

PLAYOFF PREVIEWS

Avon Lake (8-2) at Whitmer (10-0)

Division I: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Avon Lake 17th; Whitmer 14th.

■ **Outlook:** The third-ranked Panthers pounded Central 42-0 Friday to win the TRAC, coming off 2010-11 runs to the state semifinals. Whitmer has outscored foes 385-75, and outgained them 390-174 per game on offense. QB Nick Holley (1,084 passing yards, 19 TDs; 1,422 rushing yards, 16 TDs), RBs Tre Sterritt (514 rushing yards, 11 TDs) and Me’Gail Frisch (573 rushing yards, 9 TDs), and WR Chris Boykin (28 catches, 442 yards, 10 TDs) lead the offense. Whitmer is led in tackles by LBs Jack Linch (107), Nate Holley (97) and Devin Thomas (84). DB Marcus Elliott has 7 INTs, and DT Marquise Moore has 7 sacks. Shoremen are 21-15 in playoffs under coach Dave Dlugosz (200-43). Won D-II title in 2003, runner-up in ’04. QB David Winkel (1,556 passing yards, 22 TDs), RB Wyatt Ohm (989 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and WR-DB Jimmy Hessel (52-899 yards, 13 TDs; 9 INTs) are the playmakers. LBs Collin Lucas and Garrett Easterly lead in tackles.



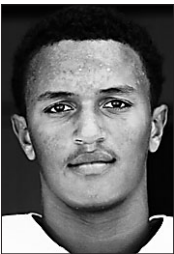
Linch

Grafton Midview (9-1) at Central Catholic (9-1)

Division II: today, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Midview sixth, Central Catholic 13th.

■ **Outlook:** Host Irish need to bounce back from 42-0 week-10 loss to Whitmer. Dropped from No. 1 state ranking to No. 4. Have outscored foes 460-186, averaging 400 yards offense per game. QB DeShone Kizer (1,043 passing yards, 10 TDs; 238 rushing yards, 4 TDs), RB Paul Moses (466 rushing yards, 12 TDs) and SB Derich Weiland (23 catches, 278 yards, 6 TDs) will lead the offense. RB Amir Edwards (1,284 rushing yards, 22 TDs) is out with a head injury. LB Chris Green (61) and Mitch Cochell (46) lead in tackles, and DB Joe Solomon has 4 INTs. Middies have outscored foes 278-153, and average 325 yards per game on offense, led by QB Cody Callaway (1,892 passing yards, 20 TDs) and WRs Eric Lauer (40 catches, 868 yards, 13 TDs) Zach Wilson (28 catches, 406 yards, 5 TDs). LBs Devon Crum (105) and Steven Kozel (69) lead in tackles, and DB Jared Armstrong has 4 INTs.



Kizer

Perrysburg (8-2) at Avon (9-1)

Division II: today, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Perrysburg second; Avon sixth

■ **Outlook:** The Yellow Jackets are back in the playoffs for the first time since 2007. Dynamic senior QB Steve Slocum has done it all (1,261 rushing yards and 1,183 passing yards for a total of 28 touchdowns). Big junior back Mark Delas (6-3, 240) has emerged as a force (803 yards and 18 TDs). The top receivers are Austin Lee (333 yards) and Austin Bishop (332 yards). Avon is making its third straight appearance and has a 8-5 record in the playoffs. The Eagles reached the state championship game last season, when they fell 42-28 to Trotwood-Madison. Avon knocked out Central Catholic (49-28) in the regional semifinals last year. Avon is led by University of Michigan commit Ross Douglas, an elite cornerback who also leads Avon in rushing. Douglas has 1,038 rushing yards in eight games. QB David Zeh has a large target in senior WR Ralph Smith. Sixth-year coach Mike Elder earned his 100th win this season.



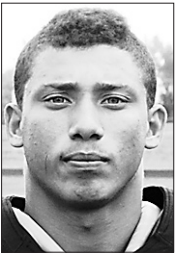
Delas

Caledonia River Valley (8-2) at Napoleon (9-0-1)

Division III: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** River Valley fourth; Napoleon 11th

■ **Outlook:** The Wildcats captured the Northern Lakes League title and earned the top seed in the region. Senior back Charlie Harris leads the team with 787 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns. Harris is averaging 10.6 yards per tote. Senior QB David Yunker has completed 56 of 101 passes for 938 yards and 16 TDs. Wideout Jordan Lauf (6-5, 191) has a team-high 24 catches for 575 yards and 13 scores. Lauf also handles the kicking duties. Junior back Bryant Schlade is second on the team with 655 rushing yards and five TDs. Senior Max Westhoven has 430 yards and seven TDs. This is the second straight season that River Valley has reached the playoffs and it has yet to win a playoff game. The ground-oriented team averages 340 yards rushing per game. River Valley finished second in the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference. Quarterback Matt Green is the main weapon with both his arm and legs, while Dylan Kelley is the main running back.



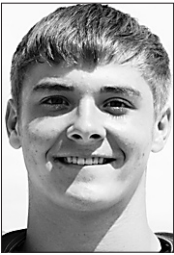
Harris

Columbus Bishop Watterson (7-3) at Bryan (10-0)

Division III: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Bryan second; Columbus Bishop Watterson 22nd

■ **Outlook:** The Golden Bears look to extend a historic season, which included the program’s first Northwest Ohio Athletic League title since 1986. While Bryan has yet to win a playoff game, Watterson is 39-19 with two state championships (2010 and 2002). Junior QB Austin Schimmoeller has completed 126 of 201 passes for 1,917 and 18 TDs. He has spread the ball around to Elijah Bogosian (619 receiving yards), Sean Culler (304), Derek Knisley (336), and Daniel Pendergrast (268). Schimmoeller also leads the team in rushing (1,202 and 19 TDs), while Collin Bacon has 448. Watterson is paced by QB Andy Elbersen (615 rushing and 692 passing) who runs the wing-T and throws well. Backs Walter Green (734 rushing and eight TDs) and Cody Calhoun (327) are the other leading rushers. The lines are anchored by senior center/defensive tackle Andrew Lorenz (6-4, 280), a Division I college prospect.



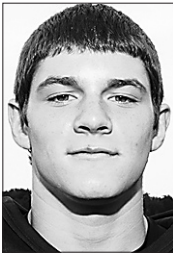
Schimmoeller

Columbus Bishop Ready (7-2) at Genoa (10-0)

Division IV: today, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Columbus Bishop Ready 12th; Genoa sixth

■ **Outlook:** The Comets have qualified for the playoffs for the sixth straight season (8-5 record). Genoa won the Northern Buckeye Conference title, the school’s fifth league championship in six seasons. Senior back Kyle Nutter set the school record for career rushing yards and has 2,058 this year. Nutter averages 8.9 yards per carry and has scored 35 touchdowns. Jake Wojciechowski has 660 rushing yards. QB Logan Scott (17 of 31 for 389 yards) tore his ACL on Sept. 28 and is out. Kicker Cody Pickard has 57 extra points and 12 field goals. Genoa has scored 525 points and yielded 113. Ready won a state title (1983) and is 11-10 in the playoffs. The Knights outscored foes 350-136. Akili Taylor has rushed for 1,060 yards and 10 TDs followed by Doug Strickler (914 yards and 12 TDs). QB Matt Yoho has completed 59 of 108 passes for 926 yards and 13 TDs. Alex Eblin (229 receiving) and Hunter Clanin (206) are the main wideouts.



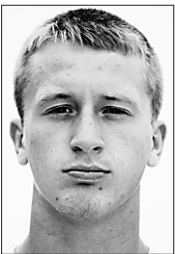
Pickard

Patrick Henry (8-2) at Northwood (10-0)

Division V: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Patrick Henry 15th; Northwood eighth.

■ **Outlook:** The Patriots are 22-13 all-time in the playoffs, while the Rangers enter the opening-round matchup 1-7 all-time in postseason play. Patrick Henry QB Gabe Jones (1008 passing yards, eight TDs) is responsible for leading a Patriots attack that has outscored its opponents, 398-165. Tobey Hernandez (1,228 rushing yards, 20 TDs), Calvin Palmer (293 rushing yards, 5 TDs), Brandon Cole (246 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and Jones (694 rushing yards, 5 TDs) represent five Patriots who have averaged six yards per carry with a minimum of 40 carries. Rangers QB Nick Russell (1,085 passing yards, 530 rushing yards) is responsible for navigating Northwood’s balanced offense. Dominik Bermejo (351 rushing yards, 328 receiving yards) has produced a team-leading 17 TDs. Jordan Schell (501 rushing yards, 7 TDs) has averaged 10 yards per carry. Jake Davenport (21 receptions for 365 yards, 9 TDs) is a sure-handed route runner.



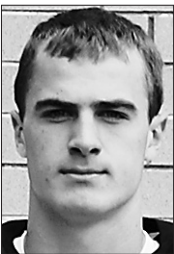
Russell

Archbold (8-2) at Columbia Station Columbia (9-1)

Division V: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Archbold 11th, Columbia Station fourth.

■ **Outlook:** The Blue Streaks face a major test taking on the Raiders, who have won nine straight after opening the season with a 22-14 defeat to Cleveland Central Catholic. Yet, the Blue Streaks, led by quarterback Evan Wyse (2,293 passing yards, 764 rushing yards), are battle-tested playing in the Northwest Ohio Athletic League. Archbold has outscored its opponents, 323-211. Levi Wyse (764 rushing yards, 268 receiving yards) and Tyson Dietrich (301 rushing yards, 45 catches for 658 receiving yards) provide depth and versatility to Archbold’s offensive arsenal. Lincoln Parsley (32 catches for 633 yards) and Jase Grosjean (14 catches for 328 yards) have also been productive in the Blue Streaks passing game. Columbia Station, which is 0-3 all-time in tournament play, has outscored its regular season opponents, 295-128.



Wyse

Liberty Center (8-2) at Liberty-Benton (9-1)

Division V: Saturday, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Liberty Center 16th; Liberty-Benton 8th.

■ **Outlook:** Liberty Center standout Sean Westhoven (1,415 yards on 233 carries, 23 TDs) gives the Tigers a threat to score any time he touches the football. Anthony Righi (752 rushing yards, 183 receiving yards, 11 TDs) is also a proven threat on offense. QB Josh Drain (760 passing yards) handles leading LC’s offense, which has outscored its opponents, 360-175. Liberty Center, which won five of its last six games during the season, owns a 24-14 all-time tournament record, which includes winning a state championship in 1997. Liberty-Benton’s only defeat of the season was a 43-36 overtime loss to McComb during the third week of the regular season. The Eagles are riding a seven-game win streak and have outscored their opponents, 438-109. Liberty-Benton earned a second straight tournament berth and owns a 12-7 all-time tournament record.



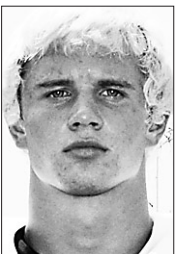
Westhoven

Arlington (7-3) at McComb (10-0)

Division VI: today, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Arlington fourth; McComb 16th.

■ **Outlook:** McComb’s Panthers, ranked No. 2 in D-VI, have outscored foes 504-100 and outgained them 472-170 per game offensively led by RB-WR Jerry Brown (1,134 rushing yards, 31 catches for 512 yards, 25 TDs), QB Dalton Buck (1,976 passing yards, 22 TDs) and WR Cody Wilson (37 catches, 725 yards, 9 TDs). Panther defense is paced by Wilson (105 tackles), Michael Jones (77 tackles), and Andrew Gibson (58 tackles). McComb beat Arlington 41-12 during Blanchard Valley Conference play. Red Devils have outscored foes 284-172, and outgained them 335-216 on offense led by RBs Austin Rettig (756 yards, 4 TDs) and Kyle Bormuth (680 rushing yards, 11 TDs), and QB Andrew Hunter (510 passing yards, 7 TDs). DL Hunter Bernhardt (58 tackles), LB Bormuth (56 tackles) and SS Jordan Freed (56 tackles) lead the defense.



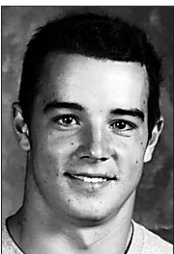
Brown

Ottawa Hills (7-3) at Fremont St. Joseph (9-1)

Division VI: today, 7:30 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Ottawa Hills fourth; Fremont St. Joseph 12th.

■ **Outlook:** The Green Bears are looking to claim their second-ever tournament victory when they take on St. Joe. They suffered a 55-0 defeat to Delphos St. John’s in the first round of the tournament a year ago. A 26-6 loss to Northwood in a Toledo Area Athletic Conference showdown in week nine represents the Green Bears’ only setback. Ottawa Hills has outscored its opponents, 367-99. St. Joe has outscored its opponents, 305-162. Green Bears all-purpose player Will Longthorne (567 rushing yards, 302 receiving yards, 12 TDs) leads the way on offense for Ottawa Hills. He also leads defensively with 85 tackles. Jon Rodriguez has completed 72 of 145 passes for 924 yards, 12 TDs. Judah Wollenburg (84 carries, 607 yards) has proven to be a reliable ballcarrier. Jack Wollenburg (14 catches for 186 yards, 3 TDs) has also made his impact felt. Ottawa Hills is 1-3 all-time in tournament play. St. Joe is 5-11 overall.



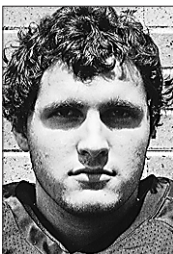
Longthorne

Blissfield (6-4) at Hillsdale (10-0)

Michigan Division 6: today, 7 p.m.

■ **Playoff appearances:** Blissfield eighth; Hillsdale 13th.

■ **Outlook:** Hillsdale won the Lenawee County Athletic Association title in first season as member, including a win over Blissfield 28-13 along the way. Blissfield, 76-39 under 11th-year coach Ron Estes, has outscored foes 260-21, and outgained them 353-234 per game offensively, led by RBs Lee Keinath (804 rushing yards) and Brad Lietzke (865 rushing yards), and QB Luke Cassaubon (465 passing yards, 5 TDs). The Royals’ defense is led in tackles by LB Zach Bostich (78), DE Tyler Watters (54) and DB Dakota Suiter (52). Hillsdale’s Hornets are in heir 12th straight playoff appearance. They have outscored foes 297-113 outgained them 395-230 per game offensively led by QB Kenton McCosh (1,013 passing yards, 20 TDs), RB Brandon McMullen (1,553 rushing yards, 23 TDs) and WR Jimmy Chase (25 catches, 456 yards, 15 TDs). The defense is led in tackles by 6-5, 258-pound DE Zach Von Orman (77) and DT Nate Boardman (45).



Keinath