Austin DeShazo\*, Jr., 6-0, 205  
**ILB:** Tyler Peregord, Jr., 6-1, 205  
**OLB:** Carson Madis\*, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**CB:** Malik AbuSaleh\*, 5-9, 160  
**SS:** Xavier Compton\*, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**FS:** Brett Lienerth\*, Jr., 5-10, 160  
**CB:** Carter Clark: So., 5-6, 150  
**P:** Finley Keller, So., 6-0, 215  
**\*. returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 22**  
**Best in the classroom:** Vinny Farago, 4.0 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Shane Osborne, 320 pounds  
**Best squat:** Ausin Young, 4.52 seconds  
**Best 40 time:** J.D. Radway, 515 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Coach:** Bryan Morgan, third year (8-13)  
**2022:** 5-6 (2-5)  
**Twitter:** @NRRangerFootba1  
**Home Field:** Ranger Stadium

### Outlook

North Ridgeville returns a total of 15 players for the upcoming season. The young players from 2022 are much more experienced and could become dark horses in the Southwestern Conference race. They proved themselves in the playoffs against Anthony Wayne. The bar for North Ridgeville is set higher and it is ready to answer the call.

### Player to watch

Shane Osborne plays on the defensive line. He was an impact player, and he slimmed down in the offseason and is much quicker. He is also an accomplished judo grappler, which will immensely help in the trenches. The double teams that he pulls should attract less attention to linebackers Carson Madis and Austin DeShazo.

**Underclassman to watch:** Running back Zack Barnhart had his rise to fame as a freshman. He was North Ridgeville's leading rusher with 11 touchdowns. Four offensive linemen come back to pave the way for him, three of whom are underclassmen. His contributions with the ball, along with Charlie Steinmetz, should be a tremendous asset for the quarterback.

### Bottom Line

**If:** The passing game can make plays on critical downs. **Then:** North Ridgeville could host a playoff game in the Division II Region 6 tournament.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Osborne



Barnhart



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Oberlin, shown against Vermilion in a 7-on-7 on July 21, is seeking improved fortune after

## Oberlin » Phoenix

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Plymouth at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Oberlin at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Brookside at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Oberlin at Clearview, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Oberlin at Columbia, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Black River at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Wellington at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Firelands at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Oberlin at Keystone, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Drew Walter\*, So., 6-0, 185  
**RB:** Mason Rosenthal, So., 5-10, 232  
**WB:** Tommy Boyer, Jr., 5-6, 137  
**WB:** Nosaj Holley-Freeman, Sr., 5-8, 155  
**WR:** Quinn Jackson, Sr., 5-8, 132  
**WR:** Jakshawn Windham, Jr., 6-1, 163  
**WR:** Jackson Cikalo, So., 5-8, 130  
**T:** Bryan Grooms, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**G:** Isaiah Jackson\*, Sr., 5-7, 150  
**C:** Nick Webb, Jr., 5-6, 185  
**G:** Nick Freas, Fr., 6-2, 287  
**T:** Collin Boardman, So., 5-9, 178

#### DEFENSE

**DL:** Nick Webb, Jr., 5-6, 185  
**DL:** Mason Rosenthal, So., 5-10, 232  
**DL:** Collin Boardman, So., 5-9, 178  
**DL:** Bryan Grooms, Sr., 5-10, 205  
**LB:** Tommy Boyer\*, Jr., 5-6, 137  
**LB:** Julean Page, Jr., 5-7, 185  
**LB:** Nosaj Holley-Freeman, Sr., 5-8, 155  
**LB:** Julian Anderson, Jr., 5-11, 196  
**CB:** Jakshawn Windham\*, Jr., 6-1, 163  
**CB:** Quinn Jackson\*, Sr., 5-8, 132  
**S:** Drew Walter, So., 6-0, 185  
**S:** Aaron Shannon, Sr., 5-6, 140  
 \*: returning starter  
**Best in the classroom:** Drew Walter and Collin Boardman, 3.9 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Isaiah Jackson, 225 pounds  
**Best squat:** Mason Rosenthal, 315 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22

**Coach:** Mark Campo, first year

**2022:** 0-10 (0-7)

**Twitter:** @OBPhoenix

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

### Outlook

Oberlin is on its third coach in three years, and Mark Campo is the new guy for the job. He's had success as a head coach in the past, and he might be what the Phoenix need to get over their recent struggles. This is a young group that has been committed to becoming a successful football team and is constantly improving.



Boyer

### Player to watch

Tommy Boyer returns in his starting linebacker spot, and he will be involved offensively too at wingback. The junior played a lot last year and has emerged as one of the leaders on this team. He brings a spark to the Phoenix.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore quarterback Drew Walter is back after starting as a freshman. He went through the tough transition period of joining the varsity as a young player. Despite having a new coach and playbook, he's starting to come into his own as a leader on this team.

### Bottom line

**IF:** this young team can stick together and get better in 2023, **THEN:** Oberlin will have the pieces for a bright future.

— Travis Nelson



NOELLE WITHERITE — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

An Olmsted Falls player takes part in a 7-on-7 against Chardon earlier this summer.

## Olmsted Falls » Bulldogs

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Solon at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Olmsted Falls at Canfield, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Olmsted Falls at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Jimmy Rosol\*, Jr., 6-0, 185  
**FB:** Derek Neckar\*, Sr., 6-0, 210  
**SLOT:** Caleb Ellis, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**SLOT:** Peyton DeLisio, Sr., 5-9, 170  
**WR:** Trent Hrabnicky, Sr., 5-8, 165  
**WR:** Andrew Bonness, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**LT:** Andrew Kreitzer, Jr., 6-2, 280  
**LG:** A.J. Kapusta, Sr., 6-0, 215  
**C:** Cort Zahorchak, Sr., 6-0, 200  
**RG:** Luke Ventimiglia\*, Sr., 6-1, 220  
**RT:** Andy Voisinet\*, Sr., 6-5, 265  
**K:** Jack Birch, Sr., 5-8, 145

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Dillon Foulkes\*, Sr., 6-3, 195  
**NT:** Anthony Salamah\*, Sr., 6-0, 290  
**DE:** Luke Ventimiglia, Sr., 6-1, 220  
**OLB:** Caleb Ellis, Sr., 5-9, 185  
**ILB:** Derek Neckar\*, Sr., 6-0, 210  
**ILB:** Jack Hatgas, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**OLB:** Luke Parkowski, Sr., 6-0, 190  
**FS:** Trent Hrabnicky, Sr., 5-8, 155  
**SS:** Peyton DeLisio, Sr., 5-8, 155  
**CB:** Steve Goodnough, Sr., 5-9, 160  
**CB:** Andrew Bonness, Sr., 6-0, 160  
**P:** Jimmy Rosol, Jr., 6-0, 180  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 14  
**Best bench press:** Anthony Salamah, 405 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Trent Hrabnicky and Andrew Bonness, 4.50 seconds  
**Best squat:** Anthony Salamah, 645 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Southwestern Conference

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6

**Coach:** Tom Deluca, 11th season (70-42)

**2022:** 10-3 (6-1) Division II Region 6 semifinalist

**Twitter:** @OFFootball1

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

### Outlook

Olmsted Falls graduated another large senior class, including Air Force running back signee Rocco Conti. While the team doesn't have as much returning experience as in prior years, they return a second-year starter at quarterback and veterans along the lines on both sides of the ball. Expect to see a little more of the passing game to pair with their traditionally potent rushing attack.

### Player to watch

Andy Voisinet is a hulking monster at right tackle. The returning starter will provide toughness in the trenches to allow plays to develop and open holes for the likes of Derek Neckar and Co.

**Underclassman to watch:** Quarterback Jimmy Rosol is back under center for Year No. 2. The junior's arm will allow the Bulldogs to open up more in the passing game.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** the more youthful players can step up, **THEN:** Olmsted Falls will remain a top contender in the SWC.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Voisinet



Rosol





SEAN FITZGERALD — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Rocky River runs a play on offense during their Aug. 2 practice.

## Rocky River » Pirates

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Harvey at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 25:** John Marshall at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 1:** Rocky River at Perkins, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 8:** Lakewood at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 15:** Rocky River at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 22:** Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 29:** Westlake at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 6:** Rocky River at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 13:** Rocky River at Bay, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 20:** Fairview at Rocky River, 7 p.m.

**Best in the classroom:** Julian Patti, 4.3 GPA

**Best bench press:** Tony Liva, 240 pounds

**Best 40 time:** N/A

**Best squat:** Tony Liva, 365 pounds

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Julian Patti\*, Sr., 6-1, 185

**RB:** Nick DiSalvo\*, Sr., 5-9, 180

**WR:** Oran Grieve, Jr., 5-10, 165

**WR:** Rowan McDougal, Sr., 6-0, 175

**WR:** Ryan Ricketti\*, Sr., 5-10, 178

**TE:** Andrew Lang, Sr., 6-1, 192

**LT:** Will Sweeney, Jr., 6-3, 305

**LG:** Max Fano, Sr., 6-0, 235

**C:** Connor Granzier\*, Sr., 6'0" 215

**RG:** Connor Kane, Sr., 6-1, 280

**RT:** Zane Lindquist, Sr., 6-2, 205

**K:** Tony Liva, Sr., 5-9, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Alex Van Meter So., 6-2, 208

**DT:** Will Sweeney, Jr., 6-3, 305

**NT:** Max Fano\*, Sr., 6-0, 235

**LEO:** Trent Delventhal\*, Sr., 6-2, 200,

**SAM:** Ben Bogre\*, Jr., 6-3, 175

**MIKE:** Ben Kuhne\*, Jr., 5-11, 205

**WILL:** Andrew Lang\*, Sr., 6-1, 192

**CB:** Colin Slomka, Sr., 6-1, 172

**FS:** Ryan Ricketti\*, Sr., 5-10, 178

**WS:** Josh Mommers\*, Jr., 5-10, 182

**CB:** Cam Bulkowski\*, Jr., 5-8, 170

**P:** Cohen Blair, So., 5-9, 165

**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 18

**Key reserves:** Colin Slomka, Sr., 6-2, 172, Cam Bulkowski, Jr., 5-8, 170, Abel Sereika, Sr., 6-0, 198, Michael Worgull, So., 5-10, 168

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference

**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 10

**Coach:** Josh Wells, ninth season (53-33)

**2022:** 4-7 (3-2)

**Twitter:** @CoachWells1

**Home Field:** Rocky River Stadium

### Outlook

Coming off a down season in which the Pirates still made the playoffs, Josh Wells' crew is ready to bounce back in 2023. Rocky River returns starting quarterback Julian Patti, three more offensive starters and eight returning starters on the defensive side of the ball for 12 total returning starters. While experience along the line is a concern, the Pirates have speed to burn at the skill positions.

### Player to watch

Senior Julian Patti will command the offense for the second straight year. He's improved on his accuracy and deep ball, which will open up the offense.

**Underclassman to watch:** Josh Mommers got plenty of playing time at safety as a sophomore. Expect the young veteran defensive back to take another step up.

### Bottom line

**IF:** players can execute the fundamentals, **THEN:** It'll allow Rocky River to create and stop plays.

— Sean Fitzgerald



Patti



Mommers



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Vermilion receiver looks in a pass during a 7-on-7 against Oberlin earlier this summer.

## Vermilion » Sailors

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Margaretta at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 25:** Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 1:** Vermilion at Willard, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 8:** Greenwch South Central at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 15:** Sandusky at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 22:** Vermilion at Norwalk, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 29:** Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 6:** Vermilion at Huron, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 13:** Edison at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 20:** Vermilion at Bellevue, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Aaron Mathis\*, Jr., 6-3, 185

**QB:** Terrence Anders, Jr., 6-3, 210

**RB:** Cohen Mooney\*, Jr., 6-0, 210

**RB:** Logan Peterson, Jr., 6-0, 165

**WR:** Keegan Frey\*, Sr., 5-8, 165

**WR:** Dominic DiFucci, Jr., 5-9, 155

**TE:** Beau Benesh, Jr., 6-0, 185

**LT:** Jacob Mayer\*, Jr., 6-0, 225

**LG:** Tim Bucher, Jr., 5-10, 185

**C:** Mason Plas\*, Jr., 6-0, 265

**RG:** Ryan Koleszar, Sr., 6-0, 205

**RT:** Paul Siegfried\*, Sr., 6-0, 235

**K:** Caleb German\*, Jr., 6-2, 145

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Beau Benesh\*, Jr., 6-0, 185

**NT:** Jacob Mayer, Jr., 6-0, 225

**DE:** Collin Angney, Jr., 6-2, 175

**LB:** Keegan Frey\*, Sr., 5-8, 165

**LB:** Cohen Mooney\*, Jr., 6-0, 210

**LB:** Sean Brownell, So., 5-7, 195

**LB:** Evan Kuhns, So., 5-10, 185

**CB:** Logan Peterson\*, Jr., 6-0, 165

**CB:** Aaron Mathis\*, Jr., 6-3, 185

**S:** Dominic DiFucci\*, Jr., 5-9, 155

**S:** Oliver Roy, Jr., 6-0, 180

**P:** Wyatt German, Sr., 6-0, 185

**\*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners:** 17

**Key reserves:** Troy Jackson, Sr., 5-8, 210,

Cole Rini, So., 5-8, 170

**Best in the classroom:** Evan Kuhns,

4.495 GPA

**Best bench press:** Troy Jackson and

Cohen Mooney, 300 pounds

**Best squat:** Cohen Mooney, 455 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Logan Peterson and Evan

Kuhns, 4.56 seconds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division

**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 14

**Coach:** Bill DiFucci, second year (0-10)

**2022:** 0-10 (0-5)

**Twitter:** @TheSailorNation

**Home field:** Sailor Field

### Outlook

Coming off a winless season in Bill DiFucci's first year, Vermilion looks to change things in 2023. The Sailors grew a lot last season despite the losses, and they've turned into more of a veteran group. After a good offseason, they put themselves in a position to make a large improvement.

### Player to watch

Keegan Frey is Vermilion's most productive returner from last season. He brings speed at wide receiver and will be the main target. Even more than that, he has emerged as a locker room leader. DiFucci said Frey is the heart of the program, and he's the safe bet for a Sailor that will have a big season.

**Underclassman to watch:** Back again at quarterback, junior Aaron Mathis has transformed his body and looks in great shape heading into 2023. Playing on both sides of the ball at quarterback and defensive back, his presence will be known on the field. Vermilion wants to play two quarterbacks this season with him and Terrence Anders, and Mathis will stick out with his dual-threat ability.

### Bottom line

**IF:** Vermilion's returning players can take another leap, **THEN:** the Sailors will make a big improvement in 2023.

— Travis Nelson



Frey



Mathis

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AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Wellington coach Rob Howells talks to quarterback Landon Wright in Midview 7-on-7, on July 18.

## Wellington » Dukes

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Collins Western Reserve at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Aug. 25:** Mapleton at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Wellington at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Wellington at Black River, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Wellington at Clearview, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Columbia at Wellington, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Wellington at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Wellington at Keystone, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Firelands at Wellington, 7 p.m.

### Projected Lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Landon Wright\*, Jr., 6-0, 160  
**RB:** Baron Turner Jr., Jr., 6-1, 175  
**FB:** Devan Diedrick, Sr., 6-2, 225  
**WR:** Johnnie Kinter\*, Jr., 6-2, 185  
**WR:** Adam Michalak\*, Sr., 5-10, 150  
**TE:** Nolan Sasack\*, Sr., 6-1, 205  
**LT:** Luciano Leonard\*, Sr., 6-0, 195  
**LG:** Nathan Krosse\*, Jr., 5-11, 200  
**C:** Alex Sparks, Jr., 5-11, 260  
**RG:** Wilson Schmucker, So., 6-0, 180  
**RT:** Ashton Roessler, So., 5-10, 215  
**K:** Alex Frenk\*, So., 5-10, 155

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Devan Diedrick\*, Sr., 6-2, 225  
**NG:** Nathan Krosse\*, Jr., 5-11, 200  
**DT:** Nolan Sasack, Sr., 6-1, 205  
**LB:** Will Sipos-Sutton, Jr., 5-7, 190  
**LB:** Trey Moore\*, So., 5-8, 180  
**LB:** Ned Gott, Sr., 6-1, 145  
**DB:** Connor Sheppard\*, Jr., 5-8, 150  
**DB:** Johnnie Kinter\*, Jr., 6-2, 185  
**DB:** Baron Turner Jr.\*, Jr., 6-1, 175  
**DB:** Deakan Wirth, So., 6-1, 170  
**P:** Alex Frenk\*, So., 5-10, 155  
 \*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 14  
**Key reserves:** Tyson Boley, Sr., 5-11, 160, Grant Kehl, Jr., 5-11, 150, Jake Leiby, Sr., 5-9, 135  
**Best in the classroom:** Wilson Schmucker, 4.4 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Nolan Sasack, 315 pounds  
**Best squat:** Nathan Krosse, 395 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Baron Turner Jr., 4.6 seconds

### Just The Facts

**Conference:** LC8

**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 22

**Coach:** Rob Howells, sixth year (17-28)

**2022:** 3-7 (3-4)

**Twitter:** @WEVSD\_sports

**Home field:** Wellington Stadium

### Outlook

Wellington battled injury last season and hung around in conference play despite of it. The younger players made the most of it by getting experience they never would have had. With a good mix of returners and newcomers, the Dukes look to rise up the LC8 ranks.

### Player to watch

After being limited to a few games last season, Devan Diedrick returns for his senior season. He will start at fullback and defensive end for the Dukes, and will be a force to be reckoned with on both sides of the ball.

**Underclassman to watch:** Quarterback Landon Wright got thrown into the fire as a sophomore last season and he didn't look back. Now with a full off-season as the starting quarterback, he's looking to have a breakout year.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** the new offensive line can mesh together, **THEN:** Wellington can get the ball in the hands of its productive skill players.

— Travis Nelson



Diedrick



Wright



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Westlake takes part in a scrimmage with Lorain and Wooster on Aug. 5.

## Westlake » Demons

### Schedule

(subject to change)

**Aug. 18:** Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 25:** Rhodes at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 1:** Westlake at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 8:** Normandy at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 15:** Westlake at Buckeye, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 22:** Fairview at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Sept. 29:** Westlake at Rocky River, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 6:** Bay at Westlake, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 13:** Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.  
**Oct. 20:** Elyria Catholic at Westlake, 7 p.m.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

**QB:** Sam Brucchieri\*, Jr., 6-3, 200  
**RB:** Matt Porcelli\*, Sr., 5-10, 185  
**Slot:** Cooper Rummel\*, Sr., 5-3, 130  
**TE:** Chris Campbell, Jr., 6-3, 215  
**WR:** Chace Kelly, Jr., 5-9, 150  
**WR:** Kaden Cole\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**LT:** Owen Reitenbach, Sr., 6-6, 265  
**LG:** Mahmoud Mustafa\*, Sr., 5-10, 235  
**C:** Tommy Garland, Sr., 5-10, 170  
**RG:** Mohammed Assad\*, Sr., 5-11, 270  
**RT:** Pauly Granzier\*, Sr., 6-0, 220  
**K:** Sean Evilsizer\*, Jr., 6-1, 175

#### DEFENSE

**DE:** Mohammed Assad\*, Sr., 5-11, 270  
**NT:** Mahmoud Mustafa\*, Sr., 5-10, 235  
**DE:** Owen Reitenbach, Sr., 6-6, 265  
**LB:** Andrew Palika\*, Sr., 6-0, 180  
**LB:** Gianni Wright\*, Sr., 6-0, 185  
**LB:** Chris Campbell, Jr., 6-3, 215  
**MONEY:** Malik Musleh, Sr., 6-0, 175  
**SS:** Chace Kelly, Jr., 5-9, 150  
**FS:** Kaden Cole\*, Sr., 6-1, 185  
**CB:** Braelon Burrett\*, Sr., 5-8, 160  
**CB:** Cooper Rummel\*, Sr., 5-3, 130  
**P:** Sam Brucchieri\*, Jr., 6-3, 200  
 \*: returning starter  
**Best in the classroom:** Cooper Rummel, 4.24 GPA  
**Best bench press:** Mahmoud Mustafa, 325 pounds  
**Best 40 time:** Cooper Rummel, 4.5 seconds  
**Best Squat:** Owen Reitenbach, 500 pounds

### Just the facts

**Conference:** Great Lakes Conference

**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6

**Coach:** Jason Hall, sixth season (second stint, 17-36)

**2022:** 5-6 (1-4)

**Twitter:** @Demonathletics

**Home Field:** UH St. John Medical Center Stadium

### Outlook

In Jason Hall's first year back coaching the Demons, Westlake made a return trip to the postseason, albeit shortlived. Still, the experience coming back on both sides of the ball is enviable. Sixteen total starters will be back from 2022, including junior quarterback Sam Brucchieri. Westlake's star is pointing up this season.

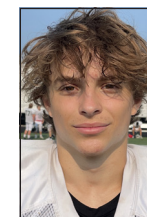
### Player to watch

Cooper Rummel will play a big role again from the slot and at safety. A three-year starter and captain, he had a solid junior campaign and will be an important part of the offensive skill group.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Sam Brucchieri is in his second year as the starting signal caller. Expect a jump in performance with a full off-season diving into the playbook.

### Bottom Line

**IF:** Westlake can do a better and more consistent job tackling and running the ball, **THEN:** a few more wins could come Westlake's way.



Rummel



Brucchieri

— Sean Fitzgerald

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