

# FORECAST

Volume 22 Issue 1 Fall 2020

presented by:



## Keystone's **Jacob Shackelford**

2019 Lorain County  
Golden Helmet Award Winner



## Wadsworth's **Jack Grice**

2019 Medina Gazette MVP

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# FORECAST

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### WEOL FORECAST MAGAZINE FALL 2020 PREVIEW

A Publication of AM930 and 100.3FM WEOL  
Volume 22 Issue 1

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### About the Cover:

Leading the Keystone Wildcats to their first playoff appearance in nearly half a century, Jacob Shackelford was named the Lorain County Golden Helmet winner. Shackelford was a dual threat for one of the best offenses in the county, rushing for 1,247 yards and 18 touchdowns to go along with 1,478 yards passing and 15 touchdown passes as well. It marked the second straight season that Shackelford ran and threw for more than 1,000 yards in a season. Shackelford had a nice career defensively as well, picking off five passes in his career and taking three of those back for touchdowns. Shackelford will continue his athletic and academic career at Ashland.

Jack Grice of Wadsworth was named the Medina Gazette's MVP. Grice had a sensational senior season for the Grizzlies, tallying 150 total tackles, including 10.5 for a loss to go along with 6.5 sacks. Grice also recovered a pair of fumbles and picked off a trio of passes his senior year as well on a team that made it all the way to the regional semi-finals. The 6-foot, 205 pounder also earned First Team All-Ohio honors as well. Grice's athletic and academic career will continue at NCAA-II powerhouse Grand Valley State.





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**Welcome to FORECAST, the fall edition, from AM 930 and the all-new 100.3FM!**

Remember when football teams counted down the days to the season-opening kickoff? Sure you do, but due to the spread of the coronavirus, that's not necessarily the case this year.

In fact, the virus has impacted everyday living and that includes the publication of this magazine. We are posting the latest, greatest information and schedules based on what we know (knew), but we realize, and hope you'll understand, that these are very strange and fluid times, whether it's high school, college or pro ball.

In the meantime, we send out a major 'thank you' to the advertisers who support FORECAST and our outstanding broadcasts, and of course, to our local athletic directors, coaches and support staff.

Hopefully, we'll hear plenty of great plays on AM 930, 100.3FM, the free WEOL mobile app, and weol.com all season long!

*Craig R. Adams*  
Operations Manager/News Director  
WEOL AM 930



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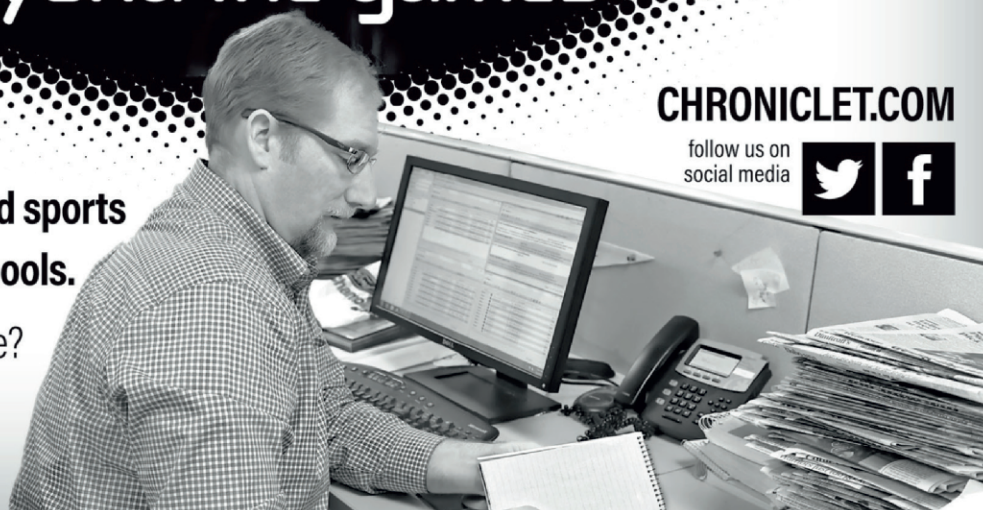
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Right: Scott Petrak, Chronicle reporter.



Fall 2020 **Forecast Magazine**



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# High School Football Line-Up

## The Forecast Show

Friday nights from 5:30pm until kick-off we preview the night's big games with the coaches.



## & Medina County Match-Up

At 6:30pm Friday night we kick off the Center for Orthopedics Gridiron Clash on AM930, 100.3 FM and WEOL.com Stream 2

On WEOL.com Stream 3, we feature the Medina County Match-Up. All games can be heard at WEOL.com or on the WEOL mobile app.

## The Nick Abraham Saturday Sports Wrap-Up Show

On Saturday morning from 9am - 11am, get the scores and hear from the previous night's winning coaches in Lorain and Medina County.





# Hoping For a Full Slate of Friday Night Lights



Avon celebrates a regional championship win over Avon Lake

**By Andy Barch**

We sure hope that by the time you're reading this, that we've learned its OK to play high school football games again. Of course, since every situation is fluid with this global pandemic, its only fair to state at the beginning of this story, that things could change VERY quickly. I think we can all agree that we're ready for something that makes us feel normal again.

Last year was an interesting one in Lorain County for sure. We saw a total of four teams from the county punch their ticket to the post season. For schools like Avon, the post season was certainly nothing new. Keystone, however, hosted a playoff game for the first time in nearly a half a century. While Avon won the Southwest Conference with a roster that was in constant flux due to injuries from week to week, Avon Lake was right behind them

in an always competitive conference that seems to come down to the wire every year. For Keystone, they not only made it to the playoffs, but they also won the inaugural Lorain County League crown, and clinched it with a week to spare. Joining those three in making the post season were the Elyria Catholic Panthers, who punched their ticket to the post season for the second straight year.

In the SWC, it seems like the conversation always begins with **Avon**. Last year seemed like it was finally going to be the year that someone knocked them off the top of the mountain. Despite a slew of injuries from one week to the next, Coach Mike Elder's team just found ways to survive and advance. They went unbeaten again to claim another SWC crown, and captured a third consecutive Regional Championship with a 20-3 victory over Avon

Lake. The depth of the Eagles was certainly tested last season, and you can't help but think they'll reap some of those benefits in the 2020 season. Senior center Mason Bingham will lead the offensive line, while Devon Hunter returns to pace the running game. Defensively, the Eagles were very strong last year, and they'll return quite a few from that group, including safety Niko Pappas, cornerback Mike Matlak, linebacker Kaya Yonkers and nose tackle Dom Vakos.

**Amherst** has put together three consecutive winning seasons under Head Coach Mike Passerello. A 7-3 overall mark and 6-3 mark in conference play was impressive in 2019, but they just missed making the post season for a second straight year. This year, Coach Passerello returns a very impressive group that includes 20 lettermen. In that group are eight returning starters

on offense and five on defense. They'll be paced on defense by Alden Steele, last year's second leading tackler with 106 on the year to go along with five interceptions and DL Lavell Gibson, who led the team in tackles for loss with 11 and sacks with six. On offense, QB Tyler Brezina returns after a strong 2019 season where he threw 16 touchdown passes. Torre Weatherspoon, last year's leading rusher returns as well.

**Avon Lake** had one of the best defenses in the entire greater Cleveland area last year, and while they will lose a few from that group to graduation, they'll still return 26 lettermen from last year's team that made it all the way to the regional title game. Senior wide receiver and linebacker Nate Cikalo is among those returning. He was named the team MVP after earning First

See **FOOTBALL**, 6



# FOOTBALL

From 5

Team All-SWC and All-County honors. Senior tailback Gage Duesler returns for his senior season, after rushing for 1,012 yards and 16 touchdowns a season ago. The offensive line returns all five starters from a season ago, including Alex Padgett, who earned First Team All-SWC, All-County, All-District and Second Team All-State honors. Kady Viancourt came on at the end of the year and will be expected to make a big impact on the defensive line along with DT Jacob Sinitic, who was an All-County and All-SWC performer a year ago. Coach Matt Kostelnik believes the offense will be a primary strength, returning 13 key contributors from last season, along with a strong group of linebackers and defensive linemen that will lead the charge on defense.

**Midview** will have a new sideline sergeant for the first time in seven years. After a very successful six year run at the helm, Coach DJ Shaw stepped down, and Midview has turned to coach Luke Beal, who brings plenty of head coaching experience with

him. Coach Beal has over 15 years of head coaching experience, having been the head coach at Northmor, Fredericktown and Brunswick. He'll have a team that is coming off a promising and improved season. The Mid-dies went from 1-9 in 2018 to 5-5 a season ago. Coach Beal has a group that includes seven returning starters on offense and six on defense. He'll rely heavily on seniors Jacob Schmitz and Bryce Sanders in the trenches, and junior QB Ethan Surdock returns after a solid sophomore campaign.

**North Ridgeville** returns 17 from a season that won three games a season ago. The Rangers are expecting big things from running back Dom Farago, who they hope will continue to make a big impact in the offensive and defensive backfields. The defense returns seven starters from a season ago, and will be led by both Farago and linebacker Caden Masterson. In the trenches, Dain Barlebaugh, Evan Conley will lead the way on offense, while Hunter Stephanchick and Chris Douglas are expected to hold the opposition in check on the defensive line. Coach Luke



Brookside's Kenny Grobolssek looks downfield

Durbin expects the Rangers to compete for the SWC crown and a spot in the playoffs.

The defending Lorain County League Champions will return 12 lettermen from the 2019 season. For **Keystone**, replacing Jacob Shackelford, the Golden Helmet winner, will be a difficult task. Early on, it looks like sophomore Konner Rodick could get that chance. While they lost one Shackelford, they'll retain another in sophomore wide receiver, Ryne Shackelford, who earned All-Conference and All-District honors as a freshman. He's joined in that group by senior Deghan Rigda, who led the team in receptions last season. Junior Gideon Lampron will be one of those Wildcats expected to lead the charge defensively, after registering 120 tackles in 2019. A trio of seniors will be called on to win the war in the trenches, in Luke Moore, Alex Pataky and Jakob Rich. Head Coach Don Griswold believes that leadership and culture will be two key strengths on a team that returns with high expectations after last year's playoff run.

**Brookside** will have higher expectations under second year head coach Scott O'Donnell. Not only will it be his second year at the helm, but they will return 26 lettermen from the 2019 season. Of those 26, 14 are starters, and they'll bring back Kenny Grobolssek, who was used in a number of different ways last season. The Cardinals are

coming off a 2-8 season, including a 1-6 mark in conference play, and have a lot of experience in the trenches, as they return six linemen from last year's team. Coach O'Donnell plans on using Grobolssek in a number of positions to succeed and plans on using other play-makers as well. The key to this group, will be their line play on both sides of the ball.

**Clearview** just missed out on a second straight playoff appearance. The Clippers finished second in the LC8 and went 8-2 overall. They had one of the best offenses in Lorain County last year, but they'll certainly miss quarterback Chase Christensen. They will rely on senior tailback Robert Davis, who was their leading rusher a season ago, ranking in the top-10 in league play with 518 rushing yards against conference opponents. Davis is one of 19 letter winners returning and 11 of those are starters from a season ago. Not only do the Clippers bring back 11 starters, but 10 of those are seniors in search of another playoff run. Wide Receiver and Defensive Back Sam Clark will lead the way with Davis in a very talented group of skill position players, while seniors Nathan Emmerling and Josiah Moon lead the way in the trenches. Coach Mike Collier expects the experience in this group and depth along the line will be the primary strengths for the Clip-

See FOOTBALL, 7



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# FOOTBALL

From 6

pers.

**Columbia** finished the season as one of the hottest teams in the county. After a winless first half of the season, the Raiders really turned things around in their final five games, winning four of those to give them plenty of momentum heading into the season. Coach Jason Ward's team will return 26 lettermen from that 2019 team, including quarterback Andrew Champagne, who had his first year altered tremendously due to injuries. Also returning is tailback Joe Governale, who ran for 1,500 yards in the 2019 campaign. Altogether, 14 starters will return for this team that really grew tremendously over their final five games. That's the kind of experience Coach Ward believes will serve as one of the primary strengths of this team. Defensively, the Raiders have a group that is expected to be very strong and very quick, and they'll be led by Linebacker Hayden Garrow who returns after tallying 115 tackles last year.

For **Firelands**, the expectations certainly will be higher than they were a season ago, when they went 3-4 in Lorain County League action and 4-6 overall. Head Coach Ryan O'Rourke's team will return 27 letter winners from a season ago, including 19 starters. Almost every offensive player will return, including the explosive all-purpose player in Caden Bomback. Alex Angle joins him in what is a very talented group of receivers while quarterback Jacob Farley returns with Carter Janicek leading the charge in the backfield. With Angle and Bomback, the Falcons have two of the top five leaders in receiving yards in conference play in 2019. The Falcons have plenty of depth, experience and team speed that will make them very difficult to stop in the 2020 season.

**Oberlin** looks to improve upon a 1-9 season. The Phoenix will return 10 lettermen from a season ago, including eight starters. Staying healthy will be very important for Coach Mike Akers and company as the



Steven Navalinsky of Elyria Catholic is poised for a big 2020

Phoenix look to continue to add depth. Oberlin has plenty of talent at the skill positions. Wide receiver Quest Ramone BeeBe returns after earning All-Conference honorable mention honors and totaling 230 receiving yards last season. Adding to the difficulty for the Phoenix this year, is the fact that they won't have any traditional home games. Until construction on their new facility is finished, Oberlin will have to play their five home games at other facilities in the area. They are scheduled to play four of those five games at Elyria, and their week 5 matchup against Clearview will be played at Lorain's George Daniel Field.

**Wellington** narrowly missed out on a post season birth a year ago. Despite that, the Dukes still turned in an incredible turnaround from a 2018 season where they went 1-9. The 2019 season saw the Dukes go 6-4 overall and 4-3 in Lorain County League play. Wellington was very much in the running for the inaugural Lorain County League crown until falling to Keystone in the second to last week of the season. They'll return 16 lettermen from a season ago, including six on offense and eight will return on defense. The Dukes will return at least five All-Ohio honorees from a season ago, including tight end/defensive end Caleb Teague, a 6-foot-5 senior who

was a first team All Conference, County and District performer in 2019. Coach Howells has really turned things around with this group that is expected to rely on a wealth of experience and much added depth. The experience was noted earlier with all of the returners and starters, and it is expected that they'll have at least 40 kids in camp, nearly doubling that total from two years ago.

**Elyria Catholic** returns a ton on offense, but they'll need to replace a lot on defense. Senior quarterback Steven Navalinsky is expected to be one of the best players in the county. He earned Second Team All-State honors a season ago, throwing for 2,550 yards and 27 touchdowns. He'll have plenty of weapons at his disposal, including sophomore tailback Levi Ellis, senior wide receiver Jarret Frantz, and junior wide receiver Alex Carandang. Three returning starters on the offensive line, Ryan Roark, Hayden Gerhart and Sean Decker should help keep Navalinsky upright as well. The Panthers went to the playoffs for the second straight season in 2019, posting a 7-4 record overall and a 6-2 mark in league play. Head Coach Brian Fox believes that their offensive skill players and defensive line could be big time strengths. The defensive line will rely on senior Jon Pearl, who is entering his third varsity season.

Though they will be very young on defense, there's some real potential there.

**Elyria** showed improvement in their first season under Head Coach Devlin Culliver. After going winless in 2018, and winning just once in the previous two seasons, the Pioneers came up just short on opening night in a loss to Midview before scoring a 7-6 victory over Bedford in week two. The Pioneers will have to navigate their way through a grueling Greater Cleveland Conference schedule one last time, before finally making the jump to the SWC next season, which will give them a lot more local flavor to their schedule and drastically reduce travel.

Like Midview, **Lorain** made a head coaching change in the off season as well. The Titans will be led by James Boyeas, who heads to Lorain after serving as an assistant coach at Garfield Heights in 2019. Boyeas inherits a team that started slowly last year under former Head Coach Dave McFarland, who retired after six successful seasons. Despite the slow start, the Titans really turned it on at the end of the year, running off four straight victories to finish at 6-4. They'll be tested early on as they were a year ago, with non-conference games against Brunswick, Avon and Elyria over the first three weeks of the season.

The 2019 season was a difficult one for the **Vermilion Sailors**, but they are bringing back a group that learned a lot from last season. Coach Brett Colahan will return 14 lettermen from a season ago, including six All-Lorain County performers from the 2019 squad. They are transitioning from a team that lacked experience last season, to a team that enters 2020 with higher expectations to compete from week to week. Included in those returning is Junior quarterback/defensive back Ben Rini, who earned second team All-County honors a season ago. The Sailors also have a dozen seniors on this year's team, including Ethan Young who earned First Team All-County honors and Second Team All-Sandusky Bay Conference accolades in 2019.



# High School Football On AM930 & WEOL.com

**All games air at 6:30pm unless noted otherwise**  
**Center For Orthopedics Gridiron Clash on AM930**  
**WEOL.com Stream 1**

8/28 Avon @ Avon Lake	10/2 Avon Lake @ Amherst
9/4 Midview @ N. Ridgeville	10/8 Garfield Hts. @ Lorain
9/11 Bay @ Elyria Catholic	10/9 Midview @ Olmsted Falls
9/18 Keystone @ Clearview	10/16 Columbia @ Clearview
9/25 Amherst @ Olmsted Falls	10/17 Lorain @ Shaker Heights
10/1 Elyria Catholic @ Valley Forge	10/23 and 10/30 TBA

## **WEOL.com Stream 2**

8/28 Bay @ Keystone
9/4 Lorain @ Avon
9/11 Lorain @ Elyria
9/18 Firelands @ Columbia
9/25 Wellington @ Brookside
10/2 Black River @ Keystone
10/9 N. Ridgeville @ Westlake
10/16 Elyria Catholic @ Holy Name
10/23 TBA
10/30 TBA

## **Medina County Match-up Stream 3**

8/28 Cloverleaf @ Brookside
9/4 Medina @ Highland
9/11 Brunswick @ Highland
9/18 Buckeye @ Elyria Catholic
9/25 Brunswick @ Strongsville
10/2 Olmsted Falls @ Brunswick
10/9 Medina @ Strongsville
10/16 Solon @ Medina
10/23 TBA
10/30 TBA



# 2020 Medina County Football Preview



RON SCHWANE

Wadsworth's Mitch Evans shakes off a would-be tackler

## By Brad Bournival

If there ever was a season that could look different, it's 2020.

From the pandemic leaving an ever-changing future until a vaccine is found for COVID-19 to the expansion from eight regional teams into the playoffs, to 12, this fall will have a much different look and feel.

Looking back on 2019, Wadsworth was once again the talk of Medina County with a Division II, Region 6 semifinal playoff appearance.

As usual, Buckeye reached the playoffs with Medina grabbing the seventh seed in D-I, Region 1.

Black River was in the postseason hunt until late. Brunswick and Cloverleaf posted winning records and showed a bright future. Highland closed strong by winning four of its last five.

Had 12 teams qualified for the postseason in 2019 like they do this season, six teams would have reached the playoffs.

Here's a look at the seven area teams:

**Black River (5-5, 4-3, T-3rd in Lorain County League)**

The Pirates will rely heavily on a pair of 5-foot-10, 180-pound backs in Ryan Schultz and Joseph

McKean in their run-heavy offense. The senior and junior ran for 1,139 of Black River's 2,780 yards rushing last season.

With 18 letterwinners returning, defense will be key, but coach Kyle Clark has a hammer back in 5-10, 165-pound junior line-backer Brandon Rolin, who led the team with 81 tackles — 35 solo — one sack and a tackle for loss last season.

Finding replacements on defense for Caleb Simonson, Sam Bourdess and J.T. Armstrong will be key as well as a new signal caller with Dylan Kmitt graduating.

"Our backfield should be a strong point for us," Pirates coach Kyle Clark said. "We will have a bunch of smart and tough players."

There's a lot of new faces in the secondary, so that will be a concern, but leadership should not be an issue throughout.

**Brunswick (6-4, 3-4, 5th in Greater Cleveland Conference)**

When Mark Pinzone took over as Brunswick's football coach, he said it would be a four-year overhaul to get the Blue Devils back to glory.

It's Year 4 and Brunswick looks

poised to be a contender in an always-tough GCC.

Last season was the first winning year for the program since 2014 and the Blue Devils will go behind honorable mention all-Ohio and West Virginia recruit Tomas Rimac at offensive tackle.

Rimac stands 6-foot-6 and weighs 290 pounds and will undoubtedly be the beef 5-11, 190-pound senior tight end Kyle Scherette and running back senior running back Andrew Haber need.

The Blue Devils return seven starters on each side of the ball.

"We expect to improve upon last season," Pinzone said. "The strength of our team is our experience and depth."

**Buckeye (8-3, 7-1, T-1st Great**

**Lakes Conference)**

The biggest need for the Bucks will find is someone to replace third-team all-state quarterback/safety Jacob Doerge, who broke the county record for yards rushing by a quarterback with 1,700.

Buckeye, which has made the postseason 11 times and seven consecutive seasons, is loaded with 12 starters back.

Junior Ben Barnes (5-9, 190), will be counted on heavily to shoulder the load in the run-heavy offense of Gazette

Football coach of the Decade Greg Dennison and will run behind 6-2, 295-pound two-way lineman sophomore Todd Allen.

That should keep defenses honest as Buckeye looks to

See **MEDINA**, 10



NICK CAMMETT

Medina's Drew Allar takes off under pressure



# MEDINA

From 9

rebound after losing the GLC Player of the Year Doerge.

The Bucks have a set of solid wide receiver/defensive backs in 6-0, 165-pound senior Zack Weber and 5-7, 152-pound junior Kaymen Marshall.

The two will bolster a defense that has seven returning starters.

"We have the most skill we have had in my four years at Buckeye, but will be young up front," Dennison said. "Our experience should be a strength for us, especially our defensive backfield where we have a lot of experience."

**Cloverleaf (6-4, 5-2, T-2nd Portage Trail Conference Metro Division)**

Historians have to go back 10 seasons to find the last time the Colts had a winning season, but Cloverleaf is hoping history repeats.

In 2009, the Colts were also 6-4, but were coming off their third straight winning season.

Finding a replacement for second-team All-Ohio quarterback and strong safety Brody Stallings will be key if coach Justin Vorhies and Co. want to repeat their success.

Stallings accounted for 3,015 yards rushing, 2,723 passing and compiled a school-record 264 points in his career.

All-league senior wideouts Kodey Trent (5-9, 165) and Blake Wilson (6-1, 190) are back to give Cloverleaf some teeth.

It'll be up to 6-1, 185-pound



RON SCHWANE

Brunswick's Tomas Rimac holding off defenders.

senior Logan Tierney to fill in for Stallings at quarterback.

The Colts return 13 starters.

Aside from the skill positions, strength will come across the offensive line as seniors Zach Greer, Michael Ribnikar and Tommy Sword join junior Kevin Bittacker as returning starters.

"Our strength will be our skill positions and multiple weapons on offense as well as overall speed in the secondary," Vorhies said.

**Highland (4-6, 3-3, 4th in Suburban League American Conference)**

Fans don't find the Hornets with a losing record all that often, but last season the squad had a sub-.500 season for the first time since 2009.

That didn't sit well with coach

Mike Gibbons, who is used to playing meaningful games late in the season.

The good news for the Hornets is that they won four of their five games, including a 31-28 victory over Canfield, which finished 7-3.

Finding replacements for Bryce Proffitt and Brady Linder will be huge, but three-year, 6-4, 270-pound two-way lineman Sam Waibel will help in the trenches.

Highland has two-year starters in 6-3, 215-pound senior tight end/defensive end David Petruzello and 5-9, 165-pound junior Kevin Heichel.

That will help a team that returns 13 starters.

"I believe our strength is up front on both sides of the ball, we have a number of players returning as well as some very good young talent coming up," Gibbons said. "We will be tested right away with our schedule so we will need to be ready to go right from the start."

**Medina (7-4, 4-3, 4th in GCC)**

The Bees may have been the most fun team to watch last season in Northeast Ohio. Coach Larry Laird and Co. was going five-wide and was daring you to blitz.

Medina averaged 40.9 yards rushing per game, but 332.8 yards passing.

Expect more of the same this season with 6-5, 225-pound, three-star junior Drew Allar back at quarterback.

Allar was 116-for-243 and threw for 1,802 yards and 23

touchdowns, but only started four games.

He's got targets in 6-4, 240-pound junior Matt Spatny and 6-2, 205-pound Luke Hensley senior back at wide receiver and six starters back on offense.

It's an offense that piled up 4,111 yards offensively and one that isn't afraid to sling it up the field and gain yards in chunks.

The defense will be led by 6-1, 220-pound senior Nathan Spatny and could put up Madden-type numbers.

"We are looking forward to setting new expectations in the Medina Football Program, making the playoffs will become the expectation not the exception," Laird said.

**Wadsworth (9-3, 6-1, T-1st in SL National Conference)**

Bad news for those thinking it'll be a down season without All-Ohio linebacker Jack Grice, all-state quarterback Trey Shaffer and Gazette Male Athlete of the Year second-team All-Ohioan Dom Loparo at running back.

Coach Justin Todd thinks this year's Grizzlies will be the best team he's ever had and that's saying something.

Tight end Mitchell Evans has moved to quarterback and the 6-7, 240-pound three-star recruit should tear it up.

One of the most recruited players in county history, the senior has a top 10 that includes Notre Dame, Michigan State and Florida State as virtually every Power 5 conference school wants him.

He's not the only one with 6-3, 205-pound senior outside linebacker already committed to Iowa State.

If that's not enough, 5-11, 210-pound senior Jamison Jackson is also returning at linebacker.

Throw in a vastly underrated Barret Labus, who was third-team all-state last season, and you can't trip and not fall on a star for Wadsworth.

The 5-11, 180-pound senior had 1,007 yards receiving last season and scored 14 touchdowns.

The Grizzlies return 11 starters.

"Skill positions return on both sides of the ball," Todd said. "But we must replace the majority of bigs on both sides of the ball."

Contact Brad Bournival at bournival929@gmail.com.



NICK CAMMETT

Black River's Ryan Shultz makes a tough grab.





### Amherst Comets

8/28	Shaw.....Home
9/4	Firelands.....Away
9/11	Midview.....Away
9/18	North Olmsted.....Home
9/25	Olmsted Falls.....Away
10/2	Avon Lake.....Home
10/9	Berea-Midpark.....Away
10/16	Westlake.....Home
10/23	North Ridgeville.....Away
10/30	Avon.....Home

### Avon Eagles

8/28	Avon Lake.....Away
9/4	Lorain.....Home
9/11	Glennville.....Home
9/18	Berea-Midpark.....Away
9/25	Midview.....Home
10/2	Westlake.....Away
10/9	North Olmsted.....Home
10/16	North Ridgeville.....Away
10/23	Olmsted Falls.....Home
10/30	Amherst.....Away

### Avon Lake Shoremen

8/28	Avon.....Home
9/4	Hoover.....Away
9/11	Berea-Midpark.....Home
9/18	Westlake.....Away
9/25	North Ridgeville.....Home
10/2	Amherst.....Away
10/9	Elyria.....Home
10/16	Midview.....Away
10/23	North Olmsted.....Home
10/30	Olmsted Falls.....Away

### Bay Rockets

8/28	Keystone.....Home
9/4	Buckeye.....Home
9/11	Elyria Catholic.....Away
9/18	Valley Forge.....Away
9/25	Fairview.....Home
10/3	Holy Name.....Away
10/9	Normandy.....Home
10/16	Rocky River.....Home
10/23	Parma.....Away
10/30	Lakewood.....Home

### Berea-Midpark

8/28	Strongsville.....Home
9/4	Olmsted Falls.....Home
9/11	Avon Lake.....Away
9/18	Avon.....Away
9/25	Westlake.....Home
10/2	North Ridgeville.....Away
10/9	Amherst.....Home
10/16	Mentor.....Away
10/23	Midview.....Home
10/30	North Olmsted.....Away

### Black River Pirates

8/28	Kenston.....Away
9/4	Northwestern.....Away
9/11	Ontario.....Home
9/18	Wellington.....Away
9/25	Firelands.....Home
10/2	Keystone.....Away
10/9	Oberlin.....Home
10/16	Brookside.....Away
10/23	Clearview.....Home
10/30	Columbia.....Away

### Brecksville-Broadview Hts. Bees

8/28	Olmsted Falls.....Away
9/4	Green.....Home
9/11	Strongsville.....Home
9/18	Stow.....Away
9/25	Hudson.....Home
10/2	Cuyahoga Falls.....Away
10/9	Twinsburg.....Home
10/16	Nordonia.....Away
10/23	North Royalton.....Away
10/30	Wadsworth.....Home

### Brooklyn Hurricanes

8/28	Harding.....Home
9/4	East Tech.....Away
9/11	Brookside.....Home
9/18	Independence.....Home
9/25	Cuyahoga Heights.....Home
10/2	Trinity.....Away
10/9	Wickliffe.....Home
10/16	Lutheran West.....Away
10/23	Cardinal.....Home
10/30	Lincoln-West.....Away

### Brookside Cardinals

8/28	Cloverleaf.....Home
9/4	Lutheran West.....Away
9/11	Brooklyn.....Away
9/18	Oberlin.....Home
9/25	Wellington.....Home
10/2	Firelands.....Away
10/9	Keystone.....Away
10/16	Black River.....Away
10/23	Columbia.....Home
10/30	Clearview.....Home





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## Brunswick Blue Devils

8/28	Lorain.....Away
9/4	North Royalton.....Home
9/11	Highland.....Away
9/18	Euclid.....Home
9/25	Strongsville.....Away
10/2	Olmsted Falls.....Home
10/9	Mentor.....Home
10/16	Elyria.....Away
10/23	Solon.....Away
10/30	Medina.....Home

## Buckeye Bucks

8/28	Revere.....Home
9/4	Bay.....Away
9/11	Lakewood.....Home
9/18	Elyria Catholic.....Away
9/25	Valley Forge.....Home
10/2	Fairview.....Away
10/9	Holy Name.....Home
10/16	Normandy.....Away
10/23	Rocky River.....Away
10/30	Parma.....Home

## Clearview Clippers

8/28	Scott.....Home
9/4	Vermillion.....Home
9/11	John Hay.....Home
9/18	Keystone.....Home
9/25	Oberlin.....Away
10/2	Wellington.....Away
10/9	Firelands.....Home
10/16	Columbia.....Home
10/23	Black River.....Away
10/30	Brookside.....Away

## Cloverleaf Colts

8/28	Brookside.....Away
9/4	Keystone.....Home
9/11	Marlington.....Away
9/18	Streetsboro.....Home
9/25	Field.....Away
10/2	Ravenna.....Home
10/9	Springfield.....Away
10/16	Woodridge.....Home
10/23	Norton.....Away
10/30	Coventry.....Home

## Columbia Raiders

8/28	Independence.....Away
9/4	Waynedale.....Home
9/11	Northwestern.....Away
9/18	Firelands.....Home
9/25	Keystone.....Home
10/2	Oberlin.....Away
10/9	Wellington.....Home
10/16	Clearview.....Away
10/23	Brookside.....Away
10/30	Black River.....Home

## Elyria Pioneers

8/28	Midview.....Home
9/4	Bedford.....Away
9/11	Lorain.....Home
9/18	Medina.....Away
9/25	Euclid.....Home
10/2	Solon.....Away
10/9	Avon Lake.....Away
10/16	Brunswick.....Home
10/23	Strongsville.....Home
10/30	Mentor.....Away

## Elyria Catholic Panthers

8/28	Perkins.....Away
9/4	Parma.....Away
9/11	Bay.....Home
9/18	Buckeye.....Home
9/25	Lakewood.....Away
10/1	Valley Forge.....Away
10/9	Fairview.....Home
10/16	Holy Name.....Away
10/23	Normandy.....Home
10/30	Rocky River.....Home

## Fairview Warriors

8/28	Lutheran West.....Home
9/4	Normandy.....Home
9/11	Rocky River.....Away
9/18	Parma.....Home
9/25	Bay.....Away
10/2	Buckeye.....Home
10/9	Elyria Catholic.....Away
10/16	Valley Forge.....Home
10/23	Lakewood.....Away
10/30	Holy Name.....Away

## Firelands Falcons

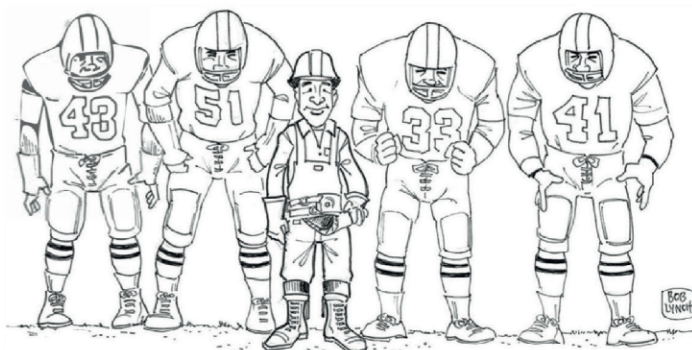
8/28	Edison.....Home
9/4	Amherst.....Home
9/11	Vermillion.....Away
9/18	Columbia.....Away
9/25	Black River.....Away
10/2	Brookside.....Home
10/9	Clearview.....Away
10/16	Keystone.....Away
10/23	Oberlin.....Home
10/30	Wellington.....Home

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### Highland Hornets

8/28 Wadsworth.....Home  
9/4 Medina.....Away  
9/11 Brunswick.....Home  
9/18 Barberton.....Away  
9/25 Roosevelt.....Home  
10/2 Revere.....Home  
10/9 Canfield.....Away  
10/16 Aurora.....Away  
10/23 Copley.....Home  
10/30 Tallmadge.....Away

### Holy Name Green Wave

8/29 Maple Heights.....Home  
9/4 Lakewood.....Home  
9/10 Normandy.....Away  
9/18 Rocky River.....Away  
9/25 Parma.....Away  
10/3 Bay.....Home  
10/9 Buckeye.....Away  
10/16 Elyria Catholic.....Home  
10/23 Valley Forge.....Away  
10/30 Fairview.....Home

### Keystone Wildcats

8/28 Bay.....Home  
9/4 Cloverleaf.....Away  
9/11 LaBrea.....Home  
9/18 Clearview.....Away  
9/25 Columbia.....Away  
10/2 Black River.....Home  
10/9 Brookside.....Home  
10/16 Firelands.....Home  
10/23 Wellington.....Away

10/30 Oberlin.....Away

### Lakewood Rangers

8/29 John Marshall.....Home  
9/4 Holy Name.....Away  
9/11 Buckeye.....Away  
9/18 Normandy.....Home  
9/25 Elyria Catholic.....Home  
10/2 Rocky River.....Home  
10/9 Valley Forge.....Away  
10/16 Parma.....Home  
10/23 Fairview.....Home  
10/30 Bay.....Away

### Lorain Titans

8/28 Brunswick.....Home  
9/4 Avon.....Away  
9/11 Elyria.....Away  
9/18 Bedford.....Home  
9/25 Cleveland Heights.....Away  
10/2 Maple Heights.....Home  
10/8 Garfield Heights.....Home  
10/17 Shaker Heights.....Away  
10/23 Roosevelt.....Home  
10/30 Shaw.....Home

### Lutheran West Longhorns

8/28 Fairview.....Away  
9/4 Brookside.....Home  
9/11 Lutheran East.....Home  
9/18 Wickliffe.....Home  
9/25 Lakota.....Home  
10/2 Berkshire.....Away  
10/9 Independence.....Home  
10/16 Brooklyn.....Home

10/23 Cuyahoga Heights.....Away

10/30 Trinity.....Away

### Mapleton Mounties

8/28 Chippewa.....Away  
9/4 Wellington.....Home  
9/11 Rittman.....Away  
9/18 Crestview.....Away  
9/25 South Central.....Away  
10/3 St. Paul.....Away  
10/9 Plymouth.....Home  
10/16 New London.....Away  
10/23 Monroeville.....Home  
10/30 Western Reserve.....Home

### Medina Battling Bees

8/28 GlenOak.....Away  
9/4 Highland.....Home  
9/11 Wadsworth.....Away  
9/18 Elyria.....Home  
9/25 Mentor.....Away  
10/2 Euclid.....Away  
10/9 Strongsville.....Home  
10/16 Solon.....Home  
10/23 Harding.....Home  
10/30 Brunswick.....Away

### Midview Middies

8/28 Elyria.....Away  
9/4 North Ridgeville.....Away  
9/11 Amherst.....Home  
9/18 Strongsville.....Home  
9/25 Avon.....Away  
10/2 North Olmsted.....Home  
10/9 Olmsted Falls.....Away

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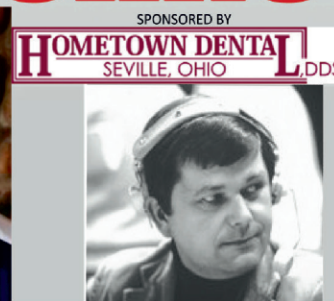
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10/16 Avon Lake.....Home  
10/23 Berea-Midpark.....Away  
10/30 Westlake.....Home

## Normany Invaders

8/28 Cuyahoga Falls.....Home  
9/4 Fairview.....Away  
9/10 Holy Name.....Home  
9/18 Lakewood.....Away  
9/24 Rocky River.....Home  
10/2 Parma.....Home  
10/9 Bay.....Away  
10/16 Buckeye.....Home  
10/23 Elyria Catholic.....Away  
10/30 Valley Forge.....Away

## North Olmsted Eagles

8/28 North.....Home  
9/4 Westlake.....Away  
9/11 North Ridgeville.....Home  
9/18 Amherst.....Away  
9/25 NDCL.....Home  
10/2 Midview.....Away  
10/9 Avon.....Away  
10/16 Olmsted Falls.....Home  
10/23 Avon Lake.....Away  
10/30 Berea-Midpark.....Home

## North Ridgeville Rangers

8/28 North Royalton.....Away  
9/4 Midview.....Home  
9/11 North Olmsted.....Away  
9/18 Olmsted Falls.....Home  
9/25 Avon Lake.....Away  
10/2 Berea-Midpark.....Home  
10/9 Westlake.....Away

10/16 Avon.....Home  
10/23 Amherst.....Home  
10/30 Padua Franciscan.....Away

## Oberlin Phoenix

8/28 Wickliffe.....Home  
9/4 South Central.....Home  
9/11 Trinity.....Away  
9/18 Brookside.....Away  
9/25 Clearview.....Home  
10/2 Columbia.....Home  
10/9 Black River.....Away  
10/16 Wellington.....Away  
10/23 Firelands.....Away  
10/30 Keystone.....Home

## Olmsted Falls Bulldogs

8/28 Brecksville.....Home  
9/4 Berea-Midpark.....Away  
9/11 Westlake.....Home  
9/18 North Ridgeville.....Away  
9/25 Amherst.....Home  
10/2 Brunswick.....Away  
10/9 Midview.....Home  
10/16 North Olmsted.....Away  
10/23 Avon.....Away  
10/30 Avon Lake.....Home

## Padua Bruins

8/28 Sandusky.....Away  
9/4 Orville.....Away  
9/11 Maple Heights.....Away  
9/18 Aurora.....Home  
9/25 Ellet.....Home  
10/3 Lake Catholic.....Away  
10/9 NDCL.....Home

10/16 Walsh Jesuit.....Away  
10/23 VASJ.....Home  
10/30 North Ridgeville.....Home

## Parma Redmen

8/28 Harvey.....Away  
9/4 Elyria Catholic.....Home  
9/11 Valley Forge.....Home  
9/18 Fairview.....Away  
9/25 Holy Name.....Home  
10/2 Normandy.....Away  
10/9 Rocky River.....Away  
10/16 Lakewood.....Away  
10/22 Bay.....Home  
10/30 Buckeye.....Away

## Rocky River Pirates

8/28 Westlake.....Home  
9/3 Valley Forge.....Away  
9/11 Fairview.....Home  
9/18 Holy Name.....Home  
9/24 Normandy.....Away  
10/2 Lakewood.....Away  
10/9 Parma.....Home  
10/16 Bay.....Away  
10/23 Buckeye.....Home  
10/30 Elyria Catholic.....Away

## St. Edward Eagles

8/29 Woodson.....Home  
9/4 Euclid.....Away  
9/11 Mentor.....Away  
9/19 Elder.....Away  
9/26 Royalty.....Home  
10/3 Benedictine.....Away  
10/10 St. Ignatius.....CLE

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10/17 Clarkson.....Home  
10/24 Moeller.....Home  
10/31 Hoban.....Home

#### St. Ignatius Wildcats

8/29 Mt. St. Joseph.....Home  
9/5 Mentor.....Home  
9/12 Hoban.....Home  
9/19 Dematha Catholic.....Home  
9/25 Massilon.....Away  
10/2 River Rouge.....Away  
10/10 St. Edwards.....CLE  
10/17 Moeller.....Home  
10/24 St. Xavier.....Away  
10/30 Clarkson.....Home

#### Strongsville Mustangs

8/28 Berea-Midpark.....Home  
9/4 Hudson.....Home  
9/11 Brecksville.....Away  
9/18 Midview.....Away  
9/25 Brunswick.....Home  
10/2 Mentor.....Away  
10/9 Medina.....Home  
10/16 Euclid.....Away  
10/23 Elyria.....Away  
10/30 Solon.....Home

#### Tallmadge Blue Devils

8/28 Ravenna.....Away  
9/4 Ellet.....Away  
9/11 Coventry.....Away  
9/17 Revere.....Home

9/25 Aurora.....Away  
10/2 CC Catholic.....Home  
10/9 Roosevelt.....Away  
10/16 Copley.....Home  
10/23 Barberton.....Away  
10/30 Highland.....Home

#### Valley Forge Patriots

8/27 John Hay.....Home  
9/3 Rocky River.....Home  
9/11 Parma.....Away  
9/18 Bay.....Away  
9/25 Buckeye.....Away  
10/1 Elyria Catholic.....Home  
10/9 Lakewood.....Away  
10/16 Fairview.....Away  
10/23 Holy Name.....Home  
10/30 Normandy.....Away

#### Vermilion Sailors

8/28 Margaretta.....Away  
9/4 Clearview.....Away  
9/11 Firelands.....Home  
9/18 Perkins.....Home  
9/25 Columbian.....Away  
10/2 Oak Harbor.....Home  
10/9 Port Clinton.....Away  
10/16 Huron.....Away  
10/23 Edison.....Away  
10/30 Willard.....Home

#### Wadsworth Grizzlies

8/28 Highland.....Away

9/4 Wooster.....Away  
9/11 Medina.....Home  
9/18 Hudson.....Home  
9/25 Nordonia.....Home  
10/2 Stow.....Away  
10/9 Cuyahoga Falls.....Home  
10/16 North Royalton.....Home  
10/23 Twinsburg.....Away  
10/30 Brecksville.....Away

#### Wellington Dukes

8/28 Western Reserve.....Away  
9/4 Mapleton.....Away  
9/11 New London.....Home  
9/18 Black River.....Home  
9/25 Brookside.....Away  
10/2 Clearview.....Home  
10/9 Columbia.....Away  
10/16 Oberlin.....Away  
10/23 Keystone.....Home  
10/30 Firelands.....Away

#### Westlake Demons

8/28 Rocky River.....Away  
9/4 North Olmsted.....Home  
9/11 Olmsted Falls.....Away  
9/18 Avon Lake.....Home  
9/25 Berea-Midpark.....Away  
10/2 Avon.....Home  
10/9 North Ridgeville.....Home  
10/16 Amherst.....Away  
10/23 Linden-McKinley.....Home  
10/31 Midview.....Away

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# Continuing the fight against COVID-19



Avon Lake celebrates a Matt Oehlstrom touchdown

**By Tim Gebhardt**

There's no question this football season undoubtedly will unfold differently from any other in recent memory due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Area coaches and athletic directors were asked what they thought about the upcoming season and while many chose to wait on the day-by-day changes that could affect the season, many others remained optimistic. As the deadline approached for this article in late July, many were not ready to say what may or may not take place. The landscape for high school sports in general and the anticipation of reopening schools in particular remain a huge question mark.

"Not sure I can answer until we get guidance from the OHSA," said Elyria Athletic Director Heather Beck. "There's just too much unknown right now."

"To be totally honest, I have no idea what to expect," said Lorain

AD Bryan Koury. "I've learned over the past few months, anything is possible but I really don't see the flip-flopping of the fall and spring seasons as a realistic option."

It's an ever-changing situation. Clearview's football coach Mike Collier has the double duty as the school's athletic director. He tries to keep up with the latest news daily.

"As an AD and coach, I'm simply staying up to date with all the guidelines and protocols and doing as much as possible for our kids while complying with the state," he said. "We're staying positive and planning and preparing for a fall season. Although there have been many rumors, we choose to control what we can control and prepare for an August start. Doing anything else would be wasted time and energy."

As Collier said, there have been rumors upon rumors as to what may happen including flipping the fall sports calendar with the spring calendar but that doesn't seem to be a viable option.

"I do not think fall sports of any sort will be switched to the spring," said Vermilion AD Andrew Stillman. "The potential of cancelling spring sports two seasons in a row is not worth it."

When the Pandemic first came on the scene in March, the basketball and wrestling seasons were

abruptly halted without a championship conclusion. Locally, it had an adverse effect on Elyria Catholic's girls basketball team as they were preparing for a trip to the final four. It also took away a chance for Elyria High's wrestling team to win

See COVID, 17



Avon's Niko Pappas looks for a receiver downfield.



# COVID

From 16

the individual state championship. Both of those tournaments were first postponed and eventually cancelled along with all spring sports.

"Obviously, things are changing daily but at this point in time (July), I do believe we will have some sort of fall season. What that looks like is anyone's guess. I am a very optimistic person, but as this thing goes on and on and doesn't seem to be diminishing, I don't know how a fall season will really work. One individual – student athlete or coach – that tests positive sends a ripple through the community because there is so much contact within the athletic team environment. It will be extremely difficult to have a normal fall season if entire teams are suspending activities for 14 days at a time.

"How far will the ripple reach? Will the last team the infected team competed against also need to quarantine? What about officials, other coaches, sideline workers, etc.?"

All of those possibilities is something the OHSAA is looking into. Obviously, what transpires with the professional teams starting up and



KRISTIN BAUER

Elyria's Core'Aun Washington breaks a tackle.

what the colleges decide to do will be a factor as well.

Stillman hopes the problems can be sorted out.

"I do think that sports should take place and that fans at the event will be figured out and socially distanced by family units," he said.

North Ridgeville coach Luke Durbin wanted to get started on August 1, but cautioned.

"After that, everything is up in the air. I believe we'll play some games but maybe not all 10 games."

Durbin sees some creativity from the schools to allow fans to either watch in person or via the internet.

"As of now, I could see a limited number of immediate family members in attendance. If this is true, I hope we can come with a way to live-stream on our district web site so all family members and fans can watch."

Durbin feels the timing for flip-flopping to the spring isn't doable.

"I wouldn't have been against the switch had it been announced a month ago," he said. "Because the start of the season is so close, I think it would put extreme pressure on the traditional spring sports to notify kids, hire and train coaches and organize a plan."

The unique situation has to be especially tough on first-year coaches. Luke Beal takes over at

Midview and he knows the challenges.

"As football coaches, we want to see the season happen but player safety is our top priority. The bigger challenge is how we can get our students back into their academic and athletic programs while still following health guidelines to keep them safe. It seems there are all kind of options on the table right now and as coaches, we are hoping for some direction soon."

Oberlin coach Mike Akers is ready for anything.

"If schools open in the fall, we'll play football," he said. "It's been different this year compared to year's past but it's nothing we can't deal with. My staff and I will just follow what our AD says the rules are and move forward from there."

Keystone coach Don Griswold, fresh off a great play-off season a year ago, has been up and down regarding the upcoming season.

"I have experienced every possible emotion regarding the 2020 season," said Griswold. "There is an inherent danger of sending your kids to school and football but ultimately, that decision is not in our hands."

"Swapping seasons is not pre-

See COVID, 18

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KRISTIN BAUER

Elyria Head Coach Devlin Culliver walks his team through camp last summer.

## COVID

From 17

ferred even though baseball and softball are playing right now. Weather is the reason they practice indoors most of March and parts of April and I want no part of having outdoor practices the end of February and into March."

Griswold would be in favor of playing conference only games if it came down to that. Right now, that's what the Big 10 will do this season.

"We want to play most of our games and would certainly take seven conference games over no games at all. The goal is to provide as much of a season as possible and grow young men through this great game.

"This is a great opportunity to model for young people that we can only control our responses in life. Worrying about swapping seasons, decisions from the governor's office or any other event has no

bearing on our preparation. We are preparing as if there will be a season starting in August that contains 10 weeks and hopefully a post-season. We'll enjoy our time together in preparation for the 2020 season."

Vermillion coach Brett Colahan is taking things day-by-day.

"Wish I could give a concrete answer," he said. "But we're telling our players the same thing. We are preparing for a full season. That's the way it should be. We can't focus on what we really can't control. We're very upfront with our players about it – 'focus what you can control and we'll adopt where necessary'. We're glad we were able to have camps and practice. I'm not sure where the athletes would be mentally or emotionally without them."

Will there be a football season? No one really knows for sure but Lorain County's coaches and athletic directors are preparing as if there will be a season. Let's hope they're right.





# Buckeyes Bouncing Back: 2020 Ohio State Football Preview

By Rocco Nuosci

It stung more than usual. Losing the Fiesta Bowl to Clemson is one of the more unpleasant memories in recent history for Buckeye fans. Whether it's the overturned scoop-and-score from Jordan Fuller or Chris Olave breaking his route unknowingly to Justin Fields for the game-sealing interception, there will always be something about that game that leaves behind a bitter taste. "I thought our guys played hard, and played really well", said Buckeyes head coach Ryan Day after the loss to Clemson. "But certainly there were a lot of plays in that game that didn't go our way". Now in year two under Day, the Buckeyes are looking to return to the College Football Playoff.

The task won't be easy. Ohio State is losing a lot of talent from last season as there were

10 members on last year's team who will now be playing on Sundays. Buckeye football has never really been about rebuilding, however. It's about reloading.

Quarterback Justin Fields, who finished third in passing touchdowns in fourth in QB rating in all of college football last season, will be commanding the offense once again. This time, though, he doesn't have a top-three rusher in the form of J.K. Dobbins to hand the football off to. His backup, Master Teague, suffered a torn Achilles during the spring game. The prime candidate for the starting spot looks to be Oklahoma transfer Trey Sermon, who ran for over 2,000 yards and scored 22 touchdowns on the ground in three seasons as a Sooner.

The receiver room is another area where this team will see a big change. K.J. Hill, Binjimen Victor, and Austin Mack are all



Garrett Wilson makes a miraculous grab.

gone. There are three of the top four receivers from last season. But, Garrett Wilson is primed for a stellar sophomore season. Head coach Ryan Day has noted Wilson's talent but thinks he can become even better with some added consistency and dedication to his game. Junior Chris Olave continues to turn heads in Columbus, and for all the right reasons. He was a favorite deep-threat target for Fields, hauling in 12 touchdowns on 840 receiving yards and 48 receptions. Senior C.J. Saunders' status is still pending as he hopes for the sixth year of eligibility after missing last season with a knee injury. Another senior, Jaylen Harris, stands as the tallest man on the roster at 6-foot-5. He is

yet to have much of a role with the Buckeye offense, but look for him to compete for a rotation spot this season. A pair of freshmen, Gee Scott Jr. and Julian Fleming, are an interesting case.

Fleming is Ohio State's highest-rated recruit since Terrelle Pryor committed in 2008. His combination of size and speed allows him to separate from coverage with ease. The kid is the complete package and looks to make an immediate impact in Columbus. Scott Jr., coming into Columbus at 6-foot-3 and 210-pounds, already has the frame to be an X-receiver for Ryan Day's offense. Given some time to mature, he could become a serious red zone

See OSU, 20



Justin Fields avoids pressure.

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# OSU

From 19

threat.

The offensive line returns three starters and could be one of the best units in the country. Wyatt Davis could have easily gone pro but decided to return to Columbus in what many assume will be his final season. Senior Thayer Munford and junior Josh Myers bring additional veteran experience. Luke Farrell returns to lead the tight end group in his senior season after being named third-team All-Big Ten in 2019. Jeremy Ruckert, the top receiving tight end last season, is poised to be a favorite target of Fields once again.

Defensively is where this team needs to find answers. Gone is Chase Young, who led the NCAA in sacks (16.5, also a new Ohio State single-season school record) and forced fumbles (7) in 2019. Jeff Okudah, Malik Harrison, Damon Arnette, DaVon Hamilton and Jordan Fuller all find themselves in the NFL now as well. The silver bullets may very well take a step back in 2020, but that drop-off may not be as bad as some think.

The end positions will be primarily led by a trio that includes senior Jonathan Cooper along with Tyreke Smith and Zach Harrison. Tyler Friday and Javonte Jean-Baptiste will see their share of snaps in the rotation as well. Tommy Togiai has been hailed as the strongest guy on the team and will be the Buckeyes one-technique starter. Starting three-technique responsibilities will go to either Haskell Garrett or former five-star recruit Taron Vincent.

The linebacker corp will have the most experience on the

<b>I</b>	September 3 @ Illinois		October 17 @ Michigan St
<b>R</b>	September 12 vs Rutgers		October 24 vs Michigan
<b>P</b>	September 19 @ Purdue		October 31 @ Maryland
<b>Ψ</b>	September 26 vs Indiana		November 7 @ Penn St
<b>N</b>	October 10 vs Nebraska		November 21 vs Iowa
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defense. Three seniors, Tuf Borland, Pete Warner, and Baron Browning will carry the load for this unit. Warner and Borland are both third-year starters, while Browning takes the spot of Malik Harrison. Borland will become just the second Buckeye in team history to become a three-time captain. All three were selected to the preseason watch list for the Butkus Award, honoring college football's best linebacker.

Day's staff lost secondary coach and co-defensive coordinator Jeff Hartley in the off-season who's been replaced by Kerry Coombs. Coombs was previously part of the Buckeyes staff from 2012 to 2017 in the same role. With so much of last year's talent now in the professional ranks, he has his hands full with trying to reload and get this group ready to go. Coach

Day certainly understands the challenge that awaits.

"We certainly need them to get out there, we need them to improve and get better", said Day earlier this year. "But we also know that's happened."

Make no mistake about it, Shaun Wade could be in the NFL right now if he wanted. However, Wade knows he has the opportunity to become a first-round graded prospect if he can piece together a full season as the Buckeyes primary shutdown corner.

Safety Josh Proctor has all the physical tools needed to be a star, he just hasn't been able to prove that consistently to this point. He'll have more than enough chances to do just that in 2020.

For now, the only part of the schedule that COVID-19 has impacted is the non-conference

portion. That, unfortunately, includes what would have been a great matchup in Eugene, Oregon, against the Oregon Ducks.

The Buckeyes will open the season with two straight games at home against Rutgers and Iowa. After that, they'll hit the road against consecutive tough opponents in the form of Michigan State and Penn State. A series of winnable games against Nebraska, Indiana, Maryland, and Illinois will follow before the Buckeyes finish up in Columbus against Michigan.

This team is hungry after falling short of their goal last season and Ryan Day knows the expectations. The Buckeyes have plenty of talent to bring home a National Championship, and you can hear their journey toward that on your home for Buckeye football, AM 930 WEOL and 100.3 FM.



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**Streaming**

Day	Time	Program
Sunday, July 21	11:00am	Elyria United Methodist Church Service - On Air & Stream 1
Monday, July 22	7:00am	The WEOL Morning Show - On Air & Stream 1
	3:00pm	Bull's Eye on the Afternoon
Tuesday, July 23	7:00am	The WEOL Morning Show - On Air & Stream 1
	3:00pm	Bull's Eye on the Afternoon
Wednesday, July 24	7:00am	The WEOL Morning Show - On Air & Stream 1
	3:00pm	Bull's Eye on the Afternoon



# The Revolving Door: 2020 Cleveland Browns Preview

By Andy Barch

You could argue that while the 2019 Browns had more wins than the 2016 and 2017 teams combined, that last year's performance was far more disappointing. Especially when you consider just how high the expectations were for a team that was coming off a respectable 2018 campaign, made some real splashes in the off season and showed some promise for the future.

Instead of progression, the Browns experienced more regression. Sadly, this is a story that has been told many times before of an organization that just can't seem to get out of its own way, and continuously finds ways to disappoint its fan base. However disappointed they might be, this incredibly loyal fan base always finds a way to come back in the fall and support their Brown and Orange. Although this year, I think many will approach the season with a great deal of cautious optimism.

After the 2018 Honeymoon came to a close for former General Manager John Dorsey, he and owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam could not find any common ground at the end of the 2019 season, and decided to part ways moments after they gave former Head Coach Freddie Kitchens his walking papers.

So here we go again, with the revolving door in Berea continuing to work overtime, as the Browns are now on their fifth General Manager in the last eight seasons in Andrew Berry, and they are now on their sixth head coach during that same stretch in Kevin Stefanski. With



another new general manager and another new head coach, the newness of this regime will buy them at least a little bit of time with a fan base that is so starved for a winner, that they'd welcome in their worst enemy to coach this team if it meant the end to a playoff drought.

While the Browns are plugging away and playing by the same rules as everyone else during the pandemic, on the surface it sure seems as though the lack of team practices and workouts over the last few months could put them a little behind, given the new coaching staff, schemes and some new personnel as well. However, the Browns contend that they've gotten a lot accomplished with virtual meetings and the lack of face-to-face interaction has not had a profound negative effect on them this off-season. Perhaps this change could be welcomed...I mean let's be honest, little to nothing that

they had been doing the conventional way worked, so maybe this is a good thing?

On the field, there's certainly a lot to be excited about when it comes to the offense. Based on what we know about Coach Stefanski, and based on some of his comments, it sounds like he wants to put a much larger emphasis on the running game than the previous regime. When you look at the roster that's been

assembled, it's hard to argue with that strategy. Nick Chubb is coming off an incredible sophomore campaign where he rushed for nearly 1500 yards (1,494) and eight touchdowns, while grabbing 36 passes as well for 278 yards. He'll be paired with Kareem Hunt, who was limited to just 48 carries over eight games last year after serving a suspension. Hunt could be used in a variety of different roles this season as well, but the Browns clearly have something that other NFL teams don't—two dynamic running backs with 1,300 yard-plus rushing season under the age of 25.

Paving the way in front of those two is a new and improved offensive line. The interior of the offensive line is led by center JC Tretter, and guard Joel Bitonio. On the outside, the Browns made some serious splashes both in the draft and in free agency. Tackle was a bit of a problem last year for the Browns, and on paper, they seem to have fixed that. They went out and signed Jack Conklin to a 3-year deal

See **BROWNS**, 23



*The Nick Abraham*

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# BROWNS

From 22

worth 42-million dollars, and he'll be expected to hold things down on the right side. Conklin, a 6-foot-6 308-pound former first round pick by the Tennessee Titans spent his first four seasons in Music City was named a first team All-Pro in his rookie season. Included in that group as well will be Jedrick Wills, the Browns' first round pick (10th overall) out of Alabama. While most of his experience has come as a right tackle, the Browns are hoping that he can make the smooth transition to the left side, where he'll be expected to step in and start right away.

Its hard to believe we've gotten this deep into the article without mentioning the name Baker Mayfield. Simply put, this is a HUGE year for the third year signal caller. I don't know that you can call it make or break for Baker, but if he's even just kind

of average this year, the Browns are going to have to re-think things, and perhaps invest a little more in the position. After a great rookie year, he regressed in his second season, throwing five fewer touchdown passes (22) than he did in 2018, and he also threw seven more interceptions (21). His overall quarterback rating also took a hit, going from 93.7 in 2018 to 78.8 last year. Mayfield will have plenty of tools at his disposal once again in 2020. In addition to a great running game and a revamped offensive line, he'll also have the dynamic duo of Jarvis Landry and Odell Beckham Jr. to throw to, as well as newly acquired tight end, Austin Hooper. With all of that talent for Mayfield to work with, there simply aren't any excuses for any kind of regression for Mayfield in 2020.

The discussions on defense begin and end with Myles Garrett. There's no denying Garrett's ability. To this point in his career,



he's performed the way you'd expect a first overall pick to perform. The week 11 incident in Pittsburgh seems to be the exception with him, and certainly not the rule. Once again he headlines a defensive line that enters the season with plenty of promise. Olivier Vernon restructured his contract and has a lot

to prove coming off an injury filled, and disappointing season.

The hope for the Browns is that this group will lead the way and pave the way for a very inexperienced group of linebackers. The Browns let both Christian Kirksey and Joe Schoebert walked in free agency, meaning they are putting a lot of faith in a pair of young linebackers in Mack Wilson and Sione Takitaki. They also signed former Green Bay Packer BJ Goodson to the mix with hopes that the fifth year player out of Clemson can add some much needed experience to the group.

In the secondary, the Browns don't look bad on paper. Clearly, they will need Denzel Ward to stay on the field a lot more than he has the last two seasons. When he plays, he makes a huge difference in the secondary. He'll be paired with Greedy Williams and newly acquired Karl Joseph, in a group that looks very promising if they can all stay healthy.

## CLEVELAND BROWNS

# 2020 SCHEDULE

WK 1 SEPT. 13	AT RAVENS   BAL	WK 7 OCT. 25	AT BENGALS   CIN	WK 13 DEC. 6	AT TITANS   TEN
WK 2 SEPT. 17 THURS	VS BENGALS   CIN	WK 8 NOV. 1	VS RAIDERS   LV	WK 14 DEC. 14 MON	VS RAVENS   BAL
WK 3 SEPT. 27	W VS WASHINGTON	WK 9 NOV. 8	BYE WEEK	WK 15 DEC. 20	NY AT GIANTS   NYG
WK 4 OCT. 4	AT COWBOYS   DAL	WK 10 NOV. 15	VS TEXANS   HOU	WK 16 DEC. 26/27	AT JETS   NYJ
WK 5 OCT. 11	U VS COLTS   IND	WK 11 NOV. 22	VS EAGLES   PHI	WK 17 JAN. 3	VS STEELERS   PIT
WK 6 OCT. 18	AT STEELERS   PIT	WK 12 NOV. 29	AT JAGUARS   JAX	2020 SCHEDULE PRESENTED BY VIVIDSEATS OFFICIAL FAN EXPERIENCES	

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