



# Medina County FOOTBALL

Volume 6  
Fall 2019

## Highland Hornets Jake Rogers

2018 Medina County  
Gazette MVP

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## WEOL FORECAST MAGAZINE FALL 2019 PREVIEW

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Volume 6

Station Manager  
Tim Alcorn

Editor  
Matt Douglass

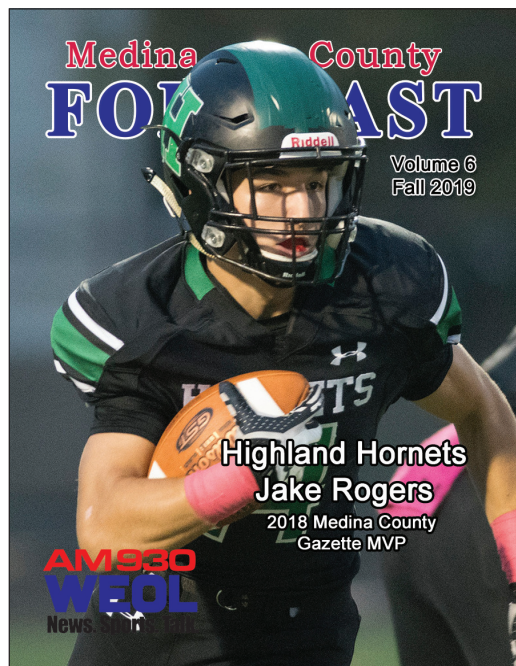
Feature Editors  
Brad Bournival  
Rob Polinsky  
Andy "Bull" Barch

Publisher  
Source3Media

## About the Cover:

2018 Medina Gazette MVP Jake Rogers was the backbone of a young Highland Hornets team, that posted a seven game winning streak in 2018 and came up just shy of a postseason berth. On the field the Bowling Green State Recruit did just about everything posting 193 carries for 1,391 yards and 18 touchdowns, and pulling in 19 catches for 353 yards and six touch downs. On special teams, he was just a deadly returning seven kick-offs for 189 yards and a touchdown, and 11 punts for 257 yards and three touchdowns. The combined statistic led Rogers to a school record 28 touchdowns and 170 points.

This season, the former Highland Hornet will move over to wide receiver as he continues his playing career as a member of the Falcons.





## Welcome to another edition of FORECAST!

It's true...I can't believe it's time to write another 'welcome letter' for the Fall FORECAST! It seems like only yesterday we had a chilly wet spring followed by an extremely hot mid-July.

Yet here we are, ready to enjoy another season, mostly under the lights, of high school, collegiate and professional football.

Once again this year, WEOL will bring you 3 high school games every Friday night...one on the radio and all three on your free WEOL mobile app or at [www.weol.com](http://www.weol.com). The bottom line; you can listen anywhere, and you have three games from which to choose!

This year also brings a new era...the Ryan Day era...of Ohio State University football on WEOL.

And of course, the Cleveland Browns will try to build on last year's end-of-season momentum. For some, it's still difficult to grasp the Browns have All-Pro wide receiver Odell Beckham, Jr. on their roster!

We hope this edition of FORECAST will help you enjoy the 2019 campaign...with features and schedules that you can revisit all season long.

WEOL is proud to cover and support our local high school teams. We thank our great sponsors who make these games and this magazine possible. And as always, we appreciate the assistance of high school athletic directors, coaches and staff who help us with our expansive broadcast schedule!

See you under the lights!

*Craig R. Adams*  
Operations Manager/News Director  
WEOL AM 930 - 100.3 FM

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# High School Football Line-Up

## The Forecast Show

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



## & Tri-C Medina County Match-Up

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

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

## THE SCOREBOARD SHOW

When the final horn sounds around 10pm on Friday we will 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.





# 2019 Medina County High School Football Preview

By Brad Bournival

The Patriot Athletic Conference is dead, pushing Buckeye to the Great Lakes Conference.

The 10-time Stars Division champs in football join Bay, Elyria Catholic, Holy Name, Normandy, Parma, Rocky River and Valley Forge. Longtime rival Black River will be in the Lorain County League with Brookside, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Oberlin and Wellington. Looking back on 2018, it was a strong season for Medina County as Buckeye won its first playoff game in school history. Wadsworth won its first 12 games before falling in the Division II, Region 7 final to eventual state runner-up Massillon. Highland had a strong 8-2 season behind Gazette MVP Jake Rogers, but missed the playoffs while Cloverleaf was much improved at 5-5.

Here's a look at the seven area teams:

**Black River (6-4, 3-2, 3rd in PAC Stars)**

Spencer Constable and his 864 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns are gone, but the Pirates have Caleb Simonson (892, 15) to fill that void. It's the Young factor that Black River needs to replace with Mitchell Young graduated and former coach Al Young announcing his retirement. That's



Medina Gazette

Medina team celebrates in the endzone.

a big spot for Simonson (RB/OLB, 6-foot-1, 190, sr.), Jimmy Barco (OL/DL, 5-11, 280, sr.) and David Krymowski (OL/DL, 6-4, 230, sr.) to fill as Al Young left with a Medina County-record 198 wins, 10 playoff appearances and three regional final appearances. The way the incoming coach and former two-time Pirates All-Ohioan Kyle Clark sees it, if it's not broke don't fix it. "The offense isn't going to change," Clark said. "We're going to stay with the principles we know and work with our kids. We still have those type of kids. It's not like we recruited a bunch of receivers and quarterbacks. "It's very tough to replace Al. It's hard to bring the energy he brought every day. His foresight was great. We're all pretty green. We're not able to predict what will happen in Week 1 or 2 where he was able to predict that a lot better."

**Brunswick (1-9, 1-6, 7th in Greater Cleveland Conference)**

Blue Devils coach Mark Pinzone knew 2018 was going to be a season of transition as he continued to fine tune Brunswick into the team he envisioned when he took over.

While the squad took its lumps a season ago, Pinzone knew it would be for the better as the team grew not only in stature, but in experience. That brings the 2019 campaign where Eddie Sevastos (OL/DL, 5-9, 220), Jake Scherett (CB/Athlete, 5-11, 180) and Tomas Rimac (OT/DE, 6-6, 280) lead the Blue Devils. Rimac already has offers from Toledo, Indiana, Iowa State and Akron and is picking up strong interest from Pitt, so don't be surprised to see him emerge as one of the leaders.

"We're definitely expecting an improvement, but more importantly our kids expect an improvement," Pinzone said. "I fully expect us to be improved because the younger kids that got

playing time are a little older. The expectation from coaching to players overall is there. We're working hard. Their attitude is top notch and they're working together as a team, which I think is extremely important."

**Buckeye (10-2, 5-0, 1st PAC Stars)**

There's a lot of offense missing for the Bucks with D-III honorable mention all-state Anthony Watkins (1,195 all-purpose yards) and Dom Monaco (829 yards rushing, 24 TDs) gone.

The big piece is back, however with 6-1, 195-pound senior Jacob Doerge back at quarterback. Doerge, who will also play safety, had 1,711 yards total offense. He threw for three touchdowns and rushed for 12 and will have Armando Nigh (RB/ILB, 6-2, 235, sr.) and Keegan Varney (OT/DT, 5-10, 285, sr.) back on a squad returning 11 starters. "Having Jacob back is big," Dennison said. "We didn't have a lot of seniors

See **FOOTBALL**, 6



Steve Manheim

Buckeye's Quarterback Jacob Doerge.



# FOOTBALL

From 5

last year so we don't have a lot of holes, but the holes we have are big. To have a quarterback back to set the offense is great. We don't have to make a lot of adjustments with him. He understands what we have to do."

**Cloverleaf (5-5, 3-4, 4th in Portage Trail Conference Metro Division)**

The Colts took a hit with D-III All-Ohio honorable mention Nate Clingan gone, but the ever-improving Colts are very optimistic. With two consecutive seasons of improvement, Cloverleaf is on track to have a solid season in the PTC. Brody Stallings (QB/S, 5-9, 185, sr.), who had 1,863 yards from scrimmage is back under center. John Manzuk (RB/OLB, 6-0, 190, sr.), who clocked a 4.5 40-yard dash this summer, is ready to improve on his 928 yards rushing and nine touchdowns and Ethan Sterling (G/OLB, 6-2, 240) is ready to lead the way up front. That has the entire program ready for big things this season with 14 returning starters. "It's huge to have that back," Cloverleaf coach Justin Vorhies said. "The thing is if we can solidify our line on both sides of the ball, we know we're going to win a lot more games

this year. We've experienced in the secondary, experienced in the skill side and have guys in place ready to take that position for our team to take that next step forward."

**Highland (8-2, 5-1, 2nd in Suburban League American Conference)**

Gazette MVP and all-world player Jake Rogers and his 1,774 yards from scrimmage and county-leading 28 touchdowns have gone on to Bowling Green. Quarterback Jack McGinty is playing at Gannon. That doesn't mean the Hornets are ready to slip into the realm of mediocrity.

Honorable mention All-Ohioan Bryce Proffitt (QB/DB, 6-3, 180, sr.) is ready to take over for McGinty, while Brady Linder (RB/WR/LB, 5-9, 180, sr.) will take on some of the roles Rogers did.

Alex Jaworski (WR/CB, 6-3, 170) will also help in the absence of the D-II first-team All-Ohioan Rogers, leaving coach Mike Gibbons with a solid outlook on 2019. "They're all ready to step up," Gibbons said. "Bryce had a great year as a receiver (he had 680 yards and a school record, 11 touchdown receptions). At quarterback, he's a special player back there with his athletic ability. He's got a great arm, too. We're replacing the offensive line as well except for Sam Waibel. We have a

lot to prove. Our schedule is tough, but I think there are guys ready to step up."

**Medina (5-5, 3-4, T-5th in GCC)**

Don't be surprised if the Bees are the sleeping giant. Medina coach Larry Laird doesn't mince words when talking about the upcoming season and 2019 looks like a bull market for the Bees.

While D-I All-Ohio honorable mention wide receiver Chris Kelly graduated along with quarterback Ryan Fischer, the team returns 13 starters. Laird wasn't ready to



Steve Manheim

**Black River's Caleb Simonson tackles Firelands' Blake Ruffner.**

name a starting quarterback at time of press, but will look to All-Ohio honorable mention Noah Nunn (DE/6-5, 235, sr.), Nathan Spatny (MLB, 6-1, 230, jr.) and Nick Yanky (WR, 5-10, 180, sr.) to take a big step. "I think we will surprise some people," Laird said. "Anybody that knows football, though, knows that we're pretty good. "The anticipation is there every year, but this year even more so because the kids have really worked hard in the offseason. I think that our talent levels are going up." Celebrates **Wadsworth (12-1, 7-0, 1st in SL National Conference)**

The Grizzlies have won 21 straight regular season games and while talent like Brock Snowball (1,218 yards rushing, 13 TDs), Carson Risher (764 yards receiving, 10 TDs) and third-team All-Ohio safety Alec Miller have graduated, Wadsworth is ready for another run.

Dom Loparo (RB/ILB, 59, 185, sr.) and his 1,143 yards rushing

and 12 touchdowns are back, so is Trey Shaffer (QB, 6-2, 190, sr.) and his 2,419 yards passing and 22 touchdowns. Add second-team All-Ohioan Jack Grice (RB/MLB, 6-0, 220, sr.) and an entire offensive line returning the Grizzlies don't just hope for success, they expect it. There will be holes to fill with seven starters gone on defense and three gone on offense, but Wadsworth is ready to pick up right where it left off. "I think our kids have taken that approach," Grizzlies coach Justin Todd said. "It's as seasoned of a group as I've ever had on the offensive side of the ball. A lot of guys have played significant time over the last two seasons. Even when Trey was a sophomore, he got a lot of time because of the 'run rule' in the second half. He was playing a lot of games on Friday night. When you have that experience coming back from a leadership position and then you have your running back and linemen, it's a great thing to have."



Ron Schwane

**Jack McGinty of Highland runs with the ball.**



# Tri-C Medina County Match-Up

## On WEOL.com Stream 3

Fri, Aug. 30  
7:00pm



**Lorain v Brunswick**

Fri, Sept. 6  
7:00pm



**Medina v Highland**

Fri. Sept. 13  
7:00pm



**Wadsworth v Medina**

Fri, Sept. 20  
7:00pm



**Elyria Catholic v Buckeye**

Fri. Sept. 27  
7:00pm



**Strongsville v Brunswick**

Fri, Oct. 4  
7:00pm



**Keystone v Black River**

Fri. Oct. 11  
7:00pm



**Akron Springfield v Cloverleaf**

Sat. Oct. 12  
7:00pm



**Buckeye v Holy Name**

Fri. Oct. 18  
7:00pm



**Aurora v Highland**

Fri. Oct. 25 &  
Fri. Nov. 1



**TBD**



# The Nick Abraham SATURDAY SPORTS WRAP-UP SHOW

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## Black River Pirates

8/30	Kenston	Home
9/6	Northwestern	Home
9/13	Ontario	Away
9/20	Wellington	Home
9/27	Firelands	Away
10/4	Keystone	Home
10/11	Oberlin	Away
10/18	Brookside	Away
10/25	Clearview	Away
11/1	Columbia	Home

## Brunswick Blue Devils

8/30	Lorain	Home
9/6	North Royalton	Away
9/13	Rhodes	Home
9/20	Solon	Away
9/27	Strongsville	Home
10/4	Shaker Hts.	Home
10/11	Mentor	Away
10/18	Euclid	Away
10/25	Elyria	Home
11/1	Medina	Away

## Buckeye Bucks

8/30	Revere	Away
9/6	Bay	Home
9/13	Cloverleaf	Away
9/20	Elyria Catholic	Home
9/27	Valley Forge	Away
10/4	Fairview	Home
10/12	Holy Name	Away
10/18	Normandy	Home
10/25	Rocky River	Home
10/31	Parma	Away

## Cloverleaf Colts

8/30	Brookside	Home
9/6	Keystone	Away
9/13	Buckeye	Home
9/20	Streetsboro	Away
9/27	Field	Home
10/4	Ravenna	Away
10/11	Springfield	Home
10/18	Woodridge	Away
10/25	Norton	Home
11/1	Coventry	Away

## Columbia Raiders

8/30	Independence	Home
9/6	Waynedale	Away
9/13	Northwestern	Home
9/20	Firelands	Away
9/27	Keystone	Away
10/4	Oberlin	Home
10/11	Wellington	Away
10/18	Clearview	Home
10/25	Brookside	Home
11/1	Black River	Away

## Copley Indians

8/30	Twinsburg	Home
9/6	Firestone	Home
9/13	Lake	Away
9/20	Roosevelt	Home
9/27	East	Home
10/4	Barberton	Home
10/11	Revere	Away
10/18	Tallmadge	Home
10/25	Highland	Home
11/1	Aurora	Away

## Firelands Falcons

8/30	Edison	Away
9/6	Amherst	Away
9/13	Vermilion	Home
9/20	Columbia	Home
9/27	Black River	Home
10/4	Brookside	Away
10/11	Clearview	Home
10/18	Keystone	Home
10/25	Oberlin	Away
11/1	Wellington	Away

## Green Bulldogs

8/30	Firestone	Home
9/6	Brecksville	Home
9/13	Louisville	Home
9/20	McKinley	Away
9/27	GlenOak	Home
10/4	Central Catholic	Home
10/11	Perry	Away
10/18	Hoover	Home
11/1	Lake	Home

## Highland Hornets

8/30	Wadsworth	Away
9/6	Medina	Home
9/13	North Royalton	Away
9/20	Barberton	Home
9/27	Kent	Away
10/4	Revere	Away
10/11	Canfield	Home
10/18	Aurora	Home
10/25	Copley	Away
11/1	Tallmadge	Home



## FROM THE SIDELINES

*Presented by North Ridgeville Convenient Sunoco*

**JOHN TELICH of FOX8 joins Bull's Eye on the Afternoon**

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## Keystone Wildcats

8/30	Bay.....	Away
9/6	Cloverleaf.....	Home
9/13	South Central.....	Home
9/20	Clearview.....	Home
9/27	Columbia.....	Home
10/4	Black River.....	Away
10/11	Brookside.....	Away
10/18	Firelands.....	Away
10/25	Wellington.....	Home
11/1	Oberlin.....	Home

## Medina Battling Bees

8/30	Cleveland Hts.....	Home
9/6	Highland.....	Away
9/13	Wadsworth.....	Home
9/20	Euclid.....	Home
9/27	Mentor.....	Away
10/4	Elyria.....	Away
10/11	Strongsville.....	Home
10/18	Solon.....	Away
10/26	Shaker Hts.....	Away
11/1	Brunswick.....	Home

## Nordonia Knights

8/30	Bedford.....	Home
9/6	Woodridge.....	Home
9/13	Mayfield.....	Away
9/20	Twinsburg.....	Away
9/27	Wadsworth.....	Home
10/4	Hudson.....	Away
10/11	Stow-Munroe Falls.....	Home
10/18	Brecksville.....	Away
10/25	Cuyahoga Falls.....	Home
11/1	North Royalton.....	Away

## Oberlin Phoenix

8/30	Wickliffe.....	Away
9/6	South Central.....	Away
9/13	Trinity.....	Home
9/20	Brookside.....	Home
9/27	Clearview.....	Away
10/4	Columbia.....	Away
10/11	Black River.....	Home
10/18	Wellington.....	Home
10/25	Firelands.....	Home
11/1	Keystone.....	Away

## Revere Minutemen

8/30	Buckeye.....	Home
9/6	Eastlake North.....	Home
9/13	Cuyahoga Valley Christian.....	Away
9/20	Tallmadge.....	Home
9/27	Barberton.....	Away
10/4	Highland.....	Home
10/11	Copley.....	Home
10/18	Roosevelt.....	Away
10/25	Aurora.....	Away
11/1	Bay.....	Home

## Strongsville Mustangs

8/30	Berea-Midpark.....	Away
9/6	Hudson.....	Away
9/13	Brecksville.....	Home
9/20	Shaker Hts.....	Home
9/27	Brunswick.....	Away
10/4	Euclid.....	Home
10/11	Medina.....	Away
10/18	Elyria.....	Home
10/25	Solon.....	Away
11/1	Mentor.....	Home

## Tallmadge Blue Devils

8/30	Ravenna.....	Home
9/6	Ellet.....	Away
9/13	Coventry.....	Home
9/20	Revere.....	Away
9/27	Aurora.....	Home
10/4	Rocky River.....	Away
10/11	Roosevelt.....	Home
10/18	Copley.....	Away
10/25	Barberton.....	Home
11/1	Highland.....	Away

## Wadsworth Grizzlies

8/30	Highland.....	Home
9/6	Wooster.....	Home
9/13	Medina.....	Away
9/20	Hudson.....	Away
9/27	Nordonia.....	Away
10/4	Stow-Munroe Falls.....	Home
10/11	Cuyahoga Falls.....	Away
10/18	North Royalton.....	Away
10/25	Twinsburg.....	Home

## Wellington Dukes

8/30	Western Reserve.....	Home
9/6	Mapleton.....	Home
9/13	New London.....	Away
9/20	Black River.....	Away
9/27	Brookside.....	Home
10/4	Clearview.....	Away
10/11	Columbia.....	Home
10/18	Oberlin.....	Away
10/25	Keystone.....	Away
11/1	Firelands.....	Home

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



# 2019 Ohio State Football Preview

**By Rob Polinsky**

Ryan Day officially became the 25th Head Coach in the 130th year of OSU football on January 2nd 2019, one day after OSU beat Washington 28-23 in the 2019 Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

One of the biggest storylines for OSU this season is will be how Day takes over the reins for former Coach Urban Meyer. Meyer lost a total of nine games in his seven seasons as the head coach in Columbus. That alone tells you the challenge that awaits Coach Day replacing Meyer. Long time University of Michigan Defensive Coordinator Greg Mattison now holds the same position with the Buckeyes, taking over for the departed Greg Schiano. Former Indiana University head coach Kevin Wilson is now with Ohio State as the team's Offensive Coordinator and may take over play calling from Ryan Day as the season progresses.

Looking at the team, Ohio State returns 51 letter winners, 19 on offense side of the ball, 29 on the defensive side, and three specialists. Ohio State also returns 13 starters, four on offense and nine on defense.

Who will replace Heisman Finalist Dwayne Haskins as the OSU signal caller? That task will more than likely go to University of Georgia transfer Justin Fields, who is the preseason favorite at quarter back. However, he will



Justin Fields scrambles during the spring game.

have competition from West Virginia University transfer Chris Chugunov for the top spot.

At running back, J.K. Dobbins is back for his junior season. He is the first Buckeye running back in school history to rush for over 1,000 yards in both his freshmen and sophomore seasons.

K.J. Hill, a fifth year senior, is expected to lead the receiving core. Hill is currently on a streak of catching at least one pass over

a span of 34 consecutive games. During his time at Ohio State, he has 144 career receptions. Along with Hill, teammates Austin Mack (21 career starts), Binjimen Victor (12 career TD's) and Chris Olave (2 TD's vs. University of Michigan last season and a blocked punt that went for a touchdown on special teams) are also expected to contribute.

The Buckeyes have plenty of depth at tight end including former Lorain Titan Rashod Berry. The fifth year senior started four games at TE a year ago.

Graduation has hit the offensive line hard. Gone are Isaiah Prince, Michael Jordan, Demetrius Knox, and Malcolm Pridgeon. The Buckeyes four-some started a combined 116 games in scarlet and gray. Thayer Munford returns to the O-Line after starting 13 games last season. He is expected to settle back in at left tackle this season. After missing a year to injury, Branden Bowen is back and healthy. He had started six games in 2017 before being injured.

The Buckeye defense should be their strength in 2019 with nine starters returning from last year's 13-1 squad. The D-Line has

depth, back are starting defensive ends Chase Young and Jonathon Cooper. At defensive tackle, Robert Landers and Davon Hamilton have also returned to the silver bullet front. Pushing this unit are a group of sophomores who saw playing time as true freshmen, among this group are Tyreke Smith, Tyler Friday, Taron Vincent, and Tommy Togiai.

If running backs sneak past that tenacious front they will be met by a group of line backers led by Tuf Borland (67 tackles in 2018), Malik Harrison (81 tackles in 2018), and Pete Werner (58 tackles in 2018).

New defensive back coach and Co-Defensive Coordinator Jeff Hafley joins the staff in 2019, having spent the previous seven seasons coaching in the National Football League. He leads a contingent of experienced cornerbacks headed by Damon Arnette, Jeffrey Okudah, and Shaun Wade. That trio started a combined 27 games a year ago. Senior captain Jordan Fuller will lead the safeties along with Powell, Ohio native Brendon White, who was the



Big Ten Champions

See **OSU**, 12



# OSU

From 11

defensive MVP of the 2019 Rose Bowl.

Looking at the schedule, Ohio State will begin the 2019 regular season Labor Day weekend hosting Coach Lane Kiffin's Florida Atlantic University Owls on Saturday August 31st. Three of the first four games this season will be played in Columbus. That should help the Buckeyes get off to a good start to 2019.

The middle part of the schedule will test Ohio State with some interesting matchups. The Buckeyes start that stretch on the road in Lincoln against Nebraska, September 28th. The Bucks return to Columbus the following Saturday for a night game versus Michigan State University. Following a bye week, OSU will play on Friday night October 18th at Northwestern and end the tough stretch at home against Wisconsin on Saturday October 26th. How the Buckeyes do over that four game



stretch will more than likely determine their postseason chances.

They will end the regular season on Saturday November 30th in Ann Arbor against the Wolver-

ines. That game could very well determine who wins the Eastern Division and goes to the Big Ten Championship game the following Saturday in Indianapolis.

How will Ryan Day do in his

first season as the head coach in Columbus? Find out by listening to every game and following the Buckeyes on your home for OSU football, AM 930 WEOL & FM 100.3.

	August 31 vs FAU		October 18 @ Northwestern
	September 7 vs Cincinnati		October 26 vs Wisconsin
	September 14 @ Indiana		November 9 vs Maryland
	September 21 vs Miami		November 16 @ Rutgers
	September 28 @ Nebraska		November 23 vs Penn State
	October 5 vs Michigan State		November 30 @ Michigan

## OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

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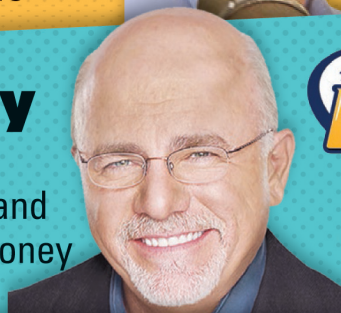
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Local news & sports with  
Andy "Bull" Barch and Matt Douglass





# High Expectations on the Horizon

By: Andy "Bull" Barch

After suffering through two and a half years of the Hue Jackson era in Cleveland, Browns fans finally had something to cheer about for most of last season, when they saw their first seven win season since 2014, and were just a win away from their first winning season in 12 years. The Browns made a flurry of moves in trades and free agency that certainly made headlines throughout the off season, which will give fans much higher expectations in the 2019 season.

Beginning with the most important position in all of sports, the Browns appear to finally have their man at quarterback. Baker Mayfield was everything Browns fans had hoped for and then some in his rookie season, when he set a new NFL record for rookies by throwing 27 touchdown passes last season. The first year signal caller completed 63.8-percent of his passes, while throwing for 3,725 yards and the aforementioned 27 touchdowns in his rookie campaign, which certainly sets the bar high for a sophomore season. Not only did he post very impressive passing numbers, but more importantly, the Browns were 7-7 in games in which Mayfield started, a far cry from going 0-16 the previous season.

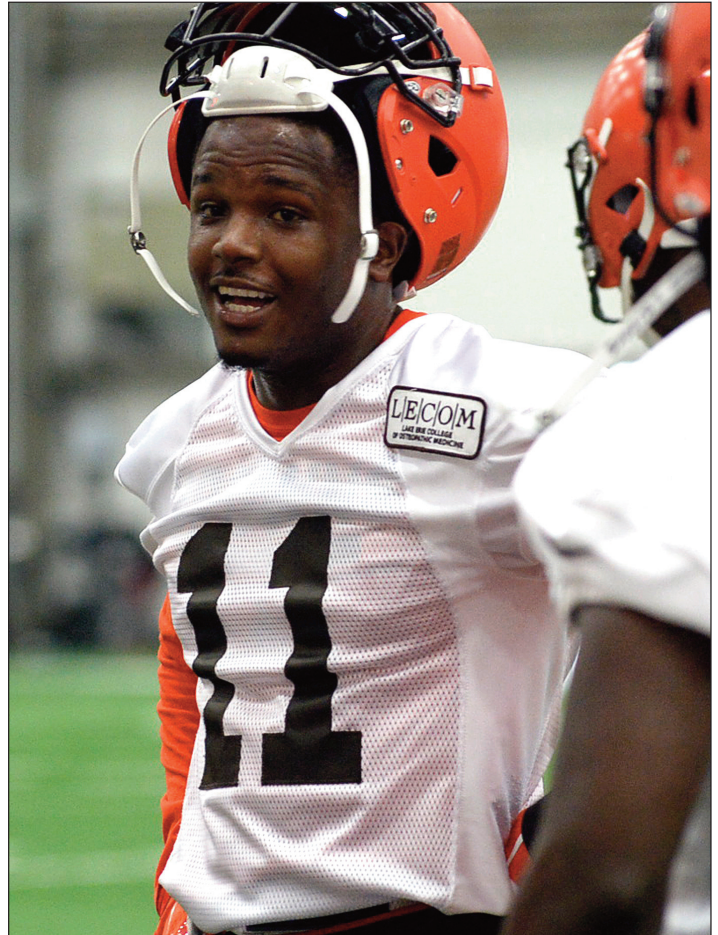
In the backfield with Mayfield will be another 2018 draftee, tailback Nick Chubb. Chubb, like Mayfield, was all Browns fans hoped he would be, rushing for 996 yards and eight touchdowns, while averaging 5.2 yards per carry. He also added 20 receptions for 149 yards and hauled in a pair of touchdown passes as well. What's more impressive is that Chubb did this while sharing a good chunk of the load through half the season. Joining Chubb in the backfield will be Cleveland area native Kareem Hunt, who's signing comes with a bit of controversy. Because of that, he'll be sidelined for half the season. Should he return in the shape he was in before being released in 2018, Hunt and Chubb would form a 1-2 punch in the backfield that would be hard for anyone in the NFL to match. In his first two seasons in the NFL, Hunt ran for 2,151 yards, 15 touchdowns, and averaged 4.7 yards per carry. He also caught 79 passes for 833 yards dur-

ing that stretch with 10 touchdown grabs. It remains to be seen if Duke Johnson will be a part of this group.

What was once looked at as the team's primary weakness, the void of playmakers, this year's wide receiving corps will be looked at as one of the most talented in the NFL. Not only do the Browns return Jarvis Landry, their leading receiver last year who hauled in 81 passes for 976 yards and four touchdowns, but they will pair him with his college teammate, the charismatic Odell Beckham Jr. The 2019 season will be Beckham's sixth in the NFL, and he's coming off a strong 2018 season where he caught 77 passes for 1,052 yards and six touchdowns. He's caught 90 passes or more in three of his first five seasons, and he's registered four 1,000-plus yard receiving seasons in his career as well. His last two seasons have been riddled with a few injuries, limiting him to just four games in 2017 and only 12 games last year. If he stays healthy, pairing him next to Landry will give opposing teams fits all throughout the fall, and perhaps into January.

Complimenting that dynamic receiving duo will be second year pro Antonio Callaway, Rashard "Hollywood" Higgins, and tight end David Njoku. Callaway caught 43 passes for 586 yards and five touchdowns last year while Higgins was on the receiving end of 39 passes for 572 yards and caught a career best four touchdown passes. Njoku, a first round pick in 2017, had the finest year of his career, catching 56 passes for 639 yards and four touchdown passes. Based on all of that, I think it's safe to say that this group is about as talented as this unit has been in at least 10 years.

It's always difficult to assess the success of an offensive line through numbers. On the whole, if you're not talking about the big boys up front, that's probably a good thing. This unit doesn't have a whole lot of depth, but it does have some talent, and more importantly, reliability. They'll have the all important job of keeping Baker Mayfield upright, and creating running room for Chubb, Hunt, or whomever is in the backfield with Mayfield. The group



Steve Manheim

## Antonio Callaway

returns 4 of 5 starters from a season ago, but will have to replace right guard Kevin Zeitler who was traded to the Giants in the off season. The Browns are hopeful that their second round pick in 2018, Austin Corbett, can fill in admirably and shine in his second season as a pro. It is imperative that he performs well for this unit to succeed. Last year, when Greg Robinson took over at left tackle nine weeks in, this unit allowed only 5 sacks the rest of the season.

Defensively, there's plenty of room for improvement, but the Browns have made some moves on paper that should have the fan base very excited. On the defensive front, the Browns are very talented and they have a lot of experience with this group. Myles Garrett has done what you expect a first overall pick to do over his first two years in Cleveland. He'll be paired with Olivier Vernon, who the

Browns received in a trade with the New York Giants this off season. Vernon, a 6-foot-2-inch 260 pound defensive end, registered seven sacks last season, despite playing just 11 games. He's totaled 6.5 sacks or more in each of his last six seasons. On the interior, the Browns have the tandem of Larry Ogunjobi and newly acquired Sheldon Richardson. Richardson was a massive addition this off season. The 13th overall pick in the 2013 draft has had a terrific career. He should have no problems shedding blockers, and in this defense could see fewer double teams, leading to more time in opposing teams' backfields.

The linebacker group on this team is a bit raw at this point. Last year, this group was riddled with some injuries and a lot of missed tackles cost them. The two familiar faces in this group, Joe Schobert

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# BROWNS

From 14

and Christian Kirksey, will lead a group primarily made of rookies. One thing is for sure, while there are some unknowns in this group, the experienced and very talented defensive line in front them should occupy lots of blockers, giving these guys plenty of opportunities to shine.

In the defensive backfield, much like the linebackers, this is a group with some excitement, and a bit of uncertainty as well. Denzel Ward, one of the Browns' first round picks in 2018, saw a nice rookie season cut short due to injuries. He did have three interceptions in 13 games and defended 11 passes before his season came to an end. He'll be joined by Greedy Williams, a second round pick this past April out of LSU. While the Browns are young at the cornerback position, they have a bit more experience at the two starting safety spots, with Damarious Randle returning for his second season with the Browns, and Morgan Burnett, a former Pittsburgh Steeler and Green Bay Packer, will join the mix as well.

The moves the Browns made on paper look great, but as we all know, games aren't won and lost on paper. A big question coming into this season is how will first year Head Coach Freddie Kitchens mesh all of these larger than life personalities? After serving as the interim offensive coordinator during the last half of the 2018 season, Kitchens will now wear the headset that matters most on Sundays, and faces a much different challenge than any other Browns coach over the last 11 years. His challenge requires winning right away, and the expectation is that they will need to win at least 8 games for this year to be looked at as an improvement. Whereas every other coach that has taken over through the last 11 years has inherited a roster with very little talent, knowing that a 5 or 6 win season would be considered an improvement.

I don't think I'm going out on a limb here by saying 5 or 6 wins this year will not be acceptable in any form or fashion. For this year to be considered a success, the Brown and Orange are going to have to be in playoff contention, and anything less than 9 or 10 wins should be considered a bit of a disappointment.



Steve Manheim

Greedy Williams works through drills.

## CLEVELAND BROWNS 2019 SCHEDULE

1	VS		SEPT. 8
2	AT		SEPT. 16 ★
3	VS		SEPT. 22 ★
4	AT		SEPT. 29
5	AT		OCT. 7 ★
6	VS		OCT. 13
7	BYE		OCT. 20
8	AT		OCT. 27
9	AT		NOV. 3
10	VS		NOV. 10
11	VS		NOV. 14 ★
12	VS		NOV. 24
13	AT		DEC. 1
14	VS		DEC. 8
15	AT		DEC. 15
16	VS		DEC. 22
17	AT		DEC. 29

★ INDICATES PRIMETIME GAME





# The WEOL Medina County Broadcast Team

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**@craig\_couch**

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## **2019 Highland High School Home Football Schedule**

September 6th vs Medina	<b>KENDA TIRES</b>
September 20th vs Barberton	<b>Firestone</b>
October 11th vs Canfield	<b>NEXEN NEXEN TIRE</b>
October 18th vs Aurora	<b>YOKOHAMA</b>
November 1st vs Tallmadge	<b>TOYO TIRES®</b>



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**Contest Rules:** Must be at least 18 years old to enter. One entry per person. Only need to register once for all eligible games. Must be registered by midnight the Tuesday following the last home game to be eligible for the drawing for that week's drawing. Drawing will be held at 5:00 pm the Wednesday following the last home game for that week's winner. Winners will be contacted by registered phone number. Winners will also be announced at the next home game. Eligible tires and patterns for drawing will switch from week to week. Eligible tires will be announced prior to that weeks game. Prize includes customer's choice of eligible tires. No cash equivalent. Tires must be original equipment size for vehicle, No upsizing. Tires must be installed on vehicle. Customer is responsible for mounting and balancing fees, and taxes. No carry outs.



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