



# BLACK RIVER PIRATES



**Two-way lineman  
Travis Owen**

## HISTORY LESSON

**All-time record:** 333-285-8.  
**Record vs. current county teams:** 19-26-2.  
**Record vs. all county teams:** 19-32-2.  
**Coaches, records:** Larry Marker (1958) 4-4-1; Ron Mack (1959) 1-6-1; Jack Purtell (1960-1962) 1-21-3; Pat Gallagher (1963-64) 0-17-1; Dan Jordan (1965) 0-8; Ron Weaver (1966-70) 7-38; Dave Ring (1971-72) 8-10; Terry Forbes (1973-76) 25-11; Dennis Steinback (1977) 10-0; Thane Hecox (1978-80) 11-19; Gary Wasielewski (1981-83) 12-16-2; Matt Stoll (1984-89) 46-16; Al Young (1990-2018) 198-109; Kyle Clark (2019-present) 10-10.  
**Best seasons:** 1985 — 11-1 (D-V regional finals), 1977 — 10-0 (Class A AP poll champion), 1989 — 10-0.  
**Worst seasons:** 1963, 1966, 1969 — 0-9.  
**Best 10-year period:** 1989-98 — 83-19-0 (.814).  
**Worst 10-year period:** 1960-69 — 5-78-4 (.057) (52-game winless streak from 1961-67).  
**Most points in a game:** 73 vs. Firelands, 2013.  
**Most points allowed in game:** 66, 1964 vs. Northwestern.  
**Biggest margin of victory:** 69-0, 1976 vs. Crestview.  
**Biggest margin of defeat:** 62-0, 1964 vs. Firelands.  
**Most common opponent:** Western Reserve (50 games, 29 wins).  
**Who they own:** 9-1-2 vs. Highland.  
**Who owns them:** 2-12 vs. Edison.  
**Conferences:** Lorain County League 2019-present (championships — none); Patriot Athletic Conference, Stars Division 2005-19 (championships — 2013, 2012, 2010); Mohican Area Conference 1993-2003 (championships — 2002, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1994); Firelands Conference 1964-92 (championships — 1992, 1990, 1989, 1986, 1985, 1977); Inland Conference 1962-63 (championships — none); North Central Conference 1958-61 (championships — none).

# The doctor is in

## Owen a rare breed of physical gifts, elite intelligence

Rick Noland  
The Gazette

He's been a starting offensive lineman since he was a freshman and also has compiled 17 tackles for loss over his stellar high school career.

He placed eighth in the 285-pound weight class at the Division III state wrestling tournament as a junior while finishing with a 26-5 record.

He's 6-foot-2, 265 pounds and owns a 330-pound bench press, 440-pound squat and 250-pound power clean, yet possesses enough endurance to run half-marathons with his mother Lisa.

He scored a 33 on the ACT, is ranked No. 1 in his class academically, will take college courses in English literature, microeconomics and ancient history during the fall semester — he's already finished calculus — and hopes to get admitted to Johns Hopkins University and become a doctor.

Meet 17-year-old Black River senior Travis Owen, who will start somewhere — and probably play everywhere — for the Pirates on the offensive line while once again doubling as a defensive end.

“He's a genius,” senior wingback/linebacker Brandon Rollin said. “If there's a new kid coming in that has a question, he knows every position on the line.”

Arguably the best returning player in Medina County not to be first-team All-Gazette in 2020, Owen started at

offensive tackle for Black River as a freshman and added defense to his now lengthy resume the next season.

Strong, quick and durable, Owen has compiled 58 tackles, 16 1/2 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries over the last two seasons, including 34 tackles, eight TFLs, a forced fumble and two recoveries as a junior.

On the offensive side, he's cleared -- and will continue to clear -- numerous holes for star running back Joe McKean. Whether Owen will do so at center, guard or tackle will depend on where the Pirates need him.

“He's the strongest kid on our football team, but for him being as big as he is, his endurance is second to none,” Black River coach Kyle Clark said. “The kid can run all day.”

“You can put him anywhere and in a day or two he has it down pat. Then he coaches the guys next to him. That makes every coach's life a lot easier.”

If he gets admitted to Johns Hopkins, the humble and thoughtful Owen might eventually wrestle, but only if he has a firm grasp on his academics.

“I prefer to put my studies first, but if I can also play on a team, that would be cool,” he said. “I don't think there's a sport that gets you better conditioned than wrestling. Maybe cross country, but you don't have the resistance you do in wrestling. It's a lot of balance and getting in the right position.”

“The thing I like about football the

most is when you're rallying with your team. In wrestling there's push and pull within a match, but you don't feel it as much as you do with your whole team. That's my favorite part. That feeling when you know things are going well and you can switch the momentum, that's a great feeling.”

The Pirates managed to flip that switch last season, finishing 5-5 despite starting 0-3. The goal this year is to be ready from the opening kickoff.

“At the beginning (of last year), we were not ready,” Owen said. “We're more ready than we were last year. A lot of our focus has been on that. We seemed to be slow ramping up, so we've emphasized coming out strong in our first game.”

“If we can put a good offensive line together, I feel like we can do leaps better than we did last year. I can see us going 9-1, maybe. I'm really excited, honestly. I can tell that with the off-season we've had and all the work we've put in building on what was already done last year, things are looking great.”

Though he plays with passion, Owen prides himself on maintaining his poise on the field. He learned that from parents Jeff and Lisa, Black River graduates who did not attend college but taught him the importance of always using his head.

“I do not play mad,” Owen said. “I try to keep a level head. I feel like any time you see people getting mad on the field, it never ends well.”

That's especially true on the offensive line, where Black River moved people around throughout the pre-season in an attempt to find the right fit. Regardless of who ends up playing where, Owen will be the constant.

“I don't think anybody is going to get past him,” Rollin said.

Defensively, Owen will again make more than his share of plays while sometimes moving from end to nose tackle, but he'll also draw so many double teams that it will make things easier for teammates.

“He picks up a lot of attention on my blitzes, which is really nice,” Rollin said. “He's a wall and takes everyone with him. It gives me a pretty good gap to get a sack or tackle for loss.”

When his high school football career ends, Owen will resume his pursuit of a state wrestling title, then graduate and head off to Johns Hopkins or some other prestigious college, where Clark has no doubt his senior will be successful in his pursuit of a medical degree.

“You can not only teach him X's and O's, you can teach him concepts and he relays them to teammates,” Clark said. “The only thing is, him being so smart, you have to watch what you say because sometimes he's thinking one step ahead of you.”

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## STARTING LINEUP

Offense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Andon O'Neal	5-9	140	sr.
RB	Joseph McKean	5-10	180	sr.
RB	Brandon Rollin	5-9	170	sr.
WR	Tyler Mrakuzic	5-11	154	jr.
WR	Nathan Urbas	6-0	180	jr.
TE	Eric Groesser	6-0	190	sr.
LT	Ryan Graves	6-1	215	fr.
LG	Billy Blichka	5-11	180	sr.
C	Travis Owen	6-2	265	sr.
RG	Shane Zacharyasz	5-10	188	sr.
RT	Nick Krymowski	6-5	270	jr.
K	Eric Groesser	6-0	190	sr.
KR	Joseph McKean	5-10	180	sr.
KR	Tyler Mrakuzic	5-11	154	jr.

Defense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
E	Billy Blichka	5-11	180	sr.
T	Shayne Davis	5-8	180	jr.
E	Travis Owen	6-2	265	sr.
OLB	Charlie Wells	5-8	190	jr.
ILB	Brandon Rollin	5-9	170	sr.
ILB	Blake Hopkins	5-9	150	sr.
OLB	Joseph McKean	5-10	180	sr.
CB	Nathan Urbas	6-0	180	jr.
CB	Braylon O'Neal	5-10	173	so.
FS	Treyce Wood	5-11	166	sr.
SS	Tyler Mrakuzic	5-11	154	jr.
P	Eric Groesser	6-0	190	sr.
PR	Tyler Mrakuzic	5-11	154	jr.
PR	Andon O'Neal	5-9	140	sr.

## ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Johnny Kray	WR/DB	5-11	125	so.
2	Tyler Mrakuzic	WR/DB	5-11	154	jr.
3	Alex Sotherland	WR/DB	5-9	143	jr.
4	Shane Zacharyasz	RB/LB	5-10	188	sr.
5	Eric Groesser	QB/LB/K	6-0	190	sr.
6	Braylon O'Neal	WR/DB	5-10	173	so.
7	Nathan Urbas	WR/DB	6-0	180	jr.
8	Kenny Boggs	WR/DB	6-0	190	jr.
9	Andon O'Neal	QB/DB	5-9	140	sr.
10	Scottie Wisieski	WR/DB	5-7	134	sr.
11	Tyler Moody	WR/DB	5-8	145	sr.
12	Treyce Wood	WR/DB	5-11	166	sr.
16	August Brodeur	TE/LB	5-10	160	sr.
17	Joe Dennis	WR/DB	5-2	110	jr.
20	Justin Moody	FB/LB	5-8	160	so.
22	Ridge Barrin	WR/DB	5-7	116	so.
28	Charlie Wells	RB/LB	5-8	190	jr.
30	Joseph McKean	RB/LB	5-10	180	sr.
34	Blake Hopkins	RB/LB	5-9	150	sr.
36	Brandon Rollin	RB/LB	5-9	170	sr.
57	Shayne Davis	OL/LB	5-8	180	jr.
58	Caison Conrad	OL/LB	5-8	225	jr.
60	Blake Bargar	WR/DB	5-8	190	sr.
62	Steven Clark	OL/DL	5-11	148	so.
64	Austin Foster	OL/DL	5-3	173	so.
66	Cooper McKean	OL/DL	5-8	215	so.
70	Nick Krymowski	OL/DL	6-5	270	jr.
72	Lukas Foster	OL/DL	5-11	191	sr.
73	Travis Owen	OL/DL	6-2	265	sr.
75	Ryan Graves	OL/DL	6-1	215	fr.
77	Billy Blichka	OL/DL	5-11	180	sr.
83	Johnathan McKean	TE/DL	5-10	165	so.
84	Kenny Fruth	WR/LB	5-11	180	sr.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 4** Field goals by Eric Groesser as a freshman, which remarkably is only one off the Black River career record set by Dave Savick from 1984-85.
- 28** Combined tackles for loss for returning linebackers Brandon Rollin (12½), Joseph McKean (11), Blake Hopkins (3½) and Charlie Wells (1) last last season.
- 32** Number of players grades 10-12, the fewest in many years.
- 217.1** Rushing yards per game in 2020, Black River's lowest average since 2008.
- 1,901** Career rushing yards for McKean, including a Medina County-leading 1,196 last season. The senior needs 414 to crack the school's top 10.

## SEASON OUTLOOK

**COACH:** Kyle Clark. Age: 35. College: Ashland ('08). Overall record: 10-10 (3rd season).

**ASSISTANTS:** Tyler Dennis (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks), Chad McKean (wide receivers/defensive line), Aaron Munyan (running backs/linebackers), Justin Baker (offensive line/linebackers), Doug Scheck (wide receivers/defensive backs).

**DIVISION:** VI, Region 22 (enrollment: 150 boys).

**LEAGUE:** Lorain County League (since 2019, 0 titles).

**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES:** 1985 (D-IV regional runner-up), 1996 (D-V first round), 1997 (D-V first round), 1998 (D-V first round), 1999 (D-V regional runner-up), 2002 (D-IV first round), 2003 (D-IV regional runner-up), 2011 (D-IV regional semifinals), 2013 (D-V first round), 2016 (D-V regional semifinals), 2017 (D-V regional finals), 2020 (D-VI first round).

**LAST SEASON:** 5-5, 3-3 (4th in LCL).

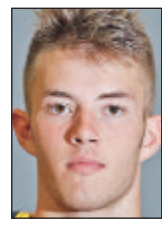
**BEST OF THE BEST:** D-VI honorable mention All-Ohio pick Joseph McKean was arguably pound for pound Medina County's best running back in 2020 with 1,196 yards and 102 points. The 5-foot-10, 180-pounder also had an incredible stretch at outside linebacker with 32 tackles (9½ for loss, 5 sacks) over the final three games despite playing defense sparingly until that point.

● All-Ohio wrestler Travis Owen enters his fourth season as a starting offensive lineman and has an equal impact defensively, where his gap-plugging abilities are critical to the 3-4 scheme. The 6-2, 265-pounder is a contender for one of the two LCL Lineman of the Year awards.

● Brandon Rollin is the latest in a long line of fearless Black River linebackers. The three-year starter also tackled (12½ for loss, 5 sacks) as a junior while had



Rollin



Wood



Mrakuzic

rushing for 422 yards.

**STRENGTHS:** The linebacking corps of returnees Rollin, McKean and Blake Hopkins and stocky newcomer Charlie Wells has the potential to be fantastic. The latter three play fast, and all four aren't afraid to get their hands dirty.

● The secondary is experienced and has athleticism. Strong safety Treyce Wood is a hustling machine any coach would love, corner-turned-safety Tyler Mrakuzic improved greatly in the second half of last season and corners Braylon O'Neal and Nathan Urbas played well in the pre-season.

● All told, the defense returns eight aggressive players who have started at least one game, and that's great news after the Pirates allowed only 268.0 yards per game with 69 tackles for loss and 17 forced turnovers last season.

● Eric Groesser already is in the conversation for best kicker in Black River history after a freshman season in which he made a school-record four field goals, including 37- and 38-yarders.

**QUESTION MARKS:** The running game was wildly

inconsistent last season, averaging an unacceptable 108.2 yards in losses and a stellar 326.0 in victories. That fell mostly on the line, which remains the glaring concern despite multiple returning starters. The Pirates have Owen at center and tackle Dave Krymowski (6-5, 270) and second-team All-LCL choice Caison Conrad (5-8, 225) at guard, but size is lacking otherwise.

● Speedy incumbent Andon O'Neal beat out the stronger-armed Groesser in a tightly contested quarterback competition during the pre-season, and the Pirates modified their pistol wing-T to create more mismatches on the perimeter. Black River passed for a meager 441 yards in 2020 and will need double that number for the new, two-wide receiver base formation to be effective.

● The roster size has continued to shrink, and the 32 players in grades 10-12 represent the fewest Black River has had in more than a decade. While skill depth is good due to a strong sophomore class, injuries up front almost certainly will be catastrophic.

**THE SKINNY:** Black River is difficult to project because Keystone is a D-IV regional title contender, Columbia returns basically its entire roster, Firelands smacked around the Pirates last year and Wellington is every bit as experienced. Toss in 50/50 games against Northwestern and Cloverleaf and the Pirates could be a 5-5 sleeper come playoff time or go 8-2 and host in the first round. The skill players and defense are legit for D-VI. Offensive line and quarterback play will determine everything.

**PREDICTION:** 7-3.

— Albert Grindle





# BUCKEYE BUCKS

## HISTORY LESSON

**All-time record:** 391-274-13.  
**Record vs. current county teams:** 59-76-4.  
**Record vs. all county teams:** 63-78-4.  
**Coaches, records:** Harold Scrivens (1953-55) 17-6-2; John Murphy (1956-63) 46-23-4; Roger Auker (1964-66) 12-12-2; Dick Keenan (1967) 3-6; Mike Lewis (1968-76) 44-36-5; George Hammond (1984-86) 11-20; Dick James (1987-91) 31-19; Joe Gressock (1992-93) 5-15; Ken Woodruff (1977-83, 1994) 52-30; Rick Dodson (1995-97) 13-16; Jeff Ladner (1998-2001) 16-24; Chris Medaglia (2002-06) 47-15; Billy Burke (2007-11) 26-25; Rick Schuler (2012) 3-7; Mark Pinzone (2013-16) 33-11; Greg Dennison (2017-present) 32-9.  
**Best seasons:** 2018 — 10-2 (D-III second round); also 8-0-1 in 1960 and 7-0-1 in 1953).  
**Worst season:** 1964 — 0-7-1.  
**Best 10-year period:** 2001-10 — 69-34 (.670)  
**Worst 10-year period:** 1992-2001 — 36-63 (.364).  
**Most points in game:** 68 vs. Keystone, 1961.  
**Most points allowed in game:** 62 vs. Black River, 1997.  
**Biggest margin of victory:** 68-0 vs. Keystone, 1961.  
**Biggest margin of defeat:** 55-0 vs. West Holmes, 1999.  
**Most common opponent:** Highland (58 games, 22 wins, 2 ties).  
**Who they own:** 36-6-1 vs. Keystone.  
**Who owns them:** 0-12 vs. Orrville.  
**Conferences:** Great Lakes Conference 2019-present (championship — 2019); Patriot Athletic Conference Stars Division 2005-2018 (championships — 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2005); Mohican Area Conference 1993-03 (championship — 2002); Inland Conference 1960-88 (championships — 1987, 1984, 1983, 1979, 1965, 1963, 1961, 1960). Medina County League 1953-55 (championship — 1953).

## STARTING LINEUP

Offense			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.
QB	Jaden May	6-0	176 sr.
RB	Ben Barnes	5-11	184 sr.
FB	Gage Nagy	5-10	176 so.
	Cam Stout	5-10	187 sr.
WR	Kaymen Marshall	5-8	147 sr.
WR	Michael McGivern	6-0	161 sr.
TE	Jacob Lowry	6-2	194 sr.
LT	Ben Midea	6-2	282 so.
LG	Nick Bostic	6-1	201 sr.
C	Brock Marcum	5-8	206 sr.
RG	Isaiah Gerdeman	6-1	206 sr.
RT	Joe Maitland	5-10	196 jr.
K	Ben Barnes	5-11	184 sr.
KR	Kaymen Marshall	5-8	147 sr.
KR	Michael McGivern	6-0	161 sr.

Defense			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.
E	Ben Midea	6-2	282 so.
T	Brock Marcum	5-8	206 sr.
	Jeff Trent	5-9	196 sr.
E	Joe Maitland	5-10	196 jr.
OLB	Ben Barnes	5-11	184 sr.
ILB	Cam Stout	5-10	187 sr.
ILB	Nick Bostic	6-1	201 sr.
OLB	Gage Nagy	5-10	176 sr.
	James Orient	5-11	162 sr.
CB	Michael McGivern	6-0	161 sr.
CB	Jacob Berger	5-11	162 sr.
FS	Kaymen Marshall	5-8	147 sr.
SS	Anthony Kruk	5-11	157 sr.
P	Kaymen Marshall	5-8	147 sr.
PR	Kaymen Marshall	5-8	147 sr.
PR	Michael McGivern	6-0	161 sr.

— Bold indicates returning starter  
 — Italics indicate shared position

## ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Jaden May	QB/DB	6-0	176	sr.
2	Cam Stout	FB/LB	5-10	187	sr.
3	Nick Smith	WR/DB	6-2	151	jr.
4	Kaymen Marshall	WR/DB	5-8	147	sr.
5	Casey Murray	QB/LB	6-2	156	so.
6	Zach Onorati	WR/DB	5-10	161	so.
8	Frankie Widenmeyer	RB/LB	6-0	161	jr.
10	Shane Bambrick	TE/LB	6-3	224	sr.
13	Zach Augustine	WR/DB	5-11	162	sr.
14	Jacob Berger	WR/DB	5-11	162	sr.
15	Ben Barnes	RB/LB	5-11	184	sr.
16	Trevor Cutlip	WR/DB	5-9	162	so.
18	Ben Glauner	QB/DB	5-9	126	so.
20	Nathan Potter	RB/LB	6-1	151	so.
22	Michael McGivern	WR/DB	6-0	161	sr.
24	Trevor Eck	TE/LB	6-1	186	jr.
25	Brayden Snyder	RB/LB	5-7	151	so.
26	James Orient	WR/DB	5-11	162	sr.
27	Nolan Martin	RB/DB	6-0	156	jr.
28	Brandon Hayner	RB/LB	5-10	163	so.
29	Gage Nagy	RB/LB	5-10	176	so.
30	Jesse Nkemyong	K	5-9	151	so.
33	Noah Wycoff	WR/DL	6-0	181	so.
35	Klatin Cristani	RB/LB	5-8	183	jr.
36	Kamdin Cristani	RB/LB	5-8	161	so.
62	Mitch Marquetant	TE/LB	6-4	181	jr.
41	Doran Dacek	RB/LB	5-10	161	so.
48	Carter Landes	RB/LB	5-11	151	so.
50	Brock Marcum	OL/DL	5-8	206	sr.
51	Anthony Ricci	OL/DL	6-1	231	jr.
52	Dylan Cenname	OL/DL	5-11	227	sr.
53	Todd Allen	OL/DL	6-2	308	jr.
54	Nathan Carpenter	OL/DL	5-8	196	so.
55	Ben Midea	OL/DL	6-2	282	so.
56	Nick Bostic	OL/LB	6-1	201	sr.
58	Isaiah Gerdeman	OL/DL	6-1	206	sr.
59	Riley Sweeney	OL/DL	5-9	182	sr.
60	Jake Knapp	OL/DL	5-6	162	sr.
62	Dillon Badiu	OL/LB	5-7	179	so.
64	Mitch Marquetant	OL/DL	6-1	311	so.
65	Jeff Trent	OL/DL	5-9	196	sr.
67	Jason Somogyi	OL/DL	6-3	301	so.
68	Connor Danilovic	OL/DL	6-2	315	jr.
70	Mikey Sheddlock	OL/DL	5-6	181	so.
73	Tyler Manning	OL/DL	5-9	314	so.
74	Michael Johnson	OL/DL	6-4	271	so.
75	Joe Maitland	OL/DL	5-10	196	sr.
76	Ashton Porec	OL/DL	6-2	188	jr.
77	Connor Toledo	OL/DL	6-1	301	so.
79	Hayden Kabot	OL/DL	5-8	184	so.
80	Jacob Lowry	TE/LB	5-10	154	so.
81	Josh Stahl	TE/LB	5-10	154	so.
83	Shane Burlison	WR/DB	5-8	142	jr.
87	Connor Hencke	OL/DL	5-8	191	so.
88	Anthony Kruk	WR/DB	5-11	157	sr.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** First-team All-Gazette awards for Todd Allen, who was on track to become the area's first four-time honoree until a torn labrum knocked him out for this season.
- 17** Winning seasons over the last 20.
- 55** Players in grades 10-12, a dramatic improvement from when the Bucks struggled to get 30 a decade ago.
- 100** Point scored by Ben Barnes in only seven games last season.



Running  
back/  
safety  
Kaymen  
Marshall

# Full steam ahead

## Fast, aggressive Marshall rarely will come off field

Rick Noland  
The Gazette

Kaymen Marshall is 5-foot-8 and weighs 147 pounds, but don't let his (apparent lack of) size fool you. With 4.41-second speed in the 40-yard dash, the senior is the fastest player on not only the Buckeye football team, but the fastest kid in the entire high school.

Not only that, he will play in the slot and at tailback on offense, anchor the defense from his safety position and return punts and kicks.

In other words, he will rarely come off the field.

"He just goes full speed every play," veteran coach Greg Dennison said. "That's something you just can't coach, and it separates him from a lot of guys. Pound for pound, he's probably the toughest guy on our team. He doesn't weigh much, but he'll bring it every play. Defensively, he's had some of the biggest hits we've had.

"He's not as big as a lot of guys, but his strength is good. He works really hard in the weight room. For his size, he's very strong, and that helps him."

As a junior, Marshall had 29 tackles, most of them textbook perfect, a forced fumble and an interception.

Offensively, he played primarily in the slot before seeing more action at tailback late in the season, finishing with 71 carries for 610 yards (8.6-yard average) and five touchdowns, plus eight receptions for 160 yards (129 after the catch) and two scores.

On special teams, Marshall returned six kickoffs for a 24.8-yard average and two punts for a 25-yard average.

A threat to reach the end zone every time he touched the ball, No. 4 did all that while playing at about 135 pounds.

"Kaymen's one of the best teammates you could have," said Ben Barnes, who will play tailback when Marshall is in the slot and fullback when his classmate is

in the backfield with him. "He makes the big plays. On defense, if I miss a tackle (at linebacker), I know Kaymen will be there to back me up. He's just that kind of guy."

"I've gotten hit by Kaymen a few times in practice and it definitely hurts, but him being so fast and shifty certainly helps on offense. No one's going to touch him in the open field, I can tell you that."

A young man of few words, Marshall "worked really hard" to add weight in the offseason and "ate a lot of pasta," but says he has "a very fast metabolism."

What will be a blessing later in life is a bit of a curse now, but it's something Marshall realizes he has no control over.

"I used to worry about it, but as I got older I realized that when you lift, you shouldn't have to worry about things like that," he said of his weight. "If you want to play in the pros, you're going to play people way bigger than you at some point, so you've got to get used to it."

Marshall would like to continue his football career in college, but right now he's focused on his final year with the Bucks, who want to become the first team in school history to win two playoff games in a season.

That's why he runs with a parachute to improve his speed and power. It's why he does cone and ladder drills to improve his shiftness, because opposing players can't hit what they can't touch.

"I take a lot of pride in it," the 17-year-old said. "I've been working on it since I was young. I did non-stop work on my shiftness."

"Last year, a lot of teams would talk smack, like 'You're small,' and call me out. Sometimes I ignored them and sometimes I laughed and waited till the next play. I try not to pay attention to them, because they all try to get in our heads."

With the rugged but deceptively fast Barnes, also capable of breaking off big runs, opposing teams will have a difficult time preparing for the Bucks. Barnes (102

carries, 766 yards, 13 TDs) might even average a few less touches than he did in Buckeye's 4-3 season in 2020, but knowing those opportunities will likely go to Marshall is fine with him.

"I could (not) care less," he said. "I want to win a football game, and Kaymen is the exact same way. I wouldn't want to have anyone else touching the ball."

"I can name quite a few times where I would see Kaymen take off and break an 80-yard run. I'd try to run down there and catch up with him, but that was never the case."

Dennison raves about how coachable Marshall is, noting he was voted a team captain despite his fairly quiet nature.

"He wants to do well, he wants the team to do well and he wants to win," the coach said. "That's what drives him."

"In space, he's as good as any player in our league (the Great Lakes Conference). He's made big plays for us everywhere over the years — big kickoff returns, punt returns, big plays offensively and defensively. The impressive thing is just how hard he plays every play. He's not afraid to hit. He can mix it up with anybody."

When asked about his goals for the season, Marshall never mentioned rushing yards, receptions, return yardage or interceptions. Instead, he talked about being a better teammate, staying positive and winning.

And while Marshall insists he's not as quiet as Dennison and Barnes claim, Barnes considers "without a doubt" the fastest player on the team to be the perfect teammate.

"Kaymen's a really humble person," he said. "I've never heard him say one thing about how good he is. He doesn't talk that much, but when he does everyone is listening. We know everything that comes out of his mouth is important."

Contact Rick Noland at (330) 721-4046 or r.noland@medina-gazette.com. Follow him @RickNoland on Twitter.

## SEASON OUTLOOK

**HEAD COACH:** Greg Dennison. Age: 56. College: Akron ('86). Overall record: 191-94 (28th season). Record at Buckeye: 32-9 (5th season).  
**ASSISTANTS:** Mike Flerchinger (co-defensive coordinator), Ray Camma (co-defensive coordinator), Anthony Pavia (defensive backs), Evan Adams (running backs/outside linebackers), Alex Shephard (offensive line), Mark Moundros (outside linebackers), Adam Dennison (wide receivers)  
**DIVISION:** III, Region 10 (enrollment: 307 boys).  
**LEAGUE:** Great Lakes Conference East Division (since 2019, title in 2019).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES:** 2002 (D-III first round), 2003 (D-III first round), 2005 (D-III first round), 2009 (D-III first round), 2013 (D-III first round), 2014 (D-III first round), 2015 (D-III first round), 2016 (D-III first round), 2017 (D-III first round), 2018 (D-III regional semis), 2019 (D-III first round), 2020 (D-III first round).  
**LAST SEASON:** 4-3, 0-0 (n/a in GLC).

**BEST OF THE BEST:** When the football gods created a small-school two-way player, they probably used the mold of Ben Barnes, a hard-charging running back, aggressive outside linebacker and all-around tough nut who can even kick field goals. The senior All-Gazette pick was outstanding during the preseason and is poised for another big year.

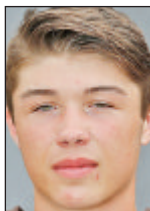
- Kaymen Marshall is fast, physical and unselfish, giving Buckeye a home-run threat on offense, defense and special teams. The diminutive speedster will see time at wide receiver and running back and may even share the backfield with Barnes in a wildcat formation.
- Nick Bostic was a second-team All-GLC linebacker after compiling 38 tackles as a junior. The 6-foot-1, 201-pounder also is back to knock heads on the offensive line.
- Even with the loss of two-way player Shane Bambrick to a torn ACL, the linebacking corps is deep with Barnes, Bostic and Cam Stout, a second-team All-GLC selection as a sophomore who is back after a one-year hiatus.
- The return game is going to be dangerous with McGivern and Marshall. The former had a 58-yard kickoff return last season, while the latter had a 45-yard punt return. Barnes and Marshall also are back to kick extra points and punt, respectively.
- The passing game has been a sore spot for a few years now, as the Bucks are coming off a 72.0 average that ranked only ahead of Black River in Medina County. Jaden May returns for a second season as starter and figures to be improved. If anything, bombs to quick-footed seniors Marshall and McGivern will be fun to watch.
- The losses of left tackle Allen and tight end Bambrick have seriously tested the Bucks' depth up front. Luckily Buckeye can move around skill players to help mask an injury or two.
- **THE SKINNY:** The Bucks are in an interesting spot in their third year as a member of the GLC. The schedule has five virtually automatic wins, and the East Division of the new-look GLC is far weaker than the West. The two-headed monster of Barnes and Marshall will carry the Bucks as far as they're destined to go. Buckeye does nothing real fancy, but a good ol' fashioned team is always a difficult matchup in the playoffs.



Bostic




McGivern



Stout

— Albert Grindle





# Buckeye BUCKS



2021 Schedule		
20-Aug	7pm	at Cloverleaf
27-Aug	7pm	at Conneaut
3-Sep	7pm	Copley
10-Sep	7pm	at North Olmsted
17-Sep	7pm	at Valley Forge
24-Sep	7pm	Parma
1-Oct	7pm	Normandy
8-Oct	7pm	at Lakewood
15-Oct	7pm	Holy Name



# Wadsworth GRIZZLIES



2021 Schedule		
20-Aug	7pm	St. Vincent-St. Mary
27-Aug	7pm	Wooster
3-Sep	7pm	at Medina
10-Sep	7pm	Brecksville-Broadview Heights
17-Sep	7pm	at Hudson
24-Sep	7pm	at Nardonina
1-Oct	7pm	Stow Munroe Falls
8-Oct	7pm	at Ausitntown Fitch
15-Oct	7pm	at North Royalton
22-Oct	7pm	Twinsburg

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# CLOVERLEAF COLTS

## HISTORY LESSON

**All-time record:** 249-359-5.  
**Record vs. county teams:** 86-114.  
**Coaches, records:** Ben Spechalske (1960-62) 14-9-2; Bud McNellie (1963-65) 17-13; John Moore (1966-67) 6-13; Phil Hahn (1968-78) 53-55-2; Jack Mental (1979-80) 1-19; Phil Tipton (1981-83), 9-20-1; Mike Bobby (1984-85) 4-16; Kevin Gault (2000-08) 42-59; Doug Haas (2009-11) 14-16; Bob Lake (1986-99; 2012-14) 67-102; Justin Vorhies (2015-present) 22-37.  
**Best season:** 1971 — 10-0.  
**Worst seasons:** 1980, 1984, 2014, 2016 — 0-10.  
**Best 10-year period:** 1963-72 — 64-40-2 (.604).  
**Worst 10-year period:** 1975-84 — 22-77-1 (.220).  
**Most points in game:** 70 vs. Field, 2017.  
**Most points allowed in game:** 60 vs. Orrville, 1968.  
**Biggest margin of victory:** 70-20 vs. Field, 2017.  
**Biggest margin of defeat:** 58-0 vs. Buckeye, 1980.  
**Most common opponent:** Wadsworth (55 games, 12 wins).  
**Who they own:** 11-3-1 vs. Norwayne.  
**Who owns them:** 3-15 vs. Berea.  
**Conferences:** Metro Athletic Conference 2020-present (championships — none); Portage Trail Conference Metro Division 2015-19 (championships — none); Suburban League 1997-2015 (championships — none); Pioneer Conference 1977-96 (championships — none); Chippewa Conference 1963-75 (championship — 1971); Independent 1960-62.

## STARTING LINEUP

Offense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Blake Benko	6-1	190	sr.
RB	Emilio Rivera	5-9	205	sr.
RB	Cade Cass	5-8	155	sr.
WR	Landon Campbell	5-8	170	jr.
WR	Will Jerome	6-1	165	jr.
TE	Lakota Hagenbaugh	6-1	205	jr.
LT	Tommy Price	6-1	240	jr.
LG	Caleb Goode	6-2	220	jr.
C	Brandon Ridenour	6-0	220	sr.
RG	Kevin Bittaker	6-0	200	sr.
RT	Luke Yuravak	6-5	235	sr.
K	Dylan Bresnahan	6-1	185	so.
KR	Connor Hitchcock	5-9	160	jr.
KR	Landon Campbell	5-8	170	jr.

Defense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
E	Caleb Goode	6-2	220	jr.
	James Nespeca	6-0	210	jr.
T	Yuri Himes	5-8	185	jr.
E	Tommy Price	6-1	240	jr.
	James Nespeca	6-0	210	jr.
OLB	Luke Yuravak	6-5	235	sr.
ILB	Kevin Bittaker	6-0	200	sr.
ILB	Brandon Ridenour	6-0	220	sr.
	Tristan Craddock	5-8	165	so.
OLB	Emilio Rivera	5-9	205	sr.
CB	Oakley Kemp	6-1	185	jr.
	Griffin Petrocci	5-8	165	so.
CB	Philip Hamilton	5-10	165	sr.
FS	Will Jerome	6-1	165	jr.
SS	Cade Cass	5-8	155	sr.
P	Emilio Rivera	5-9	205	sr.
PR	Landon Campbell	5-8	170	jr.

— Bold indicates returning starter  
 — Italics indicate shared position

## ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Austin Brooks	QB/DB	6-0	165	so.
3	Philip Hamilton	WR/DB	5-10	165	sr.
5	Oakley Kemp	QB/WR/DB	6-1	185	jr.
6	Griffin Petrocci	WR/DB	5-8	165	so.
7	Blake Benko	QB/DB	6-1	190	sr.
8	Hayden Jarvis	WR/DB	5-8	145	so.
10	Radley Spencer	WR/DB	5-9	135	so.
11	Tristan Craddock	RB/DB	5-8	160	so.
12	Will Jerome	WR/DB	6-1	165	jr.
13	Landon Campbell	WR/DB	5-8	170	jr.
14	Cade Cass	RB/DB	5-8	155	sr.
18	Sean Barker	RB/DL	5-6	135	sr.
20	Tony Brilla	RB/LB	5-8	160	so.
22	Connor Hitchcock	RB/LB	5-9	160	jr.
23	Palmer Morgan	WR/DB	6-0	145	jr.
24	Emilio Rivera	RB/LB	5-9	205	sr.
28	Emanuel Medina	WR/DB	5-8	145	so.
29	Kyle Thomas	RB/DL	5-9	210	sr.
31	Jordan Workman	RB/LB	5-10	190	jr.
36	James Nespeca	RB/DL	6-0	210	jr.
41	Dylan Bresnahan	K	6-1	185	so.
44	Chase Young	WR/DB/K	5-10	170	so.
47	Austin Letner	WR/DB	5-10	135	jr.
50/70	Cooper Straub	OL/DL	6-0	260	sr.
52	Savannah Brooks	OL/DL	5-8	165	sr.
54	Yuri Himes	OL/DL	5-8	185	jr.
55	Brandon Ridenour	OL/LB	6-0	220	sr.
57	Luke Yuravak	OL/DL	6-5	235	sr.
58	Tyler Thomas	OL/DL	5-10	225	so.
61/98	Timothy Shores	TE/DL	6-2	250	so.
62	Dilon Kirby	OL/LB	6-2	200	jr.
63	Collin McNeal	OL/DL	6-1	250	so.
64	Kevin Bittaker	OL/LB	6-0	200	sr.
65	Travis Eby	OL/DL	5-9	200	so.
69	Carson Motz	OL/DL	5-8	250	so.
71	Tommy Price	OL/DL	6-1	240	jr.
76	Will Rogalski	OL/DL	6-3	245	so.
77	Caleb Goode	OL/DL	6-2	220	jr.
78/85	Max Krzykowski	OL/DL	6-2	200	sr.
84	Lakota Hagenbaugh	TE/LB	6-1	205	jr.
88	Xavier Watts	TE/LB	6-0	200	so.
89	Gamble Atkinson	TE/LB	6-10	200	so.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** Number of times Cloverleaf has posted three consecutive winning seasons. The first was from 1963-65 and the second 2007-09, though it's worth pointing out the Colts were 9-1, 6-4, 5-5 and 6-4 from 1992-95.
- 10** Pass breakups by Philip Hamilton, which led Medina County in 2020.
- 27** Receiving yards returning to the roster. Emilio Rivera had 19 and Cade Cass 8.
- 83** Tackles for Cass, ranking second in the county in 2020.
- 95** Tackles for Kevin Bittaker, which led the county in 2020.
- 117.4** Passing yards allowed per game last season, the Colts' lowest average since 2011 (82.0).
- 889** Combined rushing yards for Rivera (683) and Cass (206) last season.



## Running back/safety Cade Cass

# Fear is for losers

## Cass (5-9, 155) brings wrestling mentality to football

Brad Bournival  
The Gazette

When coaches and athletes talk about the relationship between football and wrestling, it's usually reserved for those who fight in the trenches. A symbiotic marriage of balance, control and hand fighting, those who profit most are offensive and defensive linemen. Cade Cass is the exception.



Cass

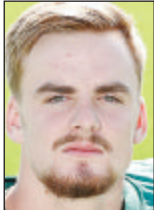
A star on the mat for Cloverleaf, he's also a standout with the pigskin cradled in his arm. Just don't go looking for a 6-foot-6, 320-pound monster. Cass is 5-9 and weighs 155 pounds. He's also a beast as a running back and safety. "With wrestling, a lot of coaches will tell you always go forward," Cass said. "You're not taking steps back. I think with football I always want to go forward. The hand fighting and always keeping your hands inside really helps with blocking and always making sure I'm moving forward. That's wrestling. I do that every day in the room. I stay low and keep my hands inside. "On defense, tackling is just a double leg. They can't run without legs. Every day at practice we're driving through someone. That's something that has really translated from wrestling." It's also why football coach Justin Vorhies and wrestling coach Mark Mole have such a good relationship. Through the seasons, some of football's best players transferred to the mat. "For him on both sides of the ball — he's a dynamic safety — but on offense, especially, it's about blocking, positioning his body and making sure his hands are in the right spot," Vorhies said. "Wrestling

has helped him with that. Carrying the ball, definitely maintaining his balance and always staying up when he gets hit, he may look like an easy guy to bring down, but he's not. He's real agile. "On defense, he's such a sure tackler, and that definitely comes from wrestling. He has the instinct and contorts his body different ways. He's coming through alleys and positions down like a linebacker. Understanding movements of guys comes from his study of wrestling on film. It helps him cover guys. He doesn't get lost in the movements. He's not watching the head. He's watching legs and hips when he's covering guys." Being 5-9 actually helps in the backfield. While the senior isn't about to pound a tackler into submission on a bull rush, he is able to see things many runners can't. "Being small, a lot of times defenses have to guess where you are," Cass said. "With our linemen, they're tall enough so that defense has to guess. It makes cutting off the linemen a lot easier because they have to guess one way or the other. It makes the linemen's job easier on the blocks. Being able to squeeze through some of those smaller holes, you can get through places they don't expect you to get through. When you're on the other side, they're not there to tackle you." At safety, the four-year letterwinner was the last line of defense and did his job with pride and determination. An All-Gazette and Division III Northeast Inland honorable mention selection, Cass finished second in Medina County in tackles (83) and registered two interceptions and four pass breakups last season. "He's going to be huge for us," Vorhies said. "It helps on the offensive side, but on the defensive side he's been huge for us. He runs our secondary. He gets guys in the right position and makes the correct calls. He's as in tune to the playbook as any of the coaches are. He knows the

alignments and fronts and what the other team is doing. We can go back and recall a game plan from three years ago and he's got it. That's the kind of kid he is back there." Once again, that wrestler mentality jumps to the forefront when Cass sees someone slacking in practice, between plays or at a game. A hard-nosed, never-quit athlete, he isn't afraid to call a teammate out or be called out when tired legs or a lack of interest occur. "Cade's mentality is always there on and off the field," teammate and running back Emilio Rivera said. "He has more heart than anybody. That rubs off on the team. He makes me want to be a better player. He wants to keep the team positive and moving in a forward direction. "He's played varsity all four years and has that mentality that there's always a better team out there. He started as a 14-year-old playing against 16- and 18-year-olds. It helped the coaches learn to trust how he plays on the field." It's not about the negative with Cass as much as it is building confidence and asking for more out of his teammates. Vorhies can recall when coaches got on Cass for a few things. Instead of pouting or disagreeing, he listened and got better. Cass uses that same approach with his friends. "A lot of that also comes from wrestling," Cass said. "There's always that chance someone can beat you. The reason they beat you is you did something wrong. There are better people, but there's always something you can fix to beat the better people. "In football, people do things wrong and that happens, but you can always fix it. If it's effort, you bring more energy. It's more an attitude than anything else. You have to want to be there and if you do, you might as well do it 100%." Contact Brad Bournival at bournival929@gmail.com.

## SEASON OUTLOOK

**COACH:** Justin Vorhies. Age: 38. College: John Carroll '05. Overall record: 34-45 (9th season). Record at Cloverleaf: 22-37 (7th season).  
**ASSISTANTS:** Jim Houghtlen (offensive coordinator), Jim Humiston (defensive coordinator), Nick Romanoff (running backs/safeties), Dennis Werner (lines), Dylan Burley (lines), Eric Stoner (wide receivers/cornerbacks), Dan Webb (wide receivers/cornerbacks), Mark Mole (lines), Dylan Burley (lines), Tyler Hissom (quarterbacks/outside linebackers), Josh Kirksey (running backs/defensive line).  
**DIVISION:** III, Region 10 (enrollment: 304 boys).  
**LEAGUE:** Metro Athletic Conference (since 2020, 0 titles).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES:** 2008 (D-II first round), 2020 (D-III first round).  
**LAST SEASON:** 7-2, 6-1 (2nd in MAC).  
**BEST OF THE BEST:** Kevin Bittaker seemingly never runs out of gas, as the standout guard/linebacker/swimmer is in tremendous shape. The 6-0, 200-pounder was a terror during the preseason and is coming off a 2020 in which he led Medina County with 95 tackles, including 12½ for loss. An All-Ohio senior season appears likely.  
 • Cade Cass is a classic undersized hellion with zero fear. Standing all of 5-8, 165, the three-year starter hits like a truck at strong safety and has breakaway speed as a running back.  
 • Luke Yuravak is a unique athlete who is 6-4, 235 pounds and starts at offensive tackle and outside linebacker yet is fast enough to run on the sprint relays for the track team.  
**STRENGTHS:** The power run game heavily featuring the counter trey has become Cloverleaf's trademark, and the duo of Cass and third-year power back Emilio Rivera is going to be nasty. Each reaching 1,000 yards isn't out of the question because both are willing blockers with no ego.  
 • The defense returns multiple letterwinners on the line, at linebacker and in the secondary. Goode and Price eat up space up front, Bittaker is an animal in the middle, Yuravak and Rivera are great pass rushers, Cass is everywhere and Philip Hamilton led Medina County with 10 pass breakups last season. If the Colts can allow fewer than 280 yards per game while forcing turnovers, they'll be in good shape.  
 • Replacing four-year starting kicker Logan Tierney appears to be a concern on paper, but Dylan Bresnahan handled kickoffs last fall and should slide over seamlessly to extra points and field goals.  
 • Culture means more in football than any other high school sport, and the Colts have a winning camaraderie and spirit. The importance of this can't be understated as the program moves forward.  
**QUESTION MARKS:** Tierney was serviceable in his lone season as starting quarterback, and the Colts are hoping senior Blake Benko can do the same. The 6-1, 190-pounder is not much of a breakaway threat as a runner but knows the system and has a soft touch from 10 to 25 yards. Junior Oakley Kemp is a capable, run-first backup who will sub in for certain personnel packages.  
 • The offensive line needs to break in three starters, but size is decent across the board. Cloverleaf's execution up front was up-and-down during the preseason, but Vorhies likes that many of the errors are correctable.  
 • The receiving corps needs to be rebuilt after losing versatile All-Ohio Blake Wilson, Kody Trent and Michael Williams to graduation. Those three were speed demons and shined as kickoff returners, too. That's a lot of playmaking to replace.  
 • Line depth has been an issue for years, and 2021 doesn't appear to be any different. What's working in the Colts' favor is Goode and Price saw rotational time last season and have prototypical size.  
**THE SKINNY:** Swing games against Medina County neighbors Buckeye (tonight) and Black River (Week 3) will tell the world a lot about the Colts, who are gunning for a third straight winning season for only the second time since 1965 (2007-09). While defending champion Streetsboro still appears to be the MAC favorite despite heavy graduation losses, the expectation for Cloverleaf is to be in the top half of the standings. The first playoff victory in program history would be icing on the cake, but a few things will need to come together first.  
**PREDICTION:** 6-4



Yuravak



Hamilton



Rivera

— Albert Grindle



# COMPUTER RATINGS HISTORY

**1972-79** — Three divisions, 1 per region (12)  
**1980-84** — Five divisions, 2 per region (40)  
**1985-94** — Five divisions, 4 per region (80)  
**1995-98** — Six divisions, 4 per region (96)  
**1999-2012** — Six divisions, 8 per region (192)  
**2013-19** — Seven divisions, 8 per region (224)  
**2020-present** — Seven divisions, 16 per region (448)

## Black River

Year	Div/Reg	Record	Average	Rank	Quality
2020	D-V/21	5-5	9.7500	11/26	—
2019	D-V/17	6-4	9.7000	12/27	—
2018	D-V/17	9-1	19.0500	3/26	YES
2017	D-V/17	7-3	15.7000	7/26	YES
2016	D-V/15	4-6	6.4500	15/26	—
2015	D-V/15	4-6	10.0500	12/27	—
2014	D-V/15	7-3	16.4000	4/27	YES
2013	D-V/13	6-4	11.8000	13/32	YES
2012	D-V/13	8-2	17.0000	4/32	YES
2011	D-V/14	6-4	10.4500	12/30	—
2010	D-V/14	5-5	12.1500	12/29	—
2009	D-V/13	5-5	9.5500	16/30	—
2008	D-V/13	6-4	7.6500	18/30	—
2007	D-V/13	4-6	8.7000	13/31	—
2006	D-V/13	4-6	7.4000	14/31	—
2005	D-V/13	7-3	13.7216	10/32	—
2004	D-V/13	8-2	21.2278	1/32	YES
2003	D-V/13	8-2	18.0400	4/29	YES
2002	D-V/17	6-4	10.0000	12/30	—
2001	D-V/17	3-7	4.7859	16/30	—
1999	D-V/17	8-2	13.2000	7/29	YES
1998	D-V/17	9-0	27.1110	2/28	YES
1997	D-V/17	9-1	18.0400	4/29	YES
1996	D-V/17	6-4	10.0000	12/30	—
1995	D-V/17	5-5	8.9000	15/29	—
1994	D-V/17	9-1	15.8000	5/29	—
1993	D-V/14	7-3	6.9000	10/36	—
1992	D-V/14	9-1	104.0000	5/36	—
1991	D-V/13	7-3	79.5000	13/35	—
1990	D-V/14	9-1	53.1666	10/36	—
1989	D-V/13	10-0	63.0000	6/36	—
1988	D-V/14	6-4	33.5000	15/35	—
1987	D-V/13	5-5	19.5000	19/36	—
1986	D-V/13	9-1	61.0000	7/36	—
1985	D-V/13	10-0	75.5000	3/36	—
1984	D-V/13	5-5	18.7500	22/36	—
1983	D-V/13	2-7-1	4.8750	29/35	—
1982	D-V/13	6-4	29.2222	21/36	—
1981	D-V/13	5-4-1	20.7500	26/37	—
1980	D-V/13	1-9	1.5000	33/36	—
1979	A/9	5-5	20.4444	28/53	—
1978	A/9	5-5	24.0000	24/49	—
1977	A/9	10-0	64.4444	4/50	—
1976	A/9	8-1	38.0862	13/49	—
1975	A/9	7-2	39.8763	12/52	—
1974	A/9	7-2	41.6046	13/51	—
1973	A/9	3-6	17.40	36/45	—
1972	A/9	5-4	78	T24/43	—

## Brunswick

Year	Div/Reg	Record	Average	Rank	Quality
2020	D-V/1	6-4	16.7000	11/18	—
2019	D-V/1	1-9	0.6500	18/18	—
2018	D-V/2	5-5	12.4813	11/19	—
2017	D-V/2	2-8	5.8000	15/18	—
2016	D-V/1	3-7	75.9500	23/35	—
2015	D-V/1	7-3	18.9665	15/35	YES
2014	D-V/1	6-4	16.2000	15/35	YES
2013	D-V/2	7-3	19.6500	10/28	—
2012	D-V/2	7-3	18.0500	14/28	—

2010	D-V/2	5-5	15.6000	12/26	—
2009	D-V/2	7-3	20.0500	7/29	YES
2008	D-V/2	9-1	25.4000	3/29	YES
2007	D-V/2	10-0	35.2500	1/29	YES
2006	D-V/2	10-0	27.9500	3/29	YES
2005	D-V/2	9-1	21.1000	8/29	YES
2004	D-V/2	7-3	19.2500	7/27	YES
2003	D-V/2	9-1	25.7500	3/27	YES
2002	D-V/2	10-0	30.6000	1/30	YES
2001	D-V/2	9-1	24.8000	5/30	YES
2000	D-V/2	5-5	9.9000	18/28	—
1999	D-V/3	10-0	11.8000	2/29	YES
1998	D-V/3	7-3	16.3000	12/29	—
1997	D-V/2	8-2	24.9500	7/29	—
1996	D-V/3	10-0	31.0500	3/29	YES
1995	D-V/2	10-0	33.8500	1/29	YES
1994	D-V/2	8-2	20.3500	11/29	—
1993	D-V/2	6-4	11.1500	14/35	—
1992	D-V/2	4-6	72.0000	27/35	—
1991	D-V/2	7-3	155.0000	5/34	—
1990	D-V/2	6-4	67.5000	19/36	—
1989	D-V/2	4-6	25.0000	29/36	—
1988	D-V/2	7-3	97.5000	8/35	—
1987	D-V/2	10-0	147.0000	1/36	YES
1986	D-V/2	5-5	66.0000	21/36	—
1985	D-V/2	7-3	104.0000	13/36	—
1984	D-V/2	6-4	68.2500	22/36	—
1983	D-V/2	6-4	71.5000	15/36	—
1982	D-V/2	6-4	74.2500	14/36	—
1981	D-V/3	5-4-1	65.7500	20/36	—
1980	D-V/3	9-1	139.5556	5/36	—
1979	AAA/3	7-3	61.1111	32/66	—
1978	AAA/3	2-7-1	30.5209	54/67	—
1977	AAA/3	6-4	80.0000	22/68	—
1976	AAA/3	9-1	102.5000	15/64	—
1975	AAA/3	3-7	30.0000	57/67	—
1974	AAA/3	1-9	4.0000	62/64	—
1973	AAA/3	5-4-1	181.30	45/63	—
1972	AAA/3	3-6-1	216	31/66	—

## Buckeye

Year	Div/Reg	Record	Average	Rank	Quality
2020	D-III/10	8-2	23.8500	4/27	YES
2019	D-III/9	9-1	24.2000	3/27	YES
2018	D-III/9	10-0	25.9000	2/27	YES
2017	D-III/9	9-1	23.4500	4/27	YES
2016	D-III/7	7-3	26.4500	3/27	YES
2015	D-III/7	7-3	18.7000	5/26	YES
2014	D-III/8	6-4	12.3000	8/26	YES
2013	D-III/8	3-7	2.8500	26/30	—
2012	D-III/9	3-7	5.1000	21/30	—
2011	D-III/9	3-7	4.6000	20/30	—
2010	D-III/9	8-2	21.9000	5/31	YES
2009	D-III/10	6-4	11.2500	15/31	—
2008	D-III/10	6-4	15.6000	11/30	—
2007	D-III/11	7-3	14.4000	11/30	—
2006	D-III/11	10-0	26.3697	3/30	YES
2005	D-III/9	6-3	18.6818	9/30	—
2004	D-III/9	8-2	22.0343	5/30	YES
2003	D-III/10	9-1	23.6000	5/30	YES
2002	D-III/10	6-4	15.1500	10/28	—
2001	D-III/9	2-8	4.6379	23/30	—
2000	D-III/9	4-6	9.9810	15/29	—
1999	D-III/9	4-6	8.4290	15/30	—
1998	D-III/9	2-7	3.6107	24/29	—
1997	D-III/9	4-6	9.9000	18/29	—
1996	D-III/9	7-3	14.7500	9/29	—
1995	D-III/9	2-8	3.1000	23/29	—
1994	D-III/10	3-7	4.0500	20/35	—
1993	D-III/10	2-8	29.5000	27/35	—
1992	D-III/10	7-3	97.7200	1/35	—
1991	D-III/10	5-5	57.0000	15/36	—
1990	D-III/9	6-4	42.0000	19/36	—
1989	D-III/10	5-5	40.0000	19/37	—

1987	D-III/9	8-2	62.5000	9/36	—
1986	D-III/9	2-8	4.5000	32/35	—
1985	D-III/10	2-8	4.0000	31/36	—
1984	D-III/10	6-4	32.7500	17/36	—
1983	D-III/10	9-1	57.0000	13/36	—
1982	D-III/10	8-2	60.7500	9/36	—
1981	D-III/10	4-6	18.5000	25/37	—
1980	D-III/10	8-2	50.9722	13/36	—
1979	AA/5	9-1	63.2222	15/65	—
1978	AA/5	6-4	38.5000	36/66	—
1977	AA/5	5-5	27.8888	42/66	—
1976	AA/5	2-5-3	15.6666	55/68	—
1975	AA/5	4-6	21.2222	51/67	—
1974	AA/5	3-7	12.3332	53/66	—
1973	AA/5	7-2-1	126.900	38/69	—
1972	AA/5	6-3	109	40/67	—

## Cloverleaf

Year	Div/Reg	Record	Average	Rank	Quality
2020	D-III/10	6-4	13.2000	10/27	—
2019	D-III/9	5-5	9.8000	17/27	—
2018	D-III/9	3-7	4.7000	21/26	—
2017	D-III/9	0-10	0.0000	27/27	—
2016	D-III/7	1-9	1.8500	26/27	—
2015	D-III/10	0-10	0.0000	T23/26	—
2014	D-III/8	2-8	7.1500	12/26	—
2013	D-III/6	3-7	4.8000	25/30	—
2012	D-III/6	4-6	7.4500	21/30	—
2011	D-III/5	4-6	8.3500	18/30	—
2010	D-III/6	4-6	20.3500	9/30	—
2009	D-III/6	8-2	23.6000	6/30	YES
2008	D-III/6	6-4	14.3000	11/29	—
2007	D-III/6	3-7	4.8000	21/29	—
2006	D-III/6	6-4	14.4500	12/29	—
2005	D-III/6	4-6	6.5439	21/31	—
2004	D-III/6	4-6	6.5439	21/31	—
2003	D-III/7	2-8	4.0000	23/29	—
2002	D-III/7	2-8	2.1000	25/29	—
2001	D-III/6	4-6	7.8500	20/30	—
2000	D-III/6	4-6	8.1000	18/29	—
1999	D-III/6	3-7	5.4500	18/30	—
1998	D-III/6	4-6	9.6102	17/29	—
1997	D-III/6	4-6	9.4000	15/28	—
1996	D-III/6	6-4	14.4500	7/29	—
1995	D-III/6	5-5	8.1500	17/30	—
1994	D-III/7	6-4	11.8000	14/35	—
1993	D-III/6	9-1	143.5000	6/36	—
1992	D-III/6	4-6	76.5000	16/35	—
1991	D-III/6	3-7	29.6111	21/36	—
1990	D-III/6	4-6	50.5000	16/36	—
1989	D-III/6	4-6	11.5000	27/36	—
1988	D-III/6	4-6	44.0000	16/36	—
1987	D-III/6	4-6	36.5000	23/36	—
1986	D-III/6	4-6	44.5000	25/36	—
1985	D-III/6	4-6	44.5000	25/36	—
1984	D-III/7	0-10	0.0000	Last/35	—
1983	D-III/7	3-7	51.5000	15/35	—
1982	D-III/7	5-5	55.2500	22/36	—
1981	D-III/5	1-8-1	9.8750	31/36	—
1980	D-III/5	0-10	0.0000	Last/36	—
1979	AAA/3	1-9	16.0000	61/66	—
1978	AAA/3	3-7	34.1250	53/67	—
1977	AAA/3	1-9	10.0000	63/68	—
1976	AAA/3	6-4	71.5000	31/64	—
1975	AAA/3	2-8	13.0000	61/67	—
1974	AAA/3	7-3	55.2222	39/64	—
1973	AA/5	3-7	91.20	47/69	—
1972	AA/5	8-1-1	386	6/67	—

## Highland

Year	Div/Reg
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# HIGHLAND HORNETS

## HISTORY LESSON

**All-time record:** 334-335-9.  
**Record vs. current county teams:** 69-80-5.  
**Record vs. all county teams:** 75-80-5.  
**Coaches, records:** Augie Rios (1952) 7-1; Tom Bangert (1953-54) 10-5-1; Jim Tyree (1955) 8-0; Wes Crile (1956-1958) 4-21-1; Bill Horn (1959-60) 8-8; Dave Beckman (1961-64) 13-22-3; Jim Wagner (1965) 0-9; Phil Hahn (1966-67) 16-2; Bob McFarland (1968-72), 34-9-2; Dave Ring (1973-77) 32-17; Dick Fletcher (1978-82) 22-27-1; Joe Paul (1983-85, 1992-94) 13-47; Dave Poetter (1986-91) 20-40; John Hopkins (1995-01) 30-44; Tim Snook (2002-06) 19-31; Tom Lombardo (2007-14) 61-29; Mike Gibbons (2015-present) 37-23.  
**Best season:** 2013 — 13-1 (D-II state semifinals).  
**Worst season:** 1985 — 0-10.  
**Best 10-year period:** 1966-75 — 75-15-3 (.806).  
**Worst 10-year period:** 1989-98 — 23-77 (.230).  
**Most points in game:** 72 vs. South Amherst, 1975.  
**Most points allowed in game:** 72 vs. Orrville, 1964.  
**Biggest margin of victory:** 72-8 vs. South Amherst, 1975.  
**Biggest margin of defeat:** 72-6 vs. Orrville, 1964.  
**Most common opponent:** Revere (66 games, 30 wins, 1 tie).  
**Who they own:** 12-1 vs. Columbia.  
**Who owns them:** 1-9-2 vs. Black River.  
**Conferences:** Suburban League American Conference 1956-57, 1976-present (championships — 2013, 2008, 2001, 1979); Inland Conference 1966-75 (championships — 1975, 1974, 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966); Chippewa Conference 1963-64 (championships — none); Medina County League 1952-55 (championships — 1955, 1952).

## STARTING LINEUP

Offense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Aaron Filipis	6-1	200	sr.
RB	Bryce Turek	6-0	195	sr.
	Lukas Stiles	5-10	220	jr.
WR	Kevin Heichel	6-0	170	sr.
WR	Jonathan Lima	5-10	175	sr.
WR	Andrew Ringgenberg	6-1	190	sr.
TE	Hunter Winston	6-4	220	so.
LT	Patrick Flannery	6-3	230	sr.
LG	Ethan Bartel	6-2	260	sr.
C	Dominic Konopka	6-0	220	sr.
FB	Joey Scally	6-0	220	sr.
RT	Andrew Tatulinski	6-4	235	jr.
K	Avery Gerney	5-10	150	sr.
KR	Kevin Heichel	6-0	170	sr.
KR	Jonathan Lima	5-10	175	sr.
KR	Bryce Turek	6-0	195	sr.

Defense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
E	Andrew Tatulinski	6-4	235	jr.
T	Joey Scally	6-0	220	jr.
E	Dominic Konopka	6-0	220	sr.
	Logan Marquis	6-1	200	jr.
OLB	Mitchell Good	5-11	195	jr.
ILB	Lukas Stiles	5-10	220	jr.
OLB	Matthew Haney	6-1	195	jr.
CB	Austin Addington	5-11	170	sr.
CB	Kevin Heichel	6-0	170	sr.
FS	Noah Robinson	6-1	185	jr.
SS	Creed Hill	5-10	165	jr.
MB	Anthony Ross	6-0	200	sr.
P	Austin Ringgenberg	6-1	190	sr.
PR	Jonathan Lima	5-10	175	sr.
PR	Kevin Heichel	6-0	170	sr.

— Bold indicates returning starter  
 — Italics indicate shared position

## ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Jacob Conrad	WR/CB	6-0	150	sr.
2	Aaron Filipis	QB	6-1	200	sr.
3	Jonathan Lima	WR/CB	5-10	175	sr.
4	Avery Gerney	K	5-10	150	sr.
5	Kevin Heichel	WR/CB	6-0	170	sr.
6	Austin Addington	WR/CB	5-11	170	sr.
7	Andrew Lurtz	QB	6-0	180	jr.
8	Andrew Ringgenberg	WR/P	6-1	190	sr.
9	Danny Gianni	LB	5-9	140	jr.
10	Lukas Stiles	RB/LB	5-10	220	jr.
11	Tyler Ponikvar	WR	6-4	180	sr.
12	Peyton Janickas	QB	5-8	135	so.
13	Sam Napier	WR/S	5-10	175	jr.
15	Noah Robinson	RB/S	6-1	185	jr.
16	Andrew Ross	RB/S	6-0	200	sr.
17	Evan Grant	RB/DB	5-8	145	so.
18	Logan Marquis	WR/CB	6-1	200	jr.
19	Matt Ciryak	WR/S	6-2	175	so.
20	Timmy Wallace	WR/CB	5-10	145	so.
21	Logan Acres	RB/LB	5-11	185	so.
22	Creed Hill	WR/S	5-10	165	jr.
23	Jack Capotosto	WR/LB	6-2	180	so.
24	Bryce Turek	RB	6-0	195	sr.
25	Mitchell Good	TE/LB	5-11	195	jr.
26	Nate Kohmann	LB	5-11	175	so.
27	James Plevis	WR/CB	5-6	135	so.
28	Sahvon Hollis	WR/CB	5-10	145	jr.
29	Johanny Sliko	WR/CB	5-7	150	so.
30	Noah Zern	WR/CB	5-10	145	so.
34	Jason Sambor	WR/CB	5-10	200	so.
35	Tommy Turk	WR/CB	5-8	145	so.
39	Chase Crutchley	WR/S	5-8	145	so.
40	Owen Petti	WR/LB	5-10	140	so.
42	Tommy Shondel	TE/LB	6-0	175	so.
44	Ryan McKeen	DL	6-0	205	sr.
49	Jack Howard	LB/TE	5-9	160	so.
50	Joey Scally	OL/DL	6-0	220	sr.
51	Andriy Zborovsky	DL	6-1	195	sr.
52	Ben Fearn	OL/DL	5-11	195	sr.
54	Andrew Tatulinski	OL/DL	6-4	235	jr.
55	Dominic Konopka	OL/DL	6-0	220	sr.
56	Matthew Haney	OL/LB	6-1	195	jr.
57	Logan Waddell	OL/DL	5-10	205	so.
59	Brayden Schuck	OL/DL	5-10	200	so.
60	Michael Origlio	DL	5-10	260	sr.
64	Madden Houska	OL	6-3	220	jr.
66	Ahmad Abouhamdeh	DL	6-3	285	sr.
67	Tyler Kildoo	OL/DL	5-10	185	so.
68	Gary Reinecke	OL/DL	5-11	175	jr.
71	Jacob Smith	OL/DL	6-0	195	so.
72	Matt Ramey	OL/DL	6-0	175	so.
73	Zach Waibel	OL/DL	6-2	195	jr.
74	Patrick Flannery	OL/DL	6-3	230	sr.
75	Jason Gordineer	OL/DL	6-2	305	jr.
78	Ethan Bartel	OL/DL	6-2	260	sr.
83	Joe Charvat	WR/S	5-11	140	so.
85	Hunter Winston	TE/DL	6-4	220	so.
87	Will Hoynes	TE	6-5	220	sr.
88	Joey Zywiwec	WR/S	5-6	135	jr.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**8**  
 Returning starters on each side of the ball, including 2019 first-stringers Kevin Heichel and Anthony Ross, who missed most of 2020 with injuries.

**31.9**  
 Points per game allowed last season, Highland's highest figure since 2005 (38.5).

**27-9-1**  
 Overall program record counting varsity, junior varsity, freshman, eighth grade and seventh grade in 2020. All five teams had winning records.

## Center/long snapper Dominic Konopka



# Snap-scratch fever

Konopka is passionate about long snapping and has a D-I offer to prove it

Albert Grindle  
 The Gazette

Dominic Konopka ain't no dummy. Division I colleges flat-out aren't going to recruit a 6-foot, 220-pound center. That's about six inches too short and 60-80 pounds too light.

But what if said center can long snap at a nationally-recognized level? Partial scholarships for the most selfless position in the game aren't unheard of, and Konopka wasn't going to give up his dream.

So here we are. The Highland senior has dedicated his life to the "art" of long snapping — yes, he confidently called it an art involving flexibility translated into power — and attended camps as far away as Las Vegas to earn a scholarship offer from Miami of Ohio in late June.

"Having this dream of playing at the next level is something that I've had for a very long time," said Konopka, who will never be confused with being shy. "I've found long snapping was the way. I'm only 6 feet, 220 pounds, so that's like Division III level. No discredit to Division III — that's still great — but it's the truth. So having something that's an art, a specialty that not many people take seriously because it's not a

glorified position, helped me get more interest."

The CliffsNotes version is as follows: In middle school, Konopka expressed his desire to play college football, something his father Mark never fully got the chance to do after a devastating knee injury as a senior at Amherst. A friend knew Kasey Kelleher, a Woodridge High graduate who earned a roster spot at Oklahoma as a long snapper.

That caught Konopka's attention right away, and in seventh grade he went to a camp at Ohio State. There, he met Bradley Robinson, the current starting long snapper for defending national runner-up Ohio State.

The two struck up a friendship and Konopka hasn't stopped grinding since Hornets coach Mike Gibbons made Konopka the starting long snapper in 2018.

"(Robinson) taught me the art of it, pretty much," Konopka said. "(Long snapping) is its own little thing, you know?"

"Most people think for baseball it's just, 'Oh, you throw a pitch,' but there's a whole process behind it. Like with golfing and pitching, you don't golf and pitch every single day. There's many, many drills in between that you do."

Konopka knew he was good — you have to be to start varsity as a freshman — but he wanted to see how he really stacked up. He then signed up for camps sponsored by Rubio Long Snapping, the premier organization in the country for the position.

Konopka went to Chicago in the summer of 2019, and founder Chris Rubio took interest in him and fine-tuned his mechanics while simultaneously boosting his confidence. The momentum even carried over into COVID-19 quarantine, when Konopka lined up a net in his Sharon Township driveway and posted long snapping highlight videos to Twitter.

The culmination came this summer when Konopka was one of 45 invitees to Rubio's premier competition camp in Las Vegas, where the top 12 would qualify for the finals.

While Konopka came up just short, he enters tonight's season opener against Berea-Midpark ranked 15th in the country and eighth among uncommitted players.

"I'm still very upset about that," said a grinning Konopka, who also has visited Illinois, Akron and Marshall. "But even if you're invited to that camp, you're known as one of the top long snappers in the country,

which helped me out with interest and everything.

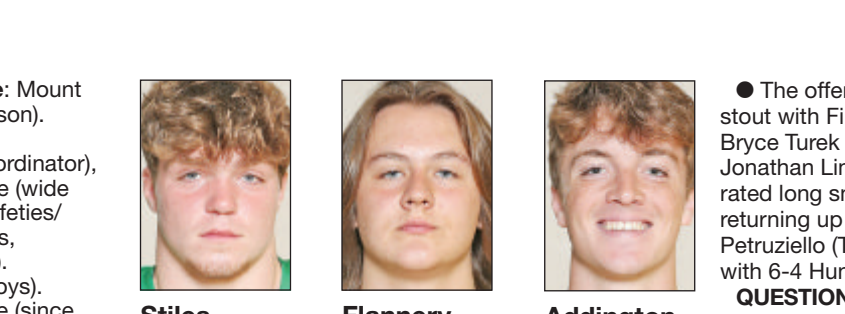
"Of course there's pressure (at camps). There's over 200 guys at your position competing for that No. 1 spot, but that helps me on the football field on Friday nights. I don't feel as much pressure as I do at those Vegas camps because I've been through that."

Long snapping aside, Konopka also returns to Highland for his second season as the starting center. The O-line is a definite team strength with second-team All-Suburban League American Conference pick Patrick Flannery (6-3, 230) at left tackle, 6-2, 260 ex-tight end Ethan Bartel at left guard, bulldozer Joey Scally (6-0, 220) at right guard and manchild Andrew Tatulinski (6-4, 235) at right tackle.

Expectations surrounding the Hornets are high, and a roster full of smart, tough players like Konopka is why.

"I feel (quarterback) Aaron (Filipis) is very secure with our offensive line," Konopka said. "We may not be the biggest, but we have lots of aggression and are a determined offensive line."

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



Stiles Flannery Addington

all but mastered the option-based spread offense.

● Graduated guard Sam Waibel got most of the attention due to his size and D-II college scholarship last season, but left tackle Patrick Flannery also played well and earned a second-team All-SL accolade. The technically sound senior added 20 pounds in the offseason and is now 230.

● **STRENGTHS:** The Hornets return multiple starters at every level on offense and defense, and 2019 first-stringers Kevin Heichel (WR/DB) and Anthony Ross (RB/LB) are back after missing most of last fall with injuries. While lacking starpower, Highland has depth, balance and intelligence and will be tough to beat unless it is athletically overwhelmed.

● Middle linebacker Stiles, nose tackle Joey Scally and defensive end Andrew Tatulinski are extremely strong and difficult to block. The juniors will be the physical cornerstones of a defense that didn't allow a first-string touchdown in the preseason.

● The offense has all the pieces necessary to be stout with Filipis, the speed/power combination of Bryce Turek and Stiles at running back, playmaker Jonathan Lima in the slot and Flannery, nationally rated long snapper Dominic Konopka and Scally returning up front. Replacing two-year starters David Petruziello (TE) and Owen Wendl (RT) will be seamless with 6-4 Hunter Winston and the 6-4 Tatulinski.

● **QUESTION MARKS:** The defense was young, undersized and inconsistent last season, allowing 31.9 points and 402.9 yards per game, with the latter representing the highest average in school history. Highland switched from a conservative 4-3 to a more aggressive 3-3 front in the offseason to take advantage of linebacker depth.

● The passing game will take a significant hit if Filipis goes down, as backups Ringgenberg and sophomore Peyton Janickas are run-first QBs.

● **THE SKINNY:** Highland fans have been pointing to 2021 and 2022 for years, but so have Aurora and Barberton. The Hornets were one of Northeast Ohio's darlings during a surprise 2020 and have all the pieces to be a great team this fall. They also will have to win a legitimate big game first. At the very least, they'll contend for the SL American crown and will be a tough out in the Region 6 playoffs.

● **PREDICTION:** 8-2.

— Albert Grindle



# Black River PIRATES

Home of the Pirates




2021 Schedule					
20-Aug	7pm	at Manchester	1-Oct	7pm	at Oberlin
27-Aug	7pm	Northwestern	8-Oct	7pm	Keystone
3-Sep	7pm	at Cloverleaf	15-Oct	7pm	at Firelands
10-Sep	7pm	Columbia	22-Oct	7pm	Wellington
18-Sep	7pm	at Clearview			
24-Sep	7pm	at Brookside			

# Highland HORNETS




2021 Schedule					
20-Aug	7p	Berea-Midpark	1-Oct	7p	at Revere
27-Aug	7p	at North Royalton	8-Oct	7p	Cuyahoga Falls
3-Sep	7p	at Brunswick	15-Oct	7p	Aurora
10-Sep	7p	Tallmadge	22-Oct	7p	at Copley
17-Sep	7p	Barberton			
24-Sep	7p	at Roosevelt			

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# WADSWORTH GRIZZLIES



**All-purpose back/safety/punter Davis Nye**

## HISTORY LESSON

**All-time record:** 592-415-32.  
**Record vs. current county teams:** 125-55-2.  
**Record vs. all county teams:** 126-55-2.  
**Coaches, records:** Unknown (1905-07) 1-1-2; Elmer Kizer (1913) 3-3; Oliver Deets (1914-16) 15-5; Les Blough (1917) 7-0-1; Willard Hunsberger (1918) 4-1; J.W. Lindsay (1919) 6-4-1; Weyandt (1920) 2-2-1; Wilbur Etter (1921) 7-1-1; Swearington (1922-23) 3-7-2; Fred Schmuck (1924-25) 7-9-3; Charles Stoakes (1926-29) 10-28-1; Art Wright (1930-1941, 48-49) 44-77-6; Don Burnison (1942-44) 13-13-1; Jacob Fretz (1945-47) 18-10; Howard Dailey (1950-51) 5-11-2; Bill Barton (1952-54) 18-8-1; Rex McIlvaine (1955-64) 51-37-5; Dick Hunter (1965-66) 13-6-1; Lorrell Mast (1967-72) 42-17-2; Dick Boron (1973-77) 38-11-1; Tom Hampton (1978-83) 37-22-1; Mike Hall (1984-85) 10-10; Ron Jones (1986-91) 38-22; Ramizi Shepherd (1992-94) 13-17; Greg Dennison (1995-2015) 148-77; Justin Todd (2016-present) 39-16.  
**Best seasons:** 1966, 1967 — 10-0; 2018 — 12-1 (D-II regional finals).  
**Worst season:** 1937 — 0-8.  
**Best 10-year period:** 1966-75 — 77-22-1 (.770).  
**Worst 10-year period:** 1926-35 — 27-62-4 (.290).  
**Most points in game:** 92 vs. Grafton, 1922.  
**Most points allowed in game:** 62 at Medina, 2015; vs. Hudson, Sept. 18, 2020.  
**Biggest margin of victory:** 92-0 vs. Grafton, 1922.  
**Biggest margin of defeat:** 57-0 vs. Orrville, 1927.  
**Most common opponent:** Orrville (77 games, 33 wins, 3 ties).  
**Who they own:** 7-0 vs. Field.  
**Who owns them:** 16-31 vs. Barberton.  
**Conferences:** Suburban League National Conference 1984-present (championships — 2019, 2018, 2017, 2009, 2007, 1996, 1993, 1991, 1988); Pioneer Conference 1977-83 (championships — 1979, 1978, 1977); Chippewa Conference 1960-74 (championships — 1974, 1973, 1972, 1967, 1966); Metropolitan League 1954-59 (championships — none); Western Reserve League 1931-41 (championships — 1938, 1932). Northern League 1928-31 (championships — none).

# All about the team

Old-school Nye has pedigree, attitude to be a versatile playmaker

**Brad Bournival**  
The Gazette

Davis Nye never had a choice. With a father who was a standout linebacker at Seneca East and a grandfather who was a running back legend at Cardinal Mindszenty in New York, the Wadsworth junior was destined for a life in football. That suits Nye just fine.

"I really didn't have any pressure because I fell in love with football when I was young," Nye said. "I was watching games with my dad and started playing in kindergarten."

"I didn't know my dad had played, so it wasn't a big deal. I've looked up to them a lot because they're both really good. I think I can live up to it, so I'm not worried about it. I try not to think about it too much because if I do it will get to me."

There is a lot to live up to, but his coaches and teammates know Nye is more than willing.

His father Mick was a linebacker and team captain for Seneca East. The 5-foot-10, 212-pound standout was a All-Northwest District and All-Midland Athletic Conference first-team pick.

His grandfather, Tom Gaffney, who was a sportswriter for the Akron Beacon Journal for 26 years, was incredible at Cardinal Mindszenty.

A 1965 graduate, Gaffney is the school's sixth all-time leading scorer and will remain that way after the school in Dunkirk closed its doors in 1979. The Monarchs went 11-1-4 with the All-Monsignor Martin Association selection.

"Davis is a really cool character," Grizzlies coach Justin Todd said. "He's confident but certainly not cocky. He was voted a captain for us because his teammates love

to be around him. He lets all of his play do the talking. He doesn't need to boast.

"He's just a really smooth dude that happens to be great at athletics. He's extremely springy. He's got a nose for the ball, whether it's football or basketball. He made a lot of plays for us over the ball. He's got a 36-inch vertical. He gets up quick. His first jump is really good. His springs are really evident."

Nye scored more than 100 touchdowns in youth football, so someone with that much athletic ability could be cocky, but you won't find that in the varsity starter.

He was given the No. 8 when he got to varsity, but Archbishop Hoban quarterback transfer Luke Fischer wore it for the Knights and Nye had no problem taking No. 1 and giving his teammate the jersey.

"I don't know he handles all of it so well," Wadsworth right tackle Cadin Bux said. "He just doesn't let anything get to him. He was voted one of our captains this year — me and him both were voted team captain — and it's heavy to carry, but he's playing like he doesn't have anything to lose."

"He gives us such a good confidence boost because we can bump him out and play slot. He can run the ball. He plays linebacker and safety for us. He's a versatile player for us."

Therein might be the bonus for the Grizzlies, as Todd kidded that if Nye had his Commercial Driver's License, he'd let him drive the bus.

When Wadsworth opens the season tonight at home against St. Vincent-St. Mary, fans might find Nye playing H-back, running back, linebacker, strong safety and/or punter.

"He's long and athletic and can do a bunch of different things," Todd said. "He catches the ball as good as

anybody on our team. He's a powerful runner, and he's going to play defensive back for us as well."

At 6-2 and 195 pounds, Nye wants to be on the field at all times.

"It's about the team more than it is me," Nye said. "When I was younger, I played both sides of the ball and always felt more engaged in the game when I could really put my hands on it and get work done. I'd rather win than get the ball every time. Winning is the most important thing."

The only sophomore on the varsity basketball team last season, Nye also has plans to go out for track in the spring, but it's the Friday Night Lights that have drawn him in most.

"It just feels natural to me," Nye said. "When I'm not in season, it just feels like everything's a little off."

That narrative hits home with Todd, who is as big a fan of Nye the football player as he is Nye the person.

"He can be a lot better," Todd said. "As our young team continues to develop, we're going to center our game plan around Davis. As it grows, he will be a big focal point of what we do."

"It's really refreshing to have a guy like him. He doesn't need props on social media. You know what it is? He's totally old school, and I love it. This guy is playing sports because sports are a lot of fun to play and competition is great. It's not about the name on the back of the jersey for Davis. It's the name on the front. It's refreshing in today's day and age. He doesn't need the pub. He doesn't need to be hyped up. He just wants to play ball with his buddies."

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## STARTING LINEUP

Offense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Luke Fischer	6-1	190	Jr.
	Josh Pasco	5-11	155	Jr.
RB	Davis Nye	6-2	200	Jr.
WR	Anthony Cirino	5-10	175	sr.
WR	Kyle Figury	6-1	190	so.
WR	McGuire Hiscock	6-0	145	Jr.
WR	Skyler Kries	5-11	165	sr.
	Jordan Johnson	6-0	185	sr.
LT	Evan Crowley	6-2	220	so.
LG	Jared Pasco	6-0	250	Jr.
C	Jon Byers	6-2	250	so.
RG	Aaron Ries	6-1	285	so.
RT	Cadin Bux	5-11	250	Jr.
K	Jack Dinwiddie	5-8	115	fr.
KR	Anthony Cirino	5-10	175	sr.
KR	Skyler Kries	5-11	165	sr.
KR	Will Stack	5-9	150	so.

Defense				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
E	Conner Frisby	6-2	190	Jr.
T	Promise Roman	5-10	285	sr.
E	Coen Grimm	5-9	205	Jr.
OLB	Kyle Figury	6-1	190	so.
ILB	Maverick Blackburn	6-0	200	Jr.
OLB	Ian Kaufman	6-0	185	Jr.
CB	Skyler Kries	5-11	165	sr.
CB	Brandon Sams	5-9	160	Jr.
FS	Brayden Probst	5-7	165	Jr.
SS	Cooper Vignali	5-11	170	Jr.
MB	Davis Nye	6-2	200	Jr.
P	Davis Nye	6-2	200	Jr.
PR	Anthony Cirino	5-10	175	sr.
PR	Skyler Kries	5-11	165	sr.

## ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	Davis Nye	RB/TE	6-2	200	Jr.
2	Michael Swanson	CB	5-9	150	sr.
3	Jacob Ramsay	WR	5-10	175	Jr.
4	Tommy Arnold	TE/LB	6-0	200	Jr.
5	Ian Kaufman	LB	6-0	195	Jr.
6	Skyler Kries	DB	5-11	165	sr.
7	Maverick Blackburn	TE/LB	6-0	200	Jr.
8	Luke Fischer	QB	6-1	190	Jr.
9	Josh Pasco	QB	5-11	155	Jr.
10	Jordan Johnson	WR	6-0	185	sr.
11	McGuire Hiscock	WR	6-0	145	Jr.
12	Carson Bux	DB	6-1	170	so.
13	Will Stack	QB	5-9	150	so.
14	Cooper Vignali	FS	5-11	170	Jr.
15	Anthony Cirino	AP	5-10	175	sr.
16	Desan Reddish	WR	5-8	145	Jr.
17	Coen Grimm	DE	5-9	205	Jr.
18	Hunter Bartish	WR	5-11	170	Jr.
19	Peyton Pappas	LB	6-1	170	Jr.
20	Ryder Evans	DB	5-10	135	Jr.
21	Liam Russell	DB	5-10	145	so.
22	Luke Watts	DB	6-1	165	sr.
23	Michael Lally	DL/DB	6-2	180	sr.
24	Tyler Probst	WR	5-7	135	so.
25	Randy Weiner	LB	5-8	185	sr.
26	Collin Robinson	LB	5-10	170	Jr.
27	Julian Scalera	DB	5-7	155	sr.
28	Kyle Figury	WR/LB	6-1	190	so.
29	Nathan Metzger	RB	5-4	150	so.
30	Max Mills	RB	5-8	140	so.
31	Simon Kilker	DB	6-0	150	so.
33	Brandon Sams	DB	5-9	160	Jr.
34	Ivan Rains	DB	5-10	145	so.
35	Parker Ross	LB	5-11	185	so.
39	Hunter Cole	DB	5-8	150	Jr.
40	Casey Hill	LB	5-11	196	so.
42	Jack Dinwiddie	K	5-8	115	fr.
43	Aiden Brown	RB	5-7	130	Jr.
44	Anthony Hose	DB	5-8	150	so.
45	Brayden Probst	SS	5-7	165	Jr.
47	Liam McAlister	K	6-0	175	sr.
49	Luke Ramsier	SS	6-2	175	Jr.
51	Nathan Garcia	OL/DL	6-0	235	so.
52	Ryan Zrelak	OL/DL	5-11	195	so.
53	Evan Crowley	OL/DL	6-2	220	so.
55	Luke Ryder	OL/DL	5-10	195	so.
56	Aaron Ries	OL/DL	6-1	285	so.
57	Conner Frisby	DL	6-2	190	sr.
58	Eli Harper	OL/DL	5-11	190	Jr.
60	Christian Reed	DL	5-8	140	so.
63	Brycen Piazza	OL	6-2	225	so.
64	Tighe Harty	OL	6-4	300	Jr.
65	Max Hattfield	OL/DL	5-3	155	so.
68	Jon Byers	OL/DL	6-2	250	so.
69	Morgan Ramsay	DL	5-9	255	sr.
74	Noah Tefeller	OL/DL	6-0	230	Jr.
77	Cadin Bux	OL/DL	5-11	250	Jr.
78	Jared Pasco	OL/DL	6-0	250	Jr.
80	Drew Jones	WR	6-1	180	so.
81	Zefrum Sykora	WR	6-4	175	sr.
82	Luke Falanga	WR	5-11	155	so.
84	Ryan Keaton	WR/DB	5-9	135	so.
86	Anthony Pace	WR/FS	5-11	143	so.
88	Elliot Simmons	WR	6-0	165	Jr.
89	Caedan Shriver	WR	5-11	130	so.
97	Promise Roman	OL/DL	5-10	285	sr.
99	Eric Busson	OL/DL	6-2	245	sr.
	Landon Gabor	DL	6-0	166	so.

## SEASON OUTLOOK

**COACH:** Justin Todd. Age: 39. College: Mount Union ('04). Overall record: 74-27 (10th season). Record at Wadsworth: 39-16 (6th season).

**ASSISTANTS:** Matt Mountjoy (offensive coordinator), Jason Knapp (defensive coordinator), Dom Borsani (safeties), Kevin Bux (defensive line), Cory Potter (linebackers), Matt Probst (cornerbacks), Luke Colopy (offensive line), Kevin Sonni (wide receivers).

**DIVISION:** II, Region 6 (enrollment: 547 boys).  
**LEAGUE:** Suburban National Conference (since 1984; titles in '88, '91, '93, '96, '07, '09, '17, '18, '19).

**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES:** 1996 (D-II first round), 1999 (D-II regional finals), 2002 (D-I first round), 2003 (D-I regional runner-up), 2007 (D-I first round), 2009 (D-I first round), 2011 (D-I regional finals), 2013 (D-I first round), 2014 (D-I first round), 2017 (D-II regional semifinals), 2018 (D-II regional finals), 2019 (D-II regional semifinals), 2020 (D-II first round).

**LAST SEASON:** 2-6, 0-0 (n/a in SL National).  
**BEST OF THE BEST:** Anthony Cirino will be one of the most feared perimeter playmakers in the SL National Conference. The senior, whose offers include D-I schools Youngstown State and Dayton, averaged 17.4 yards per reception and 28.9 yards per kickoff return last fall and should easily step into the role made famous by Barret Labus, who is now at Valparaiso.

● Skyler Kries was a bright spot on an otherwise poor defensive unit last season, as his constant improvement showed at cornerback. The ace pitcher figures to play a larger role this season



Kries



Kaufman



Grimm

guarding No. 1 wide receivers.

● Davis Nye is an intriguing offensive talent at 6-foot-2, 200 pounds with the speed to play running back, the physicality to block as an H-back and the hands to play receiver. The latter two spots will open rushing opportunities for 5-4 waterbug Nathan Metzger, a sophomore with moves on top of moves.

**STRENGTHS:** Todd builds his system around the quarterback, and Josh Pasco or Luke Fischer — both juniors — will put up numbers regardless of who's behind center. Pasco knows the system, while the quick-triggered Fischer arrived Aug. 2 after spending his first two years at Medina and Archbishop Hoban.

● Wadsworth prides itself on the pistol power running game, and Nye, Metzger and Cirino are capable of getting the job done behind a young but beefy line.

● With such a young team, no one is trying to hide the fact the Grizzlies are rebuilding. Todd has been giddy with the positive attitudes, knowing Wadsworth

will continue to get better every week.

● The offensive line is extremely young with two juniors and three sophomores but will be the cornerstone of the team moving forward.

**QUESTION MARKS:** Inexperience will be glaring in the early part of the season, as Wadsworth returns only Cirino on offense and Conner Frisby, Coen Grimm, Ian Kaufman, Kries and Brayden Probst on defense. The offense in particular has struggled with timing, but correctable errors will be cleaned up quickly.

● The defense has nowhere to go but up after allowing a school-record 39.8 points and Medina County-record 469.5 yards per game in 2020. While still prone to big plays, the Grizzlies were pretty good against the run in the preseason and noticeably better overall in the second scrimmage at Brunswick.

● Kicking and punting will have new players after a solid performance by Aiden Mendel and a tremendous first-team All-Ohio punting effort from Mitchell Evans. The Grizzlies have really struggled in the former over the last decade.

**THE SKINNY:** Wadsworth is unlikely to have a winning season, and that's OK with only four seniors at the 22 starting positions. The Grizzlies will improve as the season progresses and be dangerous in 2022 and 2023, but they'll need to get a win to prevent a possible 0-8 start heading into North Royalton and Twinsburg.

**PREDICTION:** 3-7.

— Albert Grindle