

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# SKY IS THE LIMIT

The road to Canton begins for 21 area teams in the playoffs



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

## OPINION

# It was a football season like no other

Told ya so!  
Back in August when the 2024 season was about to kick off, we started off our pre-view section with the words, “You ain’t seen nothin’ yet.”



**John Kampf**

The past 10 weeks fulfilled that promise, with highlights and happenings that will forever go down in News-Herald lore.

We’re a few short days from the 2024 playoff season starting and we’ll stand by our original prediction — You ain’t seen nothin’ yet!”

Let’s recap what we’ve seen so far:

- Three area teams finished the regular season with perfect 10-0 records — Mentor, Lake Catholic and Kirtland. All three enter postseason play as the top-ranked teams in the state per the Associated Press poll.

- Mentor players pledged to avenge last season’s losses, and have done that, beating St. Ignatius and Cleveland Heights. (A third, Riverside, isn’t on the schedule this year). The Cardinals play the



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland football players line up before their game against Berkshire on Oct. 4.

Wildcats on Nov. 1, an opportunity to oust St Ignatius from the playoffs the way it did to Mentor last year.

- VASJ has a 1,000-yard rusher, and it’s not Bo Jackson, the Ohio State commit who injured his knee in the first quarter of the Vikings’ Week 4 win over Kenston and hasn’t (and won’t) return. In his absence, T.J. Moore has run for more than 1,000 yards.

- Speaking of overcoming potentially catastrophic injuries, Kirtland lost quarterback Jake LaVerde in a Week 6 win

over Fairview and hasn’t missed a beat, going 4-0 and outscoring those four foes, 165-17, since LaVerde was injured.

- Chagrin Falls went 7-3 and qualified for the playoffs in a non-COVID year for the first time since 2013; and to top it all off
- Twenty-one — 21! — of the area’s 29 football schools are headed to postseason play starting this weekend.

There are also plenty of interesting tidbits about area players who are post-season-bound, such as:

- Chagrin Falls’ Jake Evans was awarded Eagle

Scout status earlier this week. His service project was building maps for the South Russell Park.

- Chardon’s Iker Amaro moved to Geauga County from Mexico two years ago. He’s nearly a 4.0 student and starts at receiver and safety for the Hilltoppers. He was voted a team captain this year.

- Madison has a handful of entrepreneurs on its team. Kellan Schwartz has his own landscaping business. He employs two of his teammates, doing mulching, planting trees and lawn care. Chase White also has a lawn care business. Both are juniors. Senior Ben Amos buys and sells clothing, shoes, and sporting goods on Ebay and Etsy.

- Every June, a group of Geneva football players work “Safety Town” at Platt R. Spencer Elementary. This program is intended to educate students in the lowest grades about basic safety in the community. The players perform skits about anti-bullying for kindergarteners and first-graders. The program is assisted by Resource Officer Joe Cooper, who is also a middle school football coach.

- Theo Dengler is a se-

nior at University, a two-way starter who ranks among area leaders in sacks. He is a National Merit semifinalist who is working on an independent history research project regarding the iconography of Mary Magdeline in early Christianity to explore the “wide array of interpretations of her life, which were formed to reflect the values of different Christian sects across different time periods.”

- NDCL has five sets of brothers on its team — Ryan and Robby Lipowski, Connor and Brendan Hernan, Brendan and Kellan Donnelly, Caiden and Jackson Kovacs and Jake and Sam Begovic. On top of that, the Lions have 11 players who had big brothers who previously played in the program — Zach Bores (Greg Bores ‘24), Carmen Cirino (Caleb Cirino ‘24), Tobias Roach (Anthony Roach class ‘24), Brayden Buell, (Burke Buell class ‘23), Collin O’Brien (Brendan O’Brien ‘23, Triston O’Brien ‘21), James Koenig (Jacob Koenig class ‘22), Vance Marut (Cole Marut, ‘22), Dylan Hoenigman (Dan Hoenigman, ‘20), Will Jacobson (Spencer Jacobson ‘20), Angelo Tam-

burrino (Robert Tamburrino ‘20) and James Nguyen (Johnny Nguyen ‘20).

- Mayfield’s Micah Linn is a junior who played as the varsity soccer goalie last year. He changed things up this year and is now a two-way starter for the varsity football team on the offensive and defensive lines.

- Hawken senior offensive tackle Manan Raina is a championship chess player, having won several chess tournaments.

- Noah Conley is a busy guy on Friday nights. He is a senior offensive lineman at Mentor who is also a member of the Mentor marching band and performs at halftime.

Add it all up and — both from a team and individual standpoint — the 2024 football season has given us stuff we’ve never seen before.

And with up to six more weeks of postseason play yet to go, we stand by the prediction we made back in mid-August.

You ain’t seen nothin’ yet!

*Kampf can be reached via email at JKampf@News-Herald.com; via X at @NHPreps and @JKampf\_NH*



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Switch pays off Mentor quarterback Fox

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

When Scotty Fox graduates, he will do so with its name all over the Mentor football record books.

But did Sept. 17, 2021, change the course of history for Fox, the highly successful, three-year starting quarterback for the Cardinals who is headed to West Virginia on a full-ride football scholarship?

The way Fox tells it, if not for that date in Mentor history, he might be going down as a highly decorated baseball player, not football player.

The week of Sept. 27, 2021, then-quarterback Jacob Snow was ruled out of action for the Week 5 game against Football North out of Clarkston, Ontario. The Cardinals turned to the young freshman, Fox, to start at quarterback.

"I remember that one of our receivers, Mikey Norwood, said, 'Hey, it's my birthday. I want five touchdowns from you tonight,'" Fox said.

Up to that point, Fox was SURE he was headed for stardom in the sport of baseball. But on a car-ride home, Fox said he told his father, "I really can see myself going far and doing something special with football. I want to see where

this takes me."

That December, Fox walked away from baseball for good.

And here we are.

"I've always believed everything happens for a reason" Fox said. "If Jacob hadn't gotten hurt, if I never got that chance my freshman year, if I hadn't had some arm trouble — yes, 100 percent — things could have gone different.

"I'm just trusting in God's plan."

When Mentor hits the field for a first-round playoff game on Nov. 1 against visiting St. Ignatius, the Cardinals will do so with a veteran quarterback in Fox who has thrown for 7,922 career yards and 86 touchdowns to go with 18 rushing touchdowns.

It's safe to say Fox made a pretty good decision.

"I remember being in middle school, sitting in the stands with my buddies watching games" he said. "I never saw myself being where I am right now. I thought I'd be a baseball player. The whole thing my freshman year happened, and I just stuck with it."

In spot duty for injured Snow that 2021 season, Fox only threw for 595 yards and six touchdowns — with that five-banger coming in his first game — but everyone saw the writing on the



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor quarterback Scotty Fox at one point thought his path to greatness was on the baseball diamond.

wall.

Including Snow.

"Honestly, from the first time I watched him play, I'm not surprised how this has turned out," said Snow, now a sophomore linebacker at Slippery Rock University. "I knew he was going to be great, one of the best quarterbacks to come through Mentor. The first time I saw him, I was like, 'Damn, this guy is GOOD.'"

In his first year as Mentor's full-time starting quarterback, Fox threw for 2,882 yards and 30 touchdowns to go with 143 rush-

ing yards and three scores as a sophomore.

His junior campaign saw him throw for 2,275 yards and 22 touchdowns, while also rushing for 353 yards and 11 scores. Those totals came despite him missing nearly three full games win an injury.

Heading into postseason play, with goals of a state championship in his mind, Fox has thrown for 2,170 yards and 28 touchdowns in his senior season.

Fox flips through memories of his career like he's flipping through a photo

album — every page is remembered in vivid detail and is as fresh in his mind as the day it happened.

"Man, that first play when I was a freshman, I was so jittery and nervous," he said with a laugh. "The first play I threw it low and we only got a couple yards. But there was a (penalty flag). On next play, I hit Evan Harper over the middle for an 80-yard touchdown. I was like, 'Holy crap! That's my first touchdown.'"

A year later as a sophomore, Fox — not so "jittery and nervous" connected with Nick Jaros on the side for a touchdown with only a few seconds remaining to give Mentor a 19-14 playoff win over Canton McKinley.

"The next week we beat Medina," Fox said. "We were at Twinsburg that night and we had lost to Medina earlier in the year. We had a pretty good grudge that night."

Fox sighed looking back on his injury-riddled junior year in which he missed multiple games, but he said that set the stage for this year. It's a year in which Mentor has avenged two 2023 losses to St. Ignatius and its 2023 loss to Cleveland Heights.

The year of atonement has been satisfactory, Fox said.

"This year, just going un-

defeated and winning every single game with my guys has been awesome," he said.

When Mentor games at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium are over, it's not uncommon for parents and fans to meet up with the victorious players on the field for congratulations. It's also not out of the ordinary for Fox to be one of the last — if not the last — players to leave the field and head back to the locker room.

With his time in Mentor drawing to a close, Fox said he is simply trying to soak up every last moment and memory he can.

"I remember my first time playing here with the Mentor Youth Football Gators," Fox said. "I was probably 7 years old. ... 'It's crazy. It's hard to believe it is coming to an end so quickly.'"

Part of Fox still misses baseball. After all, it was his first love. He characterized Scotty Fox the baseball player as "pretty solid" and someone who "threw the ball pretty hard."

He's that — and more — on the football field, thanks in no small measure to Sept. 17, 2021.

"I was just trying to not mess up and win a game for my guys," he said. "Mikey got the touchdowns he asked for."

And Fox got his new career path.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# End of an era for familiar Lake name

Jimmy Gibbons is the latest (and last) with his last name to star for Cougars

By John Kampf

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Peeling himself off the basement floor, young Jimmy Gibbons lined up to run another play on the family's makeshift downstairs football field.

His three older brothers — Jack, Sean and T.J. — got back on their knees, ready to go.

Down, set, go....

"They had to play on their knees when we played tackle football in the basement," Gibbons said with a laugh. "That was the only way to keep it even, but I still got destroyed."

Quite a few years have passed since Jimmy Gibbons was taking some good-natured football punishment from his brothers in basement football. A lot of years have passed since Jimmy sat in the stands and watched his big brothers lead the Lake Catholic football team to greatness on the REAL gridiron.

But if everything goes to plan these next few weeks, the baby brother hopes to do something none of his brothers did. In fact, it's something only one other person in his family tree has accomplished.

Jimmy hopes to lead Lake Catholic to a state championship as a player, something no one in his family has done since uncle Mike Gibbons helped Lake Catholic win the 2001 state championship.

"Just my Uncle Mike has won one as a player," said Gibbons, a two-way starter at running back and linebacker. "That would mean everything to me, for us to go get a championship and do it with my teammates. You know, go out with a bang."

To be sure, the Gibbons name has been synonymous with greatness on the Lake Catholic athletic fields over the past years, if not decades.

Family patriarch John Gibbons coached Lake Catholic to state titles in 1991 and 1992. His sons Tom (Class of 1988), Tim (Class of 1995), Mike (Class of 2002) and Marty (Class of 2011) all starred on their respective teams, as did Tom's sons Jack (Class of 2018), Sean (Class of 2021) and T.J. (Class of 2023).

Taking the family tree a step further, Anne Gibbons' husband — Tom Lombardo — coached Lake Catholic to the 2021 state title with



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic's Jimmy Gibbons gets into the end zone Sept. 13 against South during the Cougars' 47-0 victory..

Mike Gibbons starring at fullback and linebacker.

That's a heck of a family lineage to follow.

But Jimmy Gibbons can do something only Uncle Mike has done — win a state title as a player at Lake Catholic.

"That," he said, "would be special."

Lake Catholic wrapped up a perfect 10-0 season on Oct. 25 with a 26-17 win over archrival Notre

ther John and his father Tom as assistants.

Heading into postseason play, Gibbons leads Lake Catholic in rushing (132 carries, 816 yards, nine touchdowns) to go with 17 receptions for 203 yards and a score. He is also among the team leaders on the defensive side of the ball with 72 tackles, 12 tackles for a forced fumble.

Loud numbers, indeed.

He's generally soft-spoken, but when he's between those white lines, his play speaks volumes.

"A man of very few words, but he's explosive," said his father, Tom. "He resembles my brother Mike in a lot of ways. He says very little. His actions do all the talking."

The expanded role at running back this season was not expected. But when a few (non-related) assistant coaches prodded head coach Marty Gibbons to give his nephew a shot at being the lead back when last year's 1,000-yard rusher Josh Styles graduated, Jimmy got his shot and — well — ran with it.

"Originally, I thought I was just going to be a short-yardage guy on third downs," he said. "I was doing pretty good, then they put me in there and I started to like it. I scored my first career touchdown

this year!"

Gibbons jokes about getting "destroyed" by his big brothers in basement football. He admits that sometimes he was probably a pain in the butt to his big brothers, nagging them to let him play backyard football with them and their friends.

"But my brothers were good about keeping me involved and playing in games with them," he said. "My brothers and my mom and dad have always been there for me. They've helped guide me to who I am today."

When Jimmy Gibbons walks off the field for last time this fall as a member of the Lake Catholic football team, it will mark the end of an era of sorts. While his cousin, Brady Moran, — son of Nora (Gibbons) and Matt Moran — is a member of Lake Catholic's football team, the name "Gibbons" won't be on the back of a Lake Catholic jersey in the foreseeable future.

Mike Gibbons' sons will play for him at Medina Highland. The only other area football players in the Gibbons family tree are at Kirtland — Ryan and Tommy Caimi, sons of Patty (Gibbons) and Chris Caimi.

"Yeah, no more Gibbons names for a while," Tom said with a laugh.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Kirtland trip to Pa. helps forge bonding

Coach LaVerde invites team to his family's home in between 7-on-7s

By John Kampf

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Teddy Prusock was not about to give up.

Glancing across the scenic landscape of the Allegheny River, Kirtland football coach Tiger LaVerde actually was ready to give up.

"I don't think we're gonna get anything today," LaVerde said as Prusock reeled in the fishing pole's line.

Prusock relented. "C'mon coach, you gotta give me one last cast," Prusock begged, flinging the lure back into a rocky inlet in the river.

Prusock felt the fish's tug, brought it into the boat and cemented another lasting memory of Kirtland's football team's annual trip to their coach's hometown.

For 19 years, LaVerde has loaded up his team and taken them to his mother's home in Oil City, Pa., for a weekend of football, team bonding and fellowship. The weekend starts with a trip to Pittsburgh to play in the University of Pittsburgh's 40-team 7-on-7 tournament and is bookended by a 7-on-7 in LaVerde's hometown.

In between, the Hornets

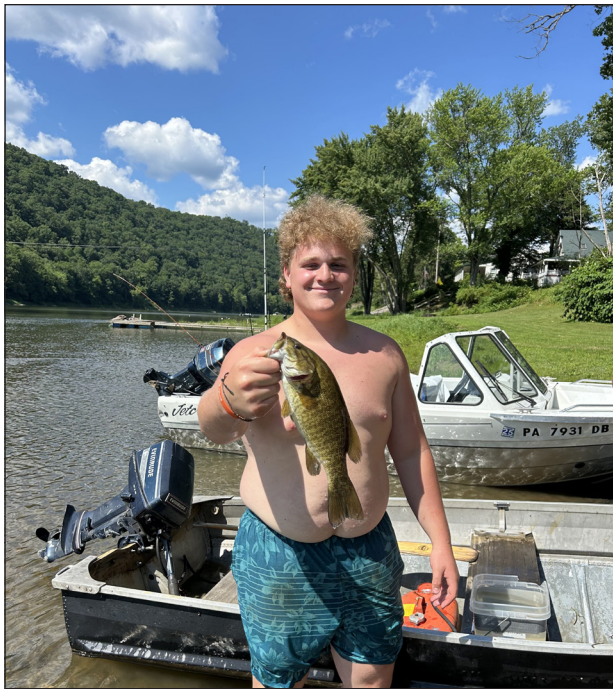
stay in the home LaVerde grew up in, swim and fish in the river, play Wiffle ball, watch movies and — well — in short, they just spend time together.

For 19 years, the Hornets have dominated on the football field. Seven state championship trophies and five state runner-up trophies that reside in the schools trophy case attest to that.

To be sure, weight-lifting and practice have a lot to do with the program's success. But if you ask LaVerde and his players, an unsung and often unnoticed ingredient to their success is the team's close-knit bond, which in no small part is bolstered greatly by the trip to Oil City.

"That stuff is huge," Prusock said. "It really helps with the team bonding. The more chemistry you have outside the game of football, the more chemistry you're going to have IN the game of football. That is vital to our team's success."

As they usually do, the Hornets performed well at the Pittsburgh 7-on-7, finishing second among the 40 teams who played there. At the end of the trip, they won the 7-on-7 at Franklin High, a stone's throw from



COURTESY OF TIGER LAVERDE

Kirtland lineman Teddy Prusock shows off the fish he caught in the Allegheny River during his team's weekend trip to Oil City, Pa., as part of a yearly team bonding trip.

LaVerde's alma mater Oil City.

In between, they had fun and made memories. Oh, did they ever.

"We do this every year," LaVerde said. "My mom loves it. She prepares food for everybody. We go to the river, play Wiffle ball, fish, watch movies. We play two 7-on-7s on that trip, but we have as much fun as we can in between."

member down the road aren't always football related. Usually they're not. But when these guys look back 10, 20, 30 years down the road, they'll remember this trip with their friends and doing things like fishing in the Allegheny River."

Another highlight is the Wiffle ball tournament. This year's tournament was won by LaVerde, fellow coaches Ryan Beeler and Lino DiSapri and LaVerde's longtime friend, Del.

"Who's good at Wiffle ball?" senior lineman Jackson Carestio said. "Max Paul... and any LaVerde. Coach might be the bet. He's GOOD."

Paul, Kirtland's senior starting quarterback since incumbent Jake LaVerde went down with a broken arm, said he can hold his own.

"I mean, I don't like to give myself too much credit, but I can play," he said. "It's just a fun trip. Great for team bonding. At first you dread giving your phone away for a few days, but then you find it's so much fun hanging out with your buddies."

This year's trip took an interesting turn when the players, who were strewn about the floors in the spacious house watching the horror movie "The Conjuring," were uprooted by a bat that was flying around the house.

ing," were uprooted by a bat that was flying around the house.

"I think everybody was jumping and screaming," Paul said with a laugh. "Thankfully coach came in and took care of it for us."

In a few days, the Kirtland squad will take its 10-0 record — the 13th spotless regular season in the LaVerde era — into a Division VI, Region 21 playoff opener against visiting Rootstown (4-6). The end goal, of course, is the program's eighth state title in program history.

The Hornets are in this situation a lot.

You know what else they do a lot? Spend a weekend coming together as a team in the hills of Pennsylvania.

No phones. No distractions. Just dudes bonding and loving their time together.

"That trip is super important to who we are as a team," senior Niko Samac said.

"Being from such a small school, all of us are close. Doing things like that helps make us who we are."

Max Paul took it a step further.

"You only get a few experiences like this — ever," Paul said. "You've got to take advantage of them because you'll remember them forever."

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Perry QB Moses eclipses idol into history

By John Kampf

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It's good to have idols when you're a young kid.

It's good to have role models, people you look up to and think, "I want to be like that someday."

For Walter Moses, that person was former Perry quarterback Drew Schiano, a 2020 graduate who pretty much owns the record books when it comes to passing at Perry.

Well, scratch that — Schiano OWNED the passing record books at Perry.

With a dynamic senior season that still has a long way to go, Walter Moses has surpassed the guy he grew up watching and in a sense idolizing. His 6,557 career yards and 80 career touchdown passes came at the expense of Schiano, who used to hold those records with 6,054 yards and 79 touchdowns.

So if there's one thing better than having an idol and role model to look up to, it might be topping the records of that idol and role model.

"It's definitely surreal," Moses said. "When I was a kid, I looked up to Drew and Jacob Allen. I loved watching Drew play. He definitely made me fall in love with the position. What he did gave me a lot of moti-

vation to try and do what he did when he was in high school."

The son of a father (Sean) and a mother (Amy) who played college baseball and softball, respectively, at Hiram College, Walter Moses chose his own path away from the ball diamond, and it has paid amazing dividends.

The 6-foot-4, 190-pound senior helped lead Perry to the 2023 state championship — the only state title in Perry football history — earned first team All-Ohio as a junior and now owns a pair of career passing records.

He's also earned a full athletic scholarship to the University of Toledo.

And he's not done yet.

Not by a longshot.

"It was never a goal of mine to set records like that," Moses said. "It's nice, but I didn't come in with personal goals like that. It was more of team goals and playing with my guys."

Guys like fellow seniors Owen McKoon and Luke Sivon, friends with whom he has played football since — well — as long as he can remember. All the way back to his flag football days in preschool.

"You don't throw the ball much then," Moses said with a laugh. "Owen was the center and ran routes



BARRY BOOHER — THE NEWS-HERALD

Walter Moses enters postseason play as the all-time leader in passing yards and passing touchdowns in Perry program history.

from there. Luke was a receiver. You just throw short passes and they run a far distance — kind of like we do today."

In junior high, Moses didn't even play quarterback, but rather up-back in the Pirates' Stack-I offense. The quarterback was Johnny Slaper, who eventually transferred to St. Edward when he got to high school and won a pair of state championships with the Eagles as a ball-hawking defensive player.

Moses again set his eyes on playing quarterback. He attended every Perry game

as a junior high player and studied how Drew Schiano went about his trade. The physical aspects, the mental reps, the leadership — Moses studied it all. He even took Schiano Skittles for good luck on game days.

By the time he was a freshman, he was ready for some varsity action.

"My first varsity touchdown was at Chagrin Falls," Moses said. "It was a play-action and Ethan Crum ran a vertical. It went for 60 yards or so. It was pretty cool."

Moses said one of the "cool" things about being the quarterback is how many different teammates he has thrown touchdown passes to over the years. He can't count them all, but when you've thrown 80 (and counting) touchdowns passes, it stands to reason they blend together a little.

His record-breaking touchdown pass came in a Week 10 game against Hawken. He tied Schiano's record on the first play of the game, and then he broke it with a second-quarter crossing pattern to tight end Trent Taylor.

The career yardage record went down in a Week 7 game against Orange, a 62-0 throttling at the hands of the Pirates.

"I kind of knew the record was coming," Moses

said. "Drew's dad (Mark) is one of our coaches and we were kind of joking around about it. I was like eight yards away from the record and were joking 'Drew's going down.'"

The record-breaker was an 80-yard post pattern to Sivon, one of the "dudes" he grew up playing football with.

"It was awesome to achieve the record that way," he said of the pass to longtime friend Sivon. "My parents and I were talking about how special that was. It's not like I was hunting him out to break the record. It just happened, but it was special to break it with him catching that pass."

Moses quickly pointed out that the records he owns should be classified as team awards.

"I'm not throwing these passes without my line and receivers," he said. "It's cool to hold these records, but I got to do it because of and with so many people."

Moses is excited for the path ahead of him once he graduates. A football scholarship to Toledo, where he plans to major in pre-law awaits him and the 4.25 grade-point average he is currently sporting.

But his job at Perry is far from over. He'd love another state championship ring to go with the one he and the

Pirates won last year. Perry is 9-1 heading into a Week 11 home playoff game against Akron Buchtel, and has no plans on stopping there.

There's also the matter of stacking more numbers on the records that he already holds.

But there's more that Moses wants to accomplish, and he takes steps in that direction every day in school and after every game he and his teammates play.

Taking time to talk with younger kids — his fans — kids who look up to him the way he looked up to Drew Schiano.

"How do I want to be remembered?" he repeated the question asked of him. "I just want to be remembered as a role model to younger kids. I really think that's important. Jacob Allen and Drew Schiano were so important to me because they made me love football and watch football."

During school and after games, it's not out of the ordinary for young Perry kids to hunt down Moses and buddy-up with him.

"I love that," Moses said. "A lot of times, kids can be afraid to do that. I love that they want to hang out with me or want me to throw a pass to them. That means a lot to me. THAT is what I want to be remembered for — not for the records."



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Tony Fisher Award presented Nov. 25

Bob Ritley Award also scheduled for News-Herald awards

By John Kampf

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A new winner of the Tony Fisher Award will be named when The News-Herald unveils its football player of the year on Nov. 25.

The award presentation will take place as part of a special edition of the Varsity Chalk Talk show, hosted by Bill Tilton. The special News-Herald football awards show will take place at Hooley Pub & Kitchen in Mentor.

"The Fisher Award has been and still is my favorite Chalk Talk show to host every year," Tilton said. "I know I can speak for Hooley as well. It is a date on the calendar we all look forward to. It is in a familiar spot on Thanksgiving week, the crowd is large and energetic and the athletes and coaches are appreciative and easy to talk to. I am glad that Chalk Talk has continued its relationship with the Fisher Award over so many years."

A capacity crowd is expected — as usual. Five finalists will be announced



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mikey Maloney of Riverside was the 2023 winner of the Tony Fisher Award.

later this month from the current list of players on the Fisher Award Watch List. Each finalist, as well as one guest, will have their dinner on the house courtesy of Hooley.

Additionally, three finalists for the News-Herald's Coach of the Year award will be on hand and announced.

The Coach of the Year award is named after longtime Perry football legend Bob Ritley.

## TONY FISHER AWARD WATCH LIST

By John Kampf

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The Tony Fisher Award is presented to The News-Herald high school football player of the year. It is named after the former Ohio Mr. Football recipient from Euclid who went on to play at Notre Dame and in the NFL.

Fisher is now the athletic director at Euclid. The weekly watch list can and will change.

Here is this week's list:

**DANNY ALFIERI, SR., KIRTLAND** » He did not play in the Hornets' 33-0 win over Cardinal. For the season he has run for 759 yards and 19 touchdowns with a pair of 2-point conversions.

**SHAHN ALSTON, JR., HARVEY** » For the season he has run for 1,104 yards and 16 touchdowns with a 2-point conversion.

**SEANDILLARD, SR., GILMOUR** » He caught seven passes for 74 yards in the Lancers' 48-14 loss to VASJ. For the season he has caught 47 passes for 823 yards and nine touchdowns.

**JACKSON FARLEY, JR., MENTOR** » He carried 12 times for 80 yards and three touchdowns in the Cardinals' 51-14 win over Euclid. For the season he has run for 1,365 yards and 19 touchdowns along with 15

catches for 183 yards.

**SCOTTY FOX, SR., MENTOR** » He completed 13 of 19 passes for 192 yards and two touchdowns in the Cardinals' 51-14 win over Euclid. For the season he has thrown for 2,170 yards and 28 touchdowns with six interceptions.

**JUSTENHODGE, JR., MENTOR** » He did not record a catch in the Cardinals' 51-14 win over Euclid. For the season he has caught 41 passes for 741 yards and seven touchdowns.

**JORDAN JOHNSON, JR., HAWKEN** » He carried one time for three yards and was injured in the Hawks' 68-0 loss to Perry. For the season he has run for 998 yards and 11 touchdowns and has caught 15 passes.

**LUCAS KALTENBACH, SR., KENSTON** » He completed four of five passes for 56 yards and a touchdown and also ran for 31 yards in the Bombers' 42-7 win over North. For the season he has thrown for 1,343 yards and 10 touchdowns to go with 297 rushing yards and five scores.

**CHARLIE MALLET, SO., HAWKE** » He did not register a catch in the Hawks' 68-0 loss to Perry. For the season he has caught 53 passes for 797 yards and 11 touchdowns

**CHRIS MALONEY, SR., BENE-**

**DICTINE** » He carried 11 times for 112 yards and three touchdowns in the Bengals' 39-8 win over Akron SVSM. For the season he has run for 1,078 yards and 14 touchdowns.

**KYNDALL MCCAULEY, JR., RIVERSIDE** » He ran for 96 yards and a touchdown in the Beavers' 25-14 loss to Chardon. For the season he has run for 1,535 yards and 17 touchdowns with six catches for 56 yards.

**DONOVAN MOORHEAD, JR., HAWKEN** » He completed nine of 18 passes for 40 yards in the Hawks' 68-0 loss to Perry. For the season he has thrown for 1,635 yards and 25 touchdowns with six interceptions.

**TJ MOORE, JR., VAS** »: He ran for 253 yards and two touchdowns in the Vikings' 48-14 win over Gilmour. For the season he has run for 1,084 yards and 10 touchdowns.

**WALTER MOSES, SR., PERRY** » He completed four of 10 passes for 87 yards and two touchdowns in the Pirates' 68-0 win over Hawken. For the season he has thrown for 1,572 yards and 21 touchdowns.

**COOPER PANTECK, JR. GILMOUR** » He completed 18 of 35 passes for 251 yards and a touchdown in the Lancers' 48-14 loss to VASJ. For the season he has thrown

for 2,412 yards and 32 touchdowns with two interceptions.

**ACE PETERLIN, SR., LAKE CATHOLIC** » He caught four passes for 49 yards in the Cougars' 26-17 win over NDCL. For the season he has caught 54 passes for 789 yards and 11 touchdowns along with two 2-point conversions. He also has four interceptions on defense.

**BRYCE PEET, GENEVA, JR.:** » He carried 10 times for 127 yards and two touchdowns in the Eagles' 56-22 win over Jefferson. For the season he has run for 983 yards and 17 touchdowns along with eight catches for 122 yards and seven TFLs and an interception on defense.

**LUKE SIVON, PERRY, SR.** » He caught two passes for 56 yards and a touchdown in the Pirates' 68-0 win over Hawken. For the season he has caught 30 passes for 725 yards and 13 touchdowns with five interceptions on defense.

**FRANKIE TRINETTI, SR., LAKE CATHOLIC** » He completed 19 of 29 passes for 304 yards and a touchdown in the Cougars' 26-17 win over NDCL. For the season he has thrown for 2,256 yards and 22 touchdowns with three interceptions.

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# High school football statistics

## PASSING YARDS

Name, school	Yards
Cooper Panteck, Gilmour	2,412
Frankie Trinetti, Lake Catholic	2,256
Scotty Fox, Mentor	2,170
Cal Ciminello, Cardinal	1,908
Donovan Moorhead, Hawken	1,589
Walter Moses, Perry	1,572
Markese Wise, Harvey	1,518
Finn Keenan, West G	1,453
Brady Lawson, Fairport	1,429
AJ Rogers, Mayfield	1,419
Will Randall, Madison	1,409
Ryan Lipowski, NDCL	1,407
Johnny Vuraich, VASJ	1,367
Lucas Kaltenbach, Kenston	1,343
J. Gilchrist, Brush	1,229
Jacob Kay, Chagrin	1,126
Luke Jensen, South	1,050
Matthew Furst, Benedictine	993
Sam Barcikoski, Berkshire	962
Carson Panteck, University	893
Larry Clark, Beachwood	634
Frankie Bucar, Wickliffe	483
Luke Barbo, Geneva	389
Giovanni Iacampo, Benedictine	324
Drayton Allgood, Chardon	310
David Seibert, Riverside	299
Jake LaVerde, Kirtland	276
Max Paul, Kirtland	275
Bo Brandehoff, Riverside	266
Jacob Breen, North	254

## PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Name, school	TDs
Cooper Panteck, Gilmour	32
Scotty Fox, Mentor	28
Cal Ciminello, Cardinal	25
Donovan Moorhead, Hawken	24
Frankie Trinetti, Lake Catholic	22
Walter Moses, Perry	21
Johnny Vuraich, VASJ	20
Ryan Lipowski, NDCL	18
Will Randall, Madison	17
Markese Wise, Harvey	17
Brady Lawson, Fairport	15
Jacob Kay, Chagrin	14
Finn Keenan, West G	12
Carson Panteck, University	11
Jake LaVerde, Kirtland	10
Lucas Kaltenbach, Kenston	10
Matthew Furst, Benedictine	10
J. Gilchrist, Brush	10
Sam Barcikoski, Berkshire	8
Luke Jensen, South	6
Frankie Bucar, Wickliffe	6
Luke Barbo, Geneva	5
Giovanni Iacampo, Benedictine	5
Jacob Breen, North	3
Larry Clark, Beachwood	3
Drayton Allgood, Chardon	2
Ben Loncar, Kirtland	2
Bo Brandehoff, Riverside	2

## RUSHING YARDS



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic's Frankie Trinetti has thrown for 2,256 yards and 22 touchdowns this season.

Name, school	Att	Yards	TDs
Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside	224	1,535	8
Jackson Farley, Mentor	153	1,365	6
Shahn Alston, Harvey	131	1,104	8
TJ Moore, VASJ	129	1,084	6
Chris Maloney, Riverside	111	1,078	5
Logan Ruscin, Wickliffe	72	1,033	5
Drake Martinez, North	148	1,020	3
Jordan Johnson, Hawken	139	998	3
Bryce Peet, Geneva	116	983	2
Jayden Hardy, South	167	979	2
Jake LaVerde, Kirtland	60	941	2
Drayton Allgood, Chardon	137	824	2
Jimmy Gibbons, Lake Cath.	132	816	2
Justin Phillips, Berkshire	147	805	2
B. Hilliard, Beachwood	80	796	516
Carter Hopkins, Perry	78	770	512
Danny Alfieri, Kirtland	101	759	506
Hayden Diemer, Geneva	79	753	491
A. Castellano, Fairport	93	736	480
Caleb Hewitt, Chardon	96	712	463
Mikey Malone, University	137	702	456
Cohen Clark, Kenston	98	684	437
Angelo Tamburrino, NDCL	117	670	415
Luke Barbo, Geneva	94	662	393
Ralph Jackson, Wickliffe	93	589	387
Bo Jackson, VASJ	40	588	357
Caden Proy, Geneva	67	586	355
Jacob Kay, Chagrin	95	573	328
Chris Burt, Harvey	97	565	320
Jack Gellin, Chagrin	95	556	316
J. Church, Benedictine	106	516	316
James Poe, Madison	135	512	308
Ryan Lipowski, NDCL	78	506	297
Dare'on Howard, Perry	58	491	293
Johnny Owens, Beachwood	70	480	284
Oliver Miller, Berkshire	105	463	283
Nunzio Zivnoska, Wickliffe	62	456	283
Ethan Burge, Kenston	100	437	281
David Seibert, Riverside	69	415	270
Nate Lennon, Gilmour	52	393	270
J. Vickers, Brush	98	387	262
John Silvestro, Kirtland	34	357	242
Brayden Buell, NDCL	33	355	240
Kene Obi, Hawken	58	328	233
Dominic Burns, Mentor	64	320	223
Cal Ciminello, Cardinal	46	316	222
Ronnie Taylor, VASJ	41	315	218
CJ Santataga, Gilmour	57	308	218
L. Kaltenbach, Kenston	62	297	218
Tyler Turk, Kirtland	40	293	209
Ayden Wiser, Berkshire	63	284	209
Owen McKoon, Perry	27	283	209
Jack Lessick, Kirtland	36	283	209
Peyton Birman, Madison	39	281	209
Alex Shiver, University	37	270	209
Dylan Hoenigman, NDCL	40	262	209
D. Conwell, Riverside	26	242	209
Yomar Castellano, Fairport	35	240	209
Vinny Colombi, Chardon	46	233	209
Eddie Sanders, Mayfield	NR	223	209
Brady Lawson, Fairport	48	222	209
Cane Balash, South	55	218	209

Matthew Osters, West G	48	218
Ben Koret, Mayfield	NR	208
J. Gilchrist, Brush	48	203

## RECEPTIONS

Name, school	Rec	Yards
Reese Soltis, Cardinal	55	1,004
Ace Peterlin, Lake Catholic	54	789
Yomar Castellano, Fairport	54	745
Charlie Mallett, Hawken	53	798
Sean Dillard, Gilmour	47	823
Justen Hodge, Mentor	41	741
J/ Pomnean, Benedictine	38	447
Lantz Reed, Mayfield	37	453
Connor Hernan, NDCL	37	441
JJ Baldwin, Benedictine	34	589
Tymir Cardona, Kenston	34	535
Dylan Krupp, Kenston	32	348
Luke Siron, Perry	30	725
Austin VanHuss, Mentor	29	648
Cross Nimmo, Lake Cath.	29	492
JD Dinnen, Mayfield	29	231
Trent Hull, Harvey	28	502
Brendan Sawitke, NDCL	28	313
Kene Obi, Hawken	28	251
Mac Steele, Madison	27	321
Tommy Wright, Hawken	27	263
Lars Broberg, Gilmour	26	430
P. Radigan, Lake Cath.	26	399
Grant Cerny, Mentor	26	261
Brody Lennon, Gilmour	25	549
Marquez Lashley, South	24	623
DJ Dambolena, Fairport	24	372
Brian Kortovich, VASJ	24	323
Dominic Paros, West.G	23	308
Drew Zelch, Chagrin	22	500
Nick Iliana, Gilmour	21	430
Chris Burt, Harvey	21	351
K. Powell, Brush	21	300
Chase Goines, Harvey	21	217
Ethan Baker, Riverside	21	153
Christian Chase, VASJ	20	328
B. Hilliard, Beachwood	20	287
Spencer Kaas, Chagrin	20	250
Max Thurman, Mayfield	19	230
Matteo Morelli, University	19	228
Caleb Rehak, University	19	185
Alexander Davis, Madison	18	328
Knolan Albert, Madison	18	260
Alex Patrizi, South	18	121
Matthew Osters, West G	18	100
DJ Sears, Lake Catholic	17	226
Jimmy Gibbons, Lake Cath.	17	203
Caleb Panteck, Riverside	17	120
T. Salette, Brush	16	309
Jack Medhurst, Chagrin	16	251
M. Sierputowski, Mentor	15	246
Casey McInerney, NDCL	15	196
Tylar Robinson, University	15	185
Jordan Johnson, University	15	183
Jordan Johnson, Hawken	15	130
Caleb Hewitt, Chardon	14	292
Cane Balash, South	14	115
Savion Lewis, VASJ	13	358
CJ Santataga, Gilmour	13	140
Hayden Diemer, Geneva	12	182
S. Greenwood, Fairport	12	158



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# High school football statistics

## SCORING

Name, school	TDs	Conv	Total
Jackson Farley, Mentor	22	0	132
Danny Alfieri, Kirtland	19	2	118
Reese Soltis, Cardinal	17	0	102
Bryce Peet, Geneva	17	0	102
Hayden Diemer, Geneva	17	0	102
Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside	17	0	102
Shahn Alston, Harvey	16	1	98
Carter Hopkins, Perry	16	0	96
Jordan Johnson, Hawken	14	1	86
Chris Maloney, Benedictine	14	0	84
Yomar Castellano, Fairport	13	1	80
Charlie Mallett, Hawken	13	0	78
Luke Sivon, Perry	13	0	78
Logan Ruscin, Wickliffe	13	0	78
Cohen Clark, Kenston	13	0	78
Justin Phillips, Berkshire	12	0	72
Ace Peterlin, Lake Catholic	11	2	70
Jayden Hardy, South	11	0	66
DJ Sears, Lake Catholic	11	0	66
Alexander Davis, Madison	11	0	66
Brody Lennon, Gilmour	11	0	66
Angelo Tamburrino, NDCL	10	0	66
Chris Burt, Harvey	10	3	66
A. Castellano, Fairport	10	2	64
Luke Barbo, Geneva	9	0	63
Austin VanHuss, Mentor	9	0	63
Jimmy Gibbons, Lake Cath.	10	0	60
TJ Moore, VASJ	10	0	60
Bo Jackson, VASJ	10	0	60
Lars Broberg, Gilmour	10	0	60
Caleb Hewitt, Chardon	9	1	56
Dare'on Howard, Perry	9	0	54
Jamere Church, Benedictine	9	0	54
Sean Dillard, Gilmour	9	0	54
Jake LaVerde, Kirtland	8	2	52
Drew Zelch, Chagrin	8	0	48
Vinny Colombi, Chardon	8	0	48
Tymir Cardona, Kenston	8	0	48
Justen Hodge, Mentor	8	0	48
Connor Hernan, NDCL	8	0	48
DJ Dambolena, Fairport	7	2	46
Drayton Allgood, Chardon	7	0	42
Marquez Lashley, South	6	1	38
Kene Obi, Hawken	6	1	38
Spencer Kaas, Chagrin	6	1	38
JJ Baldwin, Benedictine	6	1	38
Owen McKoon, Perry	6	0	36
Niko Samac, Kirtland	6	0	36
Brady Lawson, Fairport	5	3	36
Nunzio Zivnoska, Wickliffe	6	0	36
M. Sierputowski, Mentor	6	0	36
Mikey Malone, University	6	0	36
Nate Lennon, Gilmour	6	0	36
CJ Santataga, Gilmour	6	0	36
Brayden Buell, NDCL	6	0	36
Jack Gellin, Chagrin	5	0	30
Jacob Kay, Chagrin	5	0	30
Beckett Dotson, Chardon	5	0	30
Ayden Wisner, Berkshire	5	0	30
Daegan Katz, West G	5	0	30
AJ Rogers, Mayfield	5	0	30
Ralph Jackson, Wickliffe	5	0	30
Ethan Burge, Kenston	5	0	30
Brian Kortovich, VASJ	5	0	30



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Riverside's Kyndall McCaleb carries during the Beavers'

Name, school	Xpts	FG	Total
Ryan Lipowski, NDCL	5	0	30
Casey McInerney, NDCL	5	0	30
Oliver Miller, Berkshire	3	3	26
Tyler Turk, Kirtland	4	1	26
Sam Barcikowski, Berkshire	4	0	24
John Silvestro, Kirtland	4	0	24
Casey Carkhuff, Kirtland	4	0	24
Jack Lessick, Kirtland	4	0	24
Joey Pomnean, Benedictine	4	0	24
Dominic Burns, Mentor	4	0	24
James Poe, Madison	4	0	24
Matteo Morelli, University	4	0	24
Alex Shiver, University	4	0	24
Christian Chase, VASJ	4	0	24
Larry Clark, Beachwood	4	0	24
Brendan Sawitke, NDCL	4	0	24
T. Salette, Brush	4	0	24

## KICKING

Name, school	Xpts	FG	Total
Dylan Tackett, Mentor	52	4	64
Colton Crissinger, Perry	62	0	62
Grady Kucharson, Kenston	31	7	58
Xavier Lasecki, Kirtland	48	3	57
Ryan Cvitkovic, NDCL	42	5	57
Bryce Meitin, Benedictine	33	7	54
Harley Forkins, Lake Cath.	38	5	53
Leo D'Astolfo, Riverside	25	7	46
Ben Amos, Madison	30	5	45
Patrick McKinney, Geneva	44	0	44
Sam Sacerich, Chardon	30	4	42
Drew Rossman, Wickliffe	25	5	40
Roman Percic, Berkshire	20	6	38
Paul Kilroy, VASJ	32	2	38
Addie Cook, West G	18	5	33
Christian Trudic, Chagrin	23	2	29
Matteo Morelli, University	22	1	25
Mason Gumto, South	18	2	24
Julian Javoris, Hawken	23	0	23

Giselle Moreno, Harvey	19	0	19
Tristan Brown, Beachwood	4	4	16
Erik Maaskant, Fairport	8	1	11

## INTERCEPTIONS

Name, school	INTs
Luke Sivon, Perry	5
Jack Lessick, Kirtland	5
DJ Dambolena, Fairport	5
Tyler Alley, Madison	5
Kei'shjuan Telfair, Euclid	5
Cole Ducas, Chagrin	4
Ace Peterlin, Lake Catholic	4
Oliver Miller, Berkshire	4
Luke Stute, Berkshire	4
Mac Steele, Madison	4
Brendan Sawitke, NDCL	4
Patrick Radigan, Lake Catholic	3
Armani Chiappone, Perry	3
Evan Koprovski, Kirtland	3
Tymir Cardona, Kenston	3
Luke Barbo, Geneva	3
Donovan Conwell, Riverside	3
Joey Pomnean, Benedictine	3
JJ Baldwin, Benedictine	3
Xayvion Dunn, Mentor	3
Mason Matriano, South	2
Brady Namestnik South	2
Charlie Mallett, Hawken	2
Spencer Kaas, Chagrin	2
Luke Joy, Lake Catholic	2
Caleb Hewitt, Chardon	2
Braden McDevitt, Chardon	2
Vince Vecchio, West G	2
Quentin Artino, West G	2
Ryan Caimi, Kirtland	2
Sebastian Becker, Kirtland	2
Shane Greenwood, Fairport	2
Jake Drennen, Fairport	2
Umar Abdul, Fairport	2
Logan Ruscin, Wickliffe	2
Jimmy Wheeler, Wickliffe	2
Jade Strehle, Wickliffe	2
Hayden Diemer, Geneva	2
Caden Proy, Geneva	2
Antowine Smith, Benedictine	2
Camron Taylor, Mentor	2
Ben Schenk, Mentor	2
Gavin Briggs, Mentor	2
Kingston Seal, Gilmour	2
Corday Hill, Euclid	2
Tyler Robinson, University	2

## TACKLES FOR LOSS

Name, school	TFLs
Conner Hernan, NDCL	21
Matthew Priest, Riverside	20
Chris Fioritto, University	20
Theo Dengler, University	20
Kene Obi, Hawken	17
Maverick Edwards, Beachwood	17
Bernie McDonald, Gilmour	16
Miles Baker, West G	15
Cayden Calogar, Riverside	15
Brody Lennon, Gilmour	14
Alexander Ash, Chardon	14
DJ Dambolena, Fairport	14
Aiden McNamara, Gilmour	14
Jayden Buth, Chardon	13
Jimmy Gibbons, Lake Catholic	12
Owen McKoon, Perry	12
Dakota Warren, Chardon	11.5
Brendan Healy, Hawken	11
Cole Ducas, Chagrin	11
Bryce Bunting, Riverside	11
Spencer Barninger, Mentor	11
Nick Reese, Beachwood	11
Tyler Turk, Kirtland	11
Marty Loncar, Lake Catholic	10
Shaun Leonard, West G	10
Caden Clair, Mentor	10
Manny Toure, Harvey	10
Miles Hamilton, Hawken	9
Jackson Hedin, Hawken	9
Charlie Bazzone, Chagrin	9
Nate Wright, Fairport	9
Sam Meeks, Kenston	6
Cameron Treadwell, Kirtland	6
Jeremiah Rowdy, Harvey	6

## SACKS

Name, school	Sacks
Conner Hernan, NDCL	12
Trent Taylor, Perry	11
Brody Lennon, Gilmour	8
Cameron Treadwell, Kirtland	8
Miles Baker, West G	7.5
Jayson Cummings, Lake Catholic	7
Thomas Hedin, Gilmour	7
Sam Meeks, Kenston	6.5
Brody Bunting, Riverside	6
Spencer Barninger, Mentor	6
Bernie McDonald, Gilmour	6

Tyler Turk, Kirtland	6
Jackson Hedin, Hawken	5
Drew Smith, Perry	5
Joey Baldree, Perry	5
Danny Tiller, Berkshire	5
Javon Gilmour, Euclid	5
Theo Dengler, University	5
Nate Wright, Fairport	4.5
Jayden Hardy, South	4
Cole Ducas, Chagrin	4
Nick Tallion, Lake Catholic	4
Tucker Meeks, Kenston	4
Jamil Daghlas, Geneva	4
Tanner Hines, Geneva	4
Dom Lawrence, Madison	4
Aaron McCarter, Gilmour	4
Kingston Seals, Gilmour	4
Andrew Kimpton, Berkshire	3.5
Kene Obi, Hawken	3
Charlie Bazzone, Chagrin	3
Jack Keegan, Chagrin	3
Marty Loncar, Lake Catholic	3
DJ Sears, Lake Catholic	3
Tyler Noerr, Chardon	3
Justin Phillips, Berkshire	3
JJ Baldwin, Benedictine	3
Collin LaFaye, Fairport	3
Jake Rostocil, Kenston	3
Toran Savransky, Kenston	3
Aiden McNamara, Gilmour	3
Paul Dinehart, Gilmour	3

## TACKLES FOR LOSS

Name, school	TFLs
Brady Namestnik, South	5
Jayson Cummings, Lake Catholic	5
Yomar Castellano, Fairport	5
Tanner Hines, Geneva	5
West Wunderle, Riverside	5
Cole Kalish, Riverside	5
Jimmy Fioritto, Madison	5
Gianni Fedeli, University	5
Cris Shemo, University	5

## TEAM STATISTICS

School	Off	Def	Diff
Kirtland	3,942	1,757	2,185
Geneva	3,717	1,836	1,881
Gilmour	3,684	1,808	1,876
Lake Catholic	3,8-5	2,016	1,789
Benedictine	3,237	1,700	1,537
Chardon	2,974	1,491	1,483
Mentor	4,117	2,757	1,360
Fairport	2,784	1,964	820
Madison	2,485	1,724	761
Wickliffe	3,225	2,528	697
Kenston	2,827	2,171	656
Berkshire	3,035	2,411	624
Hawken	3,125	2,566	559
NDCL	3,394	3,139	255
Riverside	2,944	2,716	228
Chagrin Falls	2,483	2,375	108
University	2,189	2,422	-233
West Geauga	2,416	2,905	-489
Brush	2,530	3,034	-504
South	2,424	3,072	-648

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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COURTESY OF MITCH HEWITT

Caleb Hewitt says he has loved playing on his father, Mitch's teams at Chardon over the years. He is a senior this year for the Hilltoppers.

## Players and coaches discuss highs and lows of football life together

By John Kampf

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

Seated on a bench alongside Chardon's Memorial Field, Coach Mitch Hewitt stared into the southwest sky.

Seated next to him was his son Caleb, a senior two-way starter for the Hilltoppers.

"I don't think being my son is super enjoyable," Hewitt said. "I don't know that I've done it right, especially early on. I've probably been too hard on him."

The longtime Chardon coach who starred for the Hilltoppers in the 1990s gripped the bench with his hands and continued.

"It's been miserable, probably. It's probably made me a bad parent in some ways. If anyone is reading this, do the opposite of what I did."

As Hewitt spoke, his son wiped tears from his eyes and gave a reassuring pat on his dad's shoulder.

"No shot. No way. Not at all," Caleb said. "There are times I've obviously resisted, said things I probably shouldn't have said. But there is there is no way he's been a bad dad or parent — not at ALL."

The challenge of being a father who is also the head coach of his child's team isn't for everyone. The trials and tribulations of being a player when your parent is your coach can be plentiful.

How do a coach and player turn off that switch when they go home and be simply father and son?

How does a coach tightrope the line of perceived nepotism for playing his son too early or too often?

How does a coach handle watching his own flesh and blood be injured and leave the field in an ambulance unable to take the trip to the hospital with his offspring?

Then, of course, there is the inevitability that there will eventually be a last game — a last time a player and coach walk off the field and then go back to being "only" a father and son.

"That," Caleb Hewitt said, "will be an emotional day."

Mitch and Caleb Hewitt aren't the only father-son tandem going through those scenarios as the 2024 regular season comes to a close and puts them on the doorstep of one last tournament run together.

Don Shymske is the head coach at Geneva, where his son Donnie is a starting defensive back for the Eagles. Additionally, a handful of Geneva assistants have sons who are members of the 9-1 Eagles.

While Hawken coach Mark Iammarino and Kirtland coach Tiger LaVerde don't have senior sons this season, they've been down this avenue before. Iammarino coached his sons Tommy and Matt at Chagrin Falls a decade ago, while LaVerde's oldest son, Phil, graduated two years ago and his youngest son, Jake, is a junior for the Hornets this season.

Everyone agrees that coaching their son is one of the ultimate blessings, one that begins years before they made it to the varsity fields. But they all agree there are and were challenges along the way.

But regrets?

There are none.

"I started coaching Donnie when he was 7 years old or so," Shymske said. "Looking back when we started this journey I remember thinking, 'I can't wait til he gets to high school. It'll be a lot of fun.' Now it's winding down and it's really hitting me. I can't believe it's almost over."

Shymske's staff is loaded with players who are being coached by their fathers, including Bryce Peet (father Matt Peet is the offensive coordinator), Jacob Clemens (father Chris Clemens is the lines coach) and Luke Barbo (father John Barbo is the freshman coach. Assistants Jay Corlew and Russ Brown recently had sons play for the Eagles and graduate.

"It's not always easy," said Donnie Shymske, who also runs cross

**"It'll be a great memory I'll have til the day I die, playing for my dad. I'll always be grateful for this time we had together. It wasn't just good — it was great."**

— Chardon's Caleb Hewitt

country for Geneva. "I feel if I mess up, sometimes it's more magnified. If I have a bad practice, I hear about it. But for the most part it's awesome playing for my dad."

His dad/coach agreed.

"The greatest microscope is on him," he said of his son. "I try to separate football from home. When he was little I'd come home and he'd ask if we won or lost. I could separate it. Now it's not as easy. It's a different situation."

Hewitt will attest to that.

"Anyone who says they can leave it at the field or leave it in the car, that's (BS)," Hewitt said. "You come home and it's still in your mind, at least it is in my house. You wish it wasn't, but it is."

Both the Hewitts smile thinking about the journey they've been on together. It started back when Caleb was barely old enough to hold up a football to throw it in the family's yard.

"I remember always playing catch with him and underthrowing him," Caleb said. "He usually ended up chasing the ball as it rolled down the street."

While his father was a punishing running back and linebacker when he played for the Hilltoppers, Caleb is somewhat the opposite. He's got elite speed and ball skills his father admits that he never had. It's been a fun skillset to coach, dad said.

"He's way more talented than I was," the proud father/coach said. "He can do things I could never do."

Over at Kirtland, Coach Tiger LaVerde knows what it's like to coach his sons, too. His oldest son, Phil, was a starting linebacker and running back for the Hornets, graduating in 2023. Junior son Jake is

the Hornets' three-year starting quarterback, though he has missed most of this season after breaking his arm in a Week 7 win over Fairview.

The high point for the LaVerde family, obviously, is sharing state championship runs year after year. The hard part is seeing a career together end, like when Phil LaVerde played his final game in a 14-6 loss to Marion Local in the 2022 Division VI state championship game, thus ending the only season that LaVerde got to coach both of his sons on the same team.

"You're proud of how committed they are to something and how hard they worked," he said. "Then all of a sudden it ends. It's over. And it's emotional. Coaching Phil was a dream come true. He got to play in four state championship games. But you know that when it's over, you're never going to get that time back."

LaVerde also had the misfortune of seeing both of his sons suffer serious injuries during games and have to be taken to the hospital, such as when Jake broke his arm this year.

It's a helpless feeling for a father to watch his son be taken in an ambulance and not be able to go along because he's the head coach.

"It's horrible. It stinks," LaVerde said. "When you see your kid go in an ambulance, it's awful. Phil broke his wrist twice, tore his labrum, got that concussion in the South Range game. ... I think my wife would have been happy if our boys just played golf instead of football."

Iammarino got to coach both of his sons to deep playoff runs with Chagrin Falls. He said he doesn't

remember it as being a huge challenge. "Maybe things were all roses because we were successful," he said. But said the memories of finality stick with him.

"Tommy's Senior Night hit me like a ton of bricks," he said. "I hadn't realized it to that point. You just go week by week and play the next game. But when I lined up with my wife for the boys' senior nights, it was really, really emotional."

"When I walked off the field after their last games, I was emotional," he said. "It was, 'Well, that was the last game for my boys.'"

So as LaVerde and Iammarino have previously done, both Shymske and Hewitt are going to soak up every last minute of this tournament season. Every practice, every conversation, every moment — all the way to the last tick of the clock on the last game — will be cherished.

"For me, these are all chapters in life," Hewitt said, recalling how he married his high school sweetheart and is raising a wonderful dream family and coaching his son.

"These are all foundational bricks to your life," Hewitt said. "When this one's all over, let's find a new chapter."

But both nodded when acknowledging the inevitability of the clock striking zero in that last game and one last hug as coach/player. Regardless of bumps in the road, it was a gratifying journey.

"It'll be a great memory I'll have til the day I die, playing for my dad," Caleb Hewitt said. "I'll always be grateful for this time we had together. It wasn't just good — it was great."



COURTESY OF DON SHYMSKE

Geneva senior Donnie Shymske has enjoyed having his father, Don, as he coach since he was in third grade.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (16) ST. IGNATIUS AT (1) MENTOR

**WHAT** » Division I, Region 1 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Jerome T. Osborne Stadium

**RECORDS** » St. Ignatius 1-9, Mentor 10-0

**LAST WEEK** » Mentor def. Euclid, 51-14, Football North def. St. Ignatius, 27-26

**ON DECK** » Winner will face the winner of (8) Strongsville and (9) Cleveland Heights

**FOR THE RECORD** » St. Ignatius defeated Mentor twice in the 2023 season. Can the Cardinals turn the tables and double-dip the Wildcats this year? This game is a rematch of a Week 2 game won by Mentor, 20-14. It's the closest game of the season for the undefeated Cardinals, as only Cleveland Heights (35-27) has come within double digits of Mentor since then. ... Scotty Fox threw for 192 yards and two touchdowns in last week's win over Euclid while Jackson Farley ran for 80 yards and three scores. Fox's passing (2,170 yards, 28 touchdowns) and Farley's running (1,365 yards, 19 touchdowns) give the Cardinals a lethal 1-2 punch in the air and ground game. ... St. Ignatius has lost seven in a row since a Week 3 win over Dublin Coffman. Granted that streak includes loss to Walsh Jesuit, Akron Hoban, Toledo Central Catholic, St. Edward, Moeller and St.

Xavier. The Wildcats have their first one-win season since 1947 after a one-point loss to Football North. Dane Donovan threw touchdown passes to Cory Haddad and Gavon Vollmer in the regular-season finale, with Luke Sims scoring a touchdown on the ground.

### (11) RIVERSIDE AT (6) GREEN

**WHAT** » Division II, Region 5 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Infocision Field at Green Stadium, 1474 Boettler Road, Green

**RECORDS** » Riverside 4-6, Green 6-4

**LAST WEEK** » Chardon def. Riverside, 25-14, Uniontown Lake def. Green, 49-21

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (3) Nardon and (14) Solon

**FOR THE RECORD** » This is a rematch of an Aug. 30 game won by Green, 17-10. Riverside enters this game on a three-game losing streak while Green has lost two in a row. ... In the first meeting, Riverside's Kyndall McCaleb ran for 236 yards, including a 68-yard touchdown run. The Beavers held a lead at halftime, but a pick-six and an 84-yard touchdown pass from Tyson Hunka to Anthony McMichael in the second half paved the way for the Green victory. Hunka threw for 243 yards in his team's victory. Riverside has changed quarterbacks since then, with David Seibert guid-



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Coach Matt Gray and the Mentor Cardinals will host St. Ignatius in a Division I playoff game on Nov. 1.

ing the Beavers' offense now. McCaleb has run for more 1,200 yards this season in his team's run-ori-

ented offense. Matt Priest has a team-high 20 TFLs and Donovan Conwell has three interceptions to help

propel the Beavers. ... Riverside's keys are running the ball effectively and slowing down the Bulldogs' pass-

ing game that the Beavers didn't in the first meeting.

*Capsules by John Kampf*



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (13) MAYFIELD AT (4) AUSTINTOWN-FITCH

**WHAT** » Division 2, Region 5 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Greenwood Chevrolet Stadium, 4560 Falcon Dr., Austintown

**RECORDS** » Mayfield 5-5, Austintown-Fitch 7-3

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (5) Warren Harding and (12) John Hay

**LAST WEEK** » Mayfield def. South, 17-14, Warren Harding def. Austintown-Fitch, 35-21

**FOR THE RECORD** » The Wildcats' playoff chances were on life support after Week 8, but wins over Riverside and South got Coach Ross Bandiera's team to the big dance. ... The Wildcats got a Devan Calabrese field goal in the third quarter to break a 14-14 tie, and then pitched a shutout in the second half to beat South and clinch a playoff berth. Quarterback A.J. Rogers threw for a touchdown (to Lantz Reed) and ran for a score to spark Mayfield's offense. Rogers has thrown for more than 1,000 yards this season, with Reed (38 catches) and JD Dinnen (28 catches) his favorite targets. The run game is led by Eddie Sanders and Ben Koret, but for the most part, Mayfield is a passing team. ... Fitch led Warren Harding at half-time in Week 10, but gave up 22 unanswered points in the second half. Turnovers stung the Falcons in the finale. Deon'Dray Rich-



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

South lines up against North on Oct. 11.

ard is a bellcow type of back for Fitch. He scored a pair of touchdowns last week. Quarterback Collin Kalaher threw for a touchdown to Devon Morgan, as well. Brady Evans is another big-play threat for the Falcons' offense.

### (16) SOUTH AT (1) WALSH JESUIT

**WHAT** » Division 2, Region 5 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Conway Memorial Stadium, 4550 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls

**RECORDS** » South 3-7, Walsh Jesuit 10-0

**ON DECK** » Winner will face the winner of (8) Boardman and (9) Hudson

**LAST WEEK** » Mayfield def. South, 17-14, Walsh Jesuit def. Padua, 42-0

**FOR THE RECORD** » The Rebels only won a trio of games

this season, but the points Coach Matt Duffy's team accrued by giving 9-1 Lorain its only loss in Week 5 pushed the Rebels to the postseason. South comes in having lost two in a row. Quarterback Luke Jensen has thrown for more than 1,100 yards this season. Jayden Hardy is closing in on a 1,000-yard rushing season after rushing for more than 200 yards last week.

He had touchdown runs of 80 and 30 yards in the 17-14 loss to Mayfield. Marquez Lashley averages a gaudy 27 yards per catch this season. ... Walsh Jesuit is one of the top Division II teams in Ohio, with good reason. The Warriors have wins over 9-1 Youngstown Ursuline, 8-2 Benedictine and 8-2 Akron Hoban among its victories this year. Quarterback Kellen Moton is a stellar dual-

threat quarterback. He ran for three touchdowns in the first quarter alone in the win over Padua. He has thrown for more than 1,300 yards and run for more than 855. His top targets are Milan Parris and Aiden Henry, both of whom have more than 500 yards receiving this season.

*Capsules by John Kampf*

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (11) TALLMADGE AT (6) CHARDON

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Memorial Field

**RECORDS** » Tallmadge 7-3, Chardon 7-2

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (14) University and (3) CVCA

**LAST WEEK** » Chardon def. Riverside, 25-14, Tallmadge def. Copley, 31-0

**FOR THE RECORD** » Chardon was a Division III regional champion a year ago. The Hilltoppers have won four in a row since back-to-back losses to Bishop Waterson and Kenston. Tallmadge has won three in a row since losing to Aurora in league play. ... Senior Caleb Hewitt ran for a career-high 185 yards and two touchdowns against Riverside. He had 251 all-purpose yards in the game and also intercepted a pass on defense. Fullback Vinny Colombi returned to action after being out since Week 3. Even with the long lay-off, his eight touchdowns are second to Hewitt on the team. Drayton Allgood doesn't throw much, but he has run for a team-high 824 yards to go with seven scores. Defensively, Alexander Ash leads with 73 tackles and 14 TFLs. Fellow linebacker Jayden Buth is right there with 60 stops and 13 TFLs. The Hilltoppers also have a reliable kicker in Sam Sacerich. ... Tallmadge is led by quarter-



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon takes on Tallmadge in the first round of the playoffs on Nov. 1.

back Buddy Willig, who has thrown for 1,301 yards and six touchdowns. He also has seven rushing touchdowns. Markus Brown is a dual-threat player, rushing for

501 yards while also accumulating 110 tackles and 10 TFLs on defense. RB-LB Jason Beverly has run for 747 yards on offense and has 65 tackles on defense.

### (10) MAPLE HEIGHTS AT (7) KENSTON

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Bomber Stadium  
**RECORDS** » Maple Heights 7-3, Kenston 7-3

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (2) Gilmour and (15) Akron East

**LAST WEEK** » Kenston def. North, 42-7, Lorain def. Maple Heights, 34-32

**FOR THE RECORD** » The Bombers soar into the playoffs having won two straight Western Reserve Conference titles. Kenston has won five in a row since starting the season 2-3, sweeping through their five-game WRC schedule. Maple Heights had a four-game winning streak snapped last week by 9-1 Lorain. ... Kenston has gotten steady leadership and play from senior QB Lucas Kaltenbach, who has thrown for 1,343 yards and 10 touchdowns to go with five scores on the ground. The 1-2 backfield punch of Cohen Clark (684 yards, 13 TDs) and Ethan Burge (537 yards, five TDs) has gotten better as the year has gone on. Receivers Tymir Cardona and Dylan Krupp each have more than 30 receptions this season. ... Maple Heights receiver Kindall Brown has 33 receptions for 636 yards and eight scores, while Taylen Cannon has 18 catches for 349 yards and seven scores. ... Kenston averages 30 points per game, while Maple Heights averages 36. This game could be a shootout. Keep an eye on Kenston's defense, where Sam Meeks had 9 TFLs and 6.5 sacks this year (and a program record 17.5 for his career), as well as Ethan Black (8 TFLs). Can Kenston slow down Maple's high-end offense?



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (14) TIFFIN COLUMBIAN AT (3) BENEDICTINE

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 10 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Brooklyn Memorial Stadium, 4500 Hurricane Alley, Brooklyn

**RECORDS** » Tiffin Columbian 4-6, Benedictine 8-2

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (6) Defiance and (11) Bowling Green

**LAST WEEK** » Benedictine def. Akron SVSM, 39-8, Sandusky Perkins def. Tiffin Columbian, 42-7

**FOR THE RECORD** » These two teams haven't played since 1987, with the Bengals taking a 20-0 win. After going 4-6 last year and losing in the first round of the playoffs, the Bengals have plans for a longer stay in this year's postseason loop. To do so, Benedictine has to get past Tiffin Columbian. The Tornadoes are 4-6, but have played a tough schedule against 7-2 Chardon, 10-0 Bishop Watterson and 9-1 Sandusky Perkins. Big plays hurt Columbian in last week's loss to Perkins, though Zach Shawberry hit Johnny Breyer for a long touchdown pass. RB Mason Seitz ran for 264 yards and six touchdowns in Week 9 win over Norwalk and 157 last week against Perkins. ... Chris Maloney ran for 112 yards and three touchdowns in the win over Akron SVSM, giving him 1,078 yards and 14 touchdowns for the season. Giovanni Iacampo has thrown for 324



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

VASJ plays at Hawken in the first round of the playoffs Nov. 1.

yards and five touchdowns in the past two weeks with Matthew Furst (993 yards, 10 TDs) out. The receiving tandem of Joey Pomnean (38 catches, 447 yards) and

JJ Baldwin (34 catches, 589 yards) are a stellar 1-2 punch. ... Benedictine gives up an average of 170 yards per game and also has a very reliable kicker in Bryce

Meitin (7 field goals this season).

### (9) VASJ AT (8) HAWKEN

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Cliff Walton Stadium

**RECORDS** » VASJ 7-2, Hawken 8-2

**ON DECK** » Winner will

play the winner of (1) Youngstown Ursuline and (16) Youngstown Chaney

**LAST WEEK** » Perry def. Hawken, 68-0, VASJ def. Gilmour, 48-14

**FOR THE RECORD** » Hawken earned a first-round home game with an eight-win season, but there are certainly easier first-round games than a visit from a VASJ team that just hung 500 yards of offense on Gilmour to give the Lancers their first loss of the season — the same Gilmour team that defeated Hawken, 33-13, earlier this season. ... The host Hawks fell behind fast and never recovered in last week's loss to Perry. Donovan Moorhead has thrown for 1,589 yards and 24 touchdowns this year, while Charlie Mallett (53 catches, 798 yards) is among the area's best receivers. Running back Jordan Johnson has run for 998 yards and 14 touchdowns, but left the Perry game after one carry with a rib injury. If he can't go, Kene Obi (329 yards rushing, 28 catches) will take his spot. ... T.J. Moore ran for 243 yards and two touchdowns against Gilmour — putting him over the 1,000-yard plateau for the season — while Ronnie Taylor ran for 153 yards and three scores. Put that rushing total with Johnny Vuraich's 133 yards through the air, and the VASJ offense was scary, even with Ohio State recruit Bo Jackson out for the year.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (12) MADISON AT (5) GENEVA

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » SPIRE Academy

**RECORDS** » Geneva 9-1, Madison 7-3

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (4) Aurora and (13) Bedford

**LAST WEEK** » Geneva def. Jefferson, 56-22, Madison def. Conneaut, 43-6

**FOR THE RECORD** » Geneva defeated visiting Madison, 21-14, in a Week 9 game. Two weeks later, the rivals are meeting again. Since 1956, Madison holds the series edge, 36-29-2, but Geneva has won five of the last six. ... Two weeks ago, the Blue Streaks took an early 14-0 lead when Will Randall threw a pair of first-quarter touchdown passes to Alexander Davis. Two second-quarter turnovers allowed Geneva to get some momentum, and the Eagles parlayed that into a dominating second half where Geneva's ground game wore down the Blue Streaks, and the Eagles' defense clamped down on a Madison passing game that dominated the first quarter. ... Randall has thrown for 1,409 yards and 17 touchdowns, with Davis (18-for-328) his top target. James Poe has a team-high 512 yards rushing with three scores. ... Here's impressive statistics — Geneva's quartet of Bryce Peet, Hayden Diemer, Caden Proy and Luke Barbo



FRANK GAMBATESE — FOR THE NEWS-HEALD

Madison gets a rematch with Geneva in the first round of the playoffs on Nov. 1.

have combined to run for 3,300 yards and 45 touchdowns with zero fumbles in 10 weeks. ... Madison's keys are slowing Geneva's run game while sustaining

offensive momentum itself, while the Eagles need to grind out the game on the ground and keep Randall from a career passing night.

### (14) UNIVERSITY AT (3) CVCA

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » CVCA Stadium, 4687 Wyoga Lake Road, Cuyahoga Falls

**RECORDS** » University 4-5, CVCA 8-2

**ON DECK** » Winner will play

the winner of (6) Chardon and (11) Tallmadge

**LAST WEEK** » University def. Howland, 35-14, CVCA def. Akron Manchester, 17-6

**FOR THE RECORD** » The Preppers clinched a postseason bid with a convincing win over Howland in Week 10. University has clinched playoff berths three straight years, something it hasn't done since 2004. Kam Shiver and Mikey Malone ripped off long touchdown runs to help the Preppers defeat Howland and get to Week 11, where they'll face a CVCA team that has won eight in a row after an 0-2 start to undefeated Streetsboro and Lake Catholic. In Week 10, the Royals handed Akron Manchester its only loss of the season. ... Malone (702 yards) is the team's offensive leader on the ground, though Shiver is also a running threat. Carson Panteck has thrown for 893 yards and 11 touchdowns, with Matteo Morelli (19 catches), Caleb Rehak (19 catches) and Caleb Rehak (19 catches) his favorite targets. Theo Dengler and Chris Fioritto each have 20 TFLs to lead the defense. ... CVCA quarterback Charley Levak has thrown for 720 yards and six touchdowns, while rushing for 597 yards and 10 scores. Joey Kopec has run for 983 yards and nine scores. The Royals average 289 yards rushing a game, so it's safe to say University's run defense will need to be on point.





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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (15) AKRON EAST AT (2) GILMOUR

**WHAT** » Division III, Region 9 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Weber Stadium

**RECORDS** » Gilmour 9-1, Akron East 6-4

**ONDECK** » Winner will play the winner of (7) Kenston and (10) Maple Heights

**LAST WEEK** » Akron East def. Akron Garfield, 28-26, VASJ def. Gilmour, 48-14

**FORTHRECORD** » The Lancers tasted their only defeat in their regular-season finale, albeit at the hands of a loaded VASJ team. Gilmour's defense got gouged for more than 500 yards of offense in the game, most of which came via the Vikings' vaunted ground attack. The challenge for Gilmour in this game is slowing down another strong ground game. East's Zaire Stevens is the program's all-time leading rusher. He has run for more than 1,200 yards this season after rushing for 2,001 yards and 20 touchdowns as a junior. He has committed to Purdue. ... Terrell Wharton (WR-DB) has offers from Penn State, Wisconsin, Purdue and Indiana, among others. ... Gilmour is led by QB Cooper Panteck, who has thrown for 2,412 yards and 32 touchdowns. His two interceptions against VASJ are the first picks he has thrown all season. Sean Dillard (47 catches, 823 yards), Ohio State recruit Brody Lennon (25-549),



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic plays Ravenna in the first round of the playoffs Nov. 1 at North High School.

Lars Broberg (26-430) and Nick Iliano (21-430) all have 20 or more catches. Defensively, the Lancers are led by Bernie McDonald (16

TFLs, six sacks) and Aiden McNamara (14 TFLs, three sacks). ... After last week's blowout loss, Gilmour's defense will look to tighten

things up and get the Lancers on to the next round.

### (16) RAVENNA AT (1) LAKE CATHOLIC

**WHAT** » Division IV, Region 13 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Nick Carter Stadium at Eastlake North

**RECORDS** » Lake Catholic 10-0, Ravenna 4-6

**ONDECK** » Winner will play the winner of (8) Lutheran East and (9) Mogadore Field

**LAST WEEK** » Lake Catholic def. NDCL, 26-17, Mogadore Field def. Ravenna, 6-3

**FORTHRECORD** » Lake Catholic enters postseason play with a 10-0 record for the first time since 1996. The Cougars went all the way to the regional finals that year. Lake is the top-ranked team in the Division IV Associated Press poll. Can the Cougars parlay this 10-0 start into a state title? ... Lake quarterback Frankie Trinetti has thrown for 2,256 yards and 22 touchdowns this season. Ace Peterlin (54 catches, 789 yards), Cross Nimmo (29-492), Patrick Radigan (26-399), DJ Sears (17-226) and Jimmy Gibbons (17-203) all have 17 catches or more. Not only does Jimmy Gibbons lead the running attack with 816 yards and 10 touchdowns, but he also has a team-high 12 TFLs on defense. The Cougars' defense has been active all year, picking off 12 passes. Jayson Cummings (7 sacks, 5 TFLs) and Marty Loncar (10 TFLs) are also top-end defenders. ... Ravenna won three of its last five games to get a playoff bid. Among their five losses are three shutouts. Players to watch are quarterback C.J. Ross, WR-DB Bryant Thompson and TE-DL Robert Melzer.



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (15) AKRON BUCHTEL AT (2) PERRY

**WHAT** » Division IV, Region 13 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Alumni Stadium

**RECORDS** » Perry 9-1, Akron Buchtel, 4-6

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (7) Struthers and (10) Norton

**LAST WEEK** » Perry def. Hawken, 68-0, Akron Buchtel def. Akron North, 36-0

**FOR THE RECORD** » The reigning Division V state champs begin their quest to win a title in Division IV this year. Perry has put a running clock on every team it has faced this year except for a 22-21 triple-overtime loss to Kirtland in Week 3. Perry led Hawken, 54-0, at halftime last week and cruised the entire second half with backups in the game. Senior QB Walter Moses has thrown for 1,572 yards and 21 touchdowns. He is the program's all-time leader in passing yards and touchdowns. Carter Hopkins (770 yards, 16 TDs) and Dare'on Howard (491 yards, 9 TDs) lead the running attack, while Luke Sivon (30 catches, 725 yards) averages more than 20 yards a catch. The fast, aggressive defense is led by linebacker Owen McKoon (12 TFLs), end Trent Taylor (11 sacks), nose tackle Drew Smith (five sacks, eight TFLs) and Vince Tomasic (five picks). ... Buchtel has won three of its last four, though North Canton Hoover (6-4) is the only team

the Griffins have beaten with a winning record. Stevie Diamond has thrown for 899 yards and run for 383. Dauran Johnson, Xavier Wilson and Demetrice Coates are all 6-foot or taller and all have double-digit receptions.

### (12) NDCL AT (5) GLENVILLE

**WHAT** » Division IV, Region 13 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Rudy Korsgaard Stadium, 4270 Northfield Road, Warrensville Heights

**RECORDS** » NDCL 5-5, Glenville 7-3

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (4) West Branch and (13) Hubbard

**LAST WEEK** » Lake Catholic def. NDCL, 26-17, Glenville def. Cleveland JFK, 41-0

**FOR THE RECORD** » NDCL was 5-2 at one point this season, then ran into three tough teams in a row in 10-0 Walsh Jesuit, 10-0 Lake Catholic and 5-5 Padua. Glenville is another huge challenge for Coach Andre Griffin's team, as the Tarblooders are the defending Division IV state champions. ... Glenville's resume this year includes a win over Division I St. Edward. Junior linebacker Cincere Johnson has an offer from Ohio State. He and safety C.J. Newell are standouts on the Glenville lightning-fast defense. The Tarblooders have electric playmakers on offense, including quarterback Arvell Nelson Jr. Both Newell and Romell Phillips



COLEEN MOSKOWITZ — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Perry hosts Akron Buchtel in a Division IV playoff game on Nov. 1

are big-play backs in the running game. ... NDCL is led by senior quarterback Ryan Lipowski (1,407 yards passing, 18 touchdowns). Angelo Tamburrino (670 yards) and Lipowski (506 yards) are the leading rush-

ers, but Brayden Buell (355 yards) averages more than 10 yards per carry on his totes. Conner Hernan is an all-around standout for the Lions. His 37 catches for 441 yards leads the team as do his defensive numbers of 12

sacks and 21 TFLs. Kicker Ryan Cvitkovic is as sure as they come, making all 42 of his conversion kicks and five of six field goals.

### (10) CHAGRIN FALLS AT (7) BERKSHIRE

**WHAT** » Division V, Region 17 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Great Lakes Cheese Stadium

**RECORDS** » Chagrin Falls 6-4, Berkshire 7-3

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (2) Akron Manchester and (15) Youngstown Liberty

**LAST WEEK** » Berkshire def. Chagrin Falls, 13-6

**FOR THE RECORD** » Rare are the times when Week 10 foes turn around and play each other in the first round of the playoffs, but here we are. Berkshire vs. Chagrin Falls Round II. Chagrin won last year's Berkshire bout, 15-12, with last week's game a seven-point margin, so this one promises to be another low-scoring slugfest. ... In the Week 10 game, Berkshire ran for 204 yards and threw for -2 yards, while Chagrin threw for 126 and ran for -9. Berkshire's Justin Phillips ran for 112 yards, but the Badgers threw only two passes. Chagrin QB Jacob Kay threw for 126 yards and a scoring strike to Spencer Kaas, but was unable to get the running game of Kay and Jack Gellin going. Expect another grind-it-out game with defenses dominating. Berkshire's Danny Tiller and Caleb Corbett are among the area leaders in TFLs, while Chagrin's Cole Ducas is a walking, talking playmaker with team leads in TFLs, sacks and interceptions.

*Capsules by John Kampf*

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS CAPSULES

### (16) ROOTSTOWN AT (1) KIRTLAND

**WHAT** » Division VI, Region 21 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Wilson Stadium

**RECORDS** » Rootstown 4-6, Kirtland 10-0

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (8) LaBrae and (9) Smithville

**LAST WEEK** » Kirtland def. Cardinal, 33-0, Mogadore def. Rootstown, 28-7

**FOR THE RECORD** » A year from now, this will be a CVC Valley Division game, so in that sense it's a "Welcome to the neighborhood" game for the highly-favored Hornets. Kirtland enters postseason play undefeated for the 13th time in the Tiger LaVerde era. The Hornets' starters sat out last week's game against Cardinal and the reserves still pitched the shut-out. ... Kirtland has churned along just fine without regular starting quarterback Jake LaVerde (broken arm). In his absence, the Hornets have leaned on Danny Alfieri (759 yards, 19 touchdowns), John Silvestro (357 yards), Tyler Turk (293 yards) and Jack Lessick (293 yards) in the run-oriented offense. Max Paul (275 yards passing) guides the offense. The defense has been smothering, as usual, with Tyler Turk and Cam Treadwell leading the way in sacks and TFLs. ... Rootstown quarterback Blake Mullaly has thrown for 787 yards and seven touchdowns (with seven inter-



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Wickliffe plays at Toronto in the first round of the playoffs Nov. 21.

ceptions). Damien Reutring has run for 987 yards and 12 scores, with Nick Malek running for 423 yards and four touchdowns. ... Kirtland has the big upper hand here. The Hornets have had a running clock in nine of its 10 games and has given up only six points in the past three weeks.

### (10) WICKLIFFE AT (7) TORONTO

**WHAT** » Division VI, Region 21 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Red Knight Stadium, North River Ave., Toronto

**RECORDS** » Wickliffe 7-3, Toronto 7-3

**LAST WEEK** » Wickliffe def.

Beachwood 44-7, Wheeling Central Catholic def. Toronto, 29-27

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (2) New Middletown Springfield and (15) Black River

**FOR THE RECORD** » Wickliffe's seven wins this year are the most since the eight wins in 2020 and are also more than the pass three

seasons combined. The Blue Devils enter Week 11 having won four games in a row, and doing so by scoring 33 or more points in each of those four games. On the flipside, Toronto had a three-game winning streak snapped last week by Wheeling Central Catholic. ... Wickliffe hangs its hat on a powerful run game led by a trio of running backs — Logan Ruscin (1,033 yards, 12 touchdowns), Ralph Jackson (589 yards, 5 touchdowns) and Nunzio Zivnoska (456 yards, 5 touchdowns). Quarterback Frankie Bucar has thrown for 483 yards and six touchdowns. Ruscin is also among the team leaders with two of his team's interceptions this season. Drew Rossman is a reliable kicker with five field goals this season. ... Toronto quarterback Zebulin Kinsey has thrown for more than 2,000 yards this season. He has committed to the University of Cincinnati. Three receivers — Aiden Filby, Mason Marchbank and Brady Fair — have more than 500 yards receiving. Wickliffe's pass defense will get a stern test in this playoff opener.

### (15) FAIRPORT AT (2) JEROMESVILLE HILLSDALE

**WHAT** » Division VII, Region 25 playoff opener

**WHEN** » 7 p.m., Nov. 1

**WHERE** » Hillsdale Falcons Community Stadium, 485 Township Highway 1902, Jeromesville

**RECORDS** » Fairport 5-4, Jeromesville Hillsdale 9-1

**ON DECK** » Winner will play the winner of (7) Windham and (10) Salinesville Southern

**LAST WEEK** » Windham def. Fairport, 41-25, Norwayne def. Hillsdale, 45-21

**FOR THE RECORD** » The Skippers are in the playoffs for the third time in the past five years. They put up a lot of points in the regular season finale against Windham, but were unable to slow down the Bombers' offense. ... Brady Lawson has thrown for 1,429 yards and 15 touchdowns for Coach Domanick Sherwood's squad. The Castellano brothers play a big role, too, with Abraham leading the team in rushing (736 yards) and Yomar leading the team in receiving (54 catches, 745 yards) to go with 240 yards on the ground. D.J. Dambolena fills multiple key roles for the Skippers. He's the second-leading receiver with 24 catches for 372 yards and also leads the team in TFLs (14) and interceptions (five). ... Hillsdale came up short in the Wayne County Athletic League title game last week against Norwayne. Still, they've outscored the opposition, 35.7-13.7, and held six opponents to eight points or less. QB Kael Lewis threw for 1,736 yards headig into last week's game, with Owen Sloan, Hayden McFadden and Holland Young all having 600 or more receiving through the air.

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