



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL '25

PILLAR OF PAINESVILLE

Shahn Alston's love for his hometown has never wavered as he enters his final season in red and black before heading to USC

INSIDE

- TONY FISHER AWARD WATCH LIST
- CAPSULE PREVIEWS FOR ALL 29 AREA SCHOOLS
- PRESEASON TOP OF THE CROP
- PLAYOFF REGION PREVIEWS



THE NEWS-HERALD | AUG. 19, 2025

OPINION

Opportunity is knocking — who is ready to answer?

Shhh.
Can you hear it? It's faint, but it's there, and it's getting louder by the day.
If you've listened close enough since the first whistle blew on the opening day of practice



John Kampf

on Aug. 1, opportunity is knocking. Each day it has gotten louder.
Come this weekend when the first kickoffs soar into the air, the knocking of opportunity will reach a fevered pitch.

The 2024 season was memorable for so many reasons. The News-Herald area had a state runner-up in Kirtland, and five area teams finished with double-digit victories, a record 22 teams qualified for the playoffs and countless memories were made.

But the slate is wiped clean now. For all the teams that realized their dreams last year, none of those plays and statistics count this year. For the teams who fell short of their goals, none of last year's shortcomings matter anymore — unless they're used for motivation.

It's a brand new start, and opportunity is knock-



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland players huddle before the Division VI state championship game against Coldwater on Dec. 7, 2024.

ing.
Visits to preseason camps and to scrimmages have been invigorating. Position battles are still being waged just 48 hours before the season kicks off to the point that — just for instance — two of the teams that won double-digit games last year (Perry and Benedictine) are strongly considering playing two quarterbacks to start the season.

There are seven new head coaches among the area's teams this fall. All

are first-year head football coaches. It's their chance to put their marks on a program.

Conference races are up for grabs. Uneasy is the head that wears the crown, so last year's champs know teams are coming for them. Just the same, last year's non-contenders want to make the climb to the top that evaded them last year.

This is the last year for the Western Reserve Conference, with its six members going in different di-

rections. The North Coast Conference is in its first full year of play after 2024. Cardinal is in its first year in the Northeast Athletic Conference, while Fairport is in its last.

Playoff opportunities are also knocking, though the opportunities are fewer this season because the Ohio High School Athletic Association has trimmed its playoff field from 16 teams per region to 12 teams per region. Opportunities are there, they're just going to

It doesn't matter if it's individual players, coaches, conferences, bands or what have you — opportunity has been knocking on some level for the last number of weeks and even months.

be a little harder to come by going forward.

Also on the field, but in the musical realm, high school bands across the area are fine-tuning their new shows to entertain at halftime. (Full disclosure, this corner can't wait to see what the Riverside Regiment has locked and loaded for this year).

In short, it doesn't matter if it's individual players, coaches, conferences, bands or what have you — opportunity has been knocking on some level for the last number of weeks and even months.

Who is going to answer the knocking?

We'll find out starting this weekend.

Reach Kampf at JKampf@News-Herald.com. On X: @NHPreps

INDEX

Top of the Crop	4
Games to watch	6
Fisher Award watch list	8
Conference outlooks	11
Playoff regions	15
Area schedule	35

SCHOOLS

Beachwood	20
Benedictine	20
Berkshire	21
Brush	21
Cardinal	22
Chagrin Falls	22
Chardon	23
Euclid	23
Fairport	24
Geneva	24
Gilmour	25
Harvey	25
Hawken	26
Kenston	26
Kirtland	27
Lake Catholic	27
Madison	28
Mayfield	28
Mentor	29
NDCL	29
North	30
Perry	30
Richmond Heights	31
Riverside	31
South	32
University	32
VASJ	33
West Geauga	33
Wickliffe	34



Get a roundup of the week that was and the week ahead in local sports delivered to your in-box every Thursday afternoon.
We give prep sports the pro treatment.



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Last run together for coach, QB son

Kirtland's Tiger and Jake share similarities and stories heading into their final season together

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

As Tiger LaVerde watched his son jog to the far end of the field last week, the long-time coach of the Kirtland Hornets wondered where time had gone.

As his baby boy, Jake — the youngest of four kids born to Tiger and his wife Mary — took the Kirtland offense to the other end of the field to work on plays, LaVerde shook his head. How did time go by fast?

How can "Jakey" be a senior already?

"I remember him doing workouts in the basement of our old house when he was like 2 years old and Phillip was five," the reminiscing father said. "He'd do push-ups, sit-ups, froggies ... just jump and run around the basement working out. He was TWO!"

And now he's a senior. That little boy was now going to the other end of the field to run through the offensive playbook without

the assistance of another coach.

Next week, Tiger and Jake LaVerde will begin their final chapter of football together when the Hornets travel to Clarion, Pa., for the 2025 season opener. When it comes to an end, so will a father-son gridiron career that started when Jake was in second grade.

Tiger has been down this road before with a child. Son Phillip, as well as daughters Leah and Sophia, have come through Kirtland, had their dad for math class, were coached at one time or another by their dad and were walked across a field or court on senior day with Tiger and Mary.

But this one is different, if for no other reason than it's the last one. The last hoorah for Tiger LaVerde and his youngest son Jake, who is one of the most successful quarterbacks in Kirtland football history, with the Hornets going 45-3 in his three years.

"We're just enjoying every day of it," LaVerde said, smiling as he looked at his son sitting next to him, "because it's going to go fast."

LaVerde stopped and counted the remaining months on his fingers.

"Four months and this is going to be over," he said. "So yeah, just enjoy every day, smile and laugh because in four months it's over... I'm gonna miss this guy."

From his ferociously competitive nature to his perfectionism, Jake might be more similar to Tiger than any of the three other LaVerde kids, with the exception being his 6-foot-1, 215-pound build.

Jake has never gotten a B on a report card, sporting a 4.34 GPA. He hates to lose, even in practice, where he was chastised by his father for leaping over a pile of teammates to score last week. If competition is involved, the youngest LaVerde is in it to win it.

"Yeah, I get that from him," Jake smirked, "just wanting to win every game, every rep, every play — just like him."



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kirtland senior Jake LaVerde and his father/coach Tiger LaVerde are looking forward to one more season together before the youngest of four LaVerde children rides off into the sunset to college. Kirtland is 45-3 with Jake LaVerde as its starting quarterback.

KIRTLAND » PAGE 4



Cleveland's East Side Botanical bar offering alcohol alternative drinks in a tropical boho setting in Downtown Willoughby.

Come catch a plant buzz before or after the game!



Our drinks will leave you feeling relaxed, elevated, and closer to your truth. Spreading love and fostering connection while creating inclusion for all is our mission. Come see what we are all about and what alternatives can do for you.

4055 Erie Street. REAR Willoughby, OH 44094

HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10 am - 10 pm
Friday & Saturday: 10 am - 11 pm
Sunday: 10 am - 8 pm

Learn more at www.kavasol.com and follow @kava_sol

Kirtland

FROM PAGE 3

Only it isn't just on the football field. It's in family Wiffle ball games or the one-on-one wrestling matches, from which Tiger has tapped out a few years back.

"Oh, I'm not stupid," he said with a laugh, acknowledging he majestically lost the last wrestling match a few years ago.

He's not stupid, but he does know how to push his son's competitive buttons, like in a recent Wiffle Ball game in the family's backyard.

"We were playing five-on-five and it was super competitive this summer," Tiger said. "My team won, he gets mad and pouts."

"I did not pout," his son barked back, to which his dad retorted, "On a scale of 1-10 you were a 10, right?"

"Yeah, he just gets in my head," the son laughed.

But it's that tenacity and competitive nature that, coupled with talent, has made young LaVerde so successful. Kirtland is 45-3 over the past three seasons with LaVerde at the helm, though he missed a handful of games last season with a broken arm. Two of those losses are in state championship games — one as a freshman and one last year as a junior.

Heading into his senior year, Jake has completed 144 of 271 passes for 2,483 yards and 38 touchdowns,



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

"Four months and this is going to be over. So yeah, just enjoy every day, smile and laugh because in four months it's over... I'm gonna miss this guy." — Kirtland coach Tiger LaVerde on the final year coaching his son Jake.

while also carrying 251 times for 2,129 yards (8.5-yard average) and 26 scores.

"I still remember my first game," Jake said. "Harvey. Memories of butterflies. I fumbled the first snap and went backwards on the second play. Then yeah, I took it to the house (51 yards) on the third play."

A week later in a 21-0 win over Lutheran West, his father remembers his son "getting annihilated" on a blind-side tackle. When he told his dad/coach it didn't hurt at all, well ...

"I knew we were going to be fine," Tiger said. "After that first game and then that hit... we were going to be fine with him back there."

Of course, there have been speed bumps along the otherwise smooth journey the LaVerdes have shared. One would be an intercep-

tion Jake threw — a pick-six — that was the deciding score in Kirtland's 14-7 loss to Marion Local in 2022 state final.

The loss stung the young quarterback, not just because of when and how it happened, but it was also the final play of his big brother's senior year of football. Jake admitted he was emotionally crushed, though he has used that as motivation going forward.

"Marion Local had given up 31 points all year," his father said. "(Flyers) coach Tim Goodwin said it was one of the best teams he's ever had and we lost by a touchdown. Sometimes you don't play well and win. Sometimes you play well and lose.

"Here's the thing — it's not always about winning and losing. In life, you're

not always going to win. You have to learn to face adversity. ... You know, we've almost won too much here."

Kirtland has gone 244-21 (.928), with seven of those losses coming in state championship games. Their coach could string together 22 straight 0-10 seasons and still be three games over .500 there.

Suffice it to say, it's been a memorable run together for LaVerde and his youngest son. As well as the exploits on the gridiron, Jake has also had his father for Algebra I, AP Stats, AP Calculus and Advanced Calculus. His mother was first his biology teacher and now his guidance counselor, with his sister Leah slated to be his biology and anatomy teacher this fall in first period, followed by Dad in second period.

What's next for Jake LaVerde? Not even he is sure. Plenty of Ivy League teams have talked to him about playing college football, as has Case Western Reserve, where big brother Phillip plays.

But the future isn't his top priority, nor that of his father. They have one more school year to enjoy, specifically one more football season. And they're going to soak up every minute of practice, every ride to school on the golf cart, every chat around the dinner table and every game.

Because as the patriarch of the family said, time is short and it's flying by no matter how much they try and slow it down.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Top of the Crop

1: Mentor (13-1 last year)

2: Kirtland (15-1 last year)

3: VASJ (8-3 last year)

4: Chardon (8-3 last year)

5: Lake Catholic (12-1 last year)

6: Perry (12-2 last year)

7: Riverside (4-7 last year)

8: NDCL (5-6 last year)

9: Kenston (7-4 last year)

10: Benedictine (10-3 last year)

Watch list: Madison, Geneva, West Geauga, Hawken, Mayfield, South

Crop comments: Let the debate begin... We'll start with Mentor, which has four FBS college recruits on offense. ... Kirtland is 45-3 the past three seasons with two losses coming in state championship games. The Hornets are a safe bet at No. 2. ... VASJ lost a lot to

graduation, but the Vikings' cupboard is stocked. They're primed for a deeper playoff run. ... The next slots are all up for grabs. No. 4 Chardon gets the nod with its pedigree and strength in the trenches. ... Lake Catholic takes No. 5 with its strength on the lines and power game, with Perry at No. 6. The Pirates are breaking in a new quarterback, but there shouldn't be a significant drop-off. ... No. 7 Riverside has had a great camp and has a star in RB Kyndall McCaleb, as well as a lot of starters back on both sides of the ball. ... No. 8 NDCL has a strong defense and the best kicker — by far — in Ryan Cvitkovic. ... No. 9 Kenston has exceptional skill and defense. It'll come down to the trenches for the Bombers. ... No. 10 Benedictine might be underrated here. Replacing RB Chris Maloney is a chore, but the lines are both strong points. ... Of those on the watch list, we're buying stock in the upside of Madison and South the most, but you never know. This list can and will change weekly, for sure.

Tiger said his goal for any kid who has come through Kirtland is to enjoy the experience. It's no different with his flesh and blood. But in this case, it is a little different.

"I love all four of my kids and it was great to have them all home this

summer," Tiger said. "But I'm going to miss (Jake). I've never had a four-year starter at quarterback before. I'm going to miss him in the huddle next year. Without the big fella, it'll be different. ... I'm just going to miss it all. I'm going to miss this guy."





**Plant
MAGIC Florist**

**IRISH CROSSROADS
GIFT SHOP**

Our Business is Blooming!

Plant Magic Florist & Irish Crossroads
38015 Euclid Ave. Willoughby
440-954-9030
plantmagicflorist.com and
myshamrockshop.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Mentor's offensive line ready for heavy lifting

Cardinals boast four college recruits — three to Division I — in the trenches

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Three years ago, during a break in the preseason football scrimmage between Mentor and Chardon, Cardinals coach Matt Gray took notice of a group of players parading in from the far end of the stadium.

Taking his whistle out of his mouth, Gray got the attention of a few scrimmage onlookers and pointed to the group, which was being led in by a handful of rather large human beings.

“Look at those guys,” he said, pointing to the linemen on the freshman football team that was just entering Jerome T. Osborne Stadium. “That’s going to be a special group when they get up here.”

The “up here” Gray was referring to was the varsity lineup.

The “when” he yearned for has arrived.

When the Mentor season opens Aug. 22 at Olmsted Falls, it will do so with an offensive line that is bigger than most in the program’s history. That offensive line boasts four college commits, including three who



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor’s decorated offense line consists of, from left, Amari Bradley, JoJo LoDuca, Landry Brede, Colin Prichard, Gabriel McLendon and Gabe LaSpina.

have committed to Division I college football programs.

It’s true the Cardinals’ offense, in general, boasts some outstanding talent this season, including Miami (Ohio) commit Justen Hodge at receiver and running back Jackson Farley, who ran for more than 1,900 yards last season.

That being said, if Mentor is to reach the destination it wants this season, which is the Division I state championship game, the Cardinals will have to lay it on the line.

As in the big, experience, college-level offensive line.

“When you look at the foundation of a football

team, it starts up front,” Gray said. “It starts with the offensive and defensive lines. The guys we have on our offensive line have played a lot of varsity football for us. More importantly, they are unbelievable kids, great leaders and workers. They set the standard for our program every

single day.”

The line features:

- North Carolina State commit Landry Brede (6-foot-6, 310 pounds) a left tackle.

- Tiffin University commit Gabriel McLendon (6-3, 275) at left guard.

- Naval Academy commit JoJo LoDuca (6-3, 285)

at center.

- Kent State commit Colin Prichard (6-5, 265) at right tackle.

- Amari Bradley (5-10, 255) at right guard.

Gabe LaSpina (6-0, 250) is coming off ACL surgery and is also in the mix. He gives Mentor depth and flexibility to go with six offensive linemen in short-yardage and/or goal-line situations.

“I’ve been here since 2013 and we’ve had some really good teams here,” Gray said. “Each and every one of those good teams had a common denominator — a strong offensive line. The average teams were average up front.”

Combine size and talent with experience and chemistry, and that is where Mentor’s magic can be found. McLendon, Prichard and Bradley all played together at Memorial Middle School, while the rest were together at Ridge.

When they were freshmen, they started a bond that still exists today.

“Chemistry is 100 percent the most important thing,” McLendon said. “If you can’t work together with the guy next to you, you can’t achieve anything. It starts up front. If you don’t have chemistry, you don’t have anything.”

MENTOR » PAGE 6

Mentor Nissan
6960 Center Street, Mentor, OH
440-276-3468

2025 NISSAN Pathfinder SV
Lease for
\$510 Per Month For 36 Months \$1995 Down
OR Financing as low as. **0%** APR For Up To 60 Months

*Plus tax, 36 months, 10,000 miles per year lease, \$1995 down. (Payment excludes dealer/bank fees, tax, title and license). Subject to residency restrictions. Subject to availability to well-qualified lessees through NIMAC. Selling price of \$43,765.00 includes destination. No security deposit required. Must take delivery from new dealer stock. VIN#5NDD38D02214896

2025 NISSAN ROGUE SV
Lease for
\$380 Per Month For 39 Months \$1995 Down
OR Financing as low as. **0%** APR For Up To 60 Months

*Plus tax, 39 months, 10,000 miles per year lease, \$1995 down. (Payment excludes dealer/bank fees, tax, title and license). Subject to residency restrictions. Subject to availability to well-qualified lessees through NIMAC. Selling price of \$32,795.00 includes destination. No security deposit required. Must take delivery from new dealer stock. VIN#5N1B1388420872078

2025 NISSAN MURANO SV
Lease for
\$353 Per Month For 36 Months \$1995 Down
OR Financing as low as. **0%** APR For Up To 60 Months

*Plus tax, 36 months, 10,000 miles per year lease, \$1995 down. (Payment excludes dealer/bank fees, title and license). Subject to residency restrictions. Subject to availability to well-qualified lessees through NIMAC. Selling price of \$43,625 includes destination. No security deposit required. Must take delivery from new dealer stock. VIN#5NA2385000113018

High school football » Games to watch

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Every game is a “game to watch” when it comes to your favorite football team. But here is a list of games that might pique the interest of any football fan.

Kirtland at Clarion, Pa., Aug. 22: Both teams went 15-1 and were state runners-up last year. That’s a heck of a way for the Hornets to open the season.

Madison at Perry, Aug. 22: Face it, the teams don’t like each other, the fans don’t like each other. The Little

Brown Jug is always must-watch, especially when it’s in Week 1.

VASJ at Cardinal Mooney, Aug. 29: There aren’t many games harder than playing Cardinal Mooney in Youngstown. The Vikings make that trip in Week 2.

Avon Lake at Lake Catholic, Aug. 29: These two programs traditionally make deep playoff runs. It’s a great Week 2 showdown.

Elyria Catholic at Mayfield, Aug. 29: The Wildcats have a relatively friendly nonconference slate. This Week 2 is a biggie

for them.

Perry at Kirtland, Sept. 5: Anybody who remembers last year’s 22-21, triple-overtime win by the Hornets knows why this game is on the list.

St. Ignatius at Mentor, Sept. 5: Do we really need to explain why this game is on the list?

St. Ignatius at Riverside, Sept. 19: The Beavers enter the GCC next year. Riverside can sharpen itself for that move against one of the biggest, tradition-rich programs in the state.

Kirtland at Wickliffe,

Sept. 26: Wickliffe is big, physical and can run the ball — just like Kirtland. If the Blue Devils want a Week 6 litmus test, here it is.

Riverside at Chardon, Sept. 26: What a tremendous WRC opener for both schools.

Gilmour at University, Sept. 27: A 1 p.m. matinee in Week 6 between schools separated by one good Bryson Dechambeau tee shot.

Strongsville at Mentor, Oct. 3: Many feel these two teams are the class of the Greater Cleveland Conference. Spectrum News 1

has picked this game for a statewide broadcast.

Harvey at Perry, Oct. 9: Perry historically has the best defense in the CVC Chagrin Division. The Pirates face USC commit Shahn Alston and the Red Raiders in Week 8.

North at South, Oct. 9: Both teams feel their programs are on the upswing this year, which should add some fire to this annual rivalry.

VASJ at Benedictine, Oct. 17: Both teams are in Division III, Region 9, so this Week 9 battle will have oodles of playoff implications.

Geneva at Madison, Oct. 17: The Eagles won both meetings last year, winning the CVC Lake with one and ousting the Blue Streaks from the playoffs in the other. Does Madison get revenge this time?

Kenston at Chardon, Oct. 24: Many feel these are the top two teams in the WRC. Wouldn’t it be something if the last WRC title comes down to this game in Week 10?

NDCL at Lake Catholic, Oct. 25: The East Side’s Holy War — shouldn’t this game always be on Saturday of Week 10?

Mentor

FROM PAGE 5

LoDuca burst onto the scene first when — out of necessity, Gray said — he was called up to start a handful of varsity games as a ninth-grader. The rest of the group played freshman ball that year and were quickly elevated as sophomores.

“We moved them into our PM class, our afternoon conditioning class, early,” Gray said. “We knew several of them would play on Friday nights as sophomores. Moving them into that experienced conditioning group sped up the process for them.”

Mentor’s offense churned out the points and yard over the past two years with the

line leading the way, including the 2024 season in which Mentor averaged 37.4 points and 412 yards of offense per game.

“I’ve played with these guys a long time, so yeah that helps,” Brede said. “We’ve worked hard and have gotten better every day. We’ve got guys with experience who have played together for a long time. That’s going to make for a great season.”

Mentor’s skill-position players know where their bread is buttered, and it’s with the behemoths up front who open the holes to run through, give the quarterback time to throw and receivers time to run their routes.

“Those guys have gotten bigger and faster every year,” said Farley, who scored 26 touchdowns last



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor has a trio of Division I college recruits on its offensive line this season. From left, Colin Prichard (Kent State), JoJo LoDuca (Naval Academy) and Landry Brede (North Carolina State).

year behind this line. “I feel so comfortable with those dudes up front. (To reach our goals), we need to set the tone up front, for sure.”

First-year starting quar-

terback Brogan Jones said he is “grateful” for the group, noting, “those are the guys who are going to protect me and keep me safe this year.”

One of the area’s — and Ohio’s — best receivers is Hodge, who caught 51 passes for 973 yards last year, a gaudy 19-yard-per-reception average. If the line doesn’t block, he doesn’t have time to get downfield for those big-yard receptions.

“Now we can focus on what we need to do to get us that goal of a state championship,” he said.

Gray said what makes the line special isn’t just their God-given size, but how they have developed themselves. For instance, he pointed out how Brede’s mentality and physicality transformed him from “a big freshman who wanted nothing to do with playing offensive line” to a Power Four recruit.

And he marveled how Prichard went from a

6-foot-4, 185-pound receiver in eighth grade to getting a full-ride scholarship at Kent State.

“These guys all did it the right way,” he said. “They’re not big, sloppy guys. They’re big, high-character guys who worked very hard to get to where they are today.”

How will it translate come season’s start? That’s yet to be seen. However, the Cardinals have big goals this season and if those goals are to be met, it will be thanks in large part to those big human beings up front that three short years ago were sitting at the turf at the JTO during a Mentor-Chardon scrimmage watching the action.

“This line sets the standard for what this team is going to be this year,” Gray said, “and these guys embrace that every day.”

shannon Fence

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

Providing the highest in quality materials
and workmanship since 1986.

www.shannonfence.com

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR LOCAL TEAMS THIS SEASON!

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Seven new coaches stalking area sidelines

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Jonathan Gonell has been to the peak of the mountain in college football.

The four national championship rings he has from the University of Mount Union — two as a player and two as an assistant coach — are proof of where he's been and what he's done.

But Gonell will be in uncharted waters when he leads the Beachwood Bison onto the field for their season opener against visiting Bishop Rosecrans on Aug. 22. That's because for the first time in his decorated career, which included being part of a nationally ranked high school football team at Nova Southeastern (Fla.), Gonell will run onto the field as a head coach.

"It's going to be a different feeling, of course," Gonell said. "You're the head guy. It's going to be an exciting experience. The community's all going to be there, the families, the parents ... it's going to be a very surreal feeling and something I'm always going to remember."

Gonell is one of seven

new head football coaches in The News-Herald area this season, along with Joey Bates (Gilmour), Rossi Santo (West Geauga), Marcus Jones (Fairport), Brian Landies (Chardon), Keith Fife (Cardinal) and Eugene White (Richmond Heights).

All of them are head coaches for the first time.

"It's going to be different, but it's going to be an exciting different," said Bates, who took over the helm at Gilmour when former coach Tom Kaufman took the head coaching job at Marietta College. "There are definitely going to be some butterflies on my end. But I just want to make sure I'm doing everything in my power to put the team in the right spot. It's all about them. That's what matters the most."

Similar to Gonell, Bates has a brilliant resume heading into his first year at Gilmour. He played in four state championship games at Kirtland, including in 2015 when his late touchdown cemented a win over Marion Local. He has played in or coached in nine John Carroll-Mount Union games with the Blue Streaks.

"What's so cool about being back on the high school level is the adrenaline rush," said Bates, formerly an assistant at John Car-



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Joey Bates is in his first year as the head coach of the Gilmour football team.

roll. "It takes me back to my high school years. Winning helps — everybody wants to win — but it's the experiences that you remember, the random stories and relationships. That's everything. It's seriously everything, and I want to create that for these guys."

Santo knows all about that journey as well. He played under Coach Tiger LaVerde at Kirtland through his graduation in 2009. After assisting at Erie McDowell for two years and

Riverside for five, Santo was an assistant the last six years at Kirtland, where he helped the Hornets win three rings and finish second three other times.

Santo doesn't imagine he'll be too worked up for his first game Aug. 22 at Geneva, noting, "I just want to see all the kids' hard work pay off."

As for himself, his hard work is paying off as well. He was a finalist for head coaching jobs in recent years before West G called

his number.

"I think everything happens for a reason," he said. "West Geauga is a good fit. It's close to my home, I got a good job there. ... It's definitely exciting to branch out and see what we can do by ourselves."

Santo and Bates were standout players in the area during their day. Another such player — and new head coach — is Fairport's Jones. A Riverside product who went on to play at Gannon University, Jones has

plenty of assistant coaching experience. Now he has the chance to put his stamp on the proud Skippers' program.

"Our first 7-on-7, that was the first time I felt like it was my team," he said in an exciting tone. "We are Fairport. I apologize for getting a little emotional about that."

Jones, who is the dean of students at Perspectives Academy in Beachwood, will lead the Skippers into battle Aug. 22 at home against Cambridge Springs, Pa.

"The butterflies are always the same as a coach or a player. It doesn't matter," he said. "I played in huge games at Riverside. I played in front of huge crowds at Gannon. ... I'm enjoying the heck out of this. I've been under great coaches and see how a program is run top on down. This is a huge opportunity for me. I can't express how happy I am here."

While Chardon's Landies is a first-year head coach, he has more assistant coaching experience than anyone in the lot.



Jones

COACHES » PAGE 8



barrio-tacos.com

celebrate every win

and tackle the hunger after a loss

with

barri*

tacos + tequila + whiskey



High school football » Tony Fisher Award watch list

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

The Tony Fisher Award goes to The News-Herald's football player of the year. It is named after the former Ohio Mr. Football recipient from Euclid, who went on to star at Notre Dame and play in the NFL. The Tony Fisher Award Watch List can and will change on a weekly basis. This initial listing is a starting point for the season.

Drayton Allgood, Chardon, Sr.: He ran for 824 yards last year and is also a capable passer. The Hilltoppers' offense runs through this multi-talented quarterback.

Shahn Alston, Harvey, Sr.: The USC commit ran for 1,104 yards and 16 touchdowns despite missing the first three games of the season last year. He's primed for a stellar senior

year.

Ethan Burge, Kenston, So.: He ran for 437 yards last year, but this year he's expected to get a much heavier workload than his freshman year.

Chris Burt, Harvey, Sr.: He had nearly 1,500 total yards when you combined his rushing, receiving and return yards. He'd be the feature back in most other backfields.

Jackson Farley, Mentor, Sr.: He had a breakout junior season in which he ran for 1,914 yards and scored 26 touchdowns. With a massive line in front of him, he could do even better this year.

Ky'Mari Frierson, Euclid, Sr.: An all-district performer last year, he holds offers from Purdue and Akron.

Jayden Hardy, South, Jr.: He ran for 1,055 yards last year with 11 touchdowns,

and he also led the Rebels with five sacks. He can do it all on both sides of the ball.

Justen Hodge, Mentor, Jr.: The Miami (Ohio) commit had 51 catches for 973 yards and 11 touchdowns last season. He's a highlight reel waiting to happen every time he touches the ball.

Carter Hopkins, Perry, Jr.: He ran for nearly 1,000 yards last year as a sophomore. He'll miss a few games with a hip injury, but he's still a threat for 1,000 yards this year.

Jordan Johnson, Hawken, Sr.: He ran for 1,104 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. With so much attention going to QB Donovan Moorhead and the loaded receiving corps, Johnson will likely run wild again this year.

Brogan Jones, Mentor, Jr.: The quarterback of the

Mentor offense is probably going to start on this list. The ceiling is pretty high for this first-year starter.

Charlie Mallett, Hawken, Jr.: He had 60 catches for 991 yards and 14 touchdowns last year. He's the favorite target of QB Donovan Moorhead.

Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside, Sr.: The Harvard commit ran for 1,670 yards and 19 touchdowns last year in his first year as the Beavers' bellcow back.

T.J. Moore, VASJ, Sr.: When Ohio State recruit Bo Jackson went down last year, most thought VASJ was in trouble ... then Moore went out and ran for 1,346 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Donovan Moorhead, Hawken, Sr.: The Jacksonville State University commit threw for nearly 1,900 yards and had 25 touchdown

tosses last year. And all of his weapons are back, too.

Kene Obi, Hawken, Sr.: He can run the ball, catch the ball out of the backfield, and he also had 81 tackles and 17 tackles for loss on defense. This Harvard commit can do it all.

Bryce Peet, Geneva, Sr.: He ran for more than 1,000 yards last year and also had more than 100 tackles as a ball-hawking linebacker. He's a special talent.

Will Randall, Madison, Sr.: The 6-foot-4 slinger is capable of special things. Most in Madison felt no one could ever touch Josh Haldi's records — Randall could do that this year.

Logan Ruscini, Wickliffe, Sr.: He ran for 1,033 yards last year and will again spearhead the Blue Devils' rushing attack this year.

Kei'shjuan Telfair, Euclid,

Jr.: He's already one of the best defensive backs in the state, and he's only a junior. When he gets the ball in his hands, look out.

Danny Zmorowski, Lake Catholic, Jr.: He'll be the lead back in the Cougars' run-oriented offense. He has the benefit of a huge offensive line in front of him.

PAST FISHER AWARD WINNERS

2007: Bart Tanski, Mentor
2008: Mike Hanhauser, Perry
2009: Tim Wetzel, Mayfield
2010: Ray Russ, South and Richie Sanders, Lake Catholic
2011: Kareem Hunt, South and Mitch Trubisky, Mentor
2012: Mitch Trubisky, Mentor
2013: Conner Krizancic, Mentor
2014: D.J. Greene, South
2015: Alex Mathews, Mentor
2016: Tommy Benenati, Chardon
2017: Tadas Tatarunas, Mentor and Godwin Joe, Brush
2018: C.J. Charleston, Gilmour
2019: Drew Schiano, Perry
2020: Joe Malchesky, Lake Catholic
2021: Mason Rus, Kirtland
2022: Mikey Maloney, Riverside
2023: Mikey Maloney, Riverside
2024: Scotty Fox, Mentor

Coaches

FROM PAGE 7

He's been an assistant at Chardon for 14 years, including many as the Hilltoppers' defensive coordinator.

Landies said one glaring difference between being an assistant and a head coach is having your hands in so many different areas as the head honcho, from the athletic department to parents, the gridiron club to sharing time with other

sports on the field.

"The phone doesn't stop ringing or dinging," he said with a laugh.

But he loves it. Like the others, he's not entirely sure what the emotions of opening night will be. But after running onto the field with the Hilltoppers for so many years and helping the program win state titles in 2020-21, he feels he's ready for whatever Aug. 22 at Massillon Jackson brings.

"Man, we've been doing this long enough now and played in so many big games, I don't know if it's going to

feel a lot different," he said. "My focus is on being as prepared as we possibly can be on Friday night. The hay is in the barn at that point."

As for Fife, he is no stranger to the Cardinal program. He steps into the head-coaching realm after being the Huskies' defensive coordinator the past two seasons.

"Cardinal is a special place," said Fife in a school news release. "They treat you like family here. The community is all about their youth, and there's no other place I would rather be.

"Our goal this season is to put a more competitive team on the field. We want to build a mentality that we are a team that you will have to work hard to beat. My goal for the program is very simple. I want to get numbers up, and want to build a playoff-caliber program. Despite it taking a lot of work, it can be done."

White might be in his first year as a head football coach, but he has plentiful years as a head coach in girls basketball. He is currently also the head girls hoops coach at the school.



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

West Geauga football coach Rossi Santo.



FULLER
FLOORING & DESIGN

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

38028 Third Street, Willoughby
440.942.1288

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS THIS SEASON

SMITH BROTHER FACTORY AUTHORIZED SALE • SALE DATES AUG 25TH-SEPT 8TH





SALE ON ALL CUSTOM ORDERS AND FLOOR SAMPLES!

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

WRC heads into its swan song season

All involved want to win the last conference title before disbandment

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Whoever laughs last, laughs best.

OK, well that's probably not exactly what members of the Western Reserve Conference are thinking as they prepare for the 2025 season, but rest assured the league's six members — Chardon, Kenston, Mayfield, Riverside, North and South — are all looking for their mic-drop moment this fall.

That's because all six want nothing more than to win the last WRC title before the six current members head their separate ways in the 2026-2027 school year.

After this current season, Mayfield and Kenston will head to the Suburban League, North, South and Chardon will all join the Chagrin Valley Conference, and Riverside will go to the Greater Cleveland Conference.

While all the coaches in the current WRC football loop said they'd like to schedule as many of their soon-to-be former rivals, that won't be the case as — well — there's not enough games in a season to do that.

So as the 2025 season kicks off, the WRC Six are looking forward to the prospects of winning the last football title in conference history.

"Oh, I'd love it," said Kenston senior Colin Weiland. "We won the last two beating Riverside and Chardon. It'd feel even better with a three-peat and winning it the last time. The WRC won't even be a thing next year, so we might as well win it all."

Most of the current WRC members have been together for nearly three decades. Chardon, North, South and Riverside were all part of the now-defunct Premier Athletic Conference from 1998 to 2015 before that league broke up to form the WRC. Kenston came to the WRC from the Chagrin Valley Conference, while Mayfield came to the WRC from the Northeast Ohio Conference, which it called home from 2007 to 2015.

After a handful of years, the eight-team WRC began to whittle, first when original member Brush left in 2020 and then further when original member Madison left for the CVC in 2022.

With expansion efforts



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Jadyn Hardy and the South Rebels want to win the Western Reserve Conference title in the league's final year before it breaks up.

failing, Mayfield and Kenston were the first to jump — heading to the Suburban League last winter. In Feb-

ruary, the CVC expanded to 29 teams with the addition of North, South, Chardon and Fairport. That left

only Riverside, which soon found a home in the GCC.

"It's been a dogfight and it's been fun," said River-

WHERE THEY WILL BE IN 2026

Chardon, North, South: In a Chagrin Valley Conference division to be announced.

Kenston, Mayfield: In the Suburban League's American Division with Copley, Revere, Barbeton and Aurora.

Riverside: In the Greater Cleveland Conference with Brunswick, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lorain, Mentor, Shaker Heights and Strongsville.

side coach Jeremy Ishmael of the WRC run.

Ishmael said when his school helped form the WRC in 2015, Riverside had to "raise the bar" so as to "not be the laughing stock" of the new league. He sees history repeating itself.

"This is the next evolution of this place," he said of the move to the GCC. "Once again, we'll have to raise the bar."

The same goes for Mayfield and Kenston, which will be joining the American Conference of the Suburban with Copley, Revere, Barbeton and Aurora. Kenston coach Jeff Grubich and Mayfield's Ross Bandiera said they'll miss the league's coaches and bonds they all shared together.

WRC » PAGE 10

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Available to any graduating high school or undergraduate student that lives or attends a college or trade school in Lake County!

It's quick and easy to apply!

The WWLCC is proud to have awarded over \$60,000 in student scholarships since 2023..... Apply now!

For more information on the WWLCC, please visit: <https://wwlccchamber.com/>



**Willoughby
Western Lake County**
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



Scan this QR code for more information and to go right to the application:

WRC

FROM PAGE 9

"It's been a great football conference," Grubich said. "One thing I'll always remember is every week you've got to coach your best game and play your best game because the competition is so high. Any given week, someone can knock you onto the wrong side of the board."

To the WRC's credit, it won three state titles in a short span, with Kenston winning the Division III title in 2018 and Chardon winning back-to-backs in 2020 and 2021.

"Even when teams aren't at their best, every team has had scary players," Chardon coach Brian Landies said. "You see a couple Division I (college) guys on the field pretty much every week. Playing in this league always prepared us for the playoffs."

Landies chuckled when asked if winning the last league title was somewhat of a priority.

"Absolutely, but that's easier said than done," he said. "It's been since 2021 that we've won the conference. We've been second a lot since then. We want to get the last one."

South junior Luke Jensen thinks the same way every time he passes through the gymnasium and sees the last Rebel league title being 10 years ago.

"We want to go get it in our last year," Jensen said.



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

Kenston senior Colin Weiland: "We won the last two beating Riverside and Chardon. It'd feel even better with a three-peat and winning it the last time. The WRC won't even be a thing next year, so we might as well win it all."

While many rivalries will be broken up, that of North and South won't be, since they're heading to the same conference. Duffy noted "if I have anything to say about it," South will play as many former WRC foes as possible in the future.

"I think this might be the first time in school history we're not going to be playing Mayfield," he said. "That'll change in the future. ... I'm going to miss it because the WRC is one of the best conferences in Northeastern Ohio."

But as the adage says, "All good things must come to an end." Such is the case with the WRC.

North coach Shawn Dodd looks at the move as a breath of fresh air, though.

"We haven't had much success in the WRC," he said. "We've had spots here and there. We'll see what this year brings, but we're excited for the fresh start and new competition. Change can be good."

Here is a look where each area team will play the 2025 football season, including independents:

CVC CHAGRIN » Harvey, Hawken, Lutheran West, Orange, Perry, West Geauga
CVC LAKE » Conneaut, Edgewood, Geneva, Jefferson, Lakeside, Madison
CVC METRO » Beachwood, Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview, Independence, Trinity
CVC VALLEY » Berkshire, Chagrin Falls, Crestwood, Kirtland, Rootstown, Wickliffe

GCC » Brunswick, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lorain, Medina, Mentor, Shaker Heights, Strongsville
NAC » Cardinal, Fairport, Grand Valley, Pymatuning Valley, St. John, Vienna Mathews, Windham
NCC » CVCA, Elyria Catholic, Holy Name, Lake Catholic, NDCL, Padua
WRC » Chardon, Kenston, Mayfield, North, Riverside, South
INDEPENDENTS » Brush, Benedictine, Gilmour, Richmond Heights, University, VASJ

High school football » 2024 standings

CVC CHAGRIN

School	Conf.	Overall
Perry	5-0	9-1
Hawken	4-1	8-2
Orange	3-2	7-3
Harvey	2-3	5-5
Lutheran West	1-4	2-8
West Geauga	0-5	2-8

CVC LAKE

Geneva	5-0	9-1
Madison	4-1	7-3
Lakeside	3-2	4-6
Jefferson	2-3	3-7
Conneaut	1-4	2-8
Edgewood	0-5	1-9

CVC METRO

Trinity	4-1	6-4
Wickliffe	4-1	7-3
Independence	3-2	4-6
Cuyahoga Heights	3-2	5-4
Brooklyn	1-4	2-8
Beachwood	0-5	0-10

CVC VALLEY

Kirtland	5-0	10-0
Berkshire	3-2	7-3
Chagrin Falls	3-2	6-4
Fairview	3-2	7-3
Crestwood	1-4	5-5
Cardinal	0-5	1-9

GCC

Mentor	6-0	10-0
Strongsville	5-1	6-4
Cleveland Heights	4-2	6-4
Brunswick	3-3	3-7
Shaker Heights	1-5	3-7
Medina	1-5	2-8
Euclid	1-5	2-8

NAC

Pymatuning Valley	5-0	9-1
Windham	4-1	9-1
Fairport	3-2	5-4
St. John	2-3	3-6
Grand Valley	1-4	1-9
Vienna Mathews	0-5	1-9

WRC

Kenston	5-0	7-3
Chardon	4-1	7-2
Mayfield	3-2	5-5
Riverside	2-3	4-6
South	1-4	3-7
North	0-5	3-7

INDEPENDENTS

Lake Catholic	10-0
Gilmour	9-1
Benedictine	8-2
VASJ	7-2
NDCL	5-5
University	5-5
Brush	2-8
Richmond Heights	1-5

High school football » Area rivalries

ACTIVE

North vs. South (Civil War): South leads, 34-29-2

Madison vs. Perry (Little Brown Jug): Madison leads, 36-28

Berkshire vs. Cardinal (Kinsman Cup): Berkshire leads, 36-35-1

Lake Catholic vs. NDCL: Lake Catholic leads, 26-9

Mentor vs. Euclid: Mentor leads, 31-17

Chagrin Falls vs. West

Geauga (Battle of 306): Chagrin Falls leads, 35-28

DORMANT

Mentor vs. Lake Catholic: Lake Catholic leads, 4-1

Euclid vs. VASJ (Battle of the Axe): VASJ leads 26-8-2

Harvey vs. Riverside (Battle of Painesville): Riverside leads 44-23-1

Brush vs. Mayfield: Tied, 49-49-2



Joughin Hardware repairs a wide variety of local homeowner's window screens, screen doors, and glass windows or picture frames. Our expert window screen and glass window repairmen can have your window screen or glass window fixed and looking new.



JOUGHIN HARDWARE

23 S. STATE STREET, PAINESVILLE, OH 44077

440.357.5862 | joughin.doitbest.com/



**We also
copy keys!**



High school football » Conference outlooks

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

CVC CHAGRIN DIVISION

Favorite: Perry

Darkhorse: Harvey

Don't forget about: Hawken

For the record: Until someone finds a way to unseat defending champion Perry, the Pirates are the team to beat. Perry has outstanding skill on offense and a ferociously aggressive defense. No one in the division came close to them last year, so... Harvey, too, has outstanding skill. USC commit Shahn Alston and fellow back Chris Burt might be the best 1-2 running back punch in the area. The key for Harvey will be if they can control the trenches. ... Hawken, as well, has tremendous skill with QB Donovan Moorhead, RB Kene Obi and WR Charlie Mallett. Even with that talent last year, they couldn't hang with the Pirates, so we're sticking with Perry here.

CVC LAKE DIVISION

Favorite: Madison

Darkhorse: Geneva

Don't forget about: Edgewood

For the record: The Geneva Eagles won't like this pick, especially since they beat Madison twice last year — once in the regular season and once in the playoffs. But Madison returns most of its starters on both sides of the ball. The combination of skill (i.e. QB Will Randall,



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic hopes its hard-nosed defense helps lead it to the North Coast Conference title this year.

RB James Poe) and all those big dudes on the line (i.e. Cameron Mullen and Gavin Montagner) convince us to go with the Blue Streaks this year. ... That being said, Geneva boasts two of the best players in the league in RBs Caden Proy and do-it-all RB-LB Bryce Peet. Expect one heck of a battle with Geneva and Madison play. ... Edgewood will be competitive but this looks like a two-team race.

CVC VALLEY DIVISION

Favorite: Kirtland

Darkhorse: Everybody else

For the record: Sorry to be

boring, but we've written "everybody else" for about a decade now. Kirtland hasn't lost a league game since 2016 — the loss to Perry two years ago was a crossover that didn't count in league standings. Kirtland has to talent to play for a state title for the ninth straight year. 'Nuff said. Wickliffe has one of its best teams in years and we're predicting a playoff spot for the Blue Devils. Berkshire, too, will be formidable. But when it comes down to hanging a conference banner, Kirtland is the no-brainer.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

Favorite: Mentor

Darkhorse: Strongsville

Don't forget about: Cleveland Heights

For the record: The Cardinals have four FBS college recruits on offense, plus a running back (Jackson Farley) who ran for more than 1,500 yards last year. Does anyone care that Mentor has a new, untested quarterback in Brogan Jones? We don't. ... Strongsville is a strong lock to be No. 2. They have a defensive line that can play with anyone. Storm Miller

is probably the league MVP on defense. ... Cleveland Heights has exceptional skill. If the Tigers can hang in the trenches, they'll be in the hunt, as well.

NORTHEAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Favorite: Pymatuning Valley

Darkhorse: Grand Valley

Don't forget about: Fairport

For the record: Pymatuning Valley has ruled the roost for a handful of years now, so you have to give Coach Neil Croston's team the nod. That being said, look out for Grand Valley. The Mustangs are under the direction of former Perry and West Geauga coach Matt Rosati, have a big line and outstanding running backs in JayAnthony Williams and Luke Giddings. That Week 10 GV-PV bout is going to be a doozy. ... Fairport has really good skill in D.J. Dambolena and the Castellano brothers — Yomar, Abraham and Jan. The key for the Skippers will be on the offensive and defensive lines. Can they hang with the bigger teams at PV and GV?

NORTH COAST CONFERENCE

Favorite: Lake Catholic

Darkhorse: CVCA

Don't forget about: NDCL

For the record: This is a wide-open race, but Lake Catholic's strength is the offensive and defensive lines. Controlling the line of scrimmage is generally a key

recipe for success. Lake's offense is going to be a ground-and-pound unit with Nathan Zappitelli and David Iannini anchoring the lines. Defensively, Marty Loncar spearheads a fast and physical unit. Keep an eye on NDCL here, too. The Lions return seven on offense and eight on defense, including most of its defensive front seven. And if the game is close at the end, having Ryan Cvitkovic kicking gives Coach Andre Griffin's team an added advantage.

WESTERN RESERVE CONFERENCE

Favorite: Chardon

Darkhorse: Riverside

Don't forget about: South

For the record: The final year of the WRC could go any direction. We'll go with Chardon winning its first league title since 2021 behind its big offensive line and lightning-quick quarterback Drayton Allgood. ... Riverside will have something to say about it, though. All-Ohio running back Kyndall McCaleb can dominate games, as can defensive end Case Reutter. ... Don't sleep on South this year. The Rebels had only eight seniors last year. RB Jayden Hardy is among the conference's best. ... All that being said, Mayfield, Kenston and North are all in the mix, too. Prediction here is the conference champ will not go unbeaten in league play. A share is strongly possible.

Enjoy Great Pizza at a
Great Price!
CONCORD PIZZA

9942 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.

Concord

352-2649

Ask about our Catering Specials!



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



XL 12 Cut 1 Topping Pizza for

\$16.99

Expire 12/31/25

Family 16 Cut Pizza with
1 Topping and 20 Wings for

\$42.99

Expire 12/31/25

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Perry senior excels after humbling start

TE/DE Taylor set to graduate with 12 letters as an honor student

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Every player at some time or another experiences their welcome-to-the-big-time moment, and most of the time it's a rude awakening.

For Trent Taylor, that moment came on the first snap of his freshman year with the Perry football team.

"First day of practice and I get called over to run some tight end with the varsity," Taylor reminisced. "I didn't know what high school football was about until Brian Cox put me on my butt three yards back. I realized pretty quickly the big difference between middle school and high school."

It's been a while since someone has gotten the best of Taylor like that. In fact, the son of Jen and Sam Taylor has for the most part been dishing it out much more than he's been taking it in as a decorated three-sport athlete with the Pirates.

Heading into his senior year, Taylor is on pace to graduate with 12 varsity letters — four in football, four in wrestling and four in baseball.

Through three years,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN BUBONIC

Perry senior Trent Taylor is on pace to graduate with 12 total varsity letters — four in football, wrestling and baseball.

Taylor has helped lead the Pirates' football team to the state championship his sophomore year, played an integral part in leading the Pirates to the elite eight in baseball two years ago and then was a state-qualifier in wrestling this past winter.

For the most part, his high school career has been a been-there-done-that type of story. But if Taylor has anything to say about it — and he does — his story is far from complete. He has one more year in all three sports remaining before he heads off the Bowling Green on a full-ride football scholarship.

"If someone would have told me when I was laying on the ground (after Cox's hit) that this is how it would

go, I wouldn't have believed it," Taylor said. "I would have told them they were crazy. But it's been a great one, it really has."

Growing up, Taylor always felt baseball was going to be his college ticket. He never really had a favorite sport, rather he simply loved the sport that was in-season at the time. But once he got to high school, "football just kind of pulled away a little bit."

He lettered as a defensive end as a freshman and has double-dipped at tight end and defensive end the past two seasons, spots he will occupy this fall for the Perry football team.

In baseball, he has played first base or designated hitter for three straight



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Trent Taylor was a Division II state qualifier in wrestling last year as a junior.

years, and in wrestling, he has been an upper-weight mainstay from Day 1 of his freshman year. This past winter, he had a 34-14 record as a state-qualifying heavyweight barely over 220 pounds.

"Playing all the sports has shaped me into who I am today," Taylor said. "I think if you play one sport, you can get a little complacent with it. Rolling right into wrestling after football is the best thing for me. I'm in the best shape of my life in wrestling... In my opinion, playing as much as you can is the best thing for you."

But all of the three-sport stuff will go out the window next fall when Taylor joins the Bowling Green football team. It will be the first

time in his life that he has played only one sport in a calendar year.

"It's going to be different," he said. "But I'm going to be busy playing just one."

He plans to major in education with a specialization to be an intervention specialist, adding, "it's so rewarding helping others."

He said he also wants to coach someday, but chuckled when asked which sport? After all, he's a standout in three of them right now.

"Whatever sport I can get my hands on," he said of his future coaching plans.

Taylor looks back on his years at Perry with gratitude. He was 5 years old when he first played competitive sports in a Perry rec-league baseball organi-

zation. He's lettered in every sport and in every season in which he's played. He has a state championship ring in football, has been to the state tournament in wrestling and has helped the baseball team to the doorstep of the state tournament.

He heads into his senior year wanting to reach the highest level in all of his sports. But he also wants to be a role model, not just for the youngsters in his town, but also for his siblings — brother Jackson (11) and sister Emma (15).

"Here at Perry, winning is not a surprise anymore," he said. "It's expected to happen. That's the best part about being here."

"But to me, being a role model is important. My brother does all three sports, too, so I want to do the right thing and show him the way. My sister was a freshman in high school. That's not easy. I know because I've been there before."

Knocked to the seat of his pants on the first day of practice. But he picked himself up and has persevered ever since in all three of his sports and in the classroom.

It's a lesson youngsters at Perry can learn from, including the siblings he hopes to inspire the most.



SCORE A BIG SALE!

Best of Luck to all of the Fall Sports Athletes!



COUPON

\$100 OFF

Walker Floors & Window Fashions

ANY PURCHASE OF \$1,000 OR MORE

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Offer Good 8/20/24 - 10/15/25

Large Selection of USA Made Products!

HUGE MOHAWK SALE!

We have all the Newest Waterproof Flooring!

Walker Floors & Window Fashions

3325 N. Ridge Road, Perry • 440-259-1086 • www.walkerfloors.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lake fullback brings sledge-hammer mentality

State champion, All-American wrestler Zmorowski bolsters run game

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

Physically dominating his opponent has been the perfect recipe for success on the wrestling mat for Lake Catholic's Danny Zmorowski the past two years.

That mindset and mentality have made him a state-champion 215-pounder as well as an All-American in Greco-Roman wrestling.

How will that modus operandi serve Zmorowski on the gridiron?

Show up at Lake Catholic football games this fall and for the answer.

A 6-foot-2, 220-pound junior, Zmorowski has been moved to fullback by Lake coach Marty Gibbons and his staff. The intent is to take advantage of what the Cougars have at their disposal, which includes a mammoth offensive line and a battering ram-like fullback that would just as soon run someone over than run around them.

Zmorowski, who starred last year as a hyper-active noseguard on the Cougars' defense, is licking his chops at the idea of carry-



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Teams playing Lake Catholic might want to get used to seeing bullish fullback Danny Zmorowski running behind tackle Nathan Zappitelli, right, and guard David Iannini, left.

ing the ball 20-or-so times per game and dealing out the punishment the way he has done on the wrestling mat.

"I haven't carried the ball since my freshman year," he said. "I can't wait! It's gonna be fun."

Gibbons said he first met Zmorowski as an eighth-grader and knew from the get-go he would be an impact player first on the de-

fensive side of the ball. With that in mind, he put Zmorowski in the trenches last year. By and large, Zmorowski used his outstanding hand-fighting, quickness and strength to blow up the A-gaps and cause problems for the opposition.

Now he'll blow things up with the ball in his hands.

"We felt we could put more on his plate this year,"

Gibbons said.

The past two years, Lake Catholic featured more of an air attack, with two-time All-Ohioan Frankie Trinetti rewriting the Cougars' record books with his throwing prowess. A receiving group of Cross Nimmo, Ace Peterlin, Patrick Radigan and D.J. Sears made it a no-brainer to pass the ball a lot and dabble in some runs here and there. Those players helped lead Lake Catholic to a 12-1 record and berth in a Division IV, Region 13 semifinal game.

This year, Lake is going back to an old-school, sledge hammer-swinging type of running game featuring Zmorowski and a few able tailbacks in Giovanni Magistrelli, Michael Valentino and Brady Moran.

The runners will operate behind a huge offensive line — left to right — of Nathan Zappitelli (6-4, 280), David Iannini (6-2, 290), Connor Brugh (5-10, 240), Bryan Morton (6-1, 220) and Cruz Nimmo (6-3).

Imagine the damage inflicted by the 220-pound Zmorowski running behind that line. The feature back and the head coach have imagined it and are more than fired up.

"Straight downhill. Get five or six yards," Zmorowski said. "I'm all about dragging guys three or four more yards. I want

to get every inch I can."

Gibbons pointed out that as the game wears on, getting run over by a 220-pound back gets harder and harder.

"I think Danny fits who we are as a program," Gibbons said. "That's what we want to be at our core — be physical and control the line of scrimmage."

Zmorowski is also moving away from his nose-guard position. Rather, he'll be moving to a rush-side defensive end in a position left vacant by two-year stalwart Jayson Cummings — who, by the way, is someone Zmorowski admires.

"I can't wait to make plays off the edge," he said. "I just take a lot of inspiration from my former teammate, Jayson Cummings."

After finishing in third place as a freshman 215-pounder, Zmorowski won the Division III state title at that weight class this past winter with a sparkling 44-4 record, a season that earned him the Lee Kemp Award as The News-Herald's wrestler of the year. He said the traits that make him one of the best wrestlers in Ohio are also what make him a successful football player.

"Wrestling helps me a lot, especially at defensive end," he said. "A lot of it is hand-fighting off the edge and getting leverage. When

I'm running the ball, you just have to get lower than the other guy and power through just like you would in a double-leg takedown."

Don't expect Zmorowski to flash a lot of evasive moves once he gets to the second level.

"Nope. Just run him over ... run him over," he said with a smile. "I'm going to lower my shoulder and get dirty and nasty. There's no finesse there — just power."

Gibbons pointed out that while last year featured an offense that generally passed the ball to set up the run, this year's Cougars will likely run the ball to set up the pass. The quarterback battle is between Charlie Spies and Max Pisano, both of whom are green on the varsity level.

A productive run game hypothetically makes passing the ball a bit easier with the defenses focusing on the run.

"We're not going to throw the ball downfield like we have in recent years," Gibbons said, "but we're going to move the ball down the field."

Just like the old-school Lake Catholic teams, which featured physical offensive lines and power backs.

"This year is going to be really fun," Zmorowski said, smiling and nodding his head. "It's a great time to be a Cougar."

<p>Roofing by KLEMENC CONST. CO., INC. 440-951-2033</p>	<p>We specialize in New Roof Installations, Repairs and All other Related Services</p> <p> Visit Our Website @ RoofingbyKlemencconstruction.com</p>	<p>We Install Gutters, Ice Cable Systems and Gutter Cover Protection Systems</p> <p></p>	<p>We Can Build You or Repair a New Deck, Garage, Wheelchair Ramps or Exterior Storage Sheds</p> <p></p>	<p>Roof Mounted Power Fans, Windows & Doors Skylight Repairs & Installation</p> <p><i>We've been putting the roof Over People's heads for over 35 years!</i></p>
---	--	---	---	--

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Madison remembers longtime assistant Mainello

Biology, math teacher died in July at age 50

By John Kampf

jkampf@news-herald.com

There will be a noticeable void on the other end when Madison assistant Mike Martin puts on his headset before the start of the Blue Streaks' season-opener against Perry on Aug. 22.

For years, Martin — admittedly filled with nerves prior to kickoff — said fellow assistant Tim Mainello would remind his friend everything will be all right.

"Tim always had this thing and would say, 'I think we're gonna be good,'" Martin said. "Listening to that in my head as we kick off on Friday will be a calming influence for me."

Mainello died in July at the age of 50. The longtime Madison assistant coach, who had previously been the head coach at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, is suspected to have died of a heart attack, according to Madison head coach Mike Gilligan.

Mainello had stepped away from full-time coaching over the past few years, Gilligan said, but remained involved scouting, helping with game plans and being



COURTESY OF MELISSA WILLIS

Longtime Madison assistant Tim Mainello jokes with Connor Smith at photo day a few years ago. Mainello died in July, and the Blue Streaks will remember him in honor this season.

in the box on Friday nights to lend a hand. He taught AP Biology, AP Statistics and other math classes at Madison.

To honor him this season, Madison will wear helmet decals for Mainello and will also hold a ceremony before the home opener Aug. 29 against South.

"It's tough. It's tough," Gilligan said, overcome with emotion of his longtime colleague and friend. "He was not just an amazing football coach, but he

was an awesome teacher. He loved kids and always put other people before himself. He was a service leader."

After two years as NDCL's head coach, Mainello joined Coach Tim Willis' staff at Madison in 2007. He eventually worked his way up to being the team's defensive coordinator, having an outstanding relationship with the staff and the players.

"Great person, great teacher, great coach," Willis said. "He did a lot of

good things for a lot of kids. He loved kids and working with them."

Said Martin, "We became pretty tight brothers in our time together. He was such a football guy. He would give me notes on our game film, he'd scout, talk about our tendencies. The amount he helped us from a football standpoint was immeasurable."

The lives he touched even more so. A Celebration of Life was held at Willis' home in Fairport re-



COURTESY OF MELISSA WILLIS

Former players and coaches remember Tim Mainello at a celebration of life last week.



COURTESY OF MELISSA WILLIS

Tim Mainello holds the Little Brown Jug trophy after a win over Perry during his coaching tenure.

cently, where past coaches and players from both Madison and NDCL attended. Former Blue Streak Hunter Drzik gave a mov-

ing talk about the impact of Mainello at Madison.

"Tim's mom was there and said she had no idea the number of lives he had impacted," Willis said, "not only on the football field, but also in the classroom. It was a really nice evening for us all."

To say good-bye to a coach, colleague, teacher and — most of all — friend who helped make so many lives better. With that in mind, the Blue Streaks will play this season — and likely more — for their friend Tim Mainello.

Martin's father died six years ago, and now he has lost his closest coaching friend. Fridays, he said, will never be the same.

"Emotions are going to be high," he said, his voice cracking. "It's going to be a hard start to the year for sure. But we're going to rely on and remember the good stuff and memories. Those will last forever."

**BUYING OR
SELLING
A HOME?**

SNOWBIRDS!

Looking for a Winter Getaway?
Oceanfront Condo - Venice, Fla.
3 Day Minimum - Call for Details!
440-983-1071



Elizabeth Sill
Broker/Owner
440-983-1071



**Good Luck
to all the
Football Teams
this Season!**

**Call today for all your Real Estate needs.
Buying, Selling, Rental or Investments.**

**RE/MAX
INNOVATIONS**



Jana Burke
Agent
440-813-6791



John Sill
Agent
440-983-7739

Like us on Facebook

www.innovationsforhomes.com
Office: 440-428-8803 • 440-576-4663

High school football » Playoff projections

By Chris Lillstrung
clillstrung@news-herald.com

Note: Despite qualifiers reverting to 12 per region in 2025, with smaller team numbers across Division I regions, the projection will continue to be 10 for D-I and 12 for the other divisions.

DIVISION I

Region 1

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Canton McKinley (6-4), Cleveland Heights (6-4), Lorain (9-1), Massillon Jackson (7-3), MENTOR (10-0), Perrysburg (8-2), Solon (3-7 in Region 5), St. Edward (5-5), Strongsville (6-4), Toledo Whitmer (8-2)

What to look for: Rinse and repeat: Mentor should be among the class of Region 1 again with RB Jackson Farley (1,925 rushing yards, 22 TDs in 2024) and WR Justen Hodge (52 receptions, nine TDs) and a skilled offensive line helping to lead the charge. If there's any concern, really it's one out of the Cardinals' control: How will second-level points transpire, particularly with a Division II opener (Olmsted Falls) and St. Ignatius coming off a one-win campaign? That Greater Cleveland Conference slate doesn't seem to be a points bonanza, either. ... Outside the coverage area, St. Edward should be ready to roll like usual, with a pair of



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor linemen take part in practice July 31.

D-I Power 4 commits in DB Brayden Thomas (Michigan State) and lineman Mason Wilhelm (North Carolina) and first-team All-Ohio WR Zach Hackleman (Kent State). ... It does admittedly feel odd to not include St. Ignatius. But between strength of schedule and record in recent years, it feels necessary to let the Wildcats earn their way back into "contender" status. ... Speaking of schedule strength, there's nothing wrong with hovering around .500 here, because it should mean you're dangerous and vying for home field anyway.

DIVISION II

Region 5

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Akron Hoban (8-2), Austintown-Fitch (7-3), Hudson (5-5), Nordonio (8-2), RIVERSIDE (4-6),



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Riverside's Kyndall McCaleb is back for his senior year after being among the area's leaders in rushing last year as a junior.

SOUTH (3-7), Stow-Munroe Falls (3-7), Uniontown Lake (6-4), UNIVERSITY (4-5 in

Region 9), Walsh Jesuit (10-0), Warren Harding (7-3)

What to look for: Locally,

the central component of this conversation springs back to what it typically

does: What will the Western Reserve Conference afford as far as Week 11 pathways, in this instance in its final season? Riverside returns workhorse RB Kyndall McCaleb (1,680 rushing yards, 18 TDs in 2024) and a squad that could improve upon 4-6. South was super young last fall and has a shot to take a step forward. Mayfield and North graduated a bunch. Someone will have to take the proverbial bull by the horns and get up in that front pack with Chardon and Kenston. With mid-pack parity, it's just not a conference that produces, say, five region top-12 teams. The numbers just don't and can't add up. ... Elsewhere from a News-Herald area standpoint, University will have to mix in some new personnel but returns enough and has the schedule as it comes up from Region 9 to possibly be in that top-12 realm. ... Austintown-Fitch should be very good, perhaps even better than 7-3, paced by RB Deon'Dray Richard (1,695 rushing yards, 20 TDs). ... Hudson could get back to more familiar territory after an uncharacteristic .500 season. ... Hoban's Hoban, including the ESPN No. 1 Class of 2026 Ohio recruit, CB Elbert Hill (USC). As is Walsh Jesuit. ... If you want a deep sleeper for top 12, Stow-Munroe Falls might fit the bill after being so sophomore- and junior-heavy at key positions in 2024.



Good Luck to all of the High School Football Teams This Season!



CHARDON
POWER
EQUIPMENT

CHARDON • 415 Water St. • 440.286.1041

High school football » Playoff projections

By Chris Lillstrung
clillstrung@news-herald.com

DIVISION III

Region 9

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Alliance (4-6), Aurora (9-1), BENEDICTINE (8-2 in Region 10), CHARLTON (7-2), CVCA (8-2), GENEVA (9-1), GILMOUR (9-1), HAWKEN (8-2), KENSTON (7-3), MADISON (7-3), Ursuline (9-1), VASJ (7-2)

What to look for: With 14 teams here who won at least seven games last fall — this is the epitome of a meat-grinder. Where some regions have noticeable dropoff after a certain juncture, Region 9 very much does not. ... If there's one unifying theme among The News-Herald area contingent here, it's that no one was overly immune to a heavy graduation hit. So, not to sound master-of-the-obvious, but whoever navigates that the best can maintain the eight-win range to be toward the top of this uber-competitive region. Villa Angela-St. Joseph, albeit in a post-Bo Jackson era but with deep trust in Coach Jeff Rotsky's pivoting prowess with a new-look squad, might be best positioned among that contingent to do so. Don't count out Chardon in that regard, either. ... Benedictine moves in from Region 10 and, while there's no replacing Chris Maloney



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

VASJ takes the field for a 2024 game against Ursuline.

like-for-like, the Bengals have plenty of promise in their lineup to deliver similar regular-season fortune to 2024. ... Full disclosure: A lot of thought was given with who to choose between CVC divisional foes Hawken and Harvey. The Hawks need to figure it out with fresh personnel in the trenches but get the nod for now off an 8-2 2024 regular season. That noted, the Red Raiders with the dynamic RB duo of USC recruit Shahn Alston and Chris Burt (2,773

combined all-purpose yards in 2024) should be dangerous this fall. ... Watch for Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy with two-way All-Ohio staple Joey Kopec (1,043 rushing yards, 10 TDs) and much more back in the fold. ... As far as a team that could make a big ascent, senior-laden Alliance appears to be a viable candidate.

DIVISION IV

Region 13

(in alphabetical order,

with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Canal Fulton Northwest (8-2), Field (8-2), Glenville (7-3), LAKE CATHOLIC (10-0), NDCL (5-5), Norton (7-3), Orange (7-3), PERRY (9-1), Salem (3-7), Streetsboro (10-0), Struthers (7-2), West Branch (10-0)

What to look for: With 14 teams who were under-.500 last season and the perennial caliber up top, this is a



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic's offensive line gets set for a snap Aug. 8 during a scrimmage with Medina Highland.

textbook top-heavy region. ... Opportunity is prevalent at Lake Catholic and Perry with so many household names of recent memory gone. But with their respective track records, they merit leeway to transition and belief that it can be smooth. ... The Cougars' line is big, seasoned and should be their strength. What will be helpful from a points standpoint will be a schedule with seven upper-division foes. Week 2 hosting Avon Lake could loom large. ... Perry's first half is Madison, Kenston, Kirtland, Chardon and Geneva. That's ... a lot. So suffice it to say, we'll know plenty about the Pirates by Week 5. ... Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, after being so junior-heavy a year ago, might be in line for an uptick but needs to tighten up on defense against high-profile opponents. ... Glenville is

going to be outstanding, propelled by four returning All-Ohioans including 2024 Division IV state defensive player of the year and Ohio State recruit Cincere Johnson. The Tarblooders are probably the most talented Region 13 squad — it just might not show up literally in seeding. The issue, as always, is the disparity between what they'll get from the Senate League and a brutal nonconference schedule. ... West Branch returns one of Ohio's best QBs in Jeremiah Thomas (2,902 total yards, 44 total TDs in 2024). ... Streetsboro has the 1-2 ground punch of Marcus Council and Janiere Cook (1,635 yards, 25 TDs). ... Salem could be a deep top-12 sleeper here with a strong offensive nucleus and having endured four one-possession defeats a year ago.



Good Luck High School Teams!

Proud to Serve Northeast Ohio

4seasonsroofing.net

4SEASONS

CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING

440-286-1618

High school football » playoff projections

By Chris Lillstrung
clillstrung@news-herald.com

DIVISION V

Region 17

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: BERKSHIRE (7-3), Canton Central Catholic (5-5), Cardinal Mooney (3-7 in Region 13), CHAGRIN FALLS (6-4), Garrettsville (9-1), Girard (6-4), New Franklin Manchester (9-1), Poland Seminary (8-2), Richmond Edison (7-3), South Range (10-0), St. Clairsville (10-0 in Region 15), Youngstown Liberty (5-5)

What to look for: Beginning with the coverage area contingent, Berkshire returns enough to believe six wins or perhaps better is achievable. However, opening with Harvey and Hawken is a tall order. It feels like Week 5 hosting Fairview could be a big deal for the Badgers, attempting to build momentum into a final month that includes Kirtland and Chagrin Falls. ... Speaking of the Tigers, the skill-position corps returning encourages, but they have to rebuild in the trenches. Getting something out of that opening stretch with Jefferson, Orange and West Geauga is a must — not just for the obvious momentum reasons, but because they won't face a Division IV or larger foe thereafter. ... The usual suspects



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Berkshire quarterback Sam Barcikowski throws during a 2024 game against Wickliffe.

abound toward the top of Region 17, but one to watch intently will be Garrettsville. Its punishing but balanced ground game has three of its top four rushers back from 2024, including two-way staple Devin Bates (854 rushing yards, 17 TDs and 121 tackles in 2024). ... Two wild cards coming into the fray will be St. Clairsville, a 13-win Region 15 finalist last fall, and Cardinal Mooney. Granted, the Cardinals haven't been hitting nearly at

their heyday for a while now. But with a new coach, some key personnel back and moving down a division, Mooney could be tricky.

DIVISION VI

Region 21

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Columbia (8-2), Columbiana Crestview (8-2 in Region 17),

Cuyahoga Heights (5-4 in Region 25), Dalton (7-3), Garaway (8-2 in Region 17), Grand Valley (1-9), Hanoverton United (9-1), KIRTLAND (10-0), LaBrae (7-3), New Middletown Springfield (8-2), Valley Christian (7-3), WICKLIFFE (7-3)

What to look for: There are only so many ways in this space year after year to say Kirtland is going to have a banner campaign and compete for a state championship. So for 2025, let's

just keep it as simple as that and cast wit aside. ... While Wickliffe's nonconference schedule is not likely to garner enough to mount a run at a Week 11 home game, the Blue Devils with their senior-heavy nucleus should have what it requires to make a charge at around 6-4 and be in the top-12 hunt nonetheless. ... Two new arrivals to Region 21 will make the top-eight depth more interesting. Columbiana Crestview enters from Region 17 with dual-threat QB Jake Noling (1,968 total yards, 24 total TDs in 2024) at the controls and should be a viable threat. Cuyahoga Heights moves in from Region 25, and the perennially strong Red Wolves return three All-Ohioans: QB Zach Shafer, RB Gavin Chamberlain and OL Aiden Flynn. ... As a general rule, teams that won two games or fewer last fall are not considered for these projections, the theory being they need to take multiple steps back toward more viability. However, an exception will be made for a non-coverage area squad in Grand Valley. The buzz is palpable for what former West Geauga and Perry coach Matt Rosati is building in Orwell. The Mustangs should enjoy a massive year-over-year turnaround.

DIVISION VII

Region 25

(in alphabetical order, with 2024 regular-season record; News-Herald coverage area teams are in CAPS)

Contenders: Berlin Center Western Reserve (9-1), David Anderson (3-6), FAIRPORT (5-4), Lowellville (6-4), Malvern (9-1), McDonald (7-3), Mogadore (5-5 in Region 21), Monroeville (9-1), Norwalk St. Paul (6-4), Salineville Southern (6-4), Warren JFK (8-2), Windham (9-1)

What to look for: It's mentioned every year, but Region 25 is constructed in a way in which, frankly, there's not much room for surprise. Case in point: Of the 26 teams in this region in 2025, nearly half logged three wins or fewer, including nine who were 2-8 or worse. That basically means it'll be the same crew battling one another at the top, and it'll just result in a different order depending on who's peaking in a given year. ... Coverage area-wise here, Fairport returns a wealth of its skill-position acumen under first-year coach Marcus Jones. The Skippers likely need to get to six wins to be a top-12 factor. It's doable, but how it materializes remains to be seen. ... Mogadore cycles back to Region 25 and adds to the quality in the upper half of this region. ... A sleeper candidate for an ascent could be David Anderson with almost every starter back, an unusual sight particularly in Division VII. ... With some of the churn, both with teams and on rosters, the race for the No. 1 seed in Region 25 could be a little more wide open than usual.

TRY A CLASS FOR FREE!

Check out our weekly schedule online. Stop in anytime and check out as many different programs as you'd like. No reservation needed.

The first session in each program is free!
It's that simple. No obligations!

Self Defense, Physical Fitness, & Competition



GRIFFONRAWL
COMBAT SPORTS & FITNESS

6090 PINECONE DRIVE, MENTOR

440-358-9371
OHIO-MMA.COM

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

HARVEY'S ALSTON LEAVING LEGACY BEYOND FOOTBALL FIELD

USC commit is proud to have stayed at home in Painesville

By John Kampf
jkampf@news-herald.com

The litte girl's eyes lit up as she grasped the Barbie Doll set that she wanted above anything else for Christmas.

Setting the girl back down on the floor after he had hoisted her up to the top shelf to reach the doll set, Shahn Alston smiled as the little girl held up the toy for little brother to see, yelling, "Look!"

It's a memory that will forever be chiseled into the mind of Alston, the senior running back from Harvey who holds a Christmas toy drive every year for two lucky kids from his hometown in Painesville.

In a few days, the 5-foot-10, 205-pound running back will embark on his senior season with the Red Raiders. In a few short months, the son of Rahshahn and Erin Alston will graduate early and depart for the University of Southern California and join the Trojans as the eighth-best senior running back recruit in the nation, per rivals.com.

But none of that matters as much to Alston as his legacy. Instead be known as the kid who stayed home, rejecting overtures from programs around Ohio and the nation who tried to lure him away, and show "You can make it from Painesville." He'd rather be known as someone who made a difference in his hometown through things like his Christmas Toy Drive and his annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive for less-fortunate families.

To Shahn Alston, his life isn't about football, it's about legacy well beyond the gridiron and embracing the role model spot so many shy away from.

"That I made a difference in general," Alston said of what his ultimate goal is. "I feel like a lot of people have a certain mindset about Harvey, which to me isn't true. ..."

Alston has always been a Painesville kid, but he wasn't always a Harvey kid. He attended Riverside's school district through seventh grade, though everyone knew where his heart was after his entire family tree had come through the Harvey school district.

He yearned to don the Red and Black of the Red Raiders, much like his grandfather



COURTESY OF ERIN ALSTON

Shahn Alston, a senior running back at Harvey who has committed to USC to play football, lifts a young boy to reach a toy during a Christmas shopping spree last December.

Larry Davis had before him, as well as his father and his uncles Shannon and Chris Alston.

"I was at Riverside, but I'd always wear Harvey stuff to school," Alston said with a smile. "I dreamed of coming here. There are a lot of guys who came through here in my family and, you know, I just wanted my name to be there with theirs and leave my mark like they did."

By that time, he was already an eye-

opener on the football field. He started playing youth football when he was 5 when the starting age was actually 6. It didn't matter. He was still beyond his years.

"How he got to play, I have no idea," his father said with a shrug. "But they let him play. He took some licks from the bigger kids, but he didn't pout, didn't whine and kept at it. He just took it and ran with it."

Literally.

After shifting from Riverside to nearby



COURTESY OF ERIN ALSTON

Shahn Alston, a senior running back at Harvey who has committed to USC, shares a smile with two young kids he took on a shopping spree last December.

Harvey, it didn't take long for Alston to make a mark on the Harvey program. He started from Day 1 and received his first college offer from Akron in Week 9 of his freshman year, re-ignited the memories of the days when his father (Class of 1993), uncle Chris (Class of 1990) and uncle Shannon (Class of 2002) played.

The offers poured in from coast to coast, and not just from college programs.

"Brophy Prep, where Larry Fitzgerald's son goes, contacted me," Alston said of the prep school in Arizona. "IMG tried to get me to go down to Florida. ... DePaul Catholic in New Jersey. ... and of course some of the private schools around here — the Hobans and St. Ignatiuses of the world."

"But, man, staying here was just important to me. I saw so much talent that left here. Knowing who I am, the community, the kids around me, if I leave, that's like taking something away. I wanted to be here. I

wanted to be the change."

The people of Painesville noticed, and so did Alston's parents.

"This kid came up to me in the youth league and said, 'I'm wearing No. 0 just like Shahn,'" mother Erin Alston said. "And my mom bought me a yellow mouthpiece, just like like him."

"That," the proud mother said, "is one of the most memorable things, that kids here want to be like my son."

But Shahn Alston wasn't done leaving his mark just because he stayed home and because kids wanted to wear his number on the football field. A greater calling pulled at him, one that led him to be part of the HBH — Humble but Hungry — family.

Through that, and with donations from the community, Alston began a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive and "Shahn Alston's Christmas Drive," where he takes two lucky kids on a shopping spree to Target.

"The turkey drive is a way to give back to the community, maybe not just for the less fortunate, but maybe for those struggling a little bit," he said. "In the Christmas Drive, we just choose two kids, take them to Target and let them splurge a little bit to make their Christmas a little better."

The joy of handing people holiday turkeys, the chills of seeing kids get toys they might not have otherwise gotten — that is what makes life in Painesville (and staying in Painesville) that much more worth it for Alston.

"My son is just amazing," Erin Alston said with a glimmer of a tear in her eye. "He texts me 'Good Morning' every day. He opens the door for me, pumps gas, doesn't let me carry groceries. He's not just a great football player and the stuff you see in the papers, he's an honor roll student and just a really good person all the way around."

When it comes to athletics, Harvey has had "dudes" before. The likes of Don Shula (John Carroll, Browns, Colts, Redskins, NFL's all-time winningest coach), John Mummey (Ohio State), receiver Chris Fields (Ohio State), lineman Jeff Spikes (Kansas), linebacker David Garrett (Kansas State), basketball player Morgan Lewis (Findlay) and quarterback Mick Mohner (Harlan Hill candidate at Wayne State) are among the Red Raider greats of years gone by.

To Mohner, now the school's athletic director and head football coach, Alston has flown past them all.

"Obviously the talent is special because this has never happened before," Mohner said. "How often is USC out here to recruit a kid? His recruiting is nationwide. But it's more than that. You really have to appreciate everything he's done for this school, himself, his family and realize what he's done for this community."

Shahn Alston enters this season having run for 2,821 yards (second in program history to Ryan Schroeder's 2,902) and having scored 316 points (second in program history to Mumey's 391). Undoubtedly, records are going to be set this year. But his impact in his hometown will go well beyond those football numbers. That's what he's always wanted — above everything else. And it's what he's done and will continue to do throughout his life.

"What do I want?" Alston pondered. "Just for kids coming after me — not just Harvey kids — to know that you can do anything you put your mind to, and if you work hard and stay consistent, there's no boundary."



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Harvey senior running back Shahn Alston: "What do I want?. Just for kids coming after me — not just Harvey kids — to know that you can do anything you put your mind to, and if you work hard and stay consistent, there's no boundary."

Beachwood » Bison

Just the facts

School: Beachwood

Conference: CVC Metro

OHSAA: Division V, Region 17

Coach: Jonathan Gonell, first year

2024: 0-10 (0-5)

X: @BisonAthletics

Home field: Allen D. McCullough Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Bishop Rosecrans at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: John Adams at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6: Beachwood at St. John, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Crestwood at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Beachwood at Rootstown, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Brooklyn at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Oct. 4: Beachwood at Trinity, 2 p.m.

Oct. 10: Cuyahoga Heights at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Beachwood at Independence, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Vanlue at Beachwood, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Dylan Paul, So., 5-10, 165

RB: Maverick Edwards*, Jr., 5-9, 165

WR: Diez Williams, Jr., 6-2, 185

WR: Tristan Brown*, Sr., 6-1, 180

WR: Abel Perez, Fr., 5-10, 150

WR: Logan Johnson, Fr., 5-8, 145

LT: Chastin White, Jr., 6-1, 200

LG: Charlie Buchan, Fr., 5-8, 190

C: Noah Synenberg, So., 5-10, 170

RG: Jackson Hanlin, Fr., 5-11, 260

RT: Malik Coles, Fr., 6-0, 200

K: Tristan Brown*, Sr., 6-1, 180

DEFENSE

DE: Kevin Wiley, Fr., 5-10, 190

DT: Malik Coles, Fr., 6-0, 200

DT: Chastin White*, Jr., 6-1, 200

DE: Noah Synenberg, So., 5-10, 170

LB: Diez Williams, Jr., 6-1, 185

MLB: Jackson Klein, So., 5-10, 180

LB: Ben Lillick, So., 5-11, 190

SS: Maverick Edwards, Jr., 5-9, 165

WS: Essein Williams, So., 6-0, 175

CB: Dylan Paul, So., 5-10, 165

CB: Logan Johnson, So., 5-10, 160

P: Tristan Brown*, Sr., 6-1, 180

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 4

Key reserves: Jackson Klein, So., 5-10, 180, Ben Lillick, So., 5-11, 190, Charlie Buchan, Fr., 5-8, 195, Ryan Fens, Fr., 5-9, 150;

Best in the classroom: Tristan Brown, 3.9 GPA

Best bench press: Ben Lillick, 315 pounds

Best squat: Ben Lillick, 385 pounds

Best 40 time: Tristan Brown, 4.5 seconds



BEN HERCIK — THE NEWS-HERALD

The Bison offense goes through an install period.

Outlook

Youth is rampant in the Bison camp, with just one senior on the team. With the inexperience among the team, the offense will be fast-paced and electric. The goal for the season under first-year head coach Jonathan Gonell is getting some confidence on the field. With just under half of the roster being freshman, the Bison are following the team motto of raising the standard.

Player to watch

Tristan Brown is the lone senior on the team. The elder statesman for the Bison has emerged as a vocal leader and one his younger teammates are gravitating toward.

Underclassman to watch:

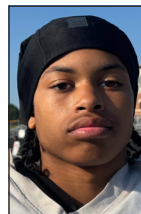
Dylan Paul will be the one running the offense from the shotgun, and he has embraced his switch in position and is ready to lead the offense.

Bottom line

IF: The youth adjusts to the speed of the game quickly, **THEN:** Beachwood will return to the win column.



Brown



Paul

— Ben Hercik

Benedictine » Bengals

Just the facts

Conference: Independent

OHSAA: Division III, Region 9

Coach: Joe Prevesk, third year (14-10)

2024: 10-3

X: @BeneBengalsFB

Home field: John Carroll University

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 23: Gilmour at Benedictine, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Benedictine at Padua, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Lutheran West at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12: Benedictine at NDCL, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Lake Catholic at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 26: Benedictine at St. Ignatius, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Lutheran East at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 10: Benedictine at Erie Cathedral Prep, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: VASJ at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 24: Akron SVSM at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Matt Furst, Sr., 6-1, 200*

QB: Giovanni Iacampo, Jr., 5-8, 155

RB: Corde Blair, Jr., 5-9, 155

WR: Antowine Smith, Jr., 6-0, 165

WR: Luke Carlton, Sr., 5-10, 180*

WR: John Jones, Sr., 6-0, 170

TE: Jonathan Spikes, Sr., 6-0, 205

LT: Eric Charmley, Jr., 6-3, 255*

LG: Braylon Rose, Sr., 5-11, 265*

C: Shepard Charlton, Sr., 6-0, 280*

RG: Matthew Wilson, Jr., 5-8, 250

RT: Max Loeser, Sr., 6-2, 270*

K: Nate Majors, So., 5-9, 165

DEFENSE

DE: Sean O'Connell, Sr., 6-1, 235*

DT: Matt Wilson, Jr., 5-8, 250

DE: Tyrell O'Neil, Sr., 6-4, 295*

LB: Will Eshghy, Jr., 6-0, 210

LB: Santino Arrietta, Jr., 5-9, 205

LB: Jonathan Spikes, Sr., 6-0, 205*

DB: John Jones, Sr., 6-0, 170*

DB: Antowine Smith, Jr., 6-0, 165*

S: Nnaoma Nzekwe, Jr., 5-11, 180

S: Owen Slemc, Jr., 5-9, 175

S: Kellen Donnelly, So., 5-10, 155

P: Nate Majors, So., 5-9, 165

*: returning starter

Key reserves: Trammel Reese, Jr., Kayden Forote, So., MaurQuise Norman, Jr.,

Best in the classroom: Sean O'Connell 4.6 GPA

Best bench press: Braylon Rose 305 pounds

Best squat: Shepard Charlton 460 pounds

Best 40 time: Corde Blair 4.35 seconds

Outlook

Senior QB Matthew Furst (6-foot-1, 200 pounds) a Chester Township resident, is back to lead the Bengals' offense, which also returns four offensive line-men, anchored by 6-foot-1, 265-pound senior tackle Max Loeser. In 2024, Furst passed for 1,208 yards and 11 touchdowns. Junior Corde Blair, a Wickliffe resident, is expected to lead a trio of running backs, while seniors Jonathan Spikes and Luke Carlton will join junior Antowine Smith in the Bengals' receiving corps.

Player to watch

Senior Sean O'Connell, a 6-foot, 230-pound tight end and defensive end is another returnee who will play a key role on both sides of the ball for Benedictine. A 4.6 student in the classroom, he's a tough matchup for defenses as another target for Furst on offense, and is a hard-hitter on defense.

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Antowine Smith, a 6-foot, 160-pound wide receiver and cornerback, is a returning starter on defense who also mixed in on offense for the Bengals in 2024. Prevesk described Smith as a shutdown corner, who will help out at receiver after putting on some muscle mass during the offseason. Smith had a game-clinching interception in Benedictine's 21-17 come-from-behind win over Strongsville last season.

Bottom line

IF: Benedictine's new skill position players can provide scoring punch, **THEN:** Benedictine can return to the Division III playoffs, now in Region 9.



O'Connell



Smith

— Jay Kron

FRESHLY'S
"WE ♥ COOKING!"
GYROS - CORNED BEEF - SANDWICHES - SALADS



WILLOUGHBY
440-946-4100
FRESHLYS.NET

**Good luck to all the
area football teams!**



Berkshire » Badgers

Just the facts

School: Berkshire
Conference: CVC Valley
OHSAA: Division V, Region 17
Coach: Josh DeWeese, 13th year (58-67)
2024: 8-4 (7-3)
X: @BHSBadgerDen
Home field: Great Lakes Cheese Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Harvey at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13: Berkshire at Trinity, 2 p.m.
Sept. 19: Fairview at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Rootstown at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Berkshire at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Berkshire at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Wickliffe at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Berkshire at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Sam Barcikoski*, Sr., 6-1, 170
RB: Oliver Miller, Jr., 5-8, 165
WR: Chase Wardle, Sr., 6-2, 170
WR: Cam Beam, Sr., 6-1, 180
WR: Luke Stute*, Sr., 6-2, 165
TE: Brady Wadsworth*, Sr., 5-10, 185
LT: Alex Vulinec, Sr., 6-2, 235
LG: Chase Bajzel, So., 5-10, 170
C: Andon Hoskin, Sr., 5-9, 250
RG: Aidan Andre, Jr., 5-9, 205
RT: Danny Tiller*, Sr., 5-10, 210
K: Roman Percic*, Sr., 5-10, 165

DEFENSE

DE: Danny Tiller*, Sr., 5-11, 210
DT: Nate Fultz, Sr., 5-8, 165
DE: Chase Bajzel, So., 5-10, 170
LB: Brady Wadsworth*, Sr., 5-10, 185
LB: Sam Bable*, Sr., 5-10, 185
LB: Ayden Wiser*, Sr., 5-10, 185
S: Oliver Miller*, Jr., 5-8, 165
S: Cam Beam, Sr., 6-1, 180
S: Dasen Marker, Jr., 6-0, 190
CB: Luke Stute*, Sr., 6-2, 165
CB: Chase Wardle*, Sr., 6-2, 170
P: Roman Percic*, Sr., 6-2, 170
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 21
Key reserves: Nolan Morris, Sr., TE, 6-0, 180, Jackson Miller, Sr., WR, 6-0, 165, Vance Rice, So., DE, 5-11, 170, Anthony Walker, Jr., LB, 5-7, 190;
Best in the classroom: Nolan Morris, 4.167; **Brady Wadsworth, 4.137;**
Best bench press: Danny Tiller, Vance Rice, 295 pounds
Best squat: Sam Bable, 365 pounds



AIMÉE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Berkshire's Sam Barcikoski hands the ball off to Justin Phillips against Fairview during a 2024 game.

Outlook

It's a flip of the script for Berkshire, as its usually experienced line has three new faces and has Danny Tiller flipping to tackle. The Badgers skill positions hold depth and southpaw quarterback Sam Barcikoski is excited to have a more open playbook at his disposal. The defense has several key returning pieces, and with the conversion to a 3-3 stack, will allow for the team to adjust to spread offenses.

Player to watch

Barcikoski comes off a year where he threw for 965 yards and eight touchdowns for his first year under center. Having a more balanced act of run vs. pass will allow him to shine in both situations.



Barcikoski

Underclassman to watch: Oliver Miller has emerged as the lead back in the group effort to replace Justin Phillips in the backfield with his speed and change of direction.

Bottom line

IF: The offensive line and running backs develop together, **THEN:** Another deep playoff run is possible.

— Ben Hercik

Brush » Arcs

Just the facts

School: Brush
Conference: Independent
OHSAA: Division III, Region 9
Coach: Ricky Powers, third year (6-24)
2024: 2-8
X: @BRUSHathletics
Home field: Korb Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Brush at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Brush at Shaker Heights, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: South at Brush, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Bedford at Brush, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Brush at Akron Hoban, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Garfield Heights at Brush, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Brush at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Shaw at Brush, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Erie at Brush, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Cleveland Central Catholic at Brush, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jay Gilchrist*, Sr., 6-0, 170
TB: Aiden O'Neal, Sr., 5-8, 196
HB: Nikk Allison*, Sr., 5-8, 190
WR: TruMar Salette*, Sr., 6-0, 170
WR: Bryce Rucker, Jr., 5-10, 160
WR: Troy Pascal, So., 5-10, 150
LT: Alnico Murray, Sr., 6-2, 240
LG: Keshawn Jackson*, Jr., 6-0, 290
C: Joshua Grigsby, Fr., 5-10, 200
RG: Jaxon Gregory*, Sr., 6-2, 270
RT: Alex Ayala*, Sr., 6-4, 260
K: Prajit Tamang, So., 5-6, 145

DEFENSE

DE: Munir Lewis*, Jr., 6-5, 235
DT: Inuthalee Bohanon*, Sr., 6-3, 260
DT: Mike Gill*, Sr., 5-10, 270
DE: Alnico Murray, Sr., 6-2, 240
LB: Dylan Roddy, Sr., 6-1, 225
LB: Aiden O'Neal*, Sr., 5-9, 196
LB: Mike Dennis, Jr., 6-3, 175
SS: Antonio Lee, Sr., 6-0, 190
FS: TruMar Salette*, Sr., 6-0, 170
CB: Preston Harris, Jr., 5-11, 165
CB: Raymir Murphy, Sr., 5-9, 160
P: Bryce Rucker, Jr., 5-10, 160
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 11
Key reserves: Josiah Anthory, So., 5-9, 150, Zion Keener, Jr., 6-0, 160, Maurice Johnson, So., 6-2, 170, Onzae Bruce, So., 6-3, 215;



SHANE PABON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Brush's Jayvyn Gilchrist scrambles against Lorain on Aug. 23, 2024.

Outlook

Brush features a number of returning players for the first time in two years, but now has to find a way to overcome the injury bug. The Arcs' experience on the defensive end is going to be big as the younger pieces of the offense adjust. The experience in the secondary is going to be important early in the season as Brush starts with a pair of high-tempo offenses.

Player to watch

Jay Gilchrist brings the experience under center, and with the experience around him both in the skill positions and up front, he could be on for a breakout year.

Underclassman to watch: Lewis Munir has come on as a key defensive linemen in the rotation and can play a critical part in the front fours success.

Bottom line

IF: Offensive line continues to mesh, **THEN:** The Arcs will be in playoff contention.

— Ben Hercik

SAGE

KARMA KITCHEN

Historic Downtown Willoughby
4051 Erie Street
Willoughby, OH 44094
(440) 946-2300
www.sagekarmakitchens.com

Kitchen Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. • Friday-Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. • Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
HAPPY HOUR! Tuesday through Friday 3 to 7 p.m. **Restaurant closes one hour after the kitchen**

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

TAVERN SIX

KIRTLAND • OH

7592 Euclid Chardon Rd.,
Kirtland, Ohio 44094
440-256-1100
www.tavernsix.com

JOIN US FOR
HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY
THROUGH
FRIDAY
3:00pm-7:00pm
CHECK OUT OUR
DAILY SPECIALS

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

Restaurant closes one hour after the kitchen

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

Cardinal » Huskies

Just the facts

School: Cardinal

Conference: NAC

OHSAA: Division VII, Region 25

Coach: Keith Fife, first year

2024: 1-9 (0-5)

X: @CHS_HUSKIES_FB

Home field: Richard A. Moss Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: LaBrea at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Cardinal at Champion, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Fairport at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Cardinal at Windham, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: John Adams at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Cardinal Vienna Mathews, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Cardinal at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Pymatuning Valley at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: St. John at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Joshua Miller, Jr., 6-0, 185

RB: Mason Thistlethwaite*, So., 5-7, 165

FB: Dominic Harris, Jr., 5-7, 125

WR: Brayden Page, Fr., 5-8, 105

WR: Jaiden Fix*, Jr., 5-10, 165

WR: Matthew Canfield, Sr., 6-3, 200

LT: Mason Adams, Fr., 6-2, 250

LG: Austin Meadows, So., 5-7, 190

C: Aaron Kuzma, So., 5-10, 245

RG: Xzavier Apathy*, Jr., 6-4, 230

RT: Joshua Miller, Sr., 6-0, 175

K: Joshua Miller, Sr., 6-0, 175

DEFENSE

DE: Axel Young, Fr., 5-5, 185

DT: Joshua Phillips, Sr., 6-4, 240

Anchor: Xzavier Apathy*, Jr., 6-4, 230

Rush: Matthew Canfield*, Sr., 6-3, 200

MLB: Jaiden Fix*, Jr., 5-10, 165

WLB: Samuel Pannetti, Sr., 5-10, 185

Star: Mason Thistlethwaite*, So., 5-7, 165

CB: Landon Fisher, Fr., 5-11, 135

CB: Dominic Harris, Jr., 5-7, 125

S: Joshua Miller, Jr., 6-0, 200

S: Brayden Page, Fr., 5-8, 105

P: Mason Thistlethwaite, So., 5-7, 165

***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 8

Key reserves: Samuel Pannetti, Sr., 5-10, 185, Mason Nevins, Fr., 5-10, 155, Jensen Yoder, Jr., 5-9, 200, Robert Wojtasik, So., 5-7, 125, Logan Yenyo, Fr., 5-9, 135;



BEN HERCIK — THE NEWS-HERALD

Cardinal players stretch before a preseason practice.

Outlook

It's a young team for the Huskies this season and a new regime as well. The offensive game plan is to focus on the run game with the experience being up front while the passing game develops. The Huskies are also focusing on tempo, trying to keep the pace in their favor. With a lot of two-way players, the defense is going to play multiple different styles and focus on the depth they do have on that side of the ball.

Player to watch

Mason Thistlethwaite has gone from a hidden gem to a known commodity for the Huskies. He can play a number of positions and will be called on from either the backfield or in the box on defense.

Underclassman to watch:

Josh Miller is back after a year off due to injury. He will be the signal caller for the Huskies, working with the youth around him.

Bottom line

IF: The Cardinals mature through the season, **THEN:** The Huskies can be mid-pack in the NAC.



Thistlethwaite



Miller

— Ben Hercik

Chagrin Falls » Tigers

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Valley

OHSAA: Division V, Region 17

Coach: John Scott, fifth year (18-23)

2024: 6-5 (3-2)

X: @chagrinAD

Home field: C.S. Harris Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Jefferson at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Chagrin Falls at Orange, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Chagrin Falls at West Geauga, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Chagrin Falls at Independence, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Cuyahoga Heights at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Chagrin Falls at Crestwood, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Wickliffe at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Chagrin Falls at Rootstown, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Berkshire at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jacob Kay*, Sr., 6-1, 165

RB: Jack Gellin*, Sr., 5-10, 170

FB: Jake McClintock*, Jr., 6-2, 205

WR: Brady DeVito, Sr., 6-1, 190

WR: Will Murray, Jr., 5-7, 140

TE: Ash Martin, Jr., 6-3, 210

LT: Noah Schaefer, Jr., 5-11, 210

LG: Leo Calabrese, Jr., 5-10, 190

C: Zach Kaseler, Jr., 6-0, 275

RG: Alex Hardy, Sr., 5-11, 225

RT: J.J. Babic, Jr., 6-0, 190

K: Harrison Horvath, Sr., 6-4, 180

DEFENSE

DL: Alex Hardy*, Sr., 5-11, 225

DL: Enzo Franks, Sr., 5-9, 180

DL: Owen Stull, Sr., 5-11, 170

OLB: Ash Martin, Jr., 6-3, 210

ILB: Cole Kramer*, Sr., 6-0, 185

ILB: Jake McClintock*, Jr., 6-2, 205

OLB: Shaun Boyle, Sr., 6-2, 195

CB: Cayden Vilneff, Sr., 5-8, 150

CB: Will Flannery, Jr., 6-0, 165

S: Brady Kaas, Jr., 6-2, 175

S: Joey Tenebria, Sr., 6-0, 190

P: Robbie Quinn, Jr., 5-10, 160

***:** returning starter

Key reserves: Nico Cottone, Jr., 6-0, 210, Cody Staples, Jr., 6-0, 185, Eli Havas, Sr., 5-9, 215

Best in the classroom: Eli Havas, 4.44 GPA, Jake McClintock, 4.30

Best bench press: Eli Havas, 315 pounds

Best squat: Alex Hardy, 500 pounds

Best 40 time: Shaun Boyle, 4.6 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chagrin Falls quarterback Jacob Kay motions during a 2024 game at Kirtland.

Outlook

The Tigers were 6-5, close to better with three one-possession defeats and made the playoffs in 2024. From that squad returns skill-position play that'll only continue to develop with Kay and Gellin and a tackle machine in Kramer. The issue that will need addressing is a nearly total rebuild on the lines. Hardy is a solid piece, but the new personnel must jell and fast.

Player to watch

Dual-threat QB Jacob Kay (1,699 total yards, 19 TDs in 2024 regular season) enters his third year under center and is a "catalyst" who has grown by "leaps and bounds" per Scott.

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Jake McClintock should bring some thunder to the Tigers at FB and ILB, particularly the latter paired with Kramer.

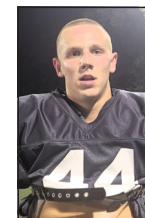
Bottom line

IF: the lines can pivot and Kramer and McClintock keep the defense in a similar active range as 2024, **THEN:** another competitive .500 campaign, maybe more, can be had.

— Chris Lillstrung



Kay



McClintock



**OUTBACK
AUTO WASH**

JOIN OUR WASH CLUB TODAY!

OUR LOCATIONS

2116 EAST PROSPECT RD ASHTABULA, OH

525 MAIN STREET GENEVA, OH

1547 MENTOR AVE PAINESVILLE, OH



• 1 MONTHLY PAYMENT

• TOUCH-FREE

• 24/7 USAGE

• FAMILY PLANS AVAILABLE

• LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Chardon » Hilltoppers

Just the facts

School: Chardon
Conference: WRC
OHSAA: Division III, Region 9
Coach: Brian Landies, first year
2024: 8-3 (4-1)
X: @topperfb
Home field: Chardon Memorial Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Chardon at Massillon Jackson, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Chardon at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Erie McDowell at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Chardon at Perry, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20: Chardon at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Riverside at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: North at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Chardon at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Chardon at South, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Kenston at Chardon, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Drayton Allgood, Sr, 5-10, 161*
HB: Max Hannen, Sr., 5-11, 185
HB: Jayden Buth, Sr., 5-11, 180*
FB: Andrew Platz, Jr., 6-0, 205
TE: Ivan Chuha, Jr., 5-11, 195
WR: Nathan Zombory, Sr., 5-10, 170
LT: Stephen Andrews, So., 6-4, 267*
LG: Carson Hope, Sr., 5-11, 235*
C: Brennin Poole, Jr., 5-10, 192
RG: Aiden Hardesty, Jr., 6-3, 224*
RT: Andrew Baggott, Sr., 6-5, 270*
K: Jordan Higham, So., 5-10, 165

DEFENSE

DL: Matthew Medved, So., 6-0, 190
DL: Chase Warren, Jr., 6-0, 204
DL: Mathew McIlroy, Sr., 6-3, 215
LB: Ryan Kolcum, Jr., 6-2, 180
LB: Cal Smith, Sr, 5-9, 189
LB: Jayden Buth, Sr., 5-11, 180*
LB: Andrew Platz, Jr., 6-0, 205
CB: Dominic Frisco, Sr., 5-11, 180
CB: Dylan Conroy, Sr., 5-10, 160*
S: Andrew Cole, So., 6-2, 163*
S: Rocco Tarantino, Jr., 5-10, 175*
P: Austin Seese, Sr., 5-10, 160*
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 20
Key reserves: Lucas Ricciardi., 5-7, 160, Jack Weaver, Jr., 5-11, 180, Sawyer Smith, Jr., 5-9, 165, Jack Tompkins, Sr., 6-2, 202, Niko Kouvaris, Sr., 5-10, 185
Best in the classroom: Rocco Tarantino 4.5 GPA, Andrew Cole 4.3, Max Hannen 4.0, Ryan Kolcum 4., Andrew Platz 3.8, Jack Weaver 3.8, Carson Hope 3.7
Best bench press: Mathew McIlroy 310 pounds
Best squat: Carson Hope 625 pounds
Best 40 time: Drayton Allgood 4.5 seconds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Drayton Allgood (12) is back at quarterback this season for Chardon.

Outlook

The Hilltoppers have a new head coach in Brian Landies, but style and expectations are the same. Chardon has 20 returning letterwinners. The work ethic and hard-nosed play, as usual, are linchpins of the program. Having four starters back on the offensive line and a versatile quarterback in Drayton Allgood is a good place to start. The defense is green, with only four returning starters, but the defensive backfield has experience. There are more two-way starters than usual, which means depth is a concern.

Player to watch

Jayden Buth is a returning starter both at halfback and at linebacker. The kid plays with a nasty edge — a true Chardon throwback. Wherever a play is being made, you'll find him.

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Andrew Platz, like Buth, will start in the backfield and at linebacker. He's another hard-nosed Chardon-type of kid.

Bottom line

IF: The young front seven on defense plays physical enough, **THEN:** This will be a usual Chardon team that contends for a conference title and makes a playoff run.

— John Kampf



Buth

Euclid » Panthers

Just the facts

School: Euclid
Conference: GCC
OHSAA: Division II, Region 5
Coach: Damion Creel, second year (2-8)
2024: 2-8 (1-5)
X: @EUCFOOTBALL
Home field: Euclid Community Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Brush at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Euclid at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Euclid at Hilliard Darby, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lorain at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Euclid at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Shaker Heights at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Euclid at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Oct. 11: Euclid at Cleveland Heights, 1 p.m.
Oct. 17: Medina at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Euclid at Mentor, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Dion Russell, Jr., 6-2, 190
RB: Dante Darby Jr.*, Sr., 5-9, 185
WR: Colby Orr*, Jr., 6-0, 165
WR: Kei'Shjuan Telfair*, Jr., 6-0, 165
WR: James Tisino*, Sr., 5-8, 160
Y: Dashun Williams, So., 6-4, 200
LT: Elijah Robinson*, Jr, 6-4, 300
LG: Semaj Ellison*, Jr., 5-11, 280
C: Trent Motley*, Jr., 6-0, 240
RG: Eric Kirksey, Sr., 6-1, 295
RT: Damarion Brown*, Jr., 6-1, 240
K: De'Yontez Davenport, Sr., 5-11, 215

DEFENSE

DE: Kendon West*, Sr., 6-1, 195
NT: De'Yontez Davenport, Sr., 5-11, 215
DE: Russell Smith, Jr., 6-1, 190
OLB: Tyshaun Hill, Jr., 6-0, 170
ILB: Mario Lingon, Sr., 6-1, 185
ILB: Chris Jones*, Sr., 5-11, 175
OLB: Dante Darby Jr.*, Sr., 5-9, 185
DB: Kei'Shjuan Telfair*, Jr., 6-0, 165
DB: Sincere Hamilton, Jr., 6-0, 175
DB: Deruis Baachus*, Sr., 5-11, 165
DB: Colby Orr, Jr., 6-0, 165
P: De'Yontez Davenport, Sr., 5-11, 215
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 15
Key reserves: Ky'Mari Freison, Sr., 6-1, 175, Chris Jones, Sr., 5-10, 175, Braylen Lee, So., 5-10, 215, James Tisino, Sr., 5-8, 165;



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Euclid's Dion Russell looks to pass against North Ridgeville during a scrimmage.

Outlook

Coach Damion Creel and the Panthers focus on the next steps of the rebuild. The biggest benefit this season for a young quarterback is bringing back four offensive linemen who grew as a unit last season. Add in a running back and the duo of Kei'Shjuan Telfair and Sinciere Hamilton splitting time as receivers and in the defensive backfield, both will help Dion Russell early in his time.

Player to watch

Telfair made waves with his one-handed interception for a touchdown against Shaker a season ago. He appears to have magnets in his gloves. No matter which side of the ball he's playing, if it's near him, he'll catch it.



Telfair

Underclassman to watch: Dante Darby has made a name for himself during camp. He will have a majority of the touches in the backfield.

Bottom line

IF: The Panthers continue to work as a unit; **THEN:** A finish in the middle of the GCC is possible.

— Ben Hercik



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
CHARDON POST 6519
752 Water Street, Chardon

GO TOPPERS!
WISHING YOU A
WINNING SEASON!



Fairport » Skippers

Just the facts

Conference: NAC

OHSAA: Division VII, Region 25

Coach: Marcus Jones, first year

2024: 5-5 (3-2)

X: @SkippersFB

Home Field: Greig Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Cambridge Springs (Pa.) at Fairport, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Fairport at David Anderson, 7 p.m.

Sept. 6: Fairport at New Washington Buckeye Central, 12 p.m.

Sept. 12: Fairport at Cardinal, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Fairport at Vienna Mathews, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Pymatuning Valley at Fairport, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Grand Valley at Fairport, 7 p.m.

Oct. 11: Steubenville Catholic Central at Fairport, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18: Fairport at St. John, 6 p.m.

Oct. 24: Windham at Fairport, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Brady Lawson, Sr., 6-0, 175*

RB: Abraham Castellano, So., 5-8, 170*

WR: Yomar Castellano, Jr., 5-7, 165*

WR: Jan Castellano, Sr., 5-6, 155

WR: Brandon Gibson Jr., 5-11, 155

TE: Dionte Ivory, Fr., 6-0, 180

LT: Nate Jarvis, Sr., 6-3, 206

LG: Cale Milliman, So., 5-8, 155

C: Tyler McCloud, Jr., 5-11, 205

RG: Trey Vaughan, Sr., 5-9, 160

RT: D.J. Dambolena, Sr., 6-1, 218*

K: Aman Abdymalikov, Sr., 6-1, 175

DEFENSE

DL: Trey Vaughan, Sr., 5-9, 160

DL: Cale Milliman, So., 5-8, 155

DL: Dionte Ivory, Fr., 6-0, 175

DL: Vinnie Catri, Fr., 5-11, 160

LB: D.J. Dambolena, Sr., 6-1, 218*

LB: Elijah Harless, Sr., 5-11, 200

DB: Yomar Castellano, Jr., 5-7, 165*

DB: Jan Castellano, Sr., 5-6, 155

DB: Abraham Castellano, So., 5-8, 170*

CB: Shane Greenwood, Sr., 5-11, 150

CB: Jacob Drennan, So., 5-9, 165

P: D.J. Dambolena, Sr., 6-1, 218

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 8

Key reserves: Zephania Hines, Fr., 6-2, 160, Jayden Morgan, So., 5-11, 160, Luke Connell, Jr., 5-8, 225

Best in the classroom: Elijah Harless, 3.1 GPA, Trey Vaughan 3.0.

Best bench press: Trey Vaughan 345 pounds

Best squat: Trey Vaughan 535 pounds

Best 40 time: Brady Lawson 4.7 seconds

Outlook

Marcus Jones, a Riverside grad, is taking over the Fairport program from Domanick Sherwood, who stepped down after last season. Jones believes that his 24-man roster, despite having only seven seniors, has enough talent to make a run at another playoff appearance in Division VII. That starts with the three Castellano brothers—Jan (senior), Yohan (junior) and Abraham (sophomore). The Castellanos are all small in stature, but are dynamic athletes who make plays all over the field on both sides of the ball. Brady Lawson, a senior, returns at quarterback.

Player to watch

Junior Yomar Castellano was named third team Division VII all-Ohio at wide receiver last season, and is dangerous and hard to stop with the ball in hands despite his 5-foot-6, 150-pound stature. Jones sees Yomar as one of the best athletes in the area.

Underclassman to watch

Jones said that all three Castellano brothers, although small, play like they're 6-foot and 200 pounds. Sophomore Abraham (5-8, 150), the youngest brother, was a big contributor as a freshman to last year's 5-4 team that qualified for the Division VII playoffs as a running back and safety. Jones said that Abraham's experience and athletic ability will make him a special player in the years to come.

Bottom line

IF: Fairport can stay healthy, adjust to Jones' offensive and defensive systems, **THEN:** The Skippers will be a factor in the NAC conference race and make a run at another Division VII playoff appearance.

— Jay Kron



Y. Castellano



A. Castellano

Geneva»Eagles

Just the facts

School: Geneva

Conference: CVC Chagrin

OHSAA: Division III, Region 9

Coach: Don Shymske, fourth year (28-8)

2024: 10-2 (5-0)

X: @GHSeaglesfb

Home field: SPIRE Institute

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: West Geauga at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Geneva at Howland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Geneva at Normandy, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Geneva at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Edgewood at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Geneva at Conneaut, 7 p.m.

Oct. 9: Lakeside at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Geneva at Madison, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Jefferson at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Caden Proy, Sr., 6-1, 195*

FB: Bryce Peet, Sr., 5-10, 215*

RB: Owen Davis, Jr., 6-1, 175

RB: Ricky DiPetta, Sr., 5-9, 160

TE: Dominic Palmisano, Sr., 5-8, 180*

SE: Elliott Salgado, Sr., 5-7, 150

LT: Logan Evangelista, Sr., 6-0, 250

LG: Connor Brenneman, Sr., 5-9, 190*

C: Chase Cinco, Sr., 5-10, 180*

RG: Braden Stark, Jr., 6-2, 210

RT: Jacob Clemens, Jr., 5-10, 270*

K: Zachary McKinney, So., 6-1, 175

DEFENSE

DE: Dominic Palmisano, Sr., 5-8, 180*

DE: Chase Cinco, Sr., 5-10, 180

DT: Connor Brenneman, Sr., 5-9, 190

DT: Jacob Clemens, Jr., 5-10, 270

LB: Bryce Peet, Sr., 5-10, 215*

LB: Ricky DiPetta, Sr., 5-9, 160*

LB: Owen Davis, Jr., 6-1, 175

LB: Brody Hamm, Jr., 5-10, 180

FS: Caden Proy, Sr., 6-1, 195*

CB: Elliott Salgado, Sr., 5-7, 150

CB: Nate Hutchens, Jr., 5-8, 150

P: Owen Davis, Jr., 6-1, 175

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12

Key reserves: Devin Owens, Jr., 6-0, 175, Jesse Butterfield, Jr., 6-0, 190, Jake Winchell, 6-4, 215, Gavin Queen, So., 6-0, 180

Best in the classroom: Bryce Peet 4.38 GPA, Dominic Palmisano 4.32, Caden Proy 4.25, Elliott Salgado 4.13, Ricky DiPetta 4.07

Best bench press: Jacob Clemens 335 pounds

Best squat: Bryce Peet 480 pounds

Best 40 time: Caden Proy, Elliott Salgado 4.6 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Bryce Peet has led the team in rushing and tackles multiple seasons and is back as a senior this year.

Outlook

The Eagles are strong and athletic team but short on depth. The run-oriented offense has two experienced leaders in QB-HB Caden Proy and FB Bryce Peet. Having four starters back (including tight end) on the offensive line is a plus. The defensive side is a little green and some players are playing new positions this year. But the standard of success is set in Geneva with a veteran coaching staff.

Player to watch

Peet is heading into his fourth year as a starter on both sides of the ball. He's rushed for more than 900 yards with more than 100 tackles on defense in each of the past two seasons. The kid is an absolute playmaker who plays with an edge and expends an insane amount of energy on every play.

Underclassman to watch:

Nathan Hutchens is a junior quarterback-cornerback who will get a lot of time this season. He's going to play a big role this year.



Hutchens

Bottom line

IF: The outstanding upperclassmen remain healthy, **THEN:** The Eagles will contend for the CVC Lake Division title again.

— John Kampf

Celebrating Over 50 Years!

Thomas Fence Co.
INCORPORATED

Quality Service for Over 50 Years!

Good Luck to
All High School
Teams This Year!

Ashtabula County • 440-998-4747 | Erie, Pennsylvania • 814-835-0707 • Lake & Geauga Counties • 440-942-8548 • www.thomasfence.com

Gilmour»Lancers

Just the facts

Conference: Independent
OHSAA: Division III, Region 9
Coach: Joey Bates, first year
2024: 12-2
X: @GALancerAD
Home field: Weber Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 23: Gilmour at Benedictine, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Gilmour at Holy Name, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Hawken at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lake Catholic at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: John Marshall at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27: Gilmour at University, 1 p.m.
Oct. 3: Cleveland Central Catholic at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: VASJ at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Rhodes at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Maple Heights at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Sean Pitrone, Sr., 6-0, 185
RB: C.J. Santagata*, Sr., 5-10, 165
RB: Nathan Lennon*, Jr., 5-9, 160
RB: Dom Dunlevy, Jr., 5-11, 190
WR: Amil Shomo, Sr., 6-1, 190
TE: Bruno Cook*, Jr., 6-2, 225
LT: Tim Lennon*, Sr., 6-2, 235
LG: Luke Markowski*, Sr., 6-0, 235
C: Nathan Goodnow, Sr., 5-10, 190
RG: Ben Goodnow*, Sr., 5-10, 230
RT: Dylan Davis, Jr., 6-2, 215
K: Evan Saline, Sr., 5-9, 145

DEFENSE

DL: Blake Baskin, Sr., 6-2, 190
DL: Tim Lennon*, Sr., 6-2, 235
DL: Luke Markowski*, Sr., 6-0, 235
DL: Bruno Cook, Jr., 6-2, 215
LB: Sean Pitrone, Jr., 6-0, 185
LB: Dom Dunlevy, Sr., 5-11, 190
DB: Grayson Novak, Sr., 5-10, 165
DB: Jack Soeder*, Sr., 5-10, 165
DB: C.J. Santagata*, Sr., 5-10, 165
DB: Nathan Lennon*, Jr., 5-9, 160
DB: Sebastian Cook*, Sr., 5-9, 165
P: C.J. Santagata, Sr., 5-10, 165
*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 19
Key reserves: OL Wyatt Gerber, Sr., 6-1, 250, WR Trevor Bilant, Sr., 5-10, 150, Brendan Christensen, Sr., 5-10, 160, Dom Macaуда, Sr., 5-10, 165
Best in the classroom: Trevor Bilant, 4.26 GPA, Brendan Christensen, 4.22
Best bench press: Luke Markowski, 315 pounds
Best squat: Dom Dunlevy, 540 pounds
Best 40 time: Nathan Lennon, 4.56 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Gilmour practices Aug. 1.

Outlook

Bates inherits a program off a 12-win campaign. There are plenty of go-getters — a natural leader in Bates included — but also plenty of transition. Santagata (448 total yards, six TDs in 2024 regular season) has shown flashes and is part of what could be a deep ground game. Trench experience helps. Two-way starter volume increases, though. Durability and caliber there will dictate fortune.

Player to watch

Tim Lennon, a 6-foot-2, 235-pound senior, is an ideal cornerstone amid transition. Bates lauds Lennon (six TFLs in 2024 regular season) for leadership, physicality and instilling “compete level” for a new-look squad.



Lennon

Underclassman to watch:

Bruno Cook, a 6-2, 215-pounder, is a physical, smart and competitive junior who will be entrusted as a two-way staple at TE/DE.



Cook

Bottom line

IF: the high volume of two-way starters remain healthy and can produce, THEN: a run at 6-4, perhaps better, through a rugged schedule seems reasonable.

— Chris Lillstrung

Harvey»Red Raiders

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Chagrin
OHSAA: Division III, Region 9
Coach: Mick Mohner, sixth year (24-26)
2024: 5-5 (2-3)
X: @GoooooooRaiders
Home field: Jack Britt Memorial Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Harvey at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: North at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Harvey at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lakeside at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Harvey at Jefferson, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Orange at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Harvey at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9: Harvey at Perry, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Lutheran West at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Markese Wise*, Sr., 5-7, 150
RB: Shahn Alston*, Sr., 5-10, 210
RB: Chris Burt*, Sr., 5-7, 175
WR: Armani Hall*, Sr., 5-10, 150
WR: Core'De Jones, Jr., 5-9, 180
TE: Ethan Cruz*, Sr., 6-0, 195
LT: Jake Boehm*, Sr., 6-4, 215
LG: Tyson Sublett*, Jr., 5-10, 215
C: Nate Bauerle*, Jr., 5-8, 195
RG: Jonny Moran, Jr., 5-9, 240
RT: D.J. Wyatt, Sr., 5-9, 225
K: Giselle Moreno*, Jr.

DEFENSE

DE: Amante Arnold, So., 6-1, 250
DT: Sha'Nathan Calles*, Jr., 6-0, 240
DE: Tyson Sublett*, Jr., 5-10, 215
LB: Chris Burt, Sr., 5-7, 175
LB: Ryan Moody, Jr., 5-11, 190
LB: Elijah Hall*, Sr., 5-8, 215
LB: Jeremiah Rowdy*, Jr., 6-0, 185
DB: Ethen Eudell*, Sr., 6-1, 160
DB: Armani Hall*, Sr., 5-10, 150
DB: Core'De Jones, Jr., 5-9, 180
DB: Xavier Rode, So., 5-8, 175
P: Jake Boehm, Sr., 6-4, 215
*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 22
Key reserves: Aidan Englehart, Sr., 5-10, 175, Zion Walker, Fr., 6-2, 170, Savion Campbell, So., 5-7, 150, Marshawn Sturdivant, So., 5-8, 180
Best in the classroom: Aidan Englehart, 4.66 GPA
Best bench press: Shahn Alston and Chris Burt, 355 pounds
Best 40 time: Shahn Alston, 4.50 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Harvey takes part in a 7-onp-7 on June 11 against Mayfield, West Geauga and Madison.

Outlook

Few area gridiron programs could use a breakthrough season more, not having reached seven wins since 1994. With that dynamic Alston-Burt 1-2 punch back for one final push, now is the moment. Wise (1,518 passing yards, 17 TDs in 2024) is a slinger who can get it done with his feet as well. This group is athletic, experienced and capable. Simply put, it's time to show it.

Player to watch

Very little hasn't already been said about what senior workhorse RB Shahn Alston means to this program. His Painesville-to-USC example will resonate in his community for years to come.



Rowdy

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Jeremiah Rowdy nearly reached double-digit TFLs a year ago and is a present and future leader for Harvey's chapters ahead.

Bottom line

IF: Alston and Burt show the way and this group follows with strong complement, THEN: that aforementioned breakthrough season beckons with seven wins and renewed community buzz.

— Chris Lillstrung

ROCK

ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS NETWORK

FRIDAY
GAME
OF THE WEEK

PRESENTED BY

Sheely's

furniture • appliances • mattresses

WATCH MARQUEE MATCHUPS LIVE

4C

WK2

AUG 29

AVON LAKE AT LAKE CATHOLIC

SAINT IGNATIUS

WK5

SEP 19

SAINT IGNATIUS AT RIVERSIDE

WALSH JESUIT

WK6

SEP 26

WALSH JESUIT AT HOBAN

WASJ

WK8

OCT 10

VASJ AT GILMOUR

KENT ROOSEVELT

WK9

OCT 17

KENT ROOSEVELT AT AURORA

TO VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE VISIT WATCHROCKSPORTS.COM

Kenston»Bombers

Just the facts

School: Kenston

Conference: WRC

OHSAA: Division III, Region 9

Coach: Jeff Grubich, 14th year (97-49)

2024: 7-4 (5-0)

X: @Bomber_Football

Home field: Bomber Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Solon at Kenston, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: NDCL at Kenston, 7 pm

Sept. 12: Akron Buchtel at Kenston, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Kenston at Manchester, 7 pm

Sept. 26: Kenston at North, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: South at Kenston, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Riverside at Kenston, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Kenston at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Kenston at Chardon, 7 pm

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Adam Barr, Jr., 6-1, 180

RB: Ethan Burge, So., 6-0, 165

WR: Will Hamm, Jr., 5-9, 180*

WR: Ethan Black, Sr., 6-3, 235*

WR: Khalil Hinton, So., 6-3, 170

WR: Max George, Sr., 5-9, 155

LT: Brody Sell, Jr., 6-2, 274*

LG: Mike Puma, So., 5-10, 240

C: Ethan Bennett, Sr., 5-8, 222

RG: Chris Okeafor, Fr., 6-3, 230

RT: Adrian Gurguis, Sr., 6-4, 220*

K: Grady Kucharson, Sr., 5-11, 155*

DEFENSE

DL: Toran Savransky, Sr., 5-10, 220*

DL: Ethan Black, Sr., 6-3, 235*

DL: Tommy Seifried, Sr., 6-4, 215

LB: Tucker Meeks, Jr., 5-11, 195*

LB: Jaiden Fox, So., 5-8, 170

LB: Colin Wieland, Sr., 5-10, 210*

LB: Jake Rostocil, Sr., 5-8, 185*

DB: Max George, Sr., 5-9, 155

DB: Dylan Ringness, Sr., 5-11, 160*

DB: Cade White, Sr., 6-1, 155*

DB: Will Hamm, Jr., 5-10, 175*

P: Grady Kucherson, Jr., 5-11, 155*

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 18
Key reserves: Andy Fender, Sr., 5-10, 165, Brendan Scheuer, Sr., 5-11, 155, Dom Silla, Jr., 5-10, 165

Best in the classroom: Dylan Ringness 4.235 GPA, Brendan Scheuer 4.24 GPA

Best bench press: Toran Savransky 365 pounds

Best squat: Colin Wieland 405 pounds

Best 40 time: 4.7 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

The Kenston football team is looking for its third WRC title in a row this season.

Outlook

The Bombers have won two WRC titles in a row and want a third. The team has strong skill on both sides of the ball. There are eight returners on defense, so that's a definite strength. Offensively, a new quarterback is in the fold in Adam Borr or Jack Bryner. There are plenty of playmakers from Ethan Burge to Will Hamm, Ethan Black, Khalil Hinton and Max George. A key will be the offensive line, which does return three starters. This is a strong team built for a title.

Player to watch

Senior Colin Weiland is what Kenston football is all about. He's a hard-working young man who plays with an edge, just what Coach Jeff Grubich wants leading his team's defense. The defense is the strength of this year's team. Expect to hear Weiland's name a lot on Friday nights.

Underclassman to watch:

Ethan Burge made his presence known as a freshman running back last year. He'll have an expanded role in this year's offense.

Bottom line

IF: The Bombers can control the lines on both sides of the ball, **THEN:** A third straight WRC title is in the cards.



Weiland



Burge

— John Kampf

Hawken»Hawks

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Valley

OHSAA: Division III, Region 9

Coach: Mark Iammarino, fourth year (22-11)

2024: 8-3 (4-1)

X: @HawkenFootball

Home field: Cliff Walton Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Hawken at Cleveland Central Catholic, 4 p.m.

Aug. 29: Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Hawken at Gilmour, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Geneva at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Hawken at Madison, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: West Geauga at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Hawken at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Orange at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Perry at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Donovan Moorhead*, Sr., 6-6, 215

RB: Kene Obi*, Sr., 6-1, 215

RB: Mitch Greenberg, Jr., 5-9, 170

WR: Charlie Mallett*, Jr., 6-3, 180

WR: Tommy Wright*, Sr., 5-9, 145

WR: Colby Bautista, Sr., 6-0, 165

LT: Brendan Healy*, Sr., 6-1, 245

LG: Rocco Vitantonio, So., 5-10, 245

C: Miles Hamilton, Jr., 5-11, 185

RG: Zack Mangini, Jr., 6-1, 225

RT: J.P. Ours, Sr., 5-10, 180

K: Joey Skoczen*, Jr., 5-9, 150

DEFENSE

DT: Brendan Healy*, Sr., 6-1, 245

NT: LeRoy Scales, So., 5-11, 285

DT: Zack Mangini, Jr., 6-1, 225

OLB: Erik Pischik, So., 6-0, 185

ILB: Miles Hamilton*, Jr., 5-11, 185

ILB: Kene Obi*, Sr., 6-1, 215

OLB: Michael Horn, Jr., 5-10, 180

CB: Colby Bautista, Sr., 6-0, 165

CB: Alex Laschinger, So., 5-6, 145

FS: Charlie Mallett*, Jr., 6-3, 180

SS: Mitch Greenberg*, Jr., 5-9, 170

P: Donovan Moorhead*, Sr., 6-6, 215

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 13



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Hawken's Charlie Mallett returns a kickoff during a 2024 game against Gilmour.

Outlook

Two-way litany is a tightrope. But if anyone can pull it off and succeed, it's the Hawks. Moorhead (1,589 passing yards, 24 TDs in 2024 regular season) is a heady, FBS-bound QB with size and mettle. He, Mallett and Obi is one of the better program nucleus trios you'll find locally. The defense is paced by TFL magnets Obi, Healy and Hamilton.

Player to watch

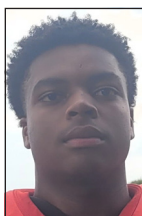
Kene Obi, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound senior, is a jack of all trades. A standout defender who had 17 TFLs last regular season, he'll have an expanded offensive role and should thrive.

Underclassman to watch:

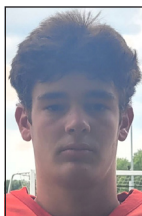
Junior WR Charlie Mallett had become more adept with crowded catches and route running, a scary proposition off 55 regular-season catches (13 TDs) as a sophomore.

Bottom line

IF: that litany of two-way stalwarts remains healthy and a retooled offensive line excels, **THEN:** similar success to 2024 around seven wins is there for the taking.



Obi



Mallett

— Chris Lillstrung



**FRIDAY
NIGHT
HUDDLE**

**GET LIVE SCORES AND HIGHLIGHTS
EVERY FRIDAY
AT 9:30PM**

**FOR PROGRAMMING AND CHANNEL INFORMATION VISIT
WATCHROCKSPORTS.COM**

Lake Catholic»Cougars

Just the facts

Conference: North Coast Conference
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13
Coach: Marty Gibbons, seventh year (38-29)
2024: 12-1
X: @LCCougarFB
Home field: Jerome T. Osborne Sr. Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Cardinal Mooney at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Avon Lake at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6: Akron Buchtel at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lake Catholic at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Lake Catholic at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26: CVCA at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Lake Catholic at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Lake Catholic at Padua, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Holy Name at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25: NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Max Pisano, So., 5-11, 175
RB: Danny Zmorowski, Jr., 6-1, 220
TE: Quinn Stayer, Sr., 6-1, 205
WR: Pete Malchesky, Sr., 5-8, 155
WR: Joe Nagy, Jr., 6-1, 185
WR: Guy Dominick, Jr., 6-1, 185
LT: Cruz Nimmo, Sr., 6-3, 270*
LG: Bryan Morton, Sr., 6-0, 220*
C: Connor Brugh, Jr., 5-9, 240*
RG: David Iannini, Sr., 6-1, 290*
RT: Nathan Zappitelli, Sr., 6-4, 280*
K: Gavyn Fredriks, Jr., 5-11, 155

DEFENSE

DE: Tyan Tsai, Jr., 6-0, 205
DT: Nick Tallion, Sr., 6-1, 225*
DT: Zach Povejsil, Sr., 6-0, 215
DE: Mikey Barnes, Jr., 6-3, 200
LB: Marty Loncar, Sr., 6-1, 200
LB: Brady Moran, Jr., 6-1, 205
DB: Guy Dominick, Jr., 6-1, 185
CB: Tristan Negrelli, Sr., 5-9, 165
CB: Tyler Hribar, Sr., 5-8, 165
S: Nick Biondolillo, Sr., 5-8, 160
S: Pete Malchesky, Sr., 5-8, 155*
P: Quinn Stayer, Sr., 6-1, 205
*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 18
Key reserves: Deven Smith, Sr., 6-2, 280, Alfred Antonelli, Jr., 6-3, 275, Gio Magistrelli, So., 5-8, 160, Michael Valentino, Sr., 5-8, 170
Best in the classroom: Marty Loncar 4.4 GPA, Gavyn Fredriks 4.37, Nick Tallion 4.27, Joey Nagy 4.13, Nathan Zappitelli 4.12
Best bench press: Nathan Zappitelli 360 pounds
Best squat: Nathan Zappitelli 550 pounds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Lake Catholic plans on relying heavily on the run game in the 2025 season.

Best 40 time: Tristan Negrelli 4.56

Outlook

Going in to Coach Marty Gibbons' seventh season leading his alma mater, the Lake Catholic program is in a position where it can reload rather than going through a full-on rebuild. The Cougars return four of five offensive linemen, including first-team Division IV All-Ohio Nathan Zappitelli, and much of its starting defense from last season, but will have all new starters at the offensive skill positions.

Player to watch

Senior Pete Malchesky is a returning starter at safety, and will see more time on offense this year as a receiver. Malchesky played on Lake Catholic's state champion baseball team.



Malchesky

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Danny Zmorowski was a standout as a sophomore defensive tackle last year, and will move out to defensive end this season in addition to being one of the Cougars' ball-carriers on offense.

Bottom line

IF: Lake Catholic can rely on its experienced offensive line and defense while the new skill position players develop, **THEN:** The Cougars will contend to win the first NCC championship and return to the playoffs.

— Jay Kron

Kirtland»Hornets

Just the facts

School: Kirtland
Conference: CVC Valley
OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21
Coach: Tiger LaVerde, 20th year (244-21)
2024: 15-1 (5-0)
X: @hornetstatcrew
Home field: Wilson Stadium

Schedule

Aug. 22: Kirtland at Clarion (Pa.), 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Ashland Crestview at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Kirtland at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Trinity at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Kirtland at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Berkshire at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Crestwood at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Kirtland at Rootstown, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jake LaVerde, Sr., 6-2, 210*
RB: John Silvestro, Sr., 6-0, 185*
RB: Ty Bledsoe, Sr., 6-0, 185
RB: Carter Luzar, Jr., 6-0, 195
TE: Andy Ridgeway, Sr., 6-0, 185
WR: Ryan Caimi, Sr., 5-10, 165*
LT: Jackson Zahn, Jr., 5-11, 215
LG: Zach Freeburg, Sr., 6-2, 225
C: Lucci Cantini, Jr., 6-0, 235*
RG: Vince Prusock, Jr., 5-11, 260
RT: Jack Turk, Jr., 6-2, 300*
K: Xavier Lasecki, Sr., 5-10, 160*

DEFENSE

DL: Ty Bledsoe, Sr., 6-0, 185*
DL: Chase Gron, Sr., 5-10, 195
DL: Brandon Oppenheim, Jr., 6-0, 185
LB: Zander Perko, Jr., 5-11, 185*
LB: Cam Treadwell, Sr., 6-0, 215
LB: Jake LaVerde, Sr., 6-2, 210*
LB: John Silvestro, Sr., 6-0, 185*
DB: Ryan Caimi, Sr., 5-10, 165*
DB: Evan Koprowski, Sr., 6-3, 180
DB: Sebastian Becker, Jr., 5-10, 165
DB: Howie Ayers, 5-10, 170
P: Jake LaVerde, Sr., 6-2, 210
*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 19
Key reserve: Tommy Caimi, Jr., 5-11, 155
Best in the classroom: Jake LaVerde 4.45 GPA
Best bench press: Vince Prusock 345 pounds
Best squat: Vince Prusock 510 pounds
Best 40 time: Jake LaVerde 4.58 seconds, Ty Bledsoe 4.58 pounds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Jake LaVerde is back for his fourth year at starting quarterback for Kirtland.

Outlook

The Hornets have played in the state championship game in each of the past eight seasons and have every intention — as well as the talent — to get back there this season. A healthy Jake LaVerde at QB makes the biggest difference. He missed a big chunk of last season with a broken arm. Now healthy, he is a threat to run for more than 1,500 yards and pass for more than 1,500 yards. The line in front of him is big and experienced. John Silvestro takes over as the lead back and is primed for a big year. Defensively, you can expect quickness, tenacity and arriving to the ball in a bad mood.

Player to watch

John Silvestro had a strong junior season at running back playing alongside All-Ohioan Danny Alfieri. Look for him to make a big jump this season and put himself in the All-Ohio category as the Hornets' lead back.



Underclassman to watch: Silvestro

Center Lucci Cantini is already a two-time All-Ohioan and is well on his way to becoming a four-timer.

Bottom line

IF: Jake LaVerde stays healthy and young defense holds up, **THEN:** Kirtland will play for another state title.

— John Kampf



YOUR 24/7 HOME OF
FREE LOCAL OHIO SPORTS
WATCHROCKSPORTS.COM

Madison»Blue Streaks

Just the facts

School: Madison

Conference: CVC Lake

OHSAA: Division III, Region 9

Coach: Mike Gilligan, fifth year (18-32)

2024: 7-4 (4-1)

X: @MadFootball212

Home field: Dick Hamblin Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Madison at Perry, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: South at Madison, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Madison at North, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Madison at Holy Name, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Hawken at Madison, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Lakeside at Madison, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Madison at Edgewood, 7 p.m.

Oct. 9: Madison at Jefferson, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Geneva at Madison, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Conneaut at Madison, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Will Randall, Sr., 6-5, 215*

RB: James Poe, Sr., 5-7, 170*

RB: Payton Birman, Sr., 5-7, 160*

TE: Mason Nusker, Jr., 6-3, 235

WR: Patrick Clark, Sr., 5-11, 165*

WR: Tyler Alley, Sr., 6-1, 175

LT: Ethan Toth, Sr., 5-11, 245*

LG: Kellan Schwartz, Sr., 5-10, 215

C: Cameron Mullen, Sr., 6-0, 280*

RG: Luke Young, Sr., 6-1, 235*

RT: Ivan Cardona, Jr., 5-11, 250

K: Dom Gephart, So., 5-7, 155

DEFENSE

DL: Gavin Montagner, Sr., 6-4, 285*

DL: John Deligianis, Sr., 6-1, 220*

DL: Joey Bosworth, Sr., 6-1, 290

LB: Chase White, Sr., 6-2, 220*

LB: Dakota Aufdenberg, Sr., 6-2, 190*

LB: Anthony Telenko, Jr., 5-10, 190

LB: Parker Johnston, So., 5-11, 185

S: Tyler Alley, Sr., 6-1, 175*

S: James Poe, Sr., 5-8, 170

CB: Patrick Clark, Sr., 5-11, 165*

CB: Gavin Mayfield, Jr., 5-9, 155

P: Chase White, Sr., 6-2, 220*

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

Key reserve: Cam Wilson, Jr., 6-0, 160

Best in the classroom: Luke Young 4.0 GPA

Best bench press: Ethan Toth, 365 pounds

Best 40 time: James Poe, Payton Birman, Pat Clark 4.5 seconds

Best squat: Gavin Montagner, 520 pounds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Coach Mike Gilligan and the Blue Streaks are aiming for a CVC Lake Division title this season.

Outlook

The Blue Streaks are a veteran-laden team, with seven starters returning on both sides of the ball. QB Will Randall is a big (6-5) body with a big arm, and he's a tremendous leader. The running backs and receivers are veterans, but depth is a concern there, so health is important. Defensively, Tyler Alley is among the area's top returning safeties. LB Chase White (6-2, 220) is a hammer and is also the area's biggest and best punter.

Player to watch

Randall is the unquestioned leader of this team. He had a breakout season last year as a first-year starter and is just going to get better. His ability to pass the ball will help open the run game even more. His leadership qualities are tremendous.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Mason Nusker (6-3, 225) is not only a big target in the pass game, but also a road-grading blocker.

Bottom line

IF: the Blue Streaks' skill players stay healthy, **THEN:** this team will win the CVC Lake Division title.

— John Kampf



Randall

Mayfield»Wildcats

Just the facts

School: Mayfield

Conference: WRC

OHSAA: Division II, Region 5

Coach: Ross Bandiera, 10th year (48-45)

2024: 5-6 (3-2)

X: @MayfieldFB

Home field: Wildcat Park

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Mayfield at Elyria, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Elyria Catholic at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Nordon at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Mayfield at Massillon Jackson, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Firestone at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Mayfield at South, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Mayfield at Riverside, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Chardon at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Kenston at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Dario D'Agostino, Fr., 6-0, 170

RB: Ben Koret*, Jr., 5-10, 170

WR: JD Segal, Sr., 5-10, 160

WR: Jayden Haynes, Jr., 6-3, 190

WR: Kingston Murchison, Jr., 6-2, 185

WR: JD Dinnen*, Sr., 6-2, 185

LT: Luciano Traczyk, So., 6-4, 230

LG: Sam Weintraub, Jr., 6-3, 270

C: Michael Fappiano, Sr., 6-0, 245

RG: Micah Linn*, Sr., 6-2, 230

RT: Ethan Clafflin*, Sr., 6-0, 230

K: Aiden Sanelli, So., 5-10, 140

DEFENSE

DL: Micah Linn*, Sr., 6-2, 230

DL: John Harris*, Jr., 5-10, 230

DL: Luciano Traczyk*, So., 6-4, 230

LB: Gavin Heikkila, Jr., 6-0, 200

LB: Anderson Ekstrand, Sr., 5-7, 185

LB: Ben Koret, Jr., 5-10, 175

LB: Frankie Menta, Sr., 6-1, 175

CB: Jayden Haynes, Jr., 6-3, 185

CB: Catrell Bowie, Sr., 6-1, 180

S: JD Segal*, Sr., 5-10, 160

S: Kingston Murchison, Jr., 6-2, 180

P: Danny D'Agostino, Sr., 6-0, 170

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 8

Key reserves: Vinny Kaleal, Sr., 5-7, 140, Danny D'Agostino, Sr., 6-0, 170, Mo Ibrahim, Jr., 6-3, 230, Sam Podolski, Jr., 5-10, 190

Best in the classroom: Garrett Bell, 4.38 GPA, Michael Fappiano, 4.11; **JD Dinnen, 4.11**

Best bench press: Gavin Heikkila, 315 pounds

Best squat: Luciano Traczyk, 500 pounds

Best 40 time: Ryan Eppich, 4.3 seconds



FRANK GAMBATESE — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mayfield's JD Dinnen makes a move against a North defender.

Outlook

While there are several new names around the field, a large portion of them saw playing time a season ago as the Wildcats dealt with injuries. Scattered through the new names are players such as JD Segal and Luciano Traczyk who have been there in the Wildcats' biggest moments over the last few seasons. With the size Mayfield brings up front on both ends of the ball, the trenches will be a point of control this season.

Player to watch

Micah Linn is going to be the voice of the defense from DE. The senior has made the most of his time in the weight room this offseason as he will see time on both sides of the ball this season.

Underclassman to watch:

Traczyk was been able to jump into the offensive line and immediately make an impact. His blocking will again help a young skill group.

Bottom line

IF: The young skill group follows the experienced line, **THEN:** Mayfield will contend for a playoff spot.



Linn



Traczyk

— Ben Hercik

Lake Carpet & Mattress

6656 N. Ridge Rd., Madison, Ohio
(corner of Rt. 20 & Rt. 528) • 440-428-1400

Hours: Monday-Friday 10-6,
Saturday 10-3, Sunday 12-3

31 Years in Business!
12 Months same as cash!

Good Luck to all
Local Football Teams!

Zero G Gravity
& Massage

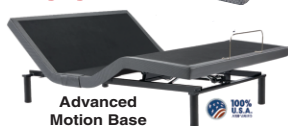


Queen Extra
Thick Mattress

\$499



Full/Queen Base
King {Divided} Base
Split King Set Base



Mattress
Sale Too!
In-Stock Only!

Snoring?
Back Pain?
Joint Pain?

Let us help
find the perfect
mattress for you!!

Now Carrying **TEMPUR-PEDIC**!

LUXURY VINYL PLANK SALE!



Reg. \$3.89 sq. ft.
Pet Proof, Waterproof,
Kid Proof Flooring

\$2.29 Sq. ft.

Professional Installation!

Mentor»Cardinals

Conference: GCC
OHSAA: Division I, Region 1
Coach: Matt Gray, sixth year (43-17)
2024: 13-1 (7-0)
X: @MentorRedline
Home field: Jerome T. Osborne Sr. Stadium

Schedule

Aug. 22: Mentor at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Mentor at Erie McDowell, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Mentor at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Medina at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Mentor at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Strongsville at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Shaker Heights at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Mentor at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Euclid at Mentor, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Brogan Jones, Jr., 6-3, 190
RB: Jackson Farley, Sr., 5-9, 195*
WR: Justen Hodge, Sr., 6-1, 190*
WR: Phelan Harrold, Jr., 6-0, 175
WR: Logan Berwald, Jr., 5-11, 175
WR: Brady Trivisonno, Sr., 6-1, 180
LT: Landry Brede, Sr., 6-6, 305*
LG: Gibril McLendon, Sr., 6-3, 280*
C: JoJo LoDuca, Sr., 6-3, 285*
RG: Amari Bradley, Sr., 5-10, 260*
RT: Colin Prichard, Sr., 6-5, 260*
K: Jacob Brown, Sr., 6-0, 180

DEFENSE

DE: Logan Mitchell, Sr., 6-0, 225
NG: Chase Coleman, Sr., 6-0, 250*
DE: Kenny Hamilton, Jr., 6-3, 260
LB: Dom Oskowski, So., 5-10, 175
LB: Carson Wolk, Sr., 6-2, 220*
LB: Ben Schenk, Sr., 6-1, 215
LB: Jaxon Callahan, Jr., 6-0, 195
CB: Xayvion Dunn, Sr., 6-0, 170*
CB: Jacob Brown, Sr., 6-0, 180
S: Drew Morgan, Sr., 5-11, 180
S: James Findak, Sr., 6-0, 185
P: Jacob Brown, Sr., 6-0, 180
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 22
Key reserves: Gabe LaSpina, Sr., 6-1, 250, Tristan Sweigert, Sr., 5-10, 160, Logan Holland, Sr., 6-1, 235, Jack Schultz, Jr., 5-11, 165
Best in the classroom: Braylon Callahan 4.31 GPA, Jack Lisachenko 4.24, Adam Lohrey 4.286
Best bench press: Chase Coleman, Kenny Hamilton 335 pounds
Best squat: Amari Bradley, Chase Coleman 600 pounds
Best 40 time: Xayvion Dunn 4.44 seconds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor celebrates during an Aug. 14 scrimmage at Chardon.

Outlook

The Cardinals boast four FBS college recruits on offense, including three (Landry Brede, Colin Prichard, JoJo LoDuca) on the line. Receiver Justen Hodge, a Miami (Ohio) commit, is among the state's best, and running back Jackson Farley ran for more than 1,500 yards last year. The Cardinals bring in a new QB in junior Brogan Jones, but he has looked very good in pre-season camp. The defense has some holes to fill from last year, but there are some big hitters with experience on that side, including LB Ben Schenk.

Player to watch

Senior running back Jackson Farley has a breakout season last year and was among the area's top rushers and touchdown-scorers. Behind the big, veteran offensive line, he could very well push 2,000 yards.



Farley

Underclassman to watch: If junior quarterback Brogan Jones hits a stride early and plays to his capabilities, Mentor's offense could be one of the state's best.

Bottom line

IF: The defense gets stops consistently, **THEN:** Mentor has the offense to get to the Division I state final four.

— John Kampf

NDCL»Lions

Just the facts

Conference: North Coast Conference
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13
Coach: Andre Griffin, second year (5-6)
2024: 5-6
X: @NDCLathletics
Home field: Lozick Field at Lion Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Struthers at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: NDCL at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: NDCL at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Benedictine at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: NDCL at Bedford, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Holy Name at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Padua at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: NDCL at CVCA, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: NDCL at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25: NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Brady Capel, Jr., 6-0, 165
RB: Dylan Hoenigman, Sr., 5-10, 175
WR: Blake Dumermuth*, Jr., 5-10, 175
WR: Casey McInerney*, Jr., 5-7, 160
WR: Rob Bonchak, Sr., 6-2, 185
TE: Jonah Janosy, Sr., 6-5, 195
LT: Brendan Hernan*, Sr., 6-6, 236
LG: Caiden Kovacs*, Sr., 6-1, 275
C: Leo Kaczmarek*, Sr., 5-10, 235
RG: Ben Kimball, Jr., 5-10, 220
RT: Alex Rizzo*, Sr., 6-4, 285
K: Ryan Cvitkovic*, Sr., 5-10, 165

DEFENSE

DE: Brendan Hernan*, Sr., 6-6, 236
NT: Caiden Kovacs*, Sr., 6-1, 275
DE: Joe Penny*, Jr., 6-1, 235
LB: Dylan Hoenigman*, Sr., 5-11, 175
LB: Joe Velotta, Jr., 5-7, 188
LB: Drake Berschig*, Jr., 6-2, 197
DB: Vance Marut*, Sr., 5-9, 155
DB: Rob Lipowski, Jr., 6-0, 186
DB: Carmen Cirino, Jr., 5-8, 163
DB: Casey McInerney, Jr., 5-7, 165
DB: Blake Dumermuth*, Jr., 5-10, 175
P: Ryan Cvitkovic*, Sr., 5-10, 160
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 15
Key reserve: Brendan Donnelly, Sr., 5-11, 187
Best in the classroom: Rob Bonchak, 4.34 GPA, Drake Berschig, 4.33
Best bench press: Ben Kimball, 305 pounds
Best squat: Caiden Kovacs, 475 pounds
Best 40 time: Brady Capel, 4.60 seconds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

NDCL's Caiden Kovacs, left, and Brendan Hernan line up for a snap during a 2024 game against Lake Catholic.

Outlook

Much is anew after a 2024 Division IV playoff berth. What will aid that pivot is an imposing, seasoned offensive line — undoubtedly the Lions' top returning strength. Capel has options in what could be a versatile passing attack. Cvitkovic (42 extra points, five field goals in 2024 regular season) is a weapon. Defense does need to tighten up after conceding 300-plus yards per game.

Player to watch

Caiden Kovacs, a 6-foot-1, 275-pound senior, has grown into a program leader, according to Griffin, who is leaner, quicker, more confident and understands the team's plan nuance well.



Kovacs

Underclassman to watch: QB Brady Capel, a 6-foot, 165-pound junior, is a heady performer who will be given time to learn and develop.

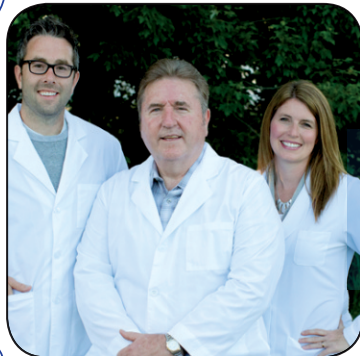


Capel

Bottom line

IF: that offensive line paves the way and the defense can be more active; **THEN:** an uptick toward 6-4 and deep in the D-IV playoff chat is there.

— Chris Lillstrung



ALBRECHT FAMILY DENTISTRY

We perform all types of dentistry for all ages.
Emergencies Welcome!
Weekday, Evenings & Saturday Appointments

Rusty M. Albrecht, D.D.S. • Lundon R. Albrecht, D.D.S. • Chandice A. Richards, D.D.S.
Welcoming New Patients

Need a Dentist?
Our Dental Family would be honored to serve your Family.

Call today for an appointment
(440) 358-0495
9659 Old Johnnycake Ridge Rd. Mentor (behind Lowes)
Visit us at: www.albrecht dental.com

North»Rangers

Just the facts

School: North

Conference: WRC

OHSAA: Division II, Region 5

Coach: Shawn Dodd, 10th year (32-67)

2024: 3-7 (0-5)

X: @ENRangerfootbal

Home field: Nick Carter Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: North at Lakeside, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: North at Harvey, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Madison at North, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: North at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.

Sept. 19: Garfield Heights at North, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Kenston at North, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: North at Chardon, 7 p.m.

Oct. 9: North at South, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Riverside at North, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Josh Fenick, So., 5-10, 200

RB: Alex Harris, Sr., 5-10, 175*

RB: Bray Sandstrom, Sr., 5-9, 170*

TE: Julius Veres, Jr., 5-10, 185

TE: Mikey Lowrie, Sr., 6-0, 185*

WR: Cam Spicuzza, Sr., 6-2, 185

LT: Michael Belanich, Sr., 6-4, 275*

LG: Eddy Kovach Uzl, Sr., 5-10, 230*

C: Brady Gazan, Sr., 5-10, 220

RG: Evan Meyer, Jr., 6-4, 245

RT: Jeremy Jersvi, Jr., 6-5, 330*

K: Yahir Rangel, Sr., 5-9, 160*

DEFENSE

DL: John Murphy, So., 6-1, 230

DL: Jackson Sakal, Jr., 6-1, 270

DL: Cam Spicuzza, Sr., 6-2, 185

LB: Timmy Jesenovc, Sr., 5-10, 180

LB: Josh Fenick, So., 5-10, 200

LB: Billy Gibson, So., 6-3, 205

LB: Brand Bambrick, Jr., 6-3, 190

LB: E.J. Cauton, Sr., 5-9, 165*

DB: Collin Blackburn, Jr., 5-10, 170

DB: AJ Edwards, Sr., 5-7, 160

DB: Bray Sandstrom, Sr., 5-9, 170*

P: Jacob Sato, Jr., 5-9, 170

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 8

Key reserves: Jeremy Metejka, Sr., 5-11, 170, Chase Slapnick, Sr., 5-10, 260, Kris Fuller, Sr., 5-9, 165, Marlon Johnson, Jr., 5-10, 170

Best in the classroom: Cam Spicuzza 4.2 GPA

Best bench press: Josh Fenick 315 pounds

Best squat: Josh Fenick, Jackson Sakal 500 pounds

Best 40 time: Bray Sandsrom 4.5 seconds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

North hopes to have plenty to celebrate with its new single-wing offense.

Outlook

Coach Shawn Dodd raves of the team's character and competitive nature. The Rangers have adopted a new single-wing offense to take advantage of their big, strong offensive line and bevy of ball-carriers. Bray Sandstrom and Alex Harris have really stood out in preseason workouts. The defense has a new 3-5 scheme, too, and can fly to the ball. There are only two returning starters on that side of the ball, but players fly to the ball. There's a lot new here, but the optimism his high.

Player to watch

Senior left tackle Michael Belanich is one of three returning starters on the line. He's big and physical with good feet, the kind of guy you run behind in a run-based offense that North features.



Underclassman to watch:

Sophomore Josh Fenick is a two-way starter at quarterback and linebacker. He'll pack a punch both running the ball and stopping the run.

Bottom line

IF: North can run the ball effectively and avoid third-and-long, **THEN:** Their physicality will get them more wins this season.

— John Kampf

Perry»Pirates

Just the facts

School: Perry

Coach: Bob Gecewich, fifth year (49-8)

Conference: CVC Chagrin

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13

2024: 12-2 (5-0)

X: @Perry_Pirates

Home field: Alumni Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Madison at Perry, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Chardon at Perry, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.

Sep. 26: Lutheran West at Perry, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Perry at Orange, 7 p.m.

Oct. 9: Harvey at Perry, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Perry at West Geauga, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Perry at Hawken, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: McKoy Richards, Sr., 5-11, 178

QB: Nate Trefzger, Jr., 6-1, 175

RB: Carter Hopkins, Jr., 6-0, 190*

WR: Greg Mechenbier, Jr., 5-11, 175*

WR: Jimmy Ashburn, Sr., 5-7, 170*

WR: Justin Costello, Sr., 5-11, 160

TE: Trent Taylor, Sr., 6-5, 240*

LT: Nick Gustin, Jr., 5-11, 210

LG: Connor D'Astolfo, Sr., 5-10, 205*

C: Antonius Bertone, Sr., 5-11, 180*

RG: Teagan Jakubson, Sr., 6-0, 265

RT: Brady Stevenson, Sr., 6-3, 220

K: Colton Crissinger, So., 5-9, 151*

DEFENSE

DE: Trent Taylor, Sr., 6-5, 240*

NG: Sean Budziak, Sr., 6-0, 335

DE: Connor D'Astolfo, Jr., 5-10, 205

LB: Michal Niedzwicki, Jr., 5-10, 185

LB: Carter Crofoot, So., 6-1 185

LB: Brody Krantz, Jr., 6-0, 172

S: Brody Petrucelli, Sr., 5-8, 160

S: Traxton Richards, So., 5-8, 160

S: Chase Sivon, Jr., 5-10, 160

CB: Greg Mechenbier, Jr., 5-10, 170

CB: Jimmy Ashburn, Sr., 5-7, 155

P: Trent Taylor, Sr., 6-4, 240

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

Key reserve: Dane Pike, Sr., 5-7, 165

Best bench press: Mason Bilicic 310 pounds

Best squat: Name, Teagan Jakubson 500 pounds

Best 40 time: Chase Sivon 4.51 seconds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Carter Hopkins is back for his junior year with the Perry Pirates this season.

Outlook

Deep playoff runs the past two season have allowed this program to get a ton of developmental reps. Those reps are important now because there are a lot of new starters this year, especially on defense where only Trent Taylor (DE) and Brody Petrucelli (DB) return. Offensively, a new quarterback is in the fold, whether it be senior McKoy Richards or junior Nate Trefzger.

Player to watch

Senior Brody Petrucelli is going to do a little bit of everything for the Pirates this year. He can run the ball out of the backfield, flex out as a receiver and also be a physical type of defensive back on defense. His brothers were the same type of players in their day.



Petrucelli

Underclassman to watch: Carter Hopkins burst onto the scene last year as a reliable and durable running back and linebacker as a sophomore.

Bottom line

IF: The young defense and young QB position develop, **THEN:** The Pirates will contend for a league title and make another playoff run.

— John Kampf

LOCATION

CARPET CO.

FLOORING SALES & INSTALLATION

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE*

*Subject to credit approval.
Ask store associate for details.

Through September 2

Stop in and see us at
171 Chestnut Street in Painesville!
440-392-2000
 Visit our website at
www.locationcarpet.com
 Check us out on
Facebook or Instagram!

HOT DAYS COOL FLOORS

Richmond Heights»Spartans

Just the facts

Conference: Independent
OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21
Coach: Eugene White, first year
2024: 1-5
X: @RH_LocalSchools
Home field: Richmond Heights High School

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Richmond Heights at Rhodes, 4 p.m.
Aug. 29: Richmond Heights at Loudonville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Richmond Heights at John Adams, 4 p.m.
Sept. 12: Richmond Heights at Toledo Christian, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20: Richmond Heights at Crestline, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Richmond Heights at Vanlue, 7 p.m.
Oct. 4: Richmond Heights at Warren JFK, 1 p.m.
Oct. 10: Richmond Heights at St. Thomas Aquinas, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Open
Oct. 24: Richmond Heights at Mogadore, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Jordan Lewis, So., 6-0, 155*
RB: Shelton Stewart, Jr., 5-10, 170
TE: Ralph Ivy, Sr., 6-1, 165*
SE: Khyell Moreland, Sr., 5-10, 170*
SE: Gary Russell III, Jr., 5-7, 140*
SE: Evan McLean, Sr., 6-1, 155*
LT: Isiah George, Sr., 6-3, 215
LG: Dwight Summers, Sr., 6-2, 240*
C: Sean Johnson, Jr., 6-1, 255
RG: Kyier Hall, Jr., 5-10, 235
RT: Jewelz Johnson, So., 6-2, 265*
K: Sincere Pearl, Fr., 5-10, 170

DEFENSE

DE: Isiah George, Sr., 6-3, 215
NG: Javon Wells, Sr., 5-8, 184*
DE: Ralph Ivy, Sr., 6-1, 165*
LB: Dayvion McDaniel, Jr., 5-10, 170
LB: Myron Sikes, Jr., 5-9, 165
LB: Ameer Avak, Sr., 5-7, 182*
LB: Jahlil Ball, Sr., 5-10, 146*
CB: Ibrahim Ba, So., 5-10, 130*
S: Evan McLean, Sr., 6-0, 150
CB: Khyell Morland, Sr., 5-11, 170
S: Chase McKee, Jr., 5-9, 150
P: Sincere Pearl, Fr., 5-10, 170
*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12
Best in the classroom: Javon Wells 3.8 GPA, Ameer Avak 3.8
Best bench press: Soren Williams 275 pounds

Outlook

Richmond Heights is entering Year 4 of its rebuild after not playing football in 2020 and 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's head coach, Shaun Lodge, stepped down after taking a position as school principal, and assistant coach Eugene White has been elevated to head coach. White, also the school's girls basketball coach, is optimistic due to the program's growing numbers, now in the 30s, and the experience gained by players who have stuck in the program over the last few years, as well as the addition of talented younger players. Brandon Hanna, who was the head coach at Jefferson the last few years and coached the Falcons to a Division IV state semifinal in 2022, has joined the Richmond Heights staff as an offensive coordinator and is installing a new system. Dewayne Brown, a Richmond Heights graduate, will be the defensive coordinator.

Player to watch

Quarterback Jordan Lewis, a 6-foot, 160-pound sophomore, started last year as a freshman for the Spartans. White raves about Lewis' arm strength, and says he is developing as a leader. White said that last year Lewis was a "14-year-old kid, thrown into the fire."



Lewis

Underclassman to watch: White cited junior Chase McKee as an underclassman to watch, describing him as an "old-school football player."

Bottom line

IF: The Spartans can avoid the injury bug, lean on their experienced players and develop depth with better numbers this year., **THEN:** they can improve gradually and learn how to win.

— Jay Kron

Riverside»Beavers

Just the facts

School: Riverside
Conference: WRC
OHSAA: Division II, Region 5
Coach: Jeremy Ishmael, second year (4-7)
2024: 4-7 (2-3)
X: @_RHSFootball
Home field: Riverside Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Riverside at Shaker Heights, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Green at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Erie Cathedral Prep at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Riverside at Austintown Fitch, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: St. Ignatius at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Riverside at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Mayfield at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Riverside at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Riverside at North, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: South at Riverside, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Bo Brandehoff, Jr., 5-11, 193*
RB: Kyndall McCaleb, Sr., 6-0, 205*
WR: David Seibert, Jr., 6-5, 185*
WR: Charlie Nalepka, Sr., 5-11, 175*
WR: Ethan Baker, Sr., 5-11, 165*
WR: Spencer Short, Sr., 5-11, 185
LT: Case Reutter, Sr., 6-0, 240*
LG: Charlie Petrilla, Jr., 6-4, 265
C: Mark Poje, Sr., 5-10, 230
RG: Josh Porter, Sr., 6-2, 295*
RT: David Tarawallie, Jr., 6-6, 245
K: Leo D'Astolfo, Sr., 5-5, 145*

DEFENSE

DL: Case Reutter, Sr., 6-0, 240*
DL: Brett Percic, Sr., 6-3, 265
DL: Ayden Doytek, Jr., 6-1, 205
LB: Austin Kalb, Sr., 6-3, 215*
LB: Cole Kalish, Sr., 5-10, 195*
LB: Alex Calogar, Jr., 5-9, 208
LB: Spencer Short, Sr., 5-11, 185
DB: Colin Borris, Sr., 5-9, 165*
DB: Landon Sumlin, Jr., 5-11, 165
DB: Ethan Baker, Sr., 5-11, 165*
DB: David Seibert, Jr., 6-5, 185
P: David Morse, So., 6-3, 200
*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 21
Key reserves: Rhys Sas, Sr., 5-5, 130, Logan Medves, Jr., 6-0, 220, Adam Pakeltis, Sr., 5-8, 185, Wes Anderson, Sr., 5-9, 190, Ryan Diefenbacher, Sr., 6-5, 215.
Best in the classroom: Adam Pakeltis 4.295 GPA, Kyndall McCaleb 4.155, Ethan Baker 4.024, Charlie Nalepka 4.024, Rhys Sass 4.022
Best bench press: Josh Porter 365 pounds
Best squat: Spencer Short 505 pounds
Best 40 time: Kyndall McCaleb 4.43 seconds



BARRY BOOHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Kyndall McCaleb is back for his senior year after being among the area's leaders in rushing last year as a junior.

Outlook

With eight starters returning on offense and six on defense (four in the front seven), Riverside is built for contention in the WRC and beyond this year. Having a back like Kyndall McCaleb makes the offense go. His running ability opens up the passing game of veteran QB Bo Brandehoff and the experienced receivers. That front seven on defense, led by Case Reutter and Austin Kalb, can bring the heat. Leo D'Astolfo is a reliable kicker.

Player to watch

Kyndall McCaleb is a big play waiting to happen. The Harvard commit ran for more than 1,000 yards last year and is a threat to take it to the house every time he touches the ball. Defenses will key on him, which should open opportunities for those around him, too.

Underclassman to watch:

If your team has a 6-5 receiver that doubles as a 6-5 defensive back, that's special. David Seibert is that kind of special.



Seibert

Bottom line

IF: Riverside gets off to a momentum-building good start, **THEN:** The Beavers can win the WRC and host a first-round playoff game.

— John Kampf



GO VIKINGS!

Good luck this season!

@VASJHighSchool

vasj.com

South»Rebels

Just the facts

School: South

Conference: WRC

OHSAA: Division II, Region 5

Coach: Matt Duffy, 22nd year (130-96)

2024: 3-8 (1-4)

X: @rebelhfc

Home field: Harry E. Winters Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Cuyahoga Falls at South, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: South at Madison, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: South at Brush, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Firestone at South, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Maple Heights at South, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Mayfield at South, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: South at Kenston, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: North at South, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Chardon at South, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: South at Riverside, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Luke Jensen, Jr., 6-0, 180*

RB: Caiden Wascak, Sr., 5-10, 195

TB: Jayden Hardy, Sr., 6-0, 200*

WR: Marquez Lashley, Sr., 6-0, 185*

WR: Christian Santone, Jr., 5-10, 170*

TE: Josh Jensen, So., 6-0, 190

LT: Mason Willis, Sr., 6-4, 280*

LG: Owen Willis, Fr., 6-2, 250

C: Brody Smith, Sr., 6-2, 250*

RG: Brayden Kinney, Sr., 6-1, 240*

RT: Logan Baker, Sr., 6-1, 230

K: Alex Patrizi, Sr., 5-11, 180*

DEFENSE

DE: T.J. Jones, So., 6-2, 225*

DT: Raheem Jones, Sr., 6-2, 340*

DT: Michael Manzi, Jr., 5-11, 230

DE: A.J. Gammiere, Sr., 6-2, 230*

LB: Cane Balash, Jr., 6-1, 210*

LB: Scott Balash, Jr., 6-0, 200*

CB: Johnny Ilacqua, Sr., 5-9, 170

CB: Jack McGuinness, Sr., 6-0, 175*

S: Alex Patrizi, Sr., 5-11, 180*

S: Caiden Wascak, Sr., 5-10, 195

S: Nick Barrus, Sr., 6-1, 185

P: Alex Patrizi, Sr., 5-11, 180*

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 33

Key reserves: Aiden Ernst, Jr., 6-1, 250, Jack McGuinness, Sr., 6-0, 175, Tyler Sowa, So., 6-0, 210, Damarhi Morgan, Jr., 6-1, 210

Best in the classroom: Nick Barrus 3.78 GPA, Alex Patrizi 3.77, Sean Stepec 3.64.

Best bench press: Jayden Hardy 315 pounds

Best squat: Raheem Jones 435 pounds

Best 40 time: Jayden Hardy 4.5 seconds



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

South returns four defensive linemen and both linebackers from last year's team.

Outlook

The upside to a 3-7 season with only seven seniors is this is a very motivated team with 33 returning letterwinners and 17 returning starters (eight on offense, nine on defense). QB Luke Jensen has two receivers and his key tailback Jayden Hardy back. The entire front six on defense is back. This is a battle-tested, tough, ticked-off team ready to make up for last year. Coach Matt Duffy says he has a few depth concerns, but if this team stays healthy, look out.

Player to watch

At 6-foot, 200 pounds and armed with a time of 4.5 in the 450, Jayden Hardy has "rugged, home run-hitting back" written all over him. With a big, experienced offensive line in front of him, he is primed for a career year.



Hardy

Underclassman to watch: Sophomore defensive end T.J. Jones torches even South's veteran starting line. Rebel coaches just shrug their shoulders. He's been unblockable.

Bottom line

IF: The Rebels stay healthy, **THEN:** They can win the WRC and get a high seed in the Division II playoffs.

— John Kampf

University»Preppers

Just the facts

Conference: Independent

OHSAA: Division II, Region 5

Coach: Ben Malbasa, 11th year (53-46)

2024: 5-6

X: @USFootball1890

Home field: Scovil Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 21: University at Brookside, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Bay at University, 5 p.m.

Sept. 5: University at Hubbard, 7 p.m.

Sept. 13: Shaw at University, 1 p.m.

Sept. 19: Akron East at University, 5 p.m.

Sept. 27: Gilmour at University, 1 p.m.

Oct. 3: John Hay at University, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 10: University at Chaney, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Columbus St. Charles at University, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 24: University at Howland, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Carson Panteck*, Sr., 6-0, 175

RB: Aaron Kim, Sr., 6-1, 180

WR: Tylar Robinson*, Jr., 6-1, 180

WR: Caleb Panteck*, Sr., 5-10, 170

WR: Cam Ryan*, Sr., 6-0, 170

TE: Matteo Morelli*, Sr., 6-4, 230

LT: Joe Gray*, Sr., 6-5, 210

LG: Jude Newton, So., 5-11, 220

C: Cayden Zelenak*, Sr., 5-9, 205

RG: Cameron Henderson*, So., 5-11, 220

RT: Griff Koch*, Sr., 6-5, 260

K: Matteo Morelli*, Sr., 6-4, 230

DEFENSE

DL: Matteo Morelli*, Sr., 6-4, 230

DL: Jude Newton, So., 5-11, 220

DL: Griff Koch, Sr., 6-5, 260

LB: Carter Loeser, Sr., 5-10, 180

LB: Dan Miklus, Sr., 6-0, 180

LB: Carter Webb, Sr., 6-0, 180

CB: Cam Ryan*, Sr., 6-0, 170

CB: Travis Phillips*, Sr., 6-0, 170

S: Aaron Kim*, Sr., 6-1, 185

S: Colin Milbourn*, Sr., 6-0, 175

S: Tylar Robinson*, Jr., 6-1, 190

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 26

Key reserves: Luke Fioritto, So., 6-3, 205, Johnny Malone, Sr., 5-9, 160

Best in the classroom: Travis Phillips, 4.0 GPA

Best bench press: Griff Koch, 325 pounds

Best squat: Griff Koch, 415 pounds

Best 40 time: Tylar Robinson, 4.5 seconds



BRIAN FISHER — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

University's Caleb Panteck hauls in a pass during a 2024 game against Garfield Heights.

Outlook

While the offense didn't fire at its characteristic caliber last fall, there's optimism 2025 could be better. Carson Panteck (893 passing yards, 11 TDs in 2024 regular season) returns a year more seasoned and immersed. Morelli is a versatile standout. The WR corps is promising. The defense needs to rebuild its front six. But never count out a determined group in Hunting Valley.

Player to watch

Senior RT/DL Griff Koch is a physical force who is US' tone-setter on and off the field. Malbasa credits Koch for his toil in driving the program forward.

Underclassman to watch:

Junior Tylar Robinson will be a vertical threat, whose offensive understanding is more dialed in, and a key in the secondary.

Bottom line

IF: the defense can be as solid as a year ago, complemented by a more diverse offensive look, **THEN:** six wins against this schedule doesn't appear out of the question.

— Chris Lillstrung



Koch



Robinson



FORGING HIS OWN PATH TO SUCCESS.



**UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL**



VASJ»Vikings

Just the facts

School: VASJ
Conference: Independent
OHSAA: Division III, Region 9
Coach: Jeff Rotsky, fifth year (32-13)
2024: 8-3
X: @VASJFootball
Home field: Gutbrod Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: VASJ at Walnut Ridge, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: VASJ at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Mansfield at VASJ, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Open
Sept. 19: VASJ at Akron SVSM, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Cleveland JFK at VASJ, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Columbus Centennial at VASJ, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: VASJ at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: VASJ Benedictine, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Delaware Hayes at VASJ, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Joe Efford, Sr., 6-0, 170
RB: TJ Moore*, Sr., 5-8, 175
WR: Savion Lewis*, Sr., 6-0, 180
WR: Ardell Chatman, Sr., 6-0, 165
TE: Dangelo White*, Jr., 6-5, 250
TE: Dylan Smith, Jr., 6-3, 210
LT: Keyon Bennett, Jr., 6-3, 250
LG: Bricen Geter, Sr., 6-1, 280
C: Zach Gembus, Jr., 5-11, 240
RG: Sean McCall, Sr., 5-11, 275
RT: Antonio Hodges*, Jr., 6-3, 250
K: Jack Sable, Jr., 5-7, 150

DEFENSE

DE: Chance Stevens, Jr., 6-3, 225
DT: Sean McCall*, Sr., 6-0, 275
DT: Bricen Geter, Sr., 6-1, 280
DE: Antonio Hodges, Jr., 6-3, 250
SLB: Jerry Black*, Jr., 6-2, 215
MLB: Marcel Dickson*, Jr., 5-9, 210
WLB: Kaden Hopkins Bey, Jr., 5-8, 190
CB: Savion Lewis*, Sr., 6-0, 180
CB: Ardell Chatman, Sr., 6-0, 165
SS: Ronnie Taylor, Jr., 6-0, 195
FS: Jamir Martemus, Jr., 5-8, 170
P: Joe Efford, Sr., 6-0, 170
*: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 17
Key reserves: Ronnie Taylor, Jr., 6-0, 195, Jamir Martemus, Jr., 5-8, 150, Jerry Black, Jr., 6-2, 215, Montrae Stubbs, Jr., 5-8, 265, Tinochy McClean, Jr., 5-9, 200;
Best in the classroom: Jordaine Taylor, 4.2;
Best bench press: Sean McCall, 435 pounds
Best squat: Hank Gonakis, 525 pounds
Best 40 time: Ardell Chatman, 4.4 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

VASJ's Jerry Black looks to evade an Ursuline defender during a 2024 game.

Outlook

There's a lot of new faces among the Vikings but experience is sprinkled in. TJ Moore got a lot of playing time a season ago, which will help the youth on the offensive end get adjusted to the speed of the game. Anthony Hodge is the lone returner on the offensive line. The defense has a number of players back, including in the middle with Jerry Black, Marcel Dickson and Savion Lewis as a part of the back seven.

Player to watch

Chance Stevens has emerged as a voice on the front lines. The junior brings the size and power to create the holes that the run game of Moore and Ronnie Taylor are going to need.

Underclassman to watch: Jameer Martemus has emerged as a strong two-way player with receiver and safety, making waves over the summer camp and earning a spot in the rotation.

Bottom line

IF: Young offense matures quickly, THEN: The Vikings will be in the playoff hunt.



Stevens



Marlemus

— Ben Hercik

West Geauga » Wolverines

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Chagrin
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13
Coach: Rossi Santo, first year
2024: 2-8 (0-5)
X: @WestGFootball
Home field: Howell Field

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: West Geauga at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: NDCL at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Chagrin Falls at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Conneaut at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: West Geauga at Edgewood, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: West Geauga at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Harvey at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: West Geauga at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Perry at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: West Geauga at Orange, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Finn Keenan*, Sr., 5-11, 205
RB: Miles Baker, Sr., 5-10, 190
RB: Sal Catalano, Sr., 5-10, 170
RB: Matthew Osters*, Sr., 5-8, 180
TE: Baylan Semplak, Sr., 6-2, 205
TE: Dominic Paros*, Sr., 6-2, 188
TE: Tyler Fink, Sr., 6-3, 185
LT: Blake Welker*, Sr., 6-3, 230
LG: Ryan Mobley, Sr., 6-3, 240
C: Maveric Milnar*, Sr., 6-1, 265
RG: Michael Thomsen, Sr.
RT: Roger Steffens, Jr., 5-10, 245

DEFENSE

DL: Miles Baker*, Sr., 5-10, 190
DL: Daegan Katz*, Sr., 5-8, 175
DL: Maveric Milnar, Sr., 6-1, 265
DL: Michael Thomsen, Sr.
LB: Johnny Beclay, So., 5-10, 182
LB: Eric Evangelista, Jr., 5-10, 195
LB: Anthony Dzurilla, So., 6-0, 190
DB: Dominic Paros*, Sr., 6-2, 188
DB: Charlie Culek*, Sr., 5-8, 155
DB: Mickey Keenan, So., 5-8, 157
DB: Vincent Vecchio*, Jr., 5-11, 170
*: returning starter
Best in the classroom: Nate Goden 4.22 GPA, Cooper Vosicky 4.20, Miles Baker 4.17
Best bench press: Miles Baker, Roger Steffens and Maveric Milnar, 300 pounds
Best squat: Miles Baker and Maveric Milnar, 425 pounds
Best 40 time: Miles Baker, 4.47 seconds



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

West Geauga participated in a 7-on-7 on June 25.

Outlook

A new era commences at West G under Santo with a group eager to atone for a two-win 2024. The offense, with Osters and Paros back as options for Keenan and confidence in depth, could be in line for an upswing. Baker (7.5 sacks, 15 TFLs in 2024 regular season) is a foundational piece on defense. Milnar is a dependable performer in the trenches.

Player to watch

With some Kirtland-esque ground elements being installed by Santo to complement the passing game, QB Finn Keenan (12 passing TDs) is the veteran leader required to lead that transition.

Underclassman to watch:

Santo has high hopes and praise for sophomore Anthony Dzurilla for the two-way role he could fill.

Bottom line

IF: that Keenan-powered offense can tap into its new identity and the defense can find its way better than last fall, THEN: a run toward .500 vs. a tough schedule would be a nice step forward.

— Chris Lillstrung



Keenan



Visit US! Families of boys entering Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 are invited to join us for a fall admission event.

Learn more at www.us.edu/visit

Scholarships available for high school students.

Wickliffe»Blue Devils

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Valley

OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21

Coach: Marce Porcello, 15th year (67-76)

2024: 7-4 (4-1)

X: @wickliffefb

Home field: Memorial Stadium

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Wickliffe at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 29: Wickliffe at Shaw, 5 p.m.

Sept. 5: Brooklyn at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Wickliffe at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Independence at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Kirtland at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Wickliffe at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Rootstown at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Wickliffe at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Crestwood at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Frank Bucar, Sr., 5-10, 160*

RB: Jade Strehle, Sr., 5-8, 165

RB: Ralph Jackson, Sr., 5-10, 180*

WR: Jimmie Feaster, Sr., 6-0, 175*

WR: Cole Vanatta, So., 5-10, 155

TE: Matthew Fiorelli, Jr., 6-0, 220

LT: Dante Martinez, So., 6-0, 255

LG: Gio Martinez, Sr., 6-0, 245*

C: Kayden Floyd, So, 6-0, 300

RG: Nathan Abruzzino, Sr., 5-9, 190*

RT: Niko Garrison, Jr., 6-0, 225*

K: Drew Rossman, Sr., 6-0, 150*

DEFENSE

DL: Tre Jackson, So, 6-1, 260

DL: Nate Abruzzino, Sr., 5-9, 190*

DL: Gio Martinez, Sr., 6-0, 245*

LB: Ralph Jackson, Sr., 5-10, 180*

LB: Nick Oboczky, Jr., 5-11, 205*

LB: Davion Martin, Jr., 5-11, 210*

LB: Jade Strehle, Sr., 5-8, 165*

LB: Jimmie Feaster, Sr., 6-0, 175*

DB: Markese Roberts, Sr., 5-11, 175

DB: Jayden Johnson, So, 5-7, 150

DB: Frank Bucar, Sr., 5-10, 160

P: Drew Rossman, Sr., 6-0, 150

*: returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12

Key reserves: Dominic Porcello, So., 5-8, 170, Elijah Fitch, Fr.,

5-8, 170, Elijah John, Sr., 5-9, 180, Sam Parker, Jr., 5-10, 195

Best in the classroom: Gio Martinez 4.3 GPA

Best bench press: Kayden Floyd 275 pounds

Best squat: Kayden Floyd 425 pounds

Best 40 time: Jimmie Feaster 4.6 seconds

Outlook

Coach Marce Porcello will welcome back seven starters on each side of the ball from a team that went 7-3 and nearly upset higher-seeded Toronto last year in the first round of the playoffs. That experience will benefit the Blue Devils as they move from the CVC Metro Division to the Valley Division. Senior QB Frankie Bucar, who passed for 589 yards and seven touchdowns and ran for 293 and four more scores last year, will be back to direct Wickliffe's wing-T offense. The Blue Devils will have a deep stable of backs, paced by seniors Ralph Jackson and Jimmie Feaster.

Player to watch

Senior Ralph Jackson, who rushed for 695 yards and six touchdowns last season, will return to Wickliffe's backfield and to his outside linebacker position on defense. Wickliffe's unquestioned vocal leader, Jackson exudes a high level of energy and intensity.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Nick Oboczky returns at middle linebacker, where he led the Blue Devils in tackles last season as a sophomore. Porcello lauded Oboczky for his high football IQ.

Bottom line

IF: Wickliffe's returning experienced players navigate a tougher schedule; **THEN:** the Blue Devils will make a bid to return to the Division VI playoffs.

— Jay Kron



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Wickliffe's Frank Bucar looks for a signal against Berkshire on Sept. 20, 2024.



Jackson

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

PRESEASON FIT

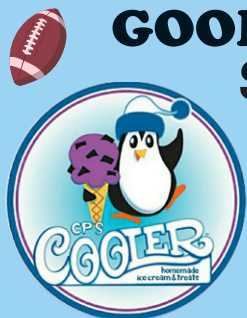


PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Coaches at South, top left, North, top right, and Lake Catholic look on during the preseason. For a photo galleries from preseason scrimmages and practices, visit News-Herald.com.

GOOD LUCK TO TO ALL THE LOCAL TEAMS THIS SEASON

Small-batch, homemade flavors created by us for you.



HOMEMADE ICE CREAM • COOKIE DOUGHS
ICE CREAM CAKES • PARFAITS

FLURRIES • MILKSHAKES • MALTS • FLOATS
SUNDAES • CONES • SOFT SERVE

HOMEMADE LEMONADES • SHIRLEY TEMPLES
VIRAL DUBAI STRAWBERRIES & CANDY BARS

HOT FUDGE BROWNIE SUNDAES
BANANA SPLITS

WE ARE OPEN UNTIL MID DECEMBER!

BOGO FLURRY (of equal or lesser value)
Expires the last day of the 2025 season

DRIVE-THRU AVAILABLE
MANY VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE
OPTIONS AVAILABLE!!!

CP'S COOLER HOMEMADE
ICE CREAM & TREATS
LOCATED AT:
32433 VINE ST., WILLOWICK, OH. 44095
(440) 944-COOL (2665)

High school football » Area schedule

(Subject to change)
AUG. 21
University at Brookside, 7 p.m.
AUG. 22
Bishop Rosecrans at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
Brush at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Cambridge Springs (Pa.) at Fairport, 7 p.m.
Cardinal Mooney at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Chardon at Massillon Jackson, 7 p.m.
Cuyahoga Falls at South, 7 p.m.
Harvey at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Hawken at Cleveland Central Catholic, 4 p.m.
Jefferson at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Kirtland at Clarion (Pa.), 7 p.m.
LaBrae at Cardinal, 7 p.m.
Madison at Perry, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
North at Lakeside, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Rhodes, 4 p.m.
Riverside at Shaker Heights, 7 p.m.
Solon at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Struthers at NDCL, 7 p.m.
VASJ at Walnut Ridge, 7 p.m.
West Geauga at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
AUG. 23
Gilmour at Benedictine, 7 p.m.
AUG. 29
Ashland Crestview at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Avon Lake at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Bay at University, 5 p.m.
Benedictine at Padua, 7 p.m.
Berkshire at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Brush at Shaker Heights, 7 p.m.
Cardinal at Champion, 7 p.m.
Chagrin Falls at Orange, 7 p.m.
Chardon at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Euclid at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Fairport at David Anderson, 7 p.m.
Geneva at Howland, 7 p.m.
Gilmour at Holy Name, 7 p.m.
Green at Riverside, 7 p.m.
John Adams at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
Kenston at Perry, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Erie McDowell, 7 p.m.
NDCL at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
North at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Loudonville, 7 p.m.
South at Madison, 7 p.m.
VASJ at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Shaw, 5 p.m.
SEPT. 5
Brooklyn at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
Cardinal at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Chagrin Falls at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Perry at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Erie Cathedral Prep at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Erie McDowell at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Euclid at Hilliard Darby, 7 p.m.
Geneva at Normandy, 7 p.m.
Harvey at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Hawken at Gilmour, 7 p.m.



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

South huddles before facing Aurora in a scrimmage Aug. 9.

Lutheran West at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.
Madison at North, 7 p.m.
Mansfield at VASJ, 7 p.m.
NDCL at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Nordonia at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at John Adams, 4 p.m.
South at Brush, 7 p.m.
St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7 p.m.
University at Hubbard, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 6
Akron Buchtel at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Beachwood at St. John, 7 p.m.
Fairport at New Washington Buckeye Central, 12 p.m.
SEPT. 12
Chagrin Falls at Independence, 7 p.m.
Conneaut at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Crestwood at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
Firestone at South, 7 p.m.
Geneva at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Chardon at Perry, 7 p.m.
Kirtland at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Lakeside at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.
Lake Catholic at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Lorain at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Fairport at Cardinal, 7 p.m.
Akron Buchtel at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Benedictine at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Bedford at Brush, 7 p.m.
Madison at Holy Name, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at Massillon Jackson, 7 p.m.
Maple Heights at South, 7 p.m.
North at Lutheran East, 4 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Toledo Christian, 7 p.m.
Riverside at Austintown Fitch, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 13

Shaw at University, 1 p.m.
Berkshire at Trinity, 2 p.m.
SEPT. 19
Beachwood at Rootstown, 7 p.m.
Cuyahoga Heights at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Fairview at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Firestone at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Harvey at Jefferson, 7 p.m.
Hawken at Madison, 7 p.m.
Independence at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
Perry at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Trinity at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
West Geauga at Edgewood, 7 p.m.
Euclid at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Medina at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Fairport at Vienna Mathews, 7 p.m.
Brush at Akron Hoban, 7 p.m.
Cardinal at Windham, 7 p.m.
Akron East at University, 5 p.m.
Garfield Heights at North, 7 p.m.
John Marshall at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Kenston at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Lake Catholic at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.
NDCL at Bedford, 7 p.m.
St. Ignatius at Riverside, 7 p.m.
VASJ at Akron SVSM, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 20
Chardon at Cardinal Mooney, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Crestline, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 26
Brooklyn at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
Chagrin Falls at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Edgewood at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Kirtland at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
Lakeside at Madison, 7 p.m.
Lutheran West at Perry, 7 p.m.
Orange at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Rootstown at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

West Geauga at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Pymatuning Valley at Fairport, 7 p.m.
Garfield Heights at Brush, 7 p.m.
Holy Name at NDCL, 7 p.m.
John Adams at Cardinal, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.
Shaker Heights at Euclid, 7 p.m.
CVCA at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Kenston at North, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at South, 7 p.m.
Riverside at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Benedictine at St. Ignatius, 7 p.m.
Cleveland JFK at VASJ, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Vanlue, 7 p.m.
SEPT. 27
Gilmour at University, 1 p.m.
OCT. 3
Berkshire at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Cardinal Vienna Mathews, 7 p.m.
Geneva at Conneaut, 7 p.m.
Harvey at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Hawken at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.
Madison at Edgewood, 7 p.m.
Perry at Orange, 7 p.m.
Cleveland Central Catholic at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Euclid at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Strongsville at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Grand Valley at Fairport, 7 p.m.
Lake Catholic at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Padua at NDCL, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at Riverside, 7 p.m.
North at Chardon, 7 p.m.
South at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Brush at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.
Columbus Centennial at VASJ, 7 p.m.
John Hay at University, 4:30 p.m.
Lutheran East at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 4
Beachwood at Trinity, 2 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Warren JFK, 1 p.m.
OCT. 9
Harvey at Perry, 7 p.m.
Lakeside at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Madison at Jefferson, 7 p.m.
North at South, 7 p.m.
OCT. 10
Berkshire at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Cuyahoga Heights at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
Orange at Hawken, 7 p.m.
Cardinal at Grand Valley, 7 p.m.
Kirtland at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Rootstown at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
West Geauga at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.
Shaker Heights at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Lake Catholic at Padua, 7 p.m.
NDCL at CVCA, 7 p.m.
Chardon at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Riverside at Kenston, 7 p.m.
Benedictine at Erie Cathedral Prep, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at St. Thomas Aquinas, 7 p.m.
Shaw at Brush, 7 p.m.
University at Chaney, 7 p.m.
VASJ at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
OCT. 11
Euclid at Cleveland Heights, 1 p.m.
Steubenville Catholic Central at Fairport, 7 p.m.
OCT. 17
Beachwood at Independence, 7 p.m.
Chagrin Falls at Rootstown, 7 p.m.
Crestwood at Kirtland, 7 p.m.
Geneva at Madison, 7 p.m.
Hawken at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Perry at West Geauga, 7 p.m.
Erie at Brush, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Medina at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Pymatuning Valley at Cardinal, 7 p.m.
Holy Name at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
NDCL at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Chardon at South, 7 p.m.
Kenston at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Riverside at North, 7 p.m.
Columbus St. Charles at University, 4:30 p.m.
Rhodes at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
VASJ at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.
OCT. 18
Fairport at St. John, 6 p.m.
OCT. 24
Berkshire at Chagrin Falls, 7 p.m.
Conneaut at Madison, 7 p.m.
Crestwood at Wickliffe, 7 p.m.
Jefferson at Geneva, 7 p.m.
Kirtland at Rootstown, 7 p.m.
Lutheran West at Harvey, 7 p.m.
Perry at Hawken, 7 p.m.
West Geauga at Orange, 7 p.m.
Euclid at Mentor, 7 p.m.

Windham at Fairport, 7 p.m.
NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Kenston at Chardon, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at North, 7 p.m.
South at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Akron SVSM at Benedictine, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland Central Catholic at Brush, 7 p.m.
Delaware Hayes at VASJ, 7 p.m.
Maple Heights at Gilmour, 7 p.m.
Richmond Heights at Mogadore, 7 p.m.
St. John at Cardinal, 7 p.m.
University at Howland, 7 p.m.
Vanlue at Beachwood, 7 p.m.
BROADCASTS
SPECTRUM NEWS 1
Aug. 29: Glenville at Olentangy Liberty
Sept. 5: Cincinnati Elder at Springboro
Sept. 12: Westerville North at Cincinnati St. Xavier
Sept. 19: Cincinnati Anderson at Kings Mills Kings
Sept. 26: Ironton at Wheelersburg
Oct. 3: Strongsville at Mentor
Oct. 10: Walsh Jesuit at Youngstown Ursuline
Oct. 17: Cincinnati La Salle at Louisville
Oct. 24: St. Edward at Akron Hoban
WHK-AM 1420
Aug. 22: Mentor at Olmsted Falls
Aug. 29: Avon Lake at Lake Catholic
Aug. 5: St. Ignatius at Mentor
Sept. 12: Aurora at Medina Highland
Sept. 19: St. Ignatius at Riverside
Sept. 26: Avon at Berea-Midpark
Oct. 3: St. Ignatius at St. Edward
Oct. 10: Wadsworth at Nordonia
Oct. 17: Kenston at Mayfield
Oct. 24: Strongsville at Brunswick
WINT-AM 1330, FM 101.5
Aug. 22: Cardinal Mooney at Lake Catholic
Aug. 29: Kenston at Perry
Sept. 5: St. Ignatius at Mentor
Sept. 12: Lake Catholic at Gilmour
Sept. 19: Cleveland Heights at Mentor
Sept. 26: CVCA at Lake Catholic
Oct. 3: Strongsville at Mentor
Oct. 9: North at South
Oct. 10: VASJ at Gilmour
Oct. 17: Holy Name at Lake Catholic
Oct. 24: Euclid at Mentor
Oct. 25: NDCL at Lake Catholic
WREO-FM 97.1
Aug. 22: Mentor at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Mentor at Erie McDowell, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Mentor at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Medina at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Mentor at Cleveland Heights, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Strongsville at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Shaker Heights at Mentor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Mentor at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Euclid at Mentor, 7 p.m.



WILLOUGHBY LIONS CLUB

Medallion featuring the sign entering Downtown Willoughby at Erie St. & Rt. 20 Limited Edition, Authorized by the Rod Serling Family.



CALL TO GET YOURS NOW! \$20.00

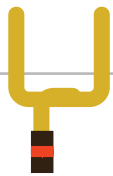
Perfect Christmas Gift or for any Occasion!

Call 440-223-6138 for more info. Proceeds go toward City of Willoughby improvements in the City of Willoughby! Also available at the Willoughby City Hall Recreation Dept. and Willoughby Senior Center



SPORTS EXPRESS

ROUND TRIP RIDE TO BROWNS HOME GAMES



Mentor Park-n-Ride

Sports Express departs Mentor Park-n-Ride 2 hours before each Browns home game.



Cleveland Browns Stadium

Sports Express departs 45 min. after the end of each game from St. Clair Ave. & E. 9th St.

Tickets On Sale Now

Laketrans STS offers affordable, round trip transportation to Cleveland Browns home football games. Group rates/family discounts for three or more.

Visit www.laketrans.com for tickets or call:
440-354-6100

LAKETRAN

