

2020 ALL-OHIO PLAYERS

Division I

First team — Jesse Stevens, Elyria, sr., defensive lineman.
Second team — Jaheim Atkinson, Elyria, sr., running back; Perryion Benton, Elyria, sr., defensive back.
Third team — Simon France, Elyria, sr., offensive lineman.

Jack Valerius, Firelands, sr., defensive lineman; Karson Nail, Brookside, jr., linebacker.
Third team — Caden Boetticher, Firelands, sr., offensive lineman; Matthew O'Donnell, Brookside, sr., kicker; Casey Kelley, Firelands, sr., defensive lineman; Ryan Baxter, Firelands, sr., linebacker; Mason Argenti, Clearview, sr., punter.

Division II

First team — Niko Pappas, Avon, sr., quarterback; Alex Padgett, Avon Lake, sr., offensive lineman; Kady Viancourt, Avon Lake, sr., defensive lineman; Alden Steele, Amherst, sr., defensive back.
Second team — Gage Duesler, Avon Lake, sr., running back; Mason Bingham, Avon, sr., offensive lineman; Nate Cikalo, Avon Lake, sr., linebacker.
Third team — Ty Weatherspoon, Amherst, sr., wide receiver; Owen Wiley, Avon Lake, jr., kicker; Lavell Gibson, Amherst, sr., defensive lineman; Devon Hunter, Avon, sr., linebacker; Billy Simpson, Avon Lake, sr., defensive back; Arlind Bengu, Avon, sr., punter.

Division IV

First team — Gideon Lampron, Keystone, jr., running back; Ryne Shackelford, Keystone, so., wide receiver; Alex Pataky, Keystone, sr., offensive lineman; Alex Angle, Firelands, sr., defensive back.
Second team — Konner Rodick, Keystone, so., quarterback; Seth Robinette, Firelands, sr., offensive lineman;

Division V

First team — Jaret Frantz, Elyria Catholic, sr., wide receiver; Ryan Roark, Elyria Catholic, sr., offensive lineman.
Second team — Steven Navalinsky, Elyria Catholic, sr., quarterback; Hayden Gerhart, Elyria Catholic, jr., defensive lineman.

Division VI

First team — Joe Governale, Columbia, sr., running back; Jayden Skinner, Wellington, sr., defensive back.
Second team — Owen Menge, Columbia, jr., wide receiver; Jon Brasee, Wellington, jr., wide receiver; Caleb Teague, Wellington, sr., defensive lineman; Cameron Coleman, Columbia, sr., defensive lineman; Drew Unangst, Wellington, jr., linebacker.
Third team — Jace Diedrick, Wellington, jr., offensive lineman; Hayden Garrow, Columbia, so., linebacker; Ty Moore, Wellington, jr., defensive back; Cayden Sherepita, Wellington, jr., punter.
Honorable mention — Joe McKean, Black River, jr., running back.

GOLDEN HELMET WINNERS



Avon quarterback Niko Pappas completes a pass near the sideline against Benedictine during a game in 2019.

2020 — Niko Pappas, Avon quarterback
 2019 — Jacob Shackelford, Keystone quarterback
 2018 — Brandon Coleman, Columbia running back
 2017 — Justin Sturgill, Lorain quarterback
 2016 — Dustin Crum, Midview quarterback
 2015 — Logan Bolin, Midview wide receiver
 2014 — C.J. Conrad, Keystone tight end
 2013 — Jay Banyasz, Columbia quarterback
 2012 — Tracy Sprinkle, Elyria defensive end
 2011 — Matt Eckhardt, Avon wide receiver
 2010 — Danny Reaser, Elyria Catholic quarterback
 2009 — Anthony Hitchens, Clearview running back
 2008 — Ryan O'Rourke, Avon quarterback
 2007 — Mike Haddad, Avon Lake running back
 2006 — John McGraw, North Ridgeville running back
 2005 — P.J. Mahone, Elyria running back
 2004 — Trey Stross, Avon Lake wide receiver
 2003 — Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake running back
 2002 — Dustin Intihar, Columbia running back
 2001 — Brian Cesear, Amherst running back
 2000 — Jeff Strauch, Avon Lake running back
 1999 — Dan Rozanski, Midview running back
 1998 — Matt Wilhelm, EC linebacker
 1997 — Ryan Myers, Wellington running back and Erik Rogers, Vermilion
 1996 — Zack Mitchell, Avon
 1995 — Ricky Schneider, Amherst
 1994 — Jerel Klue, N. Ridgeville
 1993 — Tim Schumacher, Avon Lake
 1992 — Ty Grude, Firelands and LaRon Trice, Elyria West

1991 — Ron Leshinski, Vermilion
 1990 — Erik Engel, North Ridgeville
 1989 — Tony Goodolt, Elyria High
 1988 — Steve Tovar, Elyria West linebacker
 1987 — Tyrone Nelson, Elyria West tailback and Dennis Washington, Lorain tailback
 1986 — David Lyons, Clearview fullback
 1985 — Jeff Seator, North Ridgeville linebacker
 1984 — Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic tailback
 1983 — Brian Schneider, Elyria Catholic fullback and Bob Calamari, Admiral King quarterback
 1982 — John Berner, Avon Lake tailback
 1981 — Vince Villanucci, Lorain lineman
 1980 — Jeff Mey, Vermilion halfback
 1979 — Jon Burger, Elyria linebacker and kicker
 1978 — Craig Best, North Ridgeville tailback
 1977 — Bryan Thomas, Elyria Catholic tailback
 1976 — Greg Jones, Elyria West tailback
 1975 — Virgil Williams, Lorain halfback
 1974 — Steve Holovacs, Firelands tailback and Tim Burns, Wellington tailback
 1973 — Bruce Yeager, Elyria Catholic fullback-middle guard
 1972 — Bob Hyatt, Keystone halfback and Gus Mecera, Clearview two-way tackle
 1971 — Ike Maxwell, Elyria tailback
 1970 — Kurt Schumacher, Lorain fullback-tackle
 1969 — John Husband, Elyria fullback
 1968 — Jim Svoboda, Lorain end-linebacker
 1967 — Dick Wakefield, Avon Lake end
 1966 — Ralph Holloway, Oberlin fullback-middle guard
 1965 — Randy Stevenson, Elyria linebacker

Vermilion SAILORS



8/20	Margaretta	Home
8/27	Columbia	Home
9/3	Firelands	Away
9/10	Scott	Away

2021 Schedule

9/17	Lutheran West	Away
9/24	Oak Harbor	Away

10/1	Port Clinton	Home
10/8	Huron	Home
10/15	Edison	Home
10/22	Willard	Away

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PICK-IT LINE

										
Aprile	Assenheimer	Bennett	Cudlin	McNees	Petrak	Walker	Brady	Gebhardt	Shapiro	Sweeney
Rocky River	Holy Name	Holy Name	Holy Name	Holy Name	Elyria Catholic	Holy Name	North Olmsted	Rocky River	Rocky River	Holy Name
Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.	Cleveland Hts.
Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone	Keystone
Huron	Huron	Huron	Huron	Oak Harbor	Huron	Huron	Edison	Huron	Huron	Huron
Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon
74-10 (1st)	73-11 (2nd)	71-13 (T-4th)	71-13 (T-4th)	72-12 (2nd)	69-15 (T-8th)	70-14 (T-6th)	69-15 (T-8th)	67-17 (11th)	70-14 (T-6th)	68-16 (10th)

OUR PICK

Holy Name
Cleveland Heights
Keystone
Huron
Avon
76-8

In uncertain times, Aprile delivered

Last year's high school football season was nearly unrecognizable as they altered the number of regular-season games, the playoff format and the gameday protocols due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Well ... it was nice to see at least one thing didn't change.

Chronicle sports editor Kevin Aprile was a model of consistency as he showed his staff that he was the king of prognostication by capturing his second straight Pick-It Line championship, despite seeing the contest's weeks reduced

from 10 to seven and the weekly games reduced from 15 to 12.

Because of the reduction in total games picked, the margin for error was at an all-time low and the battle for first remained tight from start to finish.

In fact, just seven games separated Aprile from longtime sports writer Tim Gebhardt, who finished in 11th place.

The biggest difference during this championship performance was Aprile didn't hold on for the victory as he did two years ago.

Indians beat writer Chris Assenheimer held a one-game lead going into the final week — the opening week of the playoffs — and Aprile rallied for the win.

Assenheimer correctly guessed North Royalton's victory over Amherst, giving him a two-game lead, before Aprile took the title by picking North Olmsted's win over Midview, Firelands' win over Upper Sandusky and Columbia's win over Black River.

The 11-1 final week gave Aprile an overall total of 74-10,

edging Assenheimer's 73-11.

Marissa McNees, in her first full season on the line, took third by finishing one game behind Assenheimer, and editors Shaun Bennett and Linda Cudlin shared fourth place with matching 71-13 records.

Aprile will now try to complete the rare Pick-It Line threepeat, which has only been previously accomplished by Bennett (2010-12) and Browns beat writer Scott Petrak (1999-2001).

The 2020 championship was Aprile's fourth overall.

Past champions

- 2020 — Kevin Aprile
- 2019 — Kevin Aprile
- 2018 — Todd Shapiro
- 2017 — James Brady
- 2016 — Todd Shapiro
- 2015 — Chris Sweeney
- 2014 — Tim Alcorn
- 2013 — Linda Cudlin
- 2012 — Shaun Bennett
- 2011 — Shaun Bennett
- 2010 — Shaun Bennett
- 2009 — Kevin Aprile and Tim Gebhardt
- 2008 — Shaun Bennett
- 2007 — Pete Alpern

- 2006 — Chris Assenheimer
- 2005 — Shaun Bennett
- 2004 — Shaun Bennett
- 2003 — Linda Cudlin
- 2002 — Kevin Aprile
- 2001 — Scott Petrak
- 2000 — Scott Petrak
- 1999 — Scott Petrak
- 1998 — Chris Assenheimer
- 1997 — Scott Petrak
- 1996 — Chris Assenheimer



Avon Lake SHOREMEN



8/20	Strongsville	Home
8/27	Brecksville	Away
9/3	Tiffin-Columbian	Away
9/10	Avon	Away

2021 Schedule

9/17	Berea-Midpark	Home
9/24	Midview	Away

10/1	Amherst	Home
10/8	Elyria	Home
10/15	Olmsted Falls	Away
10/22	North Ridgeville	Home

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GO SHOREMEN!

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE: BAY DIVISION



BRUCE BISHOP / CHRONICLE

Vermilion wide receivers Bryce Hoerig, left, and Ayden Bath should present problems for opposing defenses. Both seniors stand 6-foot-5 and are fast, athletic and intelligent.

Sailors thinking big

Tim Gebhardt

The Chronicle-Telegram

It's been a tough run for Vermilion in recent years but with a pair of 6-foot-5, fast, athletic and smart wide receivers and a three-year quarterback, the Sailors might just soar this season.

Those receivers — Bryce Hoerig and Ayden Bath — will be giving defensive coordinators nightmares, while causing also problems for offensive coordinators while playing in the defensive backfield.

"In the summer, receivers and quarterbacks worked together on routes," Bath said. "Just trying to learn everybody's strengths. We have a good feel for how fast our receivers can run and where we should put everybody."

"I cannot tell you how excited I am about that," quarterback Ben Rini said of getting to throw to Hoerig and Bath. "Those guys — they're ball hawks. They're huge. I'm comfortable just throwing it up. I've got trust in those guys. We work together all the time. It's just like a security blanket for me. I know I've got two big athletes on the outside I can always go to."

Success should be within reach for Vermilion with 6-foot-5 senior receivers Bath and Hoerig



Bath



Hoerig

"It will be a huge help for us," Sailors coach Brett Colahan said. "They're multi-sport athletes. Bryce played basketball and Ayden did wonders in track. He was third in the high jump in the state and second or third in hurdles."

"Being a receiver, being able to have a release for (Rini) to just throw over the top," Bath said of how he approaches the game. "Just go for it. Same thing with defense. Just go up and go for the ball and get it back for us on offense."

Both players carry impressive GPAs and both should be able to play somewhere next year be it in football, basketball or track.

"Football's in their future," Colahan said. "Told them, get with us, we'll do everything we can if that's the avenue they want. They have the one thing that can't be coached and that's size. They both have good speed. They have those athletic attributes in their favor."

Winning two of their last three games last year gave the Sailors some momentum going into this season.

"Yeah, very much," Bath said. "Ending off the season on a very good note, having the team come together, really put the pieces together. We've got a few new guys that are still learning but they're doing good, they're picking it up. We have a lot of guys back from last year that have that connection, that team chemistry that will carry over."

"I think it does a lot for us," Hoerig said. "Our specialists are a good group. I think only a couple of them are inexperienced. We're pretty sea-

soned when it comes to receivers and running backs. Just our line — it's there — it just needs a little work."

Bath believes Vermilion's offense will be balanced but he wants to play a big role in it.

"We'll definitely do a lot of both (running and passing)," he said. "Our offense is based on the run-pass option. We're ready for pretty much anything."

"Same thing on defense. We're ready for the pass, we're ready for the run. We're practicing to be the best at what we can do."

Vermilion has also spent time on the mental aspect of the game.

"Last year, something would happen and we'd be down on ourselves for the next 10 plays," Hoerig said. "This year, even if we have a bad play, we need to regroup and we need to play better and just get past it."

"In the past years, we dwelled on lost games for that entire practice

week after. We can't do that. We have to get over it on Saturday."

Even through the threat of games being canceled due to the COVID situation a year ago, Hoerig pushed through.

"I prepared like any other week," he said. "If there was a possibility of playing that week, I was ready."

"The entire season, it was weird not getting up and going to school. We'd go on Zoom. That was really weird. It got my schedule whacked up but I got through it. We were good."

Hoerig wants to continue his education at Ohio University. Bath is hoping to get an academic scholarship.

"I would like to go to college," Bath said. "I'm thinking about trying to get a scholarship through academics or even sports and try to carry my way. I don't exactly have a major I'm set on right now. I'm still thinking about that. If that's not the option, I'll probably join the Air Force."

Contact Tim Gebhardt at 329-7135 or timothygb@msn.com.

TEAM CAPSULES

Edison Chargers

COACH: Jeff Grady, 5th season (25-16)
2020 RECORD: 7-3, 3-2
STRENGTH: Momentum after winning three of their last four games last year including one in the playoffs.
WEAKNESS: Inexperience.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Edison has been in the playoffs seven times (7-7). Twice the Chargers made it to the state semi-finals. Edison lost to Shelby in 2019.
SCOUTING REPORT: Grady has taken his alma mater to the playoffs three times counting last year when every school got in and he figures this year's group has that same potential

Huron Tigers

COACH: Sam Hohler, 7th season (29-20)
2020 RECORD: 7-1, 5-0 SBC
STRENGTH: Good overall team speed on both sides of the ball.
WEAKNESS: Experience after losing 23 seniors to graduation.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: The Tigers have been in the playoffs 18 times (17-18) with four state semifinal appearances and one runner-up finish (1993).
SCOUTING REPORT: Huron is one of those schools that reloads rather than rebuilds and Hohler figures to do the same this season.

Oak Harbor Rockets

COACH: Mike May, 14th year (76-57)
2020 RECORD: 4-3, 3-2
STRENGTH: Depth along the offensive and defensive lines
WEAKNESS: Inexperience at the skill positions
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Oak Harbor has made 11 playoff appearances (13-11), making the final four three times, including 2019 when the Rockets lost to Kirtland in the semifinals.
SCOUTING REPORT: May has five starters back on defense and should be in the thick of the conference race.

Port Clinton Redskins

COACH: Beau Carmon, 9th year (44-39)
2020 RECORD: 5-4, 3-2
STRENGTH: The run-oriented Redskins always seem to have a good offensive line to make things go.
WEAKNESS: Could use more depth.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: The Redskins have made the playoffs four times (2-4).
SCOUTING REPORT: Carmon has plenty of talent returning from last year meaning Port Clinton should be in the hunt for the conference title and a playoff berth

Vermilion Sailors

COACH: Brett Colahan, 3rd year (3-18)
2020 RECORD: 3-8, 1-4
STRENGTH: The Sailors are loaded with skilled, experienced talent.
WEAKNESS: Colahan wants to get the negative thoughts out of his player's heads.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Vermilion has been in the playoffs five times (0-5) but not since 1997, other than last year when all teams qualified.
SCOUTING REPORT: Vermilion has the talent to make some noise this year. The Sailors have to believe in themselves to compete in the tough SBC Bay Division.

Willard Crimson Flashes

COACH: Bill Spiller, 1st year
2020 RECORD: 0-11, 0-5
STRENGTH: Good size along both lines.
WEAKNESS: Needs to stay positive and get rid of the old habits.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Willard has been in the playoffs seven times (4-6). Other than last season when all teams made the postseason, the Crimson Flashes last qualified in 2002. They beat Buckeye and lost to Akron Buchtel.
SCOUTING REPORT: Spiller has had previous head coaching experience at Wayne Trace and Elida and hopes to turn around the Crimson Flashes.

— Tim Gebhardt

THE TOP GAMES

Vermilion at Firelands, Friday, Sept. 3

The annual grudge match between backyard neighbors.

Oak Harbor at Huron, Friday, Oct. 1

An early season showdown of Bay Division favorites.

Huron at Vermilion, Friday, Oct. 8

The Tigers are the favorites but Vermilion hopes to be a factor in the SBC.

Edison at Vermilion, Friday, Oct. 15

The neighboring rivals need to win to stay in the SBC race.

Port Clinton at Huron, Friday, Oct. 15

Should help determine the conference title.

Oak Harbor at Port Clinton, Friday, Oct. 22

Figures to be an important one for the conference championship.

— Tim Gebhardt

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Huron

No reason to expect anything less from the Tigers.

2. Oak Harbor

The always-tough Rockets will be right there all season.

3. Port Clinton

The Redskins have a lot of talented lettermen and will contend.

4. Vermilion

The Sailors have plenty of skill and could have a breakout season.

5. Edison

Don't underestimate the

2020 STANDINGS

	Conf.	Total
Huron	5-0	7-1
Edison	3-2	7-3
Port Clinton	3-2	5-4
Oak Harbor	3-2	4-3
Vermilion	1-4	3-8
Willard	0-5	0-11

Chargers, who were 7-3 a year ago.

6. Willard

It's been tough for the Crimson Flashes to find success in a tough league.

— Tim Gebhardt

BY THE NUMBERS

24

Years since Vermilion made the playoffs (other than last year when everybody was in)

13

Years since Vermilion had a winning season (6-4 in 2008)

18

Playoff appearances for Huron

SANDUSKY BAY CONFERENCE: BAY DIVISION

Vermilion's Ben Rini throws a pass in the first quarter against Wellington last season. Rini is entering his third year as the Sailors' starting quarterback.



DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE FILE

BEST OF THE BEST

Quarterback:

Dylen Hohler, Huron

An outstanding basketball player, as well, the junior and coach's son expects to lead the Tigers on offense.

Quarterback:

Cam Gillam, Port Clinton

Gillam grew into the position last year as a sophomore and should be among the top QBs in the league.

Quarterback: Ben Rini, Vermilion

A three-year starter for the Sailors.

Running back:

Garrett Cornell, Port Clinton

A three-year starter, Cornell continues to improve.

Wide Receiver:

Kaden Staley, Huron

The senior is one of the few building blocks the

Tigers can depend on offensively. Also plays in the defensive backfield.

Wide Receiver:

Bryce Hoerig, Vermilion

At 6-foot-5 and athletic, Hoerig should present big problems for opponents.

Wide Receiver:

Ayden Bath, Vermilion

The same goes for Bath. He and Hoerig should give defenses headaches trying to devise ways to stop them.

Offensive line:

Dylan Schiets, Oak Harbor

The senior is a three-year starter on both sides of the ball.

Defensive line:

Ryan Snow, Oak Harbor

An experienced lineman on both sides of the ball.

Defensive line:

Dylan Snyder, Port Clinton

A three-year starter on both sides of the ball.

Linebacker:

Jack Zeitzmeim, Oak Harbor

Dual threat also plays running back.

Secondary: Luke Steuk, Huron

Another two-way player who should help Huron retain the Bay Division title.

Secondary:

Cade Peterson, Oak Harbor

Senior is a good coverage players with plenty of experience.

Coach: Mike May, Oak Harbor

In his 14th year with the Rockets, he lead them to an undefeated regular season in 2019 and to the state semifinals where they lost 28-14 to Kirtland.

— Tim Gebhardt

GET TO KNOW:

BEN RINI, VERMILION

POSITION: Quarterback
FAVORITE FOOD: Sea food
FAVORITE PRO ATHLETE: Baker Mayfield
FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Cleveland Browns
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Last Chance U"
FAVORITE MOVIES: "Greater" and "Remember the Titans"
OTHER SPORTS: Basketball, swimming and track and field
FOOTBALL MEMORY: "My freshman year, the first game I ever started, we played Edison and we scored within two minutes and were going for the extra point to tie the game. Davis McDaniel, I'll never forget it, I was on extra point-field goal and I was the wing guy. I heard the thud of the ball and this was to tie the game. I looked to my left and Davis McDaniel's running in the 2-point conversion and we won the game."
OTHER TALENT: Cooking, like his dad, who he says is a great cook who makes really good ribs.
 — Tim Gebhardt



Firelands FALCONS



2021 Schedule					
8/20	Edison	Away	10/1	Clearview	Home
8/27	Rocky River	Away	10/8	Brookside	Away
9/3	Vermilion	Home	10/15	Black River	Home
9/10	Wellington	Away	10/22	Columbia	Home
9/17	Oberlin	Away			
9/24	Keystone	Home			

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LORAIN COUNTY RECORD BOOK

MOST POINTS IN A SEASON
 294—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1984
 252—Bobby Doyle, Avon Lake, 2004
 242—Jeff Breese, Avon Lake, 1995
 202—Tim Burns, Wellington, 1974
 200—Ryan Myers, Wellington, 1997
 198—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2003
 184—P.J. Mahone, Elyria, 2005
 180—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2015
 178—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1983
 178—Steve Holovac, Firelands, 1974
 176—Bryan Thomas, Elyria Catholic, 1977

MOST POINTS IN A CAREER
 556—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1982-84 (3 years)
 398—Dustin Intihar, Columbia, 1999-2002 (4 years)
 386—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2012-15 (4 years)
 380—Steve Holovac, Firelands, 1971-74 (4 years)
 369—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2001-03 (3 years)

MOST TOUCHDOWNS IN A SEASON
 49—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1984
 42—Bobby Doyle, Avon Lake, 2004
 40—Jeff Breese, Avon Lake, 1995
 38—Demario McCall, North Ridgeville, 2014
 33—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2003
 32—Ryan Myers, Wellington, 1997
 32—P.J. Mahone, Elyria, 2005

MOST TOUCHDOWNS IN A CAREER
 92—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1982-84 (3 years)
 82—Andrew Vaughn, Black River, 2010-13 (4 years)
 65—Dustin Intihar, Columbia, 1999-2002 (4 years)
 63—Alex Knipp, Amherst, 2003-2005 (3 years)
 60—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2001-03 (3 years)
 56—Bryan Thomas, Elyria Catholic, 1975-77 (3 years)
 55—Steve Holovac, Firelands, 1971-74 (4 years)
 53—Tim Burns, Wellington, 1972-74 (3 years)

MOST YARDS RUSHING IN A SEASON
 2,775—Bobby Doyle, Avon Lake, 2004 (15 games)
 2,675—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2003 (13 games)
 2,398—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1984 (13 games)
 2,302—Demario McCall, North Ridgeville, 2014 (10 games)
 2,191—Jeff Breese, Avon Lake, 1995 (12 games)
 2,138—Alex Knipp, Amherst, 2004 (12 games)
 2,046—Jeff Strauch, Avon Lake, 2000 (12 games)
 2,044—Bryan Thomas, Elyria Catholic, 1977 (12 games)
 2,006—Alex Knipp, Amherst, 2005 (10 games)
 1,870—Ike Maxwell, Elyria, 1971 (10 games)
 1,836—Steve Holovac, Firelands, 1973 (10 games)
 1,814—Chase Mason, Elyria Catholic, 2005 (11 games)
 1,767—Zack Mitchell, Avon, 1996 (13 games)
 1,758—Tim Nelson, Avon, 1998 (13 games)

MOST YARDS RUSHING IN A CAREER
 6,097—Andrew Vaughn, Black River, 2010-13 (4 years)
 4,778—Dustin Intihar, Columbia, 1999-2002 (4 years)
 4,749—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1982-84 (3 years)
 4,743—Jon Schroeder, Avon Lake, 2001-03 (3 years)
 4,345—Alex Knipp, Amherst, 2003-2005 (3 years)
 4,142—Jeral Klue, North Ridgeville, 1991-94 (4 years)
 4,111—Steve Holovac, Firelands, 1971-74 (4 years)
 4,083—Bryan Thomas, Elyria Catholic, 1975-77 (3 years)

MOST YARDS RUSHING IN A GAME
 445—Demario McCall, North Ridgeville vs. Elyria Catholic, 2014
 438—Zack Warner, Lorain Catholic vs. Marion Catholic, 1998
 406—Kylan Bugg, Oberlin vs. Firelands, 2013
 383—Shomari Williams, North Ridgeville vs. Westlake, 2017
 375—Alex Knipp, Amherst, vs. Olmsted Falls, 2005
 355—Dave Dorinski, Clearview vs. Avon, 1976
 354—Anthony Hitchens, Clearview vs. Columbia, 2009
 354—Alex Knipp, Amherst vs. Brecksville, 2005
 354—Andrew Vaughn, Black River vs. Western Reserve, 2013
 352—Andrew Vaughn, Black River vs. Fairview, 2012
 348—Jeff Hughes, Southview vs. Lakewood, 2002
 347—Devan Martin, Oberlin vs. Sts. John & Paul, 2008

MOST RUSHING TDS IN A SEASON
 46—Al McKinney, Elyria Catholic, 1984
 42—Bobby Doyle, Avon Lake, 2004
 39—Jeff Breese, Avon Lake, 1995

MOST YARDS RECEIVING IN A CAREER
 3,992—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2012-15
 3,114—Matt Skolnicki, Lorain Catholic, 1998-2001

MOST YARDS RECEIVING IN A SEASON
 1,648—Matt Skolnicki, Lorain Catholic, 2001
 1,410—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2014
 1,375—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2015
 1,141—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2013

MOST RECEPTIONS IN A GAME
 19—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2015 vs. North Ridgeville
 18—Matt Skolnicki, Lorain Catholic, 2001 vs. Toledo Christian
 17—Brian Pille, Lorain Catholic, 2002 vs. Toledo Ottawa Hills

MOST RECEPTIONS IN A SEASON
 107—Matt Skolnicki, Lorain Catholic, 2001
 95—Brian Pille, Lorain Catholic, 2002
 87—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2014

MOST RECEPTIONS IN A CAREER
 236—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2012-15
 188—Matt Skolnicki, Lorain Catholic, 1998-2001
 130—Logan Bolin, Midview, 2012-14

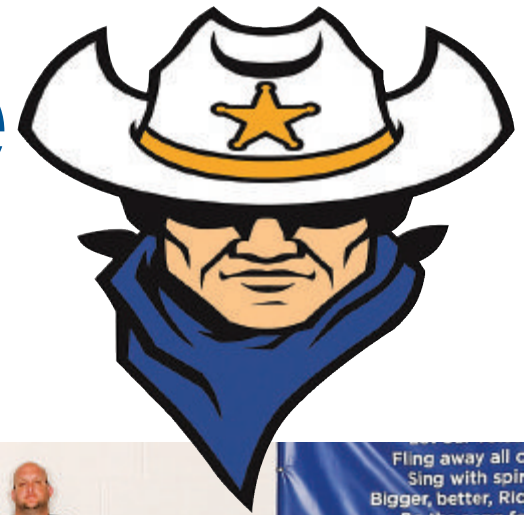
MOST YARDS PASSING IN A SEASON
 3,328—Danny Reaser, Elyria Catholic, 2010
 3,323—Dustin Crum, Midview, 2014
 2,851—Brennan Hosier, Amherst, 2010
 2,805—Dustin Stolarski, Elyria, 2011
 2,655—Roger Engle, Clearview, 2013

MOST YARDS PASSING IN A GAME
 517—Roger Engle, Clearview, 2013 vs. Black River
 508—Danny Reaser, Elyria Catholic, 2010 vs. Elyria
 453—Cody Schuster, Elyria Catholic, 2007 vs. Trenton Edgewood

MOST TD PASSES IN A SEASON
 39—Dustin Crum, Midview, 2014
 38—Danny Reaser, Elyria Catholic, 2010
 35—Ryan O'Rourke, Avon, 2008
 32—Dustin Crum, Midview, 2015

MOST TD PASSES IN A GAME
 8—Dustin Crum, Midview, 2015 vs. Avon
 7—Jay Banyasz, Columbia, 2013 vs. Brooklyn

North Ridgeville RANGERS



8/20	North Olmsted	Home
8/27	Valley Forge	Home
9/4	Normandy	Away
9/10	Amherst	Home

2021 Schedule

9/17	Olmsted Falls	Away
9/24	Avon	Home

10/1	Elyria	Away
10/8	Midview	Away
10/15	Berea-Midpark	Home
10/22	Avon Lake	Away

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LAKE ERIE LEAGUE

TEAM CAPSULES

Bedford Bearcats

COACH: Charles Sauter, 3rd year (9-9)
2020 RECORD: 4-4, 2-2 LEL
STRENGTHS: Quarterback Raymell Hester, who threw for over 1,400 yards a year ago, and a bevy of experienced wide receivers.
WEAKNESS: Defense. Surrendered 49 points to Cleveland Heights and 42 to Hudson a year ago.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: The Bearcats have made seven playoff appearances, going 5-7. Before last year they last qualified in 2017, beating Eastlake North in the first round then losing to Barberton.
SCOUTING REPORT: The Bearcats will score a ton of points with Hester's throwing ability. He has 6-foot-4 senior Joe Stokes along with a pair of small, quick receivers in 5-8 Jaylon Clark and 5-5 Daniel Lymon. The question will be on defense. Will Bedford be able to consistently stop opponents?

Cleveland Heights Tigers

COACH: Mac Stephens, 7th year (35-24)
2020 RECORD: 5-3, 4-0
STRENGTHS: The offensive line and backfield are all back from a year ago, led by senior guard Maurice Hamilton, a West Virginia commit.
WEAKNESS: Unlike the offense, Stephens will have to replace his entire defensive unit.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: The Tigers have been in the playoffs five times. They lost 45-14 to Stow-Munroe in the first round last year. Before that they made it in 2019, losing to Mentor.
SCOUTING REPORT: With a strong offensive unit, Cleveland Heights expects to be in the running for a third straight LEL crown. Expect Stephens to find a way to shore up his inexperienced defense.

Garfield Heights Bulldogs

COACH: Jason Osborne, 2nd year (1-6)
2020 RECORD: 1-6, 0-4
STRENGTH: Experience. Osborne had a good group of sophomores playing varsity last year. He believes the Bulldogs will be better overall because of that.
WEAKNESS: Lack of scoring punch. The Bulldogs were shut out three times and only scored six points in their first four games a year ago.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: The Bulldogs have made five playoff appearances, going 2-5. They beat Eastlake North 13-7 before losing 49-14 to Walsh Jesuit last year. In 2018, the Bulldogs lost to eventual state champion Akron Hoban in the second round.
SCOUTING REPORT: Garfield had trouble competing in its initial LEL season a year ago but expects to be much more competitive this year.

Lorain Titans

COACH: Damion Creel, 1st year
2020 RECORD: Did not play. Lorain was 6-4 in 2019.
STRENGTH: The coach. Creel brings a wealth of experience and has lured Dave McFarland back to help with the freshman team. Creel spent the past six seasons as head coach at Beachwood.
WEAKNESS: Only two starters return from the 2019 team.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Lorain made three trips to the playoffs under McFarland, going 2-3. The Titans advanced to the regional final in 2016 where they suffered a heartbreaking 24-20 loss to Orlentangy Liberty. The Titans last made the playoffs in 2017, losing to Toledo Whitmer in the first round.
SCOUTING REPORT: Creel takes on a tough task after Lorain did not field a team a year ago due to COVID but he's optimistic he can rebuild the program.

Maple Heights Mustangs

COACH: Shaquille Washington, 4th year (24-8)
2020 RECORD: 5-3, 3-1
STRENGTH: Explosiveness — offensively and defensively.
WEAKNESS: There's not a ton of varsity experience for the Mustangs, especially up front.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Maple Heights has been in the postseason 13 times, going 14-12. The Mustangs won a state championship in 2010 and were state runner-up in 2009. In 2019, the Mustangs lost 38-6 to Avon Lake in the first round.
SCOUTING REPORT: Washington led the team to the state championship in 2010 as the quarterback. Even with the lack of experience, he feels his team should battle Cleveland Heights for the LEL championship.

Shaker Heights Red Raiders

COACH: Alex Nicholson, 3rd year (3-14)
2020 RECORD: 1-6, 1-2
STRENGTH: Nicholson returns a number of three-year starters.
WEAKNESS: There are no returning starters in the defensive backfield, but Nicholson says he has athletes back there who should be able to make plays.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Shaker Heights has made the postseason 10 times, going 2-10. But other than last year when all teams made it, the Raiders haven't qualified since 2013 when they lost to St. Edward in the first round.
SCOUTING REPORT: Shaker has taken its lumps in the past two seasons, but Nicholson believes with the experience gained at the varsity level, the Red Raiders are ready to move up the standings.

Shaw Cardinals

COACH: Reginald Smith, 1st year
2020 RECORD: 5-3, 1-2
STRENGTH: Offense. Shaw is solid and should be able to score.
WEAKNESS: The Cardinals are young and inexperienced on defense.
PLAYOFF HISTORY: Shaw has made six playoff appearances, going 2-6. The Cardinals went 1-1 last year when everyone got in but otherwise haven't qualified since 2011 when they beat Maple Heights but lost to Columbian.
SCOUTING REPORT: Shaw is always dangerous on offense, but the key will be if the defense can stop opponents, although they did record three shutouts a year ago.



BRUCE BISHOP / CHRONICLE

Jacob Addis, one of two seniors on the team, will be expected to be a major player and motivator as Lorain returns after not playing last year.

A lot on his plate

Tim Gebhardt
 The Chronicle-Telegram

Jacob Addis knows the challenge facing him and his Lorain teammates this season.

Due to COVID-19, there was no football, no practices and no socializing at school a year ago for Lorain, but Addis stayed on course waiting for this season to roll around. He's one of only two starters left from the 2019 season. He was a sophomore center playing with a veteran senior line and he fit right in. The other returning starter, defensive end Tracy Williams, is rehabbing an injured knee after surgery and isn't expected back until Week 5 or so.

"When I got hired, there were two kids that I needed to get attached to," first-year coach Damion Creel said. "Jacob Addis and Tracy Williams. Both of them are seniors that played before and they were the only two lettermen coming back. First thing I did was to text them to tell them I had the job. They were the first two kids I sat down with and broke bread with."

Creel was Beachwood's head coach the past six years, leading his alma mater to a pair of playoff appearances. He comes in with a wealth of experience, having been an assistant coach at Glenville, St. Edward, Rich-

Lorain senior Addis has to lead young team on and off field ... and he's perfectly fine with that

mond Heights, Cleveland Heights, Bedford and Marion Franklin.

Dave McFarland retired after the 2019 season, having won 42 games and making three playoff appearances in his six-year stint. James Boyeas was hired to replace McFarland last year but never coached a game.

Addis and Williams are the blocks Creel needs to rebuild the program with after going over a year without football. The 2019 Titans finished by winning five of their last six games to go 6-4.

"Both of them are great kids, willing to do anything we ask them to do," Creel said. "We played around with Jacob playing guard and that still may be the case, but he'll probably be our center. Just a great overall kid. I've met his parents, good-hearted kid, very hard worker, plays three sports. That's impressive these days with kids trying to focus and streamline on one sport."

Addis will play basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring for the Titans, all the while trying to keep up his grades and be a true leader on the field.

"Keeps me out of trouble," Addis said with a smile.

The Titans are in the process of rebuilding the offensive line, so whether Addis plays center or guard he'll have responsibilities making sure people are lined up correctly.

"I call the signals for the inside," he said. "The tackles will make the calls for the outside."

"He does it all," Creel said. "When I was in school, I played three sports and Jacob has the opportunity to play at the next level. During the spring, he got hurt — his knee — but I think he's overcome that. Just think about him getting hurt and thinking he might miss his senior season after already missing his junior season."

"I couldn't ask for a better leader for our offensive line and he does it the right way. He's not a screamer. He's very humble and a very likable kid."

Addis knows the task won't be easy but he's bought into the system Creel wants to run. It's up to Addis to help sell it to the younger players.

"We have to have a lot of commu-

nication," he said. "We're still being a little bit selfish. We have to become a one-part (unit)."

In the offseason weight room, Addis was one of the most dependable players and he's lived up to the senior leadership role.

"I pushed people as much as I can," he said. "Brought people under my wing, lift with me to get bigger and stronger. Make sure they were doing the right thing."

Addis hasn't made up his mind about his post-graduation plans. College is certainly an option but he just might go to work with his dad in masonry. He'd also like to eventually be a police officer.

"Right now, I'm not sure about (college) offers," Addis said. "I have one for St. Thomas in Florida. Academics are more important than sports. Sports is a privilege. You have to have your academics first."

Addis' individual goals are simple but smart. He figures if he does his job and everyone does theirs, success will follow.

"I just want to win each play because if you win each play, you win each quarter," Addis said. "If you win each quarter, you win each game. If you win each game, you can be state champ."

Contact Tim Gebhardt at 329-7135 or timothygeb@msn.com.

THE TOP GAMES

Elyria at Lorain, Friday, Sept. 3

These longtime rivals didn't get a chance to play last year, but the Titans have won the last three meetings.

Bedford at Lorain, Friday, Sept. 10

The Titans play their first LEL game in two years under the lights at George Daniel Field.

Cleveland Heights at Lorain, Friday, Sept. 17

The Tigers are favored to defend their LEL championship. It will be a stern test for the Titans.

Cleveland Heights at Maple Heights, Friday, Oct. 8

Should determine this year's LEL champion.

Cleveland Heights at Shaker Heights, Saturday, Oct. 23

Backyard rivals renew their series to end the season on a Saturday afternoon.

— Tim Gebhardt



JESSE GRABOWSKI / CHRONICLE FILE

Lorain running back Daylin Dower eludes Elyria defenders during a game in the Titans. The teams renew their rivalry Sept. 3 after not playing last season because the Titans took the year off due to COVID concerns. Lorain has won the last three meetings.

GETTING TO KNOW: TRACY WILLIAMS, LORAIN

FAVORITE FOOD: Chipotle or anything Mexican

FAVORITE PRO ATHLETE:

Ezekiel Elliott
FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Cleveland Browns
OTHER SPORT: Basketball
TOP GOAL: Rehab his injured knee

to be able to contribute as soon as possible, probably around midseason

COACH'S COMMENT: "He's one of only two returning starters we have. He's got to be a leader for us." — Damion Creel

— Tim Gebhardt

2020 STANDINGS

	Conf.	Total
Cleveland Heights	4-0	5-3
Maple Heights	5-1	5-3
Bedford	2-2	4-4
Shaw	1-2	5-3
Shaker Heights	1-2	5-6
Garfield Heights	0-4	1-6

NOTE: Lorain did not play due to COVID concerns.

LAKE ERIE LEAGUE

BEST OF THE BEST

Quarterback: Raymell Hester, Bedford

The senior broke the school record for passing yards in a playoff game with 360 to go with three touchdowns in a win over Akron Ellet last season.

Quarterback: Dawon King, Maple Heights

The junior is projected to be a great option quarterback for the Mustangs.

Tailback: Elijah Fowlkes, Cleveland Heights

Fowlkes gives the Tigers a breakaway threat in the backfield.

Tailback: Edward Robinson, Maple Heights

Senior will pile up yardage for the Mustangs.

Wide Receiver: Joe Stokes, Bedford

At 6-foot-4 and 170 pounds, Stokes will be a challenge for all LEL defenses.

Wide Receiver: Bryshaun Haskin, Maple Heights

The 6-2, 182-pound senior is a pure athlete.

Tight End: Tommy Dunn, Shaker Heights

Either blocking or going out for passes, the senior figures to be a key to Shaker's offense.

Offensive line: Jacob Addis, Lorain

One of only two returning starters for the Titans, Addis was an outstanding blocker as a center in 2019.

Offensive line: Maurice Hamilton, Cleveland Heights

A strong left guard, Hamilton will be headed to West Virginia on a full scholarship next year.

Defensive line: Leonard Sharp, Bedford

A two-year mainstay, the 6-2, 245-pound senior will make life miserable for offensive lines.

Defensive line: Hasim Rashid, Shaker Heights

Senior is a force on both sides of the ball.

Defensive line: Tracy Williams, Lorain

The other Titans senior hopes to be back from a knee injury in time to give the defense a boost.

Defensive line: Jahmir Pearson, Shaw

The returning letterman makes his presence felt from the edge.

Defensive line: Gavin Brooks, Garfield Heights

Has good pursuit and makes big plays.

Linebacker: Wilson Jackson, Cleveland Heights

Senior will make a ton of tackles for the Tigers.

Secondary: Eric Higgins, Shaw

A playmaker who will line up at wide receiver as well as safety.

Coach: Shaquille Washington, Maple Heights

Returned to his alma mater after a solid playing career at the University of Cincinnati. He led the Mustangs to the state championship in 2010 as a player and has won 24 games in his three years as coach.

— Tim Gebhardt



KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE FILE

Bedford quarterback Raymell Hester tries to get past Elyria's Nestor Kameron during a game in 2019. Hester is one of the top players in the LEL once again.

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Cleveland Heights

The Tigers are favored to repeat as LEL champions.

2. Maple Heights

The Mustangs lost a shootout to Cleveland Heights last year.

3. Shaker Heights

The Red Raiders returned to the LEL a year ago and could be knocking on the door for the title.

4. Bedford

The Bearcats are loaded offensively and just might be flying under the radar.

5. Shaw

Always dangerous and athletic, the Cardinals could finish higher.

6. Garfield Heights

The Bulldogs were overmatched in their initial LEL season but with a lot of returning players, they just might be better than advertised.

7. Lorain

It will be tough sledding for the Titans after sitting out last year due to COVID, but first-year coach Damion Creel might surprise some people.

BY THE NUMBERS

0

Games played by Lorain High a year ago due to COVID.

658

Days since the Titans played and beat Shaw 40-0 to end the 2019 season.

3

Playoff appearances for the Titans since the consolidation of the Lorain schools.

— Tim Gebhardt

Columbia RAIDERS



8/20	Independence	Home
8/27	Vermilion	Away
9/3	Northwestern	Home
9/10	Black River	Away

2021 Schedule

9/17	Brookside	Home
9/24	Clearview	Home

10/1	Wellington	Away
10/8	Oberlin	Home
10/15	Keystone	Away
10/22	Firelands	Away

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NOTES: AREA COLLEGIANS



COURTESY OF KENT STATE

Kent State quarterback and Midview alum Dustin Crum throws a pass against Auburn in 2019.

Back to finish what he started

Crum puts off NFL to return to Kent State

In a year full of unfortunate events, Kent State got some good news to end 2020: Its senior quarterback decided to return for an additional season.

Dustin Crum spent the last two seasons establishing himself as one of the Mid-American Conference's best playmakers. To the point where he was on many NFL Draft lists as a potential third-day pick.

Even though the former Midview standout had a path to the NFL, he was hungry to accomplish more at Kent. With the NCAA giving all athletes an extra year of eligibility because of the pandemic, Crum decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

"For me it just came down to that I thought I had more to do here at Kent," he said. "We hadn't yet reached some of the goals we set as a team. For my class, we want to win a MAC championship. I feel like we definitely have a shot at it this year so I wanted to come back and be part of that."

"I knew I had a chance at being a later draft pick. But I just felt I had a lot more to do here and with another full season I felt like I could improve on that."

Two years ago Crum wasn't entrenched as the starter. In fact, he was fighting neck-and-neck with Woody Barrett for the job. But after the first game, Crum won over the coaches and hasn't looked back.

He threw for 2,625 yards and 20 touchdowns with just two interceptions in 2019, rushing for 707 yards and six touchdowns. He was named MVP of the Tropical Smoothie Café Frisco Bowl after leading Kent State to its first bowl victory.

Last year the Flashes only played four games, but Crum made the most of them with 1,182 yards and 12 touchdowns, which ranked him third in the MAC despite playing two fewer games. He scored at least two touchdowns in every game and led the MAC with a 73.2 completion with just two interceptions in 113 passes.

The team started 3-0, lost 70-41 to eventual division



CHRIS SWEENEY

champion Buffalo and then got the news that its final two games would be canceled because of COVID-19 issues. "That's definitely been a driving factor for us," said Crum, who graduated with a degree in aerospace engineering and is in the sports management graduate program. "We started 3-0, had our one loss and then found out the next day that our season was pretty much going to be done. Going through the offseason ending on a loss like that definitely drove some guys and fueled the fire for this year."

Kent State has a full 12 games and its eye on bringing home the first MAC championship since 1972. It has a challenging non-conference schedule starting with Texas A&M on Sept. 4 at 8 p.m. in College Station on ESPN and with dates at Iowa and Maryland shortly after. "It's definitely a big opportunity that a lot of guys look forward to," Crum said. "It's a proving ground and a stage to go up against some of the better teams in the country and see where we stack up. In a lot of ways guys look forward to that."

Lights, camera, MACTION

Two other locals will try to make an impact for the

Golden Flashes, both on the defense. Redshirt sophomore Brandon Coleman (Columbia) played in four games at linebacker last season, earning his first start against Eastern Michigan and piling up a career-high six tackles against Akron. Senior

Spencer Berthold (Midview) comes over from the Kent State wrestling program and will compete for time

at defensive end. ● Bowling Green redshirt junior Mason Lawler (St. Edward/Avon) was primarily a kickoff specialist in 2020. He averaged 59.9 yards per kickoff with six touchbacks in nine tries. He also handled three punts against Akron.



Lawler

Big impact

Sam Gerak (Avon) has been a cornerstone on Northwestern's offensive line the past two seasons. He started every game at center during the Wildcats' 7-2 season last year and was named to the Associated Press' All-Bowl team after helping Northwestern gain 457 yards in a 35-19 win over Auburn in the Citrus Bowl.

● Redshirt senior Demario McCall (North Ridgeville) looks to continue carving out a role in the Ohio State offense in his sixth year with the program. He's totaled 565 rushing yards, 300

receiving yards and eight touchdowns in his career while also being a weapon on special teams with 534 kick return yards, including 232 last season.

● Michael Dowell (St. Edward/North Ridgeville) played in all seven games in 2020 with two starts and 27 total tackles, ranking him second among defensive backs and fifth overall on the Michigan State defense. The redshirt junior is following in his brothers' footsteps, as Andrew (linebacker) and David (safety) were significant contributors for the Spartans.

● DeAri Todd (Clearview) transferred out of the Big Ten

and landed with FCS Montana of the Big Sky Conference. He did not see game action during his four years with Michigan State, but was named scout team defensive player of the week as a freshman and named to the All-Academic Big Ten in his last three seasons.

Keep flying

After Ashland lost its 2020 season to COVID-19, four area players are hungry to get back on the field. Senior wide receiver Logan Bolin (Midview) enters 2021 ranked eighth in program history with

125 catches, piling up 791 yards and six touchdowns in 2019. Junior Curtis Roupe (Black River) played in all 11 games in 2019, recording 48 tackles, six for loss and 2.5 sacks for All-GLIAC honorable mention. Sophomore David Renflee (Clearview) and freshman Billy Simpson (Avon Lake) will look to carve out roles at linebacker and safety, respectively.

● Five area players hope to make an impact for the Hillsdale Chargers. Junior Kyle Kudla (Avon) had a breakout year during the 2021 spring season — a result of football being delayed from the fall of 2020 — earning third-team All-GMAC honors at linebacker with 32 tackles and 1.5 sacks. Juniors Max Torbert (Avon/DL), Nick Crum (Midview/S) and Ben Gendics (Midview/WR) played sparingly in the spring, while redshirt sophomore Luke Costantino (Elyria Catholic/LB) will try to earn a spot in the rotation.



Todd

Keep flying

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Kudla

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For additions to the college notebook, please contact Chris Sweeney at 329-7135 or ctsports@chronicle.com. Follow him @CSweeneyCT on Twitter.

TRACKING THE LOCALS

NAME	COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL	POSITION	YEAR
Demario McCall	Ohio State	North Ridgeville	RB	RS/SR
Michael Dowell	Michigan State	St. Edward*	S	RS/JR
Sam Gerak	Northwestern	Avon	OL	RS/SR
Branson Taylor	Pittsburgh	Elyria Catholic	OL	RS/FR
Dustin Crum	Kent State	Midview	QB	SR
Brandon Coleman	Kent State	Columbia	LB	RS/SO
Mason Lawler	Bowling Green	St. Edward*	K/P	RS/JR
Alex Padgett	Bowling Green	Avon Lake	OL	FR
Griffin Davies	Ohio	Elyria Catholic	DE	RS/SO
Michael Bergen	Toledo	Avon	OL	RS/FR
Ryan Beckman	Akron	Avon Lake	OL	RS/FR
Tommy Lorincz	Ball State	Avon	OL	RS/FR
Jaret Frantz	Ball State	Elyria Catholic	TE	FR
DeAri Todd	Montana	Clearview	DE	RS/JR
Max Torbert	Hillsdale	Avon	DL	JR
Kyle Kudla	Hillsdale	Avon	LB	JR
Nick Crum	Hillsdale	Midview	DB	JR
Ben Gendics	Hillsdale	Midview	WR	JR
Luke Costantino	Hillsdale	Elyria Catholic	LB	RS/SO
Chris Pepe	Dayton	Avon	DE	FR
Kash Warren	Concordia	Lorain	DB	RS/SO
Logan Bolin	Ashland	Midview	WR	RS/SR
Curtis Roupe	Ashland	Black River	DT	RS/JR
David Renflee	Ashland	Clearview	LB	SO
Billy Simpson	Ashland	Avon Lake	S	FR
Carson Heidecker	Notre Dame Coll.	Columbia	OL	RS/SO
Patrick Casselberry	N.D. College	N. Ridgeville	OL	SO
Tyshaw Lighty	N.D. College	Lorain	WR	SO
David Orlando	Tiffin	Avon	P/K	JR
Matt Lee	Tiffin	Amherst	DL/OL	RS/SO
Tyshaw Nelson	Tiffin	Lorain	RB	FR
Ryan McCrum	Oberlin	Avon Lake	RB	JR
Ty Weatherspoon	Oberlin	Amherst	WR	FR
Zavier Tatum-Felder	BW	Clearview	WR/DB	SR
Jivan Meguerditchian	BW	St. Ignatius*	OL	SR
Jacob Collier	Baldwin Wallace	Clearview	WR	JR
Bailey Coleman	Baldwin Wallace	Columbia	DB	JR
Niko Pappas	Baldwin Wallace	Avon	QB	FR
Kadyn Viancourt	BW	Avon Lake	DE	FR
Sean Summers	BW	Avon Lake	DB	FR
Caden Bomback	BW	Firelands	WR	FR
Cameron Moss	John Carroll	Amherst	DB	SO
Joshua Miller	John Carroll	Elyria Catholic	LB	SO
Griffin Lidyard	John Carroll	Avon Lake	LB/FB	FR
Mason Wheeler	John Carroll	Avon Lake	RB	FR
Jake Sommers	Mount Union	Avon Lake	DB	SR
Dylan Naylor	Mount Union	Avon	RB	SO
Noah Mangan	Mount Union	Avon	WR	SO
George Hatcher	Mount Union	Clearview	DE	FR
Ndeke Tuma	Heidelberg	North Ridgeville	DL	SR
Joseph Norris III	Heidelberg	Clearview	DB	SO
Jacob Farley	Heidelberg	Amherst	QB	FR
Macky Perdue	Heidelberg	Amherst	DE	FR
Mason Argenti	Heidelberg	Clearview	LB	FR
Jon Pearl	Heidelberg	Elyria Catholic	DL	FR
Elijah Balek	Marietta	Vermilion	DB	SR
Addison Painter	Marietta	Vermilion	WR	SO
Joe Governale	Marietta	Columbia	RB	FR
Nick Laposky	Otterbein	Wellington	TE	SO
Griffin Romes	Otterbein	Avon Lake	OL	FR
Sam Clark	Otterbein	Clearview	WR	FR
Josh Moon	Otterbein	Clearview	OL	FR
Jack Valerius	Otterbein	Firelands	DE	FR
Caden Masterson	Otterbein	North Ridgeville	QB	FR
Andrew Szabo	Otterbein	St. Edward*	DL	FR
Gabriel Hirsch	Ohio Northern	Elyria Catholic	DL	SR
Tyler Breznia	Ohio Northern	Amherst	QB	FR
Donald Crawford	Ohio Northern	Firelands	RB	FR
Jacob Rich	Ohio Northern	Keystone	DL	FR
Nathan Snyder	Ohio Northern	St. Edward*	OL	FR
Mike Smith	Wooster	Lorain	LB	SO
Drake Shaw	Wooster	Vermilion	DL	FR
Nathan Fanta	Kenyon	Midview	DL	JR
Sam Thompson	Kenyon	Oberlin	DL	SO
Nate Stuart	Kenyon	St. Edward*	OL	SO
Jace Tarpley	Wittenberg	Lorain	OL	JR
R.J. Prusha	Case Western	Avon Lake	OL	JR
Andrew Smith	Case Western	Avon	WR	FR
Gage Duesler	Case Western	Avon Lake	RB	FR
Michael Stuewe	Case Western	Avon Lake	LB	FR
Nathan Cikalo	Case Western	Avon Lake	LB	FR

* — Resident of the coverage area — Compiled by Chris Sweeney

PLAYING SEASON 2 IN THE PANDEMIC

Coaches going full speed ahead

Shaun Bennett
The Chronicle-Telegram

Area high school football coaches are a year removed from arguably the toughest summer of their careers and many are excited to be starting a season that has a mostly normal feel to it.

While the coronavirus pandemic was still in its relative infancy as the 2020 conditioning and training camps began — and the season was anything but a certainty — coaching staffs have a year under their belts in dealing with the disease and feel much better equipped this time around.

“Last year at this point we didn’t even know if we were going to make it to the first game,” Elyria High coach Devlin Culliver said. “It was tough keeping the kids engaged all summer, we didn’t have any scrimmages ... for our kids to stick in there and not give up, I was proud of them.”

“Having a somewhat normal summer this year is a breath of fresh air. They’ve been working hard and I think they learned a lesson, not only the players but the coaches, too. Sometimes we take things for granted. You might hate prac-

tice, but I’d rather hate practice and have it than not have practice at all. They’ve very appreciative that they still have the opportunity to play this year.”

As practices began last August, protocols were put in place that saw players working out in pods, feverishly wiping down shared equipment and leaving footballs locked up for the bulk of the month.

In the past six months a vaccine was widely distributed and the number of coronavirus cases started to ebb.

“There’s a return of the youth camp, our golf outing, the fundraisers,” Columbia coach Jason Ward said. “Now when you can get in the weight room with all your guys ... there’s just so much more intensity.”

“You have your 7-on-7s, which you didn’t have last year and is a big part of everyone’s preseason. They took the shackles off in terms of how much we were able to get on the field and coach. You can include football-specific activities every day if you wanted to.”

While football activities have soared, the nonstop worry surrounding the pandemic has started to fade.

“I remember when this thing first started, if someone got it everyone freaked out. Now it’s kind of weird if someone gets it, it almost feels like nobody really bothers with it anymore,” Elyria Catholic coach Brian Fox said. “With everything out there and having the possibility of getting the vaccine, at least the answers are there and we know so much more about it. I wouldn’t say we’re relaxing on it but we’re sticking more toward recommendations instead of orders.”

The Panthers were hit harder than most last year and were the lone team in Lorain County to have to forfeit a playoff game due to COVID-19 issues.

Fox doesn’t expect the same problem to arise this season, as the steps to take after a positive test have become hazy.

“We used to have to contact all these people, it was a huge to-do and it was almost like an investigation with every person,” he said. “I’ve heard from other people in the area where if a kid has it (now), they spend so much time trying to reach out to find out what’s supposed to be done that the process is over before they get any real answers.”

Firelands coach Ryan O’Rourke said staying informed is his top goal and his program is ready to comply with whatever needs to be done for a safe season.

“Being in a leadership role, it’s all about getting the information from our administration or the county health department and just projecting it to the kids in a way that’s not going to be controversial,” O’Rourke said. “It’s just going to be, ‘Hey, this is what we have to do. We’re going to follow these rules so that we can play football.’”

O’Rourke said he’s been busy learning the busing mandates and trying to make sure the players are prepared for when competition begins, but not everything introduced last summer has gone away.

“There are things we’ll continue to have, such as virtual installs or certain types of practice situations,” he said. “So there is some carryover from that.”

Ward called this summer “a return to normal” as the Raiders held their team camp at Ashland University and have resumed the bulk of the pre-pandemic football activities they enjoyed.

“The pedal’s down here. We’ve been full speed ahead,” Ward said. “It was a

shock to us to get on an hour bus ride to University School (a couple weeks ago) and have to put masks on. I’m sure that was the first time for a lot of us that we had to put a mask on since the end of school, so that certainly was a shock to the system. But for the most part we’re back to the way it was.”

“Yeah, you have that delta variant in the back of your mind. I don’t know how many of our guys have been vaccinated — I think it’s a high percentage — but you still hear about somebody’s brother’s friend who got it and you worry that you’re going to lose a guy for that 10 days or whatever it is.”

Other coaches agree that normalcy is a must for players to get the most out of the high school football experience.

“Every day I just pray that the world gets back to the way it was and let the kids be kids,” Culliver said. “I can’t imagine being in high school and having to wear a mask or having to be home for a school year ... sitting separately on the bus, standing 6 feet from each other on the sideline — that’s tough on these kids.”

“It’s been hard on me and I know it’s been hard on my players.”



Clearview CLIPPERS



8/20	Parma	Away
8/27	Scott	Home
9/3	Smithville	Away
9/10	Brookside	Home

2021 Schedule

9/18	Black River	Home
9/24	Columbia	Away

10/1	Firelands	Away
10/8	Wellington	Home
10/15	Oberlin	Home
10/22	Keystone	Away

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Lorain TITANS



8/20	Olmsted Falls	Away
8/27	Sandusky	Away
9/3	Elyria	Home
9/10	Bedford	Away

2021 Schedule

9/17	Cleveland Heights	Home
9/24	Maple Heights	Home

10/1	Garfield Heights	Away
10/7	Shaker Heights	Home
10/15	Medina	Away
10/22	Shaw	Away



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SCHEDULES

Amherst Comets			
AUG 20	Home Valley Forge 7 p.m.	Home Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Riverside 7 p.m.	Away Avon Lake* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away N. Olmsted 7 p.m.	Home Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away N. Ridgeville* 7 p.m.	Away Elyria* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Midview* 7 p.m.	Home Avon* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

Avon Eagles			
AUG 20	Away Brunswick 7 p.m.	Away N. Ridgeville* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Medina 7 p.m.	Home Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Glenville 7 p.m.	Away Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Avon Lake* 7 p.m.	Home Midview* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Elyria* 7 p.m.	Away Amherst* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

Avon Lake Shoremen			
AUG 20	Home Strongsville 7 p.m.	Away Midview* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Brecksville 7 p.m.	Home Amherst* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Columbian 7 p.m.	Home Elyria* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Avon* 7 p.m.	Away Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	Home N. Ridgeville* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

Black River Pirates			
AUG 20	Away Manchester 7 p.m.	Away Brookside* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Northwestern 7 p.m.	Away Oberlin* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Cloverleaf 7 p.m.	Home Keystone* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Columbia* 7 p.m.	Away Firelands* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 18	Away Clearview* 7 p.m.	Home Wellington* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game

Brookside Cardinals			
AUG 20	Home Wickliffe 7 p.m.	Home Black River* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Cuyahoga Hts. 7 p.m.	Home Keystone* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Chagrin Falls 7 p.m.	Home Firelands* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Clearview* 7 p.m.	Away Wellington* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Columbia* 7 p.m.	Away Oberlin* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game

Clearview Clippers			
AUG 20	Away Parma 7 p.m.	Away Columbia* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Toledo Scott 7 p.m.	Away Firelands* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Smithville 7 p.m.	Home Wellington* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Brookside* 7 p.m.	Home Oberlin* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 18	Home Black River* 7 p.m.	Away Keystone* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game / Home games at George Daniel

Columbia Raiders			
AUG 20	Home Independence 7 p.m.	Home Clearview* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Vermilion 7 p.m.	Away Wellington* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Northwestern 7 p.m.	Home Oberlin* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Black River* 7 p.m.	Away Keystone* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Brookside* 7 p.m.	Away Firelands* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game

Elyria Pioneers			
AUG 20	Home Ely. Catholic 7 p.m.	Away Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Bedford 7 p.m.	Home N. Ridgeville* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Lorain 7 p.m.	Away Avon Lake* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	Home Amherst* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Avon* 7 p.m.	Away Midview* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

Elyria Catholic Panthers			
AUG 20	Away Elyria 7 p.m.	Away Fairview* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Perkins 7 p.m.	Away Westlake* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Midview 7 p.m.	Home N. Olmsted* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Holy Name* 7 p.m.	Away Bay* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Rocky River* 7 p.m.	Away GLC Final* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Great Lakes Conference game

Firelands Falcons			
AUG 20	Away Edison 7 p.m.	Home Keystone* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Rocky River 7 p.m.	Home Clearview* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Vermilion 7 p.m.	Away Brookside* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Wellington* 7 p.m.	Home Black River* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 18	Away Oberlin* 7 p.m.	Home Columbia* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game

Keystone Wildcats			
AUG 20	Away Northwestern 7 p.m.	Away Firelands* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Cloverleaf 7 p.m.	Away Brookside* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away LaBrea 7 p.m.	Away Black River* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Oberlin* 7 p.m.	Home Columbia* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Wellington* 7 p.m.	Home Clearview* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game

Lorain Titans			
AUG 20	Away Olmsted Falls 7 p.m.	Home Maple Hts.* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Sandusky 7 p.m.	Away Garfield Hts.* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Elyria 7 p.m.	Home Shaker Hts.* 7 p.m.	OCT 07
SEPT 10	Away Bedford* 7 p.m.	Away Medina 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Home Cleveland Hts.* 7 p.m.	Away Shaw* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lake Erie League game

Midview Middies			
AUG 20	Away Rocky River 7 p.m.	Home Avon Lake* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Away Strongsville 7 p.m.	Away Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Ely. Catholic 7 p.m.	Home N. Ridgeville* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	Away Avon* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Amherst* 7 p.m.	Home Elyria* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

N. Ridgeville Rangers			
AUG 20	Home N. Olmsted 7 p.m.	Home Avon* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Valley Forge 7 p.m.	Away Elyria* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 04	Away Normandy 7 p.m.	Away Midview* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Amherst* 7 p.m.	Home Ber.-Midpark* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Olm. Falls* 7 p.m.	Away Avon Lake* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Southwestern Conference game

Oberlin Phoenix			
AUG 20	Away Plymouth 7 p.m.	Home Wellington* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Lutheran East 7 p.m.	Home Black River* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Brooklyn 7 p.m.	Away Columbia* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Keystone* 7 p.m.	Away Clearview* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 18	Home Firelands* 7 p.m.	Home Brookside* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game / Home games at Oberlin College

Vermilion Sailors			
AUG 20	Home Margaretta 7 p.m.	Away Oak Harbor* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Columbia 7 p.m.	Home Port Clinton* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Away Firelands 7 p.m.	Home Huron* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Away Toledo Scott 7 p.m.	Home Edison* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Luth. West 7 p.m.	Away Willard* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Sandusky Bay Conference game

Wellington Dukes			
AUG 20	Home W. Reserve 7 p.m.	Away Oberlin* 7 p.m.	SEPT 24
AUG 27	Home Mapleton 7 p.m.	Home Columbia* 7 p.m.	OCT 01
SEPT 03	Home Columbiana 7 p.m.	Away Clearview* 7 p.m.	OCT 08
SEPT 10	Home Firelands* 7 p.m.	Home Brookside* 7 p.m.	OCT 15
SEPT 17	Away Keystone* 7 p.m.	Away Black River* 7 p.m.	OCT 22

* Lorain County League game



Avon Lake's Sam Mikolich tries to tackle Avon's Devon Eagles teammate LeCharles Bentley looks on during the Eagles' win in the regional final last season.

PLAYOFFS

Oct. 29-30

OPENING ROUND: Top 16 teams in each region face off with the top eight hosting first-round matchups — Divisions I-IV play on Friday nights and Divisions V-VII play on Saturday nights through the state semifinals. All games begin at 7 p.m.

Nov. 5-6

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS: Eight teams per region play with higher-seeded team hosting.

Nov. 12-13

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS: Four teams per region play at neutral sites.

Nov. 19-20

REGIONAL FINALS: Two teams per region play at neutral sites.

Nov. 26-27

STATE SEMIFINALS: Four teams per division play at neutral sites — rebracketing may occur before this round.

Dec. 2-4

STATE FINALS: Two teams per division play at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton — one game will be played Thursday and three on Friday and Saturday.



Avon EAGLES



8/20	Brunswick	Away
8/27	Medina	Away
9/3	Glenville	Home
9/10	Avon Lake	Home

2021 Schedule

9/17	Elyria	Away
9/24	North Ridgeville	Away

10/1	Olmsted Falls	Home
10/8	Berea-Midpark	Away
10/15	Midview	Home
10/22	Amherst	Away



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Midview MIDDIES



8/20	Rocky River	Away
8/27	Strongsville	Away
9/3	Elyria Catholic	Home
9/10	Olmsted Falls	Home

2021 Schedule

9/17	Amherst	Away
9/24	Avon Lake	Home

10/1	Berea-Midpark	Away
10/8	North Ridgeville	Home
10/15	Avon	Away
10/22	Elyria	Home



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