

# County Football Week 13

## BUCKEYE BUCKS (11-0)

**COLORS:** Brown and orange.  
**CONFERENCE:** Cleveland West Conference (champion).  
**COACH:** Greg Dennison (8th season, 78-22 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (8-16 record):** 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2009, 2005, 2003, 2002.  
**NOTEWORTHY:** Brayden Bonnett needs four extra points to break the school record of 53 set by Clay Gunkelman in 2018.  
 • Turner Dolata's 63-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Wilhelm last week against St. Marys Memorial was the 30th of his career, tying with Dan Ceresilio (2002-03) for second place in school history behind Nathan Fildori (35, 2012-15).  
 • Facing run-heavy teams usually leads to high tackling totals, and Denis Shevchenko (16, 2 for loss, sack), Jacob Snyderburn (12, 3 for loss, ½ sack), Wilhelm (12) and Logan Letner (10, INT) fit the bill against St. Marys Memorial. Roman Kretzler acted seven tackles (2 for loss, 1½ sacks) and a fourth-down interception, while Derek Snyderburn also picked off a pass, illustrating how tackles are a situational statistic. Buckeye had 79 vs. Memorial and 56 in a 35-27 win at Rocky River four weeks ago.  
 • Shevchenko's second-half surge has been impressive, as the sophomore inside linebacker has 63 tackles over the last six games. He leads Medina County during that span.  
 • The three players who have started at tailback this season — Liam Phillips (82 carries, 738 yards, 11 TDs), Brayden Scopio (92, 470, 7) and Kretzler (42, 304, 6) — have combined for 226 carries, 1,512 yards and 24 touchdowns.  
 • Buckeye has attempted single-digit passes in six straight games.

## ROCKY RIVER PRATES (10-2)

**COACH:** Josh Wells (11th season, 81-41 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (9-11 record):** 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2009, 2007, 2006.  
**NOTEWORTHY:** The Pirates need no introduction, as they boast a high-powered spread offense averaging 36.9 points and 379.9 yards. Quarterback Ryan Taylor has thrown for 2,518 yards, rushed for 611 and accounted for 1,113 yards and 15 TDs to go with 57 carries for 379 yards and eight more scores. Rowan Kennedy (39 catches, 984 yards, 11 TDs) and Danny Berg (42, 720, 5) are others to watch, with Kennedy posting four grabs for 155 yards and a score against Buckeye in the regular season.  
 • In three games since being limited to three catches for 49 yards and a touchdown against Buckeye, Hughes has 26 for 315 and two.  
 • The defense allowed 433 rushing yards against Buckeye but held its own in playoff wins over Midview (20-13) and Revere (22-14), both run-heavy teams like the Bucks.  
 • Like Buckeye, Rocky River can claim an NFL player (sort of), Ron Fernandes played at the school before transferring to Ypsilanti (Mich.), playing for Eastern Michigan and compiling 10½ sacks for the Baltimore Colts from 1977-79. Buckeye has a similar story, as Brian DeMarco transferred to the same Admiral King, was All-Big Ten at Michigan State and played offensive line for the Jaguars and Bengals from 1995-98.

## WADSWORTH GRIZZLIES (11-0)

**COLORS:** Red and white.  
**CONFERENCE:** Suburban League National Conference (champion).  
**COACH:** Justin Todd (10th season, 80-33 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (16-16 record):** 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2003, 2002, 1999, 1996.  
**NOTEWORTHY:** The Grizzlies are seeking to tie the school record of 12 wins set by the 2018 team that fell to Massillon in the D-II regional final.  
 • Wadsworth needs 50 yards total offense to join 2017 (5,697), 2018 (5,192) and 2024 (5,062) as the only Grizzly teams to reach 5,000.  
 • With 49 career passing touchdowns, Brysen Hall needs four to break the school record of 52 set by Mike Hoover from 1997-99.  
 • Calk Lamp, who has caught a touchdown in all nine games he has played in this season, needs two receiving touchdowns to tie Medina's Luke Hensley (28, 2016-20) for third place in Medina County career behind the Bees' Austin Knowles (41, 2021-23) and Brenton Schram (31, 2021-22).  
 • Cooper Gray (2,978 rushing yards, 264 points) and Gavin Mauldin (2,021, 269) have combined for 5,009 rushing yards and 524 points in their careers.  
 • Lamp (23.6), Jaylen King (25.5), Luke Maddox (24.1) and Gray (21.9) are each averaging more than 20 yards per reception.  
 • Jaden Crois led the defense last week against St. Francis de Sales with a career-high-tying six tackles (½ for loss) and a game-changing fourth-down interception. Jacob Earnest had 12 tackles. Madison added eight (1 for loss) and a pass breakup and Tommy Hohn broke up two more passes to extend his county lead to 11.

## AVON EAGLES (10-1)

**COLORS:** Purple and gold.  
**CONFERENCE:** Southwestern Conference (champion).  
**COACH:** Mike Eldor (19th season, 212-32 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (4-17 record):** 2024 (D-II state champion), 2023 (D-II state semi), 2022, 2021 (D-II state semi), 2020, 2019 (D-II state semi), 2018 (D-II state semi), 2017 (D-II state semi), 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 (D-II state runner-up), 2010, 2008, 2004, 1996 (D-II state semi).  
**NOTEWORTHY:** Avon's lone loss was 25-22 at Spruce Creek (Fla.), the Ohio equivalent to a Division I school. The Eagles own a 28-16 win over D-IV state title contender Glenview, hammered 10-1 North Ridgeville 55-7 and scored 34 points of the game's final 47 points to pull away from Berea-Midpark 55-27.  
 • Blake Eldor leads the offense with 2,391 passing yards and 28 touchdowns. Grant Barr (62 catches, 845 yards, 10 TDs), Finn Jersdonik (35, 531, 7) and Caden Clapham (18, 343, 4) are the top receivers, while Michael Colburn (75 carries, 381 yards, 7 TDs) and Quentin Smith (50, 266, 5) form a rotation at running back. The line features 6-foot-4, 300-pound Max Hackett but otherwise isn't massive with an average of 6-2, 243.3 between the other four players.  
 • The defense allows 11.0 points and 201.7 yards and boasts Miami of Ohio-bound linebacker Ryan Stolarski (62 tackles, 7 for loss, 4 sacks) and Cincinnati recruit Lance Dawson (19, 9, 3) at defensive end. Clapham has two interceptions and five pass breakups, while fellow cornerback Jalen Fenton has three and three.  
 • Blake Eldor and Stolarski were the Northeast Lakes District D-II offensive and defensive players of the year. Barr, Hackett, left tackle Eian Englehart (6-3, 245), Dawson and North Carolina recruit Jakob Weatherup, who won't play tonight, joined them on the first team. Jensen Petro (K) and Clapham (WR/CB) were second team.

## HIGHLAND HORNETS (11-0)

**COLORS:** Green and black.  
**CONFERENCE:** Suburban League American Conference (champion).  
**COACH:** Mike Gibbons (11th season, 85-30 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (20-14 record):** 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013 (D-II state semi), 2011, 2008, 2006, 2001, 2000.  
**NOTEWORTHY:** Highland is allowing 148.5 yards per game, on pace to break the school record of 151.2 set in 2022. The Hornets have been below 200 for five consecutive seasons, an unprecedented run in Medina County history since team statistics became readily available in the late 1990s.  
 • Jamerson Gordon led the defense last week against Brockville with six tackles and an interception along the visiting sideline. Evan Foust added five stops (1 for loss), Josh Messina posted a sack. Dan Kral added a TFL and Nick Dobkowski brought back a first-quarter interception 7 yards before his originally lengthy return was called back due to a penalty.  
 • Highland has converted 26-of-45 third downs (.578) and 3-of-4 fourth downs (.750). For context, Indiana (.559) and Ohio State (.562) lead the Football Bowl Subdivision on third down.  
 • The Hornets are plus-21 in turnover margin, having forced 26 while committing just five.  
 • The county career leader for points (534), total touchdowns (89) and rushing touchdowns (78), Casey Myser, has 4,636 career rushing yards. He needs 193 to catch Buckeye's Troy McCann (4,829, 2021-24) for third place behind Black River's Andrew Vaughn (6,097, 2010-13) and Wadsworth's Dru Jones (5,249, 2005-07).  
 • In what continues to be one of the strongest statistics of the county season, opposing teams have been called for 21 penalties for 130 yards, an average of 2.1 for 13.0 per game.

## NORTH RIDGEVILLE RANGERS (10-1)

**COLORS:** Navy and gold.  
**CONFERENCE:** Southwestern Conference (2nd place).  
**COACH:** Bryan Morgan (8th season, 34-21 record).  
**PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (3-6 record):** 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2015, 2009.  
**NOTEWORTHY:** Morgan began his head coaching career with the Black River boys basketball team, compiling a 29-35 record from 2007-10 that featured the Pirates' lone winning season since 1998 when they went 12-9 in 2008-09. He took over North Ridgeville a couple years later and stepped down after the 2020-21 season to live his dream as a head football coach. The Rangers have steadily improved since, going 3-7, 4-4, 8-4, 9-3 and 10-1 and capturing the first three playoff wins in program history. Tonight will be their regional semifinal debut.  
 • North Ridgeville has hitched its wagon to quarterback Cole Miller after a season-ending torn ACL to star running back Zack Barnhart, who finished his four-year career with 3,224 rushing yards and 46 touchdowns. The 6-foot-5, 225-pound Miller has completed 121-of-223 passes (.543) for 1,473 yards, 12 touchdowns and eight interceptions while also rushing 156 times for 1,159 yards and 18 scores. Dylan DeShazo (37 catches, 523 yards, 7 TDs) is the top receiver, while Matthew Fleisher has stepped in at running back and has a unique look by wearing No. 83. Kicker Finley Koller won't first-team All-Northeast Lakes District.  
 • The defense is a conservative 4-2-5 with a four-deep coverage but will walk up safety Frank Brady to provide run support. Linebacker Nolan Gill has 10½ tackles (8 for loss), cornerback Brian Strippy has seven interceptions and safety Carter Clark was first-team all-district. The Rangers are allowing 32.8 points in four games against teams with winning records, and that includes a 42-7 victory over Whitehouse Anthony Wayne last week.

## HOHN

From B1

"It's helpful," Tommy Hohn said. "I give me a lot of good information and keeps me focused. Sometimes it's also hard. At practice, something bad will happen and I don't want to talk about it." Over the years and at a number of coaching levels, Jason Hohn has learned a delicate balance. He can't favor his son — or even appear to be doing so — but he also can't be unfair to Tommy by being harder on him than everyone else. "It's the typical father-son, coach-player relationship, but it's not easy on the kid because he's held to a higher standard (by some outsiders) and the expectations are higher," Jason Hohn said. "You don't want to be biased, but you don't want to go so far that you end up being unfair to your own kid."

The difference, of course, is that after practices and games, father and son live in the same house. "We come home and we're not arguing about his play," Jason Hohn said. "We can just enjoy the experience. We still talk about it more than we should, but it's natural. I try to approach it more from a dad standpoint at home than as a coach. As a coach, I have to view him as one of 22 guys doing their jobs, trying to help the team succeed. As Dad, I couldn't be protective of my son and the work he's put in to get here."

Todd, whose sophomore son Brayden is out for the season due to a torn ACL, knows the feeling. That's why he and his staff go out of their way to make all Wadsworth players feel like they are part of a family.

"We try to take all of them as our own, and I think we do a really good job of that," he said. "It takes a lot of time and energy to do that for 80 kids. Then, all of a sudden, when you have your child experiencing that, it sweetens the pot."

Though it can be difficult on occasion, the beauty of a father coaching his son — and a son playing for his father — is they get to spend a lot of time together. For Tommy and Jason Hohn, that started with flag football and continued through Tommy's sixth-grade year. Jason didn't coach his son the next three seasons, then joined Todd's staff when Tommy was a sophomore.

"My dad's been around football his whole life and he's been coaching me forever," Jason Hohn said. "When I was young, I looked up to all the high school coaches. I've pretty much been around it my whole life."

Tommy's favorite player as a kid was Ohio's 2017 Mr. Football winner, Wadsworth quarterback Joey Baughman. Also a quarterback in those days, Tommy doesn't know a lot about his 5-10 dad's playing career with the Grizzlies.

"I honestly haven't heard much, except he held the (program) career record for throwing picks when he graduated," he said with a laugh. "I know he was pretty young when he started and he was small."

Tommy Hohn played a bit of quarterback in middle school, primarily when the Grizzlies went to heavy running formations, with Ryan Stoops manning the position in most situations. When current sophomore Brysen Hall took over the varsity quarterback position early last season, Stoops

## Playoff pairings

**DIVISION I**  
 Region 1 — No. 1 Euclid (10-1) at No. 19 Edison (9-2); No. 2 Canton McKinley (9-3) at No. 2 Mentor (11-0).  
 Region 2 — No. 15 Springfield (8-4) at No. 1 Solonville (9-2); No. 4 Huron Heights Wayne (8-4) at No. 2 Troy (9-2).  
 Region 3 — No. 5 Powell Elementary (8-6) at No. 1 Leach Center (Chagrin) (8-4); No. 6 Upper Arlington (10-2) at No. 22 Proctorville (8-4).  
 Region 4 — No. 4 Cincinnati (9-2) at No. 1 Cincinnati Bearcats (11-0); No. 3 Cincinnati St. Xavier (8-2) at No. 2 Cincinnati Archbishop Muler (8-3).  
**DIVISION II**  
 Region 5 — No. 5 Hudson (10-1) at No. 1 Avon (10-0); Hohn (11-0) vs. 3 Avon (10-1) at No. 3 Avon (10-1) vs. 1 Highland (11-0).  
 Region 6 — No. 4 North Ridgeville (10-1) at No. 1 Highland (11-0).  
 Region 7 — No. 4 North Ridgeville (10-1) at No. 1 Highland (11-0).  
 Region 8 — No. 5 Cincinnati La. Salle (8-3) at No. 1 Cincinnati Bearcats (11-0); No. 10 Hamilton (10-1) at No. 2 Cincinnati Bearcats (11-0).  
**DIVISION III**  
 Region 9 — No. 4 Villa Angela (10-1) at No. 1 Cincinnati (10-1); No. 3 Avon (10-1) at No. 2 Cincinnati (10-1).  
 Region 10 — No. 5 Rocky River (10-2) at No. 1 Blue Ash (11-0).  
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also moved to the defensive backfield, where he and Tommy Hohn are able to put their experience behind center to good use.

"It helps me IQ-wise, knowing what a QB is reading and how I can mess with that," Tommy Hohn said. "I know what he's thinking sometimes."

Though he is often on an island at corner, someone else is always out there with Tommy Hohn in spirit, though that someone is also busy coaching Wadsworth safeties and outside linebackers.

"Two years ago we had some injuries and his first start (as a sophomore) was against Hudson, one of our biggest games of the year," Jason Hohn said. "I was awfully nervous as a dad, but as a coach I watched him prepare in practice and saw how he was responding."

"I feel confident watching him out there. It goes without saying that I'm super proud of him. It's a big thrill and source of pride for me to see him out there."

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