#### **Basketball**

North Carolina men's coach Roy Williams retires. Page C2



# Sports

WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM

# **COMMENTARY: HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL** An unforgettable season

# COVID-19 brought one-of-a-kind challenges to scheduling

ell, that was awkward. Medina County will never see another basketball season like 2020-21. COVID-19 wreaked havoc on everything from fan attendance to scheduling, leading to athletic directors, coaches and, quite frankly, us at The Gazette coming close to having mental meltdowns while trying to remain organized.

Rest assured, though, we all were thrilled beyond belief to have a season, however bizarre it may have been. There were fantastic storylines all around the county, and players were more appreciate than ever.

As usual, I tracked scores for all 48 schools in The Gazette's five-conference coverage area. The challenge of keeping accurate standings became impossible by late January, but outstanding cooperation from coaches and ADs through email filled in the holes.

There were one-of-a-kind scenarios happening everywhere, and the historian in me kept mental notes all season. The following is a recap of how the winter transpired and will no doubt raise a few eyebrows.

Without further ado, here we go ...

# **TIGERS 3, INDIANS 2**



#### ALBERT GRINDLE

#### League races

With multiple schools struggling to stay healthy, the 10-team Great Lakes Conference decided midseason to crown champions using a wrestling-style tournament. Games were supposed to be played out through first, third, fifth, seventh and ninth place.

That happened on the girls side, which included a first-round forfeit by Fairview against Holy Name that both schools counted toward their overall records. The boys, however, changed course midway through the tournament and only acknowledged the first- and third-place games, making the rest of the standings irrelevant.

• The Greater Cleveland Conference remained traditional but still had to make midseason rulings because only the Solon girls successfully played all 12 games.

The Euclid and Mentor girls ran out

of time to play their second games with Strongsville, so the GCC ruled that Medina (9-2) and the Mustangs (8-2) would be co-champions.

The boys title was clear cut, as the rest of the league conceded once undefeated Mentor took a two-game lead over Medina.

• The Lorain County League went on pause until Dec. 15, reworked the entire schedule on Dec. 10 to have members playing each other back to back and did not permit non-league games until February. Remarkably, all 16 teams completed their 14-game league schedules.

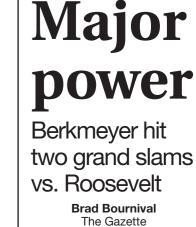
• The Metro Athletic Conference went full steam ahead with a normal schedule, and 12 of the 16 teams completed their 14-game schedules.

• With Aurora, Cuyahoga Falls, Kent Roosevelt, Tallmadge and Twinsburg going on extended pauses, the Suburban League ruled early in the season that only the first round of league games would count. That made both National Conference races tight, as North Royalton's boys beat Brecksville on the final night for a title share and Wadsworth's girls upset Stow for an eventual three-way deadlock with Nordonia.



**RON SCHWANE / GAZETTE** 

Elizabeth Stuart and the rest of Medina's girls basketball See **GRINDLE**, C4 team played a home regional semifinal against GlenOak.



SOFTBALL

When Paige Berkmeyer hit three home runs in four at-bats during a preseason game, the Highland senior shortstop knew

this season could be special. What the Illinois recruit did



Section



The Indians' Jose Ramirez loses his helmet while sliding into second base against Detroit's Jonathan Schoop.

# Opening day dud Early Cabrera homer sets the tone

#### **Noah Trister** The Associated Press

DETROIT — Miguel Cabrera hit a drive to right field, and on a snowy day at Comerica Park, it was anyone's

guess where the ball

Terry Francona lost

"It was a good

would end up.



sight of it, and Cabrera was so uncertain he went sliding into second base, in case there was a play there.

Perez

slide," Cabrera said. Of Cabrera's 488 career home runs, this one was certainly unique. His first-inning drive through the flakes was the first homer of the 2021 Major League Baseball season and sent the Detroit



TIME: 1:10 p.m. Saturday WHERE: Comerica Park PITCHERS: Zach Plesac (RHP) vs. Julio Teheran (LHP) TV/RADIO: Bally Sports Great Lakes; WTAM 1100-AM; WQKT 104.5-FM; WMMS 100.7-FM; WEOL 930-AM

Tigers over the Indians 3-2 on Thursday.

Cabrera also added a sparkling play at first base in his first time playing the field since 2019, and Matthew Boyd (1-0) beat reigning Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber.

See INDIANS, C3

# Boy, that sure looked familiar

**T**ormally when your starting pitcher strikes out 12 and combines with two relievers for a five-hitter, it's off to Dairy Delight and hot fudge sundaes for everyone.

This may not be a hot-fudge-sundae-kind-of-season for the Indians, and not because they lost on opening day to a team that two years ago lost 114 games.

Hey, that's baseball. Every once in a while, you're going to have a day when an aging, over-the-hill slugger is going to slam an opposite-field, two-run home run through a raging blizzard off a reigning Cy Young Award winner.

For the 2021 Indians, however, it may be less about the other guys and more about themselves — more about the guys who are no longer around, more



#### JIM INGRAHAM

about the guys who remain and more about the ever-widening talent gap that exists between the two.

Fewer than 24 hours after their former shortstop signed a 10-year, \$341 million contract with his new employers, his old employers watched their staff ace, in the last four innings he pitched, allow one hit while striking out seven of the 15 batters he faced.

See INGRAHAM. C3



unbelievable. Berkmeyer

Berkmeyer went 3-for-4 with nine RBIs and hit back-to-back grand slams to send softball historians racing to the state record books.

"I knew I wanted to come into this season ready to go and do the best I could because it's my senior season," Berkmeyer said. "I was not expecting that, especially not two grand slams, especially in back-to-back innings. That's crazy."

See BERKMEYER, C3

## **76ERS 114**. **CAVALIERS 94** Love returns Veteran forward

plays 20 minutes

**Rick Noland** The Gazette

CLEVELAND — Cavaliers big man Kevin Love played in his fifth game of the season, while backup guard Matthew Dellavedova saw his first regular-season action since March 10, 2020.

For the 31st time in 48 games, however, the Cavs lost, this time drop-

ping a lopsided

114-94 decision



to the Phila- Love delphia 76ers

on Thursday at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, giving Cleveland a four-game losing streak.

Love, a 13th-year pro who has experienced calf soreness throughout the season,

See CAVALIERS, C3

### **HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**



RON SCHWANE / GAZETTE

Brunswick's Marguis Barnett scored 42 points in a game against Columbia that was added to the schedule Feb. 22.

#### GRINDLE From C1

• The SL American boys race was decided cleanly, with Copley going 6-0. However, COVID at Aurora and an injury to Revere star Adison Novosel potentially cost the Highland girls a title share.

The Hornets completed their SL American schedule with a 5-1 record, while Aurora (4-0) and Revere (3-1) had yet to play each other. Aurora went into quarantine following a 51-36 non-league win over the Hornets on Jan. 30 — remember, only the first meeting counted toward the league standings — and All-Ohioan Novosel got hurt. The schools could not agree to a reschedule date before the tournament and ultimately abandoned the game. They also did not play last-place Kent Roosevelt.

#### **Boys notes**

Black River, Brunswick, Buckeye, Cloverleaf and Medina went on twoweek athletic pauses in early December when Ohio COVID-19 cases were north of 10,000 per day. Highland and Wadsworth plowed ahead without issue during that time.

• Brunswick, Highland and Wadsworth played the maximum 22 regular-season games. Brunswick added games against Fairview (Nov. 28), Walsh Jesuit (Jan. 9), Rocky River (Jan. 30), Garfield Heights (Feb. 18), Firestone (Feb. 19) and Columbia (Feb. 22), Highland added University School (Dec. 11), Wadsworth (Dec. 18), Stow (Jan. 27) and Andrews Osborne Academy (Feb. 2) and Wadsworth added Highland (Dec. 18).

Black River BOYS (3-17, 2-12)	CANCELED (Feb. 9) at Normandy CANCELED (Feb. 12) at Rocky River CANCELED (Feb. 19) VALLEY FORGE	<b>Medina</b> BOYS (18-7,7-2)	
Home 2-9, Away 1-6, Overtime 0-2           Dec. 15 (Jan. 15)         BROOKSIDE (W, 60-57)           Dec. 18 (Dec. 4)         at Brookside (W, 47-45)           Dec. 21 (Jan. 22)         at Oberlin (L, 48-68)           Dec. 23 (Dec. 11)         OBERLIN (L, 59-67)           Jan. 5 (Dec. 18)         at Columbia (L, 64-97)           Jan. 5 (Dec. 18)         at Columbia (L, 64-97)           Jan. 12 (Feb. 5)         KEYSTONE (L, 36-83)           Jan. 15 (Dec. 22)         at Keystone (L, 40-77)           Jan. 16 (Dec. 22)         at Keystone (L, 40-77)           Jan. 22 (Jan. 5)         CLEARVIEW (L, 69-77)           Jan. 29 (Jan. 8)         at Clearview (L, 44-52)           Jan. 22 (Jan. 5)         CLEARVIEW (L, 69-77)           Jan. 23 (Feb. 12, Jan. 26)         WELLINGTON (L, 78-81)           Feb. 5 (Jan. 12)         FIRELANDS (L, 51-59)           Jan. 30 (Feb. 12, Jan. 26)         WELLINGTON (L, 55-81)           Feb. 5 (Jan. 12)         FIRELANDS (L, 52-68)           Feb. 5 (Jan. 12)         FIRELANDS (L, 52-68)           Feb. 13 (added)         at Kidron Central Christian (L, 20T, 48-51)           Feb. 13 (added)         at Kidron Central Christian (L, 34-76)           CANCELED (Dec. 1)         OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN (L, 0T, 78-81)           Feb. 23 at Fairview, Division	GIRLS (7-13,4-6) Home 6-4, Away 1-8, Neutral 0-1 Nov. 21 Dec. 5 (added) Dec. 23 (Nov. 30) Jan. 6 Jan. 9 Jan. 13 Jan. 14 (Dec. 30) Jan. 14 (Dec. 30) Jan. 14 (Jan. 27) Jan. 20 Jan. 14 (Jan. 27) Jan. 20 Jan.	Home 11-5, Away 5-1, Neutral 2-1           Dec. 4 (added)         GREEN (W, 72-53)           Dec. 5 (added)         ST. IGNATIUS (L, 60-62)           Dec. 18         at Brunswick (W, 78-75)           Dec. 22         OLMSTED FALLS (W, 80-44)           Dec. 23         OLMSTED FALLS (W, 80-44)           Dec. 29         CLEVELAND HEIGHTS (W, 57-56)           Jan. 10         BRECKSVILLE (W, 85-65)           Jan. 12         at Copley (W, 76-62)           Jan. 15         MENTOR (L, 65-76)           Jan. 16         STRONGSVILLE (W, 79-72)           Jan. 17 (added)         Youngstown Chaney at Shaw (W, 65-57)           Jan. 12         SOLON (W, 79-73)           Jan. 22         SOLON (W, 79-73)           Jan. 23 (Feb. 10)         INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY (L, 56-64)           Feb. 4 (Feb. 5, Jan. 30)         at Mentor (L, 70-76)           Feb. 6 (Dec. 4, Jan. 5, Jan. 26)         atUclid (W, 68-62)           Feb. 10 (Feb. 2)         BRUNSWICK (W, 82-70)           Feb. 10 (Feb. 2)         BRUMON DHEIGHTS (L, 76-79)           Feb. 16 (added)         RICHMOND HEIGHTS (L, 76-79)           Feb. 16 (added)         RICHMOND HEIGHTS (L, 76-56)           Feb. 16 (added)         North Canton Hoover, Twinsburg Regional (W, 54-43)           March 3 </td	
Jan. 6 (Dec. 9) at Columbia (L, 49-71) Jan. 9 (Jan. 23) COLUMBIA (L, 39-57)	BOYS (8-9,7-7) Home 3-5. Away 5-4. Overtime 1-0	GIRLS (19-7,9-2)	
Dec. 16 (Jan. 13)         BROOKSIDE (W, 51-39)           Dec. 19 (Dec. 2)         at Brookside (W, 59-49)           Dec. 21 (Dec. 5)         OBERLIN (W, 65-38)           Dec. 23 (Jan. 20)         at Oberlin (W, 72-53)           Jan. 6 (Dec. 9)         at Columbia (L, 49-71)           Jan. 9 (Jan. 23)         COLUMBIA (L, 39-57)           Jan. 13 (Jan. 27)         KEYSTONE (L, 50-56)           Jan. 20 (Feb. 3)         at Clearview (L, 34-53)           Jan. 23 (Dec. 23)         CLEARVIEW (L, 44-53)           Jan. 27 (Jan. 9, Feb. 6)         FIRELANDS (L, 25-64)           Jan. 30 (Feb. 10, Feb. 3)         at Firelands (L, 39-72)           Feb. 4 (Dec. 14 at Black River)         at South Central (L, 44-49)           Feb. 5, Jan. 6, Jan. 30, Feb. 5, S)         at Brooklyn (L, 35-74)           Feb. 13 (Feb. 6, Jan. 27)         WELLINGTON (W, 47-37)           Feb. 17 at Northwestern, Division III, Northeast 4 Sectional semi (L, 29-62)         at Norwayne           CANCELED (Nov. 20)         at Norwayne         at Norwayne           CANCELED (Nov. 20)         at Mapleton         at Mapleton           CANCELED (Feb. 13)         at Loudonville         at Mapleton           CANCELED (Feb. 13)         at Loudonville         at Loudonville	Home 3-5, Away 5-4, Overtime 1-0           Nov. 27         GARRETSVILLE GARFIELD (L, OT, 51-53)           Dec. 4         RAVENNA (W, 59-45)           Dec. 19 (Dec. 15)         at Field (W, 53-39)           Dec. 30 (Dec. 8)         COVENTRY (L, 63-66)           Jan. 5 (added)         AKRON NORTH (W, 49-43)           Jan. 5 (added)         AKRON NORTH (W, 61-54)           Jan. 12         at Ravenna (W, 61-54)           Jan. 15         Coventry (W, 61-40)           Feb. 2 (Jan. 29)         FIELD (W, 57-52)           Feb. 5         at Norton (L, 30-71)           Feb. 4 (Jan. 22)         NORTON (L, 30-71)           Feb. 10         STREETSBORO (L, 38-49)           Feb. 12         STREETSBORO (L, 38-49)           Feb. 13 (Dec. 18, Jan. 20)         WODDIDGE (L, 49-58)           Feb. 19         at Springfield (W, 47-40)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (W, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (M, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (M, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (M, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (M, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)         at Streetsboro (M, 30T, 69-67)           Feb. 20 (Jan. 5)	Home 10-3, Away 8-4, Neutral 1-0           Nov. 28 (added)         at Wadsworth (L, 34-55)           Dec. 2 (added)         NORTON (L, 49-52)           Dec. 5 (Jan. 27)         at Highland (W, 51-40)           Dec. 19         HOOVER (W, 49-42)           Dec. 20 (Feb. 8)         at St. Vincent-St. Mary (W, 54-43)           Dec. 28 (added)         at Norwayne (L, 48-53)           Dec. 20 (Feb. 8)         at St. Vincent-St. Mary (W, 54-46)           Dec. 28 (added)         Toledo Christian at Rocket Mortage FieldHouse (W, 54-46)           Jan. 6         ELYRIA (W, 67-34)           Jan. 7 (Dac. 28)         Toledo Christian at Rocket Mortage FieldHouse (W, 54-46)           Jan. 14 (Nov. 24)         STRONGSVILLE (W, 48-43)           Jan. 20         at Brunswick (L, 46-53)           Jan. 30 (Dec. 5)         at Strongsville (L, 58-63)           Jan. 30 (Dec. 5)         at Strongsville (W, 53-43)           Feb. 1 (Dec. 9)         BRUNSWICK (W, 53-43)           Feb. 3 (Feb. 10)         at Elyria (W, 64-40)           Feb. 4 (Feb. 6)         SOLON (at Claggett Middle School) (W, 56-56)           Feb. 8 (Dec. 12)         at Mentor (W, 47-17)           Feb. 13         TWINSBURG, NE4 Sectional (W, 66-11)           Feb. 13         FIRESTONE, NE4 Sectional (W, 66-11)           Feb. 13	
Brunswick	CANCELED (Dec. 29) at Fairview CANCELED (Jan. 26) ROOSEVELT CANCELED (Feb. 2) at Columbia CANCELED (Feb. 9) WAYNEDALE CANCELED (Feb. 16) at Chippewa	Feb. 6 (Jan. 9, Jan. 28)         Solor (at blagget middle choine) (W, 65-56)           Feb. 8 (Dec. 12)         at Mentor (W, 47-17)           Feb. 1 (Jan. 13)         at Euclid (W, 57-33)	
BOYS (15-9,4-7) Home 10-3, Away 5-4, Neutral 0-2 Nov. 28 (added) FAIRVIEW (W. 85-56)		Feb. 13 TWINSBURG, NE4 Sectional (W, 63-19) Feb. 18 FIRESTONE, NE4 Sectional (W, 66-11)	
Home 10-3, Away 5-4, Neutral 0-2           Nov. 28 (added)         FAIRVIEW (W, 85-56)           Dec. 4 (Dec. 22)         NORMANDY (W, 73-64)           Dec. 18         MEDINA (L, 75-78)           Dec. 22 (Dec. 4, Jan. 5)         SOLON (L, 65-78)           Jan. 2 (Dec. 11)         HIGHLAND (W, 67-64)           Jan. 8         at Strongsville (W, 79-53)           Jan. 12         ELYRIA (W, 86-47)           Jan. 15         EUCLID (W, 78-57)           Jan. 16 (Jan. 17)         Archbishop Hoban at North Canton Hoover (L, 54-59)           Jan. 22         at Mentor (L, 72-90)           Jan. 23 (Nov. 27)         at Brea-Midpark (W, 68-61)           Jan. 26         at Stooln (L, 56-61)	GIRLS (13-10,9-5) Home 7-5, Away 6-5           Nov. 20 (added)         at Wadsworth (L, 7-51)           Dec. 17 (Jan. 20)         NORTON (L, 31-69)           Dec. 18 (added)         VALLEY FORGE (L, 41-52)           Dec. 28 (added)         ELLET (W, 58-50)           Dec. 28 (added)         ELLET (W, 58-50)           Dec. 28 (added)         at Field (W, 58-22)           Jan. 2 (Dec. 5)         COVENTRY (W, 57-29)           Jan. 6         at Streetsboro (W, 44-28)           Jan. 7 (added)         MAYFIELD (L, 39-54)           Jan. 9 (Dec. 16, Jan. 11)         WOODRIDGE (L, 40-44)           Jan. 2 (Jan. 13, 18)         at Ravenna (W, 49-43)	Feb. 23       MIDVIEW, NE4 District (W, 45-37)         Feb. 26       at Highland, NE4 District (W, 52-42)         March 2       GLENOAK, Medina Regional (L, 38-54)         CANCELED (Nov. 28)       ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY         CANCELED (Nov. 28, added)       at Magnificat         CANCELED (Dec. 14)       at Magnificat         CANCELED (Dec. 28)       Western Reserve Academy at Rocket Mortage FieldHouse         CANCELED (Dec. 28, added)       at Walsh Jesuit         CANCELED (Dec. 2, Jan. 25, Feb. 3)       EUCLID         CANCELED (Dec. 20, Jan. 10)       Avon at Garfield Heights	
Jan. 30 (added) at Rocky River (W, 57-54) Feb. 2 (Feb. 19) MENTOR (L, 91-97)	Jan. 28 (Jan. 9) SPRINGFIELD (W, 49-26) Jan. 30 (Jan. 4) ASHLAND (W, 45-41)	BOYS (14-9,5-2)	
CANCELED (Jan. 5) CANCELED (Jan. 5) CANCELED (Dec. 15, Jan. 30) CANCELED (Dec. 15, Jan. 30) CANCELED (Dec. 15, Jan. 30)	Dec. 29 (Dec. 28 at Rocky River)       at Padua Franciscan (W, 57-48)         Dec. 30 (Dec. 12)       at Padua Franciscan (W, 57-48)         Jan. 2 (Dec. 5)       COVENTRY (W, 57-29)         Jan. 7 (added)       MAYFIELD (L, 39-54)         Jan. 7 (added)       MAYFIELD (L, 39-54)         Jan. 25 (Jan. 13, 18)       at Ravenna (W, 49-43)         Jan. 30 (Jan. 4)       SPRINGFIELD (W, 49-26)         Jan. 30 (Jan. 4)       ASHLAND (W, 45-41)         Feb. 1       at Nortwayne (L, 22-58)         Feb. 4 (Dec. 9, Dec. 10, Jan. 18, Jan. 20)       FIELD (W, 66-36)         Feb. 5 (Jan. 23)       RAVENNA (W, 56-30)         Feb. 6 (D2, D11, J25)       RAVENNA (W, 56-30)         Feb. 12 (Jan. 27)       at Woordridge (L, 50-53)         Feb. 12 (Jan. 70)       at Woordridge (L, 50-53)         Feb. 12 (Jan. 30)       at Kent Roosevelt         CANCELED (Nov. 24)       at Korth Royalton         CANCELED (Jan. 30)       at Kent Roosevelt         CANCELED (Jan. 30)       at Rittman	Home 7-3, Away 6-6, Neutral 1-0, Overtime 2-0           Dec. 4         at Nordonia (L, 49-62)           Dec. 8         at Stow (W, 67-63)           Dec. 15         NORTH ROYALTON (W, 52-51)           Dec. 19 (added)         at Firestone (W, 79-49)           Dec. 22         at Coventry (W, 68-56)           Dec. 30         DELAWARE HAYES (W, 0T, 44-42)           Jan. 5         at Brecksville (L, 46-52)           Jan. 5         at Brunswick (L, 71-82)           Jan. 12 (non-league)         NORDONIA (W, 56-54)           Jan. 26 (added)         At Brunswick (L, 71-82)           Jan. 26 (added)         At Rornswick (L, 71-82)           Jan. 29 (non-league)         at North Royalton (W, 62-51)           Jan. 29 (non-league)         at North Royalton (W, 62-51)           Jan. 29 (non-league)         at North Royalton (W, 62-51)           Feb. 1 (Jan. 30)         Kenmore-Garfield at Ellet (W, 80-26)           Feb. 2 (added)         at Barberton (W, 62-50)           Feb. 1 (Jen. 16, snow)         HUNSBURG (W, 0T, 50-49)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         BRECKSVILLE (L, 59-69)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         TWINSBURG (W, 0T, 50-49)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         TWINSBURG (W, 0T, 50-49)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         BRECKSVILLE (L, 53-50	
CANCELED (Feb. 17 added) TUSLAW	BOYS (12-11,4-2) Home 6-4, Away 6-5, Overtime 1-0 Nov. 28 at Massillon Perry (L, 61-76)	Feb. 1 (Jan. 30) Kenmore-Garfield at Ellet (W, 80-26) Feb. 2 (added) STRONGSVILLE (L, 59-69)	
GIRLS (12-11, 7-4) Home 8-6, Away 4-5           Nov. 24 (Jan. 23) Nov. 28 (added)         PERRY (L, 51-70) PERRY (L, 51-70)           Dec. 19         at Strongsville (L, 49-89)           Nov. 28 (added)         PERRY (L, 51-70)           Dec. 29         at Elria (W, 66-37)           Dec. 20         HIGHLAND (L, 49-55)           Dec. 28         at Wooster (W, 71-46)           Jan. 6 (Nov. 27)         at Berea-Midpark (L, 42-54)           Jan. 10         at Berecksville (W, 56-33)           Jan. 13 (Feb. 3)         EUCLID (W, 72-34)           Jan. 13 (Feb. 3)         EUCLID (W, 72-34)           Jan. 18 (Jan. 6)         NORTH RIDGEVILLE (L, 59-68)           Jan. 23 (Dec. 12)         STRONGSVILLE (L, 59-63)           Jan. 23 (Dec. 12)         STRONGSVILLE (L, 53-49)           Jan. 25 (Dec. 12)         STRONGSVILLE (L, 49-71)           Jan. 26 (Dec. 12)         STRONGSVILLE (L, 43-53)           Jan. 27 (Dec. 14 at Midview)         MIDVIEW (W, 42-31)           Jan. 30 (added)         at Copley (L, 33-34)           Feb. 1 (Dec. 9)         at Meina (L, 43-53)           Feb. 5 (Jan. 13)         SOLON (L, 50-71)           Feb. 6 (Jan. 27, Feb. 15)         ELYRIA (W, 71-59)           Feb. 10         NORTH ROYALTON (W, 66-36)           Feb. 1	BOYS (12-11,4-2) Home 6-4, Away 6-5, Overtime 1-0           Nov. 28         at Massillon Perry (L, 61-76)           Dec. 5 (Dec. 1)         at Barberton (W, 64-63)           Dec. 11 (added)         at University School (L, 48-52)           Dec. 18 (added)         WADSWORTH (W, 57-48)           Dec. 28         WOODRIDGE (W, 56-35)           Dec. 20         NORBONIA (W, 49-44)           Dec. 20         NORDONIA (W, 49-44)           Dec. 21         NORDONIA (W, 49-44)           Dec. 22         NORDONIA (W, 49-44)           Dec. 23         WOODRIDGE (W, 56-35)           Jan. 5         at Buckeye (W, 62-55)           Jan. 5         at Talimadge (W, 50-42)           Jan. 5         at Talimadge (W, 50-42)           Jan. 12         at Kent Roosevelt (W, 48-35)           Jan. 12 (non-league)         BARBERTON (L, 55-59)           Jan. 13 (non-league, Dec. 4)         ROOSEVELT (W, 43-41)           Jan. 27 (added)         ANDREWS OSBORNE ACADEMY (W, 53-42)           Feb. 5         at Hudson (W, 07, 50-48)           Feb. 5         at Hudsow (W, 33-30)           Feb. 12         COPLEY (L, 53-57)           Feb. 13 (non-league, Dec. 15)         at Aurora (W, 33-30)           Feb. 19 (non-league, Dec. 15)         at Aurora (W, 33-30) <td>Feb. 5 (added)         at Barberton (W, 62-50)           Feb. 9 (added)         at Talimadge (L, 35-55)           Feb. 12         TWINSBURG (W, 07, 50-49)           Feb. 17 (Feb. 16, snow)         HIGHLAND (W, 54-38)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         BRECKSVILLE (L, 33-50)           Feb. 27         at Amherst, Division I, Northeast 6 Sectional final (L, 52-63)           CANCELED (Dec. 1, snow)         at Hudson           CANCELED (Dec. 18)         at Trinsburg           CANCELED (Dec. 18)         at Firestone           CANCELED (Feb. 1, added)         at Ellet           CANCELED (Feb. 2)         AKRON NORTH  </td>	Feb. 5 (added)         at Barberton (W, 62-50)           Feb. 9 (added)         at Talimadge (L, 35-55)           Feb. 12         TWINSBURG (W, 07, 50-49)           Feb. 17 (Feb. 16, snow)         HIGHLAND (W, 54-38)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         BRECKSVILLE (L, 33-50)           Feb. 27         at Amherst, Division I, Northeast 6 Sectional final (L, 52-63)           CANCELED (Dec. 1, snow)         at Hudson           CANCELED (Dec. 18)         at Trinsburg           CANCELED (Dec. 18)         at Firestone           CANCELED (Feb. 1, added)         at Ellet           CANCELED (Feb. 2)         AKRON NORTH	
Jan. 16 NORTH RIDGEVILLE (L, 59-68) Jan. 18 (Jan. 6) at Euclid (W, 49-37)	Jan. 15 (non-league)         at Revere (L, 42-47)           Jan. 23 (non-league, Dec. 4)         ROOSEVELT (W, 43-41)	GIRLS (14-7,6-1) Home 9-3 Away 5-3 Neutral 0-1 Ovortime 0-1	
Jan. 23 (Dec. 12)         MEDINA (W, 53-40)           Jan. 23 (Dec. 12)         STRONGSVILLE (L, 49-71)           Jan. 25 (Dec. 2)         at Solon (W, 53-49)           Jan. 27 (Dec. 14 at Midview)         MIDVIEW (W, 42-31)           Jan. 30 (added)         at Copley (L, 33-34)           Feb. 1 (Dec. 9)         at Medina (L, 43-53)           Feb. 3 (Jan. 13)         SOLON (L, 50-71)           Feb. 8 (added)         FAIRVIEW (W, 55-26)           Feb. 10         NORTH ROYALTON (W, 66-36)           Feb. 13         MIDVIEW Division I. NoRTH ROYALTON (W, 66-36)	Jan. 27 (added)         at Stow (L, 31-39)           Jan. 29         AURORA (L, 37-40)           Feb. 2 (added)         ANDREWS OSBORNE ACADEMY (W, 53-42)           Feb. 5         at Aurora (W, 33-30)           Feb. 6 (non-league, Dec. 15)         at Aurora (W, 33-30)           Feb. 12         COPLEY (L, 53-57)           Feb. 19 (non-league)         TALLMADGE (L, 45-51)           Feb. 2 (ANCELED (Dec. 18)         CANCELED (Dec. 18)	GIRLS (14-7,6-1)           Home 9-3, Away 5-3, Neutral 0-1, Overtime 0-1           Nov. 20 (added)         CLOVERLEAF (W, 51-7)           Nov. 28 (added)         MEDINA (W, 55-34)           Dec. 9 (added)         at Hudson (W, 50-31)           Dec. 9 (added)         at Gilmour Academy (W, 51-39)           Dec. 9 (added)         at Gilmour Academy (W, 51-39)           Dec. 12 (Nov. 20)         NORTON (L, 30-41)           Dec. 16 (added)         ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY (L, 45-54)           Dec. 29         UNIONTOWN LAKE (W, 46-37)           Dec. 30         MAGNIFICAT (L, 31-49)           Jan. 16 (added)         at Nordenia (L, 07, 39-45)           Jan. 16 (added)         at Nordenia (L, 07, 39-45)           Jan. 23         at Nordenia (L, 07, 39-45)           Jan. 23         at Nordenia (L, 07, 39-45)           Jan. 20 (non-league)         at North Royation (W, 41-25)           Feb. 1         STOW (W, 35-34)	
CANCELED (Nov. 23) at Parma CANCELED (Nov. 28, added) at Avon	CANCELED (Jan. 19) AKRON NORTH CANCELED (Jan. 26) at Wooster CANCELED (Feb. 2) FIRFI ANDS	Jan. 18 Laurel at Berlin Hiland <b>(L, 26-69)</b> Jan. 21 (Dec. 5) at Nordonia <b>(L, 07, 39-45)</b>	
CANCELED (Nov. 28, added) at Parma CANCELED (Nov. 28, added) at Avon CANCELED (Dec. 5, added) at Norton CANCELED (Dec. 30, added) LAKEWOOD CANCELED (Dec. 30, added) ta Westlake CANCELED (Jan. 2, added) ta Westlake CANCELED (Jan. 30) KEYSTONE	GIRLS (18-6,5-1) Home 9-5, Away 8-1, Neutral 1-0 Nov. 21 Ashland at Rittman (W, 67-30)	Jan. 23         at Buchtel (W, 43-35)           Jan. 27         at Cuyahoga Falls (W, 43-29)           Jan. 30 (non-league)         at North Royalton (W, 41-25)           Eab 1         STOW (W, 35-34)	

Firestone (Dec. 19), Aurora (Jan. 26), Strongsville (Feb. 2), Barberton (Feb. 5) and Tallmadge (Feb. 9).

• Due to all of the shuffling, Brunswick finished with nine canceled games from the original schedule. Medina had eight, followed by Buckeye (7), Black River (5), Cloverleaf (5), Wadsworth (5) and Highland (4).

 Medina's game at Euclid originally scheduled for Dec. 4 also was postponed on Jan. 5 and Jan. 26. The game was finally played on Feb. 8. However, the Bees' home game against Euclid originally scheduled for Jan. 26 was postponed on Jan. 30 and Feb. 16 before being abandoned.

• Corey Tripp's dunk that was SportsCenter's top play of Feb. 16 could have never happened. The Bees had picked up Andrews Osborne Academy to play that night, but AOA canceled 48 hours prior to tipoff because it did not have enough healthy players to field a team. Medina then scrambled to get Avon into town.

• Creative scheduling and the OHSAA allowing home tournament games through the district finals resulted in Medina playing a whopping 16 in Richard H. Clevidence Gymnasium.

• We at The Gazette did not know about the Wadsworth vs. Kenmore-Garfield game at Ellet on Feb. 1 until Grizzlies coach Mike Moser texted me at 7:17 a.m. on Feb. 19 to point out that the record that appeared in the Highland-Wadsworth game story was incorrect. It was the only county game of the season - boys or girls that was not acknowledged on record, so the box score accompanies this story

 Cloverleaf had never played fewer than 19 games in a season but only pulled off 17 this winter due partially to a COVID-19 case with a junior varsity player. Buckeye (19 games) had its shortest season since 1976-77 (18) and Black River (20) since 1978-79 (19).

 North Royalton and Valley Forge were forced to vacate their tournament openers due to COVID-19. Curiously, the OHSAA deleted the schools from the official brackets instead of acknowledging the situation.

	CAINCELED (Jan. 30)	KEISIONE	Nov. 21	Ashland at Rittman (W, 67-30)	Feb. I	510W (W, 33-34)
	CANCELED (Jan. 30 added)	ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY	Nov. 28	NORDONIA (L, 48-55)	Feb. 3	TWINSBURG (W, 57-35)
	CANCELED (Dec. 16, Feb. 8)	AVON LAKE	Dec. 2	at Barberton (W, 57-21)	Feb. 5	BRECKSVILLE (W, 62-29)
	CANCELED (Feb. 6, Feb. 16)	at Mentor	Dec. 3 (added)	HOLY NAME (W, 65-23)	Feb. 13 NORTH ROYALTON.	Division I, Northeast 5 Sectional (W, 44-21)
	( , ,					HEIGHTS, Northeast 5 Sectional (W, 68-39)
			Dec. 5 (Jan 27)	MEDINA (L, 40-51)	Feb. 23	at Avon, Northeast 5 District (L, 31-39)
	Buckeye		Dec. 9	REVERE (W, 59-52)	CANCELED (Nov. 28)	WESTLAKE
	Buonoyo		Dec. 19 (added)	WALSH JESUIT (W, 40-24)	CANCELED (Dec. 9)	at Stow
	BOYS (9-10,7-5)		Dec. 23	at Brunswick (W, 55-49)	CANCELED (Dec. 3)	CUYAHOGA FALLS
	Home 5-7, Away 4-3, Overtime 1-1		Jan. 4 (Dec. 5)	ROOSEVELT (W, 61-25)		
	Nov. 25	at Rittman (W, OT, 69-61)	Jan. 6 `	at Tallmadge (W, 61-35)	CANCELED (Dec. 19)	at Twinsburg
	Dec. 18	HOLY NAME (W, 74-67)	Jan. 14 (Dec. 30)	at Buckeye (W, 69-28)	CANCELED (Dec. 23)	TRINITY
	Dec. 22 (Dec. 11)	at Elyria Catholic (W, 55-45)	Jan. 16 (non-league)	at Revere (W, 50-47)	CANCELED (Jan. 6)	at Brecksville
	Dec. 30	HIGHLAND (L, 55-62)	Jan. 20 (Dec. 16)	at Aurora (L, 50-56)	CANCELED (Jan. 9)	HUDSON
		nightAnd (L, 33-62)	Jan. 23	TWINSBURG (W, 57-31)	CANCELED (Jan. 13)	NORDONIA
	Jan. 5	at Parma (W, 75-50)			CANCELED (Feb. 10)	at Solon
	Jan. 8	NORMANDY (L, 41-53)	Jan. 25 (Jan. 11)	NORTON (L, 46-51)		
	Jan. 12	ROCKY RIVER (W, 46-43)	Jan. 30 (non-league)	AURORA (L, 36-51)		
	Jan. 15	at Valley Forge (W, 57-54)	Feb. 3	COPLEY (W, 34-24)	Wadsworth 80	, Kenmore-Garfield 26
	Jan. 19	at Bay (L, 56-65)	Feb. 6 (added)	at Midview (W, 65-48)		
	Jan. 22	at Fairview (L, 58-74)	Feb. 8 (Dec. 18, non-league)	at Copley (W, 45-29)	Monday, Feb. 1, 2021	
	Jan. 26	ELYRIA CATHOLIC (W, 52-39)	Feb. 9 (added)	at Westlake (W, 35-31)	At Ellet	
	Jan. 29	LAKEWOOD (W, 67-62)	Feb. 13 (added)	MASSILLON PERRY (W, 54-43)	WADSWORTH	20 16 27 17 - 80
,	Feb. 2	at Holy Name (L, 53-58)	Feb. 18 LAKEWOOD, E	Division I, Northeast 4 Sectional (W, 62-37)	KENMORE-GARFIELD	6 7 8 5 - 26
	Feb. 5	PARMA (L, 44-45)	Feb. 23 ST. JOSEPH	ACADEMY, Northeast 4 District (W, 45-42)	Wadsworth - Maxx Bosley	/ 3-1-8, Connor Sams 8-2-20, Owen Simmons
		IE, GLCT guarterfinal (L, 30T, 71-78)	Feb. 26	MEDINA, Northeast 4 District (L, 42-52)		mon Callaghan 4-1-12, Scott Dallas 2-0-6, Alex
		CT consolation quarterfinal (L, 39-54)	CANCELED (Nov. 23)	at Bedford		Caden Madigan 0-0-0, Brendan Donnelly 3-1-8,
		FORGE, GLCT consolation (L, 55-61)	CANCELED (Nov. 24)	LUTHERAN WEST		ak 0-1-1, Davis Nye 1-1-3. TOTALS: 30-7-80.
		n II, Northeast 3 Sectional (W, 49-44)	CANCELED (Dec. 20)	STRONGSVILLE		mpson 0-1-1, Rashoun Smith-Branch 1-0-2,
				at Mansfield Madison		
		RIDGE, Northeast 3 District (L, 49-62)	CANCELED (Dec. 29)			2-0-4, Sanders 1-1-3, Edwards 0-0-0, Burton
	CANCELED (Dec. 4)	BAY	CANCELED (Jan. 9)	BARBERTON		I-0-2, Miller 2-1-5. TOTALS: 11-3-26.
	CANCELED (Dec. 8)	FAIRVIEW	CANCELED (Jan. 13)	at Kent Roosevelt		an 3, Sams 2, Link 2, Risher 2, Dallas 2,
	CANCELED (Dec. 15)	at Lakewood	CANCELED (Jan. 27, added)	at Vermilion	Donnelly, Bosley, Haughn. R	ebounds — Wadsworth 26 (Nye 7). Assists
	CANCELED (Dec. 23)	at Keystone	CANCELED (Feb. 6, non-leagu	e) TALLMADGE	<ul> <li>Wadsworth 25 (Link 5). Re</li> </ul>	cord – Wadsworth (11-5).
	. ,		0		( )	. ,

 Streetsboro endured two quarantines (Dec. 30-Jan. 14 and Jan. 24-Feb. 8) while chasing Norton in the MAC. The Rockets played eight games in 11 days, culminating with a triple-overtime loss to Cloverleaf. They won the first four to play Norton for a share of first place on Feb. 17 but lost 53-43.

• Woodridge went on quarantine from Dec. 9-27, lost to Springfield in overtime on Jan. 5 and went on quarantine again from Jan. 6-21. One of the games postponed was Coventry, so the Comets rescheduled other games to fill the void. The problem was the Comets had played the maximum 22 regular-season games before Woodridge could be rescheduled — it also was snowed out Feb. 15 — so the game was abandoned and both teams finished with 13 league games.

• Wellington played 11 of its 16 games after Jan. 26.

 Along with the three county schools, Coventry, Field, Springfield and Nordonia played the maximum 22 regular-season games.

• The schools with the fewest games, including the postseason, were Elyria (14), Lakewood (15), Solon (15), Roosevelt (16), Tallmadge (16) and Wellington (16).

 Solon did not begin the season until Dec. 19 and was forced into quarantine three times (Jan. 9-21, Jan. 28-Feb. 11, Feb. 14-26). The Comets played only six GCC games and had 14 total that were canceled, yet they advanced to the district finals.

#### **Girls notes**

Black River was the only county school to play after the tournament. The Pirates made up their LCL game at Wellington on Feb. 20 after postponements on Jan. 6, Jan. 30 and Feb. 15.

 Cloverleaf had its originally scheduled season opener with North Royalton postponed — it was ultimately canceled - and lost at Wadsworth 51-7 (yes, 7) in a replacement game. The Colts then went on a full athletic pause and didn't play again until Dec. 17, a 69-31 loss to Norton.

 Cloverleaf then had a COVID-19 case and was idle again from Jan. 10-24. The Colts returned with a 49-43 win over Ravenna and followed with 10 games in 15 days to complete the maximum 22 regular-season games. Included were four MAC games on consecutive nights.

 Brunswick and Medina also played the maximum 22 regular-season games. Interestingly, the Blue Devils added eight games to the original schedule, but only three were played. Brunswick got to 22 in large part by rescheduling nonleague games.

• Highland was the only county team to not go into COVID quarantine or a school-wise pause. The Hornets added games against Holy Name (Dec. 3), Walsh Jesuit (Dec. 19), Midview (Feb. 6), Westlake (Feb. 9) and Massillon Perry (Feb. 13) to get to 21 regular-season games and were willing to play another but couldn't find an opponent before their Feb. 18 sectional opener.

 Medina jumped through hoops just to start the season. The Bees were originally scheduled to play St. Joseph Academy on Nov. 28, then picked up Aurora as a replacement. The Greenmen decided to go on pause until January, so Medina agreed to play Wadsworth instead.

• Due to all the shuffling, Brunswick and Wadsworth each finished with nine canceled games from the original schedule. Buckeye, Highland and Medina each had eight, followed by Black River (5) and Cloverleaf (3).

• Black River (18 games) played its shortest season since 1975-76 (16). The same went for Wadsworth (21 this winter, 13 in 1975-76), while Buckeye (20) had its shortest since 1982-83 (19).

 Girls schedules were impacted far more by COVID than boys. Cases in point: The schools with the fewest games, including the postseason, were Euclid (10), Kent Roosevelt (11), Aurora (12), Barberton (13), Tallmadge (14), Valley Forge (15), Mentor (15), Oberlin (15), Brookside (15) and Wellington (15). The latter three didn't bother adding non-league games late in the season and scored a combined 49 points (16.3 average) while losing their sectional openers.

 Medina played Solon at Claggett Middle School on Feb. 4 because Richard H. Glevidence Gymnasium was being used to administer COVID-19 vaccines to county teachers.

 Wadsworth's game at Gilmour Academy on Dec. 9 was a classic case of timing. Lancers coach Julie Solis texted the Grizzlies' Andrew Booth asking to join an email chain circulating among Northeast Ohio coaches who were looking for games. Instead of answering the question directly, Booth texted back (paraphrasing here) with, "That's OK, we'll be at your place. What time?"

• Along with the three county schools, Norton and Stow played all 22 regular-season games.

• Field's COVID-19 situation popped up following a 35-33 loss to Coventry on Feb. 11. The final rescheduled MAC game, Feb. 13 at Streetsboro, was subsequently abandoned, making both schools the only ones to not play all 14 MAC games.

• Field and Valley Forge vacated their tournament openers due to COVID-19 quarantines. They do not officially count toward overall records.

• Euclid did not begin its season until Jan. 13. The Panthers' game at Medina was originally scheduled for Dec. 2 and was postponed Jan. 25 and Feb. 3 before being abandoned.

• Rocky River had 11 originally scheduled games canceled and three other additions wiped for a total of 14. The GLC champion still got to play 19, however, thanks to an added game at Revere on Jan. 4 and three GLC Tournament games.

 Wellington had two quarantines and scrambled in February to complete the LCL schedule. Games at home against Black River and at Firelands were rescheduled a total of six times, including five after Jan. 23, before being played after the tournament on Feb. 20 and 22

Contact Albert Grindle at (330) 721-4043 or agrindle@medina-gazette.com.



Announce your 'Big Event' on our Milestone's page Engagement • Wedding • Anniversary • Retirement • Birth • Graduation visit www.medina-gazette.com/milestones or call Patti Willett at 330-721-4006