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OHSAA Division II, Region 6 football preview: Defending champ Avon still deep with talent

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How does Avon approach state title defense?



By **Matt Goul, cleveland.com**

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Avon finally broke through the state semifinal barrier last year to win the OHSAA Division II football championship.

The Eagles return in 2025 again favored in Region 6, where they have reached eight consecutive title games, winning seven of them.

Get an early look with cleveland.com's preview of Division II, Region 6. Find preseason rankings for the state and regions, plus team-by-team scouting reports with players to watch and schedules.

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS STORIES

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Aug. 20, 2025, 6:05a.m.

Ohio's top running backs in Division 2 high school football

Aug. 20, 2025, 6:00a.m.

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top players for 2025

Aug. 20, 2025, 5:00a.m.

Preseason statewide top 10

1. Archbishop Hoban, 2. Avon, 3. Sunbury Big Walnut, 4. Cincinnati Anderson, 5. Massillon, 6. Wadsworth, 7. Walsh Jesuit, 8. Highland, 9. Cincinnati LaSalle, 10. Columbus Walnut Ridge.

Read the full breakdown from June.

Region 6 power rankings

1. Avon, 2. Wadsworth, 3. Highland, 4. Olmsted Falls, 5. Avon Lake, 6. Whitehouse Anthony Wayne, 7. North Ridgeville, 8. Toledo St. Francis DeSales, 9. Amherst, 10. North Royalton, 11. Toledo St. John's Jesuit, 12. Brecksville-Broadview Heights.

Team-by-team breakdowns

Previews are organized in alphabetical order.

Amherst Comets

2024 record: 6-5, regional qualifier

Coach: Tom Thome (third season)

League: Southwestern Conference

League: Southwestern Conference

Players to watch

Cy Christensen, QB, 6-1, 1645, sr.

Michael Passerrello Jr., RB/S, 6-1, 190, sr.

Payton Giles, RB, 5-10, 180, sr.

David Dudziak, WR/CB, 5-10, 170, sr.

Nick Wilkinson, WR/S, 6-0, 185, jr.

Cael Charles, WR, 6-1, 155, jr.

Jack Coleman, WR/QB, 6-0, 170, so.

Peyton Leibacher, TE, 5-10, 175, sr.

Javiaun Bush, OT, 6-0, 240, sr.

Jordan Hatfield, G/DT, 5-10, 225, sr.

Hunter Farlow, G/DL, 6-4, 225, sr.

Hunter Thornsberry, C, 5-11, 250, sr.

Evan Sweirs, G, 6-2, 240, so.

Patrick Fellenstein, DE/TE, 6-0, 210, sr.

Andy Malloy, DE, 6-0, 215, jr.

Maeson Morales, OLB, 6-2, 200, sr.

Tyler Denn, OLB, 5-10, 180, sr.

Grady Pellittieri, S, 6-1, 170, jr.

About the Comets: While Amherst graduated big playmakers, it is still loaded with plenty. Start with quarterback. All-Ohio quarterback Cade Norris has graduated, but Christensen arrives after earning the same honors last year in Division IV at Clearview. Two of Norris' top targets, Dudziak and Charles, will now be two of Christensen's top receivers with the arrival of Passerrello, a Midview transfer and son of former Amherst

coach Mike Passerello. In all, 1 home returns six starters on offense and seven on defense, which is boasted by one of Northeast Ohio's top tacklers in Morales.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Sandusky

Aug. 29 at Buckeye

Sept. 5 at North Olmsted

Sept. 12 vs. Berea-Midpark

Sept. 19 at Avon Lake

Sept. 26 vs. Olmsted Falls

Oct. 3 at Elyria

Oct. 10 vs. Avon

Oct. 17 at North Ridgeville

Oct. 25 vs. Midview

Avon Eagles

2024 record: 16-0, state champion

Coach: Mike Elder (19th season)

League: Southwestern Conference

Players to watch

Blake Elder, QB, 6-1, 180, sr.

Quiante Smith, RB/S, 5-10, 175, sr.

Grant Barr, WR/OLB, 6-1, 195, sr.

Maximus Hauck, OT/DT, 6-4, 285, sr.

Mason Hauck, OL, 6-3, 270, sr.

Eian Englehart, OT/DT, 6-3, 240, sr.

Lance Dawson, DE/OT, 6-4, 240, sr.

Ryan Stolarski, LB, 6-2, 230, sr.

Jakob Weatherspoon, CB/WR, 6-1, 175, sr.

Alex Rivera, CB/WR, 5-9, 162, sr.

Cameron Wendell, S/RB, 5-9, 185, sr.

Jerry Clements, S, 5-11, 180, sr.

Caden Clapham, DB, sr.

Trevor Maly, DB, 5-9, 170, sr.

About the Eagles: The defending state champs are in a strong position to defend their title, despite graduating All-Ohio quarterback and cleveland.com Offensive Player of the Year Nolan Good, plus a deep defensive line, which set Avon apart in its quest to finally break through the state semifinals. It's a place Elder's program has reached seven times in the last eight years. The Eagles also have nine straight SWC championships in that time, and they remain heavy favorites with returning standouts on defense in Stolarski (a Miami of Ohio commit) and North Carolina-bound defensive back Weatherspoon. He can play corner or safety and be used as an offensive weapon, which is welcomed by the coach's son, Blake, who takes the reins at quarterback. He started two playoff games as a sophomore in place of Good, who was injured two years ago. Barr is one of Northeast Ohio's fastest rising prospects at receiver, while Smith established himself in the backfield during Avon's playoff run. He and Wendell are expected to be the featured ball carriers, while there are three returning starters on the offensive line. Dawson also earned time on that deep defensive line rotation and should have a breakout senior season after committing in June to Cincinnati.

Schedule

Aug. 21 vs. St. Ignatius

Aug. 28 at Spruce Creek, Fla.

Sept. 5 vs. Glenville

Sept. 12 at North Ridgeville

Sept. 19 vs. Olmsted Falls

Sept. 26 at Berea-Midpark

Oct. 3 vs. Midview

Oct. 10 at Amherst

Oct. 17 vs. Avon Lake

Oct. 24 at Elyria

Avon Lake Shoremen

2024 record: 6-5, regional qualifier

Coach: Matt Kostelnik (ninth season)

League: Southwestern Conference

Players to watch

Dawson TenBrink, QB, 6-0, 182, so.

Michael Summerfield, RB/DB, 5-9, 147, sr.

Ezra Jones, RB/DB, 6-0, 200, sr.

Mitchell Streeter, RB/LB, 6-0, 179, jr.

Mason Ambrose, RB/LB, 6-1, 180, so.

Levi Ventrice, FB/LB, 6-1, 180, jr.

Aidan Stewart, WR, 6-1, 180, sr.

Jacob Perry, WR/DB, 6-1, 172, jr.

Jack Costin, WR/DB, 6-0, 183, sr.

Colin Hout, WR/DB, 5-10, 171, sr.

Davin Pence, WR/DB, 6-3, 167, sr.

James Ness, WR/DB, 6-2, 154, sr.

Erik Van Euwen, TE/DL, 6-1, 204, sr.

Andrew Lazor, TE/DE, 6-2, 200, jr.

Max Riley, OT/DT, 6-5, 277, sr.

Slade Streng, OL/DL, 6-0, 273, sr.

Jack Ellis, OL/DL, 6-1, 223, jr.

Kamai Jonah, OL/DT, 6-3, 297, jr.

Caleb Smith, DT/OL, 5-11, 215, sr.

Samuel Huffman, LB/TE, 6-2, 194, sr.

Christopher Gaulding, LB/WR, 6-2, 172, fr.

Drake Rudnicki, CB/RB, 5-10, 171, jr.

About the Shoremen: Four-year starting tackle and Ohio State commit Riley headlines Avon Lake, which has some firepower around him Air Force commit Stewart and two strong backs in Summerfield and Jones. Kostelnik likes the depth at his skill positions to complement that line. Toledo St. Francis de Sales upset the Shoremen, 34-31, in the first round of last year's playoffs. They had picked up steam down the stretch after a tough nonconference schedule. That doesn't change this year, but Lake Catholic and Highland replace Benedictine and Chardon in Weeks 2 and 3.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Strongsville

Aug. 29 at Lake Catholic

Sept. 5 vs. Highland

Sept. 12 at Midview

Sept. 19 vs. Amherst

Sept. 26 vs. Elyria

Oct. 3 at Olmsted Falls

Oct. 10 vs. North Ridgeville

Oct. 17 at Avon

Oct. 24 vs. Berea-Midpark

Barberton Magics

2024 record: 2-8

Coach: Tony Gotto (12th season)

League: Suburban League, American Conference

Players to watch

Brayden Louk, QB, 6-1, 182, sr.

Jackson Hanlin, QB, 6-2, 193, so.

Angelo Gotto, RB, 5-9, 165, so.

Cleophus Thompson, WR/CB, 5-6, 140, so.

Mark Tavanello, WR/DB, 5-11, 170, sr.

Brice Crowe, OL/DL, 6-3, 270, sr.

Ricco Varner, OL/DL, 6-0, 245, jr.

Jamar McCray, OL/DL, 6-3, 235, sr.

Jamal McCray, OL/DL, 6-5, 255, sr.

Jason Modi, OL/DL, 6-3, 266, jr.

Noah Wright, CB/WR, 6-0, 170, so.

Trent Dewitt, S/WR, 5-11, 155, sr.

Vernon Reynolds, S/QB, 5-7, 145, so.

Blake Leary, K, sr.

Jayson Gates, P, 6-2, 200, sr.

About the Magics: Louk and Hanlin entered camp in a quarterback battle for a Barberton team that has a strong sophomore class, including one of the QBs, Gotto, Reynolds and Thompson. They will be tested by an early nonconference schedule before American Conference play, including two crossovers, in the Suburban League.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Wadsworth

Aug. 29 vs. Stow-Munroe Falls

Sept. 5 vs. Canfield South Range

Sept. 12 at Cuyahoga Falls

Sept. 19 at Tallmadge

Sept. 26 vs. Kent Roosevelt

Oct. 3 at Highland

Oct. 10 vs. Revere

Oct. 17 at Copley

Oct. 24 vs. Aurora

Brecksville-Broadview Heights Bees

2024 record: 3-7

Coach: Jason Black (fourth season, 12th overall)

League: Suburban League, National Conference

Players to watch

Nate Henegar, QB, 6-2, 190, sr.

Jacob Eterovich, RB, 5-9, 175, sr.

Carson Zabkar, WR/DB, 5-10, 165, sr.

Cam Stephan, TE/DE, sr.

E.J. German, G/DT, 5-11, 240, sr.

Khoren Gevorgyan, OL, 5-10, 270, sr.

Isaac Guzoski, OL/DL, 6-4, 230, so.

Zac Woods, OL/DL, 6-3, 230, so.

Trevor Johnson, DT/C, sr.

Chris Soeder, LB, so.

Tyler Soeder, LB, so.

Peter Chermontee, S/WR, 5-10, 185, sr.

Bryndan Williams, DB/WR, so.

Peyton Williams, DB/WR, so.

About the Bees: Eterovich returns to the backfield after he made the All-Northeast Lakes District second team last year for the Bees, rushing for 812 yards and six TDs. He did not fumble in 108 carries. While the line lost Nate Garito to graduation, it brings back German, a multiple-sport standout who wrestles, and Gevorgyan. The sophomore class also is a promising one, including two big linemen in Guzoski and Woods. Henegar is back at the controls after throwing for 1,143 yards and 10 TDs with top target Zabkar (456 yards, four TDs on 25 receptions). Chermonte totaled 122 tackles at safety.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Aurora

Aug. 29 at Tallmadge

Sept. 5 vs. Berea-Midpark

Sept. 12 vs. Nordonia

Sept. 19 vs. North Royalton

Sept. 26 at Wadsworth

Oct. 3 vs. Stow-Munroe Falls

Oct. 10 at Hudson

Oct. 17 vs. Solon

Oct. 24 at Twinsburg

Highland Hornets

2024 record: 13-1, regional finalist

Coach: Mike Gibbons (11th season)

League: Suburban League, American Conference

Players to watch

Grady Gibb, QB, 5-10, 175, sr.

Casey Myser, RB, 6-2, 200, sr.

Nick Dobkowski, WR, 6-3, 185, sr.

Lucas Gerding, WR/S, 6-0, 180, sr.

Josh Messina, OT/DE, 6-0, 255, sr.

Cody Bendau, DT/G, 5-11, 245, sr.

Kallen Whitling, OLB, 5-9, 190, sr.

Jameson Gordon, MLB, 6-2, 215, sr.

Evan Foust, LB/RB, 6-0, 192, jr.

About the Hornets: Highland has been the Suburban League's most consistent program under Gibbons. Next season, the Hornets are expected to move from the American Conference to the National Conference. They will be favored to repeat this year, but could they close the gap in Region 6 with Avon? The Eagles stopped them in each of the last two seasons. While a strong defensive line undergoes change after graduating Carson Noonan (Miami of Ohio) and Ryan Zywiec, Foust emerged in the back end of the defense as a sophomore. And, of course, Myser is back for one more season to stir the offense at running back after scoring 46 TDs and gaining 2,688 all-purpose yards. Highland has won two of the last three American Conference championships in the Suburban League. The Hornets also have won at least 10 games for four straight years with no sign of slowing.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Erie McDowell (Pa.)

Aug. 29 vs. Hudson

Sept. 5 at Avon Lake

Sept. 12 vs. Aurora

Sept. 19 at Copley

Sept. 26 vs. Tallmadge

Oct. 3 vs. Barberton

Oct. 10 at Kent Roosevelt

Oct. 17 at Revere

Oct. 24 vs. Cuyahoga Falls

Lakewood Rangers

2023 record: 4-6

Coach: Michael Polevacik (third season)

League: Cleveland West Conference

Players to watch

Nick Hart QB/LB, 6-2, 210, sr.

Otto Wilhelmy, QB, 6-1, 170, fr.

Braedan Greenfield, RB/DB, 5-11, 180, jr.

Jacob Stoll, WR/DB, 6-0, 160, sr.

Tye Taylor, WR/CB, 5-7, 150, jr.

Lukas Stoll, WR, 6-0, 165, fr.

Jackson Comer, OT, 6-3, 260, jr.

Drew Potoczak, OL/DL, 6-2, 265, jr.

Riley Verderber, DE/TE, 6-5, 230, jr.

Issac Norris, DE/TE, 5-11, 235, sr.

Htoo Leh Wah, DT, 5-10, 234, sr.

Sam Hoy, LB, 6-0, 205, sr.

Tyrese Gaitling, DB/WR, 6-0, 170, jr.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. John Marshall

Aug. 29 vs. Rhodes

Sept. 5 vs. Harvey

Sept. 12 at Westlake

Sept. 19 vs. Rocky River

Sept. 26 vs. North Olmsted

Oct. 3 at Normandy

Oct. 9 at Valley Forge

Oct. 17 vs. Bay

Oct. 24 at Buckeye

North Olmsted Eagles

2024 record: 5-6, regional qualifier

Coach: Tim Brediger (13th season)

League: Cleveland West Conference

Schedule

Aug. 22 at North Ridgeville

Aug. 29 vs. Midview

Sept. 5 vs. Amherst

Sept. 12 at Buckeye

Sept. 19 vs. Normandy

Sept. 26 at Lakewood

Oct. 3 vs. Rocky River

Oct. 9 at Bay

Oct. 17 at Valley Forge

Oct. 24 vs. Westlake

North Ridgeville Rangers

2024 record: 9-3, regional quarterfinalist

Coach: Bryan Morgan (fifth season)

League: Southwestern Conference

Players to watch

Cole Miller, QB, 6-4, 201, sr.

Zack Barnhart, RB/LB, 5-10, 195, sr.

Ryan Anderson, WR, 6-0, 183, sr.

Cole Allison, WR/RB, 6-0, 185, jr.

Finley Keller, TE/LB/K, 6-1, 205, sr.

Jason Ellison, C, 6-3, 260, sr.

Ashton Cassetto, DE, 6-0, 240, sr.

Hemzah Fahmawi, DT, 6-2, 220, sr.

Christian Ensley, DT, 6-1, 245, sr.

Nolan Gill, LB, 5-11, 210, sr.

Dylan DeShazo, CB, 5-7, 160, sr.

Perry Dixon, CB/WR, 6-0, 175, sr.

Jayden Williams, CB/WR, jr.

Carter Clark, S, 5-6, 160, sr.

Brian Strippy, S, 5-10, 168, sr.

About the Rangers: North Ridgeville took a leap last year with an experienced senior class filled with three-year starters. The Class of 2026, which came up with them, is back to lead the Rangers after a home loss to Wadsworth in the second round of the playoffs. Barnhart is a fourth-year starter at running back, while Miller has a top target in Anderson. Fahmawi is an emotional leader on the defensive front, which the Rangers will need after graduating All-Ohio linebackers Carson Madis and Austin DeShazo.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. North Olmsted

Aug. 29 vs. Valley Forge

Sept. 5 at North Royalton

Sept. 12 vs. Avon

Sept. 19 at Elyria

Sept. 26 at Midview

Oct. 3 vs. Berea-Midpark

Oct. 10 at Avon Lake

Oct. 17 vs. Amherst

Oct. 24 at Olmsted Falls

North Royalton Bears

2024 record: 5-6, regional qualifier

Coach: Nick Ciulli (21st season)

League: Suburban League, National Conference

Players to watch

Cam Saul, RB, 5-9, 170, sr.

Patrick Hannah, RB, 5-11, 170, jr.

Nick Piazza, WR/DB, 5-10, 160, sr.

Clark Defendorf, WR/RB/DB, 5-9, 160, sr.

Lincoln Lee, WR, 5-9, 140, jr.

Gurmehar Kandola, TE/LB, 6-4, 220, sr.

Alessandro DiNucci, OT/DL, 6-0, 210, sr.

Ethan Garnes, OT, 6-3, 230, jr.

Giancarlo Gulasey, G, 5-9, 225, sr.

Niko Petrovic, C, 5-9, 230, sr.

Micah Roshetko, G/DT, 6-0, 275, sr.

Nathan Smelcer, DT, 5-9, 195, sr.

Daniel Baldyga, OLB, 6-1, 205, sr.

Ben Dottavio, LB/TE, 5-11, 170, sr.

Roman Gambino, LB, 6-0, 200, sr.

Steve Willman, LB, 5-11, 215, sr.

Benjamin Hewlett, OLB, 6-1, 190, jr.

Andrew Jedacek, CB/HB, 5-9, 170, sr.

Chase Ammar, CB, 5-9, 155, sr.

Dillon McCostlin, S, 5-9, 160, sr.

Tyler Rowles, DB, 5-9, 170, sr.

Sean Bunsey, S/HB, 5-8, 170, sr.

About the Bears: Coming off last year's run to a share of the Suburban League championship, which North Royalton earned with a Week 10 win at Wadsworth, the Bears could be better on defense this year. They have six returning starters, mostly in the back two-thirds, complementing an offense with four returning starters on the line. There are some considerable losses to graduation, including quarterback Joe Kinney, versatile standout Grady Baugh and All-Ohio punter Sasha Sunjevaric. Replacing Kinney, a three-year starter, could be the biggest question mark. Senior Quinn Costanzo entered camp among the contenders for the job.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Valley Forge

Aug. 29 at Wooster

Sept. 5 vs. North Ridgeville

Sept. 12 vs. Wadsworth

Sept. 19 at Brecksville-Broadview Heights

Sept. 26 vs. Nardon

Oct. 3 vs. Solon

Oct. 10 at Stow-Munroe Falls

Oct. 16 at Twinsburg

Oct. 24 vs. Hudson

Olmsted Falls Bulldogs

2024 record: 8-4, regional quarterfinalist

Coach: Tom DeLuca (13th season)

League: Southwestern Conference

Players to watch

Cam Pesch, QB, 5-11, 190, jr.

Owen Singleton, RB, 6-0, 200, sr.

Logan Connelly, SB/S, 6-0, 175, sr.

Khye Gilbert, SB, 5-9, 185, jr.

Adam Smith, WR/DB, 6-2, 170, jr.

Matthew Iannicca, OT, 6-2, 250, sr.

Ayden Rivera, OT, 6-0, 240, sr.

Nathan Scheffler, G/DL, 6-4, 300, sr.

Charlie Martineau, G, 5-10, 255, sr.

Scott Draves, C/DL, 6-0, 240, sr.

Mason Cerovac, LB, 6-2, 240, jr.

Drew Minor, LB, 5-11, 170, sr.

Lucas Hewett, LB/OL, 5-8, 190, jr.

Charlie Krupka, S, 5-10, 180, sr.

About the Bulldogs: A seasoned offensive line, led by Scheffler, can plow paths for

Singleton after he rushed for 1,382 yards and 21 TDs to make the All-Ohio third team. Cerovac returns after a breakout sophomore season at linebacker, while Connelly is a big-play threat on both sides of the ball. Falls pushed state champion Avon in their second-round playoff matchup, showing this team's potential for 2025. The Bulldogs' biggest question mark will be replacing three-year starting quarterback Jimmy Rosol Jr.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Mentor

Aug. 29 vs. Brunswick

Sept. 5 at Strongsville

Sept. 12 vs. Elyria

Sept. 19 at Avon

Sept. 26 at Amherst

Oct. 3 vs. Avon Lake

Oct. 10 at Berea-Midpark

Oct. 17 at Midview

Oct. 24 vs. North Ridgeville

Rhodes Rams

2024 record: 5-5, regional qualifier

Coach: Anthony Carbone (fourth season)

League: Senate Athletic League

Players to watch

Ty'lon Corpening, WR, 6-1, 165, jr.

Darnell Jones, WR, 6-2, 165, jr.

Jayshawn Parish, OT, 6-4, 250, jr.

Antonio Stowers, OT, 6-3, 195, sr.

Eugene Platts, OT, 6-0, 230, sr.

Ronald Fine, G, 5-11, 250, sr.

Cristian Salazar, C, 5-7, 225, sr.

Amare Pierce, OL/DL, 6-1, 290, sr.

Yahvian Bernard, DL, 6-2, 315, jr.

Brandon Stormer, DL, 5-10, 295, sr.

Jeremy Phelps, DL/G, 5-10, 310, jr.

Mario Cage, LB, 5-5, 160, sr.

Kyan McGhee, LB, 5-10, 205, sr.

Kameron See, DB, 5-6, 145, jr.

KeMon Gould, DB, 5-10, 170, sr.

Schedule

Aug. 22 at Richmond Heights

Aug. 29 at Lakewood

Sept. 5 at Ashtabula Lakeside

Sept. 12 vs. John Marshall

Sept. 19 vs. John Hay

Sept. 26 at Collinwood

Oct. 3 vs. Lincoln West

Oct. 10 at Cleveland JFK

Oct. 17 at Gilmour Academy

Oct. 24 at Glenville

Valley Forge Patriots

2023 record: 4-6

Coach: Matt Laheta (third season)

League: Cleveland West Conference

Players to watch

Sean Frank, QB, 6-2, 215, sr.

Evan Tappe, RB/S, 5-10, 165, sr.

Jeromy Keger, WB, 5-10, 150, sr.

Daymon Watts, FB, 6-2, 175, sr.

Jadan Gill, TE/OLB, 6-2, 185, jr.

Jose Santana, OT, 6-5, 280, sr.

Bjordi Mene, G, 5-8, 200, sr.

Aiden Mays, DT, 6-0, 260, sr.

Ethan Mays, DT, 6-0, 235, sr.

Michael Primiano, DT, 5-7, 230, jr.

Spencer Stephan, OLB, 6-2, 185, sr.

Nate Abreu, LB, 6-1, 185, jr.

Kaiden Hagel, LB, 5-8, 180, jr.

Archie Fullah, CB, 5-8, 150, sr.

Aiden Soto, CB, 5-7, 140, jr.

About the Patriots: Valley Forge brings 25 seniors to this year's roster and is following what Coach Laheta deemed the program's best offseason since 2020. Will the physicality be back for the Patriots? That offseason is strong sign, which will be tested from the start of the season. Tappe (483 yards, four TDs), Watts (410 yards, four TDs), Keger and Fullah are four of Valley Forge's top five rushers from last season. Tappe doubled as the Patriots' top receiving threat and added 50 tackles with two interceptions on defense,

tops among returning players.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. North Royalton

Aug. 29 at North Ridgeville

Sept. 4 vs. Revere

Sept. 12 at Rocky River

Sept. 19 vs. Westlake

Sept. 26 vs. Buckeye

Oct. 3 at Bay

Oct. 9 vs. Lakewood

Oct. 17 vs. North Olmsted

Oct. 24 at Normandy

Wadsworth Grizzlies

2024 record: 11-2, regional semifinalist

Coach: Justin Todd (10th season)

League: Suburban League, National Conference

Players to watch

Brysen Hall, QB, 5-10, 170, so.

Gavin Madigan, RB/LB/S, 5-11, 215, sr.

Cooper Gray, RB, 5-11, 175, sr.

Calix Lemp, WR/DB, 5-11, 180, sr.

William Ries, WR/DB, 6-1, 190, sr.

Luke Maddox, WR, 6-2, 205, sr.

Colton Leavitt, TE/DE, 6-1, 210, sr.

Gabe Ludtke, G/DL, sr.

Merit Fortner, OL, sr.

Jordan Jones, OL, 6-3, 210, sr.

Jacob Earnest, LB/TE, 6-2, 225, sr.

Boden Ballinger, LB, 6-0, 215, jr.

Ryan Stoops, LB/QB, 5-10, 170, jr.

Tommy Hohn, CB, 6-1, 170, sr.

Jude Haller, S, 6-0, 205, so.

Kyle Schmeltzer, ATH, 5-9, 155, jr.

Jack McNeill, K, 6-2, 190, sr.

About the Grizzlies: The defending Suburban League National Conference champions had a perfect season interrupted by North Royalton last year in Week 10. While, the Grizzlies avenged that setback the following week, it serves as a reminder of focus for this year's team — the most seasoned group Todd has had at Wadsworth, led by a fourth-year starter in Madigan (Army commit, 726 yards, 12 TDs) and Earnest (129 tackles, 10 TFL, three sacks). With Madigan battling an injury last season, Gray (1,697 yards, 21 TDs) took over as the starting running back. Now, both are back with a

yards, 21 TDs) took over as the starting running back. Now, you are back with a playmaker at receiver in Lemp (Air Force commit, 720 yards, 11 TDs, 39 receptions). Hall is on pace to be a similar leader to Madigan and Earnest, winning the starting quarterback job as a freshman.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Barberton

Aug. 29 vs. New Albany

Sept. 5 at Medina

Sept. 12 at North Royalton

Sept. 19 vs. Twinsburg

Sept. 26 vs. Brecksville

Oct. 3 at Hudson

Oct. 10 at Nordonia

Oct. 17 vs. Stow

Oct. 24 at Solon

Westlake Demons

2024 record: 2-8

Coach: Logan Yantek (second season)

League: Cleveland West Conference

Players to watch

Moe Abdelhady, QB, jr.

Jake Ostrowski, RB/LB, 5-7, 160, sr.

Stephen Trowbridge, WR/S, 5-10, 175, sr.

Will Bierfeldt, WR/CB, 6-2, 175, sr.

Sean Pavich, OL/DL, 6-0, 235, sr.

Anshpreet Singh, OT, 6-0, 225, so.

Tommy DeFranco, S, 5-11, 160, sr.

Schedule

Aug. 22 vs. Midview

Aug. 29 at Clearview

Sept. 5 at Warrensville Heights

Sept. 12 vs. Lakewood

Sept. 19 at Valley Forge

Sept. 26 vs. Bay

Oct. 3 at Buckeye

Oct. 9 vs. Rocky River

Oct. 17 vs. Normandy

Oct. 24 at North Olmsted

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