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football preview

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Upgrading Film

How 2015 Technology is Changing the Game – Again

By Jamie Ward

In the 1960s in Maine, it is told that a high school football coach first filmed a team's games, then used that footage to teach.

Now this is so crucial to the sport that players, even at the pee-wee level, have the experience every week. For high schoolers, it's the Saturday morning after Friday night when players, buoyed or sullen, gather to be coached.

It's a rite of passage, studying one's heroic self. Or is sometimes the case, failing to meet a coach's expectations.

"Like Knute Rockne, where the film is going click-click-click. And they'd back it up like 19 times. It would always click-click. And it'd go forward and backward, forward and backward," remembers Cardinal head coach Eric Cardinal of the early-used 16-mm projector he watched in college. "I mean, you used to dread those things, especially if you screwed up. And, of course, that was the whole point of it — that you'd screwed up."

It's still called film. But the pictures now taken from multiple angles on digital cameras never even touch the ground; they're downloaded and edited and then emailed out. Most of the work is now done at home, or in study hall. Technology has streamlined what players scrutinize on



A screenshot from Chardon assistant coach Don Navatsyk's iPhone 6 shows how hudl.com allows coaches to film anywhere at any time.

websites like hudl.com, and game-day preparation, in 2015, has never been better.

The click-click of reel-to-reel is now the tap-tap of the tablet.

Revolution

"They always have the device in their hand anyway," says Cliff Walton, who has spent 40 years in high school football. "Kids are just now more in tune to do that."

This is the first year Hawken does not have a physical play-book. The offensive and defensive coordinators are installing new packages day by day, online, and emailing updates to players. Coaches can even see who has viewed these updates, and for how long they studied.

Walton's son, Dan, has led this conversion.

"It's clean, beautiful and

looks good," Walton said. "Kids don't go to class anymore with backpacks, books and binders."

Walton himself does not use a tablet. He admitted his projector is still closeted away somewhere at Hawken Upper School. He remembers the switch from 16mm film to 8mm. In the 1970s Walton would drive a game tape downtown to a developing company. "You'd drop it in a mail chute, and the next day you'd get a copy. That was about as old school as you could get."

Film went from 16 mm to 8 mm before VCRs became popular. Soon VHS tapes were being passed around from coach to coach to scout that week's opponent. But there was a problem: each new copy was never quite as good as the original. "By Week 10 you could barely

see what was going on,” said Cardinal.

Digital video discs, or DVDs, still used sparingly, fixed that problem. The video was clearer, but now copies were made in real-time. If the game was two hours, it'd take two hours to make the copy. Then there was time lost to “snail mail” or drive time.

Some schools' programs, of course, have more technology than others. Mark Iammarino, head coach at Chagrin Falls, started using technology in 1983 when he started in Texas. He used to make Powerpoint presentations for players. Now it's an iPad behind the offensive line.

Kenston uses hudl.com to draw its playbook, then uses clips from last season to highlight the play. “Like Scat Switch, kids get on there and see cut-ups

from last year of kids doing it right,” said Bombers head coach Jeff Grubich, who has seen substantial technology changes in the past five years. “You use it a lot with these young bucks.”

The Bombers also shoot digital video from two locations, a high aerial view from the end-zone and a wide view from the press box.

The Bombers plan to use all the technology available to them, and to utilize a recently changed rule by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Coaches with the technology will now be able to film and review video from the sidelines during the actual game. Once there was a gesticulating linebackers coach, grabbing a player by the pads to demonstrate technique, scribbling on a marker

board. Now that coach will swipe across a tablet, allowing players to watch themselves within seconds of leaving the field.

“If they're going to use technology on the sidelines, we'll use it no doubt,” the Bombers coach said. “We're not trying to let someone one-up us and have an advantage.”

Chardon, through its Gridiron Club, is also full of new resources, as Don Navatsyk demonstrates on his iPhone 6, sitting at a coffee shop during lunch. It's an end-zone view from last season's Week 1 game against West Geauga. The Hilltoppers are lined up with a tight end to the right, yet the Wolverines' defense is loaded toward the left, the wide side of the field. Chardon's offensive play-caller wasn't sure why.

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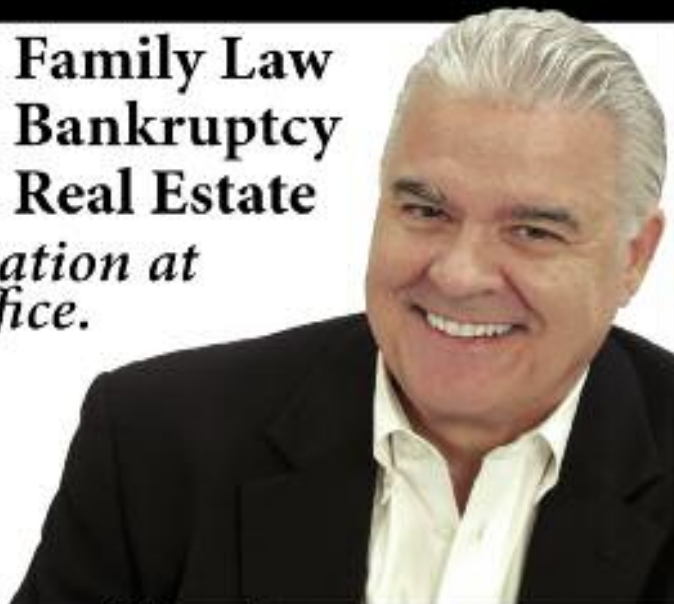
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- Loader Lift Capacity - 2,500 lbs.
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“That’s not the way they always line up,” he said. He wants to say more about it, but stops. Coaches can be leery of technology, and he also doesn’t want to tip his hand before Aug. 28, when Chardon again opens at West Geauga.

Like Navatsyk, many coaches talked openly about how they use technology in the preseason but stopped short of too many details. Some coaches fear other teams will cheat — think the NFL’s Spygate controversy — or push the bounds. How teams prepare for games are sometimes like state secrets.

For the 20 years they’ve been in business, Lake Erie Video has watched the transition of video tape. The company, located on Chardon Square, converts people’s home movies on VHS,

mini-DV, VHS-C or High8 into DVDs or into digital files to store on thumb drives.

“We transfer and save a lot of home and sports videos,” said co-owner Chris Grau. “Our customers want to preserve and share their family memories. Many of the tapes we save have not been viewed in years.”

For players of all sports trying to play in college, Lake Erie Video also converts and edits the many videotape formats into recruiting tapes. A player’s highlight reel is no longer on a reel; it’s a YouTube link that can be shared instantly with any coach in the country.

Of course, it doesn’t end here. It’s not science fiction to imagine a day when, using a headset, players actually play in those scouting films: middle lineback-

ers seeing an offense from the middle of defense, reacting in real-time against a play he’s likely to see Friday night.

Walton remembers the feeling he had scrimmaging Beachwood, as a drone shot video from above plays. “It sounded like a bunch of bees over your head,” Walton said of the Hitchcockian experience.

Does all it help?

At least it gives coaches, who work lots of hours for little pay, a break.

“You used to meet another coach at a gas station,” Walton remembers. “You’d say, meet me over at the station over by the thing, and we’d drive out there, trade and drive off.”

Now the coach just clicks his mouse — or, more likely, asks his son to.



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BERKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

Badgers' New Additions Fitting in Fine



Roster numbers up. Former Redskins at backs. Tackles are huge. Cossick is key. Team covets #KinsmanCup. Has lost last 3 to Cardinal.

By Jamie Ward

Josh DeWeese is an eternal optimistic.

This year, who can blame him?

The head coach has seen first-hand how consolidation, somewhat controversial, can help students and parents. The addition of students from Montville and Thompson, formerly Ledgesmont Redskins, has helped restore a program.

The \$356 pay-to-play fee has been eliminated. There are enough players for a junior varsity and freshman team. And new teammates have nothing but great things to say about one another.

"We have a good core from Ledgesmont," DeWeese said of the 12 additions. The roster is at

about 45 players, 19 of which return as letterwinners. Two seasons ago it had 23.

The six seniors are half and half: three returning to the Badgers, three coming over. Two of the team's four captains are also new additions.

"If you look at both programs, we're both used to iron-man football," DeWeese said. There is a chance for some guys to play one-way, which will help with rest. And there is also two-deep depth across the board.

"It's probably the best thing that could have happened for us," said senior QB Gordy Cossick.

A Senior is Built to Lead

Cossick has plenty of reason to be excited. As a sophomore

2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 8/29 | Harvey | L 7-32 |
| 9/5 | Gilmour | L 42-48 |
| 9/12 | @Grand Valley | W 35-19 |
| 9/19 | @Hawken | W 36-20 |
| 9/26 | Beachwood | L 21-47 |
| 10/3 | @Fairport | W 43-0 |
| 10/10 | Cuyahoga Hts | L 18-35 |
| 10/17 | @Kirtland | L 7-48 |
| 10/24 | Newbury | W 41-8 |
| 10/31 | Cardinal | L 7-34 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| 8/28 | @Harvey | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | Garfield | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | Brookfield | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @Fairport | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | Kirtland | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | @Hawken | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | @Richmond Hts | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | Cuyahoga Hts* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Independence | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | @Cardinal | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming





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he completed 48 passes in 120 attempts for 884 yards. He plays both ways, and is a team leader in practice. "I can see that in everything he does," DeWeese said of his leadership. "In the offseason program, he's here for everything."

The offense is going to run an I-formation with plenty of options.

Berkshire graduated talented backs, but stepping in, possibly without skipping a beat, are seniors Jarett Young and Michael Risko, starters at Ledgemont. Young rushed for 896 yards last season, good for 7th in Geauga County. He scored 10 TDs. "The transition to Jarett isn't going to be a big one," DeWeese said, adding both Young and Risko were tough players who are used to playing three ways.

Young loves the fact he doesn't have to do everything in practice. "It's been more balanced," he said.

The offensive line features AJ Adler at right tackle, Bubba Urban at right guard, and Logan Kumher, who converts from center to left tackle. These three provide a solid core to build around. The pro-

"[Consolidation] is probably the best thing that could have happened for us."
- Gordy Cossick

gram's 20 linemen give the team plenty of depth. Tyler Hoffacker, Riley Carey and James Speelman will also play on the offensive line.

"Experience is going to be big on the line," said Kumher, a senior, who said his football career at Berkshire had gone by in the blink of an eye. Thus far, Kumher has started in every varsity game since his freshman year, and there's little reason to think he won't start at least all 10 (maybe 11?) this year.

If Cossick must throw the football, there is an exciting group of junior wide receivers waiting, like Emil Hess, who stands 6-foot-4-inches. Hess is also the backup QB. Will Blechschmid has put in a lot of work and will see time at slot. And junior David Tucek is a 6-4 tight end.

Team Profile

Nickname: Badgers
Colors: Purple & Gold
Home: Dr. William A. Reed Field
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference (Valley)

OHSAA: Div. V, Region 15
Playoff History: 1975, 1981, 1983 (0-3)
HS Boys: 174

Last CVC Title: 2005 (tie)
2014 season: 4-6 (2-5 CVC)

Coaches: Nick Burzanko (off. coordinator), Ron Brown (def. coordinator), Tom Hinkle, Rich Klemencic, Jesse DeWeese, Phil Hauser

Roster: 43 total
 6 seniors; 13 juniors
 7 sophomores; 17 freshmen

Pay to play fee: None

Follow the Team: @bhsfbal15

Players to Watch: Gordy Cossick, Sr. QB/OLB/P 6-1, 185; Jarett Young, Sr. RB 5-5, 160; Michael Risko, Sr. RB/ILB 5-11, 176; Logan Kumher, Sr. LT/ILB 6-0, 200; AJ Adler, Sr. RT 6-6, 236

Cheerleaders: Macie Hilliard, Bree Barker, Jenna Landrus, Jill Landrus, Emily Young, Lauren Evans, Bella Jones and Hayley Kumher.

Trainer: Mario DeMattia

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Coach Josh DeWeese

3rd season (8-12): An offensive-minded coach, DeWeese has stabilized a program that was on the brink, doubling participation in two seasons. The 1996 Berkshire graduate is also a teacher in the district, and helps coach the wrestling program.



Adler

Cossick



Young

Risko

Experienced Group of Defenders

Coaches have always marveled at Cossick's ability to play defense. Although typically it's not wise to play your starting QB both ways, DeWeese doesn't think there's any way to keep Cossick off the field on defense.

"He wouldn't let us," DeWeese said. "He's a great player on defense because his football IQ is really good. He's just such an asset. If I tried to pull him off de-fense, he wouldn't forgive me."

Cossick is going to switch from the safety position to OLB in the team's 4-4 base defense. Joining him at linebackers: Risko, Kumher on the inside in the middle. And junior Nick Hunt on the outside.

The front 4 will feature Tucek, Urban, Adler and James Speelman, who had 18 tackles for a loss last season. All four started last season.



Junior Joe Hauser is expected to play cornerback after playing a lot last season with the Red-skins. Blechschmid is the team's lone safety.

Austin Toth and Isaac Bryant, both juniors, are expected to play some defense.

Opposing defenses won't get much of a break when Cossick steps onto the field as the team's punter, giving Berkshire

plenty of fourth down options.

Quick Hits

- Mario DeMattia joins the Berkshire program as head trainer after spending 12 years with the West Geauga Schools. He is the fourth Berkshire trainer in four years.

- The 17 freshmen on the Berkshire roster will allow for a 5-game schedule, which will be a huge boost for the Badgers' future.

- David Tucek boasts the team's highest grade point average with a 4.036.

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CARDINAL HIGH SCHOOL

Huskies Realize Every Game Counts



New faces on the line. Experience at QB. Expect more rotation at the backs. 3 straight winning seasons for freshmen. 3 straight #KinsmanCup.

By Jamie Ward



2014 Results

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|---|-------|
| 8/29 | @Garfield | W | 34-14 |
| 9/5 | Py Valley | W | 48-0 |
| 9/12 | Waterloo | W | 34-7 |
| 9/19 | Beachwood | L | 14-29 |
| 9/26 | @Richmond Hts | W | 27-14 |
| 10/3 | @Kirtland | L | 13-51 |
| 10/10 | @Newbury | W | 47-6 |
| 10/17 | Fairport | W | 55-13 |
| 10/24 | Hawken | W | 40-21 |
| 10/31 | @Berkshire | W | 34-7 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 8/28 | Garfield | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | @Py Valley | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | @Waterloo | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | Independence | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | Cuyahoga Hts.* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | @Fairport | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | Kirtland | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | @Hawken | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | @Richmond Hts | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | Berkshire | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming

It's still hard to believe the Huskies finished the season 8-2 a year ago and failed to reach the Division V playoffs.

Cardinal finished ninth and missed the playoffs by one computer point after losing to Beachwood in Week 4, 29-14.

But then again, maybe it's not. The program has been to the playoffs just once, when it went 10-0 in 2002. In fact, three times an Eric Cardinal-coached Huskies football team has gone 8-2 in 15 years, and all three failed to reach Week 11.

This year's team expects to be good again, which will likely require 10 focused weeks of

football. Beachwood is off the schedule.

Coach Cardinal and his coaching staff, which includes new faces, seems OK with the pressure.

"Our goal is to be 10-0," he said. "Why would your goal not be that? Why would you not bet on yourself?"

With a strong nucleus of seniors, 13 total, and a group of juniors and sophomores who want to be varsity players, it's hard to bet against a team that has had a winning record since 2012.

Run, Huskies, Run

In the Huskies' misdirection run-first Wing-T offense, no one back ever carries the load for long. Defenses cannot key on certain rushers, and it keeps players fresh.

| | |
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“They aren’t taking as many hits,” Cardinal said.

Yet Lester Troyer, who led the team with 701 yards on 70 carries last year, does return at fullback. The senior also scored 9 TDs a year ago, and was one of the top 10 statistical backs in Geauga County.

Nate Peters (185 yards and 5 rushing TDs in 2014) has looked sharp early in camp. Chris Guinn is in the mix, along with his brother, Jeff, who hit his stride in the second half. Senior Craig Shanower has shown good instincts and quickness, Cardinal said. Junior Addison Dorn and sophomore Cam Klepper will both have a chance, as well.

Running the machinery that fits all of these interchangeable cogs is Kyle Simms, who started all 10 games as a sophomore. Simms’ ability to hide the football and follow through on fakes helped Cardinal run for 3,242 yards as a team, using at least 10 different runners.

The junior was asked to throw the football just 42 times last season, but that doesn’t mean Simms isn’t capable.

“Our goal is to be 10-0. Why would your goal not be that? Why would you not bet on yourself?”

– Eric Cardinal

The offensive line returns four letter-winners, led by senior guard Noah Farmwald.

“I’m comfortable with this line,” he said. “They listen, and they’ve shown respect.”

Bryn Havel will likely start as the other guard. Havel thinks the team “realistically should go to the playoffs.” Justin Warren returns after missing 2014 with an injury. And senior Trey Houston and juniors Austin Klatik and Jesse McCormick will also have a place.

Senior Jake Francis has good size and athleticism at split end, joined by Kyle Root, Hayden Cummins and Robbie Mulh at tight end.

Secondary Is a Strength

The defense will again be based on a 4-man defensive front. Most of the Huskies best athletes play on both sides of

Team Profile

Nickname: Huskies
Colors: Red, White & Black
Home: Richard A. Moss Field
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference (Valley)

OHSAA: Div. V, Region 15
Playoff History: 2002 (1-1)
HS Boys: 146

Last CVC Title: 2003
2014 season: 8-2 (5-2 CVC)

Coaches: Nate Peters (off. coordinator), Miles Anderson, Ben Clutter, Brian George, Jim Soltis (def. coordinator), Brandon Fuller, Dan Chenoweth, Kevin Baggett, Jim Gonczyk

Roster: 48 total
 13 seniors; 11 juniors
 9 sophomores; 15 freshmen

Pay to play fee: \$300

Follow the Team: @huskies_fb & @cardinalhuskies

Players to Watch: Chris Guinn, Sr. RB/DB 6-0, 195; Lester Troyer, Sr. RB/DL 6-0, 240; Bryn Havel, Sr. OL/LB 5-11, 190; Noah Farmwald, Sr. OL/DL 6-0, 225; Jake Francis, Sr. DB 6-0, 165; Nate Peters, Sr. RB/LB 5-11, 220

Cheerleaders: Megan Tucker, Ciera Taylor, Olivia Brown, Raven Gannon, Amy Scott, Sarah Shahan, Hannah Shahan, Alexis Simak
Trainer: Lisa Ginsburg

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Coach Eric Cardinal

16th season (87-65): The social studies teacher has provided stability to a smaller football program in an era where other programs struggle with roster numbers. The defensive-minded coach is old school, preferring a ground-and-pound offense to the football fashions of the day.



Havel

Farmwald



Havel

Simms

the ball.

Coaches think the defensive backfield is a strength, with Francis and Chris Guinn returning as corners. Brandon Nevison is a hard-hitting safety. Dorn, Simms and Klepper will also play in the defensive backfield.

Farmwald and Troyer anchor the defensive line, having won all-league selections in 2014.

Linebackers include Havel on the inside and Peters and Jeff Guinn can play inside or outside. Root and Jimmy Wilcox are also in contention.



Quick Hits

• Eric Cardinal always adds some color to his team's practices, like when he told one ball-carrier: "Do you see that parting? Run through the parting, Moses!" Or as he told one underclassmen during stretches: "If you can't stand still, go ahead and stick your opposite finger in your opposite ear. You'll have great balance."

• Freshman Tyson Sinclair proved to be the fastest of his teammates during the team's third practice, edging out Simms in a conditioning drill.

• Pay-to-play went from \$400 to \$300 after a concerted fundraising effort by the athletic department.

• Athletic Director Andy Cardinal will not join his dad on the sidelines for the first time in 15 years, stepping down as offensive coordinator.

• Stepping in as the OC is Nate Peters, no relation to Nate Peters the player.

• Eric Cardinal and Jim Soltis call the defensive plays together.

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CHAGRIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Tigers See Rebound Season in Future

Expect bounce-back with friendlier schedule. Skill players have experience. Running game is key. Line has depth. Defense switches to 3-4.



By Jamie Ward

was set the table for a better season, focusing on the weight room. Coaches re-evaluated schemes on offense and defense. And, of course, this year's seniors were heavily involved. Iammarino told them he needed more leadership.

"I've noticed a difference already," he said at an early two-a-day practice in August. "The leadership has been really good."

Offense Has Skills

Experience returns to the team's skill positions after what many considered a down offensive season last year. The Tigers will build around that core in their spread offense, which plays at a fast pace.

QB Michael Brigeman returns as a third-year signal-

The Tigers come off a very sub-Chagrin Falls season after failing to make the playoffs last year for the first time since 2008. The previous six straight appearances included two trips to the state finals.

After the Tigers' Week 10 loss to Perry, 49-35, head coach Mark Iammarino and his staff decided things needed to change. So they waited two days, the following Monday, to call the first 2015 meeting.

"We established what we liked from that season, what we didn't like from that season and we needed to change," Iammarino said. "A lot of it was off-season prep."

The first thing the Tigers did



2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|-------------|---------|
| 8/29 | @Madison | L 0-36 |
| 9/5 | @NDCL | L 10-44 |
| 9/12 | Woodridge | W 40-34 |
| 9/19 | Aurora | L 14-42 |
| 9/26 | @Kenston | L 10-38 |
| 10/2 | Wickliffe | W 56-30 |
| 10/10 | @Harvey | W 31-8 |
| 10/17 | West Geauga | W 36-34 |
| 10/24 | Orange | W 35-20 |
| 10/31 | @Perry | L 35-49 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|--------------|--------|
| 8/28 | @Kirtland | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | NDCL | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | @Woodridge | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @Wickliffe | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | Orange | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Perry | 7 p.m. |
| 10/10 | @Beachwood | 1 p.m. |
| 10/16 | Geneva | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Harvey* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | @West Geauga | 7 p.m. |

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caller in the Tigers' offense. Brigeman threw for 1,582 yards last season, scoring 17 TDs.

Brigeman gave early camp high marks, saying seniors had shown a better work ethic this year. When he started as a sophomore, he was asked to be a game manager. Now he needs to be a game changer, Iammarino said.

"He's a lot bigger and a lot stronger this year," Iammarino said, calling the senior's off-season regiment key. "He's a smart QB who runs the show. He's been throwing the ball with more zip, and I try to harp on that fact that he's a very good athlete and we want to let that athletic ability show."

RB Corey Tull returns as a third-year starter. The Tigers struggled to run the football last season, which has always been important to Chagrin Falls' success through the air.

Tull had 74 carries last year for 441 yards and 4 TDs. Senior Collin Morell (34 carries for 192 yards) will also get carries.

"We didn't run it well last year, and that puts us in a bind," Iammarino said. "We're working hard on that from a line and

"We didn't run it well last year, and that puts us in a bind."

- Mark Iammarino

scheme standpoint."

Ten players are being shuffled into the offensive line competition. Guard Gage Szaraz is the only returning starter. Iammarino thought the Tigers would use all three scrimmages to determine a starting five.

Tom Vandertill is an experienced starter receiver. The senior caught 27 balls for 435 yards last season, a 16-yard average for 5 touchdowns. Morell can also play receiver, as can Tull, based on the formation. Matt Esterer, Tommy Richmond and Pierce Fricke will also all get a chance at wideout.

Tigers Switch D To Fit Players

The Tigers will switch to a base 3-4 defensive scheme because of the team's strength within the linebackers and defensive backs. Five starters return to a unit that allowed

Team Profile

Nickname: Tigers
Colors: Orange & Black
Home: C.S. Harris Stadium
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference (Chagrin)

OHSAA: Div. III, Region 7
Playoff History: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (18-11)
HS Boys: 275

Last CVC Title: 2013 (tie)
2014 season: 5-5 (4-3 CVC)

Coaches: Paul Perrine, John Scott (def. coordinator), Gerry Steuber, Paul Kiffner, Mike Salyers, Bryan Kover, Adam Lesko, Michael Colabuno

Roster: 48 players
 14 seniors; 14 juniors
 20 sophomores

Pay to play fee: None

Follow the team: @ChagrinAD

Players to watch: Corey Tull, Sr. RB/LB 6-2, 220; Collin Morell, Sr. SB 5-6, 160; Michael Brigeman, Sr. QB/S 6-0, 180; Tom Vandertill, Sr. WR/LB 5-11, 175; Austin Lucas, Sr. LB 6-2, 175

Cheerleaders: Samantha Conti, Jessica Feucht, Victoria Haber, Grace Hass Hill, Laurel Jackson, Emily King, Grace Livingston, Nadia McGinnis, Sarah Relyea, Shea Salyers, Marley Vidmar, Avery Wood, Jillian Zaffiro
Trainer: Anne Algier

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Coach Mark Iammarino

21st season (157-70): Iammarino and his staff have established one of the area's best programs the past decade, including 9 CVC titles and 10 playoff appearances. The emotional leader calls the offense.

33.5 points per game in 2014.

It's a significant change for a coaching staff that was pretty consistent over a long period of time. But they visited with other coaching staffs in the offseason and think the change provides flexibility with some of the defensive players.

Austin Lucas returns at LB. The senior had 40 tackles last year. Tull will play LB with Vandertill. Jack O'Brien is a rising junior who will play line-backer and see some carries on offense.

The defensive line will rotate, especially given all the bodies on the line, and Szaraz expects the defense to be more aggressive and more exciting this year. Jack Dawson, a junior, will play nose tackle. Esterer and Fricke are the starting cornerbacks.

Brigeman is going to play two ways at safety.

going to be easier as Kenston and Aurora both drop off. Chagrin Falls has never played Geneva before. They haven't played Beachwood in a long time. The new makeup of this league makes for a lot more parity, Iammarino said.

• The Tigers program has moved up to Division III this season. Iammarino does not think that's an issue.

• Due to past success, some assistants have moved on, so Iammarino is experiencing one of the biggest coaching transitions in a long time the past two seasons. "I think we are very fortunate in the guys we have this year, with a good blend of experience and youth." He thinks younger coaches will bring new ideas.

• Brennan Izzo is an "out-standing kicker," Iammarino said. Last year, the senior converted 24 of 26 extra point attempts and connected on three of four field goals, with a long of 31 yards.



Tull



Szaraz



Brigeman



Vandertill

Quick Hits

• Corey Tull is being recruited by "all of the Ivy League schools," said Iammarino.

• The team's schedule is

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CHARDON HIGH SCHOOL



Seniors Plan to Prove Naysayers Wrong



Big, strong, fast group. Experience is a concern. Defense replaces 9 starters. Offense has upside with new faces. Kicking game solid.

By Jamie Ward

| 2014 Results | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 8/29 | West Geauga | W 8-6 |
| 9/5 | @Kenston | W 19-7 |
| 9/12 | @Canton South | W 40-20 |
| 9/19 | North | W 45-21 |
| 9/26 | Madison | L 0-14 |
| 10/3 | @South | L 21-25 |
| 10/10 | Geneva | W 34-6 |
| 10/17 | @Riverside | W 22-15 |
| 10/24 | University | W 49-28 |
| 10/31 | @Lakeside | W 35-7 |
| 11/7 | #@St. V-St. M | L 13-34 |

Playoffs

| 2015 Schedule | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 8/28 | @West Geauga | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | @Geneva | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | East Technical | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @North | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | @Madison | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Kenston* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | @Mayfield | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | Riverside | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Brush | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | South | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming

Nobody ever expected a lot of this senior class when its football players turned varsity two years ago.

There were two wins in 7th grade, two more in 8th grade. And then a one-win freshman year. "We've just lost most of the time," said Lucas Lundblad, a senior and returning starter. "But we have really good kids, and the good character is going to show up on Friday night."

Many of the seniors who will be on the field this year have limited varsity experience. But head coach Mitch Hewitt knows that Chardon's system works when players work hard and put in the time. Hewitt thinks these seniors, despite the losses, have

some of the best size, strength and speed he has seen since taking over in 2011.

"It's a class that has been small in numbers, and it's a class you were told you can't win with," said Hewitt, a motivator known for grabbing players' attention in team huddles. "And I remind them of that constantly."

Big, Strong Line Always Key

The offensive line is as big as it's been in years, with players like LT Skylar Petkosek (6-6, 220), LF Justin Stanko (6-2, 280) and RG Daylon Powers (6-3, 290).

The Hilltoppers' Wing-T offense depends heavily on that line in its run-first approach. Chardon's coaching staff is known for aggressively trying

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fourth-down conversions, even running the ball on plays like 4th and 5.

Jamie Tierney, an offensive lineman, enjoys those challenges. "It's good that he trusts us," the senior said. "But we have to give him reason to. Passing is good and all, but when you can run the ball, it's better."

Petkosek credited the off-season workout program for the "great, huge size," saying, "We're bigger than we've ever been. We run the football a lot in tough situations, and we like it a lot. We feel like the left side is the strong side, all the way."

Hewitt said his team must control the line of scrimmage this season. "The game is won and lost at any level up front," he said.

Two quarterbacks took the snaps in the preseason, and whether the starter is Tommy Benenati or Joey Dinko, both juniors will be involved in the offense because of their speed.

"We have two really good kids," Hewitt said. "They are both 4.0 students, both the fastest, both the hardest workers."

Benenati and Dinko are also the same size at about 5-10, 170

"Passing is good and all, but when you can run the ball, it's better."

- Jamie Tierney

pounds. No Chardon QB is ever asked to throw the ball very often, which is why HB Christian Ross and FB Joe Cyvas are crucial.

Ross ran for 312 yards on 45 carries last year. The senior has good speed when he gets to the corner, which explains his 7 yards-per-carry average. Cyvas has varsity experience on the defensive end, and the junior is expected to step into the footsteps of his brother, Ben, who played FB last year before graduating.

Andrew Pikus will also play HB with Evan Hornyak. And Lundblad and Jacob Urcheck will take snaps at tight end.

Plenty of Chances to Step Up

Players liked the way the defense looked early in camp, but the reality is nine of last year's 11 starters have graduat-

Team Profile

Nickname: Hilltoppers

Colors: Red & Black

Home: Chardon Memorial Field

Conference: Western Reserve Conference

OHSAA: Div. II, Region 3

Playoff History: 1987, 1988, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2012, 2014 (24-14)

HS Boys: 378

Last Conference Title: 2004

2014 season: 8-3 (5-2 PAC)

Coaches: Jim Britt, Bob Francis, Brian Landies, Marty Mackar, Dave Toaddy, Don Navatsyk (off. coordinator), Ty Merkle, Rob Vujaklija, Chad Murawski

Roster: 73 total

15 seniors; 18 juniors

17 sophomores; 23 freshmen

Pay to play fee: \$350

Follow the Team: @topperfb, @toppernation

Players to Watch: Christian Ross, Sr. HB/DB 5-9, 180; Joe Cyvas, Jr. FB/LB 6-0, 203; Ethan Ziegenfuss, Jr. DB/P 5-11, 180; Andrew Pikus, Sr HB/DB 5-11, 187; Justin Stanko, Jr. RG 6-2, 280.

Cheerleaders: Kara Altman, Izy Baker, Brittany Gregorich, Gabby Foglio, Courtney Kernc, Katie Petersen, Kaleigh Smith, Hale Frank, Kaitlin Altman, Kelley Bolden, Sydney Biello, Clara Kalis, Cassidy McBride, Allie Malloy

Trainer: Hannah Kopack

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Coach Mitch Hewitt

5th season (28-16): Hewitt an example of a Hilltoppers graduate (1999) who has made good on his promise to turn Chardon around. Hewitt played football at Bowling Green State University before becoming a high school social studies teacher and coach in his hometown.



Ross



Tierney



Lundblad



Petkosek

ed. Only Lundblad on the defensive line and Cyvas at LB provide any real varsity experience.

Powers and Ryder Davis, a junior, are going to fill the defensive line, which Hewitt said was a strong unit in camp.

Kyle McCaffrey and Tanu Lemagua join Cyvas as linebackers.

And the entire secondary is new with Ross, Pikus, Shane Quinn and Ethan Ziegenfuss, who returns to his home district after playing with Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin.

Hewitt wondered how well the secondary would meet early varsity challenges.

“The secondary is in your eyes,” he said.

“Don’t peek inside, don’t do stupid things. We have bodies and physical kids, but how quickly can they get in and make a difference?”

Chardon’s kicking units are as strong as they’ve been in years. Last season, the Hilltoppers pulled a kicker from the girls soccer team. But now Ethan Ziegenfuss, the kicker, and his

brother, Mason, the punter, will handle the duties. Either Ziegenfuss could perform either job, Hewitt said. “They are world-class soccer players.”

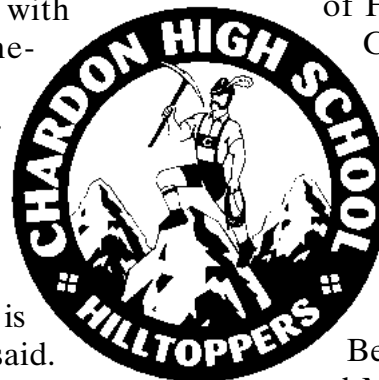
Kicking guru Marty Mackar continues to work with Chardon kickers on the weekends.

Quick Hits

• Chardon’s Week 1 opponent, West Geauga, remains the team’s biggest rival since that rivalry was renewed in 2008. In the four years of Hewitt’s leadership, Chardon is 2-2 against the Wolverines. The years they have won, 2012 and 2014, Chardon made the playoffs.

• Ryan Simkins, Zach Frank, Tierney, Benenati, Evan Powell and Matt Smerdell are 4.0 students.

• Chardon joins the Western Reserve Conference this season. It will be the smallest school in the WRC, joining familiar Premier Athletic Conference rivals (Riverside, Madison, North and South) and additions (Mayfield, Brush and Kenston).



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HAWKEN HIGH SCHOOL



Hawks Expect a Bounce-Back Year

Roster numbers down. O-line returns 4 starters. QB rotation in shotgun-spread offense. Defense a focus, allowed too many points in '14.



By Jamie Ward

of smaller senior classes in 2013 and 2014.

There were 27 players practicing at one of the team's first two-a-days in early August. Staying healthy is key. Logan Lair broke his ankle last season on the last day of preseason camp. As a senior and captain, it's no surprise Lair blames that accident for the team's difficult season.

"Sometimes I do blame myself for that," he said. "But this year my main goal is to make sure it doesn't happen again."

The margin for error is slim. But Hawken players are some of the best in the classroom. With experienced coaches and a few new opponents, things could swing back in the Hawks' favor.

Hawken continues to experience a decline in football roster numbers. One issue could be the success of the boys soccer program, which has been one of the best in Ohio for more than 10 years.

Head coach Cliff Walton sees roster numbers as a cycle. "And it has impacted us every couple of years," he said. One small class at a small program like Hawken really hurts. Last season, Hawken lost its last eight games to finish 2-8. That comes just two seasons after the team went 9-1.

Which cycle is this team on? There are 11 seniors, which is good news. And the younger players have experience because

2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|------------------|---------|
| 8/29 | @Fairport | W 42-0 |
| 9/6 | @Lutheran West | W 14-3 |
| 9/12 | Gilmour | L 20-46 |
| 9/19 | Berkshire | L 20-36 |
| 9/27 | @Western Reserve | L 20-49 |
| 10/2 | @Cuyahoga Hts. | L 12-31 |
| 10/10 | Independence | L 21-42 |
| 10/17 | Richmond Hts. | L 29-32 |
| 10/24 | @Cardinal | L 21-40 |
| 10/31 | Wickliffe | L 19-35 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|--------|
| 8/28 | Western Reserve | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | Lutheran West | 7 p.m. |
| 9/12 | @Gilmour | 1 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @Cuyahoga Hts. | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | @Richmond Hts. | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Berkshire* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | @Independence | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | Cardinal | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Fairport | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | @Kirtland | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming



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Line Should Provide Offense Protection

Hawken will continue with its shotgun-style offense. Junior Evan Faxon returns as starting QB for a second season. Faxon is left-handed and more of a traditional thrower.

Cameron Mazzone, a senior, is going to take snaps as a change-of-pace option. Mazzone gives the offense a different dimension in that he runs more. Mazzone wants to “keep them guessing” when he’s on the field.

Alex Friedman returns as a starting running back. Lair and Koron Davis will play slotback. Friedman is a between-the-tackles back, and will lead block for the slotbacks on sweeps.

Michael Christopher and Jonathan Simmons will play split-end.

The offensive line is a strength. Four starters return in LT Spencer Wilson, C Jacob Cohen, RG Jack Green and RT Ryuta Fujita. Harry Ankers is expected to play the left guard, and Erick Willis-Jordan, a sophomore, will compete for time.

This line has played together for three years. “So we don’t

“We’re just trying to get mean.”

– Cameron Mazzone

really have any weak links,” said Green, a captain. “And I think our backs are as strong as they’ve been in a few years.”

Defensive Improvement a Player Priority

The four captains all talked a lot about defense when it came to team expectations. Coach Walton did not think defense was a major concern, but his captains went back to the 3-4 hybrid time and again.

The defense allowed 38 points per game in its eight losses last season.

Friedman will call the plays on defense as the MLB. And he looks forward to increased blitz packages.

“That’s always a blast,” Friedman said. “Getting in there and wreaking havoc.”

Most Hawks will play both ways. Danny Murphy will start in the defensive backfield. The

Team Profile

Nickname: Hawks
Colors: Red & Gray
Home: Walton Stadium
Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference (Valley)

OHSAA: Div. V, Region 15
Playoff History: 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2009, 2012 (10-9)
HS Boys: 185

Last CVC Title: None
2014 season: 2-8 (0-7 CVC)

Coaches: Dan Walton (off. coordinator), Ken McClintock, Shawn McGregor, Gary Moses (def. coordinator), Kirk Lintern, John Christie

Roster: 35 players
 11 seniors; 4 juniors
 13 sophomores; 7 freshmen

Pay to play fee: None

Players to Watch: Alex Friedman, Sr. RB/LB 5-10, 175; Logan Lair, Sr. SB/LB 5-11, 180; Michael Christopher, Sr. SE/DB 5-11, 140; Jack Green, Sr. RG/DL 6-2, 185; Ryuta Fujita, Sr. RT/DL 5-11, 220

Cheerleaders: None

Trainer: Sarah Royan

Go Hawks! Have a Great Season!

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Coach Cliff Walton

35th season (223-130-1): A physical education teacher at Hawken, Walton has more than 40 years experience coaching football. The stadium already bears his name.



Friedman



Mazzone



Green



Lair

rest of the team, even QB Evan Faxon, is expected to take defensive snaps.

“I think we have the pieces we need on defense,” Green said.

Mazzone wants to see better tackling. “We’re just trying to get mean,” he said. “That was our problem, we needed to tackle better.”

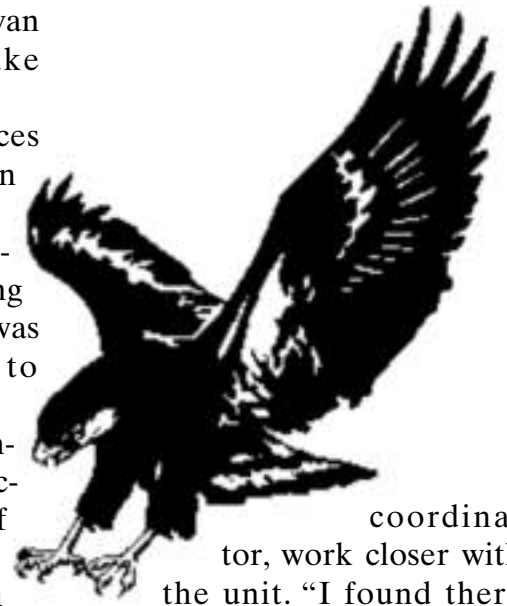
He stressed that low numbers make tackling in practice a concern because of the risk of injury. “It’s hard work in practice because you don’t typically go full-go,” he said.

The pass coverage was very good during the team’s 7-on-7 camps, especially the secondary.

Lair is wearing two ankle braces this year. Like Mazzone, he thinks the team can improve its tackling. And he wants to see more energy. “Like a bat out of hell,” he said, describing the type of mentality the Hawks should play with this season.

Quick Hits

• Head coach Cliff Walton spent some time in the press box last season. He said he was helping his son, Dan, the offensive



coordinator, work closer with the unit. “I found there was food up there, too,” he joked. “And it’s dry up there.”

• Keith McClintock has returned to the coaching staff after a few-year hiatus with a coaching stint in Texas. McClintock is teaching at the Lower School.

• Players have been impressed with the freshman class, which has been making an impact on special teams. There was a time when Hawken had 18 freshmen per season, but now the program just tries to field a junior varsity team.

• The Hawks kickers are all new. Simmons is expected to kick, with Mazzone handling the punting.

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KENSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Playoffs for Bombers An Expectation



Gdula best passer in Geauga. Offense no-huddle, high-temp. Inexperienced receivers a mystery. New schedule/conference a challenge.

By Jamie Ward

With a roster full of athletes, the Bombers will play almost nobody two-ways, as was witnessed in the team's fourth two-a-day practice: the offense was in white, the defense in blue. That's the way Grubich likes it.

"It's going to help us stay fresh, especially against the larger schools," he said. "It's going to allow players to talk to coaches on the sidelines and stay better prepared during the game."

A Senior with a Strong Arm

Parker Gdula will be one of the most watched football players in Geauga County this season. If you close your eyes and imagine a senior QB throwing a football, chances are it looks something like Gdula.

Head coach Jeff Grubich asked his team to take a step forward last season, and the Bombers answered with a 7-0 conference record and the school's first Chagrin Valley Conference title in 15 years.

A job well done. But to take that next step this year, Kenston will have to win games versus an entirely different schedule in an entirely different conference, totally new to players and coaches.

What does Grubich know about eight new opponents in 10 weeks? "Nothing," he said. "Absolutely nothing." Still, it's hard to feel sorry for a program that has reached the playoffs in each of the last three seasons.



2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 8/29 | @Solon | L 14-20 |
| 9/5 | Chardon | L 7-19 |
| 9/12 | Brush | W 21-0 |
| 9/19 | @Wickliffe | W 46-0 |
| 9/26 | Chagrin Falls | W 38-10 |
| 10/2 | @Orange | W 63-14 |
| 10/10 | Perry | W 30-0 |
| 10/17 | @Harvey | W 50-14 |
| 10/24 | @West Geauga | W 50-27 |
| 10/31 | Aurora | W 31-21 |
| 11/7 | #Aurora | L 24-42 |

Playoff game

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|-----------|--------|
| 8/28 | @Steele | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | Medina | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | Canfield | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | Riverside | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | Mayfield* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | @Chardon | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | @North | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | @South | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Madison | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | @Brush | 7 p.m. |

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Undecided about college, the suitors continue to flock to Gdula, who has been starting since his sophomore year. Last season, he threw for 2,113 yards. But the receivers who caught those 131 completions are graduated.

So Gdula has worked since February finding new go-to targets for the Bombers' no-huddle spread offense.

"He's going to have to work on his accuracy," Grubich said, "because he's throwing to a bunch of kids who haven't played under the lights on Friday night."

"We have to take advantage of this opportunity because it's our last year," Gdula said. "I'm trying to show the younger players what Friday nights are about."

Max Seewald and Ryan Cozzens are both expected to step up and catch passes this season. Both are making the transition from defense. Christian Tosaro and freshman Bransen Stanley are two others.

Kenston graduated three offensive linemen, but Joe Zoretich, Mike Serna and McKade Hatfield return with

"He's throwing to a bunch of kids who haven't played under the lights..."

- Jeff Grubich on Gdula

experience. Serna missed last season with a torn ACL. Hatfield should start at left tackle, with two sophomores competing for two other spots on the line.

"We're a young team, but we're working hard, and I feel like there's a lot of potential in the younger guys," said Hatfield.

James Thigpen returns as the primary ballcarrier, having carried it 151 times last season for 1,011 yards, including 12 TDs. Just a junior, he's expected to mature and deliver. DeFranco should also see some carries.

Grubich says he tells kids all the time: "It's your opportunity, take advantage of it."

New Faces in the Same Scheme

The Bombers will start six new players in their 4-3 base

Team Profile

Nickname: Bombers

Colors: Blue & White

Home: Bombers Stadium

Conference: Western Reserve

OHSAA: Div. II, Region 3

Playoff History: 1981, 1986, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 (7-9)

HS Boys: 385

Last Conference Title: 2014

2014 season: 10-3 (7-0 CVC)

Coaches: Wally Sonnie, Bob Ross, Tim Klug, Steve Grubich (off. coordinator), Steve Teringo (def. coordinator), Reed Cornell (def. coordinator), Brad Lako, James Dutched, Scott Anderson, Mike Garity

Roster: 72 total

23 seniors; 12 juniors

15 sophomores; 22 freshmen

Pay to play fee: None

Follow the Team: @Bomber_Football, @BomberEliteClub

Players to Watch: Parker Gdula, Sr. QB 6-2, 195; Ryan Cozzens, Sr. DB/WR 6-0, 180; Max Seewald, Sr. Wr 5-9, 165; Charlie Randall, Sr. DB 5-11, 180; Collin Kure, Sr. 5-11, 190; Branson Stanley, Fr. WR 5-11, 145

Cheerleaders: Malorie Cardaman, Tatyana Hill, Samantha Barrett, Heaven Rondo, Morgan Measures, Samantha Adams, Monaya Stanley, Breanna Bodak, Elizabeth Monroe, Kate Powell, Ariana Clark, Sophie Keszenheimer, Erica Adams

Trainer: Vивиanni McKinney



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Coach Jeff Grubich

4th season (22-12): Grubich has taken the Bombers to the playoffs three times in three seasons. The former Mentor assistant coach has created a Mentor-like program in Geauga County, with perennial contenders.



Kure



Hatfield



Gdula



Silbermann

multiple front defense. But there's a chance 10 of the 11 starters could be seniors.

Mike Thigpen returns after injuring himself in Week 1 last season. Charlie Randall is a cornerback who started last year. And Kordell Holmes will play safety. Peyton Hulsinger will find a spot in the secondary, as well.

The entire defensive line was up for grabs in camp.

"Until they put the pads on and start hitting, we don't know what we have," Grubich said. "You can look great in shorts and a helmet."

The strength of the defense will be the linebackers. Zach Silbermann returns along with Romayle Terry and Colin Kure. Matt Shell will join the group.

Silbermann is the leader of the defense.

"I think we look really stout," he said. "Just everywhere we're strong. We're not weak anywhere."

Kure will play strong-side

linebacker, and thinks camp has been strong. "Fans should expect high intensity," he said. "A lot of turnovers and a lot of shut-outs. There's still work to be done, but we're confident, and I'm excited about the chemistry."

Quick Hits

- Silbermann's nickname is "meat." He said: "Over the years, it just kind of developed."

- Kenston has been added to the Western Reserve Conference. Chardon and Brush are the only two opponents this program has played in the WRC since Grubich took over four years ago.

- The team's non-conference schedule includes Amherst-Steele, which is an hour commute; Medina, which is a Division I school; and Canfield. But Grubich said coaches are excited about seeing new opponents: "These guys are going to really have to grind it."



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NEWBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Junior Class is Key to Knights' Success

Newbury has a schedule its size. Young coaches who know what to expect. Depth always an issue. 10-man junior class is heart and soul.



By Jamie Ward

Newbury again opened its 2015 season with a practice as soon as was allowed, on Aug. 1 — what head coach Tim Glodowski, now in his second year, has dubbed the MidKnight Madness.

It's a decision designed to get the Black Knights, all 17 of them, ready for another uphill season. Glodowski and his coaches must convince high school athletes to play three ways. And this comes with mental exhaustion and physical pain.

Newbury players have been in the weight room since December. And their coach thinks the players are buying in: "We are getting to the goals we want to achieve."

Glodowski has learned some things in his second season. "In year one I thought I was the best head coach known to man," he said. "Now that I've seen everything, I've mellowed out. I'm focusing on what we need to focus on."

It's all about the junior class. Most of those wearing the black and orange pads on the field will be 11th-graders. It's not just a large class, but a talented one. "It's the class," Glodowski said.

"We've always been friends and stuck together," said junior Joe Ule, who will anchor the offensive and defensive lines. "When we were freshmen, all of us got started, and I think with the junior talent we have, we can do good."

"It's just nice because we've



2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 8/29 | Py Valley | L 7-26 |
| 9/5 | @St. John | W 47-0 |
| 9/12 | Mathews | L 14-39 |
| 9/19 | Grand Valley | L 6-37 |
| 9/26 | @Chalker | W 48-41 |
| 10/3 | Richmond Hts. | W 21-20 |
| 10/10 | Cardinal | L 6-47 |
| 10/17 | @Windham | L 12-38 |
| 10/24 | @Berkshire | L 8-41 |
| 10/31 | @Ledgemont | L 0-33 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 8/28 | @Py Valley | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | St. John&Paul | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | @Richmond Hts. | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @Waterloo | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | @Garfield | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Windham | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | Lutheran East* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | @Mathews | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Chalker | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | @Grand Valley | |

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been a big family throughout the years,” said junior Tommy McKale.

Added junior Kade Marker, “I think our class just loves the game of football. And I think we want to put Newbury back on the map in football.”

Run, Knights, Run

On offense, Johnny Chambers returns as the team’s leading rusher from a season ago. Chambers ran 729 yards on 109 carries, good for 6.6 yards per carry. He will be asked to carry the load as a sophomore.

“He’ll take the lion’s share,” Glodowski said of Chambers. Newbury will run the football on most downs — some 90 percent the coaches predict. And Chambers understands it’s a big role.

“I learned a lot from Ben (Elia),” said of the the back who graduated with 1,400 yards last season. “I feel a lot more comfortable. Your freshman year there are lots of jitters and figuring out what high school football is. Sophomore you just build on it.”

McKale is going to also get carries at fullback. Jake Weiss,

“I’m focusing on what we need to focus on.”
– Tim Glodowski

the only senior, is taking some snaps at QB. Weiss played soccer last season, and so was still learning in the beginning of pre-season camp. Chambers could also play QB.

When last season’s starter went down, Nate Grubbs, a junior, was thrust into the QB position because coaches thought he was the best athlete to handle it. Grubbs learned the entire offense in a week, so more preparation should help if he is asked to play the position again.

Ray Modic is back this season at wingback.

Ule, at 240 pounds, could get some right tackle postseason accolades in Division VII. Ule understands the line has to stay healthy. And during games, there isn’t much time for a breather.

The offense, a double-tight with a wing, is staying the same under coordinator Joe Shumar,

Team Profile

Nickname: Black Knights

Colors: Black & Orange

Home: Carl Munn Stadium

Conference: Northeastern Athletic Conference

OHSAA: Div. VII, Region 23

Playoff History: None

HS Boys: 61

Last conference title: None

2014 season: 3-7 (1-4 NAC)

Coaches: Coaches: Pat Snodgrass (def. coordinator); Joe Shumar (off. coordinator); Brennan Torok; AJ Corona; Scott Dinehart

Roster: 17 total

1 senior; 6 juniors

4 sophomores; 6 freshmen

Pay to play fee: \$125

Follow the Team: @coachglodowski

Players to Watch: Tommy McKale, Jr. FB/LB/OL 6-1, 205; Johnny Chambers, So. RB/QB/LB 5-10, 175; Nate Grubbs, Jr. RB/DB 6-0, 165; Kade Marker, Jr. TE/DL 6-2, 220

Cheerleaders: Kristen Whelchel, Carley Couch, Grace Wright, Jessica Perez, Abby Harvey, Liesel Fenstermaker, Jacy Drabeck

Trainer: Chris Soworowski

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Coach Tim Glodowski

2nd season (3-7): The young coach has had a full off-season to prepare Newbury for success with a much friendlier schedule. The Eastlake-North graduate says he learned a lot in his first year.



Marker



Ule



Chambers



McKale

which should help since many of the players understand the offensive basics. "Mini-camp is now just basically review," Glodowski said. "The learning curve has been quick."

Playing All Three Ways

The Black Knights will run a 4-3 base defense with some adjustments.

Weiss will play defensive back. "He's a diamond in the rough," Glodowski said. "He's been asking a lot of questions that haven't been asked."

Chambers will play LB, along with McKale, who finished with about 80 tackles last season. Glodowski said McKale is the defense's emotional leader.

Marker, who "can be really good when he wants to be," says his coach, will play defensive end. Marker said he felt great early in camp. "I feel I can bring stuff to the team that we need," he said.

The defense has been learning things quickly, Marker added.

Grubbs will play strong safety, with Modic at the other safety.

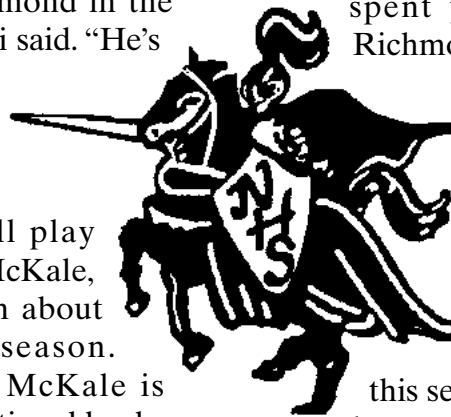
Quick Hits

• The Black Knights "earn their stripe" during the pre-season — that is, the orange stripe on their black helmets, a tradition begun under these coaches. The team will feature the same helmet this season with the addition of an orange chin strap.

• Glodowski's dad, Mike, is not officially on the coaching staff this season. But Mike spent years coaching Richmond Heights and is considered a coaching role model for his son.

• Marker will feature bleached blonde hair this season. "I told him he needs to play like he can wear that," Glodowski said. Last season, Marker had a mohawk.

• There are five teams in the Northeastern Athletic Conference this season. Newbury struggled to fill some of its five non-conference games, but found 10 opponents that will give them Ohio High School Athletic Association points.



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NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN HIGH SCHOOL

Lions to Build on Success Under New Coach

New QB but top rusher, receiver return. Roster numbers high. New coach taking a college approach to program. Expect big things.



By Jamie Ward

approaches to coaching a football team.

This year's Lions will look to build on the first playoff win in school history, a 45-27 road win against Field. But NDCL players believe they should have beaten Bay a week later.

"The guys didn't take any time off," Mooney said. "They realize they did something special last year, and they want to keep building on it."

They weren't then, and won't be this year, just happy to be there.

New Face Runs Familiar Offense

Participation in the weight room this spring was high, even in the interim period when the team was not sure who would be head coach.

Tyler Sabath will be the new QB, having waited his turn his junior year. Sabath was overwhelmingly voted team captain and stepped right into that leadership role.

Watching it unfold was the man named to be the new head coach, Andrew Mooney, who was in the building having coached the offensive line last season. He and former coach Ben Malbasa have very similar

"I'm excited to fill those shoes, and I think I'm ready for it," Sabath said. "We are motivated to go farther. We got a taste of it, and then it was bitter-sweet."

Mooney doesn't like to call



2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 8/29 | South | W 44-17 |
| 9/5 | Chagrin Falls | W 44-10 |
| 9/13 | @University | W 49-17 |
| 9/19 | Hubbard | L 15-49 |
| 9/26 | @Struthers | W 29-21 |
| 10/3 | Lake Catholic | L 28-38 |
| 10/10 | @Benedictine | L 16-55 |
| 10/17 | Walsh | L 17-31 |
| 10/24 | @Hoban | W 28-24 |
| 10/31 | @Padua | W 42-24 |
| 11/7 | #@Field | W 45-27 |
| 11/14 | #Bay | L 24-27 |

Playoff game

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|--------|
| 8/28 | @South | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | @Chagrin Falls | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | University | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | Cleve Cen. Cath. | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | @Canton Cen. Cath. | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | @Lake Catholic | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | Benedictine | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | @Walsh | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Hoban* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | Padua | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming

his offense a spread, but conceded it's "a spread offense with an old-school mentality." He said the Lions will run the football first, and pass when they have to. "I want to say when I throw it, rather than being in long range situations."

The Lions will hurry up on offense. Last season, Malbasa said he'd like to see his team run 120 plays a game. Not much will change under Mooney: "We cannot snap the ball fast enough, but we're going to pound it at you at a pace that is not capable of being matched by the defense."

Harrison Richardson returns as the lead back. Richardson had 1,044 yards last season on 167 carries. The junior also had 16 TDs.

Other ball carriers include senior Savion Groves and junior Brandon Mounts.

"Those guys are back healthy, and we're going to rotate all three of them," Mooney said. "I would love to get each of those guys 20 carries a game."

Rob Ortega, at center, is the senior leader of the offensive line. He returns with starters Justin Schlereth (LT), Stephen

"We are motivated to go farther. We got a taste of it, and then it was bittersweet."

- Tyler Sabath

Zbiegien (LG) and Jacob Zbiegien (RG). Bobby Sterkel rounds out the line at right tackle.

"We're keeping it simple with the offensive line so we can be physical and hard-nosed with it," Mooney said. And the Zbiegien brothers are like coaches playing guards. "I love coaching this offensive line," he said.

Brendan Leininger returns at tight end. Leininger was the top receiver in Geauga County, catching 53 passes for 784 yards. He has good size, and is expected to make a huge impact.

"We're not looking at individuals, we're looking at the team," Leininger said. "And the team hit the ground running early in camp."

Alex Balogh, a team captain, Ryan Sabo and Jake Marut will play wideout.

Team Profile

Nickname: Lions

Colors: Blue & Gold

Home: Lion Stadium

Conference: North Coast League (Blue Division)

OHSAA: Div. IV, Region 11

Playoff History: 2003, 2004, 2008, 2012 (0-4)

HS Boys: 246

Last NCL Title: 2012

2014 season: 6-4 (2-3 NCL)

Coaches: George O'Hamill (off. coordinator), Chris Stoffl, Tony Bovaro (def. coordinator), JP Edmond, Drew Phillips, Jeff Banker, August Motz, Tom Mental

Roster: 82 total

18 seniors; 20 juniors

21 sophomores; 23 freshmen

Pay to play fee: None

Follow the Team: @NDCL_Football

Players to Watch: Tyler Sabath, Sr. QB 6-0, 180; Harrison Richardson, Jr. RB 5-10, 185; Brendan Leininger, TE 6-5, 205; Ryan LeBanc, Jr. LB 6-1, 205; Rob Ortega, Sr. C 6-0, 210

Cheerleaders: Avery Albano, Claire Bouffard, Hannah DeRespiris, Lauren Farrell, Ashley Fortunato, Isabella Gigliotti, Chelsea Gorom, Olivia Gorom, Noreen Liggett, Sophia Marusic, Amanda Perella, Nina Rizzo, Shannon Rossi, Kayla Schikowski, Marissa Tucholka, Giovanna Vitale, Hailey Wilson, Sydney Yonosik-Barcomb, Rylee Zappitelli

Trainer: Pete DeMichele



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Coach Andrew Mooney

1st season: Inherits a program on upswing after years under former coaches Byron Morgan and Ben Malbasa. A native of Texas, Mooney was an NDCL assistant last season. Coached for four years with the offensive line at Ohio University.

Defense Will Mostly Play One Way

The team will have multiple defensive fronts, which the coaches decided was best considering the Lions personnel. There is a mixture of seniors and underclassmen, and six new starters, this season.

Roster numbers are up, and so NDCL expects to start almost nobody two ways, which will help the defense stay fresh for four quarters.

Ryan LeBanc, a junior, expects to have a big season from the LB position. Sophomore Chase Kline steps into a LB role, along with Nate Peroni and Brendan Jackett.

LeBanc knows the young guys need to step up to replace lost seniors. And he likes having defensive coaches that can help defenders specialize.

Randy Cumley will play nose guard in the 3-man and tackle in the 4-man front. "It's nice to have a guy like him down in the trenches," Mooney said of the junior. Joe Iademarco and Mike Varcelli will play defensive end.

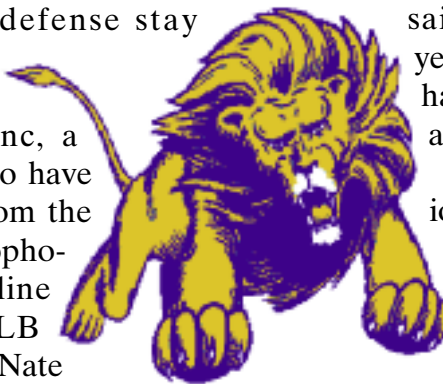
Seniors James Tuohey and Vincent Petro are the safeties. Rob Szmania and Joshua Peroni are the corners.

Quick Hits

• NDCL, when asked by a local paper to list its best players in the classroom, decided not complete that part of the questionnaire. "Let's just say they all have good grades," Mooney said, laughing. "Last year's graduating class had a cumulative 3.5 average."

• The Blue Division is tough. Mooney knows that. But he's thankful for all the possible computer points available to NDCL, since reaching the playoffs is always the team's main goal. "I really wouldn't have it any other way," he said. "I'd rather go 4-6 and make the playoffs then go 9-1 and watching."

• Mooney wants to run the NDCL program in the business-like manner that college programs are run, so he will use his experience at Ohio University. "We are very serious," he said. "Raising the accountability level."



Leininger



Richardson



LaBanc



Sabath



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- ⊙ Drinking after a competition HINDERS muscle repair recovery.



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WEST GEAUGA HIGH SCHOOL

Wolverines Due for Bounce Back if History Holds



QB spot solidified. Engoglia has the team's speed. Rest of skill players question marks. New opponents will help. **Week 1 vs. Chardon key.**

By Jamie Ward

2014 Results

| | | |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| 8/29 | @Chardon | L 6-8 |
| 9/6 | Riverside | L 28-52 |
| 9/12 | Padua | W 21-14 |
| 9/19 | @Harvey | W 34-22 |
| 9/26 | Perry | W 28-21 |
| 10/3 | @Aurora | L 0-38 |
| 10/10 | @Orange | W 27-24 |
| 10/17 | @Chagrin Falls | L 34-36 |
| 10/24 | Kenston | L 27-50 |
| 10/31 | Beachwood | W 35-6 |

2015 Schedule

| | | |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| 8/28 | Chardon | 7 p.m. |
| 9/4 | @Riverside | 7 p.m. |
| 9/11 | @Padua | 7 p.m. |
| 9/18 | @Geneva | 7 p.m. |
| 9/25 | @Harvey | 7 p.m. |
| 10/2 | Beachwood* | 7 p.m. |
| 10/9 | Orange | 7 p.m. |
| 10/16 | @Wickliffe | 7 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Perry | 7 p.m. |
| 10/30 | Chagrin Falls | 7 p.m. |

* Homecoming

What a difference the turf makes.

The Wolverines are having their first preseason camp on the field turf at Howell Field. And the community's efforts to complete the project has changed the way the football team practices.

"It's faster, and the pace of it improves the organization of practice," said head coach Lou Cirino. Cirino, a 2002 graduate, is now the most senior member of West Geauga's fall varsity coaches. "And actually having lines and numbers improves the spacing."

The team just looked bigger and stronger on the surface during its second two-a-day prac-

tice. Senior Carmen Engoglia doesn't miss the pot holes, or the mud when it rains. "It's awesome," he said.

This year's senior class has big expectations. The group went undefeated in middle school. And the schedule will be considerably more competitive.

Plus, the trend under Cirino has been to reach the playoffs every other year. After finishing 5-5 a year ago, the Wolverines are due.

"They are still a growing group," Cirino said. "And we've had to raise them more than ever. But the team is tighter, and their roles are more defined."

The goal is simple: Be one of the school's best teams ever. To do that, they'll need to win a playoff game; Wolverines teams are 1-7 all-time in the postseason.

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Searight Takes Over as Captain

Cameron Searight returns as starting QB after four and a half starts as a sophomore. Searight battled injuries at the end of last season, but completed 49 of 91 passes for 671 yards when healthy. Searight talks confidently, and his coaches think he looks ready to lead.

"I feel a lot more comfortable," he said, adding there is a little less pressure in practice.

Engolia figures to be involved in the Wolverines' multiple-formation offense in different ways. The senior is listed as a wide receiver, but his speed makes him a TD threat.

"I plan to go undefeated," Engolia said. "That's the goal, and I think we have a really good chance of doing it."

The worry is opposing defenses will shade or double Engolia, so coaches are working hard with other skill players, like running backs Anthony Albino and Matt Ickes, both seniors. Zach Suba (11 catches and 220 yards in 2014) also returns as a starter.

And there is real buzz around the tight end position. Chris

"I plan to go undefeated."

- Carmen Engolia

Zannetti, who is 6-4 and 205 pounds, is a good athlete and one of the best basketball players in the county. Joe Fornaro will also play TE. Both can play over the middle or split out.

The offensive line is strong on the ends and inexperienced in the center. Replacing two guards and a center is a big part of the preseason. But the team's tackles, Logan Jelliffe (6-3, 270) and Michael Archiable (6-3, 240), are big.

"These guys really care about each other," Archiable said, and new varsity players on the line, like Anthony Ippolito, Kyle Krebs and Nick Rossi, are fitting in well. "We've gotten bigger than last year through the weight room."

More One-Way Players Should Help D

The defense, a base 4-4, returns Sean Kirkwood, Spencer

Team Profile

Nickname: Wolverines

Colors: Blue & White

Home: Howell Stadium

Conference: Chagrin Valley Conference (Chagrin)

OHSAA: Div. III, Region 7

Playoff History: 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2013 (1-7)
HS Boys: 266

Last CVC Title: 2003

2014 season: 5-5 (4-3 CVC)

Coaches: Eric Stendalen, Joe Mazzurco, Bobby Scott, Matt Byrne, Kevin Byrne (off. coordinator), Mitch Smith (def. coordinator), Derek Buell, Andrew Balkovec, Nick Iacampo, Jeff Javorek

Roster: 78 players
23 seniors; 13 juniors
15 sophomores; 27 freshmen

Pay to play fee: \$195

Follow the Team: @WestGFootball, @WestGAthletics

Players to Watch: Cameron Searight, Sr. QB/DB 6-0, 195; Zach Suba, Sr. WR/DB/P 6-2, 165; Carmen Engolia, Sr. WR/DB 5-6, 165; Matt Ickes, Sr. FB/LB 5-10, 205; Chris Zannetti, Sr. TE/DL 6-4, 205

Cheerleaders: Rachyl Anderson, Alexis Ange, Quinn Arra, Bri Cellini, Cassidy Czirkay, Kim Davidson, Meghan Drain, Gabi Engolia, Alex Gibb, Camryn Heatwole, Angie Hrobat, Kaity Larrick, Kendal Lyman, Alyssa Possante, Anna Sheridan, Hannah Spies, Samara Steele, Hannah Zannetti

Trainer: Kyle Baer



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Coach Lou Cirino

6th season (30-22): Cirino isn't the young coach who took over in 2010, a fresh-faced 2002 West Geauga graduate. More mature, Cirino is trying to build a perennial powerhouse.



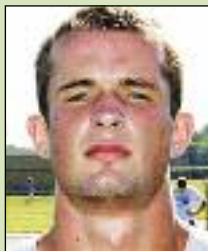
Engolia



Jelliffe



Searight



Zannetti

Mansfield, Shaqwan Bailey and Kyle Gallagher. Three of the team's four linebackers are also back: Fornaro, Dom Pavich and Rob Cline.

West Geauga, despite roster numbers that are slightly down in the past three seasons, have developed a number of one-way players, which should help.

The secondary returns starters Kyle Roberts and Patrick Davasinni. Joe Daddario looks to step into that role. And Charlie Koach and Noah Ickes both expect to make an impact on defense.

"We're excited about that side of the ball," Cirino said. "Hopefully they don't get complacent with anything."

Quick Hits

• With 271 boys in grades 10 through 12, the Wolverines are one of the smallest Division III school in Ohio. Enrollment trends downward, Cirino said, making it likely the Wolverines could drop to Division IV for the 2017-18 season.

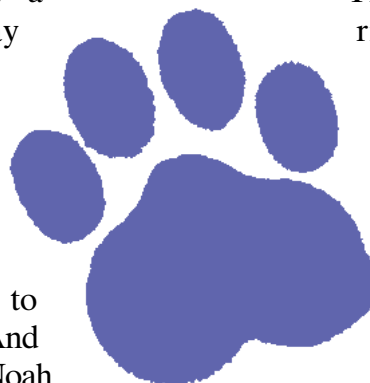
• West Geauga is not the media pick to win the new-look Chagrin Valley Conference's Chagrin Division, which suits Cirino. "We're not the ones with the target on our back right now. I'm hoping it happens at some point."

• The Wolverines play rival Chagrin Falls in Week 10 and Perry in Week 9, both pre-season favorites in the conference. West Geauga has not beaten Chagrin Falls since 2006. That's eight straight losses.

• Jeff Javorek, the new head varsity basketball coach, is a new assistant on the staff. Kevin Byrne is the new offensive coordinator, but the team will run the same offense. Joe Leonette was named new athletic director in early August.

• Matt Ickes, Noah Jacobson, Chris Zannetti, Alex Steward and Noah Ickes are all 4.0 students.

• The one drawback to practicing on the new Howell Field turf? "Turf burn," says Michael Archibale.



Have a Winning Season, Wolverines!

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GOOD LUCK

to all Geauga County Athletes

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