



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL '25



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ROCK ON, AVON

Eagles' tradition now includes a state title. The quest for the next one begins.

Front row from left, Ryan Stolarski, Lance Dawson; back row, from left, Jerry Clements, Grant Barr, Max Hauck.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Avon reloads after state championship

Fresh off 16-0 season, Eagles restock talent

By Mark Perez-Krywany
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For many years, Avon was on top of the Southwestern Conference and Division II, Region 6.

Now that dusk and snow from the state championship game have settled in Canton, Avon embarks on a new journey.

It is one with new faces, new leadership, but with the same goal in mind — to repeat as Division II state champs.

“We don’t get affected by the state championship,” said Avon linebacker Ryan Stolarski. “We expect to win state every year, because that’s how we prepare our whole offseason. ... We are still seniors. This is our last year, and we want to win it all. Hopefully, the next year and the years to come, it will set the younger kids up (for success).”

As soon as the new year turned, the Eagles were back to work.

Avon coach Mike Elder does not view 2025 as defending the D-II throne.

It is a “process-driven” team on a mission to teach student-athletes.

“As soon as January hit, our underclassmen put the state championship behind them,” said Elder. “We don’t really talk about that much anymore. They can celebrate that for the rest of their lives, especially our (Class of 2025). We don’t have time for that. I think our kids understand that.”

Avon comes into the season with a 16-game winning streak from its undefeated title run, knowing it will re-



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon, shown practicing Aug. 1, will carry a 16-game winning streak into Week 1 this season.

ceive everybody’s best shot.

“I think it is a privilege to have pressure,” Avon All-Ohio defensive back Jakob Weatherspoon said. “I just love the feeling of it and the adrenaline when you get to play. I want everybody’s best shot.”

The Eagles have won the previous nine conference

championships and seven Division II, Region 6 titles in the last eight years.

“The only place there wasn’t that target was in the final four,” Elder said. “It really doesn’t feel different, but people who were excited to play you before are really excited to play the defending state champs

in their mind. We do not call ourselves the defending state champs, because we are not defending anything. We are hunting for something new.”

There is no room for complacency for Avon.

With an opportunity to become the first area team to repeat as state champion

since Elyria Catholic (1983 and 1984), Elder uses the passion of teaching student-athletes to keep striving for excellence.

“It is new faces, new people and new opportunities,” Elder said. “There are a lot of kids on this team who waited their turn to play as seniors. Now, it is here.

If you love kids, which is a prerequisite of coaching, how can you not love that opportunity these kids get when they waited their turn for three years.”

Avon’s Class of 2026 is 39 players deep, including Elder’s son, Blake Elder, who will be the starting quarterback.

“When they were in third grade, I would go from a varsity practice to coach third-grade football,” said Elder. “In fourth grade, I would go from varsity practice to fourth grade (practice). I feel like some of these (players) are my own sons. I am so close to these kids. To say that I love these kids would be an understatement.”

The team captains are Vinny DeTillio, Eian Englehart, Max Hauck, Stolarski, Caden Clapham, Weatherspoon, Sam Ulery, Jerry Clements and Grant Barr.

All watched the previous leadership group, filled with All-Ohioan talents, pave the path that 2025 will attempt to match.

“We watched the senior leaders ahead of us, so we knew how we had to lead as seniors and get the juniors and sophomores ready,” Barr said.

The offseason was a busy one for its elite talents, as defensive lineman Lance Dawson (Cincinnati), Weatherspoon (North Carolina) and Stolarski (Miami of Ohio) committed to FBS college programs.

“We are a lot more vocal,” Dawson said. “We are always coming out the tunnel blasting music, having a chip on our shoulder, getting each other pumped and checking on each other. We are always keeping that energy 100%. In case someone makes a bad play, we are always there for each other.”



JOE COLON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon football players, from left, Max Hauck, Ryan Stolarski, Lance Dawson and Grant Barr.

Avon

FROM PAGE 2

Barr and Hauck have received Division I attention, as well. Avon believes it's reloaded to go back-to-back.

"We now know that we can do it," Hauck said. "In this offseason, we have been working way harder than we all have been, especially in the weight room. Iron sharpens iron. The more we hit each other, we will help each other."

Avon's defense was a cornerstone of its success, as it allowed 12.6 points per game and held Cincinnati Anderson (which scored the fifth-most points in a season in OHSAA history) to 13 points in the D-II state championship game.

As opposed to the front seven the Eagles boasted

last year, the secondary will take charge as the most-experienced group.

Alex Rivera, Clapham, Clements, Trevor Maly and Weatherspoon will occupy the last line of defense, as Division I talent remains in the front seven.

"I feel like nobody is going to be stopping us this year," Dawson said. "We are going to get a sack, (tackle for loss), or batted ball on every single play."

Offensively, the skill spots are where Avon has the most depth.

Elder said his wide receiving corps is eight varsity-ready players deep, along with its running back committee.

"We feel like we have three really good varsity running backs. Quiante Smith, Michael Colburn and Cam Wendell. Wendell and Smith are return-

ing starters from last year. It was a three-headed monster last year with those two and T.K. (Tyler Kaufmann). T.K. is gone, and Colburn fills in for that."

Weatherspoon is expected to make multiple appearances at wide receiver, as Barr will lead the group out wide.

"You have a bunch of guys who are fresh. They're running routes at full speed. ... You should feel like you have some fresh legs in the fourth quarter," Elder said.

The 2025 season will be an emotional year for Avon, as its former captain Jeremiah Kelly died in April from a heart condition.

Avon plans to dedicate its season to its fallen Eagle. It will wear "LLJK" stickers on the team's helmet, which stands for "Live Like Jeremiah Kelly."

"We had (Kelly's) mom

come in and talk about his legacy, ... him as a human being and what made him so special, not as a football player but as a person," Elder said. "What the challenge is when you put on that helmet, it is to think about how you can live life a little more like Jeremiah, because he was a servant leader, had contagious positive energy and was constantly concerned about making people feel good. ... I wear a wristband all the time. When I do something dumb or lose my temper, I try to think about him a little bit."

The Eagles' first game will be at home against St. Ignatius on Aug. 21.

"By Week 1, we've just got to be better than St. Ignatius," Elder said. "By Week 1, we will be really good and will be hard for anybody to beat."

TOP OF THE CROP

Football

1: Avon (16-0 in 2024)

2: Olmsted Falls (8-4)

3: Avon Lake (6-5)

4: North Ridgeville (9-3)

5: Amherst (6-5)

6: Rocky River (8-4)

7: Lorain (9-2)

8: Keystone (10-2)

9: Vermilion (9-3)

10: Fairview (7-4)

Watch list: Columbia (10-3), Brookside (3-7), Bay (7-5)

Crop comments: For the first time in 21 years, an area team won a state championship. Avon, which is on a 16-game winning streak, takes the top spot. The Eagles have an experienced offensive line, with stars at wide receiver. The defense has several Division I commits, as well. ... Olmsted Falls gave Avon the most trouble of any area team last year. With four of the five returning offensive linemen and All-Ohio running back Owen Singleton, Olmsted Falls should be the Eagles' biggest obstacle in 2025. ... Avon Lake, with multiple Division I commits, lost in the first round of the playoffs, but was in the running for the SWC championship in the regular-season finale. ... North Ridgeville is replacing its entire offensive line. This could mean trouble for a run-first offense, but the Rangers will have All-Ohioan Zack Barnhart in the backfield. They will have a new linebacking

corps, but the secondary and defensive line will stay mostly intact to make a run for a home playoff game. ... The Comets lost a lot of talent on both sides of the ball. However, they brought in transfers that should have major roles on offense and defense and will have more size in the trenches. Amherst should be in contention for the playoffs. ... Rocky River quarterback Ryan Taylor is anticipated to have a big year after throwing for 2,009 yards and 25 passing touchdowns, with 10 touchdowns on the ground. With more than half of the offensive line back and St. Ignatius transfer Tristin Hughes in a Pirates uniform, Rocky River should compete in the Cleveland West Conference.

... Lorain's front seven will be one of its biggest strengths with three All-Ohioans back. Offensively, the Titans can lean on the offense while the skill positions catch up. With Lorain in the Greater Cleveland Conference, it will be significantly harder to win games compared to the Lake Erie League. ... Keystone comes in as the Lorain County League defending champion and looks to defend it, as All-Ohioans Wyatt McKee and Shane Ohl will be on both sides of the ball. ... Vermilion should be able to run the ball with running back Evan Kuhn and All-Ohioan lineman Chad Ellis paving the way. The Sailors rushed for more than 3,000 yards in 2024. ... Fairview, led by quarterback Burke Lowry, will have an exciting passing attack. It should be one of the best air raids in the area, with two-sport All-Ohioans Will Allen (wide receiver) and Danny O'Neil (offensive lineman).

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

From Clippers to Comets for QB Christensen

All-Ohioan poised to power Amherst after transferring from Clearview

By Mark Perez-Krywany
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Amherst coach Tom Thome knew Cy Christensen was a talented quarterback — even before Christensen transferred to the program.

After Christensen put on a show in Thome's team's first 7-on-7 at Tom Hoch Field in 2023, neither side thought they would join forces.

"That was my first 7-on-7 (at Amherst) as the coach," Thome said. "Cy (Christensen) put on a show and we had a hard time covering (Clearview's) No. 1 receiver on deep (passes). Cy has great touch on the deep ball."

Fast forward to 2025, Amherst transformed from a winless program in back-to-back seasons to a 2024 playoff team. Meanwhile, Christensen became a two-time All-Ohio QB at Clearview.

As they once saw each other as adversaries, Amherst welcomed Christensen with open arms, as he plans to have a big senior season.

"It's been great so far. Coming over from Clearview. It was great being a Clipper, but being a Comet, everyone has welcomed me (well)," he said.

At Clearview, Christensen was named All-Ohio in his sophomore and junior seasons.

He passed for 5,828 career passing yards and 58 touchdowns. He was on pace to surpass Roger Engle III (6,293 yards, 61 touch-



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst QB Cy Christensen throws against Lorain in a scrimmage Aug. 14.

downs) in career passing touchdowns and yards at Clearview.

"Cy (Christensen) is a very versatile quarterback and brings a lot of credibil-

ity, as a four-year starter," Thome said. "He is a great kid to work with. He came (to Amherst) selfless. He had to win the starting job against three other compet-

itors. He brings a lot of leadership and talent to the program."

Before Christensen's transfer, Thome's original plan of succession

"I love the offense. There is a great offensive line and great weapons here. I think that we are going to have a great season."

— Amherst quarterback Cy Christensen said.

was a three-way quarterback battle to replace Matt Wilhelm award finalist Cole Norris.

Christensen's arrival dissolved the quarterback battle, which allowed teammates Jack Coleman (defensive back, wide receiver), Nick Wilkinson (wide receiver) and Brody Glick (linebacker) to contribute at other positions.

"Bringing Cy (Christensen) in made us a deeper team," Thome said.

Wide receiver is where Amherst (6-5 in 2024) has a lot of depth. The competition for the starting positions makes the whole unit better.

"You can't have an off day (at wide receiver)," Thome said. "You bring back two all-district receivers in Cael (Charles) and David (Dudziak). Peyton Leibacher started. Now, you throw Jack (Coleman) in the mix, with Nick (Wilkinson) in the mix, Cameron Born and tight end Anthony Litz. That is a lot of names right there."

The offensive line, responsible for blocking for Christensen, has grown as well. The Comets' weight room efforts paid dividends. All but one of their offensive linemen weigh at least 240 pounds.

"I love the offense. There is a great offensive line and great weapons here. I think that we are going to have a great season," Christensen said.

Transfers may need to adjust, but Christensen fit

Amherst like a glove. It was accomplished with pre-developed relationships made well before high school.

Many of his close childhood friends are on the team, establishing a strong foundation.

Wide receiver David Dudziak is one of Christensen's several friends.

"I feel like he will have a great season. He had great seasons at Clearview, so I do not see it any different here," Dudziak said.

Along with his deep ball, Thome believes Christensen can be a dual-threat quarterback. Christensen is willing to do whatever it takes to win.

"This offense is (very) different than Clearview. I will be running the ball more. I would say it is 50% running and 50% passing," Christensen said. "I put more weight on, which should help. I feel more confident with the ball. I can rush for 100 yards and throw for 100 yards."

From previously playing in the Lorain County League, Christensen will jump to the Southwestern Conference.

Amherst went 3-4 in the SWC last year. As the first LC8 quarterback to also play in the SWC, Christensen is excited for the challenge.

"Going from the LC8 to the SWC is a big jump," he said. "I have a ton of experience. I feel like I can bring my skills here and do the same exact thing I did in the LC8."



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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Athlete-driven Christian values fuel Keystone

Wildcats are reigning LC8 champions

By Mark Perez-Krywany
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At Keystone, its strongest formation is the joining of prayer.

In a domain where religion is optional, its student-athlete-led Christian fellowship has reached an all-time high in recent years.

After taking the Lorain County League title in 2024, the Wildcats are prepared to defend their crown — while playing for something bigger than football.

“This is very important (to Keystone). This is one of the main things that keeps us all together,” Keystone’s Kaleb Scott said.

It all began at Christ Church-West Campus in Elyria with Pastor Chet Beetler. With a few Wildcats going to services, they invited teammates.

Scott was one of the first members.

“It makes everybody vulnerable. We all know what we believe. We all see each other with a certain type of respect for that. When we get together, it keeps our family close,” Scott said.

Team captain and All-Ohioan Shane Ohl is a regular at Christ Church and bonded with Beetler.

“It means a lot to me. It makes me less selfish. It makes me see that I am a part of something (bigger than myself),” Ohl said. “I know I can rely on other guys instead of acting like it is my responsibility for everything.”

It quickly multiplied to a large majority of the team over a two-year period.

“Before you knew it, every Sunday, the front row was



MARK PEREZ-KRYWANY — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone’s Wyatt McKee, Shane Ohl and Kaleb Scott.

full of Keystone student-athletes, and they would bring a friend,” Coach Don Griswold said. “They would go to the first service in the morning. Then, they went to a youth group at their campus in Columbia (Station). It grew very organically.”

It got to a point where Griswold asked if his team wanted to do a Bible study, and the team was excited to participate.

“The turnout was great,” Griswold said. “We averaged about 20 kids coming at 6:45 (a.m.) when it first started. Kids cycled in and out because our guys work out at 5:30 (a.m.) typically. Then, we started doing pregame devotional and 80% of the team was there, including our one Muslim student. We are one of those programs where if kids want to do stuff, we will throw it out there.”

Griswold leads the Bible

study, and the group often reads passages by St. Paul and applies them to life.

“I think that it makes me go into Friday nights with a better mindset and play for my lord Jesus Christ. ... It means everything to me,” Keystone All-Ohio running back Wyatt McKee said.

Keystone likes to get guest speakers in and has hopes to bring in Browns players.

“The percentage of kids that are curious, or beginning their faith journey has increased over the years. They see what the effect has on their peers,” Griswold said.

As a public employee, Griswold made sure to walk a “fine line.” The faith and football connection was not mandatory, but voluntary through authenticity.

“Young people today are drawn to authenticity. They know that social media and the world today is selling

self-centeredness, narcissism and relative moralism. In a variety of things, including Christianity will teach you to be selfless, to die to your sin-nature and to be part of something bigger than yourself. There are so many themes that resonate faith-wise, not just Christianity, but others as well as team sports.”

Due to the growing demand, custom T-shirts were made. As it sports the Wildcats’ logo on the sleeve, the front says “Jesus won” with a purple cross on the back.

According to Griswold, it’s been a hot-ticket item where the demand well exceeds the supply.

“We had a batch made up and they went lickety-split. We had a second batch made up and those went just as fast. ... We can’t print them fast enough,” Griswold said.

On the gridiron, Keystone enters the 2025 sea-

“The percentage of kids that are curious, or beginning their faith journey has increased over the years. They see what the effect has on their peers.”

— Keystone coach Don Griswold



MARK PEREZ-KRYWANY — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone’s T-shirts

son as the defending Lorain County League champion.

“This will be the fourth one we’ve defended,” Griswold said. “We are really comfortable in that position. There is a target, we’re getting everybody’s best shot. That is an awesome and humbling place to be.”

Last year, the Wildcats went 10-2 (7-0 LC8). They advanced to the second round of the Division V, Region 18 playoffs, but lost to No. 3 Oak Harbor.

“We lost a lot of really talented seniors. At the same time, we’re not starting fresh, with two All-Ohio (Ohl and McKee) players coming back,” Griswold said.

Ohl (All-Ohio at line-backer) and McKee (at running back) will be major contributors on both sides of the ball.

McKee will lead the offensive side, as the junior rushed for 1,225 yards, with

11 rushing touchdowns.

The offensive line does not have a lot of returning starters, but the Wildcats’ depth in the trenches gave a lot of returning players experience on both sides of the ball.

Quarterback Colt Cowling was All-Ohio in basketball last year. The sophomore will replace LC8 Player of the Year Zach Shackelford.

As an athlete who ran on the Wildcats’ 4x200 state-qualifying relay team (eighth in Division II state meet), Griswold has high expectations for Cowling.

“Colt Cowling is outstanding. He is going to be an All-Ohio quarterback this year if he stays healthy,” Griswold said.

Defensively, most of Keystone’s linebackers and second are back. Led by Ohl, it will anchor the defense that gave up 11.8 points per game.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lorain returns three All-Ohio defenders

By Travis Nelson

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There are a lot of moving parts within Lorain's football program right now, but the one constant is the defense.

The Titans are making the move from the Lake Erie League to the Greater Cleveland Conference and will be doing so after graduating their top playmakers on offense from a year ago.

On top of the losses on offense, Lorain also has to replace its entire secondary. Returning the majority of the front-seven will make the transition much easier.

With all three of their Division I All-Ohio defensive players back from last year — linebackers Jay'l Diaz (third team) and Jamiyus Gaines (honorable mention) and defensive lineman Ezra Williams (honorable mention), the Titans have pieces to rely on.

"It's definitely comforting," Lorain coach James Boyeas said. "I don't think it's very often that you have three returning All-Ohioans on one side of the ball. That's definitely a great thing. Just to touch on that — Coach (Dominique) Goodwin said something I really liked. He said we need to stop talking about who was All-Ohio last year because ain't nobody All-Ohio this year yet."

"Those guys know they have plenty of work to do with the gauntlet we have this year. We need them to be the leaders of the defense."

While nobody is All-Ohio yet for the 2025 season, these key returners provide a good starting point for a team that graduated a lot of talent.

The Titans return all four linebackers. Gaines had a big impact with his 109 tackles to go along with 13



TRAVIS NELSON — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain returns three All-Ohio players. From left, Jamiyus Gaines, Ezra Williams and Jay'l Diaz.



JOE COLON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain players look on during a meeting Aug. 1.

tackles for loss, but his biggest contribution is calling the defense. He's the leader of the group.

Diaz is another leader

who will be relied on both on and off the field. He put up 112 tackles, 8.5 sacks and two interceptions last year. They will be joined by Av-

ery Martin and Toriano Allen, who earned all-district honors. Williams had a big season in his own right in the trenches with 69 tack-

les, 14 tackles for loss and six sacks.

"It's nice to bring it back because we have that chemistry," Gaines said. "Playing better opponents, it's about showing the people how good we are and what we can do. ... We're ready to roll. We're excited to go into this new conference and show what we can do. We're here for the competition."

Last year's individual and team accolades didn't come without hard work. The Titans had a tremendous season in 2024 with a 9-2 record. They went undefeated in LEL play to win the conference title and earned a home playoff game in a loaded Division I, Region 1. The hard work continued this past offseason.

The returning impact defensive players weren't satisfied with their All-Ohio honors. Diaz made it clear he's shooting for first team this year. Both Gaines and Williams are ready to make

"... Just to touch on that — Coach (Dominique) Goodwin said something I really liked. He said we need to stop talking about who was All-Ohio last year because ain't nobody All-Ohio this year yet."

— Lorain coach James Boyeas

it onto one of the three teams. There is plenty of motivation to go around.

"All three of those guys had a pretty good offseason," Boyeas said. "There's no doubt in my mind Ezra had the best offseason he's had since he's been here at Lorain. All three are hungry, and they understand they have some goals."

Lorain has been building toward success like this. The Titans have put together two good seasons in a row and blew expectations out of the water in Boyeas' first year. The goal now is to sustain it.

There will be growing pains this season. The Titans are in a new conference, have a new quarterback and will need new contributors to step up. In the midst of the many "news," these veteran defensive players will provide stability.

"It feels good," Diaz said. "I knew I was going to become a leader by the time my senior year hit because I have a lot of younger kids looking up to me. It feels good to be a captain. We're trying to prove something and get the younger guys ready behind us."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Clearview sticks together through adversity

Clippers lost players to transfers, hired a new coach in summer

By Travis Nelson

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Following an offseason to forget, Clearview football is still standing.

The Clippers had several players transfer out and abruptly lost their head coach as Mike Collier resigned at the beginning of July. Instead of giving up, the players are sticking together through the adversity and are ready to play.

"They listen to what other people say and rumors and stuff like that. They know everything we're up against," Clearview coach Cody Kaya said. "I can't ask for a better group. They've been embracing adversity all summer. We've talked about it pretty much daily. We're not going to worry about things out of our control. We're going to worry about what we can do to control our own destiny and accomplish the goals we set out to do."

For the first time since 2007, a new Clearview head football coach will roam the sidelines. Kaya isn't new by any means, but the 2011 Clearview grad is leading this new era of Clippers football.

After five seasons on Clearview's coaching staff and the past two as defensive coordinator, Kaya was hired as the new head coach less than a month ago. He credits Collier for showing him the ropes.

"He's still a huge help to me and a huge mentor of mine," Kaya said of Collier. "Honestly, he's a genuine, quality person — there's no other way to put it. He always showed me it's about the kids first. A lot of what I've learned comes directly from Mike."



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Clearview takes on Sandusky in a scrimmage on Aug. 8.

Despite what has happened, Kaya brings stability. The players know him well and are excited to keep the tradition going. The Clippers lost some key players, including three-year starting quarterback Cy Christensen to Amherst, but the returning players are eager to show what they have.

"Obviously, there was a lot of offseason stuff we couldn't control," Clearview senior Tristin Ientile said. "(The coaches) came in short notice and they've been helping us out and we're getting to work every day. A lot of it is we just want to play ball. We lost some kids to transfers, we

lost our head coach, but we just put it to the side. Our focus is on winning football games this year. The expectation is still the same."

There is no doubt the Clippers feel slighted right now. The adversity doesn't help their cause entering the season, but the cupboard of talent isn't bare.

Clearview returns its entire offensive line and two key ball carriers in Ientile and Kameron Williams. The Clippers were 8-3 in 2024 and also won eight games in 2023. They are motivated to put together another strong campaign.

"I feel like everybody thinks we're underdogs, but

I still think we're a team to beat," Williams said. "I don't consider us underdogs. ... It's just keeping it going. We know what to expect, we've been there before. We've just got to keep the tradition going."

The Clippers have tried their best to put the offseason distractions behind them and focus on what's next. In those tough moments, they leaned on each other. A bond was formed and the players are taking the positives from a tough situation.

"I feel like it's making us stronger as a team," Ientile said. "I feel like in years past, the brotherhood wasn't as tight as it is now. We're getting on each other and holding each other accountable. We're trying to stick together through the hard times. Now that everything's settled, we're just going to come out and play together."

Change and uncertainty are not always bad. While it probably wasn't how Kaya expected, he got his first head coaching job at his alma mater out of this. It will be different for the players, but familiar at the same time with a recognizable voice.

As Week 1 is right around the corner with a road game at Fairview on Aug. 22, the Clippers won't be thinking about what happened this offseason. They will instead be thinking about doing what they've done a lot the past two years — winning.

"Big picture, it's a huge honor and privilege to be in charge of something that means a lot to a lot of people still," Kaya said. "There's legendary names here. It definitely means a lot, it's a big position to fill with a lot of expectations. I'm just hoping to carry on the pride and tradition that the people before me instilled and put my own twist on it."



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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Vermilion isn't satisfied with last year's success

By Travis Nelson

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The program turnaround is complete.

When Bill DiFucci was hired as Vermilion's football coach in March 2022, his goal was to get his alma mater back on track. Mission accomplished.

After going 0-10 just two seasons prior, the Sailors finished 9-3 a year ago and won their first playoff game. After what was a magic carpet ride of a season, nobody is satisfied.

Coming off one of the best seasons in program history, there is still a lot to prove. At Vermilion, winning football games is no longer a hope, it's an expectation.

"We talked about from when we started this journey, the expectations have changed," DiFucci said. "We did what we achieved to do, which is flip the program. Now the mentality is maintenance. Don't get comfortable, don't rest on your laurels. The next snap is another evaluation. It's definitely fun watching this group understand they need to maintain that level of play."

Some might think this year's team is in a difficult spot. How do you try and replace last year's talented senior class, nonetheless follow up what was accomplished? The answers to those questions are what drive the Sailors.

Although it is a lot of pressure, it's also a huge opportunity. That's how the Sailors are approaching it.

"I think for this group it's not being out-done," DiFucci said. "It's showing everybody that the class that just graduated was very special — they're the ones that paved the path for us — but it's this group taking the torch and running with it."



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Vermilion quarterback Drake Hooks looks downfield during a scrimmage against Wellington on Aug. 9.

"They had a big impact on this team, one of our best records ever," Vermilion junior Drake Hooks said. "Now we have to follow that up, which I think

we can do. We just have to dedicate and buy into everything we do."

Last year's seniors built the foundation of what DiFucci and his staff hopes

will become a perennial playoff program. They went through the 0-10 season as sophomores and bonded together to flip the script. They left a legacy and

they've also left a boulder-sized chip on the shoulders of the upcoming seniors.

If you can envision Vermilion football as a singer for a moment — last season

could be viewed as a one-hit wonder if the Sailors don't reach the same heights. This year's team wants a platinum album. They don't believe in a drop off.

"I think it's definitely going to be a big change," Vermilion senior Evan Kuhns said. "We're used to those guys throughout the past three years — they've been here to help and support the team. I think a lot of people are probably going to count us out because they're gone, but I'm just excited to prove them wrong and show them we can still win."

Not only did Vermilion win its first playoff game last year, it was also the school's first winning season since 2008. Most of the current players weren't born yet.

The Sailors endured a tough stretch and these kids grew up watching it happen. It feels very rewarding for them to be a part of this.

"It feels great," Vermilion senior Chad Ellis said. "Growing up, all of the teams weren't very good. It just feels good to finally not suck, to be honest."

That's another place where motivation comes from. These players not only watched it happen, but some were a part of it going 0-10 in 2022 or 3-7 in 2023. It's a feeling nobody in Vermilion wants to feel again.

Although there are a few sources of motivation for the Sailors, they all go back to the same thing — keeping the success going. There are lofty expectations for yet another solid season.

"It's nice to show all of the hard work we've been putting in over the years is finally paying off," Kuhns said. "We built off a good reputation from last year, but I think it's important we don't let it get to our heads and stay hungry."

High school football » Matt Wilhelm Award watch list

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

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

Here is a list of players who are in the running for the award. This list can and will change on a weekly basis. This initial listing is a starting point for the season.

RB Owen Singleton, Sr., Olmsted Falls: Rushed for 1,370 yards, averaged 6.56 yards per carry and scored 21 rushing touchdowns in 2024. Singleton was a Division II third-team All-Ohioan. Olmsted Falls will return four of its offensive linemen, along with Division I college prospect Nathan Scheffler. The Bulldogs' combination of playstyle and returning talent should pose a major threat.

RB Zack Barnhart, Sr., North Ridgeville: The Rangers went 9-3, and Barnhart scored 20 touchdowns for 1,291 rushing yards (6.33 yards per carry). He was one of the area's leading rushers. He was second-team All-Ohio last season.

WR Grant Barr, Sr., Avon: Barr has offers from Air Force and Pennsylvania.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview quarterback Burke Lowry avoids the rush and throws downfield against Clearview on Aug. 23, 2024.

He is a coverage nightmare with a 6-foot-1, 200 pound frame. He also ran a 10.76 100-meter dash time. Last season, Barr caught 42 passes for 598 yards and eight touchdowns.

RB Evan Kuhns, Sr., Vermilion: Kuhns led Vermilion's rushing attack with 827 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. The Sailors' rushing identity resulted in more than 2,500 rushing yards as a team. Vermilion's

offensive line will also have All-Ohio Chad Ellis.

QB Mason Waechter, Jr., Brookside: As the younger brother of Lorain County Mr. Basketball award winner Nolan Waechter, Mason Waechter enters as a promising dark horse. Although he completed 54% of his passes for 408 yards and two touchdowns, Brookside will return its entire offensive line, running back Trevor Kitzberger and several wide

receivers — setting Waechter up for success.

RB/LB Wyatt McKee, Jr., Keystone: The Wildcats recorded 3,004 rushing yards and McKee accounted for 1,225. He also scored 11 rushing touchdowns.

QB Burke Lowry, Sr., Fairview: Lowry is the only returning Matt Wilhelm Award finalist from last season. The Division V Northeast Lakes District Offensive Player of the Year is Fairview's

all-time leading passer who threw for 2,526 yards and 28 touchdowns in 2024. Both of which were single-season school records.

QB Cy Christensen, Sr., Amherst: At Clearview last season, he threw for 1,970 passing yards and 19 touchdowns. Christensens was named All-Ohio and was a semifinalist for the Matt Wilhelm Award. The transfer from Clearview to Amherst should see an increase in

competition. If he is able to adjust to the transition, Christensen could contend.

WR Aidan Stewart, Sr., Avon Lake: The Air Force commit was a threat to score on offense and kick returns (two touchdowns). Although he played with different quarterbacks, Stewart caught 12 touchdown passes for 798 yards.

RB Rocco Ereditario, Sr., Bay: The Rockets gained a lot of their yards from the running game and the All-Ohio Ereditario who accounted for 1,282 yards on 248 carries and 18 touchdowns. He averaged 5.2 yards per carry, as the Rockets went 7-5. With a first-year coach, Ereditario is expected to become a foundational piece in Bay's new offensive scheme.

QB Ryan Taylor, Sr., Rocky River: Rocky River contended for a Cleveland West Conference championship, but came up one game short. After transferring from Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Taylor surpassed 2,000 passing yards for 25 touchdowns. As a dual-threat quarterback, he also added 10 rushing touchdowns and 586 rushing yards.

RB Jimmy Stofey, Jr., Columbia: Stofey and teammate Jose Rivera each reached 1,000 rushing yards, with at least 14 touchdowns. As both were named All-Ohio, Stofey and Rivera have potential as Matt Wilhelm award winners.

High school football » Awards

WILHELM AWARD

- 2016: Dustin Crum, Midview, QB
- 2017: Ryan Maloy, Avon, QB
- 2018: Brandon Coleman, Columbia, RB
- 2019: Jacob Shackelford, Keystone, QB
- 2020: Gideon Lampron, Keystone, RB/LB
- 2021: Tommy Bebie, Rocky River, RB/LB
- 2022: Levi Ellis, Elyria Catholic, RB/S
- 2023: Jakorion Caffey, Avon, RB
- 2024: Nolan Good, Avon, QB

LORAIN COUNTY GOLDEN HELMET

- 1965: Randy Stevens, Elyria LB
- 1966: Ralph Holloway, Oberlin FB/MG

- 1967: Dick Wakefield, Avon Lake, End
- 1968: Jim Svoboda, Lorain, End/LB
- 1969: John Husband, Elyria FB
- 1970: Kurt Schumacher, Lorain, LB, DT
- 1971: Ike Maxwell, Elyria, TB
- 1972: Bob Hyatt, Keystone HB, Gus Mecera, Clearview, OL/DL
- 1973: Bruce Yeager, ECHS, FB/MG
- 1974: Steve Holovacs, Firelands, TB, Tim Burns, Wellington, TB
- 1975: Virgil Williams, Lorain, HB
- 1976: Greg Jones, Elyria West, TB
- 1977: Bryan Thomas, ECHS, TB
- 1978: Craig Best, North Ridgeville, TB
- 1979: Jon Burger, Elyria, LB/K
- 1980: Jeff Mey, Vermilion HB

- 1981: Vince Villanucci, Lorain, Lineman
- 1982: John Berner, Avon Lake tailback
- 1983: Brian Schneider, ECHS, FB, Bob Calamari, Admiral King QB
- 1984: Al McKinney, ECHS, TB
- 1985: Jeff Seasor, North Ridgeville, LB
- 1986: David Lyons, Clearview FB
- 1987: Tyrone Neslon, Elyria West TB, Dennis Washington, Lorain TB
- 1988: Steve Tovar, Elyria West LB
- 1989: Tony Godbolt, Elyria
- 1990: Erik Engel, North Ridgeville
- 1991: Ron Leshinski, Vermilion
- 1992: Ty Grude, Firelands, LaRon Trice, Elyria West
- 1993: Tim Schumacher, Avon Lake
- 1994: Jerel Klue, North Ridgeville

- 1995: Ricky Schneider, Amherst
- 1996: Zack Mitchell, Avon
- 1997: Ryan Myers, Wellington, Erik Rogers, Vermilion
- 1998: Matt Wilhelm, Elyria Catholic
- 1999: Dan Rozanski, Midview
- 2000: Jeff Strauch, Avon Lake
- 2001: Brian Ceseear, Amherst
- 2002: Dustin Intihar, Columbia
- 2003: Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake
- 2004: Trey Stross, Avon Lake
- 2005: P.J. Mahone, Elyria
- 2006: John McGraw, North Ridgeville
- 2007: Mike Haddad, Avon Lake
- 2008: Ryan O'Rourke, Avon*
- 2009: Anthony Hitchens, Clearview

- 2010: Danny Reaser, ECHS
- 2011: Matt Eckhardt, Avon*
- 2012: Tracy Sprinkle, Elyria
- 2013: Jay Banyasz, Columbia
- 2014: C.J. Conrad, Keystone
- 2015: Logan Bolin, Midview
- 2016: Dustin Crum, Midview
- 2017: Justin Sturgill, Lorain
- 2018: Brandon Coleman, Columbia
- 2019: Jacob Shackelford, Keystone
- 2020: Niko Pappas, Avon*
- 2021: Gideon Lampron, Keystone
- 2022: Levi Ellis, ECHS
- 2023: Jakorion Caffey, Avon*
- 2024: Nolan Good, Avon*

High school football » Games to watch

By Mark Perez-Krywany
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St. Ignatius at Avon, Aug. 21

After playing at Huntington Bank Field last year, St. Ignatius will head to Avon for Round 2. The massive crowd that was drawn to last year's 42-21 Eagles' victory is projected to be replicated, but at Mark Walberg Chevrolet Stadium. The Wildcats were 1-10 a season ago but played five regional champions. Although Avon lost several Division I athletes in the Class of 2025, it has since reloaded with several other core pieces.

Mentor at Olmsted Falls, Aug. 22

As good as Olmsted Falls has the potential to be, it could possibly play its strongest opponent in Week 1 in Mentor. The Cardinals had 13 Division I All-Ohioans last year, as it reached the Division I, Region 1 final. The Cardinals graduated seven of those All-Ohio players but bring back Jackson Farley (running back), Landry Brede (offensive line), Justen Hodge (wide receiver), Colin Prichard (offensive line) and Xayvion Dunn (defensive back). Brede (NC State), center JoJo LoDuca (Naval Academy) and Hodge (Miami of Ohio) are heading to the FBS level.

Maple Heights at Lorain, Aug. 22

Lorain may no longer be members of the Lake Erie League, but Maple Heights is too good a matchup to pass up. The Titans and Mustangs competed for the LEL championship in Week 10 last year. In thrilling fashion, Lorain held off a Maple Heights' comeback to win, 34-32. Along with returning All-Ohio Kindall Brown (Ohio University commit), the Mus-



AIMEE BIELOZER — THE LORAIN MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake's Aidan Stewart evades Olmsted Falls tackles at Avon Lake Memorial Stadium on Oct. 11, 2024.

tangs will also have Kent State recruits Keshawn Sheppard and Na'Cari Gay. They should have one of the most talented secondaries in Division III. Lorain's strength on defense will be its linebacking corps, with All-Ohio players Jay'l Diaz and Jamiyus Gaines in the middle. The Titans will also have Ezra Williams on the defensive line. Lorain has a counter to Maple Heights' secondary with an experienced offensive line.

Elyria at Lorain, Aug. 29

As the two biggest schools in Lorain County, Elyria-Lorain is a game worth noting. The Titans have won the last two matchups, as they defeated the Pioneers, 47-13, last year. With Elyria strong at the skill positions and Lorain's stout presence at the line of scrimmage, it will be an intriguing matchup that will unfold.

Fairview at Columbia, Aug. 29

With three All-Ohio players back at Fairview (7-4), it has the potential to return to the OHSAA playoffs. After losing to Clearview, 34-0, Fairview's 20-13 win against

Columbia marked the Warriors' first victory that year. All-Ohioan quarterback Burke Lowry completed 63% of his passes for 219 yards and a touchdown, with an interception in the win. Lowry is one of three returning All-Ohioans, along with Will Allen (defensive back) and Danny O'Neil (offensive line). Columbia lost in Week 2, but reached a Division VI Region 21 semifinal.

Brookside vs. Firelands, Sept. 12

Brookside (3-7, 2-5 in LC8) comes into the 2025 season filled with optimism and the Cardinals believe they can win their first conference in program history. They are developing a promising junior class that is projected to thrive offensively. Firelands is Brookside's first conference opponent. The Falcons always pose a threat upfront and shut the Cardinals out, 28-0, a season ago. If Brookside can come out on top, it would open up a lot of possibilities.

Berea-Midpark at Amherst, Sept. 12

All eyes will be on Amherst in Week 4 as the Com-

ets will play their first game in their brand new stadium. Last year, Amherst scored eight touchdowns in a 60-41 shootout victory. It was easily the area's highest scoring football game in 2024. Amherst wide receiver David Dudziak led with three catches for 142 yards and a touchdown. He will be back and will team up with All-Ohio quarterback Cy Christensen, who transferred from Clearview.

Lorain at Euclid, Sept. 12

Lorain will not only take on the Panthers, but also its former football coach Damion Creel. It will be an exciting moment for not only Lorain's players, but also the Euclid coaching staff that coached alongside Creel at Lorain.

Olmsted Falls at Avon, Sept. 19

The Eagles-Bulldogs rivalry could reach a historical moment. Over the past four years, they've matched up eight times. If they manage to square off in the post-season one more time, that would make it 10 games, the equivalent of a full regular season in five years against

one opponent. The Sept. 19 game would make it nine games in such time period. Olmsted Falls has yet to beat Avon, but have come close. In the playoffs, the Olmsted Falls took a 21-0 lead against the state champion in the first quarter, but lost, 53-35. The Bulldogs did not have a lot of returning starters last year. This year, they are more experienced with returning All-Ohioans Owen Singleton (running back), Nathan Scheffler (offensive line) and Mason Cerovac (linebacker). The returning experience matches its triple-option playstyle, setting up lots of potential for 2025. Avon returns one All-Ohio player in North Carolina commit Jakob Weatherspoon, but will also have FBS football commits Ryan Stolarski (Miami of Ohio) and Lance Dawson (Cincinnati). Avon and Olmsted Falls should be the area's two best teams.

Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, Oct. 3

Olmsted Falls and Avon Lake went into double overtime. The Bulldogs trailed for most of the game but won, 43-37. The Bulldogs will return two All-Ohioans on offense, but Avon Lake does too with Maxwell Riley (Ohio State) and Aidan Stewart (Air Force). The Shoremen began its season 1-2, but found themselves in contention for a Southwestern Conference title, even with the loss to Olmsted Falls. Anticipate another thrilling game.

Columbia at Keystone, Oct. 10

Since the start of the Lorain County League, Columbia (two LC8 titles) and Keystone (four) are the only teams to win the league championship. Keystone will have Colt Cowling to replace LC8 Player of the Year Zach Shackelford at quarterback. It will

also have All-Ohioan's Wyatt McKee and Shane Ohl on both sides of the ball. Jimmy Stofey and Jose Rivera were All-Ohioans last year at running back for Columbia. Each were 1,000-yard rushers. Keystone won, 20-7, last year, but Columbia did not have Logan Menge at quarterback. Menge led the Raiders to a pair of playoff victories and had an offseason to improve at the position. Columbia will have to revamp its offensive line, but should be in the conference title picture.

Vermilion at Huron, Oct. 10

Vermilion (9-3 in 2024) had its best season in school history last year and its 13-10 victory over Huron (7-5) was one of many milestones. A 25-yard game-winning field goal by Zeke Dunn snapped Vermilion's 15-game losing streak to the Tigers that stood for 58 years. The Sailors aim to build off of their success and not be a one-hit wonder. Chad Ellis is the only returning All-Ohioan and running back Evan Kuhns, Vermilion's leading rusher, will be in the backfield.

Avon Lake at Avon, Oct. 17

Avon Lake recovered from a 1-2 start to compete for an SWC championship in Week 10. Avon, which already clinched its ninth straight conference championship, defeated the Shoremen, 42-10, to get the last laugh. As Avon went on to win the state championship, Avon Lake lost to Toledo St. Francis de Sales in the first round of the OHSAA Playoffs. When the Shoremen and Eagles face off, something important tends to be on the line. The outcome of this game could be the difference between Avon's conference championship 10-peat.

High school football » Conference outlooks

By Mark Perez-Krywany
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SOUTHWESTERN
CONFERENCE

Favorite: Avon

Contender: Olmsted Falls

Darkhorse: Avon Lake

Following a state championship season, Avon is on a quest to win its 10th conference championship. Avon has the talent and the coaching to make it happen, but there are also new players coming into the fold to replace nine departed All-Ohioans. The performance of the inexperienced players will be a determining factor to not only Avon's success in the SWC, but also on its journey to defend its state championship.

With Owen Singleton at running back, along with Nathan Scheffler leading four returning offensive linemen upfront, it ideally complements Olmsted Falls' Wing-T. The Bulldogs tied for second with Avon Lake, but played Avon the toughest, specifically in the first quarter of the Division II Region 6 quarterfinal.

Avon Lake tied Olmsted Falls for second in the SWC standings and brought back Division I commits Aidan Stewart (Air Force) and Maxwell Riley (Ohio State) on offense.

LORAIN COUNTY LEAGUE

Favorite: Keystone

Contender: Columbia

Darkhorse: Black River, Brookside

The only teams to be crowned LC8 champ are Keystone and Columbia — it appears that it could head that way in 2025.

The Wildcats ended the Raiders' two-year reign as league champions. Keystone rushed for over 3,000 yards, with Wyatt McKee (1,225 yards) being its leading rusher. Being without LC8 Player of the Year Zach Shackelford will be a



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia quarterback Gage Maruna hands off to Jose Rivera near the goaline against Keystone on Sept. 20, 2024.

challenge. His successor Colt Cowling is an All-Ohio basketball player and state qualifying runner in track. Columbia, which rushed for 4,000 yards, will return its four top rushers. All-Ohio running backs Jimmy Stofey and Jose Rivera surpassed 1,000 rushing yards. Xavier Hendon recorded 795 and will enter his sophomore year. Other than Black River, the rest of the LC8 did not take on Columbia with Logan Menge at quarterback. Menge led the Raiders to a Division VI, Region 21 semi-finals and was an All-Ohio safety. Their sacks leader Ambrose Beach (3.5 sacks) will provide a pass rush.

The Pirates and especially the Cardinals are dark horse contenders. Although Brookside went 3-7, its junior class is deep. Many of

which are returning starters in all the major offensive phases.

CLEVELAND WEST
CONFERENCE

Favorite: Medina Buckeye

Contender: Rocky River

Darkhorse: Bay, North Olmsted

Rocky River had a chance to win a CWC title, but lost to the Buckeye, 55-0 in Week 8. Buckeye will look different without All-Ohio running back Troy McCann, but are still capable of winning the CWC. The Pirates look like the biggest threat with quarterback Ryan Taylor. Taylor's effectiveness on the ground and the air should make him a candidate for the league's player of the year and Matt Wilhelm awards.

Bay handed Rocky River a

35-21 loss in Week 10. Nick Bigrigg will coach his first season with the Rockets and will have All-Ohio running back Rocco Eriditario and the rest of the 2026 class to build.

North Olmsted started 2024 with an 0-4 record, but won five of its six final regular-season games to make the playoffs. The Eagles nearly defeated Rocky River, but lost, 17-16.

GREATER CLEVELAND
CONFERENCE

Lorain (9-2, 5-0 in Lake Erie League) will play its first season in the GCC. The Titans are expected to see a step up in the competition compared to the LEL that they won in back-to-back years. All teams but Euclid and Shaker Heights compete in Division I. Mentor

High school football »
2024 standings

CVC METRO DIVISION

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

CLEVELAND WEST CONFERENCE

Medina Buckeye	7-0	10-2
North Olmsted	5-2	5-6
Rocky River	5-2	8-4
Bay	4-3	7-5
Valley Forge	3-4	4-6
Normandy	2-5	3-8
Lakewood	2-5	4-6
Westlake	0-7	2-8

GREATER CLEVELAND
CONFERENCE

Mentor	6-0	13-1
Strongsville	5-1	8-4
Cleveland Heights	4-2	6-5
Brunswick	3-3	3-8
Medina	1-5	2-9
Shaker Heights	1-5	3-7

Euclid	1-5	2-8
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LORAIN COUNTY LEAGUE

Keystone	7-0	10-2
Columbia	6-1	10-3
Clearview	5-2	8-3
Firelands	4-3	4-6
Black River	3-4	4-7
Brookside	2-5	3-7
Wellington	1-6	3-7
Oberlin	0-7	0-10

SBC BAY DIVISION

Edison	4-0	13-1
Vermilion	3-1	9-3
Huron	2-2	7-5
Port Clinton	1-3	2-8
Bellevue	0-4	2-8

SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE

Avon	7-0	16-0
Avon Lake	5-2	6-5
North Ridgeville	5-2	9-3
Olmsted Falls	4-3	8-4
Amherst	3-4	6-5
Midview	2-5	5-6
Berea-Midpark	2-5	4-8
Elyria	0-7	0-10

went undefeated to win the league title and reached the Division I, Region 1 final. Strongsville was the only other GCC team to win a playoff game. Mentor graduated seven of its 13 All-Ohioans and should be the top contender.

SANDUSKY BAY
CONFERENCE BAY
DIVISION

The 2025 season will be Vermilion's last year in the SBC, along with several other big schools in the Bay and Lake Divisions. The Sailors finished second in the league standings, as their only league loss came to Milan Edison, 17-0. The Chargers also lost a lot of talent. They return one of their five All-Ohioans, running back Bryson Wittmer. Huron, who also won a Division VI playoff game should be in the mix as well.

NORTH COAST
CONFERENCE

For the first time, the NCC will crown a championship, despite not doing so in its 2025 inaugural year. Elyria Catholic brings back Kylan Connors (linebacker), Mikey Bates Jr. (defensive back) and Trent Merrell (defen-

sive line). All were awarded all-district. The Panthers played three league opponents and went 1-2. Lake Catholic (12-1) went undefeated in its regular season and should be the favorite. As of January, Benedictine was accepted into the league and should be in the mix. The Bengals went 9-4 and lost to Padua Francis- can (8-6) in the Division III Region 9 semifinal.

CHAGRIN VALLEY
CONFERENCE METRO
DIVISION

Fairview turned its program around from 1-9 two years ago to 7-4 (3-2 in CVC Valley) and a playoff berth in 2024. The Warriors moved from the Valley Division to the Metro Division, which gives them a shot to win their first conference championship since 2011. Trinity and Wickliffe each went 4-1 in the CVC Metro last year, but Wickliffe has moved to the Valley Division. Cuyahoga Heights, as always, will contend. With returning talents like Burke Lowry, Will Allen and Danny O'Neil, Fairview should be the favorite to win the conference title.



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RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst»Comets

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Amherst vs. Sandusky at Avon Lake Memorial Stadium, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Amherst at Buckeye, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Berea-Midpark at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Amherst at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Avon at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Cy Christensen, Sr., 6-3, 195
RB: Payton Gilles, Sr., 5-10, 185
Slot: David Dudziak*, 5-10, 165
H: Peyton Leibacher*, Sr., 5-10
WR: Cael Charles*, Jr., 6-0, 160
WR: Nick Wilkenon, Jr., 6-0, 180
WR: Cameron Born, Jr., 5-10, 160
LT: Javiaun Bush*, Sr., 6-0, 240
LG: Evan Sweirs, 6-2, 240
C: Hunter Thornsberry*, Sr., 5-11, 250
RG: Hunter Farlow*, Sr., 6-4, 225
RT: Christian Wolf, Sr., 6-4, 265
K: Jack Coleman*, So., 6-0, 170

DEFENSE

DE: Patrick Fellenstein*, Sr., 6-0, 215
NT: Jordan Hatfield*, Sr., 5-10, 225
DE: Anderson Malloy*, Jr., 6-0, 215
SAM OLB: Maeson Morales*, Sr., 6-2, 205
MIKE LB: Liam Sanders, Sr., 6-3, 220
MIKE LB: Brody Glick, Sr., 5-10, 205
WILL LB: Isaac Vasquez, Jr., 5-10, 205
OLB: Tyler Denn*, Sr., 5-10, 170
FS: Michael Passerrello Jr., Sr., 6-1, 185
SS: Grady Pellittieri, Jr., 6-2, 170
CB: David Dudziak*, Sr., 5-10, 165
CB: Jack Coleman*, So., 6-0, 170
P: Cy Christensen, Sr., 6-3, 195
*: Returning starter; **returning letterwinners:** 24; **Key reserves:** TE Anthony Litz, Jr., 6-3, 200, WR Bryce Colvin, 6-2, 170, CB Christian Nieves, Sr., 5-7, 140, SS Evan Kucirek, Sr., 5-10, 160, CB Cole Lugar, Jr., 6-1, 160, DE Cameron Berrios, Sr., 6-0, 190
Best in the classroom: Hunter Thornsberry, 4.638 GPA
Best bench press: Jordan Hatfield, 330 pounds
Best 40 time: Nick Wilkinson, 4.5 seconds
Best squat: Payton Gilles, 430 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Tom Thome, third year (9-12)
2024: 6-5 (3-4)
X: @AmherstFootball
Home field: Spitzer Stadium

Outlook

After making the playoffs for the first time in Thome's coaching tenure, Amherst is eager to keep building, not only its new stadium, but also a winning culture. The Comets lost to the first round of the playoffs to Olmsted Falls last year. A major reason was its inability to compete in the trenches. Amherst's linemen come back bigger and stronger, which should put up a better fight against the SWC's physicality. Amherst received big-name transfers on both sides of the ball, safety Michael Passerrello (from Midview) and two-time All-Ohio quarterback Cy Christensen (Clearview). Christensen in a Comets uniform puts the program in a better position to not only win now, but have another year to develop a long-term plan at quarterback. The Comets will return its entire defensive line, with all-district linebacker Maeson Morales leading the linebackers.

Player to watch

Senior David Dudziak will be the only full-time contributor on both sides of the ball. He caught 22 passes for 396 yards and a touchdown, with 42 tackles, three interceptions and a defensive touchdown. With elite cardio, he will have plenty in the gas tank.

Underclassman to watch: Jack Coleman was an All-Ohio basketball player as a freshman. His transferrable athleticism on the court can make him a lockdown corner who started in 2024. He won't be a full-time starter on both sides of the ball like Dudziak. However, he is expected to make some appearances at wide receiver.

Bottom line

IF: Amherst can show improvement in the trenches, **THEN:** it could make the playoffs.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Dudziak



Coleman



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon takes on Massillon in a scrimmage on Aug. 8.

Avon»Eagles

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 21: St. Ignatius at Avon, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28: Avon at Spruce Creek (Fla.), 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Avon at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Midview at Avon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Avon at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Avon Lake at Avon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Blake Elder, Sr., 6-1, 180
RB: Quiante Smith, Sr., 5-8, 180
WR: Grant Barr, Sr., 6-0, 196
WR: Sammy Ulery, Sr., 5-11, 177
WR: Fin Jerdonek, Jr., 5-8, 169
TE: Dylan Luker, Sr., 6-0, 228
LT: Max Hauck, Sr., 6-4, 300
LG: Braden Patrick, Sr., 6-2, 240
C: Jack Fitch, Jr., 5-11, 234
RG: Caden Clapham, Jr., 5-1, 254
RT: Eian Englehart, Sr., 6-3, 245
K: Jensen Petro, Sr., 6-2, 207

DEFENSE

DE: Lance Dawson, Sr., 6-5, 255
DT: Nolan Robke, Jr., 6-2, 250
NT: Max Hauck, Sr., 6-4, 300
LB: Ryan Stolarski, Sr., 6-1, 227
LB: Jacob Ody, Sr., 5-11, 188
Star: Jackson Brokaw, Sr., 5-8, 175
Jack: Ben Strichak, Sr., 6-0, 210
CB: Caden Clapham, Sr., 5-8, 167
CB: Alex Rivera, Sr., 5-9, 155
S: Jakob Weatherspoon, Jr., 5-10, 150
S: Trevor Maly, Sr., 5-10, 168
P: Jensen Petro, Sr., 6-2, 207
Key reserves: Trevor Maly, Cam Wendell, Michael Colburn, Jackson Palmer, Jack Goldian, Killian Haessig, Dominic Grasso, Derek Weitzel, Jairel Fenton, Bryce Chura, Vinny DeTillio, Dane Sexton, Nathan Peters, Ryan Wysocki.

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Mike Elder, 19th year (202-31)
2024: 16-0 (7-0)
X: @avoneagles
Home field: Westland Heating, Air Conditioning + Plumbing Stadium

Outlook

The defending state champion lost nine All-Ohioans at key positions. Yet, the 2025 edition reloads with 39 seniors, many of whom waited for their turn to step into the spotlight. There will be four returning offensive starters and five on defense. The defense has FBS talent, including linebacker Ryan Stolarski (Miami of Ohio commit), defensive lineman Lance Dawson (Cincinnati) and Jakob Weatherspoon (North Carolina). The secondary will take the lead as the most experienced unit, following in the footsteps of Avon's dominant front seven, which conceded 12 points per game. Blake Elder, son of coach Mike Elder, will replace 2024 Matt Wilhelm Award winner Nolan Good.

Player to watch

Avon's greatest strength may be its depth at wide receiver. Grant Barr is its best representative. His catch radius and sheer athleticism made him a Division I prospect for Air Force and UPenn.

Underclassman to watch: Junior Nolan Robke is one of the many new faces on the defensive line, which anchored the state championship team. He makes good use of his hands to get off blocks.

Bottom line

IF: Avon can improve at the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball, **THEN:** it will have a shot to win back-to-back state championships.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Barr



SHANE PABON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon Lake takes part in a scrimmage against Lorain on Aug. 8.

Avon Lake»Shoremen

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Avon Lake at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Avon Lake at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Avon Lake at Highland, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Avon Lake at Midview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Elyria at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: North Ridgeville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Avon Lake at Avon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Dawson TenBrink, So., 6-0, 182
RB: Ezra Jones, Sr., 6-0, 202
WR: Aidan Stewart*, Sr., 6-1, 181
WR: Michael Summerfield*, Sr., 5-10, 150
WR: Colin Hout, Sr., 5-10, 171
TE: Andrew Lazor, Sr., 6-2, 206
LT: Maxwell Riley*, Sr., 6-5, 288
LG: Griffin Walsh, Sr., 6-0, 242
C: Jonah Kamai, Jr., 6-3, 297
RG: Slade Streng, Sr., 6-0, 273
RT: Jack Ellis, Jr., 6-1, 223
K: Kyle Anderson, Jr., 5-11, 155

DEFENSE

DL: Erik Van Euwen*, Sr., 6-1, 201
DL: Caleb Smith*, Sr., 5-11, 214
DL: Ian MacGregor, Sr., 6-0, 212
DL: Andrew Lazor, Sr., 6-0, 212
LB: Sam Huffman*, Sr., 6-2, 207
LB: Cole Whittaker, Sr., 5-11, 160
LB: Michael Streeter, Jr., 6-0, 180
CB: Davin Pence, Sr., 6-3, 167
S: Michael Summerfield*, Sr., 5-10, 150
S: Jacob Perry, Sr., 6-1, 150
CB: Elijah Bullins, Jr., 6-2, 159
P: Kyle Anderson, Jr., 5-11, 155
*: Returning starter; Key reserves: Chris Gaulding, Mason Ambrose, James Mess, Harry Riley

Just the Facts

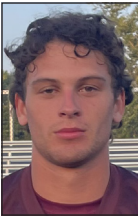
Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Matt Kostelnik, ninth year (64-26)
2024: 6-5 (5-2)
X: @ALFootballClub
Home field: Avon Lake Memorial Stadium

Outlook

Avon Lake is not young, but it has to make up for its lack of experience. The Shoremen expect to lean on its defense, as Erik Van Euwen and Caleb Smith will anchor it in from the trenches. Although most of the linebackers and defensive backs are not returning starters, they did see the field a lot last year. Offensively, Ohio State commit Maxwell Riley is Avon Lake's only returning starter on the offensive line. The Shoremen made the playoffs, but were upset by Toledo St. Francis de Sales, 34-31, in the first round. With a tough nonconference and SWC schedule, it will make the Shoremen battle-tested.

Player to watch

Air Force commit Aidan Stewart played with multiple quarterbacks last year. Yet, the wide receiver recorded 798 receiving yards and 12 touchdown receptions. Stewart is also a threat to score on kickoff return, with a pair of touchdowns in 2024.



Stewart

Underclassman to watch: Dawson

TedBrink is Avon Lake's first-year starting quarterback and will replace former Shoremen Alex Af-folter. As a sophomore, he does not have the most experience. Supporting the young gunslinger is a top priority. That includes protection in the pocket, open receivers and a complementary rushing attack for play action. If he can make plays on third-down passing situation and limit turnovers, Avon Lake will be in a good position to succeed.

Bottom line

IF: Avon Lake can stay healthy up front, THEN: it should be able to establish a complementary offense.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Bay takes on Brookside in a scrimmage Aug. 8.

Bay»Rockets

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Bay at Ashland, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Bay at University, 5 p.m.
Sept. 5: Firelands at Bay, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Bay at Normandy, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Buckeye at Bay, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Bay at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Valley Forge at Bay, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9: North Olmsted at Bay, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Bay at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Rocky River at Bay, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Patrick Cleary, Jr.
RB: Rocco Ereditario*, Sr.
WR: Ethan George, Sr.
WR: Brody Beggs, Jr.
SLOT: Charlie Rodgers*, Sr.
TE: Michael Foreman, Sr.
LT: Danny Ziphel*, Sr.
LG: Sully Knaack, Jr.
C: Aohadan Cunningham, Sr.
RG: Johnny Veverka, Sr.
RT: Chase Prudhoe, Sr.

DEFENSE

DE: Michael Foreman, Sr.
DT: Chase Prudhoe, Sr.
DE: Danny Ziphel, Sr.
LB: Jimmy Boehnlein, Sr.
LB: Rocco Ereditario, Sr.
LB: Sully Knaack, Jr.
LB: Brody Beggs, Jr.
CB: Evan Taulbee, Sr.
S: Colin McAlea, Sr.
S: Charlie Rodgers, Sr.
CB: Ethan George, Sr.
*: returning starter
Key reserves: Ethan Sedivec, Jr.; Jack Downing, Sr.; Jack McManamon, Jr.; Lute Harmon III, Jr.
Best bench press: Michael Foreman, 300 pounds
Best squat: Lucas Walker, 500 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Cleveland West Conference
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14
Coach: Nick Bigrigg, first year
2024: 7-5 (4-3)
X: @BayAthletics
Home field: Bay Memorial Stadium

Outlook

Bay is one of two teams in The Morning Journal coverage area with a new coach. Nick Bigrigg takes over the program and has brought a new offense with him. The Rockets have been a run-first team in the past but plan on airing it out a bit more in 2025. With a strong returning cast, they hope to make the playoffs for the 12th straight season.

Player to watch

Charlie Rodgers is back for his senior season. He will do it all for the Rockets this season, including a position change to wide receiver. Rodgers will start both ways and will be a focal point of the new offense.

Underclassman to watch: It's Patrick Cleary's time to shine. The junior quarterback has a lot on his plate as a first-time varsity starter trying to run the show, but he has matured a lot over the summer and is ready for the challenge.

Bottom line

IF: The players can adjust to the new offense, THEN: Coach Bigrigg's first season will be a success.

— Travis Nelson



Rodgers



STEVE HARE — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Brookside takes part in a 7-on-7 event on June 16 at Perry.

Brookside»Cardinals

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 21: University at Brookside 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Woodridge at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Brookside at Margaretta, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Brookside at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Keystone at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Brookside at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Brookside at Black River, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Mason Waechter*, Jr., 6-5, 175
RB: Trevor Kitzberger*, Jr., 5-7, 170
WR: Alex Arra*, Jr., 5-10, 160
WR: Colton Casey*, Jr., 5-9, 160
WR: Andy Bliczo, Sr., 6-0, 175
WR: Jordan Colegrove*, Jr., 5-10, 170
LT: Carter Schuster*, Sr., 6-2, 250
LG: Zy'Aire Marn*, Sr., 5-9, 220
C: Elliot Dore*, Jr., 6-0, 270
RG: Omar Afaneh, Jr., 5-8, 185
RT: Collin Patton, Jr., 6-2, 185
K: Tyler O'Donnell, So., 5-10, 175

DEFENSE

DL: Michael Dunn, Jr., 6-0, 175
DL: Zy'Aire Marn*, Sr., 5-9, 250
DL: Carter Schuster*, 6-2, 250
DL: Brayden Jackson, Jr., 6-0, 210
LB: Trevor Kitzberger*, 5-7, 170
LB: Jaxon Llado, 5-8, 210
LB: Ethan Blythe, 6-3, 170
DB: Alex Arra*, Jr., 5-10, 160
DB: Colton Casey*, Jr., 5-9, 160
DB: Andy Bliczo*, Sr., 6-0, 160
DB: Jordan Colegrove*, Jr., 5-10, 170
P: Tyler O'Donnell, So., 5-10, 175
***:** Returning starter; **returning letter-winners:** 16; **key reserves:** Matthew Kostohryz, Sr., 5-11, 175
Best in the classroom: Alex Arra, 4.0 GPA
Best bench press: Zy'Aire Marn and Carter Schuster, 260 pounds
Best 40 time: Colten Casey
Best squat: Jaxon Llado 520 pounds

Just the Facts

Conference: LC8
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14
Coach: Scott O'Donnell, seventh year (15-44)
2024: 3-7 (2-5)
X: @Brookside_AD
Home field: Dick Sevit Stadium

Outlook

Brookside was young in 2024. With a full season under their belt, the Cardinals believe they have what it takes to win the Lorain County League and make the OHSAA playoffs for the first time in school history, not including 2020. On both sides of the ball, Brookside will return about three-quarters of its 2024 starters. Expect its secondary to lead the defense, coupled with returners on the defensive line. Brookside anticipates its offense to light up the scoreboard. The Cardinals return three of its five offensive linemen, have an improved Mason Waechter at quarterback, wide receivers to throw to and Trevor Kitzberger in the backfield.

Player to watch

Brookside knows that the difference in its season will be the play in the trenches. Which is why seniors such as seniors Zy'Aire Marn and Carter Schuster will have massive roles. Marn is one of the grittiest players on the team, as a return-ing two-way starter.

Underclassman to watch: Brookside has several promising 2026 prospects and running back Trevor Kitzberger is one of them. The younger brother of last year's captain Tyler Kitzberger, Trevor averaged 7.1 yards per carry for 440 rushing yards as a sophomore, with four touchdowns.

Bottom line

IF: the Cardinals can keep up at linebacker, **THEN:** they will have a shot at achieving their goals.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Marn



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Clearview takes on Sandusky in a scrimmage Aug. 8.

Clearview»Clippers

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Clearview at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Westlake at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Youngstown East at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Black River at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Brookside at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Clearview at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17: Clearview at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Tristian Lentile, Sr., 5-10, 185
RB: Kam Williams*, Sr., 5-9, 165
RB: Christian Stevenson, Jr., 5-8, 200
WR: Devin Jackson*, Jr., 5-9, 165
WR: Fabian Molina, So., 5-7, 130
WR: Qudo Grant, So., 6-0, 160
LT: Anthony Lachman*, Sr., 6-4, 285
LG: Manny Moore*, Sr., 6-1, 295
C: Trentan Lowder*, Sr., 6-0, 200
RG: Zach Young*, Sr., 6-0, 210
RT: Brody Wacker, Sr., 6-0, 200
K: Nate Christensen, Sr.,

DEFENSE

DE: Montz Sanchez-Miller*, Sr., 6-0, 185
DT: Manny Moore*, Sr., 6-1, 295
DT: Zach Young, Jr., 6-0, 210
DE: Xavier Ricks*, Jr., 5-10, 180
LB: Tristian Lentile*, Sr., 5-10, 185
LB: Christian Stevenson*, Jr., 5-9, 200
LB/DB: Devin Jackson*, Jr.
LB/DB: Adrian Sams, Sr., 5-9, 160
DB: Kam Williams*, Sr., 5-9, 165
DB: Jamiyl Goines, Jr., 5-9, 150
DB: Xavier Garcia, So., 5-8, 135
P: Braden Turner, So., 5-10, 165
***:** Returning starter; **returning letter-winners:** 14; **key reserves:** Ethan Ball, Braden Turner

Just the Facts

Conference: LC8
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14
Coach: Cody Kaya, first year
2024: 8-3 (5-2)
X: @clipperfb
Home field: Tom Hoch Field

Outlook

Clearview encountered adversity in its offseason. Not only did it lose players to transfers, but it also lost 17-year coach Mike Collier. His replacement will be Cody Kaya, who was the Clippers' defensive coordinator. As Clearview relied heavily on skill position players in the past, its offense changed its scheme to become run-oriented. All-Ohio quarterback Cy Christensen's transfer to Amherst is a massive offensive hurdle to overcome, but the Clippers plan to adjust to fit their personnel. Anthony Lachman and Manny Moore in the trenches set the foundation for Clearview's rushing attack. Defensively, Clearview will be prepared in the front seven.

Player to watch

Tristian Lentile is a fly-around linebacker who led Clearview with 125 tackles (14 tackles per game) and recovered three fumbles. He was also a part of the Clippers running back committee with 512 rushing yards and eight touchdowns.

Underclassman to watch: Christian Stevenson will have a two-way impact at running back and especially linebacker. He intercepted a pass and recorded 60 tackles, which is the fourth-highest on the team last year.

Bottom line

IF: Clearview can win the line of scrimmage, **THEN:** it should be competitive in the LC8.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



lentile



Stevenson

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RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Columbia takes part in a 7-on-7 with Oberlin and Elyria on July 15.

Columbia»Raiders

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Columbia at Independence, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Fairview at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Northwestern at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Wellington at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Columbia at Black River, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Oberlin at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Columbia at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Clearview at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Logan Menge*, Jr., 5-7, 155
RB: Jimmy Stofey*, Sr., 5-11, 165
RB: Jose Rivera*, Sr., 5-9, 175
RB: Xavier Hendon, So., 5-10, 175
TE: Ryan Smith, So., 6-3, 175
WR: Jacob Reust*, Sr., 6-1, 175
LT: Brady Molnar, Sr., 255
LG: A.J. Lamb, Jr., 6-2, 293
C: Ethan Hanna So., 5-10, 220
RG: Alex Andrews*, Jr., 5-11, 225
RT: Sam Andrews, Sr., 6-3, 190
K: Jack Washburn, Jr.

DEFENSE

DL: A.J. Lamb, Jr., 6-2, 293
DL: Alex Andrews, Jr., 5-11, 225
DL: Ryan Smith, So., 6-3, 175
LB: Ambrose Beach, Jr., 6-0, 165
LB: Jimmy Stofey*, 5-11, 165
LB: Wesley Sanders, So., 5-9, 195
LB: Xavier Hendon, So., 5-10, 175
DB: Logan Menge*, Jr., 5-7, 155
DB: Jacob Reust*, Sr., 6-1, 175
DB: Andrew Sorensen, Sr., 5-9, 170
DB: Carter Duley*, Sr., 5-9, 160
P: Ambrose Beach, Jr., 6-0, 165
***:** Returning starter; **returning letterwinners:** 10; **Key reserves:** Peyton Liedtke, Jr., 6-0, 165, Garrett Bellisario, Fr., 6-0, 210
Best in the classroom: Alex Andrews, Andrew Sorensen, Brady Molnar, Ryan Smith, Patrick Sorensen

Just the Facts

Conference: LC8
OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21
Coach: Mike Rice, second year
2024: 10-3 (6-1)
X: @_CHSFootball
Home field: Columbia Raiders Stadium

Outlook

After making a trip to a regional semifinal, Columbia is prepared to run back a second season with Coach Rice. Rice's Wing-T offense brought a lot of success, which resulted in two 1,000-yard rushers (4,000 team rushing yards) returning in the backfield. The downside is that it must replace most of its offensive line, but it brings back many skill position players. The defensive trenches are a concern too, but expect to have Columbia's line-backers and secondary to lead the way.

Player to watch

All-Ohioans Jimmy Stofey and Jose Rivera each surpassed 1,000 rushing yards and double-digit rushing touchdowns. Stofey led the Raiders with 1,147 yards, with 15 rushing touchdowns and three through the air.

Underclassman to watch: Logan Menge was an All-Ohioan safety and was moved from a ball carrier in the backfield to the Raiders' quarterback before the playoffs. He had 60 tackles on defense, with two interceptions.

Bottom line

IF: Columbia's offensive line can make up ground fast, **THEN:** it should contend among the best in the LC8 and in Division VI, Region 21

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Stofey



Menge



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria and Columbia participate in a 7-on-7 workout July 15.

Elyria»Pioneers

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Mayfield at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Brunswick at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Elyria at Avon Lake, 7 p.m., 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Amherst at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Elyria at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Elyria at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Antonio Pride*, Sr., 5-10, 179
TB: Levi Springer*, Sr., 5-9, 156
Slot: Jacory Bradley*, Sr., 5-4, 139
Slot: Tyger McCullum*, Sr., 5-8, 150
WR: Asa Brown*, Sr., 6-1, 165
WR: Chris Rogers*, Sr., 5-10, 176
LT: Jackson Goodspeed*, Sr., 6-3, 269
LG: Xavier Cross*, Sr., 6-0, 298
C: Parker Osborne*, Jr., 6-1, 274
RG: Khyree Vaughan, Sr., 6-0, 362
RT: Brayden Schleimer*, Sr., 6-0, 274
K: Lex Brunner*, Jr., 5-7, 160

DEFENSE

DE: Jackson Goodspeed, Sr., 6-3, 269
NT: Torrance Vaughan, Sr., 6-0, 362
DE: Parker Osborne, Sr., 6-1, 274
OLB: Khyree Anderson, Sr., 5-9, 163
ILB: Levi Springer*, Sr., 5-9, 156
ILB: Omari Ford, Sr., 6-2, 222
OLB: Elijah Hope, Jr., 5-10, 179
CB: Chris Rogers*, Sr., 5-10, 176
FS: Arris Malone, So., 6-4, 192
SS: Dolan Melendez*, Sr., 5-8, 149
CB: Aaron Ensign, Jr., 5-7, 135
P: Lex Brunner*, Jr., 5-7, 160
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 12; **Key reserves:** Alan Penny, Bradyen Si
Best in the classroom: Kalon Perry 4.18 GPA
Best bench press: Xavier Cross, 345 pounds
Best 40 time: Tyger McCullum, 4.45 seconds
Best squat: Jacory Bradley, 425 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division I, Region 1
Coach: James "Matt" Wilson, second year
2024: 0-10 (0-7)
Twitter: @ElyriaAthletics
Home field: Elyria Charities Field at Ely Stadium

Outlook

Elyria completed its first full year of its sport performance program and its football team sees the difference on the football field. After finishing last year 0-10, the only way the Pioneers can go is up. Wilson brought more experienced assistant coaches into the fold. With seven returning offensive starters, Elyria anticipates its skill positions to put quarterback Antonio Pride in the best position. However, it has FBS collegiate talent in the trenches.

Player to watch

Offensive lineman Jackson Goodspeed finished his junior year with a torn labrum. Yet, he was named Division I third-team All-Ohio. The University of Akron gave him an offer, as Goodspeed will play offensive guard.

Underclassman to watch: Junior lineman Parker Osborne is Elyria's returning right guard, but will play center. He will play both ways as the Pioneers' defensive end. Expect him to have the most responsibility out of any underclassman, regardless of position. With a high football IQ, he will be a leader on the offensive line.

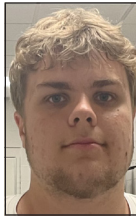
Bottom line

IF: Elyria can handle the season's adversity, **THEN:** the program will see major improvements.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Goodspeed



Osborne



AIMÉE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic takes on Fairview in a scrimmage on Aug. 14.

Elyria Catholic»Panthers

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Elyria Catholic at Bishop Hartley, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Elyria Catholic at Mayfield, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Vermilion at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Elyria Catholic at Padua, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Akron SVSM at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Lake Catholic at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Holy Name at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: NDCL at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Elyria Catholic at CVCA, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Robbie Duray, So., 5-9, 175

RB: Zion Castillo*, Sr., 5-7, 190

WR: Benjamin Essenmacher, Jr., 6-2, 170

WR: Connor Lattea*, Sr., 6-3, 180

TE: Trent Merrell*, Sr., 6-4, 240

TE: Joey Schill*, Sr., 5-10, 215

LT: Amari Lind*, Sr., 6-4, 235

LG: Jacob Gillispie, Sr., 6-0, 250

C: Ryan Flanagan, Jr., 6-0, 265

RG: Omaury Ortiz*, Sr., 6-1, 270

RT: Canaan Regis*, Sr., 6-3, 245

DEFENSE

DE: Trent Merrell*, Sr., 6-4, 240

DT: Dominique Worthy Jr.*, So., 5-11, 230

DT: Westyn Williams, Jr., 6-2, 290

DE: Kylan Connors*, Sr., 6-0, 185

OLB: Riley Edmondson, Jr., 5-8, 175

MLB: Joey Schill*, Sr., 5-10, 215

S: Donovan Shumpert*, Jr., 5-11, 175

CB: Evan Banbury, Jr., 5-7, 140

CB: Corey Armelin, Sr., 5-11, 180

S: Patrick Moore, Sr., 5-10, 175

S: Mikey Bates Jr.*, Jr., 5-9, 165

***:** returning starter; **Returning let-**

terwinners: 13

Key reserves: Jazear Terry, So., 6-4,

190, Luis-Angel Hernandez, Sr., 5-10,

165; **Juelz Martin, So., 5-7, 160**

Best in the classroom: Donovan

Shumpert, 4.25 GPA

Best bench press: Joey Schill, 275

pounds

Best squat: Canaan Regis, 515 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: North Coast Conference

OHSAA: Division III, Region 10

Coach: Chase Farris, third year (6-14)

2024: 3-7

X: @ECHSAthletics

Home field: Dan Reaser Stadium

Outlook

After back-to-back 3-7 seasons, Elyria Catholic wants more. Coach Chase Farris enters his third season and has brought stability to the program. The Panthers have been through some ups and downs, but finally have a veteran core to rely on. The schedule doesn't get any easier, but this team feels much more equipped to handle it.

Player to watch

If anyone fits the description of one-man wrecking crew, it's Trent Merrell. The senior has earned third-team All-Ohio honors the past two seasons and is looking to go out with a bang. A two-way starter at tight end and defensive end, he's going to have another big year.



Merrell

Underclassman to watch: Joining Merrell on the defensive line is sophomore Dominique Worthy Jr. The defensive tackle has a lot of potential and is just scratching the surface. He made some noise last year and will play an even bigger role.

Bottom line

IF: Elyria Catholic's veterans make plays around sophomore quarterback Robbie Duray, **THEN:** The Panthers will return to the playoffs.

—Travis Nelson



AIMÉE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Fairview takes on Elyria Catholic in a scrimmage Aug. 14.

Fairview»Warriors

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Clearview at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Aug. 29: Fairview at Columbia, 7 p.m.

Sept. 5: Orange at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Sept. 12: Kirtland at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19: Fairview at Berkshire, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26: Trinity at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3: Fairview at Cuyahoga Heights, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Independence at Fairview, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Fairview at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Fairview at Cabell Midland (W.Va.), 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Burke Lowry*, Sr., 6-4, 195

WR: Savijan Harris*, Sr., 6-0, 195

WR: Will Allen, Sr., 6-0, 175

WR: Cal Reis, Jr., 6-1, 170

RB: LaMarcus Clark*, Jr., 5-9, 175

TE: Vinny Rizzo, Sr., 6-0, 185

LT: Tyler Zellmer, Sr., 5-11, 250

LG: Ben Alcaro, So., 6-0, 240

C: Danny O'Neil*, Jr., 6-0, 240

RG: Jackson Habbysaw*, Jr., 5-11, 200

RT: Liam Ginley*, Sr., 6-3, 245

K: Kyle Farkas*, Jr., 5-11, 150

DEFENSE

DE: George McAleer, So., 5-11, 180

NT: Danny O'Neil*, Jr., 6-0, 240

DE: Jackson Habbysaw*, Jr., 5-11, 200

OLB: LaMarcus Clark, Jr., 5-9, 175

OLB: Mason Woodworth*, Sr., 5-10, 175

LB: Vinny Rizzo*, Sr., 6-0, 185

LB: Grayson Hewitt, Jr., 6-1, 185

CB: Cal Reis*, Jr., 6-1, 170

CB: Rayden Fraser, Jr., 5-9, 155

S: Will Allen*, Sr., 6-0, 175

S: Savijan Harris*, Sr., 6-0, 195

P: Burke Lowry*, Sr., 6-4, 195

***:** Returning starter; **returning let-**

terwinners: 12; **Key reserves:** RB/OLB

Elijah Cochran, So., 5-8, 165,

Best in the classroom: George

McAleer, 4.2 GPA

Best bench press: Danny O'Neil 315

pounds

Best 40 time: Will Allen, 4.55 seconds

Best squat: LaMarcus Clark, 440

pounds

Just the facts

Conference: CVC Metro

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

Coach: Sean Ranc, fifth year (12-27)

2024: 7-4

X: @FairviewFB

Home field: James B. Daley Stadium

Outlook

Fairview went from 1-9 in 2023 to 7-4 in 2024. The Warriors had six Division V All-Ohioans and graduated half of them. The offense is set to light up scoreboards. Fairview's defense has potential to have a high turnover rate, as returning All-Ohio defensive back Will Allen intercepted four passes. The Warriors lost to Liberty-Benton in the first round of the OHSAA playoffs, and they aim to go further this year.

Player to watch

Quarterback Burke Lowry is Fairview's all-time leading passer, a finalist for the 2024 Matt Wilhelm Award and the Division V Northeast Lake Division V Offensive Player of the Year. He recorded 2,526 yards, with 28 passing touchdowns. Both were program records.

Underclassman to watch: Offensive lineman Danny O'Neil was an All-Ohioan last year. He will be the leader in the trenches, as Fairview graduated All-Ohioan lineman Danny Larkin. O'Neil will be responsible for laying the groundwork to keep Lowry upright.

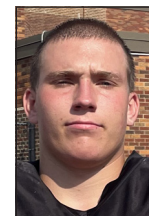
Bottom line

IF: Fairview's leadership remains strong, **THEN:** it should be a higher seed for the OHSAA Playoffs.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Lowry



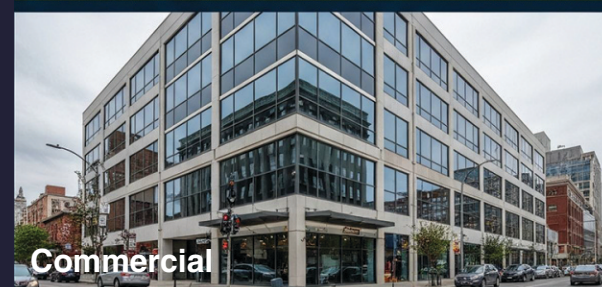
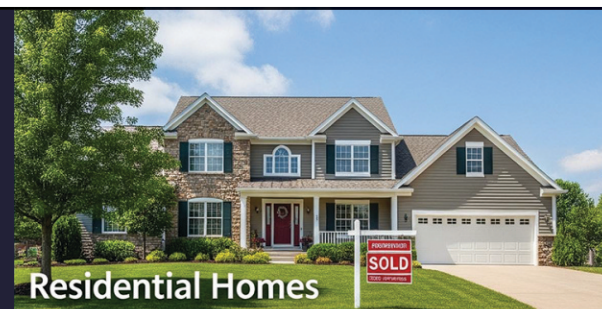
Larkin

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RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Ayden Fortner of Firelands scores a first-quarter touchdown on a reception against Vermilion on Aug. 30, 2024.

Firelands»Falcons

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Firelands at Edison, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Firelands at Bay, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Brookside at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Firelands at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26: Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Black River at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Wellington at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Liam Tobicash*, Jr., 6-3, 190
RB: Jimmy Berry*, Sr., 5-10, 180
WR: Preston Kirschner*, Jr., 6-0, 170
WR: Carson Lima*, So., 6-2, 173
WR: Andrew Pawlak*, Jr., 5-10, 165
TE: Ayden Fortner*, Sr., 6-2, 220
LT: Landon Thomas*, Jr., 6-1, 239
LG: Christian Castillo-Buchs, Jr., 5-10, 185
C: Cliff Stull*, Sr., 6-0, 215
RG: Collin Conry, Jr., 6-1, 182
RT: Brady Smith, Sr., 6-1, 267

DEFENSE

DL: Kam Jones, Jr., 5-10, 194
DL: Brady Smith, Sr., 6-1, 267
DL: Landon Thomas, Jr., 6-1, 239
LB: Ayden Fortner*, Sr., 6-2, 225
LB: Brett Beury*, So., 6-2, 220
LB: Jimmy Berry*, Sr., 5-10, 180
LB: Christian Castillo-Buchs, Jr., 5-10, 185
CB: Garrett Hardwick, Jr., 5-9, 166
S: Carson Lima*, So., 6-2, 173
S: Preston Kirschner*, Jr., 6-0, 170
CB: Max Brown, Fr., 6-1, 150
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 13
Key reserves: Logan Parker, Sr., 6-0, 260, Luke Radanovich, Jr., 5-10, 183, Kane Meinke, Sr., 5-11, 212, Evan Meszaros, Jr., 5-11, 145

Just the facts

Conference: LC8

OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

Coach: Ryan O'Rourke, ninth year (46-36)

2024: 6-5 (5-2)

X: @FirelandsFalcons

Home field: Firelands Stadium

Outlook

After an 0-4 start last year against a grueling schedule, Firelands looks for a better start in 2025. The Falcons return the majority of their offense and look to build on their success on that side of the ball a year ago. Rather than controlling the trenches like in years past, they will be more reliant on their passing game and spreading the ball around than ever before.

Player to watch

Ayden Fortner will continue being a strong presence for the Falcons. The senior tight end and linebacker made a big impact a year ago and will again this year not just as a player, but as a leader.

Underclassman to watch: Last season was huge for Liam Tobicash. The junior quarterback got crucial experience as a sophomore and he's now ready to take his game to the next level.

Bottom line

IF: Firelands can get off to a better start, **THEN:** The Falcons will be back in the LC8 race.

— Travis Nelson



Fortner



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Keystone head coach Don Griswold speaks to his team during a practice on Aug. 13.

Keystone»Wildcats

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Aug. 22: Keystone at Northwestern, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Keystone at Ashland Crestview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Oberlin at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Keystone at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Black River at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Keystone at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Columbia at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Colt Cowling, So., 6-3, 190
RB: Wyatt McKee*, Jr., 5-11, 215
RB: Shane Ohl*, Sr., 6-2, 210
WR: Brendan Hagerman, Jr., 6-1, 180
WR: Tucker Webb, Sr., 6-0, 185
WR: Kaleb Scott*, Sr., 5-10, 175
LT: Jordan Thacker*, Jr., 6-0, 220
LG: Kyle Naylor*, Sr., 5-10, 205
C: Clinton Thomas, Jr., 6-0, 200
RG: Luke Devore So., 6-1, 235
RT: Gus Hoops*, Sr., 6-1, 190
K: Brendand Hagerman, Jr., 6-1, 180

DEFENSE

DE: John Faltay*, Jr., 6-2, 195
DT: Luke Devore, So., 6-1, 235
DT: Jordan Thacker*, Jr., 6-0, 220
DE: Kyle Naylor*, Sr., 5-10, 205
ILB: Wyatt McKee*, Jr., 5-11, 215
ILB: Shane Ohl*, Sr., 6-2, 210
OLB: Zach Taylor, Jr., 5-9, 170
OLB: Nick Linden, Jr., 6-2, 175
CB: Brendan Hagerman 6-1, 180
FS: Kaleb Scott*, Sr., 5-10, 175
CB: Tucker Webb, Sr., 6-0, 185
P: Kyle Hurley*, Sr., 5-10, 185
***:** Returning starter; **returning letterwinners:** 17; **Key reserves:** Mason Grams
Best in the classroom: Nick Linden, 4.4 GPA
Best bench press: Shane Ohl, 325 pounds
Best 40 time: Wyatt McKee, 4.5 seconds
Best squat: Shane Ohl, 455 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: LC8

OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

Coach: Don Griswold, ninth year (43-28)

2024: 10-2 (7-0)

X: @KeystoneSchools

Home field: Wildcat Stadium

Outlook

The defending LC8 champion is excited to reload and it anticipates an explosive offense. With Lorain County League Player of the Year Zach Shackelford graduating, Colton Cowling is next in line as the new quarterback. He is a state qualifier in track and a basketball All-Ohioan. His sprint speed will add an extra threat to an effective rushing attack that gained over 3,000 yards on the ground. The defensive line is projected to anchor the defense.

Player to watch

Shane Ohl was an All-Ohio linebacker in 2024. His biggest asset is his brain, which is ideal for a lead linebacker. Ohl had 92 tackles last year, which was second most on Keystone's defense. He also provides versatility on offense that can play tight end, wide receiver or running back.

Underclassman to watch: Running back Wyatt McKee led Keystone with 1,225 rushing yards and scored 11 touchdowns en route to be named Division V All-Ohio. He is a downhill runner that loves contact. McKee brings the desire for contact on defense, with 43 tackles.

Bottom line

IF: Keystone can win the battle in the trenches, **THEN:** The Wildcats can repeat as LC8 champs.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Ohl



McKee



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Lorain takes on. Amherst in a scrimmage on Aug. 14.

Lorain»Titans

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Maple Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Lorain at Sandusky 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lorain at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Cleveland Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Lorain at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Lorain at Shaker Heights, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Strongsville at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Mentor at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Lorain at Medina, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: David Whitaker, Sr., 5-9, 265
QB: J.T. Whittington, Fr., 5-9, 140
WR: B.J. Serrano, Sr., 6-2, 190
WR: Amare Neal, Fr., 5-11, 170
WR: Zion Moore, Jr., 5-10, 170
RB: T.J. Allen*, Sr., 5-10, 195
LT: Amare Malone*, Sr., 6-1, 270
LG: Jaylen Moore*, Sr., 6-1, 280
C: Lamar Miller*, Sr., 5-10, 250
RG: Deonte Edwards*, Sr., 6-1, 260
RT: Braidon Buchanan-Banks, Sr., 6-7, 270
K: Jacob Rivera*, Sr., 5-9, 170

DEFENSE

DL: Ezra Williams*, Sr., 5-11, 280
DL: Josiah Agosto, Sr., 5-10, 210
DL: D.J. Nixon, Sr., 5-10, 260
LB: T.J. Allen*, Sr., 5-10, 195
LB: Avery Martin*, Sr., 6-0, 200
LB: Jamiyus Gaines*, Sr., 5-10, 250
LB: Jay'I Diaz*, Sr., 5-11, 215
DB: Zion Moore, Jr., 5-10, 170
DB: B.J. Serrano, Sr., 6-2, 190
DB: Jayen Kuznar, Jr., 6-1, 180
DB: Dae Dae Jones, Jr., 5-9, 160
P: Jay'I Diaz*, Sr., 5-11, 215
*: Returning starter; **returning letterwinners:** 22; **Key reserves:** Tyree Morales, Javvion Harrison, Danny Jackson
Best bench press: Ezra Williams, 355 pounds
Best 40 time: Zion Moore, 4.48 seconds
Best squat: Ezra Williams, 625 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Greater Cleveland Conference
OHSAA: Division I, Region 1
Coach: James Boyeas, second year (9-2)
2024: 9-2 (5-0 LEL)
X: @lorainathletics
Home field: George Daniel Field

Outlook

After successfully defending its Lake Erie League Championship, Lorain heads to the Greater Cleveland Conference. The Titans should expect a massive step up in competition. Their linebacking unit, with two returning All-Ohioans, will be its cornerstone, along with All-Ohioan Ezra Williams on the defensive line. Lorain's offensive line has the most experience. However, it must make up for the talent lost at the skill spots that racked more than 3,000 yards of offense.

Player to watch

Jay'I Diaz, along with linebacker Jamiyus Gaines, were All-Ohio linebackers in 2024 and are projected to have a major impact on Lorain's front seven. As the weak-side linebacker, Diaz's 112 tackles led the Titans.

Underclassman to watch: Jazion Moore only recorded 79 yards of offense, but he impressed with tailback-like qualities. Boyeas will attempt to move him around the field, as a multi-purpose threat, like All-Ohioan Jairo Williams was last year. Although he is not as talented, he has tools to work with.

Bottom line

IF: Lorain's running game find success, **THEN:** it can win some games in the GCC.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



Diaz



Moore



TRAVIS NELSON — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Midview coach Jack Armstrong prepares for his third season leading the program.

Midview»Middies

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Avon Lake at Midview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Midview at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Midview at Avon, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Elyria at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE
QB: Shay Williams*, Sr., 5-11, 195
RB: Marcus McMahon*, Sr., 5-8, 190
RB: Jace Wright, Jr., 5-10, 180
WR: Zachary Wallace*, Sr., 5-11, 170
WR: Gage Weaver, Sr., 6-1, 165
WR: Brennan Newton, Jr., 5-10, 190
LT: Leo Swirinsky*, Sr., 5-10, 260
LG: Joey Brown*, Sr., 6-0, 240
C: Ty Zan, So., 6-2, 275
RG: Brayden Widenmeyer*, Sr., 6-0, 225
RT: Xavier Young*, Sr., 6-5, 240
DEFENSE
DL: Sawyer McMillin*, Jr., 6-1, 215
DL: Davis Loveless, Sr., 6-0, 275
DL: Xavier Padilla, Jr., 6-1, 235
DL: Jerry Stewart, Sr., 6-1, 225
LB: Brayden Homoki*, Sr., 6-0, 225
LB: Jace Wright, Jr., 5-10, 180
DB: De'Mere Gray, So., 6-1, 165
DB: Ian Regan, So., 5-4, 135
DB: Brennan Newton, Jr., 5-10, 190
DB: Gage Weaver, Sr., 6-1, 165
*: returning starter
Key reserves: Robby Flachbart, Jr., 5-5, 125, Peyton Ansel, Jr., 5-10, 180, Ethan Stout, Sr., 6-0, 135, Berdale Orr, Jr., 6-0, 255
Best bench press: Joey Brown, 325 pounds
Best squat: Leo Swirinsky, 520 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division III, Region 10
Coach: Jack Armstrong, third year (9-13)
2024: 5-6 (2-5)
X: @Middie_Football
Home field: Ross Field at Edward T. Adelsburg Stadium

Outlook

A few plays away from a winning season a year ago, Midview is motivated to take the next step. The Middies' core of returners will play a big role in Coach Jack Armstrong's third season. The Southwestern Conference doesn't get any easier, but they're excited for what's next. Shay Williams returns at quarterback and will have a few key skill guys back with him.

Player to watch

Brayden Homoki is poised for a huge senior season. The linebacker earned Division III third-team All-Ohio honors as a junior and is ready for more. Homoki will control the middle of what could be a stout defense for the Middies.

Underclassman to watch: Brennan Newton will play on both sides of the ball for the Middies and could be due for a breakout season. The junior will have a huge effect on the passing game both offensively and defensively.

Bottom line

IF: Midview executes late in games, **THEN:** The Middies will have their first winning season since 2017.

— Travis Nelson



Homoki



TRAVIS NELSON — THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Olmsted coach Tim Brediger addresses his team after practice on July 29.

North Olmsted»Eagles

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: North Olmsted at Buckeye, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Normandy at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: North Olmsted at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9: North Olmsted at Bay, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: North Olmsted at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Will McPherson, Jr., 5-9, 168
RB: Ameer Silmi, So., 5-9, 168
RB: Cody Jak, Jr., 5-9, 162
WR: Lawrence Stanley*, Sr., 6-2, 165
WR: D.J. Jefferies*, Sr., 5-11, 185
TE: Billal Suleiman, So., 6-2, 232
OL: Ian Jones, Sr., 6-2, 225
OL: Carmello Fuentes*, Jr., 5-9, 205
OL: Javion Pierce*, Sr., 5-10, 232
OL: Kyle Allain, Jr., 5-11, 188
OL: Mitchell Jones*, Sr., 5-11, 235
K: Zack Haug, Sr.

DEFENSE

DE: Tanner Thorne*, Sr., 6-2, 242
NT: Tanner Perry*, Sr., 5-10, 220
DE: Mitchell Jones, Sr., 6-1, 235
LB: Luca LaRue*, Jr., 5-9, 205
LB: Cody Jak, Jr., 5-9, 162
DB: Lawrence Stanley*, Sr., 6-2, 165
DB: Collin Scott, Jr., 5-9, 158
DB: Koen Beasley, Fr., 5-10, 182
DB: D.J. Jefferies, Sr., 5-11, 182
*: returning starter; **Returning let-terwinners:** 16
Key reserves: Jack Burger, Fr., 5-9, 185; **Ryan Ciresi, So., 6-2, 285**
Best in the classroom: Kyle Allain, 4.52 GPA
Best bench press: Javion Pierce, 225 pounds x 12
Best squat: Javion Pierce, 515 pounds
Best 40 time: Ameer Silmi, 4.68 seconds

Just the facts

Conference: Cleveland West Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Tim Brediger, 13th year (56-63)
2024: 5-6 (5-2)
X: @NOFBpersist

Outlook

After dropping its first four games last season, North Olmsted won five of its final six to make the playoffs. The tough nonconference schedule stays the same, but the Eagles hope to get off to a better start. With only 10 seniors, a lot of young players will touch the field. The good news is they are full of potential.

Player to watch

Everything North Olmsted accomplishes this year will start and end with Javion Pierce. The senior is the Eagles' anchor on the line of scrimmage and will be counted on plenty as a leader. He has made gains in the weight room with a team-high bench press and squat.

Underclassman to watch: North Olmsted has a nucleus of young players to keep an eye on. One of them that could make an impact right away is Ameer Silmi. The sophomore running back has had a good summer and is on his way to becoming a household name.

Bottom line

IF: North Olmsted's young players can get acclimated, **THEN:** The Eagles can make another postseason trip.



Pierce

— Travis Nelson



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

North Ridgeville practices on Aug. 2.

North Ridgeville»Rangers

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: North Ridgeville at North Royalton, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Avon at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Berea-Midpark at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: North Ridgeville at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Cole Miller*, Sr., 6-5, 230
H: Cole Allison, Jr., 5-10, 180
RB: Zack Barnhart*, Sr., 6-0, 210
SLOT: Dylan DeShazo, Sr., 5-10, 165
WR: Duke Baker*, Sr., 6-2, 160
WR: Eric Lengauer, Sr., 6-3, 185
LT: Gavin Knoepp, Jr., 6-3, 245
LG: Steve Spears, Sr., 5-10, 220
C: Jason Ellison, Sr., 6-3, 260
RG: Logan Laska, So., 6-0, 250
RT: Noah Cassetto, So., 6-3, 225
K: Finley Keller, Sr., 6-2, 205

DEFENSE

DE: Braydin Laszlo*, Sr., 6-0, 230
DT: Christian Ensley*, Sr., 6-1, 275
NT: Hemzah Fahmawi*, Sr., 6-2, 230
DE: Ashton Cassetto*, Sr., 6-1, 245
OLB: Jack Andras, Jr., 5-9, 190
WILL: Ryan Anderson, Sr., 6-0, 220
MIKE: Nolan Gill*, Sr., 5-11, 205
CB: Perry Dixon*, Sr., 5-11, 170
SS: Brian Strippy*, Sr., 5-11, 175
FS: Carter Clark*, Sr., 5-9, 175
CB: Luke Mroz*, Sr., 5-10, 165
P: Finley Keller, Sr., 6-2, 205
*: returning starter
Key reserves: Matthew Flesher, So., 5-10, 185; **Jayden Williams, Jr., 5-9, 140; Javon Harris, So., 5-9, 160**
Best bench press: Braydin Laszlo, 405 pounds
Best squat: Ryan Anderson, 515 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Bryan Morgan, fifth year (25-20)
2024: 9-3 (5-2)
X: @NRRangerFootball
Home field: Ranger Stadium

Outlook

After a couple of strong seasons, North Ridgeville finds itself at a crossroads. The Rangers graduated perhaps their most talented senior class ever and will need some new faces to step up. However, they also have some returners that have played a big part of their success and will continue to do so. With momentum on their side, they hope to make another postseason push.

Player to watch

North Ridgeville football is set up to be the Zack Barnhart show this season. Again. The senior running back returns, and his best season could be in store. He earned Division II second-team All-Ohio accolades last year, rushing for nearly 1,300 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Underclassman to watch: With Charlie Steinmetz graduating, there's a big opportunity for Cole Allison at the H. The junior was Steinmetz's backup a year ago before getting injured. Allison has come back stronger and faster to be a focal point of the offense.

Bottom line

IF: North Ridgeville's new starters can step up, **THEN:** The Rangers are poised for another great year.

— Travis Nelson



Barnhart

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Gutter Cover Company's Gutter Topper guard system relies on a solid-cover slope design that's superior to any screened products on the market. The locally owned company and its skilled team have been installing Gutter Topper for over 27 years.

"With a patented design, water flows through, but leaves, bird's nests and organic debris do not," says owner Jim Carbone. "Our affordable product is extremely durable, made of solid aluminum and can handle any weather Northeast Ohio will throw at it. They are installed directly over existing gutters, however, new gutters are available. Customers tell us the lifetime transferrable

performance warranty makes a big difference in their decision to install these guards. We have jobs that were installed in the '90s that still protect gutters with the same effectiveness as the day they were installed." The guards come in a variety of attractive colors to complement any home.

Gutters that Survive Old Man Winter:

"Last year was one of the worst winters we've had in years for ice dams," says Jim. "Many homeowners had problems with ice melting, then refreezing, then melting again and backing up into their homes." To save homeowners the pain of ice issues, Jim offers Heater Cap.

"This product offers options to property owners who may want to heat only certain problem areas of their gutters, not the entire system," he says.

"We can install them with or without our Gutter Topper or most

existing gutter guards. We've all seen the prehistoric zig-zag style of heat wires and they simply don't work. We remove those all the time. Ours is different. It is virtually invisible and is operated by a light switch located inside the home. The heater is safe and emits the perfect amount of heat to stop ice from forming."

He reports that many of his clients install Gutter Topper for leaf protection and add Heater Cap where needed, which can be added at later date as well.

"It's an elegant solution to the problem," he says. "We're able to take a walk around the house and have a conversation with the homeowner to pinpoint exactly where the heaters are needed for optimum effectiveness. In addition to homes, we have installed Heater Cap on many local churches, schools, office buildings and even fire departments."

Five-star customer reviews tell the tale. David L. was dealing with extreme icicles before he reached out to **Gutter Cover Company** to have Heater Cap installed. "The typical gutter warmers you buy from the store and install in zig-zag fashion were ugly and a nuisance. We needed a more permanent solution. Heater Cap has totally stopped the problem and is easily operated by a switch installed in the house. I recommend **Gutter Cover Company** and wouldn't hesitate to use them again," he says.

Jim has plenty of both products in stock, so give him a call, before the leaves or snow start to fall, so you can forget about your gutters. "We recommend getting a free estimate now for both Gutter Topper and Heater Cap, so when that first chilly autumn day hits and our phones are ringing off the hook, you'll already be on our install list," he says.

Call Gutter Cover Company at 440-366-0688 or 800-335-4367 to schedule a complimentary gutter inspection. The company is proud of its A+ rating

Before



Gutter Cover Company's Heater Cap offers options to property owners who may want to heat only certain problem areas of their gutters, not the entire system. They can be installed with or without Gutter Topper or other covers.

After



with the BBB and has received awards from Excellent Google reviews. Gutter Topper is approved by all major roof manufacturers. The products used by Gutter Cover Company are manufactured in the USA. For more information visit GutterGuard1.com.

Schedule a free estimate by 9/14/25 and receive a \$300 discount on the purchase of either Gutter Topper or Heater Cap by mentioning this offer. Additional discounts are available for seniors and veterans.





RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Oberlin takes part in a 7-on-7 event on July 15 at Elyria.

Oberlin»Phoenix

Schedule

(Subject to change; home games at Oberlin College)
Aug. 22: Wickliffe at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 29: Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Toledo Woodward at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 12: Oberlin at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Firelands at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26: Wellington at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 3: Oberlin at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Clearview at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17: Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Black River at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Drew Walter*, Sr., 6-2, 210
RB: Jackson Cikalo*, Sr., 5-9, 182
RB: Jason Resse, Fr., 5-9, 140
WR: Carmello Williams, Sr., 6-3, 190
WR: Korrie Freeman*, Sr., 5-8, 175
WR: Ason Bell*, Jr., 5-9, 166
LT: Kamonte Hopkins, Fr., 6-3, 205
LG: Mason Rosenthal*, Sr., 5-10, 245
C: Jaden Brown*, Jr., 5-9, 305
RG: Julean Page*, Sr., 5-8, 230
RT: Sebastian Albenez*, Jr., 6-2, 210
K: Sam Lee*, Sr., 5-10, 170

DEFENSE

DL: Kamonte Hopkins, Fr., 6-3, 205
DL: Brian Boone, Jr., 5-10, 195
DL: Sebastian Albenez*, Jr., 6-2, 210
LB: Santos Navarro, Sr., 5-10, 190
LB: Julean Page*, Sr., 5-8, 230
LB: Mason Rosenthal*, Sr., 5-10, 245
LB: Drew Walter*, Sr., 6-2, 210
DB: Jason Resse, Fr., 5-9, 140
DB: Carmello Williams, Sr., 6-3, 190
DB: Korrie Freeman*, Sr., 5-8, 175
DB: Jackson Cikalo*, Sr., 5-9, 182
***:** returning starter; **Returning let-terwinners:** 10
Key reserves: Nasir Stiles, Fr., 5-7, 163; **Colton Soto, Fr., 5-8, 200**
Best in the classroom: Drew Walter, 4.0 GPA
Best bench press: Drew Walter, 305 pounds
Best squat: Mason Rosenthal and Drew Walter, 375 pounds

Just the facts

Conference: LC8
OHSAA: Division VII, Region 25
Coach: Kenny Washington, second year (0-10)
2024: 0-10 (0-7)
X: @OBPhoenix
Home field: Oberlin College

Outlook

Oberlin is on the hunt for the program's first win since 2021. Kenny Washington returns for his second season as the head coach in the midst of building a culture with the Phoenix. With several key returners back and the addition of a few freshmen, Oberlin has hopes of getting back in the win column.

Player to watch

Drew Walter returns for his senior season. He has done it all for the Phoenix over the years and this season is no different. The four-year starting quarterback will also make an impact defensively at linebacker. He will be the straw that stirs the Phoenix's drink.



Walter

Underclassman to watch:

Kamonte Hopkins has been turninb heads all summer long. The incoming 6-3 freshman had a successful middle school career and will be a two-way starter from the jump. Hopkins will start at left tackle and defensive end, and he's more than capable of playing some tight end.

Bottom line

IF: Oberlin gets contributions from its talented young players, **THEN:** The Phoenix could win their first game in nearly four years.

— Travis Nelson



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Olmsted Falls faces Maple Heights in a scrimmage on Aug. 14.

Olmsted Falls»Bulldogs

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Mentor at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Olmsted Falls at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Elyria at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Avon Lake at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Olmsted Falls at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Cam Pesch, Jr., 5-11, 185
Slot: Logan Connelly*, Sr., 6-0, 175
S: Khye Gilbert*, 5-8, 184
FB: Owen Singleton*, Sr., 5-11, 202
WR: Adam Smith, Jr., 6-2, 175
WR: Cam Frangella, Sr., 5-10, 180
LT: Ayden Rivera*, Sr., 6-0, 230
LG: Charlie Martineau*, Sr., 5-10, 255
C: Scott Draves*, Sr., 6-0, 245
RG: Nathan Scheffler*, Sr., 6-4, 300
RT: Matt Iannicca*, Sr., 6-3, 250
K: Logan Connelly, Sr., 6-0, 175

DEFENSE

DE: Cade Celashi, Sr., 5-11, 200
NT: Nathan Scheffler*, 6-4, 300
DE: Scott Draves*, Jr., 6-4, 245
OLB: Drew Minor*, Sr., 5-11, 170
ILB: Mason Cerovac*, Sr., 6-3, 225
ILB: Sully Murray, Sr., 6-2, 180
OLB: Cam Frangella, Sr., 5-10, 180
CB: Brady Wissel, Sr., 6-2, 177
S: Logan Connelly*, Sr., 6-0, 175
S: Charlie Krupka*, 5-10, 177
CB: Grant Hrabnicky, Jr., 5-7, 153
P: Logan Connelly, Sr., 6-0, 175
***:** Returning starter; **Key reserves:** Will Healey, Lucas, Hewett, Elias Kowalski, Ryan Barone, Sammy Kostraba

Just the facts

Conference: Southwestern Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Tom DeLuca, 13th year (87-50)
2024: 8-4 (4-3)
X: @OFFfootball
Home field: Charles A. Harding Memorial Stadium

Outlook

Olmsted Falls' winning formula is to run the ball effectively, and the Bulldogs have the tools to maximize their potential. They will return all of their offensive line-men, including All-Ohioan Nathan Scheffler. Olmsted Falls will have to replace Jimmy Rosol at quarterback, and it plans to have baseball player Cam Pesch as his successor. Defensively, it will be strong in the front seven and will return its two safeties. However, it will need to find replacements at cornerback.



Singleton

Player to watch

Linebacker Mason Cerovac made All-Ohio in football (linebacker) and basketball (forward). 2024 was his first year playing football. He excels as a run stopper and has Division I college offers from Toledo, Kent State and UMass.



Cerovac

Bottom line

IF: Olmsted Falls can bring another dimension to its offense, **THEN:** It should make a deep playoff run in Division II, Region 6.

— Mark Perez-Krywany



AMIEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Rocky River's Ryan Taylor runs the ball against Westlake on Oct. 10.

Rocky River»Pirates

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Akron Firestone at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: John Marshall at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Rocky River at Uniontown Lake, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Valley Forge at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Rocky River at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Normandy at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Rocky River at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9: Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Buckeye at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Rocky River at Bay, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Ryan Taylor*, Sr., 5-9, 180
RB: Joey DiSalvo*, Sr., 5-9, 172
WR: Tristin Hughes, Jr., 6-1, 190
WR: Lucas Konopka, Sr., 6-0, 181
SLOT: Danny Berg*, Jr., 5-10, 185
SLOT: Rowan Kennedy*, So., 6-2, 185
LT: Steven McHenry*, Jr., 6-2, 235
LG: Bryant Hurt, Jr., 6-2, 220
C: Alex Van Meter*, Sr., 6-3, 245
RG: Charlie Uhler*, Sr., 5-11, 205
RT: Blake Goertz, Jr., 6-3, 250
K: Eric Gorius, Sr., 5-10, 165

DEFENSE

DE: Steven McHenry*, Jr., 6-2, 235
DT: Tommy Van Meter, So., 6-1, 235
NT: Laith Qasem*, Sr., 6-0, 248
LEO: Henry Ward*, Sr., 6-5, 185
SAM: Bryant Hurt*, Jr., 6-2, 220
MIKE: London Hover*, Sr., 5-10, 192
WILL: Jeff Maslar*, Sr., 6-0, 205
CB: Michael Bebie*, Jr., 5-11, 165
S: Michael Worgull*, Sr., 5-9, 186
S: Tristin Hughes, Jr., 6-1, 190
CB: Josh Sereika, Sr., 5-7, 168
P: Ryan Taylor, Sr., 5-9, 180
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 16
Key reserves: Jayden Bulkowski, Sr., 5-7, 165, Connor Novosel, So., 6-3, 187, Rocco Baon, So., 5-10, 170
Best bench press: Danny Berg, 270 pounds
Best squat: Blake Goertz and Steven McHenry, 415 pounds
Best 40 time: Tristin Hughes, 4.5 seconds

Just the facts

Conference: Cleveland West Conference
OHSAA: Division III, Region 10
Coach: Josh Wells, 11th year (71-39)
2024: 8-4 (5-2)
X: @CoachWells1
Home field: Rocky River Stadium

Outlook

Following a first-round playoff win a year ago, Rocky River looks to keep the program's uptrend going. The Pirates return a handful of valuable players this season who are motivated to have a strong ending to the season. With a strong offseason in the weight room, River looks to bring a physical element to the game to along with a prolific passing attack.

Player to watch

It always helps to add one of the best players in Northeast Ohio to your team. That's what Rocky River is getting in St. Ignatius transfer Tristin Hughes. The junior will start both ways for the Pirates this season and have a big impact doing it. He currently holds seven FBS offers, including his first Power Four offer from Syracuse in June.

Underclassman to watch: A young player to be on the lookout for is sophomore Rocco Baon. He put together a productive freshman year on JV, so much so that he earned varsity playing time defensively. It's a matter of when — not if — Baon becomes an undeniable force on both sides of the ball.

Bottom line

IF: Rocky River can stop the run, **THEN:** The Pirates will make a deeper run in the postseason.

— Travis Nelson



Hughes



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Vermilion takes on Wellington in scrimmage on Aug. 9.

Vermilion»Sailors

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Margaretta at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Vermilion at Willard, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Vermilion at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Sandusky at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Vermilion at Norwalk, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Port Clinton at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Vermilion at Huron, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Edison at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Vermilion at Bellevue, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Drake Hooks, Jr., 6-4, 210
RB: Isaac Kyser, So., 6-2, 195
RB: Zack Werth, Sr., 5-8, 180
WR: Micah Smith, So., 5-9, 160
WR: Brock Meyers*, Sr., 6-3, 195
TE: Aiden Saunders, Sr., 6-1, 200
OT: Trenton Garcia, So., 6-0, 230
OG: Chad Ellis*, Sr., 5-10, 210
C: Trey Colohan, So., 6-2, 250
OG: Sean Brownell, Sr., 5-9, 195
OT: Evan Wagner*, Sr., 6-1, 310

DEFENSE

DE: Aiden Saunders, Sr., 6-1, 200
NT: Chad Ellis, Sr., 5-10, 210
DE: Isaac Kyser, So., 6-2, 195
LB: Aiden Kyser, Sr., 5-10, 175
LB: Sean Brownell, Sr., 5-9, 195
LB: Cole Rini, Sr., 6-0, 180
LB: Drake Hooks, Jr., 6-4, 210
CB: Micah Smith, So., 5-9, 160
S: Zack Werth, Sr., 5-8, 180
S: James Bengale, Sr.

CB: Brock Meyers, Sr., 6-3, 195
***:** returning starter; **Returning letterwinners:** 9

Just the facts

Conference: Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division
OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14
Coach: Bill DiFucci, fourth year (12-21)
2024: 9-3 (3-1)
X: @TheSailorNation
Home field: Sailor Stadium

Outlook

Two years after going 0-10, Vermilion had a resurgence for the ages. The Sailors not only had a tremendous 2024 with nine wins, they also won their playoff game in program history. They've found success and now the next mission is to sustain it. Despite arguably the program's best-ever senior class graduating, the cupboard isn't even close to bare.

Player to watch

There is a clear ace in the Sailors' backfield. Evan Kuhns played a big role last year and will now receive a bulk of the carries in Vermilion's run-first offense. There will be other good players around him to watch out for, but Kuhns will make an impact on both sides of the ball like he did a year ago.

Underclassman to watch: The Vermilion offense adding a dynamic element to it could become a scary though for opposing defensive coordinators. Sophomore Micah Smith is going to bring that. A projected two-way starter at wide receiver and defensive back, Smith will provide a much-needed dose of athleticism to the Sailors.

Bottom line

IF: The first-time starters can perform in their new roles, **THEN:** Vermilion will be in SBC Bay Division contention once again.

— Travis Nelson



Kuhns

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RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

A Wellington player carries against Vermilion during an Aug. 9 scrimmage.

Wellington»Dukes

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Western Reserve at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Mapleton at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Wellington at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Wellington at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Wellington at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 3: Keystone at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10: Wellington at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Wellington at Black River, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Gavin Wacker, Sr., 6-3, 185
RB: Trey Moore*, Sr., 5-9, 185
FB: Cade Spangenberg, Jr., 5-10, 215
WR: Alex Frenk*, Sr., 6-2, 180
WR: Connor Kinser, Jr., 5-10, 145
TE: Tyler Burns, Jr., 6-2, 230
LT: Ashton Roessler*, Sr., 5-11, 255
LG: Ari Wreyford, Jr., 6-2, 175
C: Noah Chappellear, So., 5-9, 195
RG: Landon Mellick, Sr., 5-8, 200
RT: Owen Persinger, Sr., 5-9, 200
K: Alex Frenk*, Sr., 6-2, 180

DEFENSE

DL: Owen Persinger, Sr., 5-9, 200
DL: Ashton Roessler*, Sr., 5-11, 255
DL: Tyler Burns, Jr., 6-2, 230
DL: Ari Wreyford*, Jr., 6-2, 175
LB: Trey Moore*, Sr., 5-9, 185
LB: Justin Cottrill*, Sr., 6-2, 175
LB: Landon Beall, Jr., 5-11, 160
DB: Brady Irwin, So., 5-10, 165
DB: Connor Kinser, Jr., 5-10, 145
DB: Ian Sipos-Sutton, Jr., 5-6, 125
DB: Alex Frenk*, Sr., 6-2, 180
P: Bryce Lehmkuhl*, Jr., 6-2, 190
*: returning starter; **Returning let-terwinners:** 12
Key reserves: Deakan Wirth, Sr., 6-1, 180, David Roldan, Sr., 5-7, 160
Best in the classroom: Alex Frenk, 3.5 GPA
Best bench press: Cade Spangenberg, 405 pounds
Best squat: Cade Spangenberg, 545 pounds
Best 40 time: Cade Spangenberg, 4.63 seconds

Just the facts

Conference: LC8
OHSAA: Division V, Region 18
Coach: Rob Howells, eighth year (22-43)
2024: 3-7 (1-6)
X: @WEVSD_sports
Home field: Dukes Stadium

Outlook

After a good offseason, Wellington is motivated to put together a winning season. The Dukes have a chip on their shoulder and are ready to turn the tide. With two All-Ohio players returning, there are hopes to bring the program back to the postseason for the first time since 2021.

Player to watch

Described by Coach Rob Howells as the heart and soul of the team, Trey Moore will be Wellington's go-to player in 2025. The senior will get plenty of carries this season and will set the tone from both his running back and linebacker spots.

Underclassman to watch: Cade Spangenberg, an incoming junior, will be a player to watch for the Dukes. After starting both ways in the trenches last year, he's making the transition to full back and linebacker. He put in a lot of work over the offseason to make the change.

Bottom line

IF: Role players can give solid contributions around Moore; **THEN:** Wellington should see improvement in 2025.



Moore

— Travis Nelson



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Westlake practices Aug. 2.

Westlake»Demons

Schedule

(Subject to change)
Aug. 22: Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: Westlake at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: Westlake at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Lakewood at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Westlake at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Bay at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3: Westlake at Buckeye, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9: Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17: Normandy at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.

Projected lineup

OFFENSE

QB: Moe Abdelhady, Jr., 5-10, 175
RB: Jake Ostrowski*, Sr., 5-9, 170
WR: Ali Assad, Jr., 5-9, 145
WR: Will Bierfeldt*, Sr., 6-3, 175
WR: Stephen Trowbridge*, Jr., 5-11, 165
TE: Geno Woods, Sr., 5-10, 200
LT: Anshpreet Singh, So., 6-1, 230
LG: Sean Pavich*, Sr., 5-11, 230
C: Grant Stephens*, Sr., 5-10, 215
RG: Joey Badran, So., 5-10, 200
RT: Cam Rice, Jr., 6-2, 300
K: Jacob Lenze, Sr., 6-0, 170

DEFENSE

DE: Jacob Barnes, Jr., 6-3, 200
NT: Seth Eagle*, Jr., 6-1, 280
DE: Sean Pavich*, Sr., 5-11, 230
OLB: Jake Ostrowski*, Sr., 5-9, 175
MLB: Nabel Qasem*, Sr., 5-11, 185
MLB: Antonio Colon*, Sr., 5-9, 175
OLB: Wes Ulrich, Jr., 5-8, 170
CB: Nyaire Rukande, Sr., 5-8, 150
S: Tommy DeFranco*, Sr., 5-9, 165
S: Nate Meyer, So., 5-11, 165
CB: Carsten Kravolic, Sr., 5-0, 160
P: Antonio Colon, Jr., 5-9, 175
*: returning starter
Best bench press: Geno Woods, 275 pounds
Best squat: Tommy DeFranco, 405 pounds
Best 40 time: Stephen Trowbridge, 4.6 seconds

Just the facts

Conference: Cleveland West Conference
OHSAA: Division II, Region 6
Coach: Logan Yantek, second year
2024: 2-8 (0-7)
X: @WHSDemonsFB
Home field: Lou Duche Field at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center Stadium

Outlook

After a tough 2024 season resulted in a 2-8 record, Westlake is determined to flip the switch. Coach Logan Yantek enters his second season with five new coaches alongside him. The Demons are not just a talented team, but they've made it a point to become much closer and develop a bond. That bond could result in major improvements on the field.

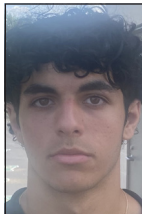
Player to watch

One of the more dynamic players around, Jake Ostrowski will be a tough out for opposing defenses. Westlake will take advantage of the senior two-way starter's speed. He is poised for a big campaign.

Underclassman to watch: Multi-year starting quarterback Sam Brucchieri graduated, leaving a void at the position. After serving as a back-up last year, Moe Abdelhady is ready for the challenge. The junior has been preparing for his moment and wants to help create the Demons' winning culture

Bottom line

IF: Westlake can be more physical this season, **THEN:** The Demons can be the area's most improved team.



Ostrowski

— Travis Nelson

High school football»State finals

CLASS A/DIVISION I

1972: Warren Western Reserve 37, Cincinnati Princeton 6
1973: Cardinal Mooney 14, Warren Western Reserve 3
1974: Warren Harding 41, Upper Arlington 8
1975: Cincinnati Moeller 14, St. Edward 12
1976: Cincinnati Moeller 43, Gahanna Lincoln 5
1977: Cincinnati Moeller 14, Canton McKinley 2
1978: Cincinnati Princeton 12, Berea 10
1979: Cincinnati Moeller 41, Padua 7
1980: Cincinnati Moeller 30, Massillon Washington 7
1981: Canton McKinley 13, Cincinnati Moeller 0
1982: Cincinnati Moeller 35, Massillon Washington 14
1983: Cincinnati Princeton 24, Akron Garfield 6
1984: Toledo St. Francis 17, North Canton Hoover 14
1985: Cincinnati Moeller 35, Canton McKinley 11
1986: Fairfield 21, St. Edward 20
1987: Cincinnati Princeton 14, Youngstown Boardman 7
1988: St. Ignatius 10, Cincinnati Princeton 7
1989: St. Ignatius 34, Cincinnati Moeller 28
1990: Warren Harding 28, Cincinnati Princeton 21
1991: St. Ignatius 24, Centerville 21
1992: St. Ignatius 24, St. Xavier 14
1993: St. Ignatius 38, Cincinnati Moeller 20
1994: St. Ignatius 20, Westerville South 3
1995: St. Ignatius 41, Brunswick 21
1996: Lima Senior 38, St. Ignatius 30
1997: Canton McKinley 31, Cincinnati Moeller 16
1998: Canton McKinley 33, Cincinnati St. Xavier 10
1999: St. Ignatius 24, Huber Heights Wayne 10
2000: Upper Arlington 15, Solon 9
2001: St. Ignatius 37, Cincinnati St. Xavier 6
2002: Cincinnati Elder 21, Warren Harding 19
2003: Cincinnati Elder 31, St. Edward 7
2004: Cincinnati Colerain 50, Canton McKinley 10
2005: Cincinnati St. Xavier 24, Massillon Washington 17
2006: Hilliard Davidson 36, Mentor 35 (2OT)
2007: Cincinnati St. Xavier 27, Mentor 0
2008: St. Ignatius 28, Cincinnati Elder 20
2009: Hilliard Davidson 16, Glenville 15
2010: St. Edward 35, Huber Heights Wayne 28
2011: St. Ignatius 34, Pickerington Central 13
2012: Cincinnati Moeller 20, Toledo Whitmer 12
2013: Cincinnati Moeller 55, Mentor 52
2014: St. Edward 31, Huber Heights Wayne 21
2015: St. Edward 45, Huber Heights Wayne 35
2016: Cincinnati St. Xavier 27, St. Ignatius 20
2017: Pickerington Central 56, Mentor 28
2018: St. Edward 24, Colerain 10
2019: Pickerington Central 21, Cincinnati Elder 14
2020: Cincinnati St. Xavier 44, Pickerington Central 3
2021: St. Edward 23, Springfield 13
2022: St. Edward 28, Springfield 14
2023: St. Edward 31, Springfield 21
2024: Olentangy Liberty 28, Cincinnati Moeller 14

DIVISION II

1980: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 50, Lebanon 0
1981: Benedictine 28, Trotwood-Madison 7
1982: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 12, Toledo St. Francis 0
1983: Brecksville-Broadview Heights 12, Celina 6
1984: Steubenville 12, Whitehall-Yearling 9 (OT)
1985: Galion 6, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 0
1986: Cincinnati Purcell Marian 26, South 7
1987: Akron Buchtel 26, Steubenville 14
1988: Akron Buchtel 28, Steubenville 21 (OT)
1989: St. Joseph 21, Fostoria 14
1990: St. Marys Memorial 14, Columbus St. Francis Desales 3
1991: Fostoria 21, Uniontown Lake 6
1992: St. Marys Memorial 28, Fostoria 14
1993: St. Marys Memorial 21, Uniontown Lake 0
1994: Chardon 17, Rayland Buckeye Local 6
1995: Dublin Scioto 21, Akron Buchtel 14 (OT)
1996: Fostoria 14, Akron Buchtel 6
1997: Defiance 36, Uniontown Lake 10
1998: Lebanon 27, Chardon 21
1999: Walsh Jesuit 19, Sylvania Southview 18
2000: Olmsted Falls 21, Piqua 0
2001: Toledo St. Francis 28, Columbus Bishop Watterson 14
2002: Dayton Chaminade-Julienne 41, Nardonía 26



JOE COLON — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Avon celebrates after winning the Division II state championship over Cincinnati Anderson in 2024.

2003: Avon Lake 10, Trenton Edgewood 7
2004: Columbus Brookhaven 42, Avon Lake 21
2005: Toledo Central Catholic 31, Canfield 29
2006: Piqua 26, Pickerington Central 7
2007: Cincinnati Anderson 31, Louisville 25
2008: Sylvania Southview 29, Cincinnati Anderson 25
2009: Cincinnati Winton Woods 42, Maple Heights 12
2010: Maple Heights 45, Trotwood-Madison 33
2011: Trotwood-Madison 42, Avon 28
2012: Toledo Central Catholic 16, Trotwood Madison 12
2013: Loveland 41, Glenville 23
2014: Cincinnati Lasalle 55, Nardonía 20
2015: Cincinnati Lasalle 42, Massillon Perry 0
2016: Cincinnati Lasalle 14, Massillon Perry 7
2017: Akron Hoban 42, Winton Woods 14
2018: Akron Hoban 42, Massillon Washington 28
2019: Cincinnati LaSalle 34, Massillon Washington 17
2020: Akron Hoban 35, Massillon Washington 6
2021: Cincinnati Winton Woods 21, Akron Hoban 10
2022: Toledo Central Catholic 28, Akron Hoban 21
2023: Toledo Central Catholic 28, Akron Hoban 2
2024: Avon 20, Cincinnati Anderson 13

CLASS AA

1972: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 28, Columbus Bishop Watterson 7
1973: Benedictine 38, Ironton 13
1974: Norwalk 27, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 17
1975: Holy Name 19, Cincinnati Wyoming 14
1976: Elyria Catholic 34, Brookville 10
1977: Cincinnati Wyoming 26, Elyria Catholic 14
1978: Brookfield 28, Hamilton Badin 0
1979: Ironton 7, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 6

DIVISION III

1980: Benedictine 9, Hamilton Badin 3
1981: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 48, Washington Court House Washington 7
1982: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 21, Ironton 14
1983: Elyria Catholic 14, Urbana 9
1984: Elyria Catholic 45, Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas 20
1985: Columbus St. Francis Desales 21, Orrville 13
1986: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 7, Kenston 6
1987: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 30, Thornville Sheridan 7
1988: Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 14, Ironton 12
1989: Ironton 12, Campbell Memorial 7
1990: Hamilton Badin 16, Richfield Revere 6

1991: Lake Catholic 45, Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 20
1992: Lake Catholic 31, Ironton 7
1993: Wauseon 13, Ironton 10
1994: Beloit West Branch 28, Clyde 11
1995: Clyde 3, Kenston 0
1996: Benedictine 14, Columbus St. Francis Desales 3
1997: Columbus St. Francis Desales 17, Youngstown Chaney 14
1998: Columbus St. Francis Desales 21, Walsh Jesuit 14
1999: Poland Seminary 20, Columbus Bishop Watterson 13
2000: Canton Central Catholic 27, Van Wert 26 (2OT)
2001: Lake Catholic 27, Columbus St. Francis Desales 21 (OT)
2002: Columbus Bishop Watterson 28, Benedictine 7
2003: Benedictine 12, Kenton 0
2004: Benedictine 27, St. Marys Memorial 14
2005: Steubenville 28, Columbus St. Francis Desales 7
2006: Steubenville 34, Kettering Alter 33
2007: Sunbury Big Walnut 17, Newar Licking Valley 10
2008: Aurora 21, Columbus Eastmoor Academy 10
2009: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 35, Columbus St. Francis Desales 17
2010: Columbus Bishop Watterson 13, Akron Buchtel 12
2011: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 21, Springfield Shawnee 14
2012: Akron Svsm 42, Bellevue 21
2013: Akron Svsm 24, Trotwood-Madison 0
2014: Toledo Central Catholic 56, The Plains Athens 52
2015: Akron Hoban 33, Toledo Central Catholic 20
2016: Akron Hoban 30, Trotwood-Madison 0
2017: Trotwood-Madison 27, Dresden Tri-Valley 19
2018: Kenston 42, Kettering Alter 6
2019: Trotwood-Madison 14, Mansfield Senior 7 (OT)
2020: Chardon 31, Columbus DeSales 28 (2 OT)
2021: Chardon 21, Hamilton Badin 14
2022: Canfield 35, Bloom-Carroll 14
2023: Toledo Central Catholic 27, Bishop Watterson 7
2024: Bishop Watterson 19, Toledo Central Catholic 14

DIVISION IV

1980: Trinity 19, Cincinnati Mariemont 14
1981: Nelsonville-York 34, Tontogany Otsego 16
1982: West Jefferson 6, Archbold 0
1983: Columbus Bishop Ready 43, Orrville 15

1984: Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 23, Columbus Bishop Hartley 0
1985: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 27, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas 0
1986: Columbus Bishop Hartley 47, Castalia Margaretta 0
1987: Gahanna Columbus Academy 21, Hawken 0
1988: Canton Central Catholic 21, Versailles 6
1989: Wheelersburg 14, Warren John F. Kennedy 7
1990: Versailles 29, Loudonville 26
1991: Warren John F. Kennedy 20, Springfield Catholic Central 7
1992: Cincinnati Acad. Of Phys. Ed. 17, Warren John F. Kennedy 16
1993: Versailles 16, Huron 6
1994: Germantown Valley View 34, Orrville 24
1995: Versailles 50, Bellaire 44 (2OT)
1996: Germantown Valley View 37, Bellaire 12
1997: Germantown Valley View 31, Akron Manchester 24 (5OT)
1998: Orrville 23, Coldwater 21
1999: Sandusky Perkins 16, Ironton 14
2000: Youngstown Ursuline 49, Coldwater 37
2001: Kenton 40, Newark Licking Valley 13
2002: Kenton 45, West Portsmouth Portsmouth West 13
2003: Versailles 26, Vasj 0
2004: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 28, Versailles 6
2005: Coldwater 33, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 9
2006: Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 26, Plain City Jonathan Alder 12
2007: Coldwater 28, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 27
2008: Kettering Alter 21, Steubenville 6
2009: Kettering Alter 37, Chagrin Falls 7
2010: Columbus Bishop Hartley 34, Chagrin Falls 13
2011: Creston Norwayne 48, Kenton 42
2012: Clarksville Clinton-Massie 46, St. Clairsville 36
2013: Clarksville Clinton-Massie 27, Cardinal Mooney 21
2014: Benedictine 21, Kettering Alter 14
2015: Columbus Hartley 31, Steubenville 28
2016: Columbus Hartley 24, Steubenville 21
2017: Steubenville 50, Clinton-Massie 36
2018: Cincinnati Wyoming 42, Girard 14
2019: Clyde 42, Newark Licking Valley 14
2020: Van Wert 31, Lake Catholic 28
2021: Clinton-Massie 29, Youngstown Ursuline 28
2022: Glenville 26, Cincinnati Wyoming 6
2023: Glenville 38, Kettering Alter 3
2024: Gnadenhutten Indian Valley 37, Sandusky Perkins 36

CLASS AAA

1972: Marion Pleasant 20, Lorain Clearview 14
1973: Middletown Bishop Fenwick 27, Montpelier 7
1974: Middletown Bishop Fenwick 21, Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic 0
1975: Carey 15, Newark Catholic 7 (OT)
1976: West Jefferson 21, Ashtabula St. John 0
1977: Crooksville 8, Ashtabula St. John 7
1978: Newark Catholic 21, Lorain Clearview 0
1979: Mogadore 23, Covington 17 (2OT)

DIVISION V

1980: Tiffin Calvert 22, Newark Catholic 0
1981: Tiffin Calvert 3, Newark Catholic 0
1982: Newark Catholic 14, Fostoria St. Wendelin 7
1983: Mccomb 6, Newark Catholic 0
1984: Newark Catholic 14, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 6
1985: Newark Catholic 19, Delphos Jefferson 0
1986: Newark Catholic 28, Defiance Ayersville 27
1987: Newark Catholic 16, Mogadore 13
1988: Archbold 42, Mogadore 14
1989: Minster 16, McDonald 7
1990: St. Henry 20, Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic 17
1991: Newark Catholic 34, Bluffton 13
1992: St. Henry 7, Newark Catholic 3
1993: Steubenville Catholic Central 17, Liberty Center 14 (OT)
1994: Versailles 28, Wellsville 7
1995: Lisbon David Anderson 34, Cincinnati Mariemont 31 (2OT)
1996: Marion Pleasant 26, Versailles 14
1997: Liberty Center 49, Amanda-Clearcreek 8
1998: Versailles 28, Liberty Center 7

1999: Amanda-Clearcreek 35, St. Henry 20
2000: Amanda-Clearcreek 21, Chanel 10
2001: Chanel 44, Marion Pleasant 27
2002: Marion Pleasant 33, Smithville 18
2003: Gahanna Columbus Academy 13, Amanda-Clearcreek 8
2004: St. Henry 35, Amanda-Clearcreek 7
2005: Hamler Patrick Henry 42, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy 30
2006: St. Henry 28, Warren John F. Kennedy 7
2007: Maria Stein Marion Local 20, Youngstown Ursuline 14
2008: Youngstown Ursuline 21, Findlay Liberty-Benton 0
2009: Youngstown Ursuline 55, Coldwater 25
2010: Youngstown Ursuline 51, Coldwater 21
2011: Kirtland 28, Coldwater 7
2012: Coldwater 10, Kirtland 9
2013: Coldwater 24, Bishop Hartley 7
2014: Coldwater 62, Canton Central Cathaolic 21
2015: Coldwater 35, Canton Central Catholic 18
2016: Canton Central Catholic 16, Coldwater 13
2017: Wheelersburg 21, Pemberville Eastwood 14 (OT)
2018: Orrville 49, Johnstown-Monroe 34
2019: Kirtland 17, Ironton 7
2020: Kirtland 38, Ironton 0
2021: Versailles 20, Kirtland 16
2022: South Range 53, Ironton 27
2023: Perry 21, Liberty Center 14
2024: Ironton 28, Liberty Center 17

DIVISION VI

1994: St. Henry 21, Mcdonald 7
1995: St. Henry 10, New Washington Buckeye Central 7
1996: Mogadore 61, St. Henry 58 (3OT)
1997: Delphos St. John's 42, Norwalk St. Paul 28
1998: Delphos St. John's 26, Lancaster Fisher Catholic 16
1999: Delphos St. John's 42, Norwalk St. Paul 10
2000: Maria Stein Marion Local 54, Mogadore 0
2001: Maria Stein Marion Local 63, Mogadore 7
2002: Mogadore 27, Dola Hardin Northern 7
2003: Columbus Grove 28, Maria Stein Marion Local 26
2004: Dola Hardin Northern 20, Norwalk St. Paul 8
2005: Delphos St. John's 28, Steubenville Catholic Central 0
2006: Maria Stein Marion Local 17, Shadyside 0
2007: Newark Catholic 28, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon 14
2008: Delphos St. John's 34, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon 14
2009: Norwalk St. Paul 24, Delphos St. John's 21
2010: Delphos St. John's 77, Shadyside 6
2011: Maria Stein Marion Local 61, New Washington Buckeye Central 21
2012: Maria Stein Marion Local 28, Newark Catholic 21
2013: Kirtland 44, Wayne Trace 16
2014: Minster 46, Kirtland 42
2015: Kirtland 22, Maria Stein Marion Local 20
2016: Maria Stein Marion Local 21, Cuyahoga Heights 17
2017: Maria Stein Marion Local 34, Kirtland 11
2018: Kirtland 16, Maria Stein Marion Local 7
2019: Anna 48, New Middletown Springfield 14
2020: Coldwater 38, New Middletown Springfield 35
2021: Carey 26, Coldwater 14
2022: Maria Stein Marion Local 14, Kirtland 6
2023: Kirtland 32, Versailles 15
2024: Coldwater 31, Kirtland 7

DIVISION VII

2013: Maria Stein Marion Local 33, Trimble 0
2014: Maria Stein Marion Local 41, Norwalk St. Paul 0
2015: Fort Recovery 33, Mogadore 14
2016: Warren Jfk 24, Minster 6
2017: Minster 32, Cuyahoga Heights 7
2018: McComb 28, Glouster Trimble 3
2019: Maria Stein Marion Local 28, Lucas 6
2020: New Bremen 31, Warren JFK 0
2021: Maria Stein Marion Local 42, Newark Catholic 7
2022: New Bremen 38, Warren JFK 6
2023: Maria Stein Marion Local 38, Dalton 0
2024: Maria Stein Marion Local 74, Jeromesville Hillsdale 0

High school football » Area schedule

(Subject to change)

AUG. 21

St. Ignatius at Avon, 7 p.m.
University at Brookside 7 p.m.

AUG. 22

Akron Firestone at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Avon Lake at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Bay at Ashland, 7 p.m.
Clearview at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Columbia at Independence, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at Bishop Hartley, 7 p.m.
Firelands at Edison, 7 p.m.
Keystone at Northwestern, 7 p.m.
Margaretta at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Maple Heights at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Mayfield at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
North Olmsted at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Sandusky vs. Amherst at Avon Lake Memorial Stadium, 7 p.m.
Western Reserve at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Midview at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Wickliffe at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.

AUG. 28

Avon at Spruce Creek (Fla.), 7 p.m.

AUG. 29

Amherst at Buckeye, 7 p.m.
Avon Lake at Lake Catholic, 7 p.m.
Bay at University, 5 p.m.
Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7 p.m.
Cloverleaf at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Elyria at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at Mayfield, 7 p.m.
Fairview at Columbia, 7 p.m.
John Marshall at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Mapleton at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Midview at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
Valley Forge at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Vermilion at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Westlake at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Woodridge at Brookside, 7 p.m.

SEPT. 5

Amherst at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Avon Lake at Highland, 7 p.m.
Brookside at Margaretta, 7 p.m.
Brunswick at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7 p.m.
Firelands at Bay, 7 p.m.
Glenville at Avon, 7 p.m.
Keystone at Ashland Crestview, 7 p.m.
Lorain at Sandusky 7 p.m.
North Ridgeville at North Royalton, 7 p.m.
Northwestern at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Olmsted Falls at Strongsville, 7 p.m.
Orange at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Rocky River at Uniontown Lake, 7 p.m.
Toledo Woodward at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Vermillion at Willard, 7 p.m.
Wellington at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Westlake at Warrensville Heights, 7 p.m.
Youngstown East at Clearview, 7 p.m.

SEPT. 12

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

SEPT. 19

Buckeye at Bay, 7 p.m.
Normandy at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Rocky River at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Westlake at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.
Cleveland Heights at Euclid, 7 p.m.
Clearview at Wellington, 7 p.m.



RANDY MEYERS — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Amherst and Lorain take part in a scrimmage on Aug. 14.

Columbia at Black River, 7 p.m.
Firelands at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Keystone at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at Padua, 7 p.m.
Amherst at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Midview at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
North Ridgeville at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Olmsted Falls at Avon, 7 p.m.
Fairview at Berkshire, 7 p.m.
Sandusky at Vermilion, 7 p.m.

SEPT. 26

Trinity at Fairview, 7 p.m.
Bay at Westlake, 7 p.m.
Normandy at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
North Olmsted at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Lorain at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Black River at Keystone 7 p.m.
Columbia at Brookside, 7 p.m.
Firelands at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Wellington at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Avon at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Elyria at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
North Ridgeville at Midview, 7 p.m.

Olmsted Falls at Amherst, 7 p.m.
Akron SVSM at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Vermilion at Norwalk, 7 p.m.

OCT. 3

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

OCT. 9

North Olmsted at Bay, 7 p.m.
Rocky River at Westlake, 7 p.m.

OCT. 10

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

OCT. 17

Buckeye at Rocky River, 7 p.m.
Bay at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
Normandy at Westlake, 7 p.m.
North Olmsted at Valley Forge, 7 p.m.
Fairview at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
Mentor at Lorain, 7 p.m.
Clearview at Columbia, 7 p.m.
Firelands at Keystone, 7 p.m.
Oberlin at Brookside, 7 p.m.

Wellington at Black River, 7 p.m.
NDCL at Elyria Catholic, 7 p.m.
Edison at Vermilion, 7 p.m.
Amherst at North Ridgeville, 7 p.m.
Avon Lake at Avon, 7 p.m.
Elyria at Berea-Midpark, 7 p.m.
Olmsted Falls at Midview, 7 p.m.

OCT. 24

Rocky River at Bay, 7 p.m.
Westlake at North Olmsted, 7 p.m.
Lorain at Medina, 7 p.m.
Black River at Oberlin, 7:30 p.m.
Brookside at Wellington, 7 p.m.
Columbia at Firelands, 7 p.m.
Keystone at Clearview, 7 p.m.
Elyria Catholic at CVCA, 7 p.m.
Vermilion at Bellevue, 7 p.m.
Avon at Elyria, 7 p.m.
Berea-Midpark at Avon Lake, 7 p.m.
Midview at Amherst, 7 p.m.
North Ridgeville at Olmsted Falls 7 p.m.
Fairview at Cabell Midland (W.Va.), 7 p.m.



AIMEE BIELOZER — FOR THE MORNING JOURNAL

Elyria Catholic and Fairview take part in a scrimmage on Aug. 14.

BROADCASTS

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

Aug. 22: Austintown-Fitch at Hudson
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 Nordononia
Oct. 17: Kenston at Mayfield
Oct. 24: Strongsville at Brunswick

WOBL-FM 107.7, AM 1320

Aug. 21: University at Brookside
Aug. 22: Western Reserve at Wellington
Aug. 29: Vermilion at Firelands
Sept. 5: Northwestern at Columbia
Sept. 12: Black River at Clearview
Sept. 19: Keystone at Brookside
Sept. 26: Wellington at Oberlin
Oct. 3: Brookside at Clearview
Oct. 10: Columbia at Keystone
Oct. 17: Wellington at Black River
Oct. 24: Columbia at Firelands

WDLW-FM 98.9, AM 1380

Aug. 21: St. Ignatius at Avon
Aug. 22: Maple Heights at Lorain
Aug. 29: Elyria at Lorain
Sept. 5: Elyria Catholic at Midview
Sept. 12: Avon at North Ridgeville
Sept. 19: Amherst at Avon Lake
Sept. 26: North Ridgeville at Midview
Oct. 3: Amherst at Elyria
Oct. 10: Holy Name at Elyria Catholic
Oct. 17: Avon Lake at Avon
Oct. 24: Lorain at Medina



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