



present:

Volume 19 Issue 1  
Fall 2017

# FORWARD

## Midview's Dustin Crum

2016 Lorain County  
Golden Helmet Award Winner

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# FORECAST

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### WEOL FORECAST MAGAZINE FALL 2017 PREVIEW

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Volume 19 Issue 1

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### About the Cover:

Midview's Dustin Crum capped off a remarkable career with an equally outstanding senior season. In his final year at Midview, the Middies' quarterback was 173-of-279 passing with 32 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. He added 14 more touchdowns on the ground in the process of breaking Midview's single season rushing yards record with 1,557 yards. With Crum under center the past three years, the Middies compiled a record of 32 wins and four losses.

Along with winning the Golden Helmet award, Crum was also named to the AP All Division One team for his third straight season. This coming year, Crum will continue his playing career at Kent State University.



## Welcome Letter, Fall 2017

Several years ago, I wrote, 'any moment now, a person wearing a black and white striped shirt will hand a brown, leather sphere to a young man who will no doubt squeeze the sphere before placing it carefully at the proper angle on an orange tee. He'll back away...7 to 10 yards will do...and wait for another person wearing a black and white striped shirt about 60 yards away to raise his arm and blow a whistle. The young man will quickly approach the ball with his eyes focused on the lower half...and with one swing of the leg...BOOM!...the high school football season is underway!'

Yep, been there, done that...and proud of it!

Another season of high school football is at hand...or afoot for others, and once again this year, we will bring to you an outstanding selection of games on AM 930 WEOL, at [www.weol.com](http://www.weol.com) and on the free WEOL mobile app.

We hope this edition of FORECAST enhances your enjoyment of the 2017 season with schedules, features and profiles of your favorite high school team, the Ohio State University Buckeyes and the Cleveland Browns.

AM 930 is proud to cover and support our local high school football teams. As always, we thank our terrific sponsors who make these games and this magazine possible. We also appreciate the assistance of athletic directors, coaches and staff who help us with our broadcast schedule.

See you under the lights!

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

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# **AM930/WEOL.COM**

## *High School Football Line-Up*

### **The Forecast Show**

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

### **Cleveland Clinic Gridiron Clash & Tri-C Medina County Match-Up**

At 6:30pm Friday night we kick off the Kolczun & Kolczun Gridiron Clash on AM930 and Stream 2. On Stream 3 we feature our Tri-C Medina County Match-Up. All games can be heard at [weol.com](http://weol.com) or on the WEOL mobile app.

### **THE SCOREBOARD SHOW**

When the final horn sounds around 10pm on Friday we let you know who the big winners are around Northeast Ohio

### **The Nick Abraham Saturday Sports Wrap-Up Show**

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



# Lorain County High School Football Preview

By Tim Alcorn

We've all heard the old saying "the more things change, the more they stay the same". That adage is certainly true for the 2017 high school football season in Lorain County. An astounding number of coaching changes in our area, new players replacing established stars, and a big change instituted by the OHSAA in the high school football playoff scheduling will make for an interesting autumn both on and off the gridiron. Half (8 total) of the Lorain County schools have new head coaches. Several other schools in our listening area have new coaches as well. What stays the same? The essence of high school football will always remain constant. Sixteen to 18 year old young men competing for the love of the game, their schools and their communities stays intact. That's the beauty of the game. Let's dig in to local teams and conferences to look at both some of the changes, and what remains the



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

Midview's team.

same.

In the SWC, there are changes in coaches and players, but what won't change is the incredible competitiveness of this league. Five SWC schools reached the playoffs in 2016. At Midview, a huge change will be the incompa- rable Dustin Crum no longer directing the high powered Middle offense. Crum shattered the county's all-time passing yardage record (and virtually every Mid- view all-time record too), but the 2016 Golden Helmet recipient is

now at Kent State and the Middies move on. Midview went to the postseason and finished 9-2 last year, and Coach DJ Shaw expects returnees such as running back Connor Wolfe and Alonzo Banks, along with two-way performers Jacob Snider, Brandon Gilchrist and Ben Gendics to keep Midview in the upper echelon of programs in the area. In North Ridgeville, the Rangers come off a disappoint- ing 3-7 campaign, but Coach Luke Durbin expects a turnaround in '17, led by key returnees on

offense, running back Shomari Williams, wide receiver Brandon Cruz and Michael Wiseman on the line. Defensively, the Rangers will be anchored by veterans Jamir Malone at linebacker, free safety Cannon Kerr, and lineman Nji Tuma. Just up Route 83, the Avon Eagles compiled a perfect 10-0 reg- ular season, but were stunned in a last second loss to their rival Avon Lake in the first round of the play- offs. The Eagles (who open the '17 season with a game in Florida) will be led offensively by two D1 recruits on the offensive line, tight end Vlasi Pappas and Jimmy McKenna, while wide receiver Chris Mullins will play a key role. Defensively, the Eagles return standouts Max Torbert and Kyle Kudla. Something that never changes, Mike Elder's team will be primed for another big season. There's a big change at Avon Lake, where former Shoremen standout Matt Kostelnik becomes head coach at his alma mater, replacing Dave Dlugosz. Kostelnik starred on

See FOOTBALL, 5



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# FOOTBALL

From 4

the Shoremen 2003 state title team, and has been an assistant coach for the team the past two years. He inherits a squad that went 8-4 last year. He will count on key returnees including offensive linemen Ryan Beckmen and Kyle Leitch as well as wide receiver Caleb Burr, while defensively, the Shoremen welcome back linemen Max Whitman and Jake Marinelli, with Jake Sommers back in the secondary. There's also a change at the top at Amherst, where Mike Passarello now guides the Comets after a successful tenure at Firelands. The Comets boast a tremendous running back in Kennedy Scagliozzo along with Joe Tomaro in the backfield. Defensively, veterans Hunter Parker in the secondary, Nathan Soto at linebacker, and Matt Lee in the line will be key for the Comets. This could be a breakout year for Amherst, after struggling to a 3-7 finish in '16. The rest of the league features a Final 8 team in '16 in Olmsted Falls, a playoff squad from last year in Westlake, North Olmsted, Berea-Midpark and Lakewood. Hang on for another great ride in the SWC.

At Elyria Catholic, the Panthers will build off a 2016 season which ended with a three game winning streak and a 6-4 mark overall. As a smaller school, EC features several two-way players, and returnees who play on both sides of the football include seniors Donovan Warfield, Gabe Hirsch, Jonah Baker and Andre Rodriguez, as well as juniors Zach Evans, Leighton Banjoff and David Griffin. With a bevy of veterans, Coach Dave Stupka has high expectations entering 2017, but the Great Lakes Conference has provided some stiff competition in recent years.

What a magical season the Lorain Titans had in 2016. After dropping their first two games, Dave McFarland's team strung

together ten straight wins and advanced to the regional championship game, only to fall in a heartbreaker to Olentangy Liberty. The great news for Lorain, if it's true "it all starts in the trenches", then the Titans are loaded, returning five stalwarts on both sides of the line in Myron Wilson, David Larson, Rashaun Rogers, Gabe Larson and Antonio Wyatt, all imposing physical specimens. Quarterback Justin Sturgill returns as do sophomores Daylin Dower and Savon Chavis who logged significant varsity time as freshmen in '16. No doubt, another exciting season is in store in Lorain. A big change in Elyria, where Kevin Fell stepped down after six years at the helm, and Sean Arno, a former Elyria assistant, moved north from Wellington to guide the Pioneers. Elyria struggled through a tough 3-7 campaign last year, but Coach Arno will count on numerous veterans to lead the Pioneers to a bounce back season. Experienced standouts include Dontae Beckett at quarterback, terrific receivers Devian Williams and Keshawn Glover, and lineman Luke Palos on offense. Defensively, Elyria brings back a slew of players, including Jonanthony Lowery, Qwanda Woodson, Lewis Aguilar, and Jordan Lucky-Baker. The Greater Cleveland Conference will again provide the Pioneers with a steady diet of tough competition.

Vermilion is also on the list of teams with a new head coach. Like Matt Kostelnik at Avon Lake, Matt Kobal becomes the head coach at his alma mater. A 1998 VHS grad, Coach Kobal was on some great teams coached by Ralph Mayer and looks to restore the Sailor football excellence. Competing in the rugged Sandusky Bay Conference, Vermilion was 2-8 last year, but with returnees such as veteran quarterback Seth Hurd, wide receiver Jonah Pfeil, and four-year starter at running back Caine Zannoni on offense, as well as two four-year starters on defense in



DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE

## Columbia's Brandon Coleman

linebacker Trevor Boyd and lineman Tyler Bath, and experienced linebacker Luke Pena, Coach Kobal has some terrific building blocks for a Sailor turnaround.

The PAC has a slew of coaching changes, including four in the Stars Division alone. **Buckeye** won the Stars title and once again advanced to the playoffs last year, but coach Mark Pinzone left for Brunswick following the season. He was replaced by former Wadsworth head coach Greg Denison. **Black River** had another playoff season under Alan Young and will look to continue their success in 2017. At **Firelands**, former Avon and Baldwin Wallace standout quarterback Ryan O'Rourke takes over the Falcon program. O'Rourke inherits a team that went 7-3 last year, and returns a great running back in Nick Denney, as well as second back Logan Strader. Defensively, twin brothers Landon and Luke Peterson will lead the way. **Keystone** is also on the list of teams with a new head coach. Long-time assistant and previous Wildcat A-D Don Griswold follows Rob Clarico. The 'Cats were 6-4 last year, and look to improve with returnees such as strong-arm

quarterback Bobby Weber, explosive wide receiver Justin Able, and two senior standouts, Jack and Cole Corraini, brothers who perform on both sides of the ball. The story at **Wellington** is similar to **Keystone**, a new head coach who was elevated from the staff of previous coach Sean Arno. Roy Moore takes the reigns, and inherits a club that went 5-5 in '16, but scored 34 points per game. Coach Moore will be familiar with key senior players Justin Skinner at running back, Parkier Rieske at wide receiver and lineman Drew Mason. Defensively, the Dukes will rely on veterans Alex Goss in the line, Brandon Sorg at linebacker and Nathaniel Shelton in the secondary. Rounding out the Stars is **Brookside**, who struggled through a 1-9 year in '16. Coach Paul Ferguson played a slew of young players who took their lumps last year, and he hopes that experience pays off for those who come back, such as playmaker David Chambers, tight end and defensive end Nate Brown, and quarterback Jonathan Hice. On the Stripes side of the PAC, **Columbia** won another divi-

See FOOTBALL, 6



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# FOOTBALL

From 5

sion championship in '16 and returned to post-season, only to drop an epic first round double-overtime game to New Middletown Springfield. Jason Ward will reload in '17 behind the Raiders elite running back Brandon Coleman, as well as veteran players Logan Was and Adam Alten. Clearview will try to find their

winning ways again in '17 after battling through a 4-6 season last year. Coach Mike Collier has some nice talent back for the Clippers, including Anthony Terry, Drew Engle and Jordan DeAlmeida on offense, and a trio of linebackers in David Renftle, Kahliel Fender-son and Julian Colbert. It was a tumultuous off-season for **Oberlin**, but a familiar name will emerged as the Phoenix new head coach. Mike Akers will guide the program which closed out at 4-6

last year. Oberlin has talent returning in two-way players Matthew Rasmussen and Jeremy Austin in the line, as well as two-way starters in Justin Noble and Ravon Eisom. Fairview, Lutheran West, and Brooklyn are the other teams in the Stars division.

Indeed, there have been some changes to the Lorain County high school football landscape for 2017. But the anticipation and buildup for a season to kick off is

the same as it has always been. The excitement of seeing the players bursting through a banner and then battling on the field, the cheerleaders leading the fans, the band performing the halftime show, and the aroma of popcorn and hot dogs in the stands never ends. It's a feeling that spans generations and decades, and will continue to do so years into the future. The love of high school football will never change.

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# High School Football On AM930 & WEOL.com

**All games air at 6:30pm unless noted otherwise**

## **Cleveland Clinic Gridiron Clash on AM930 WEOL.com Stream 1**

8/25	Midview @ Lorain	9/28	Shaker Heights @ Elyria
9/1	Avon @ Olmsted Falls	9/29	Clev. Heights @ Lorain
9/7	Elyria @ Lorain	10/6	Clearview @ Columbia
9/8	Avon Lake @ Avon	10/7	Elyria Catholic @ Holy Name
9/9	Elyria Catholic @ CCC <i>12:30pm</i>	10/13	Wellington @ Keystone
9/15	Mogadore @ Elyria Catholic	10/20	TBA
9/21	Elyria Catholic @ Valley Forge	10/27	TBA
9/22	Midview @ Avon		

## **WEOL.com Stream 2**

8/25	Clearview @ Amherst
9/1	North Ridgeville @ Midview
9/8	Vermilion @ Firelands
9/15	Columbia @ Keystone
9/22	Buckeye @ Columbia
9/29	Avon Lake @ North Ridgeville
10/6	Firelands @ Wellington
10/13	North Olmsted @ Amherst
10/20	TBA
10/27	TBA

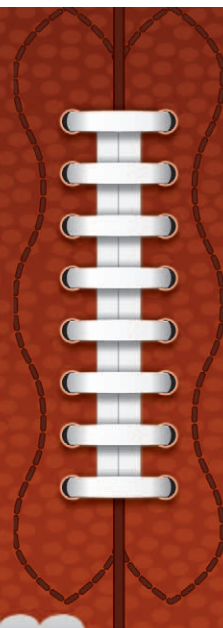
## **Tri-C Medina County Match-up WEOL.com Stream 3**

8/25	Brunswick @ Highland
9/1	Medina @ Highland
9/8	Wadsworth @ Medina
9/15	Fairview @ Black River
9/22	Norton @ Cloverleaf
9/29	Wellington @ Buckeye
10/6	Buckeye @ Black River
10/13	Medina @ Elyria
10/21	TBA
10/27	TBA



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#### Amherst Comets

8/25	Clearview .....	Home
9/1	Lakewood .....	Away
9/8	North Ridgeville .....	Home
9/15	Midview .....	Away
9/22	Berea-Midpark .....	Away
9/29	Olmsted Falls .....	Home
10/6	Avon Lake .....	Away
10/13	North Olmsted .....	Home
10/20	Avon .....	Away
10/27	Westlake .....	Home

#### Avon Eagles

8/24	Merrit Island .....	Florida
9/1	Olmsted Falls .....	Away
9/8	Avon Lake .....	Home
9/15	North Olmsted .....	Away
9/22	Midview .....	Home
9/29	Westlake .....	Away
10/6	Lakewood .....	Home
10/13	North Ridgeville .....	Home
10/20	Amherst .....	Home
10/27	Berea-Midpark .....	Away

#### Avon Lake Shoremen

8/25	Elyria .....	Home
9/1	North Olmsted .....	Away
9/8	Avon .....	Away
9/15	Westlake .....	Home
9/22	Lakewood .....	Away
9/29	North Ridgeville .....	Away
10/6	Amherst .....	Home
10/13	Berea-Midpark .....	Away
10/20	Olmsted Falls .....	Home
10/27	Midview .....	Home

#### Bay Rockets

8/25	Keystone .....	Home
9/2	University Schools .....	Away
9/8	Fairview .....	Home
9/15	Parma .....	Home
9/22	Holy Name .....	Away
9/29	Rocky River .....	Home
10/6	Normandy .....	Home
10/13	Elyria Catholic .....	Away
10/20	Revere .....	Away
10/27	Valley Forge .....	Home

#### Berea - Midpark Titans

8/25	Strongsville .....	Home
9/1	Westlake .....	Away
9/8	Lakewood .....	Away
9/15	North Ridgeville .....	Away
9/22	Amherst .....	Home
9/29	Midview .....	Home
10/6	Olmsted Falls .....	Away
10/13	Avon Lake .....	Home
10/20	North Olmsted .....	Away
10/27	Avon .....	Home

#### Black River Pirates

8/25	Western Reserve .....	Home
9/1	Northwestern .....	Home
9/8	Plymouth .....	Away
9/15	Fairview .....	Home
9/22	Oberlin .....	Away
9/29	Keystone .....	Away
10/6	Buckeye .....	Home
10/13	Brookside .....	Home
10/20	Firelands .....	Away
10/27	Wellington .....	Away

#### Brecksville Bees

8/25	Olmsted Falls .....	Home
9/1	Garfield Heights .....	Away
9/8	Willoughby South .....	Away
9/15	Hudson .....	Away
9/22	Cuyahoga Falls .....	Home
9/28	Twinsburg .....	Away
10/6	Nordonia .....	Home
10/13	North Royalton .....	Home
10/20	Wadsworth .....	Away
10/27	Stow .....	Home

#### Brooklyn Hurricanes

8/25	Rhodes .....	Home
9/1	Fairport .....	Home
9/8	Lincoln-West .....	Home
9/15	Firelands .....	Away
9/22	Keystone .....	Home
9/29	Fairview .....	Away
10/6	Luthern West .....	Home
10/13	Columbia .....	Away
10/20	Oberlin .....	Home
10/27	Clearview .....	Away

#### Brookside Cardinals

8/25	Elyria Catholic .....	Away
9/1	Vermilion .....	Home
9/8	John F. Kennedy .....	Home
9/15	Oberlin .....	Home
9/22	Clearview .....	Away
9/29	Firelands .....	Away
10/6	Keystone .....	Home
10/13	Black River .....	Away
10/20	Wellington .....	Home
10/27	Buckeye .....	Away

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Fall 2017 Forecast Magazine **9**



#### Brunswick Blue Devils

8/25	Highland .....	Away
9/1	Austintown Fitch .....	Home
9/8	Collinwood .....	Home
9/15	Shaker Heights .....	Home
9/22	Mentor .....	Away
9/28	Solon .....	Away
10/6	Elyria .....	Home
10/13	Euclid .....	Away
10/20	Medina .....	Away
10/27	Strongsville .....	Home

#### Buckeye Bucks

8/25	Revere .....	Home
9/1	Rocky River .....	Away
9/8	Cloverleaf .....	Away
9/15	Lutheran West .....	Home
9/22	Columbia .....	Away
9/29	Wellington .....	Home
10/6	Black River .....	Away
10/13	Firelands .....	Home
10/20	Keystone .....	Away
10/27	Brookside .....	Home

#### Clearview Clippers

8/25	Amherst .....	Away
9/1	Painsville .....	Away
9/8	John Hay .....	Home
9/15	Wellington .....	Away
9/22	Brookside .....	Home
9/29	Oberlin .....	Home
10/6	Columbia .....	Away
10/13	Fairview .....	Home
10/20	Lutheran West .....	Away
10/27	Brooklyn .....	Home

#### Cloverleaf Colts

8/25	Canton South .....	Home
------	--------------------	------

9/1	Keystone .....	Away
9/8	Buckeye .....	Home
9/15	Coventry .....	Away
9/22	Norton .....	Home
9/29	Woodridge .....	Away
10/6	Akron Springfield .....	Home
10/13	Ravenna .....	Away
10/20	Field .....	Home
10/27	Streetsboro .....	Away

#### Columbia Raiders

8/25	Independence .....	Home
9/1	Kirtland .....	Away
9/8	Northwestern .....	Home
9/15	Keystone .....	Away
9/22	Buckeye .....	Home
9/29	Lutheran West .....	Away
10/6	Clearview .....	Home
10/13	Brooklyn .....	Home
10/20	Fairview .....	Away
10/27	Oberlin .....	Away

#### Elyria Pioneers

8/25	Avon Lake .....	Away
9/1	Bedford .....	Home
9/8	Lorain .....	Away
9/15	Solon .....	Home
9/22	Euclid .....	Away
9/28	Shaker Heights .....	Home
10/6	Brunswick .....	Away
10/13	Medina .....	Home
10/20	Strongsville .....	Away
10/27	Mentor .....	Home

#### Elyria Catholic Panthers

8/25	Brookside .....	Home
9/1	St. Joseph .....	Away
9/9	C.C.C. ....	Away

9/15	Mogadore .....	Home
9/21	Valley Forge .....	Away
9/29	Parma .....	Home
10/7	Holy Name .....	Away
10/13	Bay .....	Home
10/20	Normandy .....	Home
10/27	Rocky River .....	Away

#### Fairview Warriors

8/25	Rocky River .....	Away
9/1	Wickliffe .....	Home
9/8	Bay .....	Away
9/15	Black River .....	Away
9/22	Firelands .....	Home
9/29	Brooklyn .....	Home
10/6	Oberlin .....	Away
10/13	Clearview .....	Away
10/20	Columbia .....	Home
10/27	Lutheran West .....	Home

#### Firelands Falcons

8/25	Edison .....	Away
9/1	New London .....	Away
9/8	Vermilion .....	Home
9/15	Brooklyn .....	Home
9/22	Fairview .....	Away
9/29	Brookside .....	Home
10/6	Wellington .....	Away
10/13	Buckeye .....	Away
10/20	Black River .....	Home
10/27	Keystone .....	Home

#### Highland Hornets

8/25	Brunswick .....	Home
9/1	Medina .....	Home
9/8	North Royalton .....	Away
9/15	Roosevelt .....	Away
9/22	Revere .....	Away

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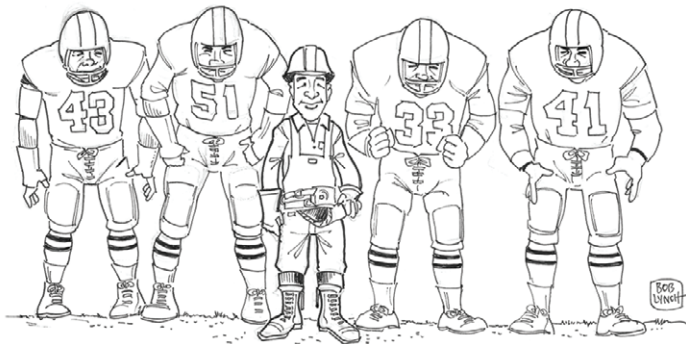
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9/29	Green.....	Away
10/6	Aurora.....	Home
10/13	Copley.....	Away
10/20	Tallmadge.....	Home
10/27	Barberton.....	Home

## Holy Name Green Wave

8/26	C.C.C.....	Away
9/1	Padua.....	Away
9/9	Lake Catholic.....	Home
9/15	Rocky River.....	Home
9/22	Bay.....	Home
9/29	Normandy.....	Away
10/7	Elyria Catholic.....	Home
10/14	Garfield Heights.....	Home
10/20	Valley Forge.....	Away
10/27	Parma.....	Away

## Keystone Wildcats

8/25	Bay.....	Away
9/1	Cloverleaf.....	Home
9/8	Norwayne.....	Away
9/15	Columbia.....	Home
9/22	Brooklyn.....	Away
9/29	Black River.....	Home
10/6	Brookside.....	Away
10/13	Wellington.....	Home
10/20	Buckeye.....	Home
10/27	Firelands.....	Away

## Lakewood Rangers

8/25	Medina.....	Away
9/1	Amherst.....	Home
9/8	Berea-Midpark.....	Home

9/15	Olmsted Falls.....	Away
9/22	Avon Lake.....	Home
9/29	North Olmsted.....	Home
10/6	Avon.....	Away
10/13	Westlake.....	Away
10/20	Midview.....	Home
10/27	North Ridgeville.....	Away

## Lorain Titans

8/25	Midview.....	Home
9/1	John F. Kennedy.....	Home
9/8	Elyria.....	Home
9/15	Garfield Hts.....	Away
9/22	Clarkson Aca.....	Home
9/29	Cleveland Hts.....	Home
10/6	Warrensville Hts.....	Home
10/13	Maple Hts.....	Home
10/20	Bedford.....	Away
10/27	Shaw.....	Away

## Lutheran West Longhorns

8/25	New London.....	Home
9/1	Hawken.....	Away
9/8	Normandy.....	Home
9/15	Buckeye.....	Away
9/22	Wellington.....	Home
9/29	Columbia.....	Home
10/6	Brooklyn.....	Away
10/13	Oberlin.....	Home
10/20	Clearview.....	Home
10/27	Fairview.....	Away

## Mapleton Mounties

8/25	Hillsdale.....	Away
------	----------------	------

9/1	Wellington.....	Away
9/8	Rittman.....	Home
9/15	Monroeville.....	Away
9/22	Crestview.....	Home
9/29	South Central.....	Home
10/6	St. Paul.....	Home
10/13	Plymouth.....	Away
10/20	New London.....	Home
10/27	Western Reserve.....	Away

## Medina Battling Bees

8/25	Lakewood.....	Home
9/1	Highland.....	Away
9/8	Wadsworth.....	Home
9/15	Euclid.....	Home
9/23	Shaker Heights.....	Away
9/29	Mentor.....	Away
10/6	Strongsville.....	Home
10/13	Elyria.....	Away
10/20	Brunswick.....	Home
10/27	Solon.....	Away

## Midview Middies

8/25	Lorain.....	Away
9/1	North Ridgeville.....	Home
9/8	North Olmsted.....	Home
9/15	Amherst.....	Home
9/22	Avon.....	Away
9/29	Berea-Midpark.....	Away
10/6	Westlake.....	Home
10/13	Olmsted Falls.....	Home
10/20	Lakewood.....	Away
10/27	Avon Lake.....	Away

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8/25	Wellington	Away
8/31	Lincoln West	Home
9/8	Lutheran West	Away
9/14	Valley Forge	Home
9/22	Parma	Away
9/29	Holy Name	Home
10/6	Bay	Away
10/12	Rocky River	Home
10/20	Elyria Catholic	Away
10/26	Garfield Heights	Home

## North Olmsted Eagles

8/25	Valley Forge	Away
9/1	Avon Lake	North Ridgeville
9/8	Midview	Away
9/15	Avon	Westlake
9/22	Westlake	North Ridgeville
9/29	Lakewood	Away
10/6	North Ridgeville	Away
10/13	Amherst	Away
10/20	Berea-Midpark	Westlake
10/27	Olmsted Falls	Away

## North Ridgeville Rangers

8/25	North Royalton	Home
9/1	Midview	Away
9/8	Amherst	Away
9/15	Berea-Midpark	Home
9/22	Olmsted Falls	Away
9/29	Avon Lake	Home
10/6	North Olmsted	Away
10/13	Avon	Away
10/20	Westlake	Home
10/27	Lakewood	Home

## Oberlin Phoenix

8/25	Vermilion	Away
9/1	John Adams	Home
9/8	Trinity	Home
9/15	Brookside	Away
9/22	Black River	Home
9/29	Clearview	Away
10/6	Fairview	Home
10/13	Lutheran West	Away
10/20	Brooklyn	Away
10/27	Columbia	Home

## Olmsted Falls Bulldogs

8/25	Brecksville	Away
9/1	Avon	Home
9/8	Westlake	Away
9/15	Lakewood	Home
9/22	North Ridgeville	Home
9/29	Amherst	Away
10/6	Berea-Midpark	Home
10/13	Midview	Away
10/20	Avon Lake	Away
10/27	North Olmsted	Home

## Open Door Patriots

9/1	Colubus Reign	Home
9/15	Waldron (MI)	Home
9/23	Trinity	Away
9/29	Horizon (Tol)	Away
10/6	Ridgedale	Away
10/20	Northwood	Away
10/27	Horizon (Tol)	Home

## Padua Bruins

8/25	Woodridge	Away
9/1	Holy Name	Home

9/8	Warren Howland	Home
9/15	Warrensville Heights	Away
9/22	Garfield Heights	Home
9/29	Walsh Jesuit	Home
10/6	Hoban	Away
10/13	Benedictine	Away
10/20	Lake Catholic	Home
10/27	Notre Dame	Away

## Parma Redmen

8/24	Lincoln West	Home
9/1	North Royalton	Home
9/7	John Marshall	Home
9/15	Bay	Away
9/22	Normandy	Home
9/29	Elyria Catholic	Away
10/6	University Schools	Home
10/13	Valley Forge	Home
10/20	Rocky River	Away
10/27	Holy Name	Home

## Rocky River Pirates

8/25	Fairview	Home
9/1	Buckeye	Home
9/8	Colinwood	Home
9/15	Holy Name	Away
9/22	Lakeside	Away
9/29	Bay	Away
10/6	Valley Forge	Home
10/12	Normandy	Away
10/20	Parma	Home
10/27	Elyria Catholic	Home

## St. Edward Eagles

8/25	McDowell	Away
9/2	Glenville	Home
9/9	H.D. Woodson	Home
9/16	Elder	Home

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9/30	Naperville Central	Away
10/7	Cathedral	Away
10/14	Canada Prep	Home
10/20	Moeller	Home
10/28	St. Ignatius	Home

## St. Ignatius Wildcats

8/24	Hoban	Away
9/1	Mentor	Away
9/9	Euclid	Home
9/15	Det. Cath. Cent.	Away
9/23	Elder	Away
9/30	N. Clarkson (Can)	Home
10/7	GlenOak	Home
10/13	Moeller	Home
10/21	St. Xavier	Home
10/28	St. Edward	Away

## Strongsville Mustangs

8/25	Berea-Midpark	Away
9/1	Hudson	Away
9/8	Central Catholic	Home
9/15	Mentor	Home
9/22	Solon	Away
9/29	Euclid	Home
10/6	Medina	Away
10/13	Shaker Heights	Home
10/20	Elyria	Home
10/27	Brunswick	Away

## Valley Forge Patriots

8/25	North Olmsted	Home
9/1	John Marshall	Home
9/8	Perry	Away
9/14	Normandy	Away
9/21	Elyria Catholic	Home
9/29	Garfield Heights	Away

10/6	Rocky River	Away
10/13	Parma	Home
10/20	Holy Name	Home
10/27	Bay	Away

## Vermilion Sailors

8/25	Oberlin	Home
9/1	Brookside	Away
9/8	Firelands	Away
9/15	Perkins	Away
9/22	Tiffin	Home
9/29	Oak Harbor	Away
10/6	Port Clinton	Home
10/13	Huron	Home
10/20	Edison	Home
10/27	Shelby	Away

## Wadsworth Grizzlies

8/25	Firestone	Home
9/1	Wooster	Home
9/8	Medina	Away
9/15	Nordonia	Away
9/22	Stow	Home
9/29	Cuyahoga Falls	Away
10/6	North Royalton	Away
10/13	Twinsburg	Home
10/20	Brecksville	Home
10/27	Hudson	Away

## Wellington Dukes

8/25	Normandy	Home
9/1	Mapleton	Home
9/8	New London	Away
9/15	Clearview	Home
9/22	Lutheran West	Away
9/29	Buckeye	Away
10/6	Firelands	Home
10/13	Keystone	Away

10/20	Brookside	Away
10/27	Black River	Home

## Westlake Demons

8/25	Eastlake North	Home
9/1	Berea-Midpark	Home
9/8	Olmsted Falls	Home
9/15	Avon Lake	Away
9/22	North Olmsted	Away
9/29	Avon	Home
10/6	Midview	Away
10/13	Lakewood	Home
10/20	North Ridgeville	Away
10/27	Amherst	Away

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Fall 2017 Forecast Magazine



# Friday Night Lights

By Tom Evans

I thought long and hard when Tim Alcorn asked me if I would prepare an article for the preview magazine. I contemplated the many issues surrounding high school football and tossed around the idea of addressing something dramatic such as concussion protocol or the competitive balance that goes into effect this fall, and while those topics are certainly important, I settled on one that personally hit home with me. This past spring the OHSAA decided to move the first four rounds of the High School Football Playoffs for all of the games to be played on Friday evenings. "For a few years now we have studied the possibility of moving all playoff games to Friday nights for the first four rounds," OHSAA Assistant Commissioner Beau Rugg said. "Due to so many more college football games being played on Saturday nights, attendance at our Saturday playoff games has steadily declined, and more potential playoff sites have said they cannot host games on Saturdays. We now have enough playoff sites to handle all the games on one night, and the football coaches association was in support of this change, too, because teams will get to stay on their normal weekly schedule of playing on Friday night."

At first I was completely miffed, "how dare the state take away one night of the playoffs", that will create less coverage for us



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

Avon Lake's Sam Klimkowski.

(WEOL) and what about those millions of high school junkie football fans that will lose that second night of games. I certainly thought that Coaches would also be in an uproar (although I have to admit I really don't know why). Ok, Ok, so I was wrong, at least a good portion of my so-called logic is very flawed.

I first asked my good friend, Lorain Titans head coach Dave McFarland, his thoughts, believing that he would certainly side with me on this travesty. Not so fast my friend, Dave explained to me, they liked 2016 football playing on Friday nights, in large part because the weekly routines and schedules stayed the same, rationale also mentioned by the OHSAA. After Dave burst my bubble on the whole conspiracy theory from the OHSAA I thought through the rationale. Of course as a coach, you would like to stick with the routines that got you to the playoffs in the first place; and as for the extra day of practice to prepare for the Saturday night

game, if you are not ready by Friday, one extra day isn't going to make the difference. After my discussion with Dave, I concluded the only coaches who preferred Friday and Saturday nights were those who weren't participating in the playoffs, and that will tell you all you needed to know about me as a head coach. I spent too many nights after week 10 in the stands instead of on the sideline.

Next I thought about those millions of high school football junkies that would lose an additional evening of playoff games only quickly to realize that as I looked around, the largest percentage of those junkies are former high school football coaches and in fact there weren't millions, maybe a couple of dozen truth be told. I thought as a true high school football fan, I would certainly give up a couple of Saturday nights of watching

my beloved Buckeyes for some homespun high school football, especially knowing that with Urban Myer at the helm, I could miss the Illinois or Rutgers game and be just fine with it.

The OHSAA also made the decision to move the championship games back to Tom Benson stadium in Canton, adjacent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Don't get me wrong, I've broadcast games from the stadium and it was the thrill of a lifetime to broadcast a high school football game from the shadows of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is a place that provides great memories of my childhood. It was my dad's tradition to take vacation the week after the enshrinement ceremonies. My father would pile my two older brothers and me in the car and we would make the trek down Route 77 to the Hall of Fame to see the new busts and displays. My father took particular pleasure in showing us a picture of the 1945 Championship game that the then Cleveland Rams played in and my father was in attendance for. Nevertheless, those are my memories and it focuses around Pro Football. I can tell you that there is no greater thrill for than to watch YOUR team play in Ohio Stadium, at the Horseshoe. Last year when

See **FRIDAY**, 15



DAVE MCFARLAND



Elyria's Ray Riedel.



# FRIDAY

From 14

Cuyahoga Heights (my alma mater and current place of employment) played in the State Championship game in the Horseshoe I knew my father was smiling down upon me. For an Ohio high school football fan there is no greater thrill than to watch your team run out of the tunnel and your band play your alma mater from the 50-yard line, that's a memory that's a keeper. There is nothing more unifying for a community than a playoff run, the excitement that surrounded the Lorain community as they made a run to the state semi-finals last year was fantastic. Here's to the hope that a new season brings that your community makes that run this year.

So in the end, aside from my selfishness of wanting to see additional games, and the fact that WEOL strives to cover all of the listening area playoff teams, I guess the changes make sense. Depending on who makes the playoffs, we will strive to cover



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

## Elyria Football fans.

as many games as possible, but with all of the games on Friday night and the number of teams from the county that have qualified for the playoffs, someone is

bound to get left out. The fact that the games are moving from one legendary facility to another, I guess I have nothing to complain about. But only to say that

if you want to see high school athletics at its best, get out and see a playoff game this fall, and if you can't, tune us in and we'll make you feel like you're there.

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# Fútbol Greats; Local County High School's Best Remembered

By: Zoltan 'Z' Zoltai

For many kids in Lorain County and the rest of Ohio, playing football or volleyball is a natural choice as far as a team sport. But for thousands of players across the state, soccer is their choice. Soccer has been a regular feature of the Olympics since 1900. And this is a huge reason to play for high school student athletes. To dream of greatness. James Igneczi

The History of Soccer (Fútbol) in the Northeast Ohio area started with the first game being played in 1906 at a place called "Payne's pasture," located in Cleveland somewhere off Payne Avenue. No one can say when or where the first high school game was played in Lorain County.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association began crowning state soccer champions for the boys in 1976 with girls being added to the title format in 1985. So the game isn't as old as most sports played at the high school level across the Buckeye State...and yet, the game has produced more talented local high school players than we can remember – so let's take a look back on some of the high school soccer greats produced in Lorain County.

## First, the Girls Game:

One of the first names of the past that come to mind is Erika Kleinholz, who played around the time Abbey Golden (current Midview Girls Soccer Coach) did. If memory doesn't fail, Erika seemed to have set every record in the county way before girls' soccer was big. In four years at Elyria Catholic, her skills made her the school's career goals (105) and assists (44) leader. Twice, she scored more than 30 goals in a season. In the year 2000, Kleinholz then went on to the collegiate level to become a four-time letter winner at the University of Michigan and later she became a professional with the Detroit Jaguars. In 2012, she became the first soccer player inducted into the Elyria Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2002 Columbia High School's Rachael Garofolo kicked a record setting 7 goals in a single game-she would go on to become an academic all-American player at Tiffin. Jessica Zurcher accomplished that same feat 9 years later, scoring 7 times in a game against Black



Megan O'Connor tries to steal the ball from a Elyria defender.

River (2011). And more recently in 2014, Yana Miller of Lake Ridge Academy scored her way into the OHSAA record books when she booted 8 goals in a single game, against East Cleveland Shaw.

Traveling west, we can still see the great plays of Firelands' Rachael Melendez, who in 2008, notched 60 goals in a single season--good for fourth best in the OHSAA record book. But you can't have great shooters without having someone skilled feeding them the ball. To find one of the best in County history we search the Chronicle headlines from 1999 to find Jeannie Stuckey. Stuckey played for Avon Lake High School and that year she dished out 78 assists in a single season for the Shorelarks, which is fourth best all

time for girls High School Soccer in Ohio.

In the early part of this decade, Megan O'Connor of Brookside High School played two seasons for the Cardinals (2011-12) under Coach Zoran Cancar. She set the girls school record for goals in a season (32) and career goals (54). O'Connor was named 1st team all-district, all county, and all conference.

## The Boys who excelled at the game:

Turning back the clock and spotlighting the past stand-out boys players in the annals of local high school soccer finds us sixteen years ago, when Brian Scheall played soccer at Elyria Catholic High School and later at the University of Akron. During his play-

ing days for the Panthers in 2001, Scheall scored 8 goals in one game against Keystone. About the same time Scheall played, across town at Elyria High, Dasan Robinson (2002) laced up his soccer spikes for the Pioneers and dazzled fans with his scoring prowess. He went on to play D1 college soccer at the University of Dayton, and professionally in 2006 with the MLS Chicago Fire.

The Middies, known for their football in recent years, have had their share of really good boys soccer players, too. Between 1997-2001 Corey Wilson and James Igneczi (Iggy) were lighting up the nets. During their sophomore through senior years, it is very

See **FUTBOL**, 18



# FUTBOL

From 17

likely one or both of them were involved in the goal or the assist. Their junior year, Igneczi scored all the goals and Wilson assisted on all but 6 of them. The goals that Wilson scored, 'Iggy' assisted on all but a couple. Both played in college and Igneczi became a high school coach and is currently the head coach at Midview.

Amherst High has been known among the "soccer big boys" in this part of Ohio. And you can't open the Comet's soccer scrapbook without first seeing Connor Klekota's name. Klekota wowed local fans between 2008-2011 and is the all-time leading scorer in Amherst Steele soccer history with 72 career goals. He is a former two-time Lorain County Player of the Year and SWC Player of the Year. Coach Brett Thompson said of Klekota, "He was a natural born leader who made everyone around him better and had an unbelievable passion for the game." Klekota went on to play for four years at Notre Dame where he led the Fighting Irish to a Division I national champi-



ERIKA KLEINHOLTZ

onship in the NCAA tournament. Former Comet Alex Obbey (2006-09) was named All-SWC, All-Greater Cleveland, and All-State in 2009. Obey was the first boys player in school history to be named All-Ohio. Adding a third name to the list of former Comet soccer greats is Andrew Souders. His Coach (Thompson) identified Souders as having been strong, fast, and powerful as anyone he'd

ever seen in 19 years coaching high school soccer. Souders led the team to its first-ever SWC championship in 2011. Will the next generation of Lorain County High School Soccer players see the likes of such players again?

Lorain Catholic High School has been closed for many years and is remembered mostly for its boys basketball success but it's important to our story to remember that the Spartans Boys' soccer program too was dominant. So much so

that it amassed 208 wins between 1986 and 2003 which still ranks as the OHSAA's 36th best all-time in total school wins. While on the subject of good teams, here's a tidbit for your scrapbook- the Vermilion Boys soccer team once scored 22 goals in a single game against Brookside back in 2004.

Former players who think back most likely have vivid memories of the moist, green grass at the start of the fall sports season, the freshly mowed clippings or artificial turf grass blades glistening on pristine fields awaiting the coming onslaught; the hordes of cleated athletes. Many soccer players can still feel the comfort of the soft long September grass (or black rubber beads in artificial turf) as it cushions falls while staining their arms and legs. My hope for readers is to always remember the exceptional efforts Lorain County High School soccer which has produced legends of the game. Those who played high school futbol didn't know it then, but they were a part of memories we cherish now. Special thanks to all of the coaches in the Lorain County School Soccer Coaches Association who were kind enough to respond and provide me with the much of the information needed for this article.



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Connor Klekota battles with a Avon goalkeeper for the ball.





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# The Lorain County Coaching Carousel

**By: Tim Gebhardt**

It's going to be an interesting fall in Lorain County with all the coaching changes.

Eight schools have changed coaches for the upcoming season. Two of the changes were the direct result of head coaches moving from one county school to another.

First off, Mike Passerello will take over at Amherst after a very successful stint at Firelands. It makes sense, seeing that Passerello is a teacher in the Amherst district. Passerello took over for the Falcons three weeks into the 2010 season and finished 1-7 the rest of the way but he quickly turned Firelands' fortunes around. Prior to his taking over, the Falcons had just two winning seasons in 21 years but under Passerello, Firelands was 10-0 during the regular season in his first full year in 2011 and qualified for the Division III playoffs for the first time in school history. The Falcons were 30-26 in Passerello's six full seasons, including another playoff appearance in 2015. He'll have a huge challenge awaiting him with the Comets, who have not had a winning season since 2010. Passerello was an assistant at Amherst from 2002-06.

"Better for my family," said Passerello of being able to coach and teach at the same school. "Nice to be in school district. We're excited for the challenge. The players and coaches are getting used to each other. "We'll utilize the resources that are here. The field house, the stadium, the weight room in the school are all very good. Our goal is to change the culture and get back to what football was like a few years ago here at Amherst. The kids are

hungry to get that going."

Passerello is very aware of the SWC and the week-to-week competition it brings starting the second week of the season.

"It'll be a grind," he said, "but we're definitely looking forward to that challenge."

Former Avon quarterback Ryan O'Rourke gets his first head coaching gig replacing Passerello at Firelands. O'Rourke was the offensive coordinator at Baldwin-Wallace, his alma mater. In his senior year at Avon, O'Rourke led the Eagles to a 12-1 record, losing to Sunbury Big Walnut in the playoffs. He was the county's Golden Helmet winner. At B-W, O'Rourke started for three years, throwing for over 4,800 yards and 46 touchdowns.

"It's a big honor," said O'Rourke. "I'll take what I've learned at Avon and Baldwin Wallace. I'll take the positives and some of the negatives I've

learned from the past. The kids have a good work ethic. That's been built here. We want to throw some challenges at the kids to make them better."

At Elyria, it's a homecoming of sorts for former Wellington coach Sean Arno. Arno was the freshman coach for the Pioneers for six years back in 1998-2004. Arno was 10-20 with the Dukes but the team improved each year – finishing 5-5 last fall. He takes over from veteran Kevin Fell. Fell, in six years at Elyria, took the Pioneers to three playoffs and was 36-27. Elyria was 3-7 a year ago.

"I'm pretty happy with where we are right now," Arno said. "I'll be moving to Elyria and immersing myself in the community. I've been involved with the junior highs. There's so much rich and proud tradition here at Elyria. I'm excited about my role here. There are a lot of athletes

here at Elyria – not only football – that could get scholarships to go on from here. They have to recognize how important grades are going forward."

Wellington has hired one of Arno's assistants to take over the Dukes. Roy Moore, a veteran of many seasons of football experience. In addition to assisting at Wellington, Moore spent eleven years at Midpark and was the defensive coordinator for the Meteors starting in 1980. He also spent time at Baldwin Wallace where he was the linebackers' coach from 1986 through 2013.

"Fun and exciting and ready," said Moore. "We turned the corner last year. We have to build off that. Come August, we hope to get it going. I'm looking forward to working with a great group of kids."

Avon Lake's Dave Dlugosz has



Amherst's Mike Passerello.



# COACHING

From 20

retired “again” and this time is turning the reigns of the storied Shoremen program to one of their own – Matt Kostelnik. Dlugosz has been grooming Kostelnik for the job ever since he was pressed back into the head coaching position in 2013. Dlugosz retired following the 2012 season – turning the job over to Larry Laird, his offensive coordinator, but that lasted just one season when Laird bolted for Strongsville. In fact, this year, Laird has moved back to take over Medina, a school he originally coached.

Dlugosz has been working closely with Kostelnik, a 2004 Avon Lake grad who played a prominent role on the state championship team his senior year. Kostelnik continued his football career at Mount Union, where he was an assistant coach. He’s also had stints with Notre Dame College and Beachwood High before returning to his alma mater under Dlugosz in 2015.

“I’m excited,” said Kostelnik. “Coach Dlugosz set me up to be successful. The goal is to keep building. Coach Dlugosz let me take over the play-calling last year. I was fortunate enough to play and coach under some great people.

“In the SWC, you have to be ready to play every week. We’ll be ready to play. I just want to keep the tradition that Coach Dlugosz got going. I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

The revolving door at Oberlin turned to former Admiral King



Wellington's Roy Moore.

and Brookside Coach Mike Akers. The Phoenix have had four coaches in the past three years but Akers is planning to end that trend.

“We’ve hired some young guys,” said Akers. “I’ve been a head coach before and I’m not looking to move on. I like the idea of coaching at a smaller school. When this opportunity came up, I wanted to do it. I’m taking (assistants) Gary (Huff) and Tom (Hicks) with me. You can’t do this by yourself. You need a staff to get things done.”

Akers was on Dave McFarland’s staff at Lorain and knows from McFarland’s past experience at Oberlin that success can be accomplished.

“I was surprised,” said Akers. “We have some big kids. They’re not all 160-pounders. We’ll have some size on the lines. We want the kids to have fun playing. It’s important to have fun and want to play.”

Another school wanting to turn things around is Vermilion. The Sailors will be led by Matt



Fireland's Ryan O'Rourke.

Kobal, a 1998 graduate. Kobal was Vermilion’s offensive coordinator last year and already had the opportunity to be the head coach of one of the All-Star teams for the annual senior All-Star game at Clearview. Kobal was a member of the 1998 Mount Union National Championship team. He graduated in 2002.

“Biggest thing I’ve been working on is building the program,” Kobal said. “We want to get started with the youth programs. We want to build the love for the game. My senior year at Vermilion was the last time we made the playoffs. We want to get back to those days.

“We’ve only had a couple winning seasons since then. I’ve borrowed some things from Ralph (Mayer) like practicing under the lights on Thursday nights to get ready for Fridays. I’m ready for the opportunity.”

Kobal played for Mayer at Vermilion and Larry Kehres at Mount Union.

Keystone’s Rob Clarico retired



Elyria's Sean Arno.

after a successful stint with the Wildcats with long-time assistant Don Griswold taking over. Griswold graduated from Keystone in 1995. While attending Cleveland State, Griswold was an assistant coach for the Wildcats. He spent three years in Arizona coaching and teaching but returned to the area six years ago. He was Keystone’s athletic director for a while and was close friends and an assistant for Clarico. Griswold expects the transition to be a smooth one.

“I don’t really feel like I’m a rookie coach,” he said. “Rob was a good friend of mine and his dad – Don Clarico – was like a mentor to me. I’m proud of what we’ve done here at Keystone as a staff. I’ve been here 12 out of the past 15 years. It should be a seamless transition. We’ll hit the ground running. Rob’s taking a well-deserved break from coaching.

There you have it. Eight new coaches with a ton of optimism and a variety of past experience. Should be a fun season in Lorain County.



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# 2017 Ohio State University Football Preview



The Ohio State University football team.

**By: Rob Polinsky**

Urban Meyer's sixth season in Columbus will begin with a couple of oddities. The Buckeyes' 128th year of college football opens up on Thursday August 31st in Bloomington Indiana vs. the Indiana Hoosiers. Very strange that the Bucks begin with a conference game on a weeknight on the road. The game will serve as a homecoming for new OSU offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson, who served as Indiana's head coach the last six years from 2011 – 2016. Meyer's career in Columbus is 61-

6, including 11-2 a year ago and a season ending 31-0 loss to eventual national champion Clemson on New Year's Day in the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale Arizona. After the season opener, OSU returns to the Horseshoe for three straight non-conference tilts vs. Oklahoma, Army, and UNLV.

OSU returns 48 letter winners from 2016, 20 on offense, 26 on defense and two on special teams. They lost 26 letter winners from last year, 10 on offense, 13 on defense and three special teamers. They return 15 starters, eight on

the offensive side of the ball and seven on defense. Heading into fall camp, the eight offensive starters are quarterback J.T. Barrett, linemen Billy Price, Jamarco Jones, Michael Jordan, Isaiah Prince, tight end Marcus Baugh, running back Mike Weber, and wide receiver Paris Campbell. On defense, they are linemen Tyquan Lewis, Michael Hill, Dre'Mont Jones, Sam Hubbard, line backers Chris Worley, Jerome Baker, and safety Damon Webb. Of the 48 returning letter winners, 16 are seniors and 24 are juniors.

There is an old football adage that games are won and lost up front in the trenches along the lines. If that is the case, OSU is in good shape this season because they return all four starters on the defensive line and four out of five starters on the offensive line. Defensive end Tyquan Lewis was the Big Ten's Defensive Lineman of the Year. Elyria's Tracy Sprinkle hopes to bounce back after suffering a season ending injury in week one a year ago. Offensive lineman

See **OSU**, 23

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# OSU

From 22

Billy Price is the veteran of that group with 41 consecutive starts including every game the past three years.

By position, the biggest question marks look to be at wide receiver and in the defensive secondary. The top two receivers from a year ago are gone and three of the four starting defensive backs from 2016 are not returning. The top returning receivers by number of catches in 2016 are K.J. Hill (18), Parris Campbell (13), and Terry McLaurin (11). Damon Webb, who started every game a year ago, is the only returning defensive back. Looking at the linebacker spot two starters return, Chris Worley and Jerome Baker. Replacing two time leading tackler Raekwon McMillan at middle line backer could be this group's biggest challenge.

At quarterback, fifth year senior J.T. Barrett brings a career 26-4 record to the position. Joe Burrow looks to be his backup.

At running back, Mike Weber



**Demario McCall**

and North Ridgeville's Demario McCall are back. A year ago, McCall, who was Weber's backup, had 49 carries for 270 and three touchdowns.

Starting tight ends Marcus Baugh and A.J. Alexander will return to their roles when the Bucks go with a two tight end set.

OSU was very young last year and they gained a lot of experience, which should help this year.

If they beat Oklahoma in the home opener they could very well be undefeated heading into a showdown with Penn State on October 28th in Columbus. The month of November starts with a visit to Kinnick Stadium for a Big Ten match-up with Iowa, and the season ends November 25th against Michigan in the Big House.

For the first time in recent



**Urban Meyer**

memory three Buckeyes from Lorain County will look to make an impact on the Ohio State roster, Elyria's Tracy Sprinkle, North Ridgeville's Demario McCall, and Lorian's Rashod Berry.

Paul Keels, Jim Lachey, Matt Andrews, and Skip Mosaic return as the radio broadcast crew for the 2017 season. Once again AM930 WEOL is proud to air Ohio State football. We are your home for the Buckeyes in Lorain, Medina, and Western Cuyahoga Counties. All broadcasts start ninety minutes prior to kickoff with our pregame coverage.

	August 31 @ Indiana		OCTOBER 14 @ Nebraska
	September 9 Oklahoma		October 29 Penn State
	September 16 Army		NOVEMBER 4 @ Iowa
	September 23 UNLV		NOVEMBER 11 Michigan State
	September 30 @ Rutgers		NOVEMBER 18 Illinois
	OCTOBER 7 Maryland		NOVEMBER 26 @ MICHIGAN

## OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

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# Football Season!

*\*This Article is paid for by Communities That Care of Lorain County\**

From Amherst to Wellington, from the sweat dripping two-a-days to the cold November Friday nights, high school football is a Lorain County institution. Football is not only woven into the fabric of the fans, but sports also promote strength and resiliency for the players, families and the community itself.

Something else that unfortunately often goes hand in hand with sports is alcohol and other drugs. It is important that, as communities, we recognize the dangers of alcohol and other drug use for our youth, the conflicting messages we sometimes send about substance use, and the things we can do as parents and concerned citizens to reduce teen substance use.

Communities That Care of Lorain County surveyed 2,231 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students from 13 public school districts in Lorain County. The good news is that most students report not using alcohol and that, overall, drug use is down. However, 10th graders are more likely to have used alcohol and marijuana than their younger respondents. We also know that the perception

## Communities That Care



### of Lorain County

that these substances are risky is low. Only 70% of 10th graders believe that alcohol use is risky, and only 50% of 10th graders view marijuana use as a risky choice.

Scientists have found that young brains continue to develop into a person's 20's. Adding substances to these developing brains and bodies impacts youth success on and off the field. The National Institute on Drug Abuse shares that each year, an estimated 5,000 people under the age of 21 die from injuries caused by underage drinking. Studies have shown that regular heavy marijuana use



LINDA MURPHY / CHRONICLE

Fans having fun without alcohol.

by teens can lead to an IQ drop of up to 8 points. Teens who use marijuana heavily are also less likely to graduate from high school or college and are less likely to enroll in college. For their future, they tend to have lower satisfaction with life, are more likely to earn a lower income and are more likely to be unemployed.

We all want our youth to avoid underage drinking and use of other drugs. We need to consider, however, the messages our adult behavior can send sometimes.

■ How do we show our excitement for the game? Do we have a few drinks?

■ How do we celebrate a win or console ourselves after a loss? Is there partying or drug use involved?

■ Who do we accept as sponsors for our teams? Are there logos representing alcohol or establishments that sell primarily alcohol?

Even when we are telling our youth to stay away from substances, we may be sending them the message that it's ok and normal to connect sports with alcohol

and drug use.

Parents and community members can have an impact on keeping football a healthy sport for our youth!

■ Set an example. Show others that the game can be enjoyed without the use of alcohol.

■ Talk to your kids about substance use, the risks and your expectations. There are several items available to help you start this conversation. See [www.lorainadas.org](http://www.lorainadas.org) for talk guides to start this conversation.

■ Do not host a party where alcohol will be available to minors.

Parents can be held liable for underage consumption in their home. Several local communities have strengthened their social host ordinances to further deter hosting of youth parties involving alcohol. As the signs say: **Parents Who Host Lose the Most!**

■ If your child suffers a sports related injury, have a frank conversation with his/her physician about pain relief. Unfortunately, youth have become addicted to prescription pain medication following injuries. Discuss non-narcotic options with the doctor. If opioid medication is deemed necessary, monitor the medication and transition to over the counter pain relievers as soon as appropriate. Dispose of all unused medications in your local police department's medication drop box.

It's an exciting time of year for all of us. We can all play a part in reducing teen substance use.



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

Elyria Football practice.



# WEOL Broadcast Team

## The Favorite Game



Tim Alcorn

My all-time favorite football game took place on January 20, 1991, when the Buffalo Bills crushed the LA Raiders 51-3 in the AFC Championship Game to earn their first ever Super Bowl appearance.

I attended the game at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park, but watched it on television. I had received a media credential, but was not in the press box or stands, as I joined a contingent of media who watched the game on TV in a meeting room in the stadium. I was lucky to sit next to San Diego Charger and NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Fouts the entire game and talk with him about the Bills' high powered offense. As the game wound down, we were escorted out of the meeting room to make our way to the locker room areas and I can still hear the huge roar of the Bills' crowd as the clock ticked away the final few seconds. I made a beeline for the Bills' locker room and did several interviews etc. including a chat with the late Ralph Wilson who owned the team. For this unabashed Bills fan, it was the thrill of a lifetime. The game itself was a complete blowout, but the moments and memories are incredibly special.

I have been blessed to be a part of or in attendance at many memorable games. At the top of the list for me is Cuyahoga Heights' recent run to the State Championship game. Down 21-3 to perennial state finalist Maria Stein, the Redskins mounted a second half comeback only to end the game inside Maria Stein territory as time ran out and behind 21-17. The way a State Title run brings a community together is a tremendous happening.

Runners-up: In attendance for the 2002 Ohio State - Michigan game, when Will Allen's interception sealed the victory and "The Drive" game in 1987. Sitting in the upper deck behind the left goal post, I will go to my grave believing the Rich Karlis' field goal in overtime did not go through the uprights.



Tom Evans



Rob Polinsky

My all time favorite football game was back on November 14th 1987, Notre Dame 37 Alabama 6. The score of the game wasn't significant. It is my favorite game because it was the only time that I went to a Notre Dame game with my grandfather. He was a huge Notre Dame fan and he is the reason I am a Notre Dame fan. I grew up watching Irish games on TV with him for years, but the only time I got to go to a game with just him was that day. Traveling to and from South Bend, Grandpa told me a lot of stories about growing up and why he was a Notre Dame fan. He passed away two years later. Not only was this my favorite football game, it also was a great memory that I have with him on that day.

My favorite football game is actually a good Browns memory—the 1989 Divisional Playoff vs the Buffalo Bills. Ronnie Harmon of Buffalo dropped a pass in the end zone with :09 left on the clock. Clay Mathews made the game saving interception on the next play right in front of the end zone where my family and I were sitting. The Dawg Pound went wild!



Adam Cahill



Craig Couch

Wow that's a tough one! As a Midview alum you can pick almost any of their battles with Avon over the last several years, but the one that stands out the most for me was the 2014 DII regional semifinal overtime thriller that saw the Middies come away victorious 42-36. The last four minutes of that game will be remembered for many, many years to come still!

November 2nd, 2002. I attended the Akron Zips - Marshall game, played at the Rubber Bowl on a cold dreary November night. Marshall entered 6-1 overall and #25 in the polls, while Akron was a lowly 1-7. The Zips WON 34-20 (led 24-10 at halftime)—what a game! I took my oldest daughter, age fifteen at the time, to her first NCAA football game that night, and we had seats on the 50 yard line to witness what I feel is the biggest win in Zips history. Zips QB, Charlie Fry, came of age that game; throwing for one touchdown and running for another. Thundering Herd All-American QB, Byron Leftwich, got knocked out of the game in the first quarter with a broken leg as the Zips defense really beat him up. BUT- Leftwich, wanting to rally his team from a 34-17 deficit, returned early in the fourth quarter unable to even walk! After each play he was carried by 2-3 offensive linemen to the line of scrimmage to snap the ball each play.



"Z" Zoltai



Brendan Gulick

While I am proud to be the voice of Baldwin Wallace University Athletics, my favorite football game came last fall courtesy of my alma mater - for the first time since 1989, John Carroll beat Mount Union, 31-28 on November 12, 2017. Even though the Ohio Athletic Conference doesn't have a championship game, the two teams met on the final day of the regular season with the OAC crown on the line. The victory completed John Carroll's clean sweep of the OAC, securing their first conference championship since 1994. I happened to be broadcasting the Baldwin Wallace vs. Ohio Northern game when the game in Alliance became final. Even though Baldwin Wallace and Ohio Northern consider John Carroll to be a football rival, I will never forget the overwhelming cheers from both fan bases when the public address announcer informed everyone that Mount Union had been defeated. Prior to that contest, the often top-ranked team in NCAA DIII football hadn't lost a regular season game to a conference opponent since Ohio Northern beat them in 2005. John Carroll went on to the National Semi-finals before ending their season, but the win against Mount Union sparked a magical playoff run that included a double-overtime win at home against Wesley College in the second round and a dominating win at newly top-ranked Wisconsin-Whitewater one week later. The game also changed the perception of John Carroll's program on a national stage. It was a proud day for John Carroll and one I will never forget!



# Favorite Game

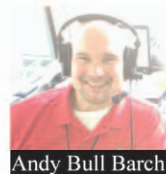


Chad Meyer

It was a heartbreaking loss, but it was one of the greatest games I ever played in. I was a wide receiver for Ashland University. We were playing Grand Valley State, who was a Division II powerhouse at the time. I never wanted to beat a team so bad in my life. This was my senior year so this was my last chance to do it.

We were down 34-6 at the half, and came out in the second more motivated than ever. I ended up having the best game of my LIFE with 14 catches for 210 yards and three touchdowns. Our defense shut them out in the second half. This was a GVSU team that had won something like 55 of 58 games over the previous four or five years, and here we were with the comeback of the century! I scored my third TD with :35 to go in the fourth to make it 34-33 GVSU. All our kicker had to do was kick the extra point and he banked it off of the upright and fell at the goal line. A heartbreaker yes, but one of the greatest games I was ever a part of.

My favorite football game is the Ice Bowl between the Packers and the Dallas Cowboys, which was the NFL Championship game on December 31, 1967. While I wasn't alive to see it, it's one of the reasons I've remained a Packers fan over all these years. I've always admired players of that era, enduring the elements and playing in adverse conditions. Hearing the stories from all of the old timers who played in this game has always been a treat to me. The Packers of course won, 21-17, on Bart Starr's quarterback sneak as time expired. The game time temperature at Lambeau Field was -15, with a -40 wind chill factor.



Andy Bull Barch



Matt Loede

My all-time favorite game would have to be Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa back in February of 2009, a game that I was honored to be working and was able to attend. It's not every day that you have the chance to see your favorite team win a title, and the way the game was back and forth for the final six minutes with the Steelers pulling out a crazy 27-23 win is a memory in my years covering games I will never forget. Being at a Super Bowl is truly a great honor, and it is even better seeing the team I've always rooted for bring home their sixth title.

I'll start this out by letting you know I grew up in Northern Indiana. On one fall Saturday, a friend of mine called me early in the morning to tell me he had a couple of extra tickets to the Notre Dame vs Connecticut game that day if I wanted them. I did. While neither side was power house that year, it was a good back in forth game that Connecticut would end up winning in the second overtime. What stuck out most about that game was that it was the first win by the Huskies that year after they had lost their cornerback Jasper Howard. He had been stabbed to death after a homecoming event on the school's campus.

I was sitting in the end zone where Connecticut had scored the winning touchdown. Watching the team carry out Howard's old jersey and celebrated the win is one of those moments that stays with you.



Matt Douglass



Michael Keefe

My all-time favorite football game occurred the day after Thanksgiving in 2007 at Kyle Field in College Station, Texas. I was in my first year of graduate school at Texas A&M and it was my first and only taste of the Lone Star Showdown between the Aggies and the Texas Longhorns. The now-defunct Texas A&M - Texas rivalry is still the third oldest football rivalry in the NCAA, and I had never experienced an atmosphere like Kyle Field with 88,000 people packed into it. The Aggies were a pretty average team that year, and Texas came into the game ranked tenth in the nation. Led by Colt McCoy and Jamal Charles, the Longhorns should have totally dominated the Aggies, who were led by Stephen McGee, but the Aggies led from wire to wire. It was one of those games that saw the Longhorns scratch and claw and continuously cut it to a one-score lead, but the Aggies always answered.

A&M won 38-30. It was the perfect balance of comfort and nerves. When the game was over, and the crowd was in the middle of the Aggie War Hymn, you could feel the stadium moving with the fans. It was the most incredible football experience I have ever had and it was one of many reasons I will always be a loud, proud Aggie managed to get into the postseason. That was the best part, after such an amazing game on both sides, they certainly both deserved to move on, and move on they did!

It's a little challenging to do the best football moment.

Was it when I was 17 and a senior playing for Admiral King? I was fortunate enough to recover a fumble on the 11 yard line against Elyria. We scored a couple of plays later and ended Elyria's 13 game winning streak during their undefeated '79 season.

Was it when I was coaching the last freshman football team at South Amherst? The boys had been practicing every week including two a days, and every week we promised them a game. Five weeks they practiced but hadn't played a game for various reasons.

Week 6 we finally played. We were beating a middle school freshman team from Westlake 8-6 with time winding down. We got a first down with less than a minute left. Our tailback, Chad Maley, called a time out. As he came to the sidelines I looked at him quizzically ...Why? Now remember this kid and his teammates had gone through about eight weeks of practicing against the varsity. He looked through his helmet at me and said "Coach ... We can score again!" I responded by telling Chad we had this one. We ran out the clock.

The final South Amherst freshman football team finished undefeated at 1-0.

Chad passed away from cancer several years later in his early 20s after a great career at Firelands .



Gary Pelter



Rob Clarico

My favorite all time football game was the 1986 Browns-Jets double overtime playoff game at Browns stadium. I was a freshman at Miami University home on break. A bunch of my high school friends and I got tickets in the bleachers. It was a great time to be a Browns fan. Bernie Kosar was 23 years old and was clearly a franchise QB. We were going to be good for the next 10 years at least!

The Browns trailed by 10 with only four minutes left to play. Kevin Mack scored a TD late in the game and the Browns got the ball back with less than a minute left. They drove and Kosar hit wide receiver Webster Slaughter to set up a game-tying field goal by Mark Mosley with just seven seconds left in regulation. What a tremendous comeback! It was a city-wide party.

What I miss about those times is no matter what, EVERYONE believed we were going to find a way to win. There is no way we should have been able to win that game against the Jets, but the stadium believed Bernie would find a way. Thirty one years later I hope to have that feeling again.



# Cleveland Browns 2017 season preview

By: Andy "Bull" Barch

Hope is all Browns fans really have to hang on to these days, as they will enter yet another season where they "hope" that things will get better. After yet another season that was difficult to stomach, where the Browns went 1-15, one must wonder, can it get any worse? Well, mathematically, yes, it could indeed get worse.

However, what is different about the Browns this year, as opposed to last year, is that they went out and made some moves in free agency that should really give them a boost in a few areas where they REALLY needed it.

Examine Exhibit A: The offensive line. Besides Joe Thomas, there has been no stability whatsoever to speak of with this unit dating back to the late 90's. This year, the Browns added a couple of key pieces to this unit, that aren't exactly household names, but on the offensive line, that is not a bad thing. Joining 10-year veteran left tackle Joe Thomas on the offensive line are center JC Tretter, and guard Kevin Zeitler.

Tretter comes to the Browns after spending the last four seasons with the Green Bay Packers, serving as the starting center for Aaron Rodgers for parts of his last two seasons with the Packers. While Tretter has proven to be an effective center and certainly provides an upgrade at the position, his durability is a major concern, as he missed nine weeks of the regular season last year, and missed half the season in 2014 as well due to injury.

Zeitler joined the Browns as a free agent and comes to Cleveland after a successful five year run with the Cincinnati Bengals.



Jamie Collins

The Browns made the former first round pick the highest paid guard in the NFL this past spring, with hopes that he'll provide some stability up front, on a unit that had little to none a year ago. Zeitler, a 6-foot 4-inch 315-pound guard from Wisconsin, has not only been effective over the course of his career, but he's been very dependable. The 27-year old guard has started all 16 games in three of his first five years, and he's played in no fewer than 12 games in every one of his first five years in the NFL as well.

Those were arguably the two biggest free agent additions to the Browns on that side of the ball. While they did add veteran wide receiver Kenny Britt, they also lost their most productive receiver from a year ago, in former Ohio

State quarterback Terrell Pryor. The Browns are hopeful that their first pick in the 2016 draft, Corey Coleman, will turn in a much better sophomore campaign, to improve on an injury riddled rookie season in Cleveland where he was limited to just 10 games.

When talking about the Browns, the ever changing quarterback carousel cannot be ignored. Cody Kessler is the only candidate in what appears to be a three horse race who returns from last year's team. Brock Osweiler, the 6-foot 7-inch signal caller joins the Browns via a trade from the Houston Texans, but the most intriguing option in this mix is this year's second round pick, DeShon Kizer from Notre Dame. Kizer, who has all of the physical tools that you want in a quarter-

back, is far from a finished product, and one would think that he's at least a year or two away from becoming what the Browns have been longing for at the position. However, with the lack of stability at that position over the years, the Browns may have no choice but to start Kizer at some point in the 2017 season.

Perhaps the biggest improvements in this off season were made to the Cleveland Browns' defensive unit, which surrendered 392.4 yards per game, second most in the NFL a season ago, and they allowed 28.2 points per game, third worst in the league as well.

The Browns made a change at the top, bringing in veteran defensive coordinator Greg

See **BROWNS**, 28



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# BROWNS

From 27

Williams to replace Ray Horton. Williams has a bit of a controversial past, but he has a successful track record as well. He was given some immediate assistance, as the Browns used the first overall pick in the NFL Draft on Texas A&M Defensive End, Myles Garrett. Garrett is expected to make an immediate impact, and improve a Cleveland Browns pass rushing unit that produced only 26 sacks a season ago. They also used a first round pick on Jabrill Peppers out of Michigan, who did a little bit of everything in college, but will be asked to play a lot of safety in Williams's system.

They also went out and traded for safety Calvin Pryor, a former first round pick. Pryor will be asked to step in and contribute immediately in a secondary that suffered some injuries last year, and struggled mightily because of that. The Browns are hopeful that with the addition of Pryor, Pep-

pers, and a healthy Joe Haden, the secondary can improve on a dismal 2016, where they surrendered 249.8 yards per game through the air a year ago, and 36 passing touchdowns, which were the most in the league.

Pryor, 24, was selected 18th overall by the New York Jets in the 2014 NFL Draft. Over the last three seasons, he started 38 of 44 games, and made 15 starts a season ago. Through the first three years of his young career, the Free Safety has registered 191 tackles, defended 14 passes and come away with a pair of interceptions.

The Browns were also able to sign linebacker Jamie Collins to an extension for four years and \$50 million, after performing well with the Browns in the second half of last season. Collins came to the Browns in a trade with the New England Patriots, one year after he made the Pro Bowl. Last year, Collins registered 112 tackles and three sacks while coming away with a pair of interceptions in his time with the Browns and

Patriots combined. Both Collins and Haden will be relied upon heavily to lead a very young defense that appears to have a lot of potential.

While the NFL is designed to keep teams from dwelling in the cellar from year to year, the Browns have been stuck there for quite some time. At some point, you just can't help but think the fortunes are going to change. They have to at some point, right?

Head Coach Hue Jackson has said a lot of the right things, he's the kind of guy you want to see succeed, and one that the players seem to enjoy playing for, but last year had to be incredibly frustrating for him to be a part of. The reality is, the Browns are going to have to win at least five, maybe six games if Coach Jackson is going to be around to see round



**Kevin Zeitler**

three. If he survives that long, he would be the first Browns coach since Romeo Crennel (2005-08) to last more than two seasons.

For Browns fans, that's a very tough pill to swallow, because they'll have to hang their hat on improvement, and another losing season. They've been told to trust the process, but the process they've been told to trust has failed them for the last two decades. Could this one be different?

## CLEVELAND BROWNS 2017 SEASON SCHEDULE

### PRESEASON

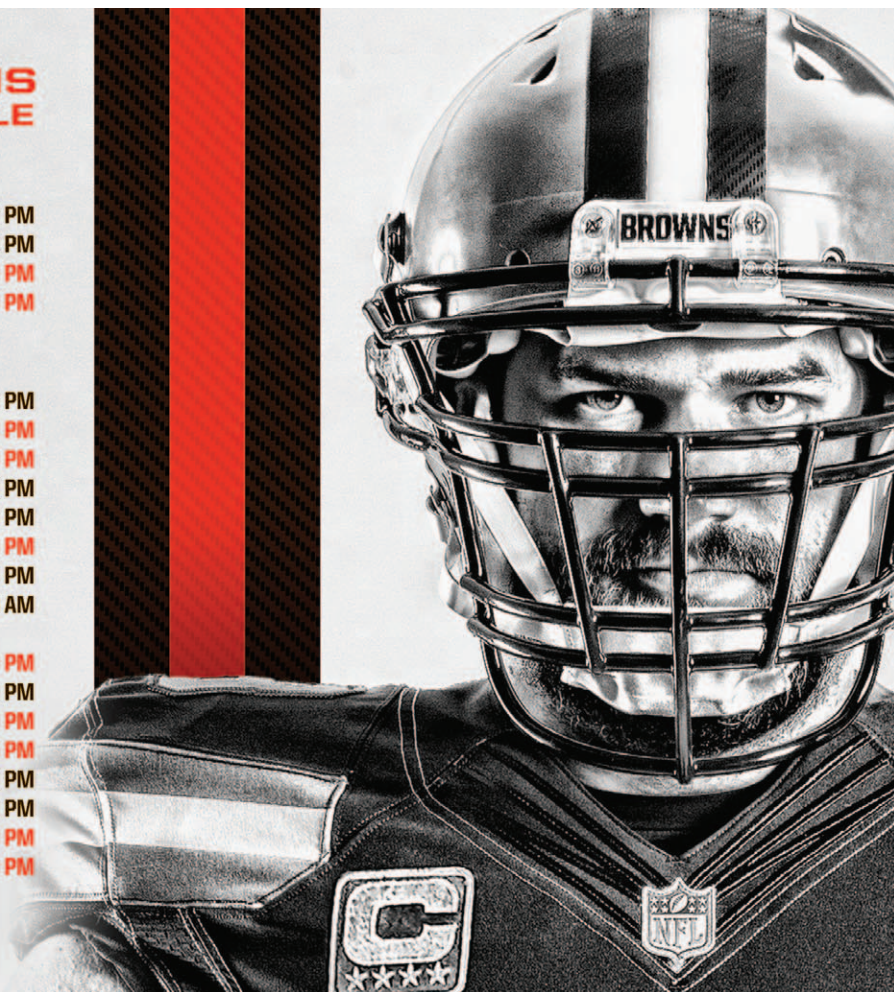
AUG 10	vs NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	8:00 PM
AUG 21	vs NEW YORK GIANTS	8:00 PM
AUG 26	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	7:30 PM
AUG 31	at Chicago Bears	8:00 PM

### REGULAR SEASON

SEP 10	vs PITTSBURGH STEELERS	1:00 PM
SEP 17	at Baltimore Ravens	1:00 PM
SEP 24	at Indianapolis Colts	1:00 PM
OCT 01	vs CINCINNATI BENGALS	1:00 PM
OCT 08	vs NEW YORK JETS	1:00 PM
OCT 15	at Houston Texans	1:00 PM
OCT 22	vs TENNESSEE TITANS	1:00 PM
OCT 29	vs MINNESOTA VIKINGS (LONDON)	9:30 AM
NOV 05	BYE WEEK	
NOV 12	at Detroit Lions	1:00 PM
NOV 19	vs JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	1:00 PM
NOV 26	at Cincinnati Bengals	1:00 PM
DEC 03	at Los Angeles Chargers	4:05 PM
DEC 10	vs GREEN BAY PACKERS	1:00 PM
DEC 17	vs BALTIMORE RAVENS	1:00 PM
DEC 24	at Chicago Bears	1:00 PM
DEC 31	at Pittsburgh Steelers	1:00 PM

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