

Local accountants helping local businesses and individuals thrive.



Insight that yields results.

Tax • Assurance • Wealth Preservation • Solutions

www.walthall.com 440-984-2441 197 N. Leavitt Rd, Amherst



MJournal Sports

MORNINGJOURNAL.COM





MJournal Sports



Download our app - iPhone

Android





2016 INDEX

Amherst

Aug. 25

Avon Aug. 25

Avon Lake

Aug. 25

Bay Page 4

Brookside

Page 5

Clearview

Page 5

Elyria Aug. 25

Elyria Catholic

Page 4

Fairview

Page 5 **Firelands**

Page 6

Keystone Page 6

Lorain

Aug. 25

Lutheran West

Page 6

Midview

Aug. 25

North Olmsted Aug. 25

North Ridgeville

Aug. 25 Oberlin

Page 7

Olmsted Falls Aug. 25

Open Door

Aug. 25 **Rocky River**

Page 4

Vermilion

Page 7 Westlake

ON THE COVER

The Vermilion Sailors, from left to right Seth Lyons, Seth Hurd, Brock Naill and Caine Zannoni, have finally found a home in the Sandusky Bay Conference. Photo by Sports Editor Jon Behm

WRITERS WANTED

Do you want to get closer to the action than you ever have before? The Morning Journal is looking for talented writers to join our staff. Interested? Contact Sports Editor Jon Behm at JBehm@MorningJournal. com or call 440-245-6901.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

We give prep sports the pro treatment.

VISIT MORNINGJOURNAL.COM/ HIGHSCHOOLSPORTS

Start of the season always worth the wait

Coming up with a theme for these high school football preview sections is never an easy

I mean, yeah, it's easy to come up



Jon **Behm**

with some ideas and see what sticks, but you need to find one that works for multiple

stories going

on around the high school football community. When one of my col-

leagues suggested the theme "Worth the wait," I was hesitant.

Was it too simple? Too easy? Too generic? Even after preview

forms had been sent out and The Morning Journal staff was about to get things going, I still was unsure. That is, until Aug. 6.

On that night, I sat in the stands at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, watching some all-time greats take their place in football history. The general theme of ev-

ery speech? Worth the wait. That was when I knew

the theme was right. Whv? Because the Hall of

Fame is where any football player who takes the game seriously strives to end up. In the words of San-

dusky and Ohio State

As much as players know that the start of high school football season is worth the wait, so do the fans.

his enshrinement speech: "I am honored and humbled to stand here today, for along with my induction, this occasion marks a fulfillment of each and every goal I've established for myself since the age

great Orlando Pace during

So, basically, a local kid set the goal to make it to the Hall of Fame while playing for his high school

was worth the wait. And if that can happen

to a kid from Sandusky, who's to say it can't happen for a kid from Avon. Or Grafton. Or Lorain. Or Elyria. Or LaGrange. Or Bay. Or Rocky River. Or Fairview Park.

I could go on, but I think you get the point. The road to a goal -

whether it be making it to I bet he would tell you it the Hall of Fame, getting a Division I scholarship or simply making varsity

> But it's worth the wait it if you are truly dedicated to your goal. Kickoff to the 2016 sea-

and periods of waiting.

son is only days away. That excitement is back

It's been a long time

start of some big things for area athletes. Whether your goals are will always have its bumps

lofty or simple, when kickoff rolls around each week there is one thing that is certain.

ERIC BONZAR - THE MORNING JOURNAL

coming, and it will be the

It was worth the wait.

Behm can be reached at JBehm@MorningJournal. com; @MJ_JBehm on Twitter

Team by team schedules

AMHERST

Aug. 26: at Kenston (at Solon), 7 Sept. 2: at North Ridgeville, 7 Sept. 9: Midview, 7 Sept. 16: Berea-Midpark. 7 Sept. 23: at Olmsted Falls, 7 Sept. 30: Avon Lake, 7 Oct. 6: at North Olmsted (at North Ridgeville), 7 Oct. 14: Avon, 7 Oct. 21: at Westlake, 7 Oct. 28: Lakewood, 7

AVON

Aug. 26: Strongsville, 7 Sept. 2: at Avon Lake. 7 Sept. 9: North Olmsted, 7 Sept. 16: at Midview, 7 Sept. 23: Westlake, 7 (HC) Sept. 30: at Lakewood, 7 Oct. 7: at North Ridgeville, 7 Oct. 21: Berea-Midpark, 7 Oct. 28: Olmsted Falls, 7

AVON LAKE Aug. 26: at Elyria, 7

Sept. 2: Avon, 7 Sept. 9: at Westlake, 7 Sept. 16: Lakewood, 7 Sept. 23: North Ridgeville, 7 Sept. 30: at Amherst, 7 Oct. 7: Berea-Midpark, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: at Olmsted Falls, 7 Oct. 21: at Midview, 7 Oct. 28: North Olmsted, 7

Aug. 26: Hubbard, 7 Sept. 2: University School, 7 Sept. 9: at Fairview, 7 Sept. 16: Holy Name, 7 Sept. 23: at Rocky River, 7 Sept. 30: at Normandy, 7

Oct. 7: Elyria Catholic, 7 Oct. 14: Vermilion, 7 Oct. 21: at Valley Forge, 7 Oct. 27: at Parma, 7 **BROOKSIDE**

Aug. 26: Elyria Catholic, 7 Sept. 2: at Oberlin, 7 Sept. 9: Cleveland JFK, 7 Sept. 16: at Columbia, 7

Sept. 30: Firelands, 7 Oct. 7: at Keystone, 7 Oct. 14: Black River, 7 Oct. 21: at Wellington, 7 **CLEARVIEW** Aug. 26: Vermilion, 7

Sept. 2: Cleveland JFK, 7 Sept. 9: Dalton, 7:30 Sept. 16: Firelands, 7 (HC) Sept. 23: at Buckeye, 7 Oct. 7: Columbia, 7 Oct. 14: at Fairview, 7 Oct. 21: Lutheran West, 7 Oct. 28: at Brooklyn, 7

ELYRIA

Aug. 26: Avon Lake, 7 Sept. 3: Lorain, 2 Sept. 9: at Shaw. 7 Sept. 3: at Shaw, 7 Sept. 16: at Medina, 7 Sept. 23: Brunswick, 7 Oct. 1: at Shaker Heights, 1 Oct. 7: Euclid, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: at Solon, 7 Oct. 21: Strongsville, 7 Oct. 28: at Mentor, 7

ELYRIA CATHOLIC

Aug. 26: at Brookside, 7 Sept. 2: VASJ, 7 Sept. 9: Cleveland Central Catholic, 7

Sept. 16: Valley Forge, 7 Sept. 23: at Parma. 7 Sept. 23. de l' diffid, 7 Sept. 30: Holy Name, 7 (HC) Oct. 7: at Bay, 7 Oct. 14: at Normandy, 7 Oct. 21: Rocky River, 7 Oct. 29: at Gilmour, 2

FAIRVIEW

Aug. 26: Rocky River, 7 Sept. 2: at Vermilion, 7 Sept. 9: Bay, 7 Sept. 16: Buckeye, 7 Sept. 23: at Keystone, 7 Sept. 30: at Brooklyn, 7 Oct. 7: Oberlin, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: Clearview, 7 Oct. 21: at Columbia, 7 Oct. 29: at Lutheran West, 7

FIRELANDS

Aug. 26: Edison, 7 Sept. 2: Brooklyn, 7 Sept. 9: at Vermilion, 7 Sept. 16: at Clearview, 7 Sept. 23: Oberlin, 7 (HC) Sept. 30: at Brookside, 7 Oct. 7: Wellington, 7 Oct. 14: Buckeye, 7 Oct. 21: at Black River, 7

KEYSTONE

Aug. 26: Cuyahoga Heights, 7 Sept. 2: at Cloverleaf, 7 Sept. 2: at Gloverical, 7 Sept. 9: Galion, 7 Sept. 16: at Lutheran West, 7 Sept. 23: Fairview. 7 Sept. 30: at Black River, 7 Oct. 7: Brookside, 7 Oct. 14: at Wellington, 7 Oct. 21: at Buckeye, 7 Oct. 28: Firelands. 7

LORAIN

Sept. 3: at Elyria, 2 Sept. 9: Toledo Scott, 7 Sept. 16: Garfield Heights, 7 Sept. 23: at Warrensville Heights, 7 Sept. 30: Shaw, 7 Oct. 7: at Sandusky. 7 Oct. 14: at Maple Heights, 7 Oct. 21: Bedford, 7 Oct. 28: at Cleveland Heights, 7

Aug. 26: at Midview, 7

LUTHERAN WEST

Aug. 26: at Wickliffe, 7 Sept. 2: Hawken, 7 Sept. 9: Independence, 7 Sept. 16:Keystone, 7 Sept. 23: at Brookside, 7 Sept. 30: at Columbia, 7 Oct. 7: Brooklyn, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: at Oberlin (at Oberlin College), Oct. 21: at Clearview, 7 Oct. 28: Fairview, 7 **MIDVIEW**

Aug. 26: Lorain, 7 Sept. 2: at North Olmsted (at Avon), 7 Sept. 9: at Amherst. 7 Sept. 16: Avon. 7 Sept. 23: Berea-Midpark, 7 (HC) Sept. 30: at Westlake, 7 Oct. 7: at Olmsted Falls, 7 Oct. 14: Lakewood. 7 Oct. 21: Avon Lake, 7 Oct. 28: at North Ridgeville, 7

NORTH OLMSTED

Aug. 25: Valley Forge (at Avon), 7:30 Sent. 2: Midview (at Avon). 7 Sept. 9: at Avon, 7 Sept. 16: at Westlake, 7 **Sept. 23:** Lakewood (at North Ridgeville). 7 **Sept. 30:** at North Ridgeville, 7 Oct. 6: Amherst (at North Ridgeville), 7 Oct. 14: at Berea-Midpark, 7

Oct. 28: at Avon Lake. 7 **NORTH RIDGEVILLE**

Oct. 21: Olmsted Falls (at North

Aug. 26: at North Royalton, 7 Sept. 2: Amherst, 7 Sept. 9: at Berea-Midpark, 7 Sept. 16: Olmsted Falls, 7 Sept. 23: at Avon Lake, 7 Sept. 30: North Olmsted, 7 Oct. 7: Avon, 7 Oct. 14: at Westlake, 7

Oct. 21: at Lakewood, 7 Oct. 28: Midview, 7

OBERLIN

Aug. 26: at New London, 7 Sept. 2: Brookside, 7 Sept. 9: John Adams, 7 Sent. 16: Wellington, 7 (HC) Sept. 23: at Firelands, 7 Sept. 30: Clearview, 7 Oct. 7: at Fairview. 7 Oct. 14: Lutheran West (at Oberlin Oct. 21: Brooklyn, 7

OLMSTED FALLS

Aug. 26: Parma, 7 Sept. 2: Westlake, 7 Sept. 2: Westlake, 7 Sept. 9: at Lakewood, 7 Sept. 16: at North Ridgeville, 7 Sept. 23: Amherst, 7 Sept. 30: at Berea-Midpark, 7 Oct. 7: Midview, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: Avon Lake, 7
Oct. 21: at North Olmsted (at North Ridgeville), 7 Oct. 28: at Avon. 7

OPEN DOOR

Sept. 16: Avon at Midview, 7

Aug. 27: at Camden (Mich.), 3 Sept. 3: Lincoln West, 4

Sept. 10: at Mayville (Mich.), 2 Sept. 17: Camden (Mich.), 3 Sept. 21: carrider (Mich.), 3 Sept. 24: at Lawrence (Mich.), 1 Sept. 30: Michigan SD (Mich.), 7:30 (HC) Oct. 8: at Covert (Mich.), 2 Oct. 15: Horizon Science Toledo, 4 Oct. 22: at North Huron (Mich.), 2

ROCKY RIVER Aug. 26: at Fairview, 7

Sept. 2: at Buckeye, 7 Sept. 9: Trinity, 7 Sept. 16: University School, 7 Sept. 23: Bay, 7 Sept. 29: at Valley Forge, 7 Oct. 7: Normandy, 7 (HC) Oct. 14: at Parma, 7 Oct. 21: at Elyria Catholic, 7 Oct. 28: Holy Name, 7

VERMILION

Aug. 26: at Clearview, 7 Sept. 9: Firelands, 7 Sept. 23: Edison, 7 Sent. 30: at Huron 7 Oct. 14: at Bay. 7 **Oct. 21:** Oak Harbor, 7 Oct. 28: Clyde, 7

WESTLAKE

Aug. 26: at North, 7 Sept. 2: at Olmsted Falls, 7 Sept. 9: Avon Lake, 7 Sept. 16: North Olmsted, 7 **Sept. 23:** at Avon, 7 **Sept. 30:** Midview, 7 Oct. 7: at Lakewood, 7 Oct. 14: North Ridgeville, 7 Oct. 21: Amherst. 7 Oct. 28: at Berea-Midpark, 7

Broadcast schedules

(Subject to change) **TIME WARNER SPORTS** CHANNEL

*Times listed are broadcast times

Aug. 27: Solon vs. Aurora, 11:30 Sept. 1: Massillon Washington vs. Canton GlenOak, 7 Sept. 2: St. Edward vs. Hoban, 11:30 **Sept. 3:** Mentor vs. St. Ignatius, 7

Sept. 9: Stow vs. Solon, 11:30 Sept. 15: Mentor vs. Euclid, 7 Sept. 16: Akron SVSM vs. Cardinal Mooney, 11:30

Sept. 23: Berea-Midpark

Sept. 24: St. Edward vs.

vs. Midview, 11:30

Buchtel, 2

Sept. 30: Stow vs. Twinsburg, 11:30 Oct. 6: Wadsworth vs. Twinsburg, 7 Oct. 7: Mentor vs. Medina, 11:30 Oct. 14: St. Ignatius vs.

Moeller, 11:30 Oct. 21: TBA, 11:30 Oct. 22: St. Ignatius vs. St.

Xavier, 2 Oct. 22: St. Edward vs. Moeller, 5 Oct. 28: TBA, 11:30

Aug. 26: Mayfield at Nordonia (at Brecksville-Broadview Heights)

WKNR-AM 850

Sept. 2: Brunswick at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Sept. 16: Avon at Midview Sept. 23: Bay at Rocky River **Sept. 30:** Highland at Aurora **Sept. 9:** Firelands at Vermilion, 7

Oct. 7: Stow at Hudson Oct. 21: Strongsville at Elyria

Oct. 28: TBA

WOBL-AM 1320 Aug. 26: Edison at Firelands, 7 Sept. 2: Amherst at North

Ridgeville, 7 Sept. 3: Lorain at Elyria (on WDLW-AM 1380), 2

Sept. 9: Columbia at Northwestern, 7 Sept. 16: Avon at Midview, 7 Sept. 23-Oct. 28: TBA

Aug. 26: Lorain at Midview, 7

Sept. 2: Amherst at North

WEOL-AM 930

Ridgeville, 7

Oct. 14: Madison at Mayfield Sept. 23: Brunswick at Elyria, 7 Sept. 30: Keystone at Black River, 7

> Olmsted, 7 Oct. 7: Lorain at Sandusky, 7 Oct. 13: Elyria Catholic at

Oct. 6: Amherst at North

Normandy, 7 Oct. 14: Buckeye at Firelands, 7 Oct. 21: TBA

Gilmour, 2 **WCCR-AM 1260**

Oct. 28: TBA

Aug. 27: Youngstown Ursuline at Benedictine

Oct. 29: Elyria Catholic at

Sept. 2: St. Edward at Hoban Sept. 3: Mentor at St. Ignatius

(HC): Homecoming

Catholic at Elyria Catholic Sept. 10: Holy Name at Lake Catholic Sept. 16: Gilmour at Trinity

Sept. 9: Cleveland Central

Sept. 23: St. Ignatius at Walsh Jesuit

Sept. 30: Holy Name at Elyria Catholic Oct. 7: VASJ at Trinity

Oct. 14: Benedictine at

Padua Franciscan Oct. 21: Fairview at Columbia Oct. 28: Lutheran West at

Fairview Oct. 29: St. Edward at St. Ignatius

CLOSEOUT ON *ALL* GENESIS AND SUMMIT **GAS GRILLS IN STOCK** HURRY LIMITED QUANTITY





440-327-6242

Mon & Thurs 10-8; Tues, Wed,

Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Closed Sun

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016

Sandusky Bay bound

After years as an Independent, Vermilion finally has a conference home

By Marissa McNees

mmcnees@morningjournal.com@MarissaNM on Twitter

Finally, the Sailors have a

place to call home. After years of playing as an independent following a conference transfer attempt that fell through, Vermilion will begin its first year as a member of the Sandusky Bay Conference after the SBC announced the expansion in December 2014.

"We're very excited to be a part of a conference and for the SBC to be our home," Vermilion football coach Rob Duray said. "We've been independent the last four years and I know heading into the SBC ... what a great conference. It's a conference rich in history and tradition and we're honored to be a part of that.

Once the joy of not having to drive hours on a Friday night — traveling across the state to face opponents anywhere Vermilion could find them had become a bit of the norm - and the excitementof finally rejoining a conference settles down, reality hit the Sailors. While they may indeed finally have a home, it's a tough home to be in.

The SBC is known for its stiff competition, particularly the Bay Division — four of the six SBC Bay Division **MEMBERS OF THE SBC** teams made the postseason last year - and though the four Vermilion wins last • Clyde Flyers season were the most for the Edison Chargers Sailors in the past four seasons, 2016 brings a whole host of new challenges.

"It's not going to be easy Perkins Pirates for our football team," Du- Port Clinton Redskins ray said. "You know, our • Vermilion Sailors message is 'It's all about us.' It's the same message we've given them year in and year out. Our kids need to look themselves in the mirror, make sure they compete day in and day out, and we've done that thus far in every one of our practices.

'We're just happy to be in a conference and we're going to represent Vermilion in a positive way."

While this season could Streaks be a tough one for the Sail- St. Mary Panthers ors, relief may only be a year • St. Wendelin Mohawks

The SBC will go through another expansion after the 2016-17 school year, causing Naill's sentiments. it to become a 21-team conference with three divisions. Vermilion will fall into the middle division, which will feature Edison, Shelby, Huron, Oak Harbor, Port Clinton and Willard.

"When that second expansion happens, we'll be in a better place," Duray said. "But that's next year. Like I conference and will do our best to represent Vermilion in this first year regardless of who we play."

For the players, especially the seniors, the tough ence. competition isn't scary, but rather a factor that has them

more focused than ever. "I think it's motivating." senior offensive lineman Brock Naill said. "It makes you work harder, knowing that you're going to have better competition. You have to kick it up a notch."

"We just have to practice harder, stay focused. If we all just do our jobs, we should be just fine.'



MORNINGJOURNAL.COM

Vermilion running back Caine Zannoni, pictured against Firelands last year, said that while he is glad there will be new rivalries now that the Sailors have joined the SBC, he is happy that local rival Firelands is still on the schedule.

BAY DIVISION

- Huron Tigers
- Oak Harbor Rockets
- **RIVER DIVISION**
- Tiffin Calvert Senecas
- Lakota Raiders
- Margaretta Polar Bears (In River for football and wrestling only)
- New Riegel Blue Jackets (non-football)
- Old Fort Stockaders (Nonfootball)
- St. Joseph Crimson

Junior running back Caine Zannoni echoed

"We do realize that it's going to be more difficult, but we're all seeing that as a positive thing and using it to push each other harder,' Zannoni said. "We're going into every week and seeing that week as a new challenge, one team at a time."

If anything, the Sailors are thrilled to finally be able said, we're happy to be in a to establish some rivalries that were otherwise impossible while playing independently and excited to build traditions that come with playing in a storied confer-

"It's going to be cool seeing new teams grow along with us," Naill said. "It'll be more competitive because now we're facing the same kids throughout the four years that we're all here, so it should be interesting.'

But that's not to say that the old rivalries are going to disappear.

"I'm glad the Firelands game is still on the sched-

season is complete." Duray knows at the end of the day it's all about the team, but said he's happy his players can finally conule," Zannoni said. "It just tend for a conference cham-

ference awards.

to be one of the factors that helps make the transition for Vermilion into the Sandusky Bay Conference a good one.

we've done the last so many years, no matter what the records are, at the end of the a conference championship." year everything's about the you don't establish any rival-

wouldn't be the same if it pionship or compete for con- awards, so now we have that journey in the SBC. opportunity and that's defi-"When you look at what nitely motivation for some of our athletes, but overall as a

> All in all, Vermilion's not team, but at the same time, trying to focus on how difficult the road ahead might ries with the schedules we've be, but rather enjoying be-Duray said. "Our kids can't team can only hope is a comeven compete for conference petitive, successful, even fun Zannoni said.

"I think it's going to go really well as long as we put the work in each week and team, we're motivated to win stay focused," senior offensive lineman Seth Lyons said. "It's going to take a lot more work, a lot of dedication and effort."

"Besides records, wins had the last couple years," ing at the start of what the and losses, we're just excited to be playing new teams,"



Vermilion running back Eli Balek will team up once again with Caine Zannoni in the backfield this season. The duo hopes

were not. Yeah, we're making some new rivalries, but that Firelands one is a game that we look forward to each year. Without it, it just wouldn't feel like the football



SMOKEOUT DIESEL TRUCK PULL AUG. 24 - 7:00pm

171st Annual Fair • August 22nd – 28th, 2016



Bay » Rockets



Online: Coach Ron Rutt and players Trey Psota, RJ Sunahara, Connor Shell and Bryce Jackson discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Great Lakes; OHSAA: Division III, Region 10 Head coach: Ron Rutt, third year (18-7)

2015: 10-2; Twitter: @BayAthletics Home field: Memorial Stadium

2016 schedule

E010 Soliculate	
Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Hubbard, 7	DNP
Sept. 2: University School, 7	DNP
Sept. 9: at Fairview, 7	W, 34-17
Sept. 16: Holy Name, 7	W, 16-6
Sept. 23: at Rocky River, 7	L, 24-21
Sept. 30: at Normandy, 7	W, 48-6
Oct. 7: Elyria Catholic, 7	W, 37-27
Oct. 14: Vermilion, 7	W, 24-6
Oct. 21: at Valley Forge, 7	W, 48-7
Oct. 28: at Parma, 7	W, 17-0

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .476 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 2

Game to watch: Bay had one regular season blemish last year, and it came against bitter rival Rocky River. The Rockets will look to repay the favor at the Pirates' home in Week 5.

Outlook: offense

Growing pains is probably the best way to describe what the offense will look like initially: moments of excellence followed by some not-so-great times. That's to be expected, though. Of the five returning starters on offense, only fullback Sean Chambers has experience in a skill position. It's not that the new starters don't have talent — that would, in fact, be a blatant lie — but it's going to take some time for the Rockets to get in the rhythm that comes with experience. When that happens, though, watch out.

Outlook: defense

The defense will definitely be the strength of the team in the early going, with seven returning starters taking the field. Coach Ron Rutt believes that the defense will be motivated to improve on last year, which is saying something when the Rockets allowed only 13.2 points per game. How will Bay be better? Some strong physical play. Rutt believes that he has a group that could be one of the hardest-hitting in the Great Lakes Conference.

Player to watch



With a ton of turnover offensively, sophomore quarterback Connor Shell is stepping into a difficult position, yet one that has a ton of promise. At 6-foot-2 and 180 pounds, he's a strong player, but agile enough to avoid oncoming rushes. It's that agility that will be on full display as the skill positions gain experience, which makes him the perfect player for the job.





watch, part two. Junior wide receiver RJ Sunahara is going to be an x-factor in the Rockets' offense this season. At 6-foot-6, he's going to present matchup problems for opposing defenses all season, and that's before he jumps, because Sunahara may have one of the best verticals in the GLC.

- Jon Behm

Projected lineup											
	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.		Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.		
ОВ	Connor Shell	So.	6-2	180	DE	Maxton Edgerly		6-3			
RB	Trey Psota	Jr.	6-1	205	DE	Matt Missig	Sr.	6-2	210		
FB	Sean Chambers	Sr.	6-1	195	DT	Bryce Jackson	Jr.	5-5	235		
WR	RJ Sunahara	Jr.	6-6	185	ILB	Trey Psota	Jr.	6-1	205		
WR	TJ Cahill	Sr.	6-0	185	ILB	Matt Cover	So.	6-0	200		
TE	Carter White	Sr.	6-0	190	OLB	Carter White	Sr.	6-0	190		
LT	Brendan O'Doherty	Jr.	6-2	265	OLB	Sean Chambers	Sr.	6-1	195		
LG	Maxton Edgerly	Sr.	6-3	275	CB	Sean Gettens	Sr.	5-7	165		
С	John Reid	Sr.	6-0	210	CB	Dillon Barry	Jr.	5-10	165		
RG	Matt Missig	Sr.	6-2	210	FS	RJ Sunahara	Jr.	6-6	185		
RT	Sean Heideloff	Jr.	6-2	230	SS	Jimmy Hoke	Sr.	6-0	195		
K	Greg Hastings	Sr.	5-10	150	Р	Jared Riess	So.	6-0	160		

Bold: returning starter

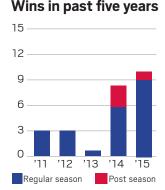
Key reserves: Patrick O'Doherty, Jr., 6-0, 255; Paul Boutros, Jr., 5-9, 205; Jake Gaudino, Jr., 5-10, 160

Best in the classroom: Maxton Edgerly, 4.28 Best bench press: Maxton Edgerly, 335 pounds Best squat: Maxton Edgerly, 515 pounds

Best 40-yard dash time: Jimmy Hoke, 4.65 seconds

Team history

Playoff record: 3-4 in four appearances Best playoff finish: 2014, Regional final Most recent playoff appearance: 2015



Bottom line

IF: The offensive line holds strong and gives the new players time to develop, THEN: The Rockets will be back in the playoffs.

Elyria Catholic » Panthers



Online: Coach Dave Stupka, Doug Taylor, Gabe Hirsch and Brandon Vincenzo discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Great Lakes; OHSAA: Division V, Region 18

Head coach: Dave Stupka, second year (6-4) 2015: 6-4; Twitter: @ECHSAthletics Home field: Knights of Columbus Field

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: at Brookside, 7	DNP
Sept. 2: VASJ, 7	DNP
Sept. 9: Cleveland Central Catholic, 7	W, 37-8
Sept. 16: Valley Forge, 7	W, 47-14
Sept. 23: at Parma, 7	W, 49-7
Sept. 30: Holy Name, 7 (HC)	L, 21-14
Oct. 7: at Bay, 7	L, 37-27
Oct. 14: at Normandy, 7	W, 40-10
Oct. 21: Rocky River, 7	L, 33-14
Oct. 29: at Gilmour, 2	W, 54-7
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .429 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 3

Game to watch: If the Panthers want a Great Lakes Conference title, they will have to knock off one of the tri-champs. Elyria Catholic gets its first crack at that when Holy Name comes to Elyria for a homecoming match in Week 6.

Outlook: offense

Senior wide receiver Doug Taylor and senior quarterback Jeff Spencer can potentially form a nice duo in 2016. The Panthers' core group on offense will also be experienced as they'll have 12 key pieces that will either be juniors or seniors. Sam Best, Donovan Warfield, Griffin Perkins and Josh Klingshirn round out the receiving corps, while the offensive line will be anchored by seniors Austin Rofe, Thomas Gillespie and Josh Klingshirn.

Outlook: defense

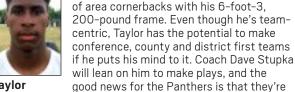
The Panthers have made it a point of emphasis to have their players make an impact in more ways than one. That's why on defense, look for players including Doug Taylor and Brandon Vincenzo to make a mark at linebacker and Josh Klingshirn to be locked in as a defensive back. Klingshirn recorded 48 tackles last year and had five picks and made The Morning Journal second team. With another year under his belt, and more depth overall for the Panthers, a strong unit could be in the cards.

Senior wide receiver Doug Taylor should

present a physical mismatch for a lot

Player to watch

Taylor



Hirsch

of the defensive focus on him at all times. Underclassman to watch



said he's ready to win and lead his group in 2016. Hirsch is 6-foot-3, 190-pounds and had an opportunity to learn from last year's core group of Mickey O'Neil, Ted Achladis, and Dave Kukucka. Hirsch hopes to follow in their footsteps.

a pretty deep team, so Taylor won't have all

- Fuad Shalhout

Key players										
OFFE	NSE	DEFENSE								
Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	
QB	Jeff Spencer	Sr.	6-1	175	DL	Sean Hayes	Sr.	5-10	205	
RB	Tony Loparo	Sr.	5-7	159	DL	Andre Rodriguez	Jr.	5-7	195	
TB	Daryl Davis	Sr.	5-9	160	DL	Thomas Gillespie	Sr.	5-7	193	
WR	Doug Taylor	Sr.	6-3	200	LB	Brandon Vincenzo	Sr.	5-8	160	
WR	Sam Best	Sr.	5-9	175	LB	Tony Loparo	Sr.	5-7	159	
WR	Donovan Warfield	Jr.	5-10	160	LB	Doug Taylor	Sr.	6-3	200	
WR	Josh Klingshirn	Sr.	5-11	155	LB	Griffin Perkins	Sr.	6-2	210	
TE	Griffin Perkins	Sr.	6-2	210	DB	Donovan Warfield	Jr.	5-10	160	
OL	Austin Rofe	Sr.	6-0	280	DB	Daryl Davis	Sr.	5-9	160	
OL	Thomas Gillespie	Sr.	5-7	193	DB	Josh Klingshirn	Sr.	5-11	155	
OL	Devon Serrano	Sr.	6-1	230	SS	Sam Best	Sr.	5-9	175	
OL	Gabe Hirsch	Jr.	6-3	190	K/P	Tanner Brooks	Sr.	5-8	165	

Key newcomers: Zach Evans, So., LB/WR, 6-3, 188; Leighton Banjoff. So., LB/RB, 6-0, 170; Javier Alvarez, Jr., LB/OL, 5-10, 200; Nick Pagenstecher, Jr., LB/RB, 5-11, 193; Troye Sas-Wright, Jr., DB/WR, 6-0, 175; Cameron Engrish, So., DB/OB, 5-8, 155; Jack Decker, So., DL/OL, 6-1, 243; Dan Peacock, Jr., DB/WR, 5-11, 160; Griffin Davies, So., DL/OL, 6-2, 200; Mike Jessie, Jr., LB/RB, 5-10, 185; David Griffin, So., DB/WR/K, 5-8, 140

Best bench press: Griffin Perkins, 330 pounds Best 40-yard dash time: Daryl Davis, 4.5 seconds

Best squat: Andre Rodriguez, 405 pounds

Team history

Playoff record: 16-11 in 14 appearances Best playoff finish: 1976, 1983, 1984, State champion Most recent playoff appearance: 2010

Best in the classroom: Name, GPA

School record for most wins in a sea-son: 13 in 1983 and 1984 **Coach with most victories:** Jim Rattay, 79 (1976-83)

Regular season

Wins in past five years

Bottom line

IF: Elyria Catholic's depth comes to fruition in 2016, THEN: The Panthers will build off of last season's suc-

Rocky River » Pirates



Online: Coach Josh Wells, Dameon Crawford and Jack Rodgers discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Great Lakes; OHSAA: Division III, Region 10

Head coach: Josh Wells, second year (8-3)

2015: 8-3; Twitter: @CoachWells1 Home field: Rocky River Stadium

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: at Fairview, 7	W, 49-0
Sept. 2: at Buckeye, 7	L, 42-28
Sept. 9: Trinity, 7	W, 34-14
Sept. 16: University School, 7	DNP
Sept. 23: Bay, 7	W, 24-21
Sept. 29: at Valley Forge, 7	W, 39-0
Oct. 7: Normandy, 7 (HC)	W, 49-21
Oct. 14: at Parma, 7	W, 31-0
Oct. 21: at Elyria Catholic, 7	W, 33-14
Oct. 28: Holy Name, 7	L, 14-10
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .524 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 3

Game to watch: The Week 10 loss against Holy Name in 2015 did two things: eliminated the Pirates from being the sole champion of the Great Lakes Conference and made for an agonizing 24-hour wait to see if Rocky River was in the playoffs. The Pirates will do their best to make sure history does not repeat itself.

Outlook: offense

Coach Josh Wells said the offense will resemble last year's power spread, and hopes his team can establish the run early. With two returning running backs, the Pirates hope to exploit those skills while preaching fundamentally sound football. Graduation decimated much of the offensive line but seniors Albert Becker (6-0, 255) and Titus Snavely (5-11, 230) return to lead the newcomers up front.

Outlook: defense

Coach Josh Wells said his team has made great strides on defense from 2015. His goal was to bring a defensive mindset to Rocky River upon being hired last season, and has seen how the players have bought in becoming more physical and fundamentally sound over the summer. While the defense was at times a liability for the Pirates last year, expect it to be a strength this

Player to watch

Senior Jack Rodgers "really came into his own as a player last year" according to Coach Josh Wells, noting that the 2016 team captain thrived outside of the spotlight. Rodgers has embraced his role as a leader this season and will be a key player for Rocky River on both sides of

Rodgers



Underclassman to watch Junior running back Damion Crawford will

DEFENSE

be a workhorse for the Pirates this season. With an offense centered on the running game, Crawford will get plenty of chances to show just how physical this Rocky River team has become.

Crawford

- Marissa McNees

Projected lineup

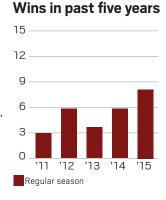
Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB	Cam Blue	Jr.	5-11	175	DE	Michael Shoaf	So.	6-2	215
RB	Damion Crawford	Jr.	5-8	170	DE	Titus Snavely	Sr.	5-11	230
RB	Matt Popovich	Jr.	5-9	185	DT	Herbi Rira	Sr.	6-2	235
WR	Jack Aerni	Sr.	6-3	180	NT	Albert Becker	Sr.	6-0	255
WR	Brendan Connors	Sr.	5-9	170	LB	Matt Popovich	Jr.	5-9	185
TE	Jack Rodgers	Sr.	6-1	190	LB	Ben Fitzgibbon	Jr.	6-0	225
LT	Jacob Fuchs	Jr.	6-1	260	LB	Jack Rodgers	Sr.	6-1	190
LG	Ben Fitzgibbon	Jr.	6-0	225	CB	Brendan Connors	Sr.	5-9	170
С	Albert Becker	Sr.	6-0	255	CB	Damion Crawford	Jr.	5-8	170
RG	Titus Snavely	Sr.	5-11	230	S	Josh Ranc	Sr.	5-10	180
RT	Herbi Rira	Sr.	6-2	235	S	Jack Aerni	Sr.	6-3	180
K	Michael Konrad	Jr.	5-9	160	Р	Patrick Green	So.	6-1	165

Bold: returning starter: Returning letterwinners: 15 Key reserves: Josh Sekic, Sr., 6-4, 180; Andrea Shelgu, Sr. 6-0, 220; Ross Hartman, So. 6-0, 220; Antonio Atwater, Jr., 5-10, 175 Best in the classroom: Albert Becker, 4.2 GPA

Team history

Playoff record: 1-5 in five appearances **Best playoff finish:** 2007. Regional semfinals Most recent playoff appearance: 2015 School record for most wins in a sea-son: 11 in 2007

co- and tri-titles): 1920, '21, '23, '24, '25, '33, '44, '48, '49, '51, '55, '56, '58, '60, '61, '62, '64, '79, '90, '97, 2006, '07, '09, '15 Coach with most victories: Frank Beam,



Bottom line

IF: The offense can establish the running game early, THEN: Rocky River won't be waiting anxiously to see if it's made the playoffs — it will have been long decided.



Break through any blocks that keep you from reaching your peak performance. Stay strong and mentally well by learning about men and depression. **Icbmh.org**

24/7 Crisis: 800.888.6161 Non-emergency: 440.240.7025 Icbmh.org



Brookside » Cardinals



Online: Coach Paul Ferguson and players Tim Ackerman and Michael Kovacs discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stars); OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13

Head coach: Paul Ferguson, second year (6-4) 2015: 6-4; Twitter: @BrooksideCards Home field: Dick Sevit Stadium

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Elyria Catholic, 7	DNP
Sept. 2: at Oberlin, 7	W, 28-14
Sept. 9: Cleveland JFK, 7	DNP
Sept. 16: at Columbia, 7	L, 50-28
Sept. 23: Lutheran West, 7	W, 44-14
Sept. 30: Firelands, 7	L, 19-13
Oct. 7: at Keystone, 7	W, 7-6
Oct. 14: Black River, 7	W, 35-21
Oct. 21: at Wellington, 7	W, 48-34
Oct. 28: Buckeye, 7	L, 35-0
Opponents! 2015 winning percentage.	66

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .566 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 4

Game to watch: The Cardinals will be pushing for the program's first-ever playoff berth, and a Week 10 tilt with Buckeye should prove to be a deciding factor.

Outlook: offense

The offense should be the strength of the Cardinals in the early going. With Tim Ackerman, a 6-foot-2, 200-pound running back, in the backfield, look for Brookside to be a strong running team that can also throw the ball when wanted. Junior wideout Dustin Spirko could be one of the underrated wide receivers in the PAC.

Outlook: defense

Coach Paul Ferguson talked about his defense at the Patriot Athletic Conference media day and said there were a few questions. Granted, that is going to be the case when you only have four returning starters — only one of which is in the secondary. One of the strengths that should limit the impact of a young secondary is the defensive line. With seniors Kevin Decato and Michael Kovacs anchoring it, teams may not have as much time to pass the ball as they would hope. Look for the secondary to improve as the year progresses, but thank the line for it.



Akerman

Players to watch

With little varsity experience to go around, the Cardinals will rely heavily on those who have experience. Seniors Tim Ackerman and Michael Kovacs will not shy away from the leadership. Both players are two-way starters and will act as coaches on the field. Kovacs will keep the offensive and defensive line in check, while Ackerman will be a strong running back and the shot caller from his linebacker position on defense.



Underclassman to watch

Junior David Chambers will be an interesting player to watch develop. At 6-foot and 165 pounds, he has the body to be a great wide receiver and a great safety. But will that necessarily translate into varsity success? Early returns seem to be positive.

Kovacs

- Jon Behm

Projected lineup

OFFE	ENSE			DEFE	ENSE		
Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.
QB	Charles Liggitt	Sr. 6-1	165	DE	Kevin Decato	Sr. 6-2	200
QB	Jonathan Hice	So. 5-11	175	DE	Nate Brown	Jr. 6-3	220
RB	Tim Ackerman	Sr. 6-2	200	DT	Michael Kovacs	Sr. 6-3	275
WR	Dustin Spirko	Jr. 5-7	130	DT	Daniel Rich	Sr. 5-7	195
WR	David Chambers	Jr. 6-0	165	LB	Tim Ackerman	Sr. 6-2	200
WR	Brad Huhn	Sr. 5-6	130	LB	Jonathan Hice	So. 5-11	175
LT	Michael Kovacs	Sr. 6-3	275	CB	Brad Huhn	Sr. 5-6	130
LG	Brad Kirkwood	Sr. 6-4	305	CB	Dustin Spirko	Jr. 5-7	130
С	Daniel Rich	Sr. 5-7	195	S	Charles Liggitt	Sr. 6-1	175
RG	Kevin Decato	Sr. 6-2	200	S	Noah Ortiz	Jr. 5-6	135
RT	Malachi Sheffield	So. 6-1	220	FS	David Chambers	Jr. 6-0	175
v	Owen Persons	So 5-10	170	D	Aca Kompton	So 5-0	1/10

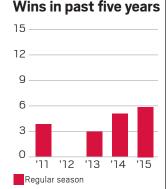
Bold: returning starter: Returning letterwinners: 13

Key reserves: Nate Brown, Jr., 6-3, 220; Ronald Rivera, Jr., 6-0, 170; Manny McNeill, Jr., 6-3, 165

Best in the classroom: Kevin Decato, 4.07 GPA

Team history

Playoff record: 0-0 in zero appearances Best playoff finish: n/a Most recent playoff appearance: n/a



Bottom line

IF: Young players step up, THEN: The Cardinals will improve on last year's 6-4 record.

Clearview » Clippers



Online: Coach Mike Collier, DeAri Todd and Jacob Collier discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stripes); OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13

Head coach: Mike Collier, 10th year (55-37)

2015: 4-6; Twitter: @clipperfb Home field: Tom Hoch Field

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Vermilion, 7	L, 30-20
Sept. 2: Cleveland JFK, 7	DNP
Sept. 9: Dalton, 7:30	L, 13-12
Sept. 16: Firelands, 7 (HC)	L, 42-0
Sept. 23: at Buckeye, 7	L, 47-7
Sept. 30: at Oberlin, 7	W, 39-7
Oct. 7: Columbia, 7	L, 31-0
Oct. 14: at Fairview, 7	L, 24-0
Oct. 21: Lutheran West, 7	W, 50-34
Oct. 28: at Brooklyn, 7	W, 66-30
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .519 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 4

Game to watch: A Week 4 matchup against Firelands will help the Clippers discover if they are a Patriot Athletic Conference contender or pretender.

Outlook: offense

The Clippers return 10 players on offense, including the entire offensive line. Coach Mike Collier expects the experience to give the running game a boost, but Collier has faith in his skill guys and will count on quarterback Jacob Collier to spread the ball around. There are plenty of playmakers on this team that are still developing, such as RB Drew Engle. This offense could get better as the season goes on, which is saying something because it should be above average to start with.

Outlook: defense

Experience will play a large role in Clearview's success this season. As with the offense, seven players will return on defense, including Division I prospect DeAri Todd who recorded 44 tackles including seven sacks in 2015. Collier said his team's speed is a huge plus this year and we should expect to see the Clippers swarming the ball on defense.

Players to watch





Collier

impact on the field this season. Underclassman to watch

Coach Mike Collier said sophomore Drew Engle returns to the back field "bigger and stronger." and credits his vision on the field as one of Engle's biggest strengths. The Clippers have high hopes for the 5-foot-9, 170-pound running back.

Seniors DeAri Todd and Jacob Collier will

look to lead the Clippers on both sides of the ball. Both Todd (DE/TE) and Col-

lier (FS/QB/WR) were 2015 All-PAC and

currently has nine Division I offers. Coach

All-Lorain County selections, and Todd

Mike Collier said both players have the

football IQ and athleticism to be strong

leaders, but it's Todd's strength and Col-

lier's quickness that will have the biggest

– Marissa McNees

Projected lineup

OFFE	NSE				DEFE	NSE			
Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB	Jacob Collier	Sr.	6-0	160	DE	DeAri Todd	Sr.	6-4	240
RB	Drew Engle	So.	5-9	170	DE	Julian Colbert	So.	5-10	170
RB	Khaliel Fenderson	Jr.	5-10	185	DT	Dakota Stout	Sr.	5-11	235
WR	Demitrius DeAlmeid	aSr.	5-9	150	DT	Collin Manning	Jr.	5-10	245
WR	Jamel Billings	Sr.	5-9	145	LB	James Nolan	Sr.	6-0	200
TE	DeAri Todd	Sr.	6-4	240	LB	Tremaine Collins	Sr.	5-10	170
LT	JD McCardle	Jr.	6-4	285	DB	Noah Kasperovich	Jr.	5-8	170
LG	Dakota Stout	Sr.	5-11	235	DB	Ricky Moore	Sr.	6-0	160
С	Julian Colbert	So.	5-10	170	DB	Zavier Tatum-Felder	Sr.	6-0	165
RG	Collin Manning	Jr.	5-10	245	DB	Jamel Billings	Sr.	5-9	145
RT	Devin Supple	Jr.	5-11	240	DB	Jacob Collier	Sr.	6-0	160
K	Anthony Terry	Ir	6-3	220	P	Anthony Terry	Ir	6-3	220

Bold: returning starter: Returning letterwinners: 19

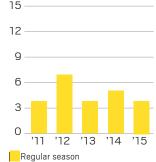
Key reserves: Zavier Tatum-Felder, Sr., WR, 6-0, 165; Kash Warren, Jr., WR; Arsie Thompson, Jr., OL; Demitrius DeAlmeida, Sr., DB, 5-8, 140; Khaliel Fenderson, Jr., LB, 5-10, 185; Zach Konieczny, Sr., DT, 6-3, 290; David Renftle, So., LB, 5-10, 175; Drew Engle, So., DB, 5-9, 170

Best in the classroom: Ricky Moore, 4,202 GPA

Team history

Playoff record: 6-15 in 15 appearances Best playoff finish: 1972, 1978, State Most recent playoff appearance: 2012

Wins in past five years



Bottom line

IF: Clearview can use experience to their advantage, **THEN:** the Clippers should have no problem topping their four wins from last season.

Fairview » Warriors



Fillkill and Alex Brousek discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Online: Coach Tom Narducci and players Josh

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stripes); OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13

Head coach: Tom Narducci, sixth year (24-26) **2015:** 5-5; **Twitter:** @FPWarriorSports Home field: James B. Daley Stadium

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Rocky River, 7	L, 49-0
Sept. 2: at Vermilion, 7	L, 29-21
Sept. 9: Bay, 7	L, 34-17
Sept. 16: Buckeye, 7	L, 51-0
Sept. 23: at Keystone, 7	W, 36-28
Sept. 30: at Brooklyn, 7	W, 28-7
Oct. 7: Oberlin, 7 (HC)	W, 41-13
Oct. 14: Clearview, 7	W, 24-0
Oct. 21: at Columbia, 7	L, 29-7
Oct. 28: at Lutheran West, 7	W, 42-3
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .524 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 4

Game to watch: Week I would not be the same without a Fairview-Rocky River showdown. The Pirates did a number on the Warriors last year, but you can bet Fairview has not forgotten.

Outlook: offense

The Warriors have a very versatile offense behind the play of quarterback Josh Fillkill, and that is something Coach Tom Narducci believes is a good thing. The offense is a game-tested group that features a lot of seniors who have been varsity starters or role players since their sophomore year. Fairview will lean on that collective experience to translate into big plays and plenty of scoring.

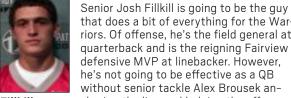
Outlook: defense

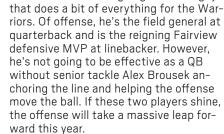
The strength of the defense is the linebacking corps. Narducci said the Warriors are about five experienced players deep at that position, something that plenty of other coaches will be jealous of. Expect Fairview to use that experience — particularly when it comes to pass rushing — to help keep opposing offenses off-balance and error-prone.

Players to watch



Fillkill





Underclassman to watch

The Warriors have a strong group of linebackers this year, and junior Demetrius Allen is a big reason why. He was second on the team in tackles last year (86) and should see that number increase this year.

- Jon Behm

Seniors

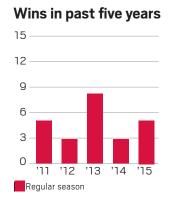
Brousek

ı	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
(QB/LB	Josh Fillkill	5-11	179	OL/DL	Josh Orr	6-1	210
١	WR/DB	Ryan Provenza	5-9	155	OL/DL	David Minnich	5-8	160
١	WR/DB	Jake Metrick	5-10	141	OL/DL	Ray Lancaster	5-10	202
ŀ	Κ.	Elion Bendo	5-8	158	OL/DL	Jackson Pachuta	6-4	201
F	RB/DB	Jason Sassano	5-7	150	OL/DL	Alex Brousek	6-0	269
(QB/DB	Evan Feldt	5-11	152	WR/DL	Chris Hughes	6-0	161
١	WR/DB	John McQuate	5-11	169	WR/DB	Colin Caja	6-3	167
١	WR/DB	Trent Folger	6-1	162	WR/DB	Mitch Passick	6-1	192
F	RB/LB	Michael Gallagher	5-8	188	WR/DL	Kyle Gentry	6-1	193

Returning letterwinners: 15 Best in the classroom: Josh Fillkill, 4.15 Best bench press: Alex Brousek, 280 pounds Best 40-yard dash time: Miles Leube, 4.73 seconds

Team history Playoff record: 0-1 in one appearance

Best playoff finish: 2000, regional Most recent playoff appearance: 2000 School record for most wins in a sea-son: 9 in 1953 Conference championships (including co- and tri-titles): 1953, 2011



Bottom line

IF: The linebackers help keep teams out of the end zone, **THEN:** The offense will get plenty of time to develop a rhythm, and thus, success.







Call us for a free quote today! We will meet and beat a competitor's price. Guaranteed.





Firelands » Falcons



Online: Larry Verhovec, Mike Whitacre, Nick Denney and Michael Bansek discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stars); OHSAA: Division IV, Region 13

Head coach: Mike Passerrello, sixth year (27-25) 2015: 8-3; Twitter: @Teamfalcon14 Home field: Firelands Stadium

2016 schedule

LO 10 Schedule	
Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Edison, 7	L, 33-17
Sept. 2: Brooklyn, 7	W, 42-0
Sept. 9: at Vermilion, 7	W, 27-0
Sept. 16: at Clearview, 7	W, 42-0
Sept. 23: Oberlin, 7 (HC)	W, 47-0
Sept. 30: at Brookside, 7	W, 19-13
Oct. 7: Wellington, 7	W, 63-18
Oct. 14: Buckeye, 7	L, 41-7
Oct. 21: at Black River, 7	W, 35-14
Oct. 28: at Keystone, 7	W, 29-25
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .467 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 2

Game to watch: Firelands will continue its guest for a second Patriot Athletic Conference championship, and that road goes through Buckeye. The Oct. 14 showdown should determine the dominant PAC team.

Outlook: offense

Expect a new-look offense for the Falcons this year. It has to happen when you graduate a talent like Brad Thrasher. However, that is not a negative. The two guys battling for the guarterback position — Larry Verhovec and Michael Bansek — both stressed that the wealth would be spread around and they believe they have one of the most talented targets in Lorain County in senior Colin Myers. Add running backs Nick Denney and Mike Whitacre to the mix, and you have an offense that could be intimidating.

Outlook: defense

As the offense adjusts, the defense will be a crutch. The Falcons are up to the challenge. Linebacker Larry Verhovec believes that the 2016 Firelands defense could be better than the 2015 version, which is saying something when you consider the Falcons had a string of four shutouts last year and allowed an average of 17 points per game. Expect the Falcons to hit hard and force turnovers behind a secondary that returns three starters.



Whitacre

Player to watch

Senior Mike Whitacre has the potential to be the breakout star of the 2016 season. He will see a maximized roll in the running game this year and has burst speed that may be the best in the Patriot Athletic Conference. Defensively, Whitacre is the focal point of an experienced secondary that should force a plethora of turnovers.



Underclassman to watch

Nick Denney is going to be the beneficiary of Mike Whitacre's spoils. The junior running back will split time with the senior, but defense is where he will shine. As teams opt to throw away from Whitacre, they will throw toward Denney, which is just as big of a mistake and Denney will make them pay.

Denney - Jon Behm

Projected lineup

Pos.	Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.
QB	Unspecified				DL	Sean Lipscomb	Jr. 6-2	240
RB	Mike Whitacre	Sr.	5-7	175	DL	Trevor Stefanski	Sr. 6-3	320
RB	Nick Denney	Jr.	6-1	175	DL	Tyler Bennett	Jr. 6-3	222
RB	Logan Strader	Jr.	6-0	180	LB	Larry Verhovec	Sr. 6-0	200
WR	Colin Myers	Sr.	6-5	185	LB	Luke Peterson	Jr. 5-10	210
TE	Brad Soltis	Sr.	6-0	185	LB	Brad Soltis	Sr. 6-0	185
LT	Calvin Stull	Jr.	6-3	260	LB	Clayton Lucki	Sr. 5-11	175
LG	Landon Peterson	Jr.	5-8	210	DB	Mike Whitacre	Sr. 5-7	175
C	Ben Markovich	Sr.	6-3	300	DB	Colin Myers	Sr. 6-5	185
RG	Sean Lipscomb	Jr.	6-2	240	DB	Nick Denney	Jr. 6-1	175
RT	Trevor Stefanski	Sr.	6-3	320	DB	Logan Strader	Jr. 6-0	180
K	Ethan Hayes	Jr.	5-10	145	Р	Colin Myers	Sr. 6-5	185

Bold: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 15

Key reserves: Patric Keown, Sr., 5-9, 175; Richard Maggard, Jr., 6-4, 180; Larry Verhovec, Sr., QB, 6-0, 200; Blake Ruffner, So., QB, 6-2, 182 Best in the classroom: Mike Whitacre, 3.9 GPA

Best bench press: Trevor Stefanski, 350 pounds Best squat: Trevor Stefanski, 505 pounds Best 40-yard dash time: Nick Denney, 4.51 seconds

Team history

Playoff record: 0-2 in two appearances **Best playoff finish:** 2011, 2015, Regional quarterfinal Most recent playoff appearance: 2015 School record for most wins in a season: 10 in 1973, 2011 Conference championships (including co- and tri-titles): 1964, '68, '70, '72, '73, '76, '82, '85, '89, 2011 **Coach with most victories:** Jim Solomon, 34 (1974-77, '84-85)

Wins in past five years

'13

Regular season

Bottom line

IF: The Falcons can spread the ball offensively, **THEN:** Firelands will find itself pushing for another playoff berth.

Keystone » Wildcats



Online: Coach Rob Clarico, Kyle Vance and Bobby Weber discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stars); OHSAA: Division IV. Region 13

Head coach: Rob Clarico, 13th year (54-67) 2015: 3-7; Twitter: @KeystoneFB Home field: Wildcat Stadium

2016 schedule

LO 10 Schedule	
Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: Cuyahoga Heights, 7	L, 42-6
Sept. 2: at Cloverleaf, 7	L, 9-6 (OT)
Sept. 9: Galion, 7	L, 49-0
Sept. 16: at Lutheran West, 7	W, 34-14
Sept. 23: Fairview, 7	L, 36-28
Sept. 30: at Black River, 7	W, 20-0
Oct. 7: Brookside, 7	L, 7-6
Oct. 14: at Wellington, 7	W, 41-26
Oct. 21: at Buckeye, 7	L, 41-0
Oct. 28: Firelands, 7	L, 29-25
Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .4	66

Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 4

Game to watch: The Wildcats can use a Week 2 showdown at Cloverleaf — a narrow loss in 2015 — to determine just how far they have come during the offseason.

Outlook: offense

Keystone relied heavily on running back Austin Conrad last year, and with Conrad off to play for Frank Solich at Ohio University, the Wildcats will look to junior Bobby Weber to spread the ball around this season. Having only lost four players to graduation, Keystone returns with an experienced roster, and Weber's three starts at the end of last season will be key in implementing Coach Rob Clarico's new offense. The question is how long will it take for the offense to take hold?

Outlook: defense

The Wildcats have a number of returning defensive lineman, and Coach Rob Clarico expects them to lead the way on defense. Additionally, Keystone will have seven seniors on the field who started last year, including first team all-county linebacker Kyler Staller and Second Team All-PAC defensive back Try Minnich. The experience factor of the defense should help keep games close during the early going of the season as the offense develops.



Vance

Player to watch

Lineman Kyle Vance is going to be a key cog for the Wildcats as the offense tries to discover its rhythm. With a committee of runners, versatility will be key on the line and Coach Rob Clarico believes that Vance will help provide just that. Look for plenty of runs to go through the holes that Vance creates this year.



Underclassman to watch

After starting three games last season, junior Bobby Weber will step in at quarterback for the Wildcats. Coach Rob Clarico said Weber is a "big, strong, pocket passer" and will look to the 6-foot-3, 200-pound quarterback to spread the ball around and lead the offense in 2016.

Weber

- $Marissa\ McNees$

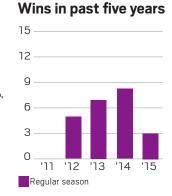
Projected lineup

OFFENSE				DEFE	INSE		
Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.
QB	Bobby Weber	Jr. 6-3	200	DE	Cade Christoff	Sr. 5-11	320
RB	Trey Minnich	Sr. 5-11	180	DE	Jacob Sokolowki	Sr. 6-1	210
RB	Kyler Staller	Sr. 5-10	190	DT	Brett Schuster	Sr. 5-11	290
WR	Unspecified			DT	Brennen Rigda	Sr. 5-10	250
SE	Ty Cowling	Sr. 5-10	165	LB	Kyler Staller	Sr. 5-10	190
TE	Jacob Sokolowki	Sr. 6-1	210	LB	Unspecified		
OL	Brennen Rigda	Sr. 5-10	250	CB	Unspecified		
OL	Cade Christoff	Sr. 5-11	320	CB	Unspecified		
C	Brett Schuster	Sr. 5-11	290	CB	Ty Cowling	Sr. 5-10	165
OL	Matt Kelling	Jr. 6-2	230	SS	Cole Corraini	Jr. 5-11	180
OL	David McCullough	Jr. 5-10	180	FS	Trey Minnich	Sr. 5-11	180
K	Unspecified			Р	Unspecified		

Bold: returning starter: Returning letterwinners: 12

Team history

Best playoff finish: 2014, Regional quarterfinal **Most recent playoff appearance: 2014** School record for most wins in a sea-son: 9 in 1971 **Conference championships (including** Coach with most victories: Rob Clarico, 54 (ongoing)



Bottom line

IF: Keystone can take advantage of its speed in the back field THEN: the Wildcats should be able to win the close games they couldn't quite close out last season.

Lutheran West » Longhorns



Online: Coach Frank Petroff and players Chris → Dawson, Mike Felton and Logan Denn discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stripes); OHSAA: Division V, Region 17

Head coach: Frank Petroff, third year (8-12) 2015: 3-7; Twitter: @Longhornwest

Home field: Alumni Field

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: at Wickliffe, 7	L, 34-7
Sept. 2: Hawken, 7	L, 31-21
Sept. 9: Independence, 7	W, 24-14
Sept. 16: Keystone, 7	L, 34-14
Sept. 23: at Brookside, 7	L, 44-14
Sept. 30: at Columbia, 7	L, 44-0
Oct. 7: Brooklyn, 7 (HC)	W, 46-29
Oct. 14: at Oberlin, 7	W, 38-14
Oct. 21: at Clearview, 7	L, 50-34
Oct. 28: Fairview, 7	L, 42-3
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .441 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 2

Game to watch: The Longhorns should use a Week 4 game against Keystone to see where they stand. Both teams are looking to regain traction in the Patriot Athletic Conference.

Outlook: offense

There will be plenty of youth on offense. However, that is not a negative. That's because in the case of the Longhorns, youth does not equal inexperience. The Longhorns had plenty of freshmen and sophomores who saw significant playing time in 2015. Coach Frank Petroff believes that the experiences from last year will allow Lutheran West to start strong this year behind a revamped running game that will pound the ball with a strong running style.

Outlook: defense

Lutheran West will lean heavily on its linebacking corps to shut down run games as a young secondary develops. However, that doesn't mean the linebackers will be forced to remain at home, but should be OK to roam a bit as the Longhorns boast a strong defensive line that should be able to harass plenty of quarterbacks throughout the season. Expect the Longhorns to hit hard and slowly wear offenses down throughout the season.



Players to watch As was hinted in the defense section, the

linebackers of Lutheran West will play an important roll this season. Senior captains Chris Dawson and Mike Felton aren't going to shy away from that challenge. Petroff said that the senior duo will act as his coaches on the field and that they will be the ones to set the tone night in and night out.



Underclassman to watch Junior Owen Albers is getting thrust into

the spotlight. With former running back Chris Jones out of the picture after a transfer to North Olmsted, Albers will fill the gap, something that Petroff said he is more than confident Albers can do for the Longhorns.

Felton

- Jon Behm

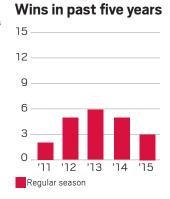
Projected lineup

OFFENSE			DEFENSE			
Pos.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Name	Υ	
QB	Rory Zakareckis	Jr.	DL	Nick Moore	J	
RB	Owen Albers	Jr.	DL	Kurt Herrin	S	
FB	Chris Dawson	Sr.	DL	Tristan Zimmer	S	
WR	Mike Felton	Sr.	LB	Chris Dawson	S	
WR	Shawn Naim	So.	LB	Jeremy Geye	J	
	Final spot unspecified		LB	Logan Evans	S	
LT	Tristan Zimmer	Sr.	LB	Gerald McHenry	S	
LG	Nick Moore	Jr.	LB	Mike Felton	S	
С	Logan Denn	Jr.	LB	Brett Mather	J	
RG	Nate Upole	Jr.	DB	Unspecified		
RT	Kurt Herrin	Sr.	DB	Unspecified		
V	Unenocified		D	Unenocified		

Seniors not already mentioned: Jacob Langner, Eric Bender, Brandon Naro, Spencer Ross. Braden Lau. Austin Schifano

Team history

Playoff record: 0-2 in two appearances **Best playoff finish:** 2002, 2005 regional quarterfinals Most recent playoff appearance: 2005



Bottom line

IF: Adjustments in the run game work, THEN: The Longhorns may surprise in the Patriot Athletic Conference.



Experience Matters!

Our lending department has over 400 years of combined experience in the mortgage industry.

(440) 282-6937

www.firstfedlorain.com



MEMBER FDIC



NMLS# 596593



Oberlin » Phoenix



Online: Coach Garrett Mack and players Journey Toole and David Payne III discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Patriot Athletic (Stripes); OHSAA: Division VI, Region 21

Head coach: Garrett Mack, first year (0-0) 2015: 2-8; Twitter: @OBPhoenix Home field: Oberlin Stadium

2016 schedule

Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: at New London, 7	L, 46-28
Sept. 2: Brookside, 7	L, 28-14
Sept. 9: John Adams, 7	DNP
Sept. 16: Wellington, 7 (HC)	L, 26-16
Sept. 23: at Firelands, 7	L, 47-0
Sept. 30: Clearview, 7	L, 39-7
Oct. 7: at Fairview, 7	L, 41-13
Oct. 14: Lutheran West (at Oberlin College), 7	7 L, 38-14
Oct. 21: Brooklyn, 7	W, 24-21
Oct. 28: at Columbia, 7	L, 49-13
HC: Homecoming	

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .461 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 2

Game to watch: The Phoenix will look to start of the Garrett Mack era in Oberlin with a win out of the gate at they travel to New London in Week 1.

Outlook: offense

Playmakers. That was the word that Coach Garrett Mack used to describe Oberlin's offense. He believes that he has a team full of playmakers and that the overall athleticism of the Phoenix in skill positions will make them a matchup nightmare for most teams. With that being said, Mack was quick to admit that if they were going to rely on playmakers, it means they must be consistent. As a result, the Phoenix may see offensive production that comes in spurts this year.

Outlook: defense

Similar to the offense, Coach Garrett Mack believes that the Phoenix will consistently have the most athletic defense on the field. However, the area that presents the most questions is the linebackers. With only one returning starter, it could be an area that will take some time to develop. However, with an experienced secondary, any issues should not result in too much damage as first-year starters Adrian Kilgore and Justin Noble develop at linebacker.



Payne III

Players to watch

David Payne III and Journey Toole should be quite the duo to see this year. Payne is coming off a successful season in which he passed for 1,306 yards (sixth-best in The Morning Journal's coverage area), with 253 of those yards going to Toole on 17 catches. Expect both players' numbers to be greatly inflated this year as the duo steps into the limelight after learning to trust each other last year.



Toole

Underclassman to watch

Junior Devan Yarber showed flashes last year. Coach Garrett Mack believes that those flashes can become consistent this year as Yarber becomes the featured back for the Phoenix. Yarber's 52 yards rushing last year may not seem impressive, but when those yards came on six carries, the potential can easily be seen.

- Jon Behm

Projected lineup

OFFE	NSE			DEFE	NSE		
Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.
QB	David Payne	Sr. 6-1	180	DE	Nayib Besarus	Sr. 6-0	230
RB	Devan Yarber	Jr. 5-10	165	DE	Ramaria'a Eisom	Sr. 5-11	180
WR	Zion Hicks	Jr. 5-9	175	DT	Tyler Crews	Sr. 5-10	215
WR	Mark Robinson	Sr. 5-9	165	DT	Joey Tatum	Sr. 5-10	190
WR	Matt Stanfield	Sr. 6-3	185	LB	Adrian Kilgore	Sr. 5-10	190
TE	Journey Toole	Sr. 6-1	185	LB	Justin Noble	Jr. 5-10	185
LT	Matt Rasmussen	Jr. 6-2	230	LB	Joe Medina	Jr. 5-10	220
LG	Jeff Graham	Jr. 6-3	260	CB	Jordan Anderson	Sr. 5-10	170
С	Tyler Crews	Sr. 5-10	215	CB	Zion Hicks	Jr. 5-9	175
RG	Lamar Galion	So. 5-10	245	S	Devan Yarber	Jr. 5-10	165
RT	Nayib Besarus	Sr. 6-0	230	S	Mark Robinson	Sr. 5-9	165
V	David Payno	Sr 6-1	120	D	David Payne	Sr 6-1	180

Bold: returning starter; Returning letterwinners: 5

Key reserves: Caleb Hughley, Sr., 5-10, 165; Ravon Eisom, So., 5-10, 180; Marquis Walker, Jr., 5-10, 160; Aaron Arnold, So., 5-10, 160

Best in the classroom: Matt Rasmussen, 4.0; Journey Toole, 3.5; Joe Tatum, 3.2

Best bench press: Nayib Besarus, 285 pounds Best squat: Journey Toole, 465 pounds

Best 40-yard dash time: Adrian Kilgore, 4.6 seconds

Team history

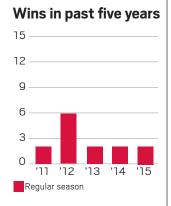
Playoff record: 0-1 in one appearance **Best playoff finish:** 1985, Regional guarterfinals Most recent playoff appearance: 1985

School record for most wins in a season: 10 in 1975 Conference championships (including co- and tri-titles): 1964, '65, '66, '67,

Coach with most victories: Jim Donovan, 51 (1964-70)

5445 Beavercrest Drive

Lorain, Ohio



Bottom line

IF: The players buy into Garrett Mack's system, THEN: The Phoenix will see one of their best seasons in recent history.

Vermilion » Sailors



Online: Coach Rob Duray and the Vermilion team discuss the season in an interview at MorningJournal.com.

Conference: Sandusky Bay; OHSAA: Division IV, Region 14

Head coach: Rob Duray, fifth year (10-30) 2015: 4-6; Twitter: @VermilionSchool Home field: Sailor Stadium

2016 schedule

EO 10 Solicadio	
Opponent	2015 result
Aug. 26: at Clearview, 7	W, 30-20
Sept. 2: Fairview, 7	W, 29-21
Sept. 9: Firelands, 7	L, 27-0
Sept. 16: at Port Clinton, 7	DNP
Sept. 23: Edison, 7	DNP
Sept. 30: at Huron, 7	DNP
Oct. 7: Perkins, 7	DNP
Oct. 14: at Bay	L, 24-6
Oct. 21: Oak Harbor, 7	DNP
Oct. 28: Clyde, 7	L, 49-7

Opponents' 2015 winning percentage: .649 Games against 2015 playoff qualifiers: 6

Game to watch: After three years of independent play, the Sailors finally have a conference to call home and will open its play at Port Clinton in Week 4.

Outlook: offense

Coach Rob Duray said he and his coaching staff put in a lot of work in the offseason to revamp the offense. Last season, Vermilion began the transition from the Wing-T to a more up-tempo, spread offense, and this season should bring more of the same. Duray said he hopes to employ the run and pass equally and is excited by what he's seen from his young skill players. However, with some young players stepping into key rolls, it will be interesting to see what kind of learning curve there is.

Outlook: defense

The Sailors return three starters from last season, so inexperience will be a factor. Coach Rob Duray hasn't straved much from his 4-2-5 defense since coming on in 2012 — and doesn't plan to this season, either — but will need the underclassman to step up to the challenge to fill the vacant spots left by graduation. The linebackers and secondary could be a strength, with Trevor Boyd and Caine Zannoni returning to the mix at LB and Seth Hurd and Eli Balek holding down the secondary.



Zannoni

Player to watch

Junior Caine Zannoni led the Sailors in rushing yards in 2015, and Duray is hoping his 5-foot-8, 180-pound running back can have the same impact this season. Like many teams, Vermilion was hurt by graduation, but Zannoni's varsity experience will no doubt come in handy against the powerhouse teams of the Sandusky Bay



Underclassman to watch

Sophomore Sam Hurd is taking over at quarterback after two-year starter Nick Bray graduated. The 6-foot-1, 165-pound QB will be put to the test in the mighty

- Marissa McNees

Projected lineup

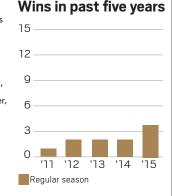
	•						
OFFE	NSE			DEFE	NSE		
Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Name	Yr. Ht.	Wt.
QB	Seth Hurd	So. 6-1	165	DE	Luke Pena	So. 6-3	195
RB	Caine Zannoni	Jr. 5-8	180	DE	Caleb Caskey	Sr. 6-0	195
WR	Jonah Pfeil	So. 5-10	165	DT	Tyler Bath	Jr. 5-11	230
WR	Eli Balek	Jr. 5-8	155	DT	Mike Wallace	Jr. 5-9	260
WR	Trevor Boyd	Jr. 5-10	180	OLB	Zack Anderson	Sr. 5-6	180
TE	Caleb Caskey	Sr. 6-0	195	OLB	Jonah Pfeil	So. 5-10	165
LT	Tyler Bath	Jr. 5-11	230	MLB	Trevor Boyd	Jr. 5-10	180
LG	Sam McCurdy	So. 6-3	325	MLB	Caine Zannoni	Jr. 5-8	185
С	Brock Nail	Sr. 5-10	200	CB	Eli Balek	Jr. 5-8	155
RG	Seth Lyons	Sr. 5-10	300	CB	David McDaniel	So. 5-6	165
RT	Josh Flynn	Jr. 5-11	190	FS	Seth Hurd	So. 6-1	165
K	C.J. Koller	Jr. 6-0	150	Р	Jonah Pfeil	So. 5-10	165

Bold: returning starter: Returning letterwinners: 15 Key reserves: Addison Painter, So., 5-10, 155 Best in the classroom: Seth Lyons, 4.18 GPA

Best bench press: Seth Lyons and Brock Nail, 380 pounds Best squat: Seth Lyons, 560 pounds Best 40-vard dash time: Caine Zannoni and Zack Anderson, 4.60 seconds

Team history

Playoff record: 0-4 in four appearances Best playoff finish: 1986, 1990, 1992, 1997, Regional quarterfinals Most recent playoff appearance: 1997 School record for most wins in a season: 10 in 1962, 1971 Conference championships (including co- and tri-titles): 1962, '71, '79, '80, '81, '85, '86, '92 Coach with most victories: Ralph Mayer, 107 (1983-97)



Bottom line

IF: Vermilion can build off last season's momentum and stay confident playing in the SBC, **THEN:** the Sailors could match their four wins of 2015.

Area playoff regions preview

(Teams are listed in alphabetical order; area teams are capitalized and bold; 2015 records are in parentheses)

Division I, Region 2 Favorites: ELYRIA (6-5), Lewis Center Olentangy (11-2), Toledo Whitmer (9-3), Westerville Central (10-2) Contenders: Findlay (6-4), LORAIN (5-5), Medina (4-6), Olentangy Liberty (7-4),

Strongsville (5-5), Toledo

Start (9-2) For the record: With the shuffling of regions in D-I, there are a lot of changes, but Lewis Center Olentangy and Westerville Central being top-notch teams will not change. Both graduated a sizeable amount of talent, but any teams that have played these two can attest that they are two of the deepest teams in the region. ... Elyria made the playoffs again last year when it was supposed to be a bit of a down season. With quarterback Dontae Beckett and running back Chris Atkinson, the Pioneers have one of the most — if not the most — dangerous backfields in the region. Expect Elyria to be fighting for a home playoff game. ... Lorain brings back a boatload of talent from a team that narrowly missed the playoffs last year. Defensively, the Titans are about as sound as they come, with the offense quickly closing the gap.

Division II, Region 6 Favorites: AVON (10-2), Glenville (11-2), MIDVIEW (11-1), Perrysburg (13-1) **Contenders:** Fremont Ross (4-6), Medina Highland (6-5), NORTH OLMSTED (5-5), NORTH RIDGEVILLE (7-4), OLMSTED FALLS (6-5), Sylvania Northview (5-5), Toledo St. John's Jesuit (6-4), Toledo Waite (6-5) For the record: There's a reason that the favorites in

this region rarely change: the teams are that consistent. When there is a change. it usually has to do with the divisions and regions realigning. So, it should come as no shock that in a non-movement year, the favorites and contenders are all virtually the same as last year. ... North Ridgeville and Olmsted Falls are playoff qualifiers from last year that, along with near-miss North Olmsted, should make a push once again this year. The issue, though, is the conference. With eight of the Southwestern Conference's 10 teams in Region 6, it's tough to imagine five of them making the postseason as they are continually knocking each other down.

Division III, Region 10

Favorites: Benedictine (12-1), Clyde (10-2), Sandusky Perkins (8-3), Toledo Central Catholic (12-3)

Contenders: Ashland (9-2), BAY (10-2), Bowling Green (8-3), John Hay (8-2), Lexington (6-4), ROCKY RIVER (8-3), Sandusky (6-4), University School (7-3) For the record: With this region, it seems like year after year there is a consistent top three (Benedictine, Toledo Central Catholic and Clyde) and then a drop off that leaves spots 3-8 wide open. That doesn't change this year. ... Anytime you have a state finalist in your region, that program is a favorite, and Toledo Central Catholic will not disappoint. ... Bay lost a great running back in Nick Best, but returns almost its full offensive line and seven players on defense. ... Rocky River returns two outstanding and, frankly, underrated running backs in Dameon Crawford and Matt Popovich.

Division IV, Region 13

Favorites: Crestwood (10-3), Perry (8-2), Ursuline (8-6), Woodridge (11-1)

Contenders: BROOKSIDE (6-4), Cardinal Mooney (4-5), Cortland Lakeview (7-3), FIRELANDS (8-3), Holy Name (8-4), **KEYSTONE** (3-7), Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin (7-4), Streetsboro (7-3) For the record: Firelands

graduated a lot of talent, but should prove to be a more balanced team than in past years. If you look past the Falcons, they will make you pay. ... Keystone returns virtually its full team, graduating only four seniors. The Wildcats also added 100-meter dash regional champion Mitchell Coe to the mix, which should prove to be interesting as Keystone looks to take the next step. ... If the first year of Paul Ferguson proved one thing at Brookside, it's this: This isn't your average Cardinal football team. The team believes in itself and can, for the first time in quite a while, envision itself in the playoffs.

Division IV, Region 14

Favorites: Bishop Hartlev (12-3), Ottawa-Glandorf (8-4), Plain City Jonathan Alder (9-2), Wauseon (9-2)

Contenders: Bellevue (10-3), Huron (3-7), Port Clinton (7-4), Lewistown Indian Lake (8-3), Lima Bath (7-3), London (6-4), Sparta Highland (6-4), Springfield Kenton Ridge (8-4)

For the record: The top three of this group is a lock: Bishop Harley, Wauseon and Plain City Jonathan Alder. From there. who knows. ... Huron had an uncharacteristically bad season last year, which dropped the Tigers from favorite status. However, until it is proved that last year was not a fluke, Huron is a contender.

Division V, Region 18

Favorites: Apple Creek Waynedale (7-4), Doylestown Chippewa (10-3), Edison (12-2), Creston Norwayne (9-2) Contenders: Archbold

(4-6), ELYRIA CATHOLIC (6-4), Galion (8-3), Genoa Area (5-5), Liberty-Benton (6-4), Millbury Lake (10-1), Swanton (10-2), West Salem Northwestern (5-5) For the record: The Chargers

lost a lot of talent from last year's state semifinal team. It will be tough to overcome. However, Edison returns enough talent that it should find itself back in the playoffs and ready. ... Elyria Catholic is always a contender in this region. However, the Panthers are sick of being that contender that narrowly misses the playoffs. They graduated a phenomenal senior class, but played so many underclassmen that experience should be no sort of an issue for Elyria Catholic.

Division VI, Region 21 Favorites: Columbia (10-1),

Columbiana (9-2), Cuyahoga Heights (10-3), Kirtland (14-1) Contenders: Ashland Crestview (3-7), Berlin Center Western Reserve (8-3). Brookfield (10-2), David Anderson (9-2), Hillsdale (6-4), New Middletown Springfield (4-6), Smithville (8-4), St.

Thomas Aguinas (6-4)

For the record: It has been

said earlier and it's about to be said again: This region has a clear-cut top team and that is Kirtland. The defending state champion always seems to up the bar, and did it again last vear as Coach Tiger LaVerde &d Co. shocked Maria Stein Marion Local, snapping the Flyers' streak of four straight state titles. ... Columbia is always a homefield advantage favorite and that does not change this year.

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR LEAGUES AND **OUTINGS FOR 2017 SEASON** DAILY SPECIALS AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016 **MONDAY & WEDNESDAY** – 18 HOLES with CART • Pay for 3 people (\$32 per person) 4th person Plays for **FREE!** TUESDAY 18 HOLES/CART (\$27 includes Lunch) THURSDAY 18 HOLES/CART (\$34 Reg. \$27 Seniors)

FRIDAY 18 HOLES/CART (\$30 + Lunch + One Domestic Beer or Pop)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 18 HOLES/CART (\$30 after 12 NOON) **Call For Tee Times**

CAL DAVE IN PRO STOP 44:0-232-9103 Ext. 1 For More Info c www.foxereexspoirs.com

"FoxCreek's Facility Provides The Finest in Affordable Golf, Fitness and Tennis!"

The Mercy Foundation of Lorain County cordially invites you to attend the

12TH ANNUAL

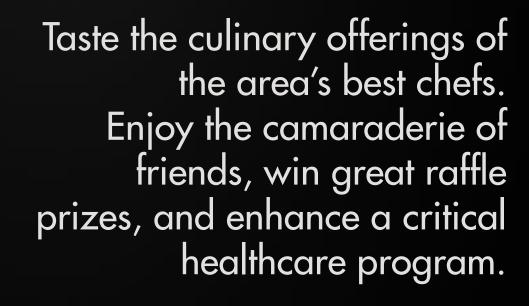
TASTE OF Friendship

A FABULOUS FESTIVAL OF FOOD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 | 6:00PM



Emerald Event Center 33040 Just Imagine Drive

Avon, OH 44011



Upscale casual attire.

