

# SPORTS



**Still going strong**  
80-year-old brings wisdom, wit to Korn Ferry caddie job, **3C**

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER



Abby Reisz, a senior goalie at Upper Arlington, was voted the No. 1 player in the state. Reisz is committed to Tennessee and was named to the player pool for the U18 national team in May. BARBARA J. PERENIC/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

# Pantoni stocks OSU with top talent

Dedication, track record draw recruits' attention

**Joey Kaufman**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jaxon Smith-Njigba was sitting in a psychology class at Rockwall High School in a suburb of Dallas one morning three years ago when his phone rang.

It was a recruiter from Ohio State on the other end.

Mark Pantoni, the director of player personnel, had been impressed by his recent performances and wanted to invite him to visit the school for a game later that fall. Once Smith-Njigba agreed, the Buckeyes offered him a scholarship, and little time was wasted. He committed in November following a trip.



**Pantoni**

At the time, Smith-Njigba was an undervalued wide receiver prospect, a year away from picking up a five-star rating. He had offers from a handful of Power Five Conference schools, but none of them were blue bloods or even the premier in-state schools like Texas or Texas A&M.

All of which made the early interest from Ohio State stand out.

"They didn't care about all the other stuff," Smith-Njigba said. "They just cared about me, how good I was and my potential."

From Smith-Njigba, now in line to be the Buckeyes' starting slot receiver, to dozens of other players, Pantoni found out about them early in their high school careers.

The shrewd 39-year-old recruiting chief and his staff pored over film from games, 7-on-7 passing tournaments and summer camps before turning them into priorities on the recruiting trail.

It's an eye for talent that has shaped a decade's worth of Ohio State football rosters, spanning two coaching tenures.

"He's great, the best in the business," said former Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, who first brought Pantoni to Columbus.

"I just think you look at his hit rate," said Ryan Day, who succeeded Meyer

See **PANTONI**, Page **6C**

# 'This is what I do'

Upper Arlington goalie Abby Reisz is Ohio's top player

**Bailey Johnson** Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

**N**o player in the history of Ohio girls soccer has earned all-state honors both as a field player and as a goalkeeper.

- Abby Reisz intends to be the first.
- The Upper Arlington senior was second-team All-Ohio in 2018 as a freshman forward, and this fall she'll play goalkeeper, her preferred position, for the first time at the high school level.
- She's been in goal on her club team since she was 10, and it's where she'll play at Tennessee next year. But her freshman and sophomore years for the Golden Bears, Reisz was used up front because the team already had a starting goalkeeper, and she was more valuable at forward than on the bench as the backup goalie.
- When Andrew Kessinger took over as coach before the 2020 season, he spoke to 11 of his fellow coaches about what the right position for Reisz was. All 11 said they'd play her in goal.

See **REISZ**, Page **6C**



## Ohio's Top 21

A look at the state's best players in 2021, **5C**

# After 35 days lost at sea, Crew finds island of victory



**Michael Arace**  
Columnist  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FC Cincinnati Friday night. It was the first meeting of the Ohio Derby — it's not a true rivalry in soccer unless it has at least two names, at least one of them must include the word "darby" — at the Crew's new stadium, Lower.com Field.

Calling FCC "lowly" is not a cheap shot. The lads from Queen City extended their winless streak to 11 games (0-4-7). They are in 13th place, or next-to-last, in the Eastern Conference. Like Cincinnati, they are known for peacefully ceding power.

See **ARACE**, Page **7C**



**Lucas Zelarayan, left, embraces Miguel Berry after the Crew ended a six-game losing streak on Friday.**  
JOSHUA A. BICKEL/COLUMBUS DISPATCH



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# SPORTS REPORT

## IN BRIEF

### Jaguars trade QB Minshew to Eagles for 2022 draft pick

Minshew Mania is on the move. The Jacksonville Jaguars traded backup quarterback Gardner Minshew to Philadelphia on Saturday for a conditional draft pick in 2022. The Jaguars received a sixth-round pick that would become a fifth-rounder if Minshew plays 50% of

snaps in three games. Minshew joins a QB room that already has starter Jalen Hurts and veteran backup Joe Flacco. The Eagles cut third-string quarterback Nick Mullens to make room. Minshew was a two-year starter in Jacksonville, going 7-13 in 20 starts. He has completed 63% of his passes for 5,530 yards, 37 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

### New trio of Titans out, with Vrabel missing preseason finale

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Mike Vrabel will miss the preseason finale a week after testing positive for COVID-19, and a pair of coaches and another player have joined the protocols as the team's outbreak grows. The Titans announced Saturday spe-

cial teams coach Craig Aukerman, who missed a couple of practices under the NFL's COVID-19 protocols, will be back for Saturday night's game with Chicago. Wide receiver coach Rob Moore and offensive line assistant Jason Houghtaling will miss the game because of the virus protocols. Rookie wide receiver Racey McMath also was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list Saturday.

## OVERHEARD

"I feel like I've done a great job just showing that I'm coachable. Showing that I'm wanting to learn, wanting to get better."

**Dwayne Haskins**  
Pittsburgh Steelers (and former Ohio State) quarterback, after completing 9 of 16 passes for 108 yards, a touchdown and an interception in a 34-9 loss to Carolina on Friday.

## ON THE AIR

- AUTO RACING**
- 8:55 a.m.: F1 Belgian Grand Prix, ESPN2
- 3 p.m.: GT Road America, CBSSN
- 6:30 p.m.: MotoGP British Grand Prix, NBCSN\*
- BASEBALL**
- 10 a.m.: LLWS third place, ESPN
- 12 p.m.: LLWS home run derby, ESPN
- 1 p.m.: San Francisco-Atlanta, TBS
- 1 p.m.: Cincinnati-Miami, BSOH
- 1 p.m.: Cleveland-Boston, BSG
- W240-CX 95.9
- 3 p.m.: LLWS championship, Ch. 6
- 3 p.m.: Columbus-Memphis, WMNI 95.1/920
- 4 p.m.: Regional coverage, MLB
- 7 p.m.: NY Yankees-Oakland, ESPN
- WBNS 1460
- CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**
- 7 p.m.: Calgary-Winnipeg, ESPN2
- GOLF**
- 7 a.m.: European Masters, Golf
- 12 p.m.: PGA BMW Championship, Golf
- 2 p.m.: PGA BMW Championship, Ch. 4
- 2 p.m.: Champions Ally Challenge, Golf
- 7 p.m.: Nationwide Children's Champ., Golf\*
- HS FOOTBALL**
- 1:30 p.m.: IMG-Bishop Sycamore, ESPN
- HORSE RACING**
- 1 p.m.: NYRA Saratoga Live, FS2
- MEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL**
- 5 p.m.: AFFL Championship, CBSSN
- MEN'S SOCCER**
- 7 a.m.: Celtic-Rangers, CBSSN
- 9 a.m.: Leeds-Burnley, NBCSN
- 11 a.m.: Beach World Cup, FS2
- 11:30 a.m.: Man. U.-Wolverhampton, NBCSN
- 12:30 p.m.: Genoa-Napoli, CBSSN
- 6 p.m.: San Francisco-UCLA, PAC12
- 7 p.m.: Bucknell-Wake Forest, ACC
- 7 p.m.: Juárez-Santos Laguna, FS2
- MLS**
- 8 p.m.: Dallas-Austin, FS1
- 10:30 p.m.: Portland-Seattle, ESPN
- NFL PRESEASON**
- 1 p.m.: Jacksonville-Dallas, NFL
- WBNS 1460
- 4 p.m.: Miami-Cincinnati, Ch. 10, WXZX 105.7
- 4 p.m.: Las Vegas-San Francisco, NFL
- 6 p.m.: New England-NY Giants, NFL
- 8 p.m.: Cleveland-Atlanta, Ch. 4
- WBNS 97.1
- PARALYMPICS**
- 9 p.m.: Various events, NBCSN
- 3 a.m.: Various events, NBCSN
- RODEO**
- 2 p.m.: PBR Tractor Supply Inv., Ch. 10
- SOFTBALL**
- 1 p.m.: Warren-Piancastelli, FS1
- 3:30 p.m.: Osterman-Hayward, FS1
- SWIMMING**
- 12 p.m.: ISL Naples, Ch. 10
- WOMEN'S SOCCER**
- 1 p.m.: South Carolina-NC State-ACC
- 1:30 p.m.: North Carolina-Ohio St.-BTN
- 1:30 p.m.: Florida St.-Colorado, PAC12
- 4 p.m.: San Diego St.-Stanford, PAC12
- 9 p.m.: Long Beach St. at UCLA, PAC12
- \*-tape delay. The Dispatch is not responsible for unannounced changes, preemptions or interruptions of programming.

**THE MAILBOX**  
Brian White  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

# Ohtani vs. The Babe? Let's table that discussion for 20 years or so



**The Mailbox**  
Brian White  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

**Brian:** I was disappointed, but not surprised, to see Rob Oller join the Babe Ruth-Shohei Otani comparison Greek Chorus. Ohtani has had a very good five months of baseball. Babe Ruth played 22 years and slashed .342/.474/.690. His slugging, OPS and OPS+ lead MLB for all time (not to mention an untouchable 183.1 WAR). Those career numbers all exceed Ohtani's great year. Ruth's pitching? 94-46, .671 win percentage, 2.28 ERA and 1.159 WHIP. Hardly pedestrian stats. Ohtani is good for baseball and a great story. But we can acknowledge his greatness without comparing him to the GOAT. Table that discussion for 20 more years of a season like this one.

And thanks for resurrecting the Mailbox!

*Brent Rosenthal*

**Brent:** Those are all good points, and I love when knowledgeable fans like yourself can apply modern metrics to old-time players. Many agree with you, including former major leaguer Kent Mercker, of Dublin, whom Rob quoted in the column saying, "It's a very valid comparison. I'm not going that far yet, but if he does this for 10 to 15 years?"

### Washington Football Team

**Hi, Brian:** I'm happy to see The Mailbox is back. Best of luck to you as you start your new gig. With Ray the Great still there to advise you, I'm sure you'll do fine. Allow me to be one of the first to submit a letter to the "new Mailbox."

Ever since the NFL's Washington Redskins decided to finally stop offending Native Americans by using that nickname, I've been wondering when they will stop calling themselves "The Washington Football Team" (yawn) and come up with a new moniker. I keep expecting to hear about some sort of contest, asking fans to suggest a new name for the team. So far, nothing.

I have an idea. How about "The Washington Reds?" Sure, there's a Major League Baseball team called the Cincinnati Reds, but there's an MLB team called the Cardinals, while there's also an NFL team called the Cardinals.

Why not "The Washington Reds?" What do you think?

*Mike Adamkosky*

**Mike:** My guess is that the WFT will want to get as far away from the old name as possible, just as the Chiefs won't become the Chiefs or the Braves turning into Bravos. After all, the WFT never wore Red Stockings. But I'll ask Ray the Great what he thinks.

### Ella's mom ruled, too

**Editor:** You noted Ella Brandewie's genetic predisposition to greatness hailed from her dad, her sister, and her brother but you were remiss in not mentioning her mother, Kelly Dill Brandewie, who was a ferocious field hockey goalie at Bishop Hartley High School.



**Shohei Ohtani was the headliner for this year's All-Star Game.**  
GARY A. VASQUEZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

*Patty Ryan*

**Patty:** Thanks so much for that. I'm sure the talented Brandewie family appreciates it, too.

### Crew stadium

**Editor:** I was disappointed to learn that the name of the new Crew stadium will be Lower.com Field. I would have liked a much more positive-sounding name. I don't believe that naming rights should go automatically to the highest bidder. I wonder if other Dispatch readers feel the same way.

*Tom Hooker*

**Tom:** I'm sure others feel the same way, especially in light of the team's massive struggles since moving homes.

### Box scores, cont.

**Editor:** I suggested this to Ray, who I think was at least willing to listen in principle. With increasing costs, shrinking sections and earlier deadlines, sports sections of print newspapers have become a joke. ... Based on the tone and content of letters this week I am clearly not alone in my frustrations of being directed to the web for more content. Quite frankly, if I took you up on that offer more frequently I really wouldn't need a Dispatch at all. I understand the deadline of the print edition can't change at this point but why not have a later deadline for the electronic edition? It can have all the content of the print edition plus the items too late and still be packaged in the nice easy-to-read newspaper format that doesn't require a thousand mouse clicks. I really feel you could be the newspaper of the future with that strategy.

*Jason Bremer*

**Mr. White:** Read your response to the two queries in Sunday's mailbag (and, not that it matters to you, but I largely concur), but was then baffled to see the Browns preseason box in Tuesday's paper. If the in-season results are too out of date to run (and with few exceptions, they are), I cannot fathom how (or why) a preseason box would take up valuable space. For what it's worth, I agree that the Crew boxes (which have appeared) and Blue Jackets boxes (which did appear) should and I anticipate OSU football and basketball boxes to appear in season. Although I love the brief reports on the Clippers (Bravo!), I do feel their boxes should also appear. But I see no good reason for out-of-town exhibitions to waste newsprint. Best wishes in your position.

*Chris Gallutia*

**Editor:** Thank you for returning the letters to the editor. You are off to a nice start. However, under your logic on not

printing any baseball box scores, because they would be two days old, that logic would dictate not printing two-day-old scores. Sorry, the principle is exactly the same.

*J Kapps*

**Editor:** I read with interest your response to two letters on baseball coverage in Sunday's paper. Unfortunately, your response was predictable. I agree 100% with what those two readers wrote. And I will add that the coverage of high school sports, particularly football, is abysmal. The vast majority of the sports page is not news but commentary. Actually, that is true of the entire paper. The real question is why "Ohio's Greatest Home Newspaper" (It most certainly is not; see The Plain Dealer) would have a print contract that requires a 4 p.m. print deadline. (By the way, I know what your answer would be.) This is the real question: How many other USA Today newspapers have such an agreement?

*Terry Conlisk*

**Editor:** In your answer to Mr. Schwartz on his question regarding baseball coverage you wrote, "The current deadlines for the print editions are in the afternoon, long before the games begin." The former Dispatch owned by the Wolfe family built a state-of-the-art printing facility in Columbus. At that time The Dispatch was capable of covering a Saturday night Ohio State football game in the Sunday paper. Not to mention baseball coverage. When The Dispatch was sold and ultimately became part of the USA Today family, the printing facility was closed and the printing of the paper was moved to Indianapolis, resulting in much earlier deadlines and a loss of timeliness for both news and sports reporting. The new Dispatch owners made a corporate decision to consolidate their printing to save money. Your answer to Mr. Schwartz was factual but fell far short in explaining why today's Dispatch is less timely than the Dispatch of 20 years ago.

*G*

**Jason, Chris, J, Terry, G:** Thanks for your responses and the thought put into them. As I wrote last week, it is a daily discussion among editors to decide what can fit in the newspaper and what can't. The benefit we have is a great website at Dispatch.com that can provide up-to-the-minute reports on news that happens before and after our deadline. It is also a place that has additional content beyond what might be in print. From Ohio State football games, for instance, our writers will produce extra articles and columns that might not show up in print, both because of deadlines and space. And just as we make daily decisions, we try to make smart overall strategic plans. Aside from space considerations (a box score takes far more space than does a one-line score), when it comes to baseball, the teams most often will have played another game by the time the reader sees the previous day's box score in print. So we'd often be a day behind, and that can be unsettling. Our preference is to give articles that lend context to the team's season. I'm sure the discussion will continue, and I'm happy our loyal readers care so much.

*Have more comments, questions? Reach out to me at bwwhite@dispatch.com.*

## CONTACT US

Fax ..... 614-461-8798

E-mail ..... sports@dispatch.com

Schools and coaches can report game results to sports@dispatch.com or by fax at 614-461-8798. Amateur listings, holes-in-one and other submissions (scholarship announcements, meetings, coaching vacancies, outdoors notices) must be emailed to sports@dispatch.com or faxed to 614-461-8798.

## CLIPPERS AT A GLANCE: MEMPHIS 4, COLUMBUS 2

**Saturday's game:** Columbus at Memphis, late  
**Friday's game:** Memphis 4, Columbus 2  
**Recap.** Jake Woodford scattered six hits across six innings, allowing just two runs, and Memphis defeated visiting Columbus 4-2. Woodford (2-3)

struck out five and held the Clippers to 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position. Oscar Gonzalez extended his hitting streak to 14 games with a solo home run in the sixth inning and Nolan Jones hit his 25th double of the season. Brad Peacock (0-4) took the loss, allowing three runs on five hits through five

innings. He struck out seven.  
**Attendance:** 2,267  
**Next game:** Sunday at Memphis, 3:05 p.m.  
**Next home game:** Tuesday, Aug. 31 vs. St. Paul, 6:15 p.m. at Huntington Park.  
**Ticket info:** Call 614-462-5250 or log on to clippersbaseball.com



# JJ James, 80, brings wisdom and wit to Korn Ferry caddie job



**Rob Oller**  
Columnist  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hylton "JJ" James does not look a day over 79. But he is. By 125 days. And if, God forbid, the 80-year-old Korn Ferry Tour caddie doesn't make it to his next April birthday he wants his last breath to be on the golf course.

Drop right there, like a 30-foot birdie putt.

"I'll caddie until I drop dead. I'm serious about that," James said, standing in what little shade was available at the Ohio State Scarlet Course after finishing caddying for Ben Kohles at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship.

"Who cares?" James continued. "You don't know how you're going to die, and then once you die you don't know that you died anyway. You don't get up and say, 'Well, I didn't want to die on the golf course. I wanted to die around the corner at a bar somewhere.' I'd rather die here than at some hospital and convalescent home."

If talk of death makes you uncomfortable, especially for James, know that the great-grandfather from Brooklyn fears worse things than the coffin. Like double bogeys and three-putts.

"Three-putts are just wasteful. You're on the green and you leave with a bogey," he muttered.

That is the club-toting caddie talking. The one who wipes irons clean and helps determine wind direction and club choice while carrying a 35-pound bag of clubs in 90-degree heat — just two years removed from heart bypass surgery.

But there also is James the therapist and counselor, who cajoles and cares for his player when no one else will.

"I've told my guys when things get heated, 'I'm not here to harm you. In fact, I'm the only person on this golf course that gives a bleep about you,'" James said. "The rest of these guys could care less if Ben Kohles shoots 80, 90 or 100."

Since leaving his job as a Los Angeles nightclub manager in 1985 to carry clubs, James has learned lessons that come from spending long and often lonely hours with the PGA Tour and Korn Ferry Tour players, walking more than 25,000 miles along the way.

Before Kohles, who James has been with for five years, there was Mike Hulbert, Robert Wrenn and former Ohio State player Chris Perry. Somewhere in there were Isao Aoki and Joe Osaki, Charlie Hoffman, Bo Van Pelt, Charlie Reimer, Chez Reavie, Kelly Kraft, Tag Ridings and Chase Wright.

But Kohles might be the most special of them all, not necessarily for his talent but for how he touched James emotionally like few other players would.

Following heart surgery in May 2019, James obviously needed time off. Less obvious was how Kohles would handle the situation. Turns out with loyalty and compassion.

"Ben stood by me when 99% of the pros on this tour or any tour would have let me go when I had the heart attack," James said, tearing up. "They woulda said, 'JJ, you oughta go home now, and if

## Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship

**When:** Sunday

**Where:** Ohio State Golf Club, Scarlet Course

**TV:** Golf Channel (4:30-6:30 p.m.)

**Schedule:** 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Tickets:** Grounds: Free; Hospitality tent: \$50. Go to <https://ncc-golf.com/> or call 614-218-1948

you get a little better maybe we'll be back together.' Instead, he came to me and said, 'Don't worry about the bag or money. I'll use other caddies and when you get well and are ready to go, this is your job.' That's where the emotion comes from. I caddie for him like he's my grandson."

Kohles, who James predicts will become a contending PGA Tour player within two years, clearly has a soft spot for his caddie. And like his bag man, Kohles does not worry about what happens if James collapses on the course.

"He's happy doing what he's doing," said the 31-year-old, who won the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in 2012. "And there's no better way he'd rather go, anyway, so I'm not worried about it."

I asked James what makes a good caddie.

"A great player," he said. "Tiger Woods woulda won the same amount of tournaments with me, too. And that's no putdown on Steve (Williams). It's just that he's a great player. So that's pretty much it. I've never thought of myself as a great caddie. A good caddie. A journeyman. I know what I'm doing and if a guy plays his game I'll do my part."

I asked Kohles why James? What does an 80-year-old bring to the table?

"Comedy," he said. "He brings comic relief sometimes, when I need it. I get upset at him, too, but that's the nature of it. Everyone gets mad at their caddie."

James knows when the anger is coming, but after working with so many irritable golfers — "Charley Hoffman and I are good friends, but he'll wear you out on the golf course," James said — he mostly lets it slide off, knowing there are bigger problems than whether his player missed a fairway.

That perspective comes into play when calming Kohles, who like most players gets upset when things go sideways.

"I'm 80. He's 31," James said. "I don't get as ramped up as fast as he does. I'm like, 'Son, settle down. There's a lot more important things than this.' People are dying in Afghanistan. People are dying from COVID. And these kids on these plaques ..."

More tears. The dam burst as James recalled reading signs posted around Scarlet that tell the stories of cancer patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

"I passed one and got emotional," he said. "This little kid has leukemia. And a lot of these (players) are running around bitching about their score or the course or whatever. Give me a break."

Please make it to 81 and far beyond, JJ. More than just golfers need you. [roller@dispatch.com](mailto:roller@dispatch.com)



Caddie Hylton "JJ" James predicts Ben Kohles will become a contending PGA Tour player within two years. ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH



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# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## New Albany's Hollenbaugh 'has no barriers'



**High Schools**  
Bailey Johnson  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's been almost two weeks since New Albany senior Kary Hollenbaugh shot a 60 in the Lady Elk Invitational at Yankee Trace, but the impressive nature of that score hasn't worn off yet.

At least, it hasn't for this reporter, whose golf knowledge ranks somewhere between "has been to Topgolf" and "casually watches the Masters, mostly for the azaleas."

But those with a lot more golf knowledge are just as impressed. Bob Sowards, director of instruction at Kinsale Golf and Fitness Club in Powell, put Hollenbaugh's round in perspective.

"That's unheard of, really, for high school golf," Sowards said. "Especially girls. Only the special, special players have the ability to go low. Obviously, she has no barriers."

"It takes a special player to get that many under and just keep making birdies. I think she had two bogeys that round, too, so it makes it even more impressive. She's gonna be a world-beater."

Hollenbaugh, who is committed to Ohio State, did have two bogeys, on holes 4 and 10. But 10 birdies, an eagle and a hole-in-one added up for her to shoot 12-under-par in what may well be the lowest-scoring round in Ohio high school golf history.

"Probably midway through that round, I knew it was gonna be a good round," New Albany golf coach Rich Ritter said. "But even when you're on a roll, it takes a lot to be hitting that many birdies in one round. ... She just made a lot of

putts that day, hit a lot of wedges in close. She was feeling it."

The Ohio High School Athletic Association doesn't keep regular-season golf records, so it's impossible to say for sure if Hollenbaugh did set a record, but as far as Sowards and Ritter are concerned, it's as good as it gets.

"That's best the high school round I've ever heard of," Sowards said. "I know Yankee Trace isn't the hardest golf course in the world, but shooting 60 is shooting 60. Shooting 12-under is awesome. You don't get that low if you don't have the ability to go low. I was shocked, to tell you the truth. ...

"It's one thing to do it playing out there with her dad, Paul (Hollenbaugh, head golf pro at New Albany Country Club), or with her friends, but to do it in a tournament, that makes it even that much more impressive."

Hollenbaugh's round also helped New Albany break its team record for lowest score, both in total score and strokes under par.

"As that round was going on, the talk through the lineup was, 'OK, we can break the record today,' " Ritter said. "That was important to Kary and her teammates. ... It was a pretty special day, certainly for her 60, and for the team as a whole."

Around central Ohio football

Berne Union junior quarterback **Nate Nemeth** had 167 rushing yards on just four carries Friday night and scored three touchdowns on the ground, including an 88-yard run. Through the air, Nemeth added 113 yards and a touchdown while completing four of his five pass attempts as the Rockets beat Caldwell 55-27.

In Hilliard Davidson's 31-7 win over Grove City, Davidson senior kicker **Aiden Ighnat** kicked a 51-yard field goal

late in the third quarter to give the Wildcats a 24-7 lead.

Olentangy Berlin rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat crosstown rival Olentangy Orange in overtime, led by quarterback **Harrison Brewster's** 172 passing yards, 57 rushing yards and four total touchdowns — three rushing and one passing touchdown to secure the win. Receiver **Bennett Lawrence** had six catches for 109 yards.

To open DeSales' 48-14 win over Independence, **Max Shulaw** took a pick-six 85 yards.

West Jefferson quarterback **Tyler Buescher** continued his strong start to his senior season with 400 passing yards and three touchdowns in the Rough Riders' 41-6 win over Paint Valley.

Soccer

**Chase Alwood** has scored three goals in the past two games for Canal Winchester, with two in a 4-0 win over Pickerington Central and one in a 3-0 win over Groveport Madison. Alwood scored 32 goals as a junior at Bloom-Carroll last year.

Upper Arlington senior goaltender **Abby Reisz** extended her streak to three clean sheets with four saves in the Golden Bears' 2-0 win over Dublin Jerome on Thursday.

Including scrimmages, Reisz has yet to allow a goal this year.

On the Upper Arlington boys team, junior **Miles Bonham** scored all four of the Golden Bears' goals in a 4-2 win over Jerome. The teams combined for five goals in the second half.

Columbus Academy senior forward **Mary Kate Prall** scored her first two goals of the season in a 3-0 win over Johnstown on Thursday.

Delaware Hayes senior **Dylan Ashworth** scored two goals and added two assists in a 6-1 win over River Valley on

Tuesday. Ashworth scored his first goal just nine seconds into the first half, which broke a school record for fastest goal scored, and he then broke his own record by scoring a goal seven seconds into the second half.

### Golf

Dublin Jerome junior **Audrey Ryu** shot a 7-under-par 65 without a bogey at Royal American on Tuesday. She birdied six of the back nine holes, including 16-18.

### Basketball

Westerville Central junior forward **Donovan Hunter** picked up his first Power 5 offer on Wednesday when Arizona State offered him a scholarship. Hunter holds a handful of other Division I offers heading into his junior season, including offers from Ohio, Tulane and Howard.

### Baseball

Liberty Union senior pitcher **Jacob Miller**, a Louisville commit, was ranked at No. 13 on Baseball America's latest high school draft rankings. Miller also participated in the Perfect Game All-American game last weekend at Petco Park in San Diego.

### Athlete of the Week

New Albany running back **Jadyn Garnes** won The Dispatch's Athlete of the Week for Aug. 16-22. Nominations are due Monday morning for the next poll.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

# Brewster keys Berlin comeback victory vs. Orange

### Staff reports

*Editor's note: Each week, we will highlight some of the top games from Friday night's high school football matchups. For recaps of all the games, go to Dispatch.com.*

Harrison Brewster's 18-yard touchdown pass to Jason Harris in overtime capped a 21-point rally as Olentangy Berlin topped Olentangy Orange 31-24.

Brewster accounted for four touchdowns, including two short runs with 9:41 and 3:15 remaining in regulation to tie the game. He finished with 172 yards passing and 57 rushing with three touchdowns.

Bennett Lawrence led Berlin (2-0) with 109 yards on six receptions. Jake Werling threw for 170 yards and three touchdowns, adding 145 yards on the ground to help give Orange (0-2) a 24-10 lead in the fourth quarter.



**Bishop Hartley 21, Harvest Prep 14**  
On the possession after falling behind by one point, Hartley put together an 80-yard drive to put away the Warriors.

Hartley's final scoring possession featured a 19-yard pass from quarterback Peyton Underwood to Trey Saunders, a 14-yard run by Saunders and a 41-yard touchdown run by Nyal Johnson

**Harvest Prep's Artrell Saunders, right, tackles Bishop Hartley's Richard Kenny on Friday.**  
ARIA ALA-U-DINI / THISWEEK

**Pickerington Central 28, Cincinnati 10**

Pickerington Central used a fast and aggressive defense to help overcome an uncharacteristic three turnovers.

C.J. Doggette's interception with 5:18 left helped deflate the Panthers' hopes of a fourth-quarter comeback.

The senior defensive lineman also had a fumble recovery that set up a 15-yard double reverse touchdown throw by Kasey Middendorf to Derek Grimes, who made a diving catch in the end zone to give Central a 21-10 lead with 5:43 left.

"We've been putting it in for two weeks now, and it's really just when we need to break something and they're not ready for it," said Middendorf, who also caught a 7-yard scoring pass from Braden Mantooth that put the Tigers ahead 14-3 at halftime.

—Scott Gerfen

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RESULTS

<p><b>Friday's games</b> <b>Area nonleague</b> DeSales 48, Independence 14 Pick. North 48, Walnut Ridge 0 East 57, West 6 Eastmoor Acad. 34, St. Charles 6 Linden 36, Africentric 28 South 62, Centennial 6 Bexley 31, Mifflin 0 Delaware 24, Marion-Franklin 20 N. Canton Hoover 49, Beechcroft 14 Pickerington North 48, Walnut Ridge 0 Whitehall 58, Northland 16 Briggs 38, Whetstone 8 Hartley 21, Harvest Prep 14 Bellefontaine 14, Watterson 7 Big Walnut 42, Zanesville 19 Canal Winchester 24, Cent. Crossing 0 Dublin Jerome 28, Tol. Whitmer 23 Dublin Scioto 35, Watkins Memorial 27 Gahanna 21, Groveport 0 Hilliard Darby 21, Hilliard Bradley 13 Hilliard Davidson 31, Grove City 27 Marysville 24, Lancaster 0 New Albany 21, Westerville North 0 Mount Vernon 41, Newark 20 Olen. Berlin 31, Olen. Orange 24, OT Olentangy Liberty 7, Glenville 6 Pickerington Central 28, Cin. Elder 10 Thomas Worthington 21, Kilbourne 10 Upper Arlington 37, Tol. St. Francis 14 Chardon NDCL 28, Olentangy 27 Cin. Turpin 35, Dublin Coffman 7 Huber Hts. Wayne 17, Reynoldsburg 15 Amanda-Clearcreek 30, Union 3 Berne Union 54, Caldwell 27 Bloom-Carroll 27, John Glenn 14 Circleville 39, Southeastern 8 Fisher Catholic 42, Green 8 Heath 26, Fairfield Union 14 Liberty Union 37, Lakewood 0 Logan Elm 51, Westfall 0 Ready 43, Tol. Woodward 6 Rosecrans 43, Millersport 0 Teays Valley 35, Logan 0 Worthington Chr. 6, Dayton Chr. 0 Centerburg 49, Grandview 0 Graham 24, Buckeye Valley 7 Notre Dame 41, Fairfield Christian 0 East Knox 37, Utica 6 Granville 28, Clear Fork 7 Licking Valley 20, London 14 Newark Cath. 28, Nelsonville-York 14</p>	<p>Tri-Valley 35, Licking Heights 17 Waverly 42, Johnstown 14 Cardington 20, Elgin 16 Danville 35, Louisville Aquinas 0 Highland 21, Ontario 9 Wynford 23, Pleasant 6 Northmor 37, South Central 20 Upper Sandusky 48, Mt. Gilead 14 River Valley 14, Mansfield Madison 7 Ridgedale 38, Vanlue 22 Fairbanks 7, Indian Lake 6 Mansfield Senior 37, Marion Harding 6 North Union 40, Blanchester 0 Sheridan 18, Jonathan Alder 14 West Jefferson 41, Paint Valley 6 Zane Trace 56, W. Liberty-Salem 7 Sto-Rox, Pa. 19, Bishop Sycamore 7 <b>Around Ohio</b> Albany Alexander 14, S. Point 8 Allen E. 61, Lima Perry 20 Ansonia 42, Bradford 0 Arcanum 43, Twin Valley S. 13 Archbold 44, Liberty-Benton 14 Arlington 35, Ada 0 Ashland Crestview 54, Bucyrus 7 Ashtabula Edgewood 34, Grand Vall. 7 Ashtabula Lakeside 41, Madison 20 Attica Seneca E. 49, Fostoria 8 Aurora 31, STVM 14 Austintown Fitch 42, Can. McKinley 28 Avon Lake 41, Brecks.-Broad. Hts. 14 Ayersville 33, Delphos Jefferson 26 Benjamin Logan 21, W. Liberty-Salem 6 Bellevue 21, Milan Edison 14 Beloit W. Branch 48, Woodridge 24 Bergen Catholic, N.J. 42, Akr. Hoban 7 Berkshire 48, Fairport Harbor Harding 8 Black River 36, W. Salem NW 34 Bluffton 34, Pandora-Gilboa 28, OT Brooklyn 22, Cle. John Adams 6 Brookville 28, Anna 22 Brunswick 28, Olmsted Falls 21 Bryan 49, Maumee 0 Cambridge 15, Coshocton 14 Can. South 41, Uhrichsville Claymont 7 Canal Fulton NW 20, Marlington 13 Carey 35, Galion 21 Carrollton 41, Akr. Coventry 22 Centerville 15, Mason 14 Chagrin Falls 44, Garfield Hts. Trinity 27 Chagrin Falls Kenston 18, Perry 13 Chippewa 42, Hawken 28 Cin. Deer Park 28, Cin. Western Hills 8</p>	<p>Cin. Finneytown 36, Cin. Clark 0 Cin. La Salle 21, Cin. Winton Woods 7 Cin. Madeira 31, Cin. Hills Christian 0 Cin. Mariemont 35, Norwood 0 Cin. McNicholas 34, New Richmond 28 Cin. Moeller 42, Chaminade Juliette 14 Cin. Mt. Healthy 41, Day. Ponitz 9 Cin. NW 34, Cin. Indian Hill 21 Cin. Schroder 28, Cin. Woodward 14 Cin. St. Xavier 42, Cin. Colerain 7 Cin. Summit 29, Cin. Country Day 13 Cin. Wythow 20, Cin. Walnut Hills 0 Cin. Wyoming 30, Cin. Taft 6 Clay-Battelle, W.Va. 48, Fed. Hocking 0 Clayton Northmont 42, Day. Dunbar 19 Clermont NE 14, Miami Valley Chr. 0 Cle. Cent. Cath. 20, Cle. Hay 0 Cle. Hts. 53, Garfield Hts. 15 Cle. Hts. Lutheran E. 56, Oberlin 12 Cle. Rhodes 30, Westlake 7 Clyde 34, Ashland 0 Coldwater 14, Cin. Oak Hills 6 Collins Western Reserve 34, Margaretta 10 Col. Crawford 49, Smithville 14 Columbia 51, Vermilion 0 Columbian 56, Sylvania Southview 0 Columbiana 36, McDonald 20 Columbiana Crestview 28, Salineville Sou. 6 Columbus Grove 52, Paulding 7 Convoy Crestview 44, Hicksville 18 Copley 47, Akr. Firestone 20 Creston Norwayne 57, Can. Cent. Cath. 35 Cuyahoga Vall. Chr. 28, Kent Roosevelt 0 Cuy. Falls Walsill Jesuit 43, Akr. North 0 Dalton 35, Massillon Tuslaw 7 Defiance Tinora 23, Wauseon 13 Delta 42, Oregon Stritch 0 Dixia 22, Mississinawa Fairview 16 Dola Hardin N. 49, Riverdale 36 Dover 21, Canfield 14 E. Can. 13, Hanoverton United 7 E. Central, Ind. 42, JFHK 0 E. Cle. Shaw 6, Cle. JFK 0 E. Clinton 27, Cedarville 7 E. Liverpool 35, Indian Creek 14 Eastlake North 33, Richfield Revere 12 Eaton 28, Spring. Shawnee 7 Edgerton 60, W. Unity Hilltop 0 Edison 29, Tusc. Cent. Cath. 25 Edon 41, Antwerp 26 Elida 34, Kenton 0 Elmwood 41, Kansas Lakota 14</p>	<p>Elyria 14, Bedford 6 Elyria Cath. 68, Perkins 42 Erie McDowell, Pa. 35, Lake Cath. 33 Evergreen 44, Montpelier 12 Fayetteville-Perry 44, Cin. Gamble 13 Fenwick 27, Middletown Madison 0 Fremont Ross 34, Tol. Start 6 Ft. Recovery 28, Urbana 9 Gallipolis Gallia 34, Athens 0 Garaway 47, Waynedale 14 Garfield 47, Cortland Lakeview 6 Genoa Area 28, Oak Harbor 0 Gibsonburg 63, Elmore Woodmore 0 Girard 27, Youngs. Liberty 13 Glouster Trimble 68, Corning Miller 0 Green 43, N. Olmsted 14 Hamilton Badin 17, Bellbrook 7 Hamilton Ross 21, Monroe 14 Hannibal River 35, Marietta 14 Harrison Cent. 21, Buckeye Trail 14 Hillsboro 20, Goshen 13 Hopewell-Loudon 48, Mohawk 14 Hubbard 21, Youngs. Mooney 19 Hudson 40, Euclid 34 Huron 17, Norwalk 0 Independence 28, Orange 0 Indian Valley 31, Akr. Manchester 13 Ironton 13, Jackson 10 Kenton Ridge 47, Tipp City Bethel 25 Kettering Alter 49, Thurgood Marshall 0 Kettering Fairmont 35, Trotwood-Madison 0 Kings 34, Cin. Sycamore 12 Kirtland 47, Lutheran W. 0 Lakewood 29, Bay Village 10 Lakota W. 45, Cin. West Clermont 7 Lawrenceburg, Ind. 29, N. Bend Taylor 17 Leipsic 41, Sherwood Fairview 6 Lenawee Chr., Mich. 56, Tol. Christian 12 Liberty Center 38, Napoleon 7 Lima Shawnee 14, Lima Bath 7 Linsly, W.Va. 27, Martins Ferry 14 Little Miami 38, Oxford Talawanda 13 Lockland 20, Ludlow, Ky. 13 Lowellville 34, Campbell Memorial 20 Lucas 14, Hillsdale 12 Lyndhurst Brush 45, Tol. Bowsher 0 Madonna, W.Va. 58, Beallsville 14 Malvern 40, Cononot Valley 12 Marion Local 10, McComb 0 Massillon Jackson 35, Mayfield 20 Massillon Perry 21, Akr. East 20, OT</p>	<p>Massillon Washington 34, GlenOak 0 Morgan 28, Vincent Warren 14 Mechanicsburg 49, Covington 0 Medina 34, Avon 17 Medina Buckeye 37, Conneaut 7 Medina Highland 24, N. Royalton 21 Mentor 28, Cle. St. Ignatius 26 Miami Trace 42, Wilmington 28 Miamisburg 35, Lebanon 14 Middlefield Cardinal 21, Pymatuning Vall. 0 Millbury Lake 35, Northwood 0 Milton-Union 26, Valley View 22 Mineral Ridge 50, E. Palestine 18 Mogadore 42, Bylesville Meadowbrook 34 Nardonia 28, Berea-Midpark 27 N. Baltimore 54, Crestline 0 N. Lewisburg Triad 34, Buckeye Cent. 0 N. Ridgeville 21, Valley Forge 20 Navarre Fairless 41, Tuscarawas Valley 6 New Bremen 58, Sidney Lehman 0 New Lexington 63, Maysville 35 New Middletown Spring, 20, Brookfield 14 Newton Falls 35, Jackson-Milton 10 Niles McKinley 19, Alliance 16 Norton 26, Akr. Kenmore-Garfield 8 Norwalk St. Paul 48, St. Joseph 18 Oregon Clay 31, Sylvania Northview 24 Painesville Harvey 30, Jefferson Area 24 Patrick Henry 17, Wayne Trace 6 Parma 13, Fairview 8 Parma Normandy 33, Cuyahoga Falls 14 Parma Padua 45, Orrville 14 Pemberville Eastwood 42, Bowling Gr. 7 Perrysburg 28, Findlay 14 Piketon 43, Wellston 13 Plymouth 49, Willard 13 Poland Seminary 21, Louisville 36 Pomeroy Meigs 81, Belpre 36 Port Clinton 40, Rossford 13 Proctorville Fairland 55, Oak Hill 7 Ravenna 20, Warren Howland 13 Ravenna SE 13, Mogadore Field 7 Reading 40, Frankfort Adena 0 Ridgewood 54, River View 6 Rittman 12, Akr. Springfield 7 Riverside 49, Amherst Steele 14 Riverside Stebbins 49, Greenville 41 Rocky River 45, Firelands 14 Roger Bacon 30, Cin. Aiken 0 Rootstown 25, Warren Champion 14 S. Charleston SE 30, Ridgemont 6 Salem 62, Lisbon Beaver 35 Sandusky 36, Lorain 6</p>	<p>Sandy Valley 49, Minerva 3 Sciotoville 40, Manchester 8 Shadyside 47, Shenandoah 13 Sharpsville, Pa. 7, Loudonville 6 Shawnee 26, Tri-Village 14 Shelby 45, Lexington 28 Solon 33, Shaker Hts. 20 S. Range 40, University 21 Spencerville 35, Rockford Parkway 20 Springboro 20, Middletown 7 St. Marys Memorial 56, Defiance 0 Stow-Munroe Falls 37, Barberton 22 Strongsville 28, Grafton Midview 12 Struthers 25, Mantua Crestview 21 Symmes Valley 28, Reedswood Eastern 6 Tallmadge 56, Akr. Ellet 7 Tiffin Calvert 31, Monroeville 28 Tumecseh 35, Day. Carroll 14 Tippecanoe 45, Sidney 7 Tol. Ottawa Hills 24, Swanton 13 Tol. Scott 34, Lorain Clearview 22 Tol. St. John's 22, Anthony Wayne 20 Tontogany Otsego 34, Van Buren 0 Upper Scioto Valley 56, Cory-Rawson 7 Van Wert 45, Celina 7 Versailles 48, Ft. Loramie 7 Vinton County 20, Crooksville 0 Wadsworth 23, Wooster 17 Wapakoneta 28, Ottawa-Glandorf 13 Warren Harding 55, Youngs. East 0 Waterford 18, Williamstown 12, 2OT Waterloo 34, Strasburg-Franklin 18 Waverly 42, Johnstown 14 Waynesfield-Goshen 41, Arcadia 0 Waynesville 17, Greeneview 3 Wellington 29, Ashland Mapleton 20 Western Brown 46, Washington C.H. 26 W. Geauga 28, Geneva 0 W. Holmes 49, Philo 12 W. Muskingum 42, Newcomerstown 21 Wheelerburg 26, Chillicothe 3 Wellington 29, Ashland Mapleton 20 Wheeling Park 18, St. Clairsville 14 Williamsburg 49, Elmwood Place 14 Willoughby S. 39, Twinsburg 0 Youngs. Boardman 16, Youngs. Chaney 12 Youngs. Ursuline 50, Hickory, Pa. 7 <b>Saturday's games</b> <b>Area nonleague</b> Columbus Academy 33, KIPP 6 Franklin Heights at Westland, late Minster at Cols. Crusaders, late Spring. Cath. Cent. at Grove City Chr., late</p>
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# HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



**1** Junior forward Abby Reisz, right, scored a team-leading 16 goals as the girls soccer team won its first Division I district title since 2015 and finished 13-4-2. PAUL VERNON/THISWEEK



**2** Streetsboro junior Ella Deevers tied her own school record with 19 assists in 2020.

NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN/SPECIAL TO THE R-C



**3** Streetsboro junior Emma Flick smiles after scoring her first goal of the night against Niles McKinley Monday.

NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN/SPECIAL TO THE R-C



**4** Watterson's Gabriella Rotolo, right, has started every game of her high school career. SHANE FLANIGAN/THISWEEK



**5** Centerville midfielder Hailey Jeng (2) had 11 assists to go with four goals last year. TONY TRIBBLE/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER



**8** Madeira's Molly Cochran had 18 goals and 44 points last season.

JAMES WEBER/THE ENQUIRER



**9** Cincinnati Country Day forward Jada Moorman led in goals (29) and points (69), and was top five in assists (10) last year. E.L. HUBBARD/CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

## Ohio's best: The top 21 players in '21

USA TODAY Network Ohio

Ohio continues to produce high-quality high school girls soccer players who will put their talents on display this fall.

As a preview to this season, the high school sports staff of the Gannett Corp.'s more than 60 Ohio newspapers and websites compiled a who's who of the Buckeye State's prep girls soccer players.

Here are the best girls soccer players in Ohio:

### 1. Abby Reisz, Upper Arlington

The senior midfielder and four-star Tennessee commit is coming off a junior season in which she led the Golden Bears to their first Division I district championship since 2015.

Reisz, who was ranked as the state's top player and eighth-best goalie prospect nationally for her class by Top Drawer Soccer, has 37 goals in three seasons. She is expected to play goalkeeper in college.

In May, Reisz was named to the player pool for the U.S. Soccer Federation's U18 Women's National Team.

### 2. Ella Deevers, Streetsboro

The senior was a United Soccer Coaches All-American, all-region and first-team All-Ohio honoree in 2020. She was the Metro Athletic Conference Player of the Year and Akron District Player of the Year after tying her own school record with 19 assists in 2020.

### 3. Emma Flick, Streetsboro

The senior earned United Soccer Coaches All-Region, first-team All-Ohio, first-team all-district and first-team all-league in 2020. She broke her own school records with 39 goals and 82 points in 2020.

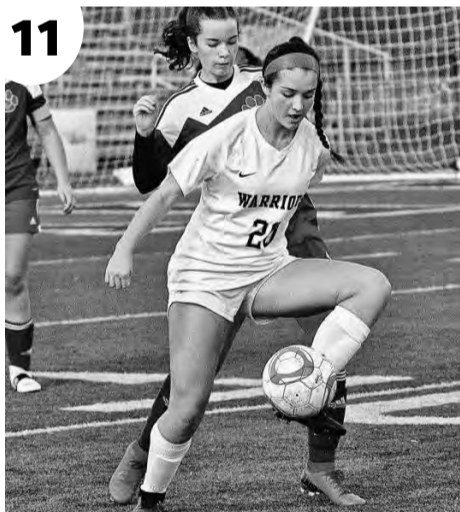
### 4. Gabriella Rotolo, Watterson

The senior midfielder/forward and Ohio State commit was first-team all-league, first-team all-district, first-team all-state in 2020. The team went 17-3-1 last year and won its second Division I district championship in three years.

She has started every game of her high school career. Watterson reached the Division I state tournament in 2018.

### 5. Hailey Jeng, Centerville

The senior and United Soccer Coaches All-American was the Greater Western Ohio Conference player of the year in 2020 and a first-team All-Ohio selection. She dished out 11 assists to go with



**11** Watkins Memorial's Lindsey Castillo scored 40 goals last season.

JESSICA PHELPS/THE ADVOCATE

four goals, helping lead the Elks to a regional championship.

She is committed to attend Ohio University.

### 6. Kathryn Shaffer, Summit Country Day

Shaffer is one of the top defenders in Ohio. She was first-team All-Ohio for Summit Country Day last season, starting on a defense that allowed just 14 goals in 18 contests.

### 7. Emma King, Manchester

The senior forward totaled 43 goals and 12 assists in 2020 as Manchester advanced to a Division I district semi-final match.

She has scored 108 goals through three seasons.

### 8. Molly Cochran, Madeira

Cochran was one of two sophomores in the state to be named first-team All-Ohio in Division III last season. She finished with 18 goals and 44 points, both top-five in the Cincinnati Hills League.

### 9. Jada Moorman, Cincinnati Country Day

The senior forward was a first-team All-Ohio selection last season after dominating the Miami Valley Conference. She led the league in goals (29), points (69) and was top five in assists with 10.

### 10. Kyla Spencer, Ontario

Spencer was a Division II first-team All-Ohio selection last season after totaling 23 goals and 13 assists.

### 11. Lindsay Castillo, Watkins



**14** Olentangy Liberty's Jaimason Brooker (17) had 24 goals and five assists last year. SHANE FLANIGAN/THISWEEK

SHANE FLANIGAN/THISWEEK

### Memorial

The junior totaled 40 goals last season.

Castillo, who also had seven assists, led the Warriors to a Division I second-round upset of Pickerington Central.

### 12. Brynn Gardner, Anthony Wayne

The midfielder and Bowling Green commit

had 38 points on 12 goals and 14 assists en route to being named the co-player of the year in the Northern Lakes League and first-team All-Ohio.

### 13. Peyton Kohls, Mount Notre Dame

As a sophomore last season, Kohls led the conference in goals (20) and points (47), helping lead the Cougars to a 17-1 season and a district title.

### 14. Jaimason Brooker, Powell Olentangy Liberty

The younger sister of former Patriots boys soccer standout Jaggar Brooker, who is now playing for Ohio Wesleyan, Jaimason Brooker burst onto the scene last season when she finished with 24 goals and five assists. The junior forward helped Liberty finish 12-4-2 and earn a Division I district runner-up finish.

### 15. Annie Isphording, Indian Hill

The senior defender was first-team Cincinnati Hills League and first-team All-Ohio in 2020. She helped lead the Braves to a 12-5-2 season and a district finals appearance.

### 16. MaKenna Souder, Pemberville Eastwood

The senior was named a United Soccer Coaches Association All-American and was named first-team All-Ohio in Division III.

### 17. Sophia Kuerze, Oak Hills

The junior forward was second in the Greater Miami Conference in goals (25), points (63) and tied for third with 13 assists. The 25 goals set a new school record.

### 18. Nyah Daniels, Norwalk

Daniels was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Sandusky Bay Conference's Lake Division in 2020 after scoring 40-plus goals for the second-straight season.

### 19. Molly Gray, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit

Gray usually marked the opponent's best-attacking player as the center back on Walsh's defense that recorded nine shutouts in the 18 matches that she played in. She has five goals and 11 assists in three years of varsity action.

### 20. Erika Zschuppe, Kirtland

Already the school's all-time leading scorer with 69 career goals, she is 20 points away from breaking the school's all-time points record. She currently has 155.

### 21. Shannon Crogan, Mason

The senior forward was first-team Greater Miami Conference and second-team All-Ohio last season. Crogan had 13 goals and four assists.

### Honorable mention

**Allie Arnold**, Copley; **Karli Barringer**, Columbus Hartley; **Tatum Brookhart**, Clayton Northmont; **Caitlin Burger**, Badin; **Riley Crupper**, Cambridge; **Natasha Davidson**, Lynchburg-Clay; **Jadyn Harris**, Twinsburg; **Raegan Howdyshell**, Springfield Shawnee; **Izabella Kocsis**, Norton; **Madison Koman**, Springfield Kenton Ridge; **Angela Kumler**, New Concord John Glenn; **Gabby Lamparty**, North Lima South Range; **Mary Leeper**, Ashland Crestview; **Lauren Mahoney**, Akron Hoban; **Logan McGuire**, Miamisburg; **Mary Morosky**, Columbus Wellington; **Maddy Murphy**, Mariemont; **Zy Parker**, Troy Christian; **Sydney Polen**, Loudonville; **Ella Schneider**, Granville; **Natalie Shimmel**, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit; **Sydney Thompson**, Hilliard Davidson; **Ashley Vaughn**, Beaver Creek; and **Emily Vogel**, Elyria Catholic.



OUTDOORS

# Ruminations on the approaching hunting season

**Dave Golowenski**

Special to Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio’s fall hunting season opens Sept. 1, with or without further reflection. Nonetheless, let it be remembered that because predator and prey are part of the natural state of life, hunting never ends. Sept. 1, then, represents more of a technicality, a limit that humans decided they’d have to put on themselves.

Squirrels, among the first game in play, used to be eaten by people who made a living off the land. Squirrel meat can be tasty and fill a need for protein.

But the latest U.S. census shows rural residents continue to move off the land and into metropolitan areas, where they

find plenty of untouchable squirrels and a seemingly endless supply of Big Macs available for money and little effort.

Though exempt from becoming hunting casualties, metro squirrels can end up collateral damage of city living. How many squirrels have died beneath the wheels of a vehicle speeding to pick up a Big Mac or its equivalent? Likely more than end up as dinner on the plates of families in a given year.

A second reflection: Only human hunters require constraints such as seasons, bag limits and species selectivity. The need for regulation became obvious well over a century ago when hunted animals became first more difficult to find, and soon after began to vanish from places they’d been common.

Regulations came too late to save some state denizens, including bison and eastern elk. Humans, being adaptable omnivores, find substitutes for what they wipe out, so cows and pigs took their place. Currently, wildlife makes up only an estimated 4% of the biomass of land species on the planet, the other 96% comprising people, livestock, and other odds and ends.

Big Macs, in short, aren’t threatened by regulation, even though their advertised main ingredient might be someday if nothing real ever gets done to reverse climate change and safeguard wildlife.

Predatory creatures face hunger, starvation and death when their numbers become too large for the food supply; and a recent study suggests the

stress of near death brings life-altering fear that results in a lower birth capacity in the traumatized animal. Fewer copies of prey mean less food for the predator.

The dominant omnivore that invents tools with which to kill, not to mention to produce food on demand, has come to believe itself the exceptional biological singularity that can dictate to nature. The evidence isn’t yet all in.

A final reflection: The fact that people can declare hunting season open or closed, not unlike a fast-food joint, suggests that the approach we are taking to the world is not entirely a natural one.

It’s possible to imagine Daniel Boone shuddering at what transpires today. Boone, though, might also concede this time and place is not much like his.

## Pantoni

Continued from Page 1C

in 2019.

That percentage might only be increasing. On Thursday, the Buckeyes open their season at Minnesota with a team stacked with blue-chip prospects at every position and bolstered by a freshman class that was the highest-rated group to sign with the program in the modern era.

Holding these pieces, Ohio State remains at the forefront of the national title conversation and a threat to return to the College Football Playoff final.

### Early riser

The days begin early. Pantoni rolls into his office at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center by 7 a.m., the reason that packs of Red Bull sit in a corner of the room.

His perch is like a lot of workplace setups. He sits behind a U-shaped desk that holds framed family photos as he peers into a desktop computer.

But the stakes are especially high.

He’s there before sunrise most mornings during the fall to review film of recruiting targets.

Ohio State’s recruiting board for a class of high school juniors contains about 150 players. Then around 50 remain as seniors.

He sifts through every second of the past week’s film. Interns cut up the video, dividing a prospect’s plays between good plays and bad plays, before it reaches Pantoni’s screen. They call them focused tapes. It’s a continuous process. They want to see every touchdown or missed block. No corners cut.

“I try to grind through it,” Pantoni said.

He stays until 10 p.m. Then starts over again.

“You have a better percentage of making an accurate evaluation the more you know something about them,” he said. “But it definitely puts more on my plate for sure.”

Pantoni is a cerebral evaluator. He casts a stoic exterior, someone prone to more observations than outbursts after catching a spectacular highlight. With a high volume of plays to review, he must stay on top of things.

“He’s pretty even-keeled and kind of just locked in and focused on making sure he’s got the best evaluation,” said Weston Zernechel, an assistant director of player personnel.

When Pantoni followed Meyer to Ohio State in 2012, it would have been a stretch to say he oversaw a recruiting department. He worked alongside Greg Gillum, a director of high school relations. They were the only full-time recruiting staffers.

Pantoni now oversees four full-time employees within a player personnel department and expects the trend to

continue.

That’s because of new rules adopted by the NCAA this spring that allow players to transfer once as an undergraduate without sitting out a season.

Known as the one-time transfer exception, it opens the door for more roster movement, something Pantoni likens to free agency. With a larger staff, Pantoni has more time to devote to watching film of college players in addition to his diet of high school tape.

But he’s not alone there, either.

Ohio State hired Ryan Cavanaugh, a former NFL scout with the Houston Texans, this summer as its first-ever college scouting coordinator. Cavanaugh primarily evaluates players on opposing teams. Some are in the NCAA transfer portal, an online database that notifies schools of their intent to transfer. Others are not, though it helps to be prepared just in case.

“If we need an offensive tackle,” Pantoni said, “and we’ve already got reports written on guys, when their name enters the portal, we’re already ready to attack.”

Since June, the Buckeyes picked up two transfers in USC linebacker Palaie Gaoteote and North Carolina kicker Noah Ruggles. In previous offseasons, they found critical additions like running back Trey Sermon and star quarterback Justin Fields.

Transfers still make up only a sliver of the roster, but the wider pool of available players each offseason is likely to demand more research in the coming years.

Pantoni sees a scenario in which the structure of Ohio State’s player personnel department evolves to a point in which more staffers are brought in to assist with college scouting.

Though perhaps more exhaustive, their search remains the same. They look for talent and identify the right fits, allowing the coaching staff to prioritize certain prospects. It’s especially critical since Day spends much of his time during the season in game-planning meetings as the offense’s primary play-caller.

### ‘A walking computer’

Madeline Pantoni knew she had a precocious son.

He wasn’t much older than 5 when he was scrutinizing baseball box scores in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

If he didn’t think someone’s batting average was accurate, he pressed her to call the newspaper. He knew he was right.

“Even at that young age, he would remember all that data,” she said. “He was like a walking computer.”

Blessed with a sharp mind, Pantoni set his sights on attending medical school. As a pre-med student at Florida, he could retain medical jargon from anatomy and biology classes.

“Luckily the good Lord gave me a good strength of memorizing stuff and remembering things,” he said.

If he was going to work in sports, it was to be as an orthopedic surgeon. He spent a summer in 2004 interning with Dr. James Andrews, the renowned orthopedist, in Birmingham, Alabama, focusing on arm injuries in baseball.

But as the prospect of debt from medical school loomed, Pantoni held off on the idea and remained at Florida to attend a graduate school program in applied physiology and kinesiology.

Staying on campus, he took on an internship with the track and field program, then with Meyer’s recruiting staff in 2006.

He never played football growing up. He was best at baseball, a switch-hitting third baseman in high school. But he was a fervent fan of the Gators. He traveled to road games with his future wife, Kristin, attended open practices and followed recruiting news.

Pantoni did a lot of grunt work at first. He addressed envelopes to mail recruiting information to prospects. He logged film. When players visited, he picked them up at the airport and shuttled them around campus.

Recruiting also fascinated Pantoni, especially at a time when Florida was returning to national prominence under Meyer.

His eagerness won over Meyer, who would ultimately welcome him when he reviewed film of prospects.

“He would ask to sit in when I would watch evaluation footage and ask me almost to the point where he was a nuisance,” Meyer said. “He’s a young guy, but I saw right away incredible work ethic and a desire to learn.”

Not long after, he was formulating Meyer’s recruiting strategy, one of the first non-coaches to have such responsibility and stature within a college football program, earning him a reputation as a trailblazer for the personnel industry. Some call him a “godfather.”

Pantoni is quick to credit the guidance of Meyer and others on staff for helping him develop a sense of talent evaluation, but the brainpower that promised to propel him through medical school made him a quick study and allowed him to establish credibility among coaches.

Recruiting staffers who have worked with Pantoni point out how well he can sort through prospect information. There is no shortage of material between recruits’ heights and weights, testing times, statistics and other notes. Much of it remains at the tip of his tongue.

“I don’t think he left the medical field because he wasn’t smart enough,” said Adam Caltury, the director of recruiting at Pittsburgh who spent 2014 and 2015 as a recruiting assistant at Ohio State. “In terms of memory, critical thinking, he checks all the intelligence boxes. He has high-level intelligence.

“So just in terms of all the kids that we’re recruiting, he’s able to recall a lot of things about each and every single one of them. He may have watched a kid

three weeks ago, but he’s able to remember what he saw, while he’s comparing them to a kid he’s watching that day. I think that’s part of his separating factor.”

### The future

Pantoni has thought about other ways in which his career path might change course.

He could move into athletic administration, working toward becoming an athletic director, a role that involves hiring football coaches and scheduling big-time games.

Or maybe he might turn to the NFL. He could aim for a job as a general manager. There would be obvious financial benefits, a pay scale that could more than double his \$225,000 base salary for this season, according to a copy of his contract obtained through a public records request.

But Pantoni sees downsides to both tracks.

An athletic director’s responsibilities span far beyond football, overseeing dozens of other sports, and the NFL offers little stability for someone who has spent a decade and a half at only two schools.

“There are so many great things here,” he said, “so it’s like, why would I want to go do something that’s such a risk for money?”

If he were to bolt for the NFL, the opportunity might have been in January when Meyer unretired and returned to the sidelines with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

But he said he never had serious talks about following Meyer for a second time and noted his former boss was sensitive to poaching anyone from the Buckeyes’ staff. Meyer often touts the infrastructure he left behind.

“He has such respect for this place,” Pantoni said.

By staying at Ohio State, Pantoni has seen his own job grow.

His administrative duties for recruiting, which have always involved organizing prospects’ official and unofficial visits, now involve overseeing a creative media department that is up to five full-time employees.

As the Buckeyes maintain a talent edge over most of their peers, Pantoni thinks about an opportunity to win another national championship.

A framed photo of AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, where the Buckeyes won the inaugural College Football Playoff seven years ago hangs by the side of his desk.

When he first joined Meyer’s staff at Florida, the Gators won two titles in three years, giving him an early rush of success.

But they don’t always come so quickly.

“You realize it’s not normal,” he said. The pursuit continues.

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## Reisz

Continued from Page 1C

But after Reisz broke her wrist in a training exercise prior to the season, Kessinger’s plans were dashed, and she spent another season at forward. Now heading into her final season of high school soccer, Reisz is thrilled to finally be in goal for her high school team.

Reisz was voted the No. 1 player on Gannett Ohio’s list of the top 21 girls soccer players in the state. According to Top Drawer Soccer, she’s the No. 1 player in Ohio and the No. 8 goalkeeper prospect in the country.

“I haven’t played goal before here, so it’s new for me even though it’s not new, because this is what I do,” Reisz said. “...

I love playing forward, but this has always spoken to me. It’s always been something that immediately, I just clicked (with) and picked up on. Ever since, it’s been really fun to do. It’s what I do.”

It took her time to learn the mental strength required to be an elite goalkeeper. A great deal of pressure comes with being the last line of defense, and it was a process for Reisz to get comfortable with that.

“You’re the heart of the team and it’s a lot of pressure, but it’s something that I thrive off of,” Reisz said. “It pushes you to be perfect every single second. You can’t turn off for any moment. Even though it seems like you’re just standing here for some of the game, you’re not. You always have to be mentally tuned in, always have to be focused.”

Communicating with her back line is something Reisz relies on to keep herself locked in at all times, but it didn’t come naturally at first. Now, even in practice, Reisz’s voice is among the loudest on the field.

“I struggled at first,” Reisz said. “I’m definitely more on the quiet side as a person, but when I’m on the field, you have to do it. It’s just what you do, and I don’t hesitate to do it anymore..”

In April, Reisz was added to the player pool for the U18 Women’s National Team, the first step toward achieving her dream of playing for the U.S. Women’s National Team. Kessinger said he wouldn’t be surprised to one day see Reisz starting in goal for the USWNT.

“(Being in the player pool) holds me accountable,” Reisz said. “I think of it as, sure, that’s always there, but you have to

work for it. You can’t take a day off. You’re always training your body or your mind or whatever it is. Even when you’re resting, you’re training because you have to rest and recover to move forward.

“I think it holds me accountable every single day. I’m working for the bigger picture, but every day you can’t slack off. It’s always there and it’s been helpful to push me.”

As her soccer career has developed and childhood dreams have become a potential reality, Reisz says there was never a specific turning point when she realized what she was capable of.

“I always just believed I could,” Reisz said. “There was never a doubt in my mind. I was like, if they can do it, I can do it.”

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# Ohio State's Block O honor goes to Munford

**Bill Rabinowitz**

Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Offensive lineman Thayer Munford has earned the Block O jersey honor for Ohio State, though he won't wear No. 0 because of uniform number rules.

The Buckeyes established the Block O uniform tradition last year. Defensive end Jonathon Cooper was the first recipient and proudly wore No. 0 as his number. The award is a tribute to Buckeye legend Bill Willis for his toughness, accountability and character.

Munford, who wears No. 75, can't wear No. 0 because offensive linemen must wear jerseys with numbers 50-79. Munford will instead wear a special patch signifying the Block O honor.

Munford will be a four-year starter in 2021. He turned down a chance to enter the NFL draft to return for the extra year of eligibility offered by the NCAA because of COVID-19. At the time, he said he did it primarily to finish his degree, which the sport industry major earned in June.

# Arace

Continued from Page 1C

That said, this is a derby-darby, which is a mercurial thing. FCC was in the second-tier USL when they first met the Crew and beat them in a U.S. Open Cup match in Cincinnati in 2017. Since the rivalry was joined in the MLS in 2019, the Crew have vaporized FCC a few times, scratched for a point a couple of times and lost once. The Crew's record in the series is 4-2-3.

That said, nobody has been lower at the Lower, or most anywhere else, than the Crew have been of late. Friday night marked their second home victory since they opened the e-ticket gates here July 3.

What is more, it's not like the Crew has been in peak form. Friday night, they snapped a six-game losing streak, which is a brutal stretch for any team that plays in a league that counts ties. Or draws. It was particularly brutal on the defending MLS Cup champions.

Only three times have the Crew lost six in a row in one season, and the other two times were in the previous century — when MLS had shootouts.

In sum, the Crew managed to snap what had to be their worst losing streak, ever. They did it against their intrastate rival before a crowd of 19,949 (official capacity at the LDC is 20,371). They did it in front of a national television audience watching on

ESPN.

No one in Columbus — not ownership, management, players, Megatail-gaters, patrons at Betty's, assorted microbrewers, scarf weavers, tifo painters and so on, and on — wanted to contemplate the Hell that would have been Real had the Crew lost to their archrivals, and lost for the seventh time in a row.

The Crew's slim shot at making the playoffs and getting a chance to defend their title would have been charred beyond recognition. A loss would have dropped them into 10th place (or lower, depending how the weekend goes) and pushed the playoffs over the horizon. But they won and reinjected life into their late-season push. The atmosphere was electric.

Credit where due: coach Caleb Porter may have extraordinary difficulty in navigating his way to the interview room in the new stadium, but he had a good plan for Cincinnati. There was extraordinary pressure on him and his players, who had to dig way down to dredge up three points for the first time in 35 days. They overcame.

The Crew have been one of the lowest-scoring teams in the league. They had a goal differential of minus-9 (six goals for, 15 against) during their six-game losing streak. They were coming off a terrible home loss, a late-game meltdown against Seattle, the team they beat for the Cup in December. It was their third loss in five games in their new stadium, and it wasn't good for marketing, not unless Brioschi is a

sponsor.

When Luis Diaz missed a gaping net and hit the right post in the 9th minute against Cincinnati, it was "here we go again."

In the 45th minute, Lucas Zelarayan worked his magic by curling a free kick over the wall and inside the left post. It was Zelarayan's fifth free-kick goal of the season — a team record, and one off Sebastian Giovinco's league-record six.

Then, Cincinnati scored off a deep rebound to tie the game in the last seconds of the first half to tie the game, 1-1. Here we go again.

Zelarayan, who played 30 minutes in the MLS All-Star game Wednesday night, was terrific. So were captain Jonathan Mensah and fullback/winger Pedro Santos, among others. But this was truly a win for the collective. The Crew was down 2-1 late in the second half — at which point the FCC fans in the south end of the stadium were chanting, "We can't hear you" at Crew fans — but the home team didn't fold.

Striker Miguel Berry came off the Crew bench and scored twice in a span of about a minute to give the Crew a 3-2 lead that was not relinquished. Miguel Berry! He did nothing fancy. The Crew had maintained a forward momentum for most of the game, and then Berry was there, right place, right time.

The Crew has a lot of problems, including a raft of injuries. After Friday night, they also have hope.

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## LOCAL SCOREBOARD

TRIPLE-A EAST				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toledo	57	42	.576	—
Omaha	55	44	.556	2
St. Paul	53	47	.530	4½
Columbus	46	52	.469	10½
Indianapolis	46	53	.465	11
Iowa	42	58	.420	15½
Louisville	41	58	.414	16

Northeast Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Scranton	59	37	.615	—
Buffalo	56	40	.583	3
Worcester	53	46	.535	7½
Rochester	43	54	.443	16½
Lehigh Valley	43	55	.439	17
Syracuse	38	60	.388	22

Southeast Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Durham	64	35	.646	—
Gwinnett	58	42	.580	6
Jacksonville	56	44	.560	8
Nashville	53	47	.530	11
Memphis	47	53	.470	17
Norfolk	40	58	.408	23
Charlotte	37	62	.374	27

Friday's games				
Memphis 4, Columbus 2	Indianapolis 3, Louisville 2 (10)	Toledo 11, St. Paul 1	Omaha 11, Iowa 5	Rochester 6, Syracuse 3
Worcester 4, Buffalo 1	Norfolk 7, Jacksonville 6 (10)	Scranton 11, Lehigh Valley 4	Nashville 3, Gwinnett 0	
Saturday's game				
Durham 4, Charlotte 0				
Sunday's games				
Worcester at Buffalo, 1:05 p.m.	Rochester at Syracuse, 1:05 p.m.	Scranton at Lehigh Valley, 1:35 p.m.	Louisville at Indianapolis, 1:35 p.m.	St. Paul at Toledo, 2:05 p.m.
Omaha at Iowa, 2:08 p.m.	Columbus at Memphis, 3:05 p.m.	Jacksonville at Norfolk, 4:05 p.m.	Durham at Charlotte, 5:05 p.m.	Gwinnett at Nashville, 7:15 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOLS				
Boys soccer				
Granville Christian 2, Harvest Prep 1	Grove City Christian 5, Fisher Catholic 2			

Tree of Life 12, Pleasant 0	Grandview 2, Troy Christian 2			
Girls soccer				
Hilliard Davidson 3, Pickerington Central 2				
Boys cross country				
Pickerington Classic				
Panther team scores: Dublin Jerome 92, Dublin Coffman and Worthington Kilbourne 116, Westerville North 138, Olentangy Berlin 140, Pickerington North 143, Pickerington Central 183, Thomas Worthington 208, Westerville Central 217, New Albany 258, Upper Arlington 275, Sheridan 296, Westerville South 313, John Glenn 350, Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley 404, McDermott Northwest 469, Watkins Memorial 473, Carrollton 561.				
Bengal team scores: DeSales 61, Marysville 71, St. Charles 151, Sugar Creek Garaway 179, Chillicothe 186, Bloom-Carroll 217, Grove City 237, Waverly 257, Mowrystown Whiteoak 265, Ironton Rock Hill 292, Proctorville Fairland 308, Dublin Coffman 'B' 316, Beaver Eastern 357, Circleville 371, Dublin Jerome 'B' 386, Wheelersburg 440, Magnolia Sandy Valley 477, Westerville South 'B' 488, Zane Trace 499, London 592, Upper Arlington				

'B' 600, Ironton 635, Tree of Life 652, Groveport 679.				
Newark Catholic Invitational				
Green team scores: Watterson 60, Fisher Catholic 61, Fairfield Union 111, FCA 116, Utica 147, Newark 152, Fredericktown 156, Teays Valley 163, Highland 192, Liberty Union 255, Licking Heights 279.				
White team scores: Berne Union 40, Columbus Academy 61, Fairfield Christian 71, Ready 93, Hamilton Township 108, Newark Catholic 114.				
Baron Blast				
Jonathan Alder 32, Centerburg 55, Whetstone 86, Mount Vernon 106, Buckeye Valley 113, Worthington Christian 148, North Union 197.				
Colonel Crawford Invitational				
Top team scores: Pleasant 50, Northmor 74, Upper Sandusky 82. Also: 5. Elgin 175; 12. Cardington 297.				
Girls cross country				
Pickerington Classic				
Panther team scores: Dublin Coffman 74, Olentangy Liberty 100, Dublin Jerome 125, Pickerington North 130, Thomas Worthington 140, Olentangy Berlin 175,				

Worthington Kilbourne 181, Watkins Memorial 202, Upper Arlington 204, Pickerington Central 219, Sheridan 228, Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley 283, Carrollton 365, John Glenn 386.				
Bengal team scores: Marysville 64, Westerville South 89, Westerville North 121, Circleville 159, New Albany 179, DeSales 180, Magnolia Sandy Valley 196, Dublin Jerome 'B' 253, Westerville Central 268, Sugar Creek Garaway 277, Logan Elm 346, Ironton Rock Hill 349, Chillicothe 353, Logan 382, Grove City 393, London 396, Wheelersburg 427, Dublin Coffman 'B' 475, Waverly 503, Zane Trace 536, Upper Arlington 'B' 570, Bloom-Carroll 645, Groveport 690.				
Newark Catholic Invitational				
Green team scores: Fairfield Union 94, Watterson 113, Hartley and FCA 114, CSG 137, Fredericktown 139, Newark 152, New Lexington 200, Teays Valley 203, Liberty Union 223, Licking Heights 260, Fisher Catholic 306, Highland 323.				
White team scores: Columbus Academy 20, Ready 51, Fairfield Christian 71, Newark Catholic 101, Heath 114.				

Baron Blast				
Jonathan Alder 24, Mount Vernon 55, North Union 96, Whetstone 104, Buckeye Valley 105, Worthington Christian 142.				
Colonel Crawford Invitational				
Top team scores: Colwell Crawford 47, Cardington 68, Carey 100, Northmor 144, Pleasant 145.				
Girls volleyball				
Rocky River Magnificat def. DeSales 25-22, 25-21	Watkins Memorial def. Westerville Central 21-25, 25-20, 25-14	Watkins Memorial def. Fairbanks 25-16, 25-19	Northridge def. Berne Union 25-17, 25-6	Northridge def. Marietta 25-23, 25-20
Buckeye Central def. River Valley 25-21, 25-15, 25-16				
COLLEGES				
Men's soccer				
Ohio State 3, Memphis 2				
Women's volleyball				
Ohio State def. N. Kentucky 25-10, 25-18, 25-14				
Field hockey				
Ohio State 1, Ball State 0				

## SCOREBOARD

All times EDT				
MLB				
American League Glance				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	80	48	.625	—
New York	76	52	.594	4
Boston	74	56	.569	7
Toronto	66	61	.520	13½
Baltimore	40	87	.315	39½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	75	55	.577	—
Cleveland	63	63	.500	10
Detroit	62	67	.481	12½
Kansas City	58	70	.453	16
Minnesota	56	72	.438	18

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	76	52	.594	—
Oakland	70	59	.543	6½
Seattle	69	60	.535	7½
Los Angeles	63	67	.485	14
Texas	44	84	.344	32

Friday's Games				
Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 3	Detroit 2, Toronto 1	Boston 4, Cleveland 3	Houston 5, Texas 4	Minnesota 2, Milwaukee 0
Chicago White Sox 17, Chicago Cubs 13	San Diego 5, L.A. Angels 0	N.Y. Yankees 8, Oakland 2	Kansas City 8, Seattle 7, 12 innings	

Saturday's Games				
Boston at Cleveland, late	N.Y. Yankees at Oakland, late	Kansas City at Seattle, late	Toronto at Detroit, late	Houston at Texas, late
Tampa Bay at Baltimore, late	Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, late	Milwaukee at Minnesota, late	San Diego at L.A. Angels, late	

Sunday's Games				
Tampa Bay (Archer 0-1) at Baltimore (Watkins 2-6), 1:05 p.m.	Boston (Houck 0-3) at Cleveland (Morgan 2-6), 1:10 p.m.	Toronto (Berrios 8-7) at Detroit (Boyd 3-6), 1:10 p.m.	Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 14-5) at Chicago White Sox (Cease 10-6), 2:10 p.m.	Milwaukee (TBD) at Minnesota (Jax 3-2), 2:10 p.m.
Houston (Greinke 11-4) at Texas (Hearn 3-4), 2:35 p.m.	Kansas City (Singer 3-9) at Seattle (Gonzales 5-5), 4:10 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 5-5) at Oakland (Blackburn 0-1), 7:08 p.m.		

Arizona 44	86	.338	40	
Friday's Games				
Cincinnati 6, Miami 0	Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1	Atlanta 4, San Francisco 5	St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 3	Philadelphia 7, Arizona 6, 11 innings
Minnesota 2, Milwaukee 0	Chicago White Sox 17, Chicago Cubs 13	San Diego 5, L.A. Angels 0	Colorado 4, L.A. Dodgers 2	
Saturday's Games				
Arizona at Philadelphia, late	Cincinnati at Miami, late	St. Louis at Pittsburgh, late	Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, late	Milwaukee at Minnesota, late
Washington at N.Y. Mets, late	San Francisco at Atlanta, late	San Diego at L.A. Angels, late	Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, late	
Sunday's Games				
Arizona (Bumgarner 7-8) at Philadelphia (Suárez 5-4), 1:05 p.m.	St. Louis (Kim 6-6) at Pittsburgh (Crowe 3-7), 1:05 p.m.	Cincinnati (Mahle 10-4) at Miami (Luzardo 4-7), 1:10 p.m.	Washington (Fedde 6-8) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 1-3), 1:10 p.m.	San Francisco (TBD) at Atlanta (Anderson 5-5), 1:20 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 14-5) at Chicago White Sox (Cease 10-6), 2:10 p.m.	Milwaukee (TBD) at Minnesota (Jax 3-2), 2:10 p.m.	Colorado (Senzatela 2-9) at L.A. Dodgers (Urias 14-3), 4:10 p.m.		
Monday's Games				
St. Louis at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.	Philadelphia at Washington, 7:05 p.m.	Colorado at Texas, 8:05 p.m.	San Diego at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.	Milwaukee at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.				
Calendar				
Dec. 1 — Collective bargaining agreement expires, 11:59 p.m. ET	Dec. 6-9 — Winter meetings, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	Dec. 8 — Winter meeting draft, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	Dec. 15 — International amateur signing period closes.	
NFL				
Preseason Schedule				
Friday, Aug. 27				
Indianapolis 17, Detroit 17	Carolina 34, Pittsburgh 9	Philadelphia 31, N.Y. Jets 31	Chicago Cubs 28, Minnesota 25	
Saturday, Aug. 28				
Buffalo 19, Green Bay 0	Baltimore at Washington, late	Chicago at Tennessee, late	Arizona at New Orleans, late	Tampa Bay at Houston, late
L.A. Rams at Denver, late	L.A. Chargers at Seattle, late			
Sunday, Aug. 29				
Jacksonville at Dallas, 1 p.m.	Las Vegas at San Francisco, 4 p.m.	Miami at Cincinnati, 4 p.m.	New England at N.Y. Giants, 6 p.m.	Cleveland at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Connecticut	19	6	.760	—
Chicago	13	12	.520	6
New York	11	16	.407	9
Washington	9	15	.375	9½
Atlanta	6	19	.240	13
Indiana	5	19	.208	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	19	7	.731	—
x-Seattle	18	9	.667	1½

Minnesota 15	9	.625	3			
Phoenix 15	10	.600	3½			
Dallas 11	14	.440	7½			
Los Angeles 10	15	.400	8½			
Friday's Games						
Phoenix 80, New York 64	Chicago 73, Seattle 69					
Saturday's Games						
Las Vegas 87, Indiana 71	Dallas at Washington, late	Los Angeles at Connecticut, late				
Sunday's Games						
Chicago at Seattle, 6 p.m.						
SOCCER						
MLS Glance						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	15	3	4	49	44	26
Orlando City	9	4	8	35	30	24
Philadelphia	8	5	8	32	27	20
Nashville	7	2	11	32	32	20
N.Y. City FC	9	6	4	31	34	19
CF Montréal	8	7	7	31	30	27
D.C. United	8	10	3	27	32	31
Columbus	7	9	6	27	25	29
Atlanta	6	9	6	27	25	26
Inter Miami CF	6	9	5	23	21	31
New York	6	9	4	22	23	24
Chicago	5	11	5	20	23	33
Cincinnati	3	9	8	17	21	37
Toronto FC	3	13	6	15	26	47
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	3	6	42	35	17
Sporting KC	11	4	6	39	36	21
Colorado	11	4	4	37	29	19
LA Galaxy	11	8	2	35	32	32
Minnesota	7	6	7	28	23	23
Real Salt Lake	7	7	6	27	20	23
San Jose	6	7	8	26	24	29
Portland	7	10	3	24	27	39
LA FC	6	9	5	23	25	28
Vancouver	5	7	8	23	30	30
FC Dallas	5	9	7	22	30	30
Austin FC	5					





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SUNDAY+ SNAPSHOTS



Olentangy Berlin's Caleb Herr (70) and his teammates walk onto the field to face DeSales. ALEX CONRATH/THISWEEK

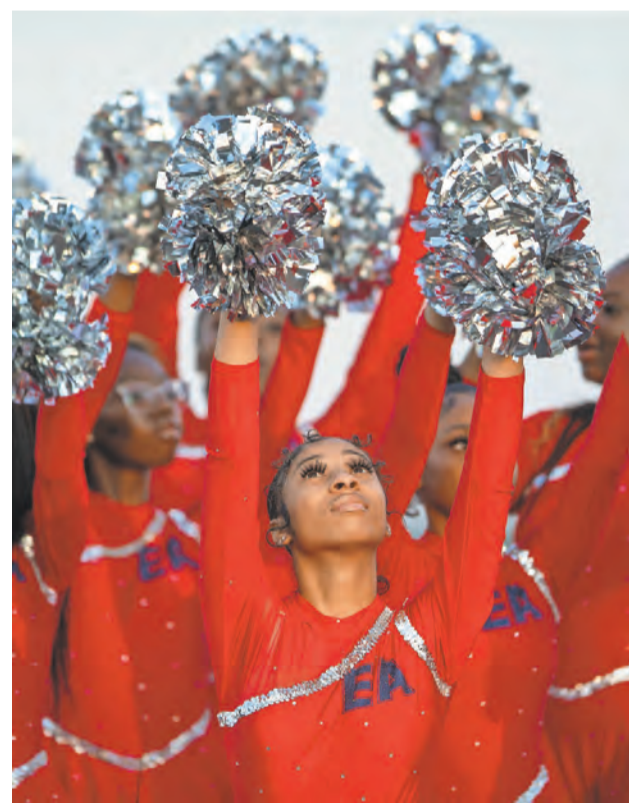
# FOOTBALL FEVER

High school football back to normal in central Ohio

After a 2020 season filled with pandemic-driven inconsistency and social distancing, central Ohio high school football teams began their 2021 seasons on Aug. 20 with hopes of normalcy. Spirits were high and the competition was at a high level. It seemed like old times again.



Hilliard Darby players take the field before facing Olentangy Orange. KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH



The Eastmoor Academy Warriorettes perform during the season-opener at Harvest Prep. MADDIE SCHROEDER/THISWEEK

Olentangy Orange students cheer on their team against Hilliard Darby. KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH



Harvest Prep's Chris Brown, right, catches a touchdown pass as Eastmoor's Mohamed Conteh defends. MADDIE SCHROEDER/THISWEEK



## SUNDAY+ OHIO SPORTS

## SOLE REPRESENTATIVE

## Why Bengals have one player in Hall of Fame

**Tyler Dragon**  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Walk through the historic halls of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, and it's evident that one of Ohio's two NFL teams is sparsely represented.

The Cincinnati Bengals' inaugural season was in 1968. The franchise has been in existence for more than 50 years, and just one player during that span has been inducted into the Hall of Fame — Anthony Muñoz.

Only three franchises have fewer Hall of Famers. The Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers and Houston Texans don't have a player who made a majority of their contributions with the team in the Hall, but those franchises are less than three decades old. Jacksonville and Carolina played their first NFL seasons in 1995. The Texans started in 2002 as an expansion team.

Aside from Cincinnati, Jacksonville, Carolina and Houston, no team has fewer than three Hall of Famers.

The Bengals have been to two Super Bowls, won nine division championships and have had 27 multi-time Pro Bowl picks. Yet Muñoz is the only Bengal immortalized in Canton.

The consensus among most Bengals fans and many Hall of Fame voters is that former cornerback Ken Riley and quarterback Ken Anderson are the most deserving of Hall of Fame recognition.

Riley, who died in 2020, ranks fifth in NFL history with 65 interceptions. He's the only player in the top eight in interceptions not in the Hall of Fame. Riley, who was in Cincinnati from 1969-83, was a three-time All-Pro selection.

Anderson was the NFL MVP in 1981, a four-time Pro Bowl pick, led the NFL in passer rating four times and was the league's passing yards leader for two seasons during his NFL career from 1971-86.

But on Tuesday, Hall voters selected former Raiders receiver Cliff Branch as its one nominee for the Class of 2022, meaning Riley and Anderson will have to wait another year.

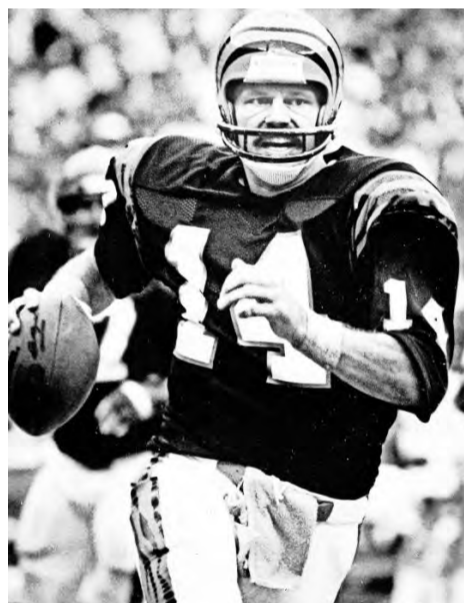
The Hall of Fame has a 48-person selection committee tasked with choosing between four to eight new members who will be enshrined each year.

The committee meets in February to name the newest members. The committee typically has a roster of 18 finalists to choose from. The finalists usually consist of 15 modern-era nominees (must be retired at least five years), one coach nominee, one contributor nominee and one senior nominee (candidates 25 years removed from the game).

The coach, contributor and senior finalists are selected by nine-member committees appointed from the full Hall

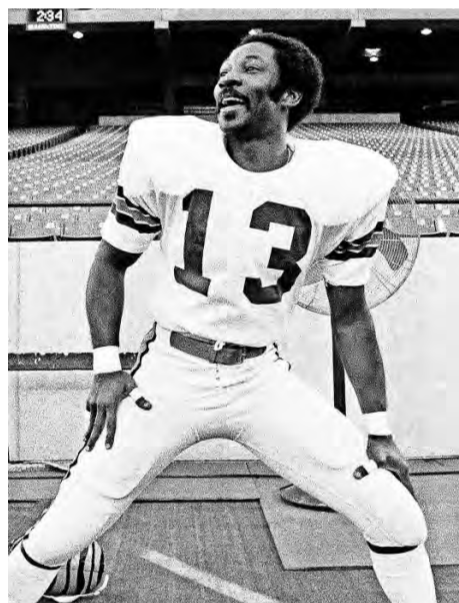


Anthony Muñoz became the first Bengals player inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1998. ENQUIRER FILE



Ken Anderson was the NFL MVP in 1981 and a four-time Pro Bowl pick.

JEFF HINCKLEY/AP



Ken Riley is the only player in the top eight in interceptions not in the Hall of Fame. AP

of Fame selection committee. A candidate must receive approval from at least

80% of the full committee to be inducted.

Riley and Anderson are both eligible to be elected as senior members.

According to multiple Hall of Fame voters, the two main reasons the Bengals have only Muñoz in the Hall are the lack of championships and shortage of all-decade players.

The Bengals have not won a Super Bowl and have just two all-decade players: Muñoz was on the 1980s team and Geno Atkins was selected on the 2010 team.

A total of 63% of all players in the Hall have won championships. More than 70% were on all-decade teams.

"That's the double-edged sword working against the Bengals," said Hall of Fame senior voter Rick Gosselin. "They haven't won championships and they don't have players on the all-decade teams. The committee loves champions and all-decade players, and the Bengals are shy in both."

Riley and Anderson again will be on the senior ballot for the Class of 2023, and that ballot sometimes consists of as many as 80 candidates.

## Exhausting Olympic journey may elevate Matt Ludwig's career

**Marla Ridenour**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Matt Ludwig's frustration and disappointment have given way to gratitude.

His exhaustion of flying across the world and competing in the pole vault qualifying round in the Tokyo Olympics on six to seven hours sleep was replaced by a "nice calm rest," however brief.

He quickly had to leave his new Akron apartment for a series of meets in Europe and won't return until Sept. 23.

As the former NCAA champion at the University of Akron looked back, he saw nothing but positives from his Tokyo experience.

He's finally over the fact that he cramped up after his first failed attempt at 5.65 meters and did not qualify for the final, which he blames on fatigue.

"This is a tough one because it's such a grand stage," Ludwig said. "It's the biggest meet out there. But at the same time, the original plan had me sitting at home watching it on TV. Only good things came from this experience and I'll take this result 10 times out of 10 if it means I get to be a Tokyo 2021

Olympian."

Ludwig, 25, a Chardon native from Mentor Lake Catholic High School, learned at 11 p.m. on July 28 that as the team's alternate he would be taking the place of Sam Kendricks, the 2016 Olympic bronze medalist and reigning world champion who tested positive for COVID-19.

Ludwig didn't sleep at all that night. He said it took a combined effort by staffers from the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Track and Field, along with his own management crew, to get him to Tokyo in a day and a half.

What happened after he landed in Tokyo at 4 p.m. local time likely compromised his chances of advancing to the Aug. 3 final.

"[I'm thinking] if I can get to the village kind of quickly, I can get some food, I can rest, I can walk about and get my legs shaken out," Ludwig said. "I didn't get to my room until 10 at night. There was six hours of background work with processing, accreditation, COVID testing, transportation from the airport to the Olympic Village, to the main headquarters, to the Team USA building, to meeting with different representatives



Even though he didn't advance to the Olympic final, Matt Ludwig said, "Only good things came from this experience." KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

to try to schedule uniform pickup and everything else.

"That was pretty exhausting." Ludwig went to bed at 11 p.m. and woke up at 4 a.m. so officials could put a uniform together.

Ludwig said his body held up "really, really well" for warmups and the first two heights he cleared — 5.30 and 5.50.

"It wasn't until my second attempt at 5.65 that I got some really vicious cramps," he said. "Fatigue set in a little faster than anticipated."

What bothered Ludwig most was that had he made his first attempt at 5.65 meters, he would have qualified for the final.

"It's hard to not be disappointed

because I know what I'm capable of, but at the same time I can't compare my performance in Tokyo to my best self because my condition wasn't at 100%," he said.

Ludwig said the Tokyo experience has made him even more determined to make the U.S. team for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

"From what it taught me, pretty much everybody in that field, all 30-plus athletes, I've seen around the world and competed against them and beaten a good majority of them," Ludwig said. "To see what it took to make the final and I had just about done it with as crazy circumstances as it were, my confidence is high."





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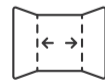
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