

NEWS / SPORTS / TALK
WEOL
AM 930 100.3FM



FALL 2023 • Volume 25 • Issue 1

Lorain & Medina County
2023 High School Football

FORECAST

Elyria Catholic's
Levi Ellis

2022 Lorain County
Golden Helmet Award Winner

Medina's
Danny Stoddard
Medina Gazette MVP



PG. 18 **OSU BUCKEYES**

CLE BROWNS PG. 21



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2023 FALL FORECAST



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE
AARON JOSEFCZYK/ GAZETTE

ABOUT THE COVER

Rocco Nuosci

WEOL AM930 & 100.3FM

ELYRIA – Before digging into the 2023 season, there are some players to mention from 2022 who will be continuing their athletic and academic careers in college.

Elyria Catholic's all-time single season and career rushing yards leader heard "Leeeeeevi Ellis" belted over the speakers at the corner of Gulf and Poplar many times over the past several seasons.

Although Ellis doesn't overwhelm with his physical traits, standing 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 195 pounds, he was a force to be reckoned with for opposing defenses on Friday nights.

Ellis rarely disappointed Panthers fans.

His career rushing yards (5,098) put him on top of the Elyria Catholic leaderboard, surpassing two-time state champion running back Al McKinney.

His senior season was particularly special. Ellis averaged over 170 yards per game with an 8.1 yards-per-carry average and 30 touchdowns.

Ellis' success doesn't stop at the end zone. After holding a GPA above 4.0 during his time as a Panther, Ellis is continuing his career at Hillsdale College and playing football.

Following in the footsteps of Penn State quarterback Drew Allar, another college-bound athlete, is no easy task. However, this challenge doesn't seem to faze Medina quarterback Danny Stoddard.

Like Allar, the recipient of the 2021 Ohio Mr. Football award, Stoddard turned heads every time he took the field in the Bees' uniform. Stoddard, however, may be even better.

He holds every significant Medina County season passing record, including passing yards (5,035) and touchdowns (58).

His 621 passing yards against Avon last season stand as a county single-game record.

Simply put, the kid can sling it and then some.

On two separate occasions in 2022, he threw for five touchdowns in a single game.

Stoddard earned the Division I All-Ohio and co-offensive player of the year honors. He was also named the Northeast Inland District Division I Offensive Player of the Year and the Greater Cleveland Conference Offensive Player of the Year.

The sky will be the limit for Stoddard during his senior season.

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THE FORECAST FALL 2023 PREVIEW

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VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

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WEOL NEWS / SPORTS / TALK Game Day Broadcast

Forecast Show – 5:30 pm

Area coaches join WEOL's Rocco Nuosci and Rob Polinsky on Fridays with exclusive insight and analysis about Lorain County football.

Pregame Show – 6:30 pm

Dive into the pregame excitement in Lorain and Medina counties with WEOL.

The Gridiron Clash & Medina County Match-Up – 7:00 pm

The Gridiron Clash kicks off at 7 pm. Tune in to AM930, 100.3FM, WEOL.com, Stream 1 and Stream 2 for Lorain County football action that will keep you on the edge of your seat. But that's not all —Tune in to the Medina County Match-Up on WEOL.com and Stream 3.

The Nick Abraham Saturday Wrap-Up – 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Tune in to WEOL from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Saturday mornings for a recap of Friday night's game action, showcasing exclusive interviews with the area's winning coaches.



"The Blitz" is a weekly video series hosted by Rocco Nuosci on WEOL, which focuses on Lorain County football. In the videos, Nuosci delivers comprehensive coverage of local teams, news and game highlights.



Al Young

New to the WEOL broadcast booth **Al Young's 29 years of coaching experience brings you closer to the action.**

Young, a 1980 graduate of Black River High School, earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa Wesleyan University in 1984, where he played football.

Returning to his alma mater, Young became an integral part of the Black River community. He taught physical education and health while also serving as an intervention specialist.

Young's impact extended beyond the classroom. He was the coach for the Pirates' football program for 29 seasons, from 1990 to 2018, before retiring. Prior to that, he spent five years as an assistant coach under coach Matt Stoll at Black River, from 1985 to 1989.

High School Football Schedule

AM930 • 100.3 FM • WEOL.com

Coverage for all games starts at 6:30 pm

Gridiron Clash Radio & Stream 1

AUGUST 18

Princeton @ Elyria

AUGUST 24

Avon Lake @ Benedictine

AUGUST 25

Avon @ Canton McKinley

SEPTEMBER 1

Elyria Catholic @ Midview

SEPTEMBER 8

Columbia @ Firelands

SEPTEMBER 15

Elyria @ Olmsted Falls

SEPTEMBER 22

Elyria Catholic @ Bay

SEPTEMBER 29

Elyria @ Avon Lake

OCTOBER 6

Keystone @ Firelands

OCTOBER 12

Lorain @ Bedford

OCTOBER 13

Wellington @ Keystone

OCTOBER 20

Avon Lake @ Avon

Gridiron Clash Stream 2

AUGUST 18

North Olmsted @ North Ridgeville

AUGUST 25

Vermilion @ Firelands

SEPTEMBER 1

Glenville @ Avon

SEPTEMBER 8

Midview @ Amherst

SEPTEMBER 15

Columbia @ Keystone

SEPTEMBER 22

Keystone @ Black River

SEPTEMBER 29

North Ridgeville @ Midview

OCTOBER 6

Shaw @ Lorain

OCTOBER 13

Black River @ Clearview

OCTOBER 20

Brookside @ Clearview

Medina County Match-Up Stream 3

AUGUST 18

Buckeye @ Cloverleaf

AUGUST 25

Brunswick @ Olmsted Falls

SEPTEMBER 1

Wadsworth @ Medina

SEPTEMBER 8

Wellington @ Black River

SEPTEMBER 15

Brunswick @ Medina

SEPTEMBER 22

Holy Name @ Buckeye

SEPTEMBER 29

Medina @ Strongsville

OCTOBER 6

Norton @ Cloverleaf

OCTOBER 13

Solon @ Brunswick

OCTOBER 20

Aurora @ Highland

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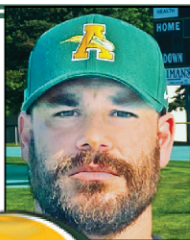


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Amherst
coach
Tom
Thome



AMHERST COMETS

2022 Record: 0-10 (0-7), 8th in SWC

Amherst football finds itself in a 0-21 losing streak. Nonetheless, under the guidance of new coach Tom Thome from Lakewood, the team is determined to restore a winning culture for Comets fans. Junior quarterback Cole Norris, who started as a sophomore, has displayed remarkable growth and aims to build on that success. The offensive line welcomes back three linemen from the previous season, seniors Joey Brooks and the Auvil brothers, Ryan and Ross. Additionally, the Comet offense benefits from the return of versatile senior tight end Mason Fisher, an All-SWC player known for adding depth and skill to the team. On the defensive side, senior Landon Fellenstein brings strength to the cornerback position, while junior Ashton Draga impressed Thome during summer training. Thome mentioned his players have made significant strides in the weight room since January, and he is optimistic about their ability to tackle challenges this season.

8/18 Copley
8/25 Buckeye
9/1 @North Olmsted
9/8 Midview
9/15 Berea-Midpark
9/22 @Avon Lake
9/29 Olmsted Falls
10/6 @Elyria
10/13 Avon
10/20 @North Ridgeville



DAVID RICHARD/ CHRONICLE

Avon's Sam DiTillio (19) celebrates with teammates after a win over Avon Lake on Friday, Sept. 9.



KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

Avon's Jakorion Caffey (23) carries the ball while playing against Glenville on Friday, Sept. 2.

Avon
coach
Mike
Elder



AVON EAGLES

2022 Record: 12-2 (7-0), 1st in SWC

Not four, not five, not six – try seven. That's how many years in a row Avon has brought home the Southwestern Conference title, a dominating statistic for the Eagles. Couple that with 13 straight playoff appearances, and Avon continues to prove itself as one of the top programs in the state. Led by coach Mike Elder (17th season), the Eagles will have a different look in 2023. They return just seven starters from last season, albeit a couple of really great players. Senior running back Jakorion Caffey, who committed to the University of Cincinnati, will pace the offense. Caffey runs behind senior Luke Hamilton, an offensive lineman who will play college ball at University of Michigan. Junior Nolan Good is taking over as quarterback. Lastly, Avon returns senior safety Connor Rowilson and linebacker Cole Paonessa, who are key to the Eagles' defense.

8/18 Brunswick
8/25 @Canton McKinley
9/1 Glenville
9/8 @Elyria
9/15 @North Ridgeville
9/22 Olmsted Falls
9/29 @Berea-Midpark
10/6 Midview
10/13 @Amherst
10/20 Avon Lake

Avon Lake coach Matt Kostelnik



AVON LAKE SHOREMEN

2022 Record: 9-3 (5-2), 3rd in SWC

Another winning season likely awaits Avon Lake under the guidance of coach Matt Kostelnik, now in his seventh year. The Shoremen are tough competition in the Southwestern Conference and even more so as they welcome back three senior offensive stars, all of whom earned first-team All-Ohio honors: Running back Wade Nelson, receiver Derek McCrum and offensive lineman Clay Broadhurst. McCrum also starts as a defensive back for the Shoremen. The starting quarterback position is undecided heading into the 2023 season, with juniors Alex Affolter and Owen Fach competing for the role. Exciting special teams action awaits fans at Avon Lake with senior kicker Ian Walsh, who achieved a perfect record on extra points last year while converting seven field goals.

8/18 Strongsville
8/24 @ Benedictine
9/1 @ Chardon
9/8 Berea-Midpark
9/15 @ Midview
9/22 Amherst
9/29 Elyria
10/6 @ Olmsted Falls
10/13 North Ridgeville
10/20 @ Avon



LEFT

KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE

Avon Lake's Isaac Richardson (11) catches a pass as he is brought down by Brecksville-Broadview Heights' Luke Reasor (11) on Friday, Aug. 26.



RIGHT

RUSSELL GIFFORD / CHRONICLE

Black River's Johnny Kray (1) and Eric Groesser (5) celebrate one of Groesser's touchdowns against Oberlin on Friday, Sept. 30.

Pirates coach Kyle Clark



BLACK RIVER PIRATES

2022 Record: 6-5 (6-1), 2nd in LCL

Black River finished the 2022 season with six consecutive wins, accompanied by new offensive and defensive coordinators. Coach Kyle Clark is determined to carry that momentum into this season. Senior quarterback and record-setting kicker Eric Groesser leads the Pirates' explosive offense, but he isn't alone in shouldering the burden. Groesser is supported by an offensive line led by seniors RJ Bentley and Cooper McKean. Last season Black River gained a reputation for its dominant rushing attack, thanks in part to senior Blake Hopkins who consistently kept opposing defenses on their toes. Cousins Cooper and Johnathan McKean lead the defensive line with a strong group of linebackers including senior Justin Moody and Hopkins, the team's leading tackler for the past two seasons. The secondary is anchored by senior safety Johnny Kray and cornerback Braylon O'Neal.

8/18 Hillsdale
8/25 Northwestern
9/1 @ Brooklyn
9/8 Wellington
9/15 @ Firelands
9/22 Keystone
9/29 @ Oberlin
10/6 @ Brookside
10/13 @ Clearview
10/20 Columbia

Brookside coach Scott O'Donnell



BROOKSIDE CARDINALS

2022 Record: 1-9 (1-6), 7th in LCL

Brookside hasn't seen a winning season since 2015, but coach Scott O'Donnell and his team are determined to turn things around. The team's success will rely heavily on senior Ben Montgomery, who may be one of the most athletic students in Lorain County, and opposing defenses are well aware of it. Brookside needs to employ creative offensive strategies to get the ball to Montgomery. Quarterback Nick Arra, entering his second season as the starter, will play a crucial role in orchestrating the offense, with contributions from Brennan Gainer, Tyler Kitzberger and Lincoln Barnhart. O'Donnell emphasized the importance of the offensive line in achieving success. Aidan McLaughlin, a third-year starter, will lead both the offensive and defensive lines. Other players to watch up front include Carter Schuster, Blake Walls and Dylan Dennis.

8/18 Brooklyn
8/25 @ Huron
9/1 Fairview
9/8 @ Oberlin
9/15 @ Wellington
9/22 Firelands
9/29 Keystone
10/6 Black River
10/13 @ Columbia
10/20 @ Clearview

Brunswick
coach
Mark
Pinzone



BRUNSWICK BLUE DEVILS

2022 Record: 3-8 (2-4), 4th in GCC

In 2022, Brunswick experienced its first losing season since 2018. However, coach Mark Pinzone (seventh year) is fully committed to turning the tide for a winning season with this determined Blue Devils team. Junior quarterback Ethan Roksandich returns to the helm after gaining valuable experience starting as a sophomore. The offensive line is led by senior tackles Jaxon Dunn and Alex Muntean, providing stability and leadership for Roksandich. On the defensive side, linebacker Keegan O'Malley aims to have a standout senior season. Pinzone stated he expects to see more wins this season, with weekly improvements and competitiveness from the Blue Devils team.

8/18 @ Avon
8/25 @ Olmsted Falls
9/1 Highland
9/8 Cleveland Heights
9/15 @ Medina
9/22 Shaker Heights
9/29 @ Euclid
10/6 @ Mentor
10/13 Solon
10/20 Strongsville



LEFT

NICK CAMMETT/ GAZETTE

Buckeye's Gage Nagy (29) celebrates a 7-yard touchdown scored during the second half of the Bucks' game against Cloverleaf on Friday, Aug. 19.

RIGHT

KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

Clearview's Ethan Lorenzana (3) carries the ball as Brookside's Tyler Kitzberger (6) and Aidan McLaughlin (58) trail behind on Friday night, Sept. 9.

Buckeye
coach
Greg
Dennison



BUCKEYE BUCKS

2022 Record: 7-4 (4-3), 2nd in GLC-East

Despite starting a young roster with six sophomores and three freshmen, Buckeye had a solid finish to the 2022 season, finishing 7-3 and earning a postseason appearance. Coach Greg Dennison wants to propel his team even further. Senior quarterback Casey Murray, an All-Great Lakes Conference selection, leads the offense after throwing for over 1,600 yards last season. Ben Midea, an All-County and All-District selection, is captaining the Bucks' offensive line. Midea's leadership will be vital in opening paths for GLC running back Troy McCann, who had nearly 1,000 rushing yards last year. On the defensive front, the Bucks welcome back their top tackler, junior linebacker Travis Avallone. Bolstered by improved defensive and offensive skill depth, Buckeye is primed to remain a competitive force in the GLC.

8/18 @ Cloverleaf
8/25 @ Amherst
9/1 Ellet
9/8 @ North Olmsted
9/15 Westlake
9/22 Holy Name
9/29 @ Lakewood
10/6 @ Valley Forge
10/13 Gilmour
10/20 Normandy

Clearview
coach
Mike
Collier



CLEARVIEW CLIPPERS

2022 Record: 3-7 (2-5), 6th in LCL

After a winless 2021, Clearview coach Mike Collier simply wanted some wins last year. He got them - three to be exact - and witnessed growth from his young team along the way. Entering his 17th season, Collier now has expectations of competing for the Lorain County League title and finding success in the playoffs. The Clippers return several key players including senior wide receiver and defensive back Malcolm Lane, who tied a school record with three interceptions in one game during last year's win over Parma. Senior wide receiver and defensive back Keith Colvin returns after earning a second-team All-Ohio selection on defense in 2022. Junior Cy Christensen, son of Clearview basketball coach Jason Christensen, is once again front and center as the quarterback.

8/18 Scott
8/25 @ Lakewood
9/1 John Hay
9/8 @ Keystone
9/15 Oberlin
9/22 Wellington
9/29 @ Firelands
10/6 @ Columbia
10/13 Black River
10/20 Brookside

Cloverleaf
coach
Justin
Vorhies



CLOVERLEAF COLTS

2022 Record: 8-3 (6-1), 3rd in Metro

Last season, Cloverleaf celebrated its first conference title in 51 years. Now, the Colts have their sights set on another goal - winning their first playoff game. Coach Justin Vorhies is determined to build upon last season's success with an experienced offensive and defensive line. Leading the way are two senior standouts, Tim Shores and Will Rogalski, who earned first-team All-Conference honors last season. Their skills and leadership are vital. Senior running back and linebacker Tristan Craddock, another All-Conference selection, is forceful on both sides of the ball. Griffin Petrocci, a senior wide receiver and defensive back, also adds to the team's strengths as an All-Conference selection. With a solid combination of size in the trenches and skilled players in key positions, Vorhies is confident in the Colts' prospects for a successful season.

8/18 Buckeye
8/25 @ Keystone
9/1 Garfield
9/8 @ Ravenna
9/15 Field
9/22 @ Streetsboro
9/29 @ Woodridge
10/6 Norton
10/13 @ Coventry
10/20 Springfield



KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

Columbia's Marco Cirigliano (3) sneaks around Columbus Grove's defense on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Clyde High School in the regional final.

Columbia
coach
Jason Ward



COLUMBIA RAIDERS

2022 Record: 13-1 (10-0), 1st in LCL

Raider fans were treated to an incredible season in 2022 - perhaps the best in Columbia's school history. The Raiders had a record-breaking 13-win season that culminated in a regional final appearance, something longtime coach Jason Ward aims to build on for the 75th season of Columbia's football program. Despite losing some players to graduation, there is a talented pool of younger players ready to step up. Senior running back Marco Cirigliano, who rushed for over 2,500 yards and scored 42 touchdowns, is a key asset to the offense. Three offensive linemen, Nathan Chapman, Chase Voge and CJ Dupaski, will pave the way for Cirigliano. Defensively, Jacob Sanders returns after leading the team with six interceptions, while Gavin Tollett contributed with eight sacks. Making the transition from defense, Ethan Meier will take on the role of quarterback.

8/18 Independence
8/25 @ Fairview
9/1 Northwestern
9/8 @ Firelands
9/15 @ Keystone
9/22 Oberlin
9/29 @ Wellington
10/6 Clearview
10/13 Brookside
10/20 @ Black River

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Elyria coach
Brian
Fox



ELYRIA PIONEERS

2022 Record: 5-6 (3-4), 5th in SWC

Elyria coach Brian Fox wasted no time giving his first spirited "Go Pioneers!" over the airwaves of WEOL. The ever-intense and passionate Fox left Lorain County sports fans stunned by his move from Elyria Catholic to Elyria. Fox had coached the Panthers since 2018 before making the move across town. He posted a 40-16 record and led the Panthers to the playoffs in each of his five years at the helm. Although Elyria Catholic's 2020 playoff game was canceled due to COVID-19 reasons, his teams won six playoff games and reached the Division V regional final in 2021. Needless to say, he enjoyed a strong rushing attack at Elyria Catholic for many years and is poised for a successful ground game in 2023, aided by the return of two starting offensive linemen, Devon Johnson and Zyon Newson. BJ Todd, a seasoned wide receiver, is back on the field, along with defensive standouts Laron Anderson in the backfield and Braylon Riase on the defensive line. With a new coaching staff, an influx of young players and fresh strategies, if everything falls into place over the summer, Elyria will field a highly competitive football team.

8/18 Princeton
8/25 @ Lorain
9/1 @ Akron East
9/8 Avon
9/15 @ Olmsted Falls
9/22 North Ridgeville
9/29 @ Avon Lake
10/6 Amherst
10/13 @ Midview
10/20 @ Berea-Midpark



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Elyria's Ryan Klotz (6) passes the ball while guarded by Berea-Midpark's Devyn Zahursky (10) on Friday, Sept. 9.



THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE

Elyria Catholic's Levi Ellis (44), Jackson Smith (74) and Aiden Knepschild (8) celebrate a touchdown on Friday, Sept. 23 against Fairview.

Elyria Catholic coach
Chase
Farris

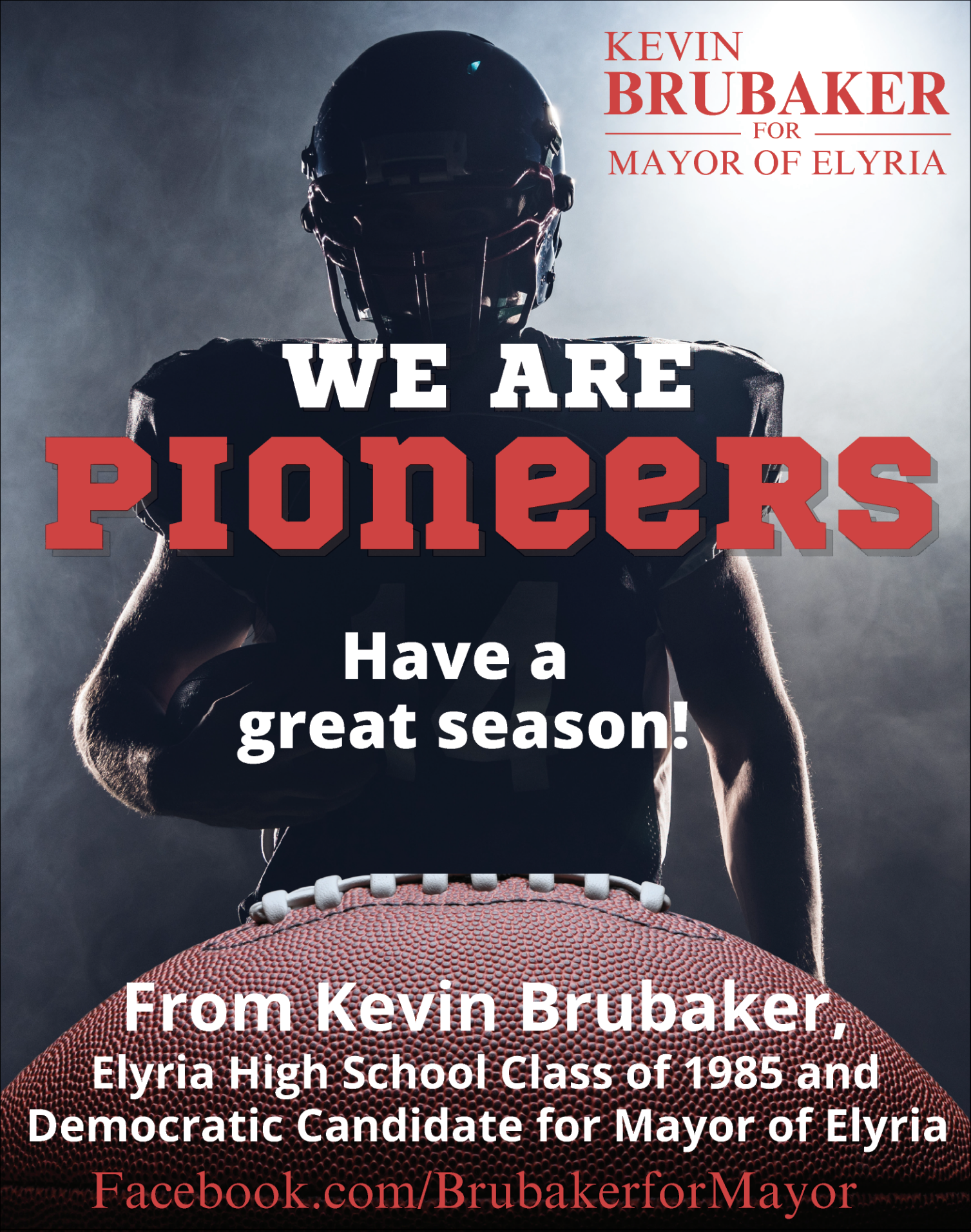


ELYRIA CATHOLIC PANTHERS

2022 Record: 10-3 (6-1), 1st in GLC-West

Elyria Catholic football is undergoing significant changes this season, including a new coach, new players and fresh look. When the Panthers suddenly found themselves in need of a coach, Chase Farris was the man for the job. Farris brings an impressive resume, having excelled as an All-Ohio lineman for Elyria's football team, a three-year letterman for Elyria's basketball team, and making his mark as a standout player at Ohio State, where he helped secure a national championship in 2014. Additionally, Farris played in the NFL, contributing to the New England Patriots' overtime victory in Super Bowl LI (2017) against Atlanta. Now, he aims to channel a career's worth of skills and experiences into becoming a standout coach. The path to success won't be easy for Elyria Catholic, however, as the team faces the challenge of replacing 15 starters from the 2022 season. The summer practices are crucial to bringing this all together for the Panthers, and Farris is focused on molding a cohesive team capable of competing on Friday nights.

8/18 @ Liberty-Benton
8/25 Perkins
9/1 @ Midview
9/8 Holy Name
9/15 @ Lakewood
9/22 @ Bay
9/29 North Olmsted
10/6 Rocky River
10/13 @ Fairview
10/20 @ Westlake



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Firelands
coach
Ryan
O'Rourke



FIRELANDS FALCONS

2022 Record: 7-4 (5-2), 3rd in LCL

Last season, Firelands came up just two points short of clinching a share of the Lorain County League championship. Now, seventh-year coach Ryan O'Rourke wants more. The Falcons boast a roster brimming with experience, led by senior Jim Aunspaw, who had a successful junior year in his first season as the starting quarterback. Senior running back Josh Kovach will shoulder the majority of the carries, benefiting from a tough offensive line anchored by senior Brayden Rowley. The Falcon defense poses a challenge for opposing quarterbacks with an all-senior secondary. Safeties Logan Urban and Tristan Born, along with cornerbacks Devin Linn and Kevin Williams, form a strong defensive backfield. Kovach also plays on the defensive side of the ball as a linebacker, teaming up with senior Logan Galligan. Senior defensive tackle Collin Adkins anchors the Falcons' defense and provides stability on the front line. Firelands is looking for a conference title and the chance to host a playoff game.

8/18 @ Edison
8/25 Vermilion
9/1 @ Poland Seminary
9/8 Columbia
9/15 Black River
9/22 @ Brookside
9/29 Clearview
10/6 Keystone
10/13 @ Oberlin
10/20 @ Wellington

Highland
coach
Mike
Gibbons



HIGHLAND HORNETS

2022 Record: 12-1 (7-0), 1st in Suburban

In 2022, Highland had an immensely successful season, remaining undefeated until the third round of the playoffs. However, the upcoming season brings a new look for the Hornets, with only two defensive starters returning. On the offensive side, the team boasts seven returning starters who have demonstrated their scoring ability. Leading the charge is senior quarterback Peyton Janickas, who is throwing to a talented group of wide receivers. Among them, senior Matt Ciryak is one of the most dynamic players in the Suburban League, while senior Johnny Siliko's speed poses a challenge for opposing defenses. The defensive line is anchored by junior Carson Noonan, who gained valuable starting experience as a sophomore. Despite changes to the roster, coach Mike Gibbons is confident that new starters will rise to the occasion and build upon the Hornets' success to win a second Suburban League title.

8/18 Hudson
8/25 @ North Royalton
9/1 @ Brunswick
9/8 @ Copley
9/15 Tallmadge
9/22 Barberton
9/29 @ Kent Roosevelt
10/6 @ Revere
10/13 Cuyahoga Falls
10/20 Aurora



LEFT

DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE
Firelands' Weston Strader (6) stretches the ball over the goal line for a touchdown against Keystone on Friday, Sept. 23.

RIGHT

DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE
Columbia's Carter Peabody (32) sacks Firelands' quarterback Jim Aunspaw (18) on Friday, Oct. 21.

Keystone
coach
Don
Griswold



KEYSTONE WILDCATS

2022 Record: 4-6 (4-3), 4th in LCL

Keystone's impressive streak of consecutive Lorain County League titles came to an end when the 'Cats finished with a 4-6 record in 2022 with several young players. However, this setback could benefit Keystone as several juniors are returning with valuable varsity experience. Coach Don Griswold acknowledges the need for developing young talent and making the Cats more competitive in 2023. Among the standout junior class is quarterback Zach Shackelford, a name that turns heads in Lorain County. Shackelford is athletic and has the ability to dismantle opposing defenses with both his arm and legs. Running back Kadin Stivason plays a pivotal role in reestablishing Keystone's rushing attack. In the trenches, fans will see seniors Caden Johnson and Chase Hosey, who can make a significant impact on both sides of the ball.

8/18 @ Northwestern
8/25 Cloverleaf
9/1 @ Lutheran West
9/8 Clearview
9/15 Columbia
9/22 @ Black River
9/29 @ Brookside
10/6 @ Firelands
10/13 Wellington
10/20 Oberlin

Lorain
coach
Damion
Creel



LORAIN TITANS

2022 Record: 3-8 (2-5), 6th in LEL

Coach Damion Creel's Titans have displayed steady improvement since opting not to play the 2020 season due to the pandemic. Now, Creel is determined to reestablish a winning football program in Lorain. This group of players bring a wealth of experience, particularly up front with three senior offensive linemen: Shane Ramey-Rowland, Evan Hricovec and Tyler Fogo. Behind them, All-Ohio senior running back John Salaman is poised for a standout season. His exceptional ability to run the ball and catch it out of the backfield adds versatility to the Titans' offense. The defense also boasts considerable experience, led by senior defensive linemen Julius Manning III, Tramaine Suttle and Camryn Sledge. Free safety Noah Buchanan excels on both sides of the ball, while junior quarterback Chase Davis, who took over in Week 4 last season, will once again be under center. Creel wants the Titans to have a winning season and make waves in the LEL, with the possibility of hosting a playoff game.

8/18 @ Brush
8/25 Elyria
9/1 @ Sandusky
9/8 @ Firestone
9/15 Willoughby South
9/22 Garfield Heights
9/29 @ Warrensville Heights
10/6 Shaw
10/13 @ Bedford
10/20 Maple Heights

Medina
coach
Larry
Laird



MEDINA BEES

2022 Record: 11-2 (5-0), 1st in GCC

Success has become normal in Medina with back-to-back Greater Cleveland Conference titles, despite tough competition from Mentor and Solon. Nonetheless, coach Larry Laird (seventh year) maintains high expectations for his Bees. Senior quarterback Danny Stoddard, featured on the cover of this year's Forecast magazine, drives Medina's offense. The Medina Gazette MVP set records with over 5,000 yards passing and 58 touchdowns last season. Assisting Stoddard are two dynamic senior receivers, Austin Knowles and Jack Wojack, both of whom have explosive playmaking abilities. Senior defensive end Nathan Nunn leads the Bees' strong defense, supported by junior linebackers Tallen Hulvey and Cooper Josefczyk. If Medina can reach their peak performance by playoff time, they'll be aiming for another successful postseason run.

8/18 @ Stow
8/25 Olentangy
9/1 Wadsworth
9/8 @ Mentor
9/15 Brunswick
9/22 Euclid
9/29 @ Strongsville
10/6 @ Cleveland Heights
10/13 Shaker Heights
10/20 @ Solon



AARON JOSEFCZYK/GAZETTE
Medina's Jack Wojack (6) runs past Warren Harding's O'Ryan Dukes (25) on Friday, Aug. 20.

THOMAS FETCENKO/ CHRONICLE
Midview's Marc Reed (50) passes the ball while playing Elyria Catholic on Friday, Sept. 2.

DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE
Lorain quarterback Joseph Wyatt (3) dives on the football after a bad snap in the third quarter against Elyria on Saturday, Sept. 3.

Midview
coach
Jack
Armstrong



MIDVIEW MIDDIES

2022 Record: 2-8 (1-6), 7th in SWC

Midview football fans have gone through a tough stretch, witnessing their team accumulate a mere six wins over the past three seasons. However, first-year coach Jack Armstrong is determined to restore the Middies' program. This won't be an easy task in the competitive Southwestern Conference, but Armstrong and his team are prepared to face the challenge head-on. One standout player, senior wide receiver and defensive back Dane West, has exceptional speed on both sides of the ball. Senior running back and linebacker Hunter Anderson is another key player handling the majority of carries while anchoring the defense alongside senior Danny Dular. Armstrong emphasized the young team's need for weekly growth and competitiveness in the SWC.

8/18 @ Westlake
8/25 @ North Olmsted
9/1 Elyria Catholic
9/8 @ Amherst
9/15 Avon Lake
9/22 @ Berea-Midpark
9/29 North Ridgeville
10/6 @ Avon
10/13 Elyria
10/20 Olmsted Falls

North
Ridgeville
coach
Bryan
Morgan



NORTH RIDGEVILLE RANGERS

2022 Record: 5-6 (2-5), 6th in SWC

Under the guidance of coach Bryan Morgan, the Rangers have experienced consistent improvement, a trend they aim to continue into the 2023 season. Morgan is pleased to welcome back several players from the 2022 roster, which included eight sophomores and a freshman who gained valuable varsity experience. Notably, sophomore running back Zack Barnhart had an exceptional season last year and stands out as a key player. Joining him in the backfield and making plays from the h-back position is junior Charlie Steinmetz. On the defensive side, junior outside linebacker Carson Madis is poised for another solid season, highlighted by his pick-six in a victory over Midview last October. Additionally, fellow junior linebacker Austin DeShazo is determined to make a significant impact this season while senior safety Xavier Compton provides leadership to a tough and physical secondary unit. This fall, Morgan's goal is to narrow the gap between the Rangers and the powerhouses in the Southwestern Conference.

8/18 North Olmsted
8/25 Valley Forge
9/1 @ North Royalton
9/8 @ Olmsted Falls
9/15 Avon
9/22 @ Elyria
9/29 @ Midview
10/6 Berea-Midpark
10/13 @ Avon Lake
10/20 Amherst



LEFT

DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE

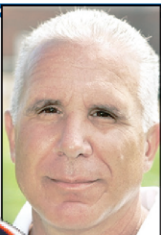
Vermilion's Tyler McCale (22) makes a 22-yard catch in the second quarter against Firelands on Friday, Sept. 2.

RIGHT

KRISTIN BAUER/ CHRONICLE

North Ridgeville's Gavin Padgett (15) carries the ball while playing against Olmsted Falls on Friday night, Sept. 16.

Oberlin
coach
Mark
Campo



OBERLIN PHOENIX

2022 Record: 0-10 (0-7), 8th in LCL

While other programs focused on summer training, Oberlin faced the challenge of finding a new coach. Dominique Goodwin, the Phoenix's previous coach, stepped down after just one season to accept a teaching position outside the district. Now, Mark Campo and his fresh set of assistant coaches, John Nesbit, Jeff Riesen, Richard Crouse and Andre James, step into a program that went 0-10 last season, with only 11 wins in the last six seasons and a sole playoff appearance in the shortened 2020 season. This year is a rebuilding phase for Oberlin's young roster. The offensive line has only two seniors, Isaiah Jackson and Eli Bates, to guide the front five and protect the rotating quarterback duo of junior Julian Anderson and sophomore Drew Walter. In the backfield, sophomore Julean Page and senior Isaiah Jones-Smith have a mix of power and speed. Sophomore Jackson Cikalo and junior Jak'Shawn Windham anchor the receiving core. The defensive line is Oberlin's greatest strength with senior Nosaj Holley-Freeman and junior Tommy Boyer leading this physical unit with senior Quinn Jackson in the backfield.

8/18 Plymouth
8/25 @ Brooklyn
9/1 @ Lutheran East
9/8 Brookside
9/15 @ Clearview
9/22 @ Columbia
9/29 Black River
10/6 Wellington
10/13 Firelands
10/20 @ Keystone

Vermilion
coach
Bill
DuFucci



VERMILION SAILORS

2022 Record: 0-10 (0-7), 6th in SBC-Bay

The Sailors faced struggles in 2022 as a young team, resulting in a winless season. However, these underclassmen have gained valuable varsity experience, setting the stage for a more promising season ahead. Under the guidance of second-year coach Bill DiFucci, the team dedicated their summer training to piecing together "great days." With this foundation established, the focus now shifts to translating that progress into victories on the field. Junior quarterback Aaron Mathis returns for his second year as the starter, poised to lead the team's offense. Junior Cohen Mooney, a versatile player, brings his skills to the running game and serves as a reliable asset on Vermilion's defense. Senior wide receiver Keegan Frey adds an explosive element to the Sailors' offensive playmaking, while newcomers Mason Plas, Beau Benesh, Logan Peterson and Dominic DiFucci are ready to make an impact in the Sailors' 2023 campaign.

8/18 Margaretta
8/25 @ Firelands
9/1 @ Willard
9/8 South Central
9/15 Sandusky
9/22 @ Norwalk
9/29 Port Clinton
10/6 @ Huron
10/13 Edison
10/20 @ Bellevue

Wadsworth
coach
Justin
Todd



WADSWORTH GRIZZLIES

2022 Record: 7-4 (4-3)

2nd in Suburban League-National

Wadsworth suffered a tough defeat in the Division I, Region I quarterfinal against Medina last season. In their 49-35 loss, the Grizzlies nearly matched Medina point-for-point for the majority of the game. Despite falling short, Wadsworth's 2023 season holds great promise with several key players returning. Seniors Kyle Figuray and Will Stack are picking up where they left off at running back and wide receiver, while Evan Crowley, Aaron Ries and Jon Byers anchor the offensive line. This unit produced an impressive 477 yards of offense and converted 26 first downs on 83 plays, consistently keeping the Bees on their toes throughout their regional game. Stack's exceptional performance in this match propelled him to tie for sixth place in Ohio's history books for his catch total, placing him among other talented players statewide.

8/18 Barberton
8/25 Wooster
9/1 @ Medina
9/8 Twinsburg
9/15 Brecksville-
Broadview Heights
9/22 @ Hudson
9/29 @ Nardon
10/6 Stow
10/14 @ Fort Hill (MD)
10/20 @ North Royalton



ROGER SOMMER / CHRONICLE

Wellington's receiver Adam Michalak (4) pushes back Keystone's Grady Whitacre (8) on Friday, Sept. 16.



NICK CAMMETT/GAZETTE

Wadsworth's Nathan Metzger (15) attempts to leap out of the tackle from Wooster's Anthony Sines (0) on Friday, Aug. 26.

Wellington
coach
Rob
Howells



WELLINGTON DUKES

2022 Record: 3-7 (3-4), 5th in LCL

The Wellington football program is beginning to see a shift in expectations. Coach Rob Howells, now in his sixth season, has successfully grown the roster from just 18 players to over 45. Now, he is out to boost the Dukers' overall win record. Senior defensive end Devan Diedrick is optimistic about a healthier 2023 season after missing almost all of the Dukers' games last year, except for the final three, due to a broken hand. During that stretch Wellington went 2-1. Junior Landon Wright will take charge as the starting quarterback this year, having taken plenty of snaps as a sophomore. Juniors Johnnie Kinter and Baron Turner Jr., who excel as wide receivers and defensive backs, have the ability to make big plays. However, Howells' primary concern is the performance of the offensive and defensive lines and getting any issues sorted out by the start of the season.

8/18 Western Reserve
8/25 Mapleton
9/1 @ Plymouth
9/8 @ Black River
9/15 Brookside
9/22 @ Clearview
9/29 Columbia
10/6 @ Oberlin
10/13 @ Keystone
10/20 Firelands

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2023 OTHER SCHEDULES OF NOTE

Bay

8/19 @ Cleveland
Central Catholic
8/25 Field
9/1 @ University School
9/8 Valley Forge
9/14 @ Normandy
9/22 Elyria Catholic
9/29 @ Fairview
10/6 @ Westlake
10/13 Rocky River
10/20 @ North Olmsted

Berea-Midpark

8/18 Cleveland Heights
8/25 @ Nordonia
9/1 Strongsville
9/8 @ Avon Lake
9/15 @ Amherst
9/22 Midview
9/29 Avon
10/6 @ North Ridgeville
10/13 Olmsted Falls
10/20 Elyria

North Olmsted

8/18 @ North Ridgeville
8/25 Midview
9/1 Amherst
9/8 Buckeye
9/16 @ Holy Name
9/22 Rocky River
9/29 @ Elyria Catholic
10/6 @ Fairview
10/13 Westlake
10/20 Bay

Olmsted Falls

8/18 Solon
8/25 Brunswick
9/1 @ Canfield
9/8 North Ridgeville
9/15 Elyria
9/22 @ Avon
9/29 @ Amherst
10/6 Avon Lake
10/13 @ Berea-Midpark
10/20 @ Midview

Rocky River

8/18 Harvey
8/25 John Marshall
9/1 @ Perkins
9/8 Lakewood
9/15 @ Valley Forge
9/22 @ North Olmsted
9/29 Westlake
10/6 @ Elyria Catholic
10/13 @ Bay
10/20 Fairview

St. Edward

8/19 Center Grove (IN)
(@ Massillon Tiger Stadium)
8/27 Good Counsel (MD)
9/2 Rock Creek
Christian (MD)
9/9 @ Elder
9/15 @ Massillon
Washington
9/23 River Rouge
9/30 St. Ignatius
10/7 Football North (ON)
10/14 Archbishop Moeller
10/20 @ Archbishop Hoban

St. Ignatius

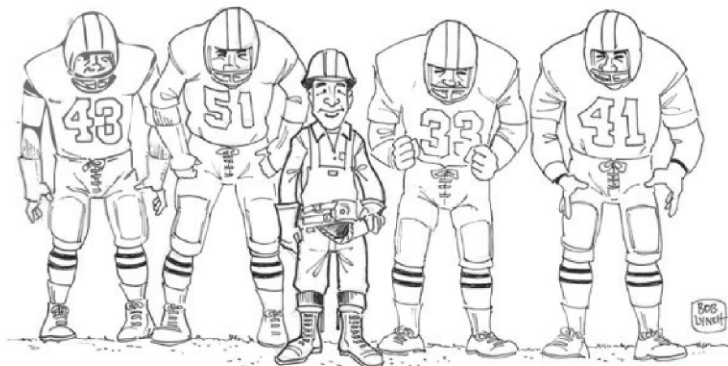
8/18 @ Springfield
8/25 @ Mentor
9/1 Central Catholic (PA)
9/8 @ Austintown-Fitch
9/15 Archbishop Hoban
9/22 @ Central Catholic
9/30 @ St. Edward
10/7 @ Archbishop
Moeller
10/14 St. Xavier
10/20 Football North (ON)

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Another Year of Buckeye Football



OHIO STATE PREVIEW



Rocco Nuosci

On New Year's Eve, Noah Ruggles' kick sailed wide of the uprights, ending Ohio State's hopes of securing a national championship.

The Buckeyes suffered a heartbreaking loss,

fighting the eventual champions, the Georgia Bulldogs, until the very last snap.

However, in typical Buckeye fashion, they swiftly redirected their attention toward the upcoming season, brimming with renewed optimism and expectations.

While changes have taken place within the coaching staff and at the quarterback position, the goals for the Buckeyes remain unchanged - winning games, defeating "the team up north," and vying for a national title.

Now, the pressing question arises: How will these Buckeyes make it happen?

Quarterback carousel

With CJ Stroud starting for the Houston Texans on Sundays, Ohio State is in need of a quarterback.

Junior Kyle McCord appears to be the frontrunner for the position.

Despite limited playing time in 2022, with only 16 completed passes and one touch-down in seven games, McCord boasts more

experience and depth than the other quarterbacks on the roster.

Standing 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighing 204 pounds, McCord possesses a solid frame that enables him to excel in the pocket and deliver tight throws. He combines strength, accuracy and the ability to make plays on the run when necessary.

While he doesn't have the flashy style Ohio State fans are accustomed to, McCord is a reliable leader who can effectively command the offense.

McCord can be likened to Todd Boeckman or Craig Krenzel, quarterbacks who stood tall in the pocket but also demonstrated the ability to make things happen on the outside when needed.

Sophomore Devin Brown is expected to be the reserve quarterback, despite missing the spring game with a finger injury. Brown is a player to watch and a Buckeye fan favorite.

While an official announcement is yet to be made at the time of this article's publication, it appears McCord will likely start for the Buckeyes in Week 1.

Questions up front

Ohio State faced a significant challenge this season with the departure of three starting offensive linemen to the NFL.

Anyone who watched the spring game is well aware of the Buckeyes' vulnerable spot.

Meanwhile, as Cleveland fans keep a close eye on former Ohio State right tackle Dawand Jones during Browns summer training camp, the Buckeyes secured former San Diego State lineman Josh Simmons to fill the void.

Simmons, who started 13 games for the Aztecs in 2022, showcased his abilities as a pass blocker.

While he may need to refine his run-blocking skills, offensive line coach Justin Frye anticipates Simmons becoming a well-rounded player in Columbus.

Luke Wypler's transition to the Browns' roster opens up opportunities at the center position for Ohio State.

Center Carson Hinzman quickly emerged as the favorite to step into the starting role. Although he didn't gain in-game snaps as a freshman, Hinzman has made exciting progress during the offseason.

At left tackle, redshirt junior Josh Fryar is projected to take the reins, following Paris Johnson Jr.'s selection as the sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

The guard positions appear to be solidified, with sophomore Donovan Jackson returning at left guard, and senior Matt Jones resuming his role on the right side.

Skill positions

In the backfield, Ohio State showcases a formidable duo in redshirt junior TreVeyon

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2023 OHIO STATE SCHEDULE

BLOOMINGTON, IN INDIANA UNIVERSITY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2 3:30 PM	COLUMBUS, OH YOUNGSTOWN STATE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 NOON	COLUMBUS, OH WESTERN KENTUCKY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 4:00 PM	SOUTH BEND, IN NOTRE DAME SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 7:30 PM	COLUMBUS, OH MARYLAND SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 TBA	WEST LAFAYETTE, IN PURDUE SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 TBA
COLUMBUS, OH PENN STATE SATURDAY OCTOBER 21 TBA	MADISON, WI WISCONSIN SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 TBA	PISCATAWAY, NJ RUTGERS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 TBA	COLUMBUS, OH MICHIGAN STATE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 7:30 PM	COLUMBUS, OH MINNESOTA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 TBA	ANN ARBOR, MI MICHIGAN SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 NOON

HOME GAMES IN SCARLET

Henderson and redshirt sophomore Miyan Williams.

Despite Henderson's foot injury last year, he aims to avoid similar setbacks in 2023.

However, even if Henderson faces limitations, Williams is poised to step up.

As the Buckeyes' leading rusher last season, Williams amassed an impressive 825 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Their contributions will be vital to the offense's success, especially with a new quarterback at the helm.

While Jaxon Smith-Njigba, the former Ohio State receiver now playing for the Seattle Seahawks, only appeared in three games in 2022, his absence poses a significant loss for the Buckeyes.

Stepping into the spotlight, sophomore Marvin Harrison Jr. assumes the role of the top receiver.

Harrison showcased his prowess with 77 catches for over 1200 yards and 14 touchdowns. Undoubtedly, he ranks among the nation's best pass-catchers.

Quarterback McCord would be wise to rely on Harrison early in the season.

On the opposite side of the field, senior Julian Fleming adds another layer of talent to the roster. Fleming returns after an impressive 2022 season, averaging over 15 yards per catch.

Supporting Harrison and Fleming are a host of other talented players, including juniors Jayden Ballard and Carnell Tate, as well as fifth-year senior Xavier Johnson.

Assuming the well-deserved starting slot receiver position is junior Emeka Egbuka. Egbuka amassed over 70 receptions, totaling over 1100 yards and ten touchdowns for the Buckeyes last season.

Like Harrison, Egbuka is considered one of the top receivers in college football.

At tight end, senior Cade Stover, hailing from Mansfield, takes charge. Stover is set to play a crucial role in the Buckeye offense, building on his 36-reception, 406-yard campaign in 2022.

Behind Stover, keep an eye on senior Gee Scott Jr. and junior Joe Royer, both promising tight ends for the upcoming season.

Overall, Ohio State possesses a dynamic and talented roster of playmakers, offering

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John Telich joins Rocco Nuosci at 7:20 am on Thursday mornings for an in-depth look at the Browns

BUCKEYES from 19

the team various ways to achieve success in the upcoming season.

Silver bullets

Ohio State's defense made significant strides last season, demonstrating impressive improvement.

In 2021, they allowed an average of 374 yards per game, ranking 59th in college football. Then, in 2022, that number dropped to an impressive 321.5 yards per game, placing the team 14th nationally.

Despite the departure of defensive end Zach Harrison to the Atlanta Falcons, the Buckeyes retain their leading tackler and starting middle linebacker, senior Tommy Eichenberg.

Eichenberg had an exceptional 2022 season, leading the team in tackles for loss with 12. His outstanding performance earned him first-team All-Big Ten Conference recognition and positions him as a strong contender for additional awards in 2023.

Senior Steele Chambers will join Eichenberg as the other starting linebacker, forming a formidable duo.

The secondary faces the challenge of adjusting to the losses of Cam Brown, who signed with the Chargers as an undrafted free

agent, and Ronnie Hickman, who joined the Browns.

This new unit needs to establish itself, particularly after struggling against Michigan and Georgia at the end of the 2022 season.

Senior safeties Josh Proctor and Lathan Ransom will play crucial roles, bringing experience and leadership to the backfield.

Mississippi transfer Davison Igbinosun is expected to secure one of the starting cornerback positions, alongside redshirt sophomore Denzel Burke.

While Burke had an impressive freshman season in 2021, he faced challenges in 2022, leaving fans curious about what his performance will look like in 2023.

Sophomore safety Sonny Styles, who gained playing time as a freshman in the Peach Bowl loss to Georgia, is a rising star to watch closely.

The defensive line aims to generate consistent pressure, with sophomore standout Jack Sawyer leading the way. Sawyer, who led the team with 4.5 sacks last season, will play a pivotal role in achieving this objective.

Sophomore J.T. Tuimolau is developing as a pass rusher and could pose a significant threat alongside Sawyer.

The inside tackle positions are in capable hands, with a rotation of junior Ty Hamilton,

along with sophomores Michael Hall Jr. and Tyleik Williams.

Have to beat "TTUN"

Ohio State has experienced two consecutive defeats from that team up north in Ann Arbor.

A loss to Michigan is deemed unacceptable for the majority of Buckeye fans, and coach Ryan Day is well aware.

Ohio State's playoff chances could potentially hinge on their regular season finale against Michigan.

While Day is not currently in the hot seat, another loss to Michigan could lead to uncomfortable discussions.

Listen to the Buckeyes on WEOL

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Contact Rocco Nuosci at rnuosci@weol.com or follow him on Twitter at [@noush9602](https://twitter.com/noush9602).

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CLEVELAND BROWNS



Scott Petrak
The Chronicle-Telegram

BEREA — The pressure is on.

Even more than usual in a town and league where fans live and die with each game.

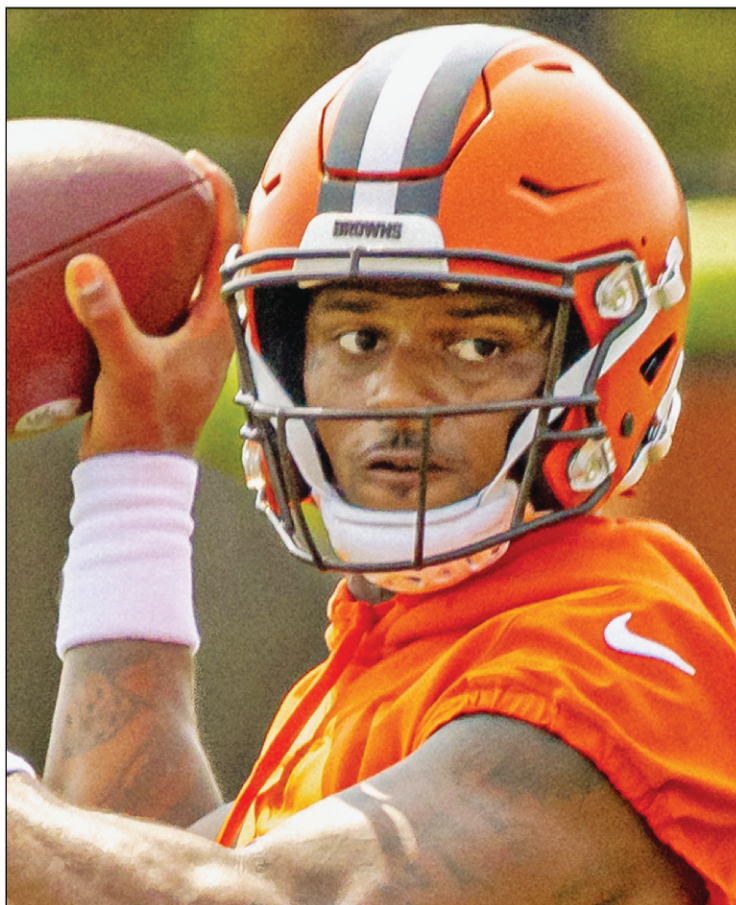
The Browns missed the playoffs the last two years after snapping a 17-year postseason drought in 2020. The expectation this season is, at a minimum, to contend for a playoff spot in the loaded AFC.

Despite going 15-19 over the last two seasons, the Browns have a talented and expensive roster, including some of the NFL's highest-paid players at a variety of positions.

Quarterback Deshaun Watson is in the second year of a five-year, fully guaranteed \$230 million contract after missing 11 games of his first season in Cleveland serving a suspension following more than two dozen accusations of sexual assault and misconduct during massage therapy sessions.

Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam are known for their impatience and likely won't keep the status quo if another season falls well short of its potential.

General manager Andrew Berry and coach Kevin Stefanski are the first in their roles to reach a fourth season in the Haslams' 11 years of ownership, but the partnership and their individual tenures



JEFF BARNES/CHRONICLE

Deshaun Watson (4) sets back to make a pass during the Browns' training camp on Wednesday, June 7 in Berea.

would be in jeopardy with another season viewed as a failure.

Watson, by virtue of position, the five-draft-pick haul it took to get him from the Texans and his record-setting contract, is the biggest key to success.

If he returns to his 2018-20 form with the Texans — when he went to three straight Pro Bowls — the Browns should challenge the Bengals and Ravens for the AFC North title.

If he plays like he did in the final six games last year, signifi-

cant changes could be coming to the organization.

Watson and the Browns are confident he'll be the old Watson. The one who led the league in passing in 2020 — his last full season — and can beat defenses with his arm, legs and brain.

"I feel really good," Watson said during minicamp in June. "The biggest thing is just the confidence level. Just knowing who I am, trusting what I do, trusting the work that I put in these past couple years to get back to this position that I'm in and have the

opportunities to go out there and try to win some games and do it with the guys that we have on the field."

"He's working really hard in the meeting room, making sure that he's got a really good grasp of what we're doing," Stefanski said. "And then the ability to make throws, the ability to be on time, go through your progression and make accurate throws to our guys. So he holds himself to a high standard, and I think he's practicing really well."

At his best, Watson is a dual threat similar to Lamar Jackson, Jalen Hurts and Kyler Murray. He hasn't run as much as the other three — 343 attempts, 1,852 yards, 18 touchdowns — but will add a dynamic that's been missing from the Browns' offense.

Stefanski has changed the playbook this offseason to maximize Watson's talents. On the ground, that means a handful of designed keepers a game and the threat of the option. Defenses must respect the possibility he'll tuck the ball and take off.

Stefanski's playbook has evolved in other ways, and his play calling is likely to look a lot different than in his first three seasons, when Baker Mayfield and Jacoby Brissett were the primary quarterbacks.

More throwing on first down and in the first quarter is expected to be joined by an increase in three-wideout sets and a reduction in multiple-tight end formations.

Stefanski and Watson began consulting on the changes immediately after last season ended in January with a loss in Pittsburgh.

BROWNS from 22

Stefanski has incorporated the looks and calls Watson prefers, including more shotgun and run-pass options.

The changes could be even more drastic on defense.

Coordinator Joe Woods was fired after the season and replaced by former head coach and longtime coordinator Jim Schwartz. He'll bring his attacking style built around a deep and talented line.

Berry spent much of the off-season stocking the roster to fit what Schwartz wants. End Ogbo Okoronkwo, tackle Dalvin Tomlinson and safety Juan Thornhill were signed at the start of free agency, then end Za'Darius Smith and safety Rodney McLeod were acquired later.

Schwartz plans to rotate linemen to keep them fresh to rush the quarterback while trusting cornerbacks Denzel Ward, Greg Newsome II and Martin Emerson Jr. to play man-to-man.

The aggressive scheme should match Stefanski's play calling on offense.

"I'm really happy for the guys up front, the additions they've made," Schwartz said. "I think they fit us really well. We'll play a lot of guys up front. We're not just going to play four guys. We'll roll through eight, maybe even nine guys at times trying to keep guys fresh and keep 'em throwing 100 mph fastballs."

The special teams also underwent a significant shift, with coordinator Mike Priefer fired after four years and former Browns special teams ace Bubba Ventrone hired away from the Colts. Like Schwartz, Ventrone brings a lot of energy.

Despite the changes, the Browns can't afford a long acclimation period. They face all

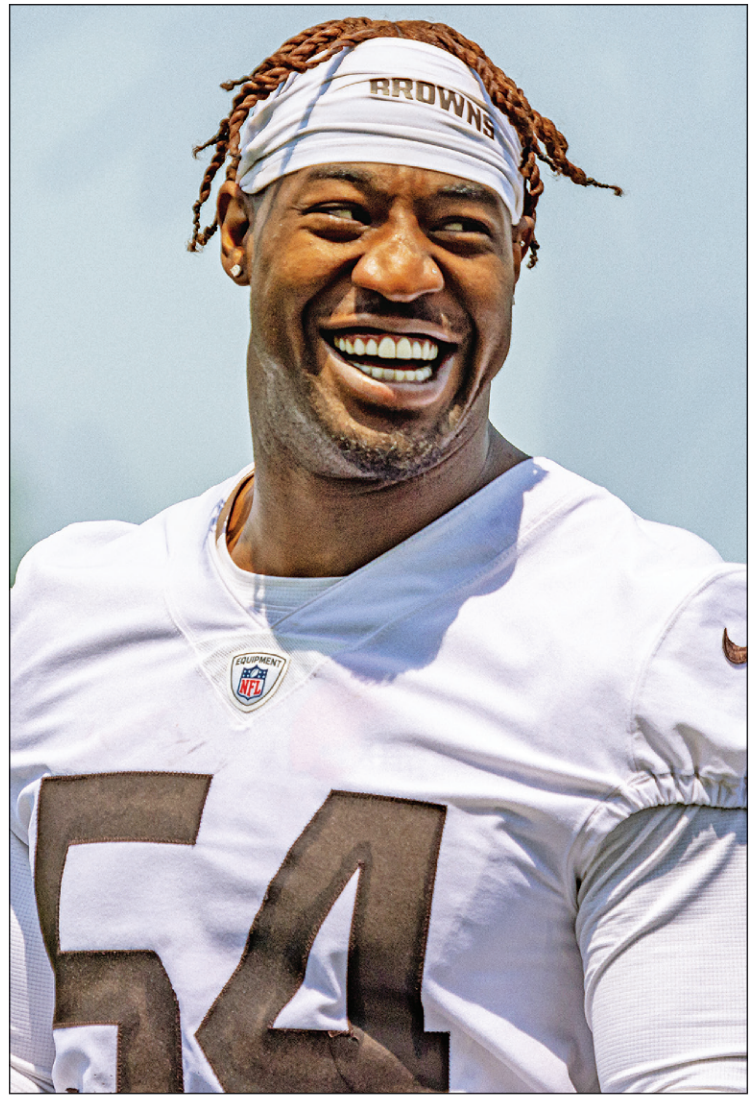
three AFC North rivals within the first four weeks of the season, including the Bengals and Ravens at Cleveland Browns Stadium.

A slow start could lead to difficult questions for Stefanski and Berry and an uphill climb in an AFC dominated by big-time quarterbacks.

A strong start, especially for Watson, could provide the momentum necessary to reverse the fortunes of the last couple of years.

Contact Scott Petrak at (440) 329-7253 or spetrak@chronicle.com. Like him on Facebook and follow him @scottpetrak on Twitter.

Editor's Note: The Browns football preview contained information and reporting up to the time of publication on Friday, July 21. Visit BrownsZone for updates and additional content from The Chronicle-Telegram and The Medina Gazette Browns writer Scott Petrak.



JEFF BARNES/ CHRONICLE

Ogbo Okoronkwo (54) during the Browns' training camp on Wednesday, June 7 in Berea.



JEFF BARNES/ CHRONICLE

Dalvin Tomlinson (94) runs a drill during the Browns' training camp on Wednesday, June 7 in Berea.

2023 CLEVELAND BROWNS SCHEDULE



HOME GAMES IN BROWN

WEEK 1 BENGALS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1:00 PM	WEEK 2 STEELERS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18 8:15 PM	WEEK 3 TITANS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1:00 PM	WEEK 4 RAVENS SUNDAY OCTOBER 1 1:00 PM	WEEK 5 BYE SUNDAY OCTOBER 8	WEEK 6 49ERS SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 1:00 PM
WEEK 7 COLTS SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 1:00 PM	WEEK 8 SEAHAWKS SUNDAY OCTOBER 29 4:05 PM	WEEK 9 CARDINALS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 1:00 PM	WEEK 10 RAVENS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 1:00 PM	WEEK 11 STEELERS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19 1:00 PM	WEEK 12 BRONCOS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26 4:05 PM
WEEK 13 RAMS SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 4:25 PM	WEEK 14 JAGUARS SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 1:00 PM	WEEK 15 BEARS TBD	WEEK 16 TEXANS SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 1:00 PM	WEEK 17 JETS THURSDAY DECEMBER 28 8:15 PM	WEEK 18 BENGALS TBD

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Elyria Updates from Mayor Whitfield

KEEPING YOU SAFE!

It is Elyria's priority to keep you and your family safe. This is why we have increased our police force, invested in technology to make you safer, and focused on building and strengthening the relationship between police and community.

Pictured here is a local 3rd-grade student, Ezra, who is interested in being a police officer. During his "Mayor for the Day," he spent time with Lt. Brandon Pool of the Elyria Police Department. Together we will keep Elyria safe.



Greetings from the City of Elyria.

Dear Friends and Family,

As we step into the vibrant fall season, let's embrace the promise of new beginnings in Elyria. Our commitment to safety, joy, and opportunity for our residents is unwavering. We've strengthened our police force, expanded recreation programs for all ages, and partnered with nonprofits to provide support and relief to our residents.

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities and create a thriving #ElyLife in Elyria, OH.

With gratitude and hope,

Mayor Frank Whitfield

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Aug 17

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Sep 2

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