



FOOTBALL: ALL-NORTHEAST INLAND DISTRICT TEAMS

Three area stars named players of year

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

As has been the case in recent seasons, Medina County took home multiple top honors Thursday morning when the All-Northeast Inland District football teams were released by the Ohio Prep Sports Media Association.

Brunswick defensive end Eli Nichols was the Division I Defensive Player of the Year, Highland running back Casey Myser was the D-II Offensive Player of the Year and Black River outside linebacker Zane Bugard was the D-VI Defensive Player of the Year.

Wadsworth's Justin Todd and Buck-



Nichols



Bugard



Todd



Dennison

eye's Greg Dennison were coaches of the year in D-II and D-III, respectively.

A 6-foot-2, 225-pound senior, Nichols was a dominant force for the Blue Devils with Medina County highs of 20 tackles for loss, nine sacks and five forced fumbles to go with 66 total tackles.

The 6-3, 190-pound Bugard, a senior, had 67 tackles (7 for loss) and three fumbles for the Pirates and also smashed school records for recep-

tions (63), yards (1,051) and touchdowns (14) in his first full season at wide receiver.

Myser is the county's career leader for points (540), total touchdowns (90) and rushing touchdowns (79) while also ranking fourth in rushing yards (4,742). The 6-2, 215-pound senior has 1,313 yards from scrimmage (1,163 rushing, 150 receiving) and 25 total touchdowns in limited playing time this season for the Hornets (12-0), who will play Avon (11-1)

in the Region 6 championship game at Brunswick on Friday.

Dennison, who shared his award with Canfield's Joe Ingazio, saw his team become the darling of the county, winning four one-possession games to reach 11 victories for the first time. The Bucks captured the Cleveland West Conference title for the second consecutive season.

Todd piloted Wadsworth to its sixth 10-0 season (1966, '67, '96, '17, '18) and third straight Suburban League National Conference crown. The Grizzlies have won six league championships in his 10 seasons.

In D-I, other first-team selections were Brunswick right tackle Andrew Hayes (6-1, 230, sr.), quarterback Sean Barnett (6-4, 200, sr.) and kicker Vincenzo DiTeodoro (6-0, 225, sr.) and Medina defensive end Cliff Nich-

olson (6-3, 235, sr.) and linebacker Jack Fletcher (6-0, 190, sr.).

In D-II, first-team nods went to Highland H-back Evan Foust (5-10, 200, jr.), quarterback Grady Gibb (6-0, 195, sr.), kicker Jonah Kowza (6-1, 170, jr.) and linebacker Jameson Gordon (6-3, 225, sr.) and Wadsworth wide receiver Calix Lemp (6-0, 180, sr.), running back Cooper Gray (5-11, 170, sr.), quarterback Brysen Hall (6-0, 195, so.), linebacker Jacob Earnest (6-2, 230, sr.) and safety Gavin Madigan (6-0, 220, sr.).

Among the county's smaller schools, Buckeye linebacker Ryan Wilhelm (5-11, 211, sr.) and punter Brayden Bonnett (5-11, 167, sr.) were D-III first-team selections and Black River punter Dom Bell (5-11, 170, fr.) got the award in D-VI.

See ALL-DISTRICT, B2

