

2023 WINTER FORECAST
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

NEWS / SPORTS / TALK
WEOL
AM 930  100.3FM

FORECAST

Midview's
Mary Meng

Elyria's
Ryan Walsh

Lorain
County's
2023
Miss Basketball

Lorain
County's
2023
Mr. Basketball

CAVS

A look at the Cavs
By Tim Alcorn, on page 18

Start your day with the

NEWS & Talk

of Lorain County

NEWS / SPORTS / TALK
WEOL
 AM 930 (FM) 100.3 FM
Morning Show
Weekdays
7 to 9 AM



WEOL WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

9 AM to NOON

THE RAMSEY SHOW

Dave Ramsey and his team of co-hosts teach you how to get out of debt, handle your money, navigate relationships and advance your career.

NOON to 3 PM

The Dr. Daliah Show

The doctor is in. Dr. Daliah offers sassy, stimulating medical talk radio with a dose of politics and pop culture.

FOX Sports Radio

3-5 PM

THE DOUG GOTTLIEB SHOW

Conversations with the biggest names in sports and unique takes on the hot sports topics of the day

COVINO & RICH

5-7 PM



ABOUT THE COVER

Elyria coach Brett Larrick asked an important question to Ryan Walsh at the start of last season, “Do you want to average more points, or do you want to win more?”

Larrick was familiar with Walsh’s determination on the court, and anticipated how Walsh would respond.

Walsh adopted a selfless team-first mentality, contributing to the Pioneer’s successful 18-win campaign last spring. He shifted his focus from simply scoring to getting his teammates involved on the court.



COVER PHOTOS BY
THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

These efforts tripled his nightly assist numbers, going from 2.1 to 6.5 per game, totaling 154 assists on the year, and made him an all-around better player. Walsh also showcased his defensive skills, finishing with a team-high 55 steals and taking 6 charges while still averaging a remarkable 16 points per game.

Walsh capped off the 2022-2023 season earning Lorain County’s top honors and the moniker “Mr. Basketball” before starting a new chapter with the Sharks’ ball club at

Nova Southeastern University.

While the Pioneers celebrated a winning-season and “Mr. Basketball” honors, so did the Middies across town.

Midview’s girls basketball program had a historic season that ended in a trip to the state tournament and the school’s first Lorain County “Miss Basketball” honors in over two decades.

Mary Meng, a towering presence at 6-foot-5, was named “Miss Basketball” and cemented her name in school history.

She left an incredible mark on the court in her senior season, averaging 16 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks per game. Her dominance extended to breaking school records too, with 29 rebounds in a single game and an astonishing 460 rebounds in a single season.

Furthermore, Meng secured her place in Ohio basketball history, ranking third in all-time career rebounds statewide with a staggering 1,476.

Midview coach Brittany McNamara-Cole expressed, “She (Meng) is a program changer,” a sentiment that resonates throughout the Lorain County basketball community.

Meng returns to the court this season, this time as part of Michigan State’s program, where she will go head-to-head against some of the nation’s top competition.

The 2022-2023 season will be remembered not only for the action on the court but the impressive accomplishments achieved by some of Lorain County’s top players. With the departure of standouts like Ryan Walsh and Mary Meng, the stage is set for emerging talents to step into the spotlight.

THE FORECAST WINTER 2023

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

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2023 - 2024 High School Basketball Broadcast Schedule

Boys' games in black — Girls' games in red

MONDAY, NOV. 27

North Ridgeville @ Medina – 7pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

Firelands @ Clearview – 7pm

(DIFRANCO CLASSIC)

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

Amherst vs. Orange – 1pm

North Ridgeville vs. Lorain – 2:30pm

Elyria vs. Sandusky – 4pm

Midview vs. Keystone – 5:30pm

Midview vs. EC – 7pm

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

Oberlin @ Midview – 7pm

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

STVM @ EC – 7pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

Amherst @ Open Door – 7pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

North Olmsted @ Elyria – 1:30pm

Wellington @ Lake Ridge – 7pm

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

Avon Lake @ Avon – 7pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

Avon @ Elyria – 7pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Olmsted Falls @

North Ridgeville – 1:30pm

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

Brookside @ Oberlin – 7pm

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Avon Lake @ Lorain – 7:30pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

Avon @ Lorain – 12:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

Firelands @ Vermilion – 7:30pm

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

Lorain vs. Whitmer (@ Sandusky)

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

Lorain vs. TBD (@ Sandusky)

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

Corner. Christian @ Cloverleaf – 6pm

Firelands @ Cloverleaf – 7:30pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 2

Black River @ Vermilion – 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 5

Avon Lake @ Amherst – 5:30pm

Avon Lake @ Amherst – 7pm

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

Firelands @ Keystone – 1:30pm

Olmsted Falls @ Avon – 6pm

Olmsted Falls @ Avon – 7:15pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

North Ridgeville @ Midview – 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

Midview @ North Ridgeville – 7pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

Rocky River @ EC – 7pm

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

Willard @ Vermilion – 2pm

Wellington @ Keystone – 7pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

Elyria @ Midview – 7pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Avon Lake @ Avon – 7pm

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

Midview @ Olmsted Falls – 1:30pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

Open Door @ Clearview – 7pm

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

Columbia @ Wellington – 7pm

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Avon @ North Ridgeville – 1:30pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

Amherst @ EC – 7pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

Open Door @ EC – 7pm

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

Brookside @ Columbia – 7pm

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

Avon Lake @ Elyria – 7pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

Clearview @ Oberlin – 7pm

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

Westlake @ EC – 12:30pm

Sandusky @ Midview – 7pm

MONDAY, FEB. 12

Valley Forge vs. Wellington
(@ RMFH) – TBD

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Lorain @ Avon – 7pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Oberlin @ Columbia – 7pm

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

Berea-Midpark @ Lorain – 7:30pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

Avon @ Avon Lake – 7pm

AMHERST COMETS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 5-18 (2-12, 7th in SWC): After securing only two conference wins last season, the Comets want to be optimistic at the outset of this season. Senior Landen Bray, who averages 10.3 points per game, is a stable presence for Amherst's offense on guard duties. Junior Eli Solak, with an average of 11.3 points per game, also plays a pivotal role in scoring. Amherst's robust junior class is complemented by returning starters, Cole Norris and Tristyn Young. With more varsity experience coming to the court this season, Amherst can expect to be more competitive in both conference and non-conference play.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 11-12 (5-9, 6th in SWC): Entering his second season at the helm, Amherst coach John Rositano is committed to program development. Rositano can draw on his decades-worth of coaching experience, including his recent stint with the Lorain Titans where he led the team to a remarkable overall 125-26 record, five straight 20-win seasons, four Lake Erie League championships, four sectional championships, three district championships and a Final Four appearance in the state tournament. In order for the Comets to compete in the competitive Southwestern Conference though, Rositano needs to rely on a key group of returning starters. Senior Kristen Kelley, with an impressive junior season average of 17 points and eight rebounds per game, is poised for a stellar senior season before heading to Merrimack College. Senior Kayla Ferancy, who averaged just over 16 points per game last season, is expected to be a key scorer once again for the Comets. Rositano believes solid rebounding and defense will be the key to success.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Amherst's Kristen Kelley (10) takes a shot while guarded by Midview's Olivia DiFranco (20) and Mary Meng (21) on Thursday, Feb. 16.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Orange
(DiFranco Classic)
12/5 @ Clearview
12/8 @ Open Door
12/12 .. Lorain
12/15 .. Midview
12/19 .. @ Berea-Midpark

12/29 .. Keystone
1/5 Avon Lake
1/9 Olmsted Falls
1/12 @ Elyria
1/16 Avon
1/19 @ North Ridgeville
1/20 @ Firelands
1/23 @ Midview
1/26 Berea-Midpark
1/30 @ Elyria Catholic
2/2 @ Avon Lake
2/6 @ Olmsted Falls
2/9 Elyria
2/13 Vermilion
2/16 @ Avon
2/23 North Ridgeville

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. @ Vermilion
11/25 .. Brush (@ Cle. Hts)
12/6 Avon
12/12 .. @ North Ridgeville
12/16 .. @ Midview
12/19 .. @ Berea-Midpark
12/22 .. @ Brunswick

12/29 .. Fairview
1/5 Avon Lake
1/10 @ Olmsted Falls
1/13 Elyria
1/15 Normandy
1/17 @ Avon
1/20 North Ridgeville
1/24 Midview
1/26 Berea-Midpark
1/29 Brecksville
1/31 @ Westlake
2/2 @ Avon Lake
2/7 Olmsted Falls
2/10 @ Elyria
2/14 Bay



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Avon's Tyson Ziegler (4) takes a shot while he's guarded by Brookside's Marcus Frazier (12) on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

AVON EAGLES

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 16-8 (8-6, 5th in SWC): Avon coach Mike Fitch has five starters returning from the previous season. This roster includes a trio of seniors: Tyson Ziegler, Zane Austin and Nathan Farley, each averaging double-digit points last season. Senior Joey Griffiths is expected to play an integral role on both ends of the floor, while junior Nolan Good, with his impressive 10-point-per-game scoring average, completes the starting five. Fitch is confident a deep bench, loaded backcourt, and the experience and consistency of his returning starters will drive the Eagles toward a successful season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 14-10 (7-7, 5th in SWC): After securing 14 wins in her debut season at Avon, Eagles coach Maggie Ferrando is setting her sights on achieving more. Ferrando won't be alone, however. She has the support of five returning seniors: Molly Drenik, Grace Mangan, Makenzie Ptacek, Emma Owens and Madigan O'Leary. The SWC is a competitive conference loaded with challenges for this Eagles team, but Ferrando is confident Avon can outshine their opponents with strategy and hustle. Ferrando believes her Eagles are poised to be competitive in conference and non-conference play.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/8 Lakewood
12/15 .. @ Elyria
12/19 .. @ North Ridgeville
12/29 .. Highland
1/3 @ Westlake
1/6 Olmsted Falls

1/9 Berea-Midpark
1/12 Midview
1/16 Amherst
1/19 Avon Lake
1/23 Elyria
1/26 North Ridgeville
1/30 Rocky River
2/2 @ Olmsted Falls
2/3 @ St. Ignatius
2/6 Berea-Midpark
2/9 @ Midview
2/13 Lorain
2/16 @ Amherst
2/23 @ Avon Lake

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Padua Franciscan
12/2 Rocky River
12/6 @ Amherst
12/13 .. Avon Lake
12/16 .. Elyria
12/20 .. North Ridgeville
12/23 .. @ Lorain

12/27 .. Lakewood
12/30 .. @ Dublin Jerome
1/3 Bay
1/6 Olmsted Falls
1/10 Berea-Midpark
1/13 @ Midview
1/17 Amherst
1/20 @ Avon Lake
1/22 @ Westlake
1/24 @ Elyria
1/27 @ North Ridgeville
2/2 @ Olmsted Falls
2/7 @ Berea-Midpark
2/10 Midview

AVON LAKE SHOREMEN

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 19-4 (12-2, 1st in SWC): The Shoremen will face challenges this year, despite winning a conference title last season. Five key players from last year's team have graduated, leaving senior Peyton Lerch as the sole returning senior starter. Lerch averaged 10 points and five rebounds per game in his junior season. However, Avon Lake's roster boasts experienced seniors Derek McCrum, Tyler Birk, Andrew Lamb and Ethan Ruckman, who coach Eric Smith expects to rely on their athleticism and half-court defense for competitiveness. If the new players can quickly come together, Avon Lake may have another successful season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 15-10 (7-7, 4th in SWC): Coach Paul Appel led the Shoreals to a district finals appearance in his first year at the helm. With renewed enthusiasm in the program, Avon Lake aims for even greater success this season. The team retains three starters from last season, including seniors Claire Springer and Marisa Summerfield, along with junior Izzie Polinko. Additionally, a significant portion of last season's reserves have returned, providing Avon Lake with quality depth and experience across the bench. Appel anticipates his team will be among the best in a competitive SWC as they try again for a district title.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/1 Brunswick
12/8 NDCL
12/15 .. Berea-Midpark
12/19 .. @ Midview
12/22 .. @ Lorain
12/27 .. @ Orange
1/5 @ Amherst
1/9 Elyria
1/12 @ Olmsted Falls
1/16 North Ridgeville
1/19 @ Avon
1/23 @ Berea-Midpark
1/26 Midview
1/27 @ Bay
2/2 Amherst

2/6 @ Elyria
2/9 Olmsted Falls
2/13 Buckeye
2/16 North Ridgeville
2/20 @ Normandy
2/23 Avon

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/27 .. Brunswick
12/2 Cleveland Girls Basketball Classic (@ Baldwin Wallace)
12/6 North Ridgeville
12/9 Bellevue
12/13 .. @ Avon
12/16 .. @ Berea-Midpark
12/20 .. Midview
12/27 .. @ Walsh Jesuit
1/5 @ Amherst
1/10 @ Elyria
1/13 Olmsted Falls
1/17 @ North Ridgeville
1/20 Avon

1/24 Berea-Midpark
1/27 Midview
1/31 Rocky River
2/2 Amherst
2/7 Elyria
2/10 @ Olmsted Falls



JEFF BARNES / CHRONICLE

Black River's Cayden Hinderman-Powell (35) makes his way past Clearview's Ashton Noble (14) toward the basket on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at Clearview High School.



THOMAS FETCENKO / CHRONICLE

Olmsted Falls' Paige Kohler (25) holds onto the ball while guarded by Avon Lake's Claire Springer (44) after the pair dove after the ball on Friday, Feb. 24.

BLACK RIVER PIRATES

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 8-15 (3-11, 7th in LCL): Coach Denny English is determined to lead the Pirates to their first winning season in 15 years during his first year at the helm. Senior Johnny Kray stands out as the sole returning double-digit scorer from the previous season and will shoulder a significant offensive load. Seniors Evan Ladina and Ridge Martin are also back, along with the athletic Eric Groesser, who is currently dealing with an injury but is hopeful to return to the court this season. English believes Black River's strengths are athleticism and shooting, but he wants to improve their competitiveness in conference play.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 12-11 (7-7, 4th in LCL): Black River surprised the Lorain County League with their fourth-place finish last season. Coach Greg Vogelsong, now with four returning letter-winners, hopes for continued success this season. Senior first-team all-conference player Riley Kubitz is instrumental to the Pirates' success, having scored over 1,000 points as a junior with an average of 17 per game. Senior Zoey Bungard is another double-digit scorer and a skilled perimeter shooter. Senior Paige Kaltenbaugh and sophomore Morgan Kubitz bring essential varsity experience to the Pirates. Despite limited program numbers, Vogelsong can confidently rely on a group of basketball-focused Pirates players.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/1 @ Cloverleaf
12/2 @ Mapleton
12/8 Columbia
12/12 .. Keystone
12/15 .. @ Clearview
12/19 .. Wellington
12/23 .. Plymouth
12/26 .. Rittman
12/27 .. Hillsdale
1/2 @ Vermilion
1/5 @ Firelands
1/9 Brookside
1/11 @ Open Door
1/13 Oberlin
1/16 Clear Fork

1/19 @ Columbia
1/26 @ Keystone
2/3 Clearview
2/6 @ Wellington
2/9 Firelands
2/16 @ Brookside
2/23 @ Oberlin

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Orrville
12/1 Columbia
12/6 Keystone
12/11 .. @ Temple Christian
12/13 .. @ Clearview
12/18 .. Hillsdale
12/20 .. Wellington
1/3 @ Firelands
1/6 Brookside
1/8 Plymouth
1/12 @ Oberlin
1/13 @ Rittman
1/17 @ Columbia
1/20 @ Keystone
1/24 Clearview

1/27 Mapleton
1/29 South Central
1/31 @ Wellington
2/2 Firelands
2/7 @ Brookside
2/10 @ Buckeye
2/14 Oberlin

BROOKSIDE CARDINALS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 15-9 (11-3, 1st in LCL): Brookside broke a 32-year championship drought last year, securing the Lorain County League title. Now, coach Larry Babics' objective is to build on this newfound success. Despite losing Avery Young, who held the school's scoring record, the team can rely on sharpshooting junior Nolan Waechter, who averaged 17.5 points per game during an outstanding sophomore season. Notably, Waechter made 100 three-pointers last season, ranking second all-time in the county. Furthermore, the team benefits from the return of experienced seniors Aidan McLaughlin and Brandon Sharpe. Babics plans to capitalize on his team's depth and athleticism while maintaining a fast-paced style of play.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 1-19 (0-12, 8th in LCL): After a single-win campaign last season, the Brookside Cardinals' primary focus for this year will be on development and growth. Coach Richard Flowers is excited to welcome back a couple of familiar faces. Senior Zuriah Radeff-Koonce, who took a break from basketball during her junior season, has rejoined Brookside's roster, providing much-needed depth and experience. Senior Brianna DeLeon, who faced a season-ending injury early last season, is poised for a remarkable comeback year. Additionally, sophomores Madison Rankin and Bella Diaz are looking to sharpen their skills after logging time on the court as freshmen.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/5 North Olmsted
12/8 Keystone
12/12 .. @ Clearview
12/15 .. Columbia
12/19 .. @ Oberlin
12/22 .. Bay
12/27 .. Avon

12/30 .. @ Norwayne
1/5 Wellington
1/6 @ Open Door
1/9 @ Black River
1/13 @ Firelands
1/19 @ Keystone
1/23 Vermilion
1/26 Clearview

1/30 Westlake
2/3 @ Columbia
2/6 Oberlin
2/9 @ Wellington
2/13 @ Berea-Midpark
2/16 Black River
2/23 Firelands

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/27 .. @ Fairview
11/29 .. Vermilion
12/1 @ Keystone
12/4 @ Open Door
12/6 @ Clearview
12/9 @ Lake Ridge
12/11 .. Elyria

12/13 .. @ Columbia
12/20 .. @ Oberlin
12/27 .. @ North Olmsted
1/3 Wellington
1/6 @ Black River
1/12 @ Firelands
1/17 Keystone
1/20 Clearview

1/24 Columbia
1/27 Garfield Heights
1/31 Oberlin
2/2 @ Wellington
2/7 Black River
2/12 Lorain
2/14 Firelands



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Cleaview's Alexia Rodriguez (3) and Lutheran West's Yoyo Zielinski (24) collide while chasing after the ball on Monday, Nov. 28, 2023.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Brookside's Avery Young (14) takes a shot while playing against Revere on Friday, Dec. 30.

CLEARVIEW CLIPPERS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 12-12 (7-7, 6th in LCL): It's uncommon for a team to retain all five of its starters, but that's precisely the situation for Clearview this season. This group includes seniors Ayden Cruz, averaging 7.4 points per game, Keith Colvin (8.6 ppg), Ashton Noble, Jai Walton (13.6 ppg) and sophomore Cy Christensen (7.7 ppg). Colvin and Christensen combined for nearly 80 three-pointers last season, making them valuable assets for elite perimeter shooting. Senior Ethan Lorenzana is expected to provide a spark off the bench with his quickness once again. According to coach Jason Christensen, speed and athleticism will be Clearview's strong points this year.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 7-15 (4-10, 6th in LCL): Coach Nick Dimacchia, now in his 16th season with the Clippers' program, brings a wealth of experience to the task of guiding a relatively young Clearview team. Junior Lexi Rodriguez, a first-team all-conference and first-team all-county selection from last season, resumes her role as the point guard directing the offense. Joining Rodriguez in the backcourt are senior Mo'Faith Tillman and junior Haley Hjerpe. Junior Reina Ramos, a starter last season, also returns to the lineup. Recognizing some inexperience lower down the roster, Dimacchia is focused on making daily improvements throughout the season.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/5 Amherst
12/8 Firelands
12/12 .. Brookside
12/15 .. Black River
12/19 .. @ Keystone
12/22 .. Brooklyn
12/28 .. @ Chippewa

1/5 Oberlin
1/9 @ Wellington
1/13 @ Columbia
1/16 @ Normandy
1/19 @ Firelands
1/23 Open Door
1/26 @ Brookside
1/30 @ Vermilion

2/3 @ Black River
2/6 Keystone
2/9 @ Oberlin
2/13 @ Fairview
2/16 Wellington
2/20 North Olmsted
2/23 Columbia

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/27 .. Vermilion
12/1 Firelands
12/4 Fairview
12/6 Brookside
12/11 .. @ North Olmsted
12/13 .. @ Black River
12/18 .. Open Door

12/20 .. @ Keystone
1/3 Oberlin
1/6 @ Wellington
1/12 @ Columbia
1/17 @ Firelands
1/20 @ Brookside
1/24 Black River
1/29 Norwalk

1/31 Keystone
2/2 @ Oberlin
2/5 @ Lutheran West
2/7 Wellington
2/12 Brooklyn
2/14 Columbia



THE CHRONICLE

FRIDAY

Boys

Girls

COURT REPORT

Local



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Photos • Predictions • Results

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COLUMBIA RAIDERS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 16-7 (9-5, T-2nd in LCL): Following their second-place finish in the Lorain County League, Columbia's third-year coach Josh Scharf and his Raiders want more. Senior Nathan Borling, a returning starter, leads the offense after averaging 18 points per game last season. He is joined by senior Ethan Meier, who is also set to play a pivotal role in the starting lineup. The Raiders' roster boasts ample experience that Scharf can rely on throughout the season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 20-4 (12-2, 2nd in LCL): Last year's Raiders came within a single game of clinching a conference title. With eight players returning from that team, it's evident Columbia is determined to secure that top spot. Senior three-year All-Ohio player Elise Champagne is a dynamic scorer crucial to Columbia's success. She recently committed to playing collegiate basketball at Baldwin Wallace. Other key seniors in the lineup include Delaney Friscone, Payton Menge, Rachel Washburn, Callie Demagall and Taylor Kuhrt. Coach Corey Taylor eagerly anticipates a tough and challenging schedule for the Raiders, both inside and outside of conference action.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Dalton
12/5 @ Northwestern
12/8 @ Black River
12/12 .. Wellington
12/15 .. @ Brookside
12/19 .. @ Firelands
12/29 .. @ Midview
1/5 @ Keystone
1/9 @ Oberlin
1/13 Clearview
1/16 Hillsdale
1/19 Black River
1/23 Brooklyn
1/26 @ Wellington
1/30 @ North Olmsted

2/3 Brookside
2/6 Firestone
2/9 Keystone
2/13 Open Door
2/16 Oberlin
2/20 @ Orville
2/23 @ Clearview

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/28 .. Normandy
12/1 @ Black River
12/6 Wellington
12/13 .. Brookside
12/16 .. @ Northwestern
12/18 .. Valley Forge
12/20 .. @ Firelands
12/27 .. @ Elyria
12/28 .. Perkins (@ Cedar Point Sports Center)
1/3 Keystone
1/6 @ Oberlin
1/10 Lorain
1/12 Clearview
1/17 Black River
1/20 @ Wellington

1/24 Brookside
1/31 Firelands
2/2 @ Keystone
2/5 Westlake (@ Titan Holiday Hoops Classic)
2/7 Oberlin
2/14 @ Clearview
2/17 @ Loudonville



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Elyria's Ryan Walsh (1) takes the ball to the hoop as he's guarded by Midview's Drew DiFranco (5) and Marc Reed (1) on Friday, Feb. 17.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Columbia's team celebrated as the Raiders pulled away from Firelands on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

ELYRIA PIONEERS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 18-7 (10-4, T-2nd in SWC): Losing two of your three leading scorers is a tough challenge, but that is the task coach Brett Larrick faces this season. This Elyria team has just one senior, Xavier Church, but he brings formidable defensive skills to the Pioneers. Junior Jayden Crutcher returns to the starting lineup after an impressive offensive season, averaging just over 17 points per game. His ongoing development will be pivotal for the Pioneers this season. Sophomore Cam Bell, who gained varsity experience as a freshman, is eager to return to the court and enhance his game. As in previous years, Elyria will continue to rely on strong perimeter shooting and guard play.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 3-18 (1-13, 8th in SWC): The Pioneers faced challenges last season with only a single win in the competitive Southwestern Conference. Despite the difficulties, coach Tony Brown is determined to turn things around and emphasized a collective effort for Elyria to play hard and smart. Seniors Hayli Hendrix and Kloie Troutman, both experienced varsity starters, lead the team. The roster gains depth from a robust junior class, featuring Sirriah Drummer, Danielle Witten, Ava Wahn and Maia Lunn. Other contributing seniors include T'Asia Easley and My'Asia Pendergrass. Brown stresses the need for a fast-paced style for this young team and expects them to play with pace and tempo.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Sandusky
12/5 Bay
12/9 @ Solon
12/14 .. Avon
12/20 .. @ Olmsted Falls
1/5 North Ridgeville
1/9 @ Avon Lake
1/12 Amherst
1/13 Lorain
1/16 @ Midview
1/19 Berea-Midpark
1/23 @ Avon
1/27 Olmsted Falls

1/30 Valley Forge
2/3 @ North Ridgeville
2/6 Avon Lake
2/9 @ Amherst
2/13 @ Lakewood
2/16 Midview
2/23 @ Berea-Midpark

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/29 .. @ Brooklyn
12/4 @ Valley Forge
12/6 @ Midview
12/9 North Olmsted
12/11 .. @ Brookside
12/13 .. Berea-Midpark
12/16 .. @ Avon
12/19 .. @ Olmsted Falls
12/23 .. @ Bay
12/27 .. Columbia
1/5 @ North Ridgeville
1/8 Firelands
1/10 Avon Lake
1/13 @ Amherst
1/17 Midview

1/20 @ Berea-Midpark
1/22 Keystone
1/24 Avon
1/26 Olmsted Falls
2/2 @ North Ridgeville
2/7 @ Avon Lake
2/10 Amherst



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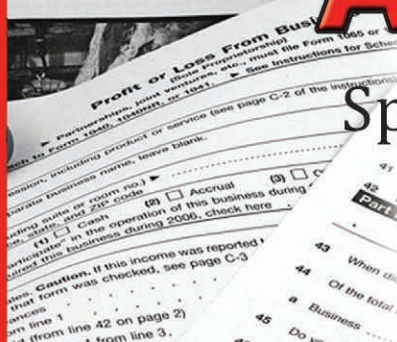
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ELYRIA CATHOLIC PANTHERS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 17-6 (8-2, 1st in GLC West): Last year, the Panthers secured the top spot in the GLC West with 17 wins. However, most of the previous squad has moved on, leaving coach Jeff Huber with a new starting rotation ready to shine. Senior Teddy Budinger, averaging six points per game last season, has a more significant role, and sophomore Jacob Radcliffe spans the floor with his perimeter shooting. The addition of Xavier Castillo, a transfer from Clearview, is expected to enhance the team's scoring capabilities, following his impressive year with the Clippers. Despite their youth, Huber is confident in the Panthers' excellent shooting and quickness.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 21-5 (14-0, 1st in GLC): Elyria Catholic has a solid foundation to defend their conference championship with four starters from last season's 21-win team. Senior guard Isabelle Niederst, known for her all-around performance, averaged 14 points, six rebounds and three assists per game last season. Another standout senior, Nevaeh Sawyer, joins her in the backcourt. The strong junior class includes returning starters Mya Rivera and Camara Ogletree. Coach Eric Rothgery plans to use an end-to-end approach in each game with a deep and talented Panther squad.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/5 @ Beachwood
12/12 .. Normandy
12/15 .. North Olmsted
12/16 .. @ Lakewood
12/22 .. @ East Tech
12/30 .. @ Gilmour

1/5 Westlake
1/9 @ Bay
1/12 Rocky River
1/17 Bellevue
1/19 @ Buckeye
1/23 Holy Name
1/26 @ North Olmsted
1/30 Amherst

2/2 Open Door
2/3 @ Lorain
2/7 Independence
2/9 @ Westlake
2/13 @ Cuyahoga Heights
2/16 Bay
2/20 Lake Catholic
2/23 @ Rocky River

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/29 .. Lakewood
12/2 @ Midview
(DiFranco Classic)
12/4 @ Normandy
12/6 St. Vincent St. Mary
12/9 @ Bay
12/13 .. Rocky River
12/16 .. @ North Olmsted

12/18 .. @ Cleveland
Central Catholic
12/28 .. @ Centerville
12/29 .. Bishop Hartley
& Norton
(Doubleheader)
1/3 @ GlenOak
1/6 @ Westlake
1/8 Smithville

1/10 Bay
1/13 @ Rocky River
1/24 @ Holy Name
1/27 North Olmsted
1/31 Medina
2/5 Midview
2/10 Westlake
2/14 @ St. Joseph
Academy



DAVID SANDS/ CHRONICLE

Firelands' Bella Simons leaps out of bounds trying to keep a ball in play on Wednesday, Dec. 21.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Elyria Catholic's Mya Rivera (3) and Isabelle Niederst (14) celebrate the Panthers' win over Lakewood for the Great Lakes Conference title on Saturday, Feb. 4.

FIRELANDS FALCONS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 10-12 (8-6, 5th in LCL): Firelands is determined to climb the Lorain County League ladder with the experience of their returning starting five. This is a bunch that second-year coach Colin Myers is confident can play hard on a nightly basis and stay competitive. Senior sharpshooter Chris Radman is back, along with football quarterback Jimmy Aunspaw, who led the team in rebounding one year ago. They will be joined by seniors Nate Drage and Niko Gotsis, as well as junior Max Stinson. With plenty of varsity minutes already logged by the starters and key reserves, this is an experienced team.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 15-7 (11-3, 3rd in LCL): A third-place finish for rookie coach Onyx Lopez is a great career-starter. Now, in her second year with Firelands, she's determined to improve the team's outside shooting while maintaining their competitive edge. To achieve this, Lopez is counting on the leadership of seniors Hailey Urban, Mia Sutorius, Emma Krebs, and the offensive abilities of junior Kendra Hardwick. Supporting the Falcons are sophomores Jordyn Copley, excelling in both scoring and rebounding, and Lexi Schrader, a force on defense.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/1 @ Fairview
12/2 Edison
12/8 @ Clearview
12/12 .. Oberlin
12/15 .. @ Wellington
12/19 .. Columbia

12/27 .. @ Vermilion
12/30 .. @ Cloverleaf
1/5 Black River
1/9 @ Keystone
1/13 Brookside
1/19 Clearview
1/20 Amherst
1/23 @ Buckeye

1/26 @ Oberlin
1/30 Norwalk
2/3 Wellington
2/6 @ Columbia
2/9 @ Black River
2/16 Keystone
2/23 @ Brookside

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Mapleton
11/28 .. @ Margaretta
12/1 @ Clearview
12/4 @ Vermilion
12/6 Oberlin
12/9 @ Wellington

12/16 .. Edison
12/20 .. Columbia
12/27 .. Lorain
1/3 Black River
1/6 @ Keystone
1/8 @ Elyria
1/12 Brookside
1/17 Clearview

1/20 @ Oberlin
1/24 Wellington
1/31 @ Columbia
2/2 @ Black River
2/7 Keystone
2/10 @ Bellevue
2/14 @ Brookside

KEYSTONE WILDCATS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 11-12 (9-5, T-2nd in LCL): Keystone basketball is poised for another successful season, despite the graduation of several starters from last year. Senior Grant Hartley, one of last season's top scorers, averaging 15 points per game and recording four steals per game defensively, returns with his infectious energy. Junior Zach Shackelford is expected to make a comeback after recovering from an injury sustained during the football season. The Cats also welcome Zander Yoho, named Player of the Year in soccer, to the basketball court for the first time. They are introducing other young talent too, including juniors Logan Nagle and Karter Urig, sophomore Emory Fedor and freshman Liam Goran. Coach Jeff Holzhauser believes his team possesses great athleticism and has the potential to secure many wins if some of the younger players step up.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 20-4 (19-3, 1st in LCL): For two consecutive years, the Keystone Wildcats' girls basketball team has claimed at least a share of the Lorain County League title. Coach Rocky Houston is brimming with confidence for this season as he welcomes back four of his five starters. Among them are a pair of dynamic seniors, Helayna Houston and Jessica Forthover. Helayna Houston is a remarkable point guard, only 55 assists away from the school's all-time record. Forthover has already etched her name in the record books, holding the school record for rebounds with 695. Juniors Vivian Cassell and Brooklyn Barber complete the starting five. Coach Houston anticipates this team will be competitive and exciting to watch with a strong chance of contending for another conference title.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Keystone's Brock Miller (1) fouls Midview's Herman Plas (4) on the shot while Keystone's Konner Rodick (5) is on defense on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2023.



KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

Lorain's Asiah Kielian (3) takes a shot while guarded by Brecksville's Chase Garito (33), Taylor DeFlorville (12) and Nate Usrey (2) on Wednesday night, March 1.

LORAIN TITANS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 13-12 (7-7, 3rd in LEL): Lorain is looking to be in the hunt for a Lake Erie League conference title with two of their top scorers returning to the court. Senior Asiah Kielian, son of coach Matt Kielian, is determined to improve on his 11 points per game average from his junior year. Senior double-digit scorer Jaiden Howard-Guerra, who started his high school career at Open Door, joins Asiah Kielian in the backcourt to round off the Titans' dynamic offense. Senior Ike Rowser, known for his impressive two-way play, is a key component in the Titans' lineup. Coach Kielian is relying on the leadership of his seven-senior roster for a successful season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 11-11 (8-6, 4th in LEL): For the first time in many years, someone other than Mark Feldmann will be coaching the Lorain girls basketball team. The new coach is Brian Lynch, a true rookie in the coaching realm. Although he is new, much of the roster is not. The Titans return several key players from last season whom Lynch will rely upon. Junior Aminah Mustafa takes over at point guard this season, while senior Jaida Morales-Smith transitions to more of an off-ball shooting guard role. Senior Kayla Mosley is known for her shooting abilities but also aims to drive the ball more frequently. The final returning senior is Jelynn Carrington, who can shoot from NBA range and play tenacious defense. Lynch wants this Titans team to play fast and disruptive, which could put them in a great position to compete against any opponent on a nightly basis.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 ... @ Midview
(DiFranco Classic)
12/5 ... Huron
12/8 ... @ Brookside
12/9 ... Western Reserve
12/12 ... @ Black River
12/15 ... @ Oberlin
12/19 ... Clearview

12/23 ... @ Norwalk
12/29 ... @ Amherst
12/30 ... Midview
1/5 ... Columbia
1/9 ... Firelands
1/13 ... Wellington
1/19 ... Brookside
1/23 ... @ North Olmsted
1/26 ... Black River

1/30 ... Buckeye
2/3 ... Oberlin
2/6 ... @ Clearview
2/9 ... @ Columbia
2/10 ... @ Chippewa
2/16 ... @ Firelands
2/23 ... @ Wellington

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 ... @ Western Reserve
11/29 ... Lutheran West
12/1 ... @ Brookside
12/6 ... @ Black River
12/9 ... Northwestern
12/11 ... Lakewood

12/13 ... @ Oberlin
12/18 ... Padua
12/20 ... Clearview
1/3 ... @ Columbia
1/6 ... Firelands
1/12 ... Wellington
1/15 ... @ North Olmsted
1/17 ... Brookside

1/20 ... Black River
1/22 ... @ Elyria
1/24 ... Oberlin
1-27 ... Norwayne
1/31 ... @ Clearview
2/2 ... Columbia
2/7 ... @ Firelands
2/14 ... @ Wellington

BOYS 2023-2024

11/27 ... @ Strongsville
12/1 ... Maple Heights
12/2 ... @ North Ridgeville
12/5 ... Cleveland Central
Catholic
12/7 ... Garfield Heights
12/12 ... @ Amherst
12/15 ... @ Shaw

12/22 ... Avon Lake
12/28 ... Streakball Classic @
Sandusky HS
12/29 ... Streakball Classic
(@ Sandusky HS)
1/5 ... Bedford
1/12 ... @ Warrensville
Heights
1/13 ... @ Elyria
1/16 ... Westlake

1/19 ... Maple Heights
1/26 ... @ Garfield Heights
2/2 ... Shaw
2/3 ... Elyria Catholic
2/6 ... @ Fremont Ross
2/9 ... @ Bedford
2/13 ... @ Avon
2/16 ... Warrensville Heights
2/20 ... Berea-Midpark

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 ... Avon Lake
11/29 ... @ Warrensville
Heights
12/2 ... Maple Heights
12/6 ... Willoughby South
12/9 ... @ Garfield Heights
12/13 ... @ Vermilion
12/16 ... Shaw

12/18 ... Euclid
12/21 ... Alumni Game
12/23 ... Avon
12/27 ... @ Firelands
1/6 ... Bedford
1/10 ... @ Columbia
1/13 ... Warrensville Heights
1/17 ... @ Cleveland
Central Catholic

1/20 ... @ Maple Heights
1/22 ... @ Sandusky
1/29 ... Garfield Heights
1/31 ... Midview
2/3 ... @ Shaw
2/7 ... @ Bedford
2/12 ... @ Brookside
2/14 ... Berea-Midpark

MIDVIEW MIDDIES

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 13-11 (5-9, 6th in SWC): Midview coach Jim Brabenec faces the challenge of losing three top-scorers while maintaining competitiveness in a tough SWC. The seven-man senior class is led by David Moore and Drew DiFranco, both of whom averaged just over six points per game last season. In the frontcourt, senior big-man Steve Komar is expected to be a presence on the court. Senior Ethan Elbert, a name familiar to Lorain County football fans, is making his basketball debut. With decent size and a group that plays well together, Brabenec hopes for a balanced offensive attack to lead Midview to a winning season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 23-5 (11-3, 2nd in SWC): The Middies had a remarkable season last year, concluding with 23 wins and a spot in the Final Four during the state tournament. Now, coach Brittney McNamara-Cole aims to build upon that success. Senior Olivia DiFranco returns after a stellar performance on the court last season. Her cousin, sophomore Leah DiFranco, is also back for her second season, looking to make comprehensive improvements to her gameplay. In addition, seniors Alana Stacey, Samantha Pebworth and Erica Baldoza bring a wealth of experience that McNamara-Cole can rely on. McNamara-Cole's objective is to lead Midview to the regionals and contend for a SWC championship.



KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

North Ridgeville's Jackson Stacy (13) takes the ball towards the hoop as he's guarded by Avon Lake's Pepe Pierden (5) on Thursday, Feb. 16.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

The Midview girls basketball team celebrated a win over St. Joseph Academy on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Keystone (DiFranco Classic)
12/5 Oberlin
12/8 Fairview
12/12 .. @ Orange
12/15 .. @ Amherst
12/19 .. Avon Lake
12/29 .. Columbia
1/5 @ Berea-Midpark
1/9 North Ridgeville
1/12 @ Avon
1/16 Elyria
1/19 Olmsted Falls
1/23 Amherst
1/26 @ Avon Lake

2/2 Berea-Midpark
2/6 @ North Ridgeville
2/9 Avon
2/10 Sandusky
2/13 @ North Olmsted
2/16 @ Elyria
2/23 @ Olmsted Falls
12/22 .. @ Valley Forge

GIRLS 2023-2024

12/2 Elyria Catholic
12/6 Elyria
12/13 .. Olmsted Falls
12/16 .. Amherst
12/20 .. @ Avon Lake
12/23 .. North Olmsted
12/27 .. Westlake (@ Titan Holiday Hoops Classic)
1/3 @ Strongsville
1/5 @ Berea-Midpark
1/10 @ North Ridgeville
1/13 Avon
1/14 Kettering Fairmont (@ Classic in the Country)

1/17 @ Elyria
1/20 @ Olmsted Falls
1/24 @ Amherst
1/27 Avon Lake
1/31 @ Lorain
2/2 Berea-Midpark
2/5 @ Elyria Catholic
2/7 North Ridgeville
2/10 @ Avon

NORTH RIDGEVILLE RANGERS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 18-7 (10-4, 2nd in SWC): Last year's SWC title race came down to the final game, but simply put, it wasn't North Ridgeville's night. Now, the Rangers are eager for a comeback. Senior Griffin Turay, a returning starter and Lake Erie College commit, is coming off an impressive junior season, averaging 17.5 points and eight rebounds per game. He is joined by senior Collin Jones, a double-digit scorer expected to increase his production this season. Last year's dependable sixth man, Jayden Parish, steps into a starting role for his senior season as a strong outside shooter. Junior Jackson Stacy is also back in the starting lineup. According to coach Ben Chase, expectations for the Rangers this season are "big."

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 15-9 (9-5, 3rd in SWC): Coach Amy Esser is determined to secure the program's first district title in her sixteenth season at the helm. Fortunately, North Ridgeville once again boasts ample scoring abilities and veteran experience that can help the Rangers reach this elusive goal. Senior Grace Kingery, a Ball State commit and the Rangers' all-time leading scorer, is a key player on North Ridgeville's court. Seniors Brooke Lime and Madeline Eldridge also bring valuable experience and leadership to a youthful team.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Lorain (DiFranco)
12/5 Holy Name
12/15 .. @ Olmsted Falls
12/19 .. @ Avon
12/21 .. @ Westlake
12/27 .. Loveland (@ Brunswick)
12/28 .. TBD (@ Brunswick)
1/3 Cleveland JFK
1/5 @ Elyria
1/9 @ Midview
1/12 Berea-Midpark
1/16 @ Avon Lake
1/19 Amherst
1/23 Olmsted Falls

1/26 Avon
2/2 Elyria
2/6 Midview
2/9 @ Berea-Midpark
2/13 @ Nordonia
2/16 Avon Lake
2/20 Padua
2/23 @ Amherst

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Nordonia
11/27 .. @ Medina
12/1 Brunswick
12/4 @ Shaker Heights
12/6 @ Avon Lake
12/12 .. Amherst
12/16 .. Olmsted Falls
12/18 .. @ Strongsville
12/20 .. @ Avon
12/27 .. @ Rocky River
12/28 .. @ Rocky River
1/6 @ Elyria
1/10 Midview
1/17 Avon Lake
1/20 @ Amherst

1/24 @ Olmsted Falls
1/27 Avon
1/31 @ Berea-Midpark
2/2 Elyria
2/7 @ Midview
2/10 Berea-Midpark

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OBERLIN PHOENIX

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 9-14 (9-5, 3rd in LCL): "He's back!" Coach Kurt Russell, National Teacher of the Year, returns to the sidelines to resume his role at the helm of the Oberlin boys basketball team. It could be a year of opportunity for Oberlin, with just one returning starter for the Phoenix. Junior Isaiah Bowen-Pride, who joined the Phoenix varsity program as a freshman and averaged just over 11 points per game as a sophomore, is now set to lead Oberlin's offense. Russell also places his trust in a pair of seniors, Isaiah Jones-Smith and Isaac Shahid, to step up in their roles. With a quick and fast-paced team, Russell aims to push the tempo once again as Oberlin eyes a run at a conference title.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 3-19 (1-13, 8th in LCL): Coach John McDermott is at the helm of the Phoenix girls basketball program after coming from North Olmsted, where he coached the girls team for the past eight seasons. With 36 years of total coaching experience, he is optimistic about Oberlin's potential for a turnaround, and he's relying on seniors Deatrice Barnes, Desiree Randleman, Mackenzie Rivera, Karen Martinez and Katlyn Streater, all of whom provide leadership and make significant contributions on the court. McDermott's goal is to witness daily improvement and enhance competitiveness within the conference during the season.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 Open Door
12/5 @ Midview
12/8 @ Wellington
12/12 .. Firelands
12/15 .. Keystone
12/19 .. Brookside
1/5 @ Clearview
1/9 Columbia
1/13 @ Black River
1/16 Central Christian
1/19 Wellington
1/20 @ Port Clinton
1/23 @ Lake Ridge
1/26 Firelands

1/30 @ Brooklyn
2/3 @ Keystone
2/6 @ Brookside
2/9 Clearview
2/13 Independence
2/16 @ Columbia
2/20 @ Valley Forge
2/23 Black River

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/27 .. @ First Baptist
11/29 .. Lake Ridge
12/1 @ Wellington
12/4 Garfield Heights
12/6 @ Firelands
12/9 Open Door
12/13 .. Keystone
12/20 .. Brookside
1/3 @ Clearview
1/6 Columbia
1/10 Maple Heights
1/12 Black River
1/17 Wellington
1/20 Firelands
1/24 @ Keystone

1/29 @ CCS
1/31 @ Brookside
2/2 Clearview
2/7 @ Columbia
2/8 Medina Christian
2/12 Fairview
2/14 @ Black River



LEFT

THOMAS FETCENKO/CHRONICLE
Open Door's Haylie Williams (14) tries to regain control of the ball from First Baptist's Amani Turnick (14) on Monday, Jan. 9.

RIGHT

THOMAS FETCENKO/CHRONICLE
Brookside's Patrick Sheehan (24) goes for a shot while he is fouled by Oberlin's Josiah Bowen-Pride (14) and Isaac Thompson (23) on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

OPEN DOOR PATRIOTS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 13-12: After returning to Open Door last season, coach Alan Januzzi is determined to take the Patriots to the next level. Januzzi brings back four of the five starters, notably his son Anthony, a first-team all-county selection who averaged over 16 points per game. In the backcourt, Anthony is joined by senior RJ Penney, another double-digit scorer and first-team all-county member. Seniors Julius Moon and Aaron Pattee are expected to provide stout defense and rebounding in the frontcourt. Despite not competing in a conference, Open Door faces a challenging schedule for a Division IV team, a challenge that coach Januzzi fully embraces.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 7-12 (3-3, 3rd in Lake Effect): Open Door coach Israel Cintron is optimistic about the Patriots' 2023-2024 season, with four experienced starters and double-digit scorers returning to the lineup. Junior Lily Pierre and sophomore Juliana Moon, both averaging 10 points per game last season, are the team's top scoring-threats. Sophomore Amylia Cintron is expected to be a consistent contributor for the Patriots as well. Seniors for this year's team include Rachel Faber, Maddie Pierre and Mackenzie Dunckel. With strengths in the forward and center positions, Cintron emphasized the need for guards to step up and take shots when necessary, complementing the team's formidable frontcourt.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 @ Oberlin
12/5 Cornerstone Christian (@ Hoosiers Gym)
12/8 Amherst
12/15 .. Lake Ridge
12/18 .. Lincoln West
12/22 .. Cuyahoga Heights Christmas Tournament
12/23 .. Cuyahoga Heights Christmas Tournament
12/29 .. Jingle Bell Jam
12/30 .. Jingle Bell Jam
1/6 Brookside
1/11 Black River
1/13 Central Christian
1/16 @ Vermilion
1/20 Lake Center Christian
1/23 @ Clearview

1/26 @ Cornerstone Christian
1/30 Benedictine
2/2 @ Elyria Catholic
2/6 Trinity
2/9 @ Cleveland Central Catholic
2/10 Cleveland JFK
2/13 @ Columbia

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/27 .. @ Wickliffe
12/1 @ Westland
12/2 GCCS Tip-Off Tournament
12/4 Brookside
12/7 Lawrence
12/9 Oberlin
12/15 .. Lake Ridge
12/18 .. @ Clearview
1/5 Medina Christian
1/11 @ Lake Ridge
1/13 Central Christian
1/15 Horizon Science Academy
1/16 First Baptist
1/20 Emmanuel Christian
1/22 St. Martin De Porres

1/25 Cleveland Central Catholic
1/29 Lincoln West
2/1 Christian Community School
2/3 @ Our Lady of the Elms

VERMILION SAILORS

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 5-20 (2-12, 7th in SBC): Vermilion needs to rebound following a modest five-win campaign last season. Ironically, rebounding is an area coach Kurt Habermehl says this team needs to focus on. Despite their undersized lineup, the Sailors intend to maintain an up-tempo style of play. Senior AJ Gerber, who averaged over 12 points per game last season, returns to the starting lineup. Joining him are fellow seniors Wyatt German, Thomas Ngure and Riley Kearns. With a wealth of guards, the team will rely on speed and overall experience this season.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 4-19 (1-11, 7th in SBC): Vermilion coach Doug Mihalic is eager to see improvements made during his second season at the helm of the Sailors' program. Senior Abi Rhoades, back from a summer knee injury, is a dynamic wing player and vital to Vermilion's defense. Junior Claire Bartlome, an impressive two-way player, complements Rhoades on the opposite wing, while sophomore Joscelyn Alvarado takes charge as the point guard. Mihalic's goal is to make this team more competitive in conference play, aiming for a .500 record on the season.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/1 Western Reserve
12/5 @ St. Paul
12/12 .. Clyde
12/14 .. Edison
12/23 .. @ Margareta
12/27 .. Firelands
12/29 .. Port Clinton

1/2 Black River
1/4 @ Huron
1/12 Willard
1/16 Open Door
1/19 @ Edison
1/25 @ Norwalk
1/27 @ Oak Harbor
1/30 Clearview

2/2 Margareta
2/6 @ Perkins
2/9 @ Port Clinton
2/13 @ Amherst
2/16 Huron
2/20 @ Willard

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Amherst
11/27 .. @ Clearview
12/4 Firelands
12/9 Edison
12/11 .. @ Clyde
12/13 .. Lorain
12/15 .. @ Margareta

12/19 .. @ Sandusky
12/22 .. Port Clinton
1/3 Columbian
1/5 @ Huron
1/10 @ St. Paul
1/13 Willard
1/17 Bay
1/20 @ Edison

1/23 Oak Harbor
1/26 Margareta
2/3 @ Port Clinton
2/10 Wellington
2/13 @ Willard
2/16 Huron



DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE

Brookside's Aidan McLaughlin (21) and Wellington's Deakan Wirth (24) reach for a loose ball on Friday, Feb. 10.



THOMAS FETCENKO / CHRONICLE

Vermilion's Giana Soto (1) is fouled on the shot by Clearview's Jarimar Ruiz (5) and Haley Hjerpe (22) on Monday, Jan. 9.

WELLINGTON DUKES

BOYS 2022-2023 Record 3-19 (0-14, 8th in LCL): Coach Anthony Schmook emphasized the Duke's need for improvement after they struggled in the competitive Lorain County League last season. Wellington is ready to take on the challenge, however, after putting the necessary work in during the offseason. They are led by senior standout Sean Whitehouse, who boasts impressive averages of 19.5 points, seven rebounds and three blocks per game from his junior season. The senior lineup also features players Adam and Nathan Michalak, Chase McKenzie and Luca Marroni. They bring talent and experience to the roster that the team will need to rely on.

GIRLS 2022-2023 Record 8-14 (7-7, 5th in LCL): Wellington returns a lineup of five seasoned starters, all with varsity experience and eager to surpass last season's performance. Junior Brooke Lehmkuhl, coming off a stellar season where she averaged a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds per game, is set to play a pivotal role in the Duke's 2023-2024 campaign. Senior Taylor Morris, recognized for her three-point shooting abilities, adds to the Dukes' floor spacing. Under the seasoned guidance of coach Nathan Morris, the Dukes are well-positioned to be competitive in the Lorain County League.

BOYS 2023-2024

12/2 New London
12/8 Oberlin
12/9 @ Lake Ridge
12/12 .. @ Columbia
12/15 .. Firelands
12/19 .. @ Black River
12/29 .. @ Medina Christian

1/5 @ Brookside
1/6 Loudonville
1/9 Clearview
1/13 @ Keystone
1/16 First Baptist
1/19 @ Oberlin
1/23 St. Peter's
1/26 Columbia

1/30 Western Reserve
2/3 @ Firelands
2/6 Black River
2/9 Brookside
2/13 @ Northwestern
2/16 @ Clearview
2/23 Keystone

GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22 .. Rittman
11/28 .. @ Mapleton
12/1 Oberlin
12/6 @ Columbia
12/9 Firelands
12/13 .. Western Reserve
12/18 .. Monroeville
12/20 .. @ Black River

1/3 @ Brookside
1/6 Clearview
1/10 @ Loudonville
1/12 @ Keystone
1/17 @ Oberlin
1/20 Columbia
1/24 @ Firelands
1/29 New London
1/31 Black River

2/2 Brookside
2/7 @ Clearview
2/10 @ Vermilion
2/12 Valley Forge
(@ Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse)
2/14 Keystone

Other schedules of note

First Baptist

● BOYS 2022-2023

11/21	Westside Christian
11/28	@ Grand River
12/1	@ Hearts for Jesus
12/5	@ Andrews Osborne
12/7	@ Horizon Science Academy (Cleveland)
12/12	Lawrence
12/15	@ Temple Christian
12/19	@ Medina Christian
1/5	NEO
1/12	Reimer Road
1/16	@ Wellington
1/18	St. Martin
1/23	Temple Christian
1/26	Mentor Christian
1/30	Wooster Christian
2/1	@ Lake Ridge
2/6	Horizon Science Academy (Lorain)
2/9	@ CCS
2/16	@ Reimer Road

● GIRLS 2023-2024

11/21	@ CCS
11/27	Oberlin
12/1	@ Hearts for Jesus
12/5	@ Andrews Osborne
12/7	@ Horizon Science Academy (Cleveland)
12/12	@ Garfield Heights
12/15	@ Our Lady of the Elms
12/19	@ Medina Christian

1/5	NEO
1/12	Reimer Road
1/16	Open Door
1/18	St. Martin
1/23	Temple Christian
1/27	New Hope
2/1	@ Lake Ridge
2/6	Horizon Science Academy (Lorain)
2/13	Garrett Morgan
2/16	@ Reimer Road

Lake Ridge

● BOYS 2023-2024

11/27	@ Plymouth
11/28	@ St. Thomas Aquinas
12/2	Mohican Young Star Academy
12/5	St. Martin de Porres
12/7	@ Medina Christian
12/9	Wellington
12/15	@ Open Door
12/16	@ Normandy
1/4	@ Lorain Prep
1/8	@ Community Christian School
1/10	Lawrence
1/13	@ Hearts for Jesus
1/17	Lorain Prep
1/19	Medina Christian
1/20	@ Rittman
1/23	Oberlin
1/25	Community Christian School

1/29	@ Mentor Christian
1/31	@ Horizon Science Academy
2/1	First Baptist
2/3	@ Temple Christian
2/5	@ Grand River Academy
2/6	Westside Christian
2/9	@ Andrews Osborne
2/13	Cleveland Heritage Christian

● GIRLS 2023-2024

11/29	@ Oberlin
11/30	St. Martin De Porres
12/4	Christian Community School
12/6	@ Our Lady of the Elms
12/7	@ Medina Christian
12/9	Brookside
12/15	@ Open Door
1/4	@ Lawrence
1/5	Horizon Science Academy
1/9	@ Horizon Science Academy
1/11	Open Door
1/18	Medina Christian
1/22	@ Christian Community School
1/25	@ Andrews Osborne
1/27	The Wellington School (Columbus)
1/29	@ Mentor Christian
2/1	First Baptist

Medina Bees

● BOYS 2023-2024

11/22	@ St. Ignatius
12/8	@ Cleveland Heights
12/12	Euclid
12/15	@ Mentor
12/21	@ Emmanuel Christian
12/26	@ Lakeland (FL)
12/28	@ Poinciana (FL)
1/3	@ Walsh Jesuit
1/9	@ Strongsville
1/12	Brunswick
1/16	@ Wadsworth
1/19	@ Shaker Heights
1/23	Cleveland Heights
1/26	@ Euclid
1/30	Norwayne
2/2	Mentor
2/6	Massillon Perry
2/9	Mentor
2/13	@ St. Vincent St. Mary
2/16	@ Brunswick
2/20	Massillon Jackson
2/23	Shaker Heights

● GIRLS 2023-2024

11/22	Lakewood
11/24	Wooster (Smithville Barn Ball Classic)
11/27	North Ridgeville
11/29	Brunswick
12/2	Magnificat (Cleveland Basketball Classic at Baldwin Wallace)

12/6	@ Shaker Heights
12/9	Cleveland Heights
12/13	@ Euclid
12/16	Mentor
12/20	@ Stow
12/27	KSA Holiday Tournament (FL)
12/28	KSA Holiday Tournament (FL)
12/29	KSA Holiday Tournament (FL)
1/10	Strongsville
1/13	@ Brunswick
1/20	Shaker Heights
1/24	@ Cleveland Heights
1/27	Euclid
1/31	@ Elyria Catholic
2/3	@ Mentor
2/7	Highland
2/10	@ Strongsville

Olmsted Falls

● BOYS 2023-2024

12/1	@ Strongsville
12/9	Norwalk
12/15	North Ridgeville
12/19	Elyria
12/28	Lakewood
12/29	@ GlenOak
1/4	Buckeye
1/6	@ Avon
1/9	@ Amherst
1/12	Avon Lake

1/16	@ Berea-Midpark
1/19	@ Midview
1/23	@ North Ridgeville
1/26	@ Elyria
2/2	Avon
2/6	Amherst
2/9	@ Avon Lake
2/13	@ Westlake
2/16	Berea-Midpark
2/17	North Olmsted
2/23	Midview

● GIRLS 2023-2024

11/21	@ Solon
11/24	@ Waynedale
12/3	Copley
12/6	Berea-Midpark
12/13	@ Midview
12/16	@ North Ridgeville
12/19	Elyria
12/28	@ West Branch
12/29	Centerville
1/10	Amherst
1/13	@ Avon Lake
1/17	@ Berea-Midpark
1/20	Midview
1/24	North Ridgeville
1/27	@ Elyria
1/31	Cathedral Prep
2/2	Avon
2/3	@ Gilmour
2/7	@ Amherst
2/10	Avon Lake



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A SEASON OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS

A LOOK AT THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS BY TIM ALCORN

For the Cleveland Cavaliers, the 2023-2024 season brings high expectations for a team that won 51 games last year and earned home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

These victories showed continued growth for the Cavs, who posted win totals of 44, 22 and 19 in the previous three campaigns.

However, the first-round playoff loss in five games to the New York Knicks was a bitter pill for the Cavs to swallow.

It marked an abrupt end to a season sooner than anyone anticipated.

This loss compelled the Cavs' front office to make improvements during the offseason and upgrade the roster to compete in the rugged Eastern Conference.

Improvements to the club

Two things were glaring in the playoff loss to the Knicks: A lack of consistent outside shooting from the Cavs and New York's domination in the paint.

General Manager Mike Gansey and Koby Altman, president of basketball operations, addressed these issues with some key offseason moves.

On the outside shooting front, the Cavs swung a three-team sign-and-trade deal to acquire small forward Max Struss from the Miami Heat, sending Cedi Osman and Lamar Stevens to San Antonio in the process.

Struss is a legitimate outside shooting threat who can stretch defenses.

He brings a winning background and veteran leadership to Cleveland, having started every postseason game for Miami during the past two seasons, including their run in the NBA Finals.

Cleveland's deeper bench

This season, the Cavs strategically enhanced their long-distance shooting capabilities by signing free agent guard Georges Niang.

Niang, who joins the team after stints with Philadelphia and Utah, boasts an impressive 40-percent career three-point shooting average, solidifying his reputation as a threat from beyond the arc.

The Cavs also welcomed fan-favorite Tristan Thompson back to Cleveland, tapping into his seasoned experience to strengthen the interior.

Thompson brings a level of toughness to the middle, not backing down in the paint.

He was an integral part of the historic 2016 Cleveland championship team.

The absence of Ricky Rubio, with his return date still uncertain, complicated matters early on in the season.

In response, the Cavs secured Ty Jerome, who previously played for the Golden State Warriors. Jerome adds a valuable layer of insurance in the Cavs' backcourt.

The Cavs now feature a deeper bench with Caris LeVert, Isaac Okoro, Dean Wade, Niang, Thompson and Jerome all providing key minutes for coach JB Bickerstaff.

Despite the disappointing postseason setback against the Knicks, the Cavs learned a valuable lesson in the intensity

of playoff basketball, particularly at the iconic Madison Square Garden.

The setback against the Knicks stung the younger "Core Four" of Darius Garland, Donovan Mitchell, Evan Mobley and Jarrett Allen.

Now, they are determined to play at a higher-level when the 2024 playoffs come around.

A return to the playoffs?

The Cavs have indicated success is defined by the team advancing to the playoffs next spring — an objective, barring any significant injuries, that appears attainable.

Garland, who was an All-Star two years ago, enters his fifth year and continues to grow as a backcourt stalwart to orchestrate the Cavs' attack.

He is working in tandem with Mitchell for a second season, and the pair should make the backcourt more dangerous.

Mitchell was remarkable in his first year with the wine and gold.

"Spida" averaged career highs in points per game (28.7), assists (5.4) and steals (2.1). He set a Cavs record with 245 three-pointers and was a starter in the All-Star game.

Mitchell provided both an electrifying and historic performance with his 71-point outburst against Chicago, which was only the seventh time in NBA history a player has surpassed 70 points in a single game.

Evan Mobley continues to trend upward in his third year.

Last year, Mobley averaged 16.2 points and nine rebounds per game, but more impressively was named First Team All-Defensive Team and was third in Defensive Player of the Year voting.

Seven-year veteran Allen, another Cavalier All-Star two years ago, comes

off a season where he racked up 32 double-doubles and provided the Cavs a formidable tandem on both ends of the floor alongside Mobley.

This year Allen missed the Cavs' preseason and several games to start the regular season, but a healthy campaign from the big-man is essential for a deep playoff run.

The Cavs gain needed experience

The painful experience gained in last season's playoffs, while difficult to endure, will serve the team well.

The Cavs' current roster is now a stronger cast of players than the organization had last season.

Veteran players, brought in to assist the Cavs in battling through the pressure-packed moments of the postseason, will play pivotal roles in the ball club.

While Boston and Milwaukee are pegged to be the top two teams in the Eastern Conference, the Cavs appear to be in the second tier with the likes of Philadelphia, New York, Miami and potentially Indiana.

Although the Cavs failed to capitalize on home-court advantage in the first round last year, securing the third or fourth seed would grant them home-court advantage again.

This could set the stage for the Cavs to advance through the series, which would be a crucial development as they try to reach championship-level status.

The Cavs are on the verge of something special, but there are many steps in that journey. This season could be a big leap forward.

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Tim Alcorn is the play-by-play announcer for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Formerly, Alcorn was with WEOL for 27 years, most recently as station manager.

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