

Rocky River High School
2014 Girls Soccer Season
Press & Media Articles



This book is a compilation of the news and media stories that were published about the 2014 Rocky River Girls High School soccer team and players throughout the season and post-season honors.

If you discover any mistakes or discover other stories, please contact Coach Hopkins (rrhsgirlssoccer@rrcs.org) or Kent Klodnick (kentklodnick@yahoo.com) with your information.

Boys soccer preview

Ready for some soccer? Let's give fall a kick-start

ROBERT ROZBORIL
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Here's a look at the top storylines, teams and players to watch during the boys soccer season, which starts today.

Top storylines:

Can Revere defend its state title? Last year the Minutemen went 21-0-2 and claimed the Division II state championship. Revere lost many key contributors from that team and will rely on young talent, such as junior Daniel Branch, this year.

Collision course?: St. Edward and St. Ignatius have met in the Division I district finals each of the past three seasons, with the Eagles winning the past two district crowns. St. Ignatius is rated as the top team in the state and the Midwest by TopDrawerSoccer.com, but the Eagles are no slouches.

Battle for the West Shore: After coming in second to Bay in the West Shore Conference two seasons in a row, Rocky River took back the title last season. But the Rockets continued their streak of three consecutive district tournament wins against the Pirates.

Berea-Midpark looks for repeat: In the team's first year of existence, the Titans won the Southwestern Conference. The team ended up going 9-5-3 overall and 5-1 in the conference and will look to build off that success.

Teams to watch

Bay: The Rockets return some big-time players from last year's 15-2-5 squad including seniors Dan Linhart and Mark Comieski.

Copley: The Indians reached the district final last year and the dynamic scoring duo of Chris Bren-

nan and Skye Harter is back.

Hawken: The Hawks made it to the Division II state semifinals last year. Leadership by the likes of senior Patrick Connors will be key.

North Royalton: The Bears went 14-2-2 with 12 shutouts and reached the district semifinals. All-Ohio midfielder Dominic Grida is back.

Rocky River: Rocky River returns leading scorer senior Sutton Klodnick and another offensive threat in junior Jacob Wischmeier.

Solon: The Comets had a sophomore all-Ohioan last season in Sam Slagle, who is back in the mix. Senior captain Johnny King will provide leadership and scoring.

St. Edward: Coming off a district title and a 13-3-5 record, the Eagles have plenty of talent coming back this year in seniors Julian Castro, Kurt Wyski and George Bruck, just to name a few.

St. Ignatius: The Wildcats have 13 returning seniors back. They have four Division I college commitments in Mikal Outcalt (Pittsburgh), Clark Gronck (George Washington), Bobby Barsis (Holy Cross) and David Sisson (Davidson).

University School: With the team's top offensive players, seniors Ryder Bell and Trenton Bulucea, back for another season, the Preppers have to like their chances for a return trip to the regional finals.

Westlake: The Demons had an up and down 2013 season but have a returning All-Ohioan in Omar Salem.

Players to watch

Kane Adams, Avon Lake, Sr.:

Adam's exceptional goal-keeping was a major factor in propelling the Shoremen to the regional semifinals last season when the team lost to Medina, 1-0.

Ryder Bell, University School, Sr.: The experienced forward led the Preppers offense with 35 goals and 12 assists last season and was first team All-Ohio last year.

Daniel Branch, Revere, Jr.: On a defending state championship team that lost many of its key players from last year, Branch is a valuable asset.

Chris Brennan, Copley, Jr.: With 18 goals and six assists, Brennan earned All-Ohio honors as a sophomore and helped lead the Indians offense last year.

Julian Castro, St. Edward, Sr.: Castro was an integral part of leading the Eagles to a district championship last season and is a returning All-Ohioan.

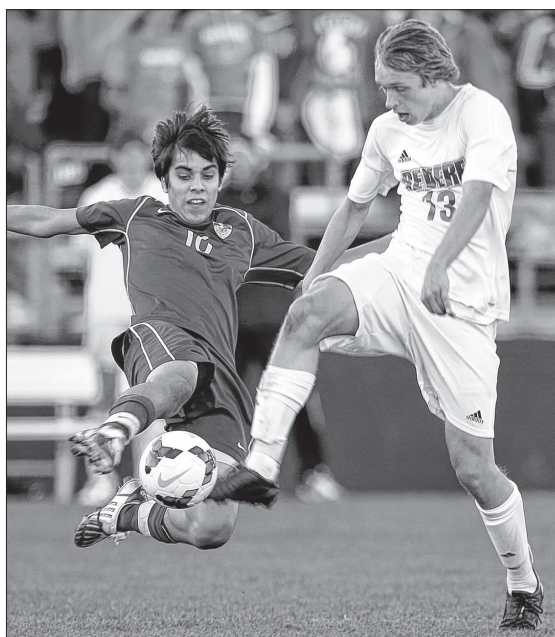
Dan Linhart, Bay, Sr.: The senior forward led Bay to a 15-2-5 record last season with 18 goals and six assists. The Rockets reached the Division II state semifinals last season before losing to Revere, 4-3.

Connor Dease, Medina, Sr.: Dease is part of a defense that held teams scoreless 13 times last year and only allowed more than one goal in a game once.

Gianluca DiFranco, NDCL, Sr.: DiFranco is a leader on offense for the Lions last season on his way to an all-Ohio selection.

Miguel Espinoza, Perry, Sr.: This returning All-Ohio honoree led the Pirates in scoring with 31 goals last year.

Dominic Grida, North Royalton, Sr.: Grida earned All-Ohio honors



JOSHUA GUNTER | THE PLAIN DEALER

After winning the school's first state title in any sport, Revere and Daniel Branch, right, will be battling to get back to Columbus in November.

last season and helped North Royalton to a 14-2-2 record.

Peter (Mac) Mazzola, Chagrin Falls, Jr.: With 13 goals as a sophomore, Mazzola led the Tiggers in scoring and was second in assists.

Liam O'Halloran, Elyria Catholic, Sr.: This returning All-Ohioan will likely be the team's leading goal-scorer.

Mikal Outcalt, St. Ignatius, Sr.: The Wildcats' goalie is in his fourth season as a varsity starter. The Wildcats had seven shutouts last year.

Nick Perez, Aurora, Sr.: The Greenmen will benefit greatly from having this all-Ohioan back on their side this season as they look for a return trip to the district finals.

Kurt Raney, Mentor, Sr.: Raney will be the main offensive weapon on a Cardinals team that lost much of its talent from last season to graduation.

Omar Salem, Westlake, Sr.: This returning All-Ohio midfielder will provide leadership as the Demons strive to make it back to the district finals.

Will Sharer, Avon, Sr.: Sharer was the MVP of his team and earned All-Ohio honors as he helped the Eagles to an 11-5-1 record last season.

David Sisson, St. Ignatius, Sr.: The all-Ohio defender is entering his third year as a varsity starter.

Sam Slagle, Solon, Jr.: The All-Ohio defender is back to help Solon make a bid for a deep post-season run.

Jack Sullivan, Hudson, Sr.: The midfielder is in his fourth year as a varsity starter and is coming off an all-Ohio selection.

Girls soccer preview

Walsh Jesuit tries to threepeat; Holy Name on move

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Here's a look at the top storylines, teams and players to watch during the girls soccer season, which starts today.

Top storylines

Walsh Jesuit three-peat: The Warriors have proven they are the class of the state of Ohio in girls soccer. In 2013, Walsh Jesuit won back-to-back championships for the second time in school history. They have never won three straight but have a strong chance to do so.

Rocky River tries to repeat: Rocky River won the school's first official OHSAA sanctioned state championship since 1927. Sydney Hamker, Jillian Krebs and Eva Schneider will lead the Pirates.

Strongsville starts a new era: Mustang fans will have to get used to seeing a new coach on the sidelines starting this season. Jon Felton resigned after 17 seasons in charge after leading Strongsville to four state championships. Todd Church takes over after being an assistant coach under Felton since 2005.

Hawken loaded: The Hawks fell in the Division III championship game last year to Hamilton Badin on penalties. Anton Trifonov is the new head coach this season, replacing Stan Shulman.

Will Holy Name take the next step? The Green Wave has three players committed to play Division I soccer following their senior seasons, including second team All-State midfielder Caroline Dreher and Cleveland State-bound defender Toni Dickson, the team MVP.

Teams to watch

Archbishop Hoban: The Knights have gone to the regional semifinals each of the last three years. Archbishop Hoban has a good group of juniors led by Ashley Dobbins.



JOSHUA GUNTER | THE PLAIN DEALER

Walsh Jesuit's girls soccer team could win three titles in a row for the first time ever.

Hathaway Brown: The Blazers made it all the way to the final four in Division II. Getting back there will be tough because the team has no seniors this year.

Hawken: The Hawks fell just short of winning their first state championship in program history. With all but two players back from that team, Hawken has a strong chance to get back to Crew Stadium.

Holy Name: With three Division I bound players entering their senior years, the Green Wave will have a chance to compete for their first state title since 2006. New coach Emily Balodis was a member of that team.

Hudson: The Explorers are counting on junior Erin Torrence to lead the way.

Magnificat: Junior Alyssa Babumback had 11 goals and 10 assists in 2013 and should be the go-to scorer for Magnificat.

Medina: The Bees have been among the most consistent pro-

grams throughout recent years and should be strong once again, led by senior midfielder Bri Shingary, who was second team All-Ohio selection in Division I.

Rocky River: The Pirates ended their school's 86-year championship drought. Despite losing a great amount of talent to graduation, Rocky River should challenge for a return trip to Crew Stadium.

Strongsville: The Mustangs should be in good shape led by Akron recruit Rachel Schirripa.

Walsh Jesuit: The Warriors only lost four seniors from an undefeated state championship team and get back Halle Stelbasky, the team's leading scorer from 2012, who missed last season.

Players to watch

Norah Barnes, Buckeye, Sr.: Barnes had 12 goals and 12 assists and was a second team All-Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association selection.

Sarah Krause, Holy Name, Jr.: She was one of two Holy Name players named second team All-OSSCA in Division II in 2013.

Jillian Krebs, Rocky River, Sr.: Krebs, a midfielder, had 28 assists and six goals in 2013.

Sabrina Kunimoto, Hathaway Brown, Soph.: Kunimoto started every game as a freshman and scored five goals.

Cyndee Martin, Brush, Sr.: Martin returns after scoring 31 goals in her junior season.

Zoe McCormick, Western Reserve Academy, Sr.: McCormick was a second team All-Ohio selection in Division II last season.

Bianca Medancic, Hawken, Sr.: Medancic, a second team All-OSSCA selection, had 22 goals and 14 assists as a junior.

Rachel Schirripa, Strongsville, Sr.: Schirripa had nine goals and 10 assists for the Mustangs.

Bri Shingary, Medina, Sr.: Shingary, a Buffalo recruit, was a second team All-OSSCA selection in 2013.

Julie Bruening, Madison, Sr.: Bruening had 10 goals and 18 assists last year for the Blue Streaks.

Ashley Dobbins, Archbishop Hoban, Sr.: Dobbins is a captain and had seven goals and eight assists last year.

Katarina Doncevic, Hawken, Sr.: Doncevic helped lead a Hawken defense that allowed just 21 goals in 23 games in 2013.

Caroline Dreher, Holy Name, Sr.: Dreher, an Indiana recruit, was a second team All-OSSCA selection in 2013.

Maddie Filicko, Walsh Jesuit, Sr.: The versatile Filicko is a fourth-year varsity player and will anchor the defense.

Sydney Hamker, Rocky River, Sr.: Hamker is the Pirates' top returning goal scorer. She had 12 goals and 10 assists as a junior.

Sam Slagle, Solon, Jr.: Slagle anchored a defense that allowed just 14 goals and was the only sophomore on the Division II All-OSSCA first team.

Halle Stelbasky, Walsh Jesuit, Sr.: Stelbasky, a Butler recruit, was the Warriors' leading scorer in 2012 with 18 goals and 11 assists but missed the 2013 season due to an ACL injury.

Erin Torrence, Hudson, Jr.: Torrence has started since her freshman season and had eight goals and five assists last year.

Maddie Zuberer, Kirtland, Jr.: Zuberer had 11 shutouts and allowed just seven goals last season.

Key dates

- Oct. 5: OHSAA tournament draw.
- Oct. 13-18: Sectional tournament.
- Oct. 20-25: District tournament.
- Oct. 28-Nov. 1: Regional tournament.
- Nov. 4: State semifinals.
- Nov. 7: State finals at Columbus Crew Stadium.

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Pirates aiming for more after winning state title

Stephanie Metzger

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The expectations were high, but they weren't new. It was a couple of years in the making, but head coach Patrick Hopkins built a championship team.

The Rocky River Pirates girls soccer team won the Division II state championship last year, the school's first state title in 86 years. Ranked No. 1 in Ohio and fifth in the nation, the team went undefeated, its only tie occurring against Sacred Heart Academy of Louisville.

The squad also shattered four team records, including goals scored and shutouts. Three of its graduating seniors continued on to play Division I soccer in college.

Hopkins, who was named the Ohio High School Girls Soccer Coach of the Year, said last year was a culmination of

several rebuilding years.

"Last season was an amazing season, and it was a tremendous amount of success, but it wasn't a one-season thing," Hopkins explained. "That was something we'd been developing and rebuilding over the past five years."

The team reached the regional finals and secured back-to-back district titles during those five years, but last year was the crowning achievement.

Hopkins now enters his ninth year coaching with the school and expects another strong season from his team.

"I'm excited," Hopkins said. "It's a process of building from the beginning to the end. We know it's a long season and a lot of things have to go right, but I think our mindset's in the right place. We still have our high expectations and we're looking to have a successful season."

Losing eight seniors hurts, but Hopkins isn't fearful. He said the leadership of former seniors such as McKenna Klodnick, Abby Elinsky and Grace Bennett will be missed, but the replacements can't be overlooked.

"We lost a tremendous amount of talent," Hopkins said. "We still have a tremendous amount of talent in the program, but the one thing that's even more difficult to replace is that senior leadership. I think we have a group that can do that. They're doing a tremendous job, but it's a process."

Hopkins said this year's senior class is strong, and numbers are working in their favor as the squad is stacked with upperclassmen. Seniors Sydney Hamaker, an Indiana State commit, Eva Schneider, a Valparaiso commit, and captain Jillian Krebs, will be relied on for both leadership and talent.

Goalkeeper Sophia Braun, an incoming junior, will also be looked upon for her versatility.

"Sophia Braun is an unbelievable, athletic goalkeeper who is also a phenomenal field player," Hopkins said. "Her confidence and her strength provides us with starting our offense in the back."

Hopkins said he doesn't look at the upcoming schedule on a week-by-week or game-by-game basis. Instead, he sees a developmental process designed to prepare his team for a postseason. The team has come down from the highs of its championship victory, but Hopkins has his sights set on building more success.

"There are 16 developmental games to get us ready for the last seven," Hopkins noted. "That's what we're focusing on. the last seven."

ROCKY RIVER 2,
BAY 2

Rockets rally to gain tie

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ROCKY RIVER — The Rocky River Pirates made their moments count, but the Meisenburgs of Bay stole the show.



Girls

soccer

The Rocky River and Bay girls soccer teams ended an anticipated early-season match in a 2-2 tie on Aug. 27.

See Rockets, Page D5

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David Richard/Associated Press

Toledo defensive tackle Treyvon Hester, right, chases Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds in the first quarter in Toledo Oct. 13, 2013. The Buckeyes will look to contain Reynolds who rushed for 1,346 yards and 31 touchdowns last year.

Navy

From Page D1

"That's not what we're worried about," he said. "We're worried about beating Navy. That's what we've been focused on this training camp. They have a unique style of playing offense."

The Buckeyes, who are opening their 125th season, have an idea that they are up against. Navy came into Ohio Stadium to open the 2009 season against an Ohio State team that would end up going 11-2, winning the Big Ten and then beating No. 7 Oregon in the Rose Bowl.

And the Midshipmen almost left Columbus with a victory.

Navy cut a 13-point half-time deficit to two with 2:23 left — and had a two-point conversion pass to tie it. But Ricky Dobbs' throw was picked off by linebacker Brian Rolle and he returned it for two points the other way to seal a 31-27 victory.

The current Midshipmen, coming off a 9-4 season that included a win in the Armed Forces Bowl, still follow the same offensive philosophy under seventh-year head coach Ken Niumatalolo.

"We've got to try to find every edge and do everything we can," he said earlier this week of the matchup with the Buckeyes.



Ohio State at Navy

- When: Noon, Aug. 30
■ Where: M&T Bank Stadium, Baltimore
■ Records: Ohio State 0-0, Navy 0-0
■ TV: CBS Sports Network; Radio: WNNM 850

Navy has players who might not be as big or as fast as those at Top-25 powerhouses, but it levels the playing field by using the option. The read-and-react offense, predicated on split-second decisions, sterling execution and quickness, is unique in many ways.

"We feel we have a wrinkle for every (question)," offensive coordinator Ivan Jasper said with a chuckle. "Whether it's going to work or not, we'll see."

Junior quarterback Keenan Reynolds leads an offense that was No. 2 in the Football Bowl Subdivision last year in rushing at 325.4 yards per game. Reynolds ran for 1,346 yards and 31 touchdowns.

"He's their guy," Perry said. "He's a guy who isn't necessarily a burner, speedwise, but he has really good vision and he knows where the seams are. Once he puts his foot on the ground and he gets verti-

cal, that's what he likes to do. We have to take really good angles. We can't overrun anything."

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer is aware of and wary of Reynolds.

"The Navy coaches and some people I've talked to think that he's the best that they've ever had," he said. "That takes your breath away a little bit."

The Buckeyes defense has a bit of a chip on its shoulder.

Many considered Ohio State a strong contender to make the initial College Football Playoffs this fall. Then quarterback Braxton Miller went down with a shoulder injury that will cost him the season.

Now, with freshman J.T. Barrett in command of the offense, there are a lot of people saying the Buckeyes no longer belong in the title discussion.

The defense believes it has to dominate — even against a volatile offense like Navy's option — in order to give its own offense time to adapt to Barrett.

"Oh yes, we've got to," linebacker Curtis Grant said. "Defense wins championships. We're going to come out each and every day, high energy and just do what we need to do to keep moving forward."

NHL may add another team

Larry Lage Associated Press

The NHL insists expansion is not imminent.

"Nothing has happened to change the status quo," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in a telephone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. "There continues to be interest from some markets, and we continue to be interested in discussing the possibilities, but there is no plan moving forward in terms of expansion."

The NHL has not expanded since the 2000-01 season when the Minnesota Wild and Columbus Blue Jackets became the 29th and 30th franchises in the league.

After last year's realignment, the Eastern Conference has 16 teams and there are 14 in the Western Conference.

Seattle, Toronto, Quebec City, Las Vegas and Kansas

City have been mentioned as markets that might land a new team in the league.

"If we get to a point where there's enough interest in enough places that it warrants consideration, then the Board of Governors may well invoke a formal expansion process and we'll look at everything," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said.

"I don't think this is something you do on a piecemeal basis."

A person with knowledge of the league's plans, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, said reports of a possible four-team NHL expansion were news to him and "I don't believe it."

Bettman visited Seattle to meet with local elected leaders in May to get an update on the status of a possible new arena proposed by investor Chris Hansen.

Bettman has said Seattle's arena situation has to be settled before the NHL would consider expanding there. Legislation approved by city and county officials called for an NBA team to be placed in Seattle first before an NHL team unless the memorandum of understanding on the project is reworked. Hansen said his group does not have interest in being majority owners of an NHL team.

"Seattle seems to have the most number of people interested," Bettman said in June. "The fact is there's no building that's on the horizon. The person who controls the rights to build a building in Seattle is intent upon having an NBA team before he builds a building. Based on what's happened to date, and the fact that his partner has now bought a different franchise, I don't know that there's any prospect of a building in Seattle."

Lawsuits targeting soccer concussions

Paul Elias Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Soccer joining the growing legal debate over head injuries Wednesday after FIFA and some of the sport's governing bodies in the United States were made the target of a lawsuit seeking new safety rules.

A group of soccer parents and players filed the lawsuit

in federal court in San Francisco. Lawyers representing the parents and players are asking a judge to grant the lawsuit class-action status on behalf of thousands of current and former soccer players who competed for teams governed by FIFA and several U.S.-based soccer organizations.

The NFL, NHL and NCAA have all faced similar

lawsuits. In a proposed legal settlement in another case, the NCAA last month said it will toughen return-to-play rules for players who receive head blows. It also agreed to create a \$70 million fund to pay for thousands of current and former athletes to undergo testing to determine whether they suffered brain trauma.

Elyria Catholic 7, Vermilion 3

O'Halloran, Jarvis guide Elyria Catholic to victory

Matt Lofgren Sports@MorningJournal.com @MJJournalSports

VERMILION — Elyria Catholic (3-0) scored early and often en route to a big 7-3 victory over the Sailors (2-2) in Vermilion on Aug. 27.

As the summer nights get shorter with the school year starting, the Panthers shined under the lights at Vermilion's soccer field. No stars were brighter than Panthers' strikers Liam O'Halloran and Gage Jarvis.

Jarvis and O'Halloran combined for five of Elyria Catholic's seven goals, with Jarvis adding the icing to the cake with 18:12 left in the game when a rebound shot found the net for his third goal of the game.

"We've got a lot of steam. No. 1 being our two great strikers up top. Gage and Liam, they do a really good job of getting open and working the angles," Elyria Catholic head coach Attila Csizsar said. "They're very explosive off the start."

The pair were so explosive, O'Halloran gave the Panthers all the momentum with a goal just 24 seconds into the game to set the tone.

Following up an encore two and a half minutes later,

O'Halloran again beat the Vermilion defenders for his second goal.

"We came out with a different strategy," Csizsar said.

"This year, we've got a team that wants to attack. We've got players that want to counterattack and we have the speed up top, so that's what we do. We work on attacking with speed so we can break that counterattack every time."

On top of his offense giving a strong performance, Csizsar had an equally stellar performance out of his goalkeeper, James Rickard.

"No. 1, he's positive, he's a great all-around kid and he works hard," Csizsar said. "This is his second year playing as a goalkeeper and he's just doing a great job with it."

Closing off almost all of the angles for the Vermilion shooters, Rickard made several impressive saves that would have been goals if not for his quick reactions, making plays early and late. Rickard made some well-timed breakaway saves.

Where Rickard was most efficient was working with his defense. While Elyria Catholic controlled the scoreboard, Vermilion controlled

the possession for most of the game.

Controlling is something that Vermilion head coach Chris Adkins said he knows his team is very capable of, but it needs to go in and finish the job with a goal.

"We do a good job of possessing the ball throughout the field, but then once we get in that final third, we're just struggling," Adkins said. "We got a bunch of goals last Saturday in a game and then since then we just can't quite get over the hump. (We've had) a lot of chances and now we've got to finish and make them count."

On the Sailors side, Vermilion's goalie Shane Spencer played well when his defense backed him up. But at the same time, Spencer was able to make some impressive breakaway saves that gave the home crowd something to cheer about.

"Shane does a phenomenal job. We put him on an island a lot with the through balls and the one-on-one plays and at that point, it's 50-50 at best," Adkins said.

"He does a good job of making saves when we need him to make saves, but we've got to help him out and keep him from getting those one-on-ones all the time."

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

BOYS SOCCER

Midview 1, North Ridgeville 1

Halftime: No score. Midview goal: Hines (assisted by Thomas).

North Ridgeville goal: Alex Grogan (assisted by Tyler Grogan). North Ridgeville: Midview 2.

Elyria Catholic 7, Vermilion 3

Halftime: 6-4. First half: E.O. Halloran, O'Halloran 2:05, Jarvis 2:32, Jarvis 18:12, Jarvis 18:12. Second half: E.O. Halloran 31:42, Jarvis 18:12, Jarvis 18:12, McCoy 18:12, Burbanck 20:27. Shots: Goals: Elyria Catholic, Rickard 11:8, Spencer 14:7. Records: E.O. 5:0, 2:1.

GIRLS SOCCER

Wellington 4, Lakewood West 0

Halftime: Wellington 4-0. Wellington goals: 1 Emily Mariani, Brittany Mariani, 5 Jennifer Sparks. Shots: Goals: Wellington, Kelly Sparks 4, Lufkin West, Colborn 13. Records: Wellington 1:0-0, Lakewood West 0-4-0.

Firelands 1, Brooklyn 0

Halftime: Firelands 1-0. Firelands goal: Mikala Matis. Shots: Goals: Firelands, Alex Willis 8. Brooklyn: Crossman 8.

Midview 2, North Ridgeville 1

Midview goal: Melissa Grogan, Maddie Bell. North Ridgeville goal: Danielle Blagoder. Shots: Goals: Midview, Kelly Sparks 2, Burbanck 2; Lakewood West, Colborn 12; Midview, Alyssa Adkins 2.

Bay 2, Rocky River 2

Bay goal: 4, Meisenburg 5; Rocky River goal: Auzenbergs and Silber. Shots: Goals: Bay, Caras 4; Rocky River, Bay 0-2-1, Rocky River 0-1-1.

North Olmsted 1, Avon Lake 0

North Olmsted goal: Matthew Johnson. Shots: Goals: Avon Lake, Elise Duxall 1; North Olmsted, Emily Pridemore 9. Records: Avon Lake 1-4-0, North Olmsted 3-0-3.

TENNIS

Norwalk 5, Vermilion 0

Singles — Lauren Steffen (N) def. Amanda Ann 6-0, Victoria Aja 6-0; Def. Tessa Gibbons 6-1, 6-1; Brooke Finley (N) def. Lauren Steffen 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles — Jessica Berry-Kathyn, Stoll (N) def. Victoria Aja, Tessa Gibbons 6-0, 6-0; Caitlin Cameron-Alyssa, Sattin (N) def. Dixie Johnson, Meisenburg 6-0, 6-0.

Amherst 4, Berea-Midpark 1

Singles — Natalie Keen (A) def. A. Jada 6-4, 6-4; Reagan Frazer (A) def. E. Juler 6-2, 6-2.

Way we see em'

Here's the way The Morning Journal staff sees the Fairview at Rocky River football game on Aug. 28, going: Sam Amnen — Rocky River, Jon Edm — Rocky River, Tim Grattan — Rocky River, Matt Lofgren — Rocky River, Scott Mahoney — Rocky River, Stephanie Metzger — Rocky River, and Scott Sommers — Rocky River.

To see how we see 'em for the rest of the area's Week 1 games, check out the Aug. 29 issue of the Morning Journal.

High School Scoreboard

0-1: Elizabeth McDermott (A) def. A. Ebe 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. 0-2: — M. Cross-M. Sharma (BM) def. Rachel Boudreau-Kenny, Newton 0-1 def. D. Sabra, Quincey 6-4, 6-4.

GIRLS GOLF

Amherst 173, Amherst 235

Berea-Midpark 253 Sweetwater par 35. Amn Lake (54): Nil Saperstein 34, Abby Haskinson 43, Summer Penning 48, Sarah Lewis 49.

Amherst: Rachel Miller 46, Marina Gilman 60, Aurora Fyfe 64, Dana Zabornik 66. Berea-Midpark: Cecilia Hess 57, Emily Pridemore 60, Cameron Kolesar 74.

AREA SCHEDULE

AUG. 28 FOOTBALL

Rocky River at Fremont, 7.

GIRLS SOCCER

St. Peter's at Norwalk, 5.

VOLLEYBALL

Huronville Heights at Lakewood, 6:30. Rocky River at Vermilion, 6:30.

Amherst at North Olmsted, 7. Clearview at Brookside, 7.

Lakewood West at Firelands, 7. North Ridgeville at Avon, 6:30.

St. Paul at Lakewood, 6:30. Elyria Catholic at Midview, 7.

St. Paul at Reynolds, 5:30. Ontario at Sandusky, 7.

Amn Lake at Brookside, 7. Ontario Falls at Westlake, 7.

Brooklyn at Black River, 7.

Oberte at Wellington, 7

Oak Harbor at Edison, 6:30. Perkins at Huron, 6:30. Shelby at Norwalk, 5.

GOLF

Amn at Rocky River, 4:30. North Olmsted at Westlake, 3.

Dixie at Cayuga Falls, 3:30. Firelands at Brookside, 4:30. Black River at Wellington, 4. Bay, Vermilion 4:30-5:30.

TENNIS

Shelby at Norwalk, 4:15. North Olmsted at Lakewood, 4:30.

Magnolia at Westlake, 4. Chagrin Falls at Amn, 4:30. Huron at Elk, 4:30.

Amn Lake at West Geauga, 4:30. St. Mary at Edison, 4.

Milburn at Vermilion, 4:30. Ontario at Sandusky, 4:15.

AUG. 29 FOOTBALL

John Hay at Amherst, 7. Amn at Avon Lake, 7.

Brookside at Bay, 7. Black River in Western Reserve, 7.

Vermilion at Clearview, 7. Edison at Norwalk, 7.

Elyria at Fremont, 7. Lufkin West at Firelands, 7.

Ontario at Sandusky, 7. Monroeville at Reynolds, 7.

New London at Buckeye Central, 7.

North Ridgeville at Westlake, 7. Lufkin East at Ontario, 7.

Beaufort at Olmsted Falls, 7. Open Door at Darby, 7.

Perkins at Bellevue, 7. St. Paul at St. Mary, 7.

Northway at Wellington, 7.

GOLF

Huron at Edison, 3:30.

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Rockets

From Page D1

The Rockets appeared to be in control for much of the first half as the offense applied relentless pressure on the Rocky River defense. The Pirates, however, held tight.

Rocky River goalkeeper Sophia Braun made up for some Pirate defensive miscues as she shut the Rockets out in the first half. Meanwhile, the Pirates struggled to find the opposite end of the field.

Bay crafted a string of shots on goal with just over 13 minutes remaining in the first half. The Rockets attempted four shots in a six-minute span, but it was Rocky River that came close as Samantha Zamarripa missed just high and wide of the Bay goal.

With 1:32 left, the Pirates finally found the net. Bay

goalkeeper Alexa Carras ventured too far too soon from the goal, resulting in an open shot for senior Mary DeVito, who scored on an assist from Caroline Auzenbergs.

The Pirates' passing game was kept short in the second half. The Rockets maintained possession, but once again, the Pirates made their opportunities count. With 24 minutes remaining, a corner kick set up the shot for junior Emily Soltes, who found the net on an assist by Zamarripa for the 2-0 lead.

As the clock fell below the 20-minute mark, the Pirates took control, forcing more pressure and more shots on the Bay goal.

The Rockets weren't discouraged. With just over 15 minutes remaining, the Meisenburgs came up clutch. Senior Dakota Meisenburg passed the ball off to freshman Autumn Meisenburg,

who rocked a hard shot past Braun, cutting Rocky River's lead in half.

Bay kept pressing, lingering near Rocky River's half of the field.

Bay sophomore Maddie Holmes launched an attack with 14 minutes remaining, but Braun held steady for the save.

The final two minutes heightened in drama as the Rockets refused to relent. With 1:13 on the clock, Dakota Meisenburg saved her team from falling short as she shot the game-tying goal.

Neither squad could score in the final seconds, securing the 2-2 tie.

Bay's next match is Sept. 3 at Lakewood. The Pirates will take a road trip to face Charleston Catholic on Sept. 1 before heading to Vermilion on Sept. 3.

Rocky River seeks second-straight state title



Last year the Rocky River girls varsity soccer team dominated the land, winning titles all the way up to Division II state champions. This year, they are back and have every intention of holding onto their crowns. Photo courtesy of Kent Klodnick

WEST SHORE CONFERENCE

By Ryan Kaczmarek
and Joe Ostrica

Last season was one of Hollywood screen play proportions for the **Rocky River High School** girls soccer team. The Pirates ran away to a 22-0-1 record, all while winning a conference, district, regional and Division II state championship.

If the Pirates are going to repeat as state champions, they will have to do it without a slew of starters lost to graduation, including Abby Elinsky, Grace Bennett, McKenna Klodnick, Sara Connelly, Liesl Fharenkopf and Megan Killeen.

"Last year, we had a great supporting cast that this year are forming into the leaders we need them to be," Rocky River head coach Patrick Hopkins said.

The returning players include Jillian Krebs (senior, captain), Sydney Hamker (senior, captain and Indiana State commit), Eva Schneider (Valparaiso commit), Sophia Braun in goal, Emily Soltes and Samantha Zamarripa.

Newcomers to get extended varsity minutes include Jessica Vitou, Caroline Auzenbergs, Sara Connelly (for the first time in her high school career, the only one on the team with her name), Bella Rizzi and Emily Fox.

"This team has a great deal of experience, which provides us with great leadership," Hopkins said. "We have a strong program with high expectations. Meeting those expectations is always a challenge, but the mindset is there, so it can be done."

The **Bay High School** team has lost 12 girls from last year's team, which went 11-2-5 and took district champion Holy Name to a second round of shoot-outs after three overtimes.

Returning for the Rockets are captains Nicole Pohlkamp, Melanie Kukura and Barbara Nainiger. Also returning are Maddie Holmes, Dakota Meiesenberg, Erin Taylor, Megan Garrity and goalkeeper Alexa Carras.

"Although we lost eight starters, we do have a few of our leaders back, as well as two girls returning from ACL repairs, along with several girls who earned varsity letters off the bench last year," Rockets head coach Jack Griffiths said. "We expect to be very competitive in the WSC and go deep in the tournament."

"The conference has been around for nine years, and we won or tied for the conference title every year but three."

A newcomer to watch is freshman Autumn Meiesenberg, who has earned a starting spot on varsity on offense.

The **Avon** girls soccer team has a good shot at improving over last year's 8-5-3 record, including 3-3-1 in the West Shore Conference. The team's leading scorer, senior midfielder Regan Betts, is back to lead the Lady Eagles. Betts was named the Lorain County Co-player of the Year last year. She was also named to the All-WSC and All-Greater Cleveland first team.

Senior midfielder/defender Emily Joyce is also back for Avon. Joyce was an All-WSC first team and All-Greater Cleveland second team selection.

Avon head coach Danie Schnauer said she expects the WSC competition to be tough this season.

"As always, Rocky River and Bay have fantastic teams," she said. "Elyria Catholic and Midview continue to improve and compete as well. Our team's overall goal is to just continue to improve each game."

"We obviously want to be as successful as possible in our very competitive conference as well as in the postseason. I believe we can be great competition for anyone we play."

With several key returning players back, the **North Ridgeville** girls soccer team is hoping to add more wins to last year's 6-10 record.

"Our team goal is to improve every day we are out on the field and be role models for our community," North Ridgeville head coach Tara Bowen said. "We want to be playing our best soccer by playoffs."

"In our conference we would like to win one more game than we did last year. Our postseason goal is to play our best soccer and win our first game out."

Sophomore Danielle Blagojevic, an All-Lorain County first team and All-WSC second team selection, is back to lead the Lady Rangers offense. Junior Anna Chalkley (All-WSC and All-Lorain County second team) and Catrina Engle (All-Lorain County second team and WSC honorable mention) are also back for North Ridgeville.

Junior Bri Casement is back as goalkeeper. Casement recorded 111 saves for North Ridgeville last year, landing an All-WSC honorable mention. Top defenders back for the Lady Rangers include junior Anna Chalkley (All-WSC and All-Lorain County second team), sophomore Allyson Hassler and senior Lauren Ginley.

"We also have several key seniors returning who will help lead our team in the attack and midfield, including Sam Graham, Maddie Griffith, Sam Miller and Becca Murra.

"Our team strengths are our work ethic and desire. There are also players who are pretty technically sound, and the team is working to understand and make tactical adjustments."



Girls Soccer

Rocky River girls soccer player Jillian Krebs answers 5 questions: Varsity Timeout



Rocky River girls soccer player Jillian Krebs helped the Pirates win the Division II state title last

season. (Photo courtesy of Kent Klodnick)

By Scott Patsko, Northeast Ohio Media Group
on September 16, 2014 7 a.m.



ROCKY RIVER, Ohio – Rocky River senior forward Jillian Krebs was a major contributor in the Pirates girls soccer team winning the Division II state title last season

Krebs had 28 assists and six goals last season as the Pirates became the first Rocky River team to win state championship in 86 years.

She spoke with the Northeast Ohio Media Group about her memories of last season, how she spends time away from soccer, and her future plans in this week's Varsity Timeout.

Q: What moments do you remember most from last season's state title run?

A: "Overall it was such a crazy, awesome year. There's never going to be a year like that again. We had such a good team and we were so used to each other. We were one big family. I just remember how much of a family it was."

Q: Do this year's opponents play a little harder against your team now that you're defending champs?

A: "Yes, I definitely think so. When teams see that they play us, they know it's going to be a challenge for them and they have to step up their game. We definitely have to step it up, too, and keep it there. It's a really high level to maintain."

Q: When do you do what you're not playing soccer?

A: I focus a lot on my schoolwork and I also volunteer on Sundays at my church. I also tutor some of my teammates in math and chemistry. Those are definitely my two favorite subjects.

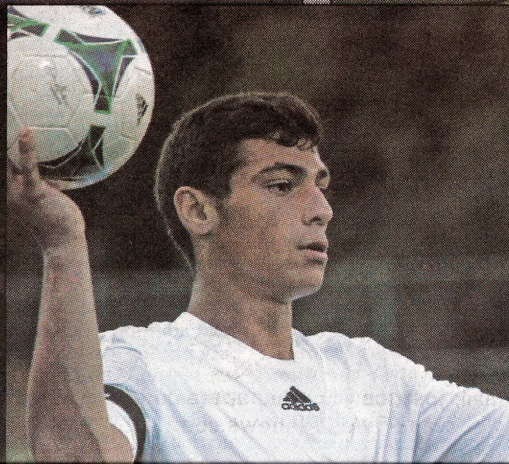
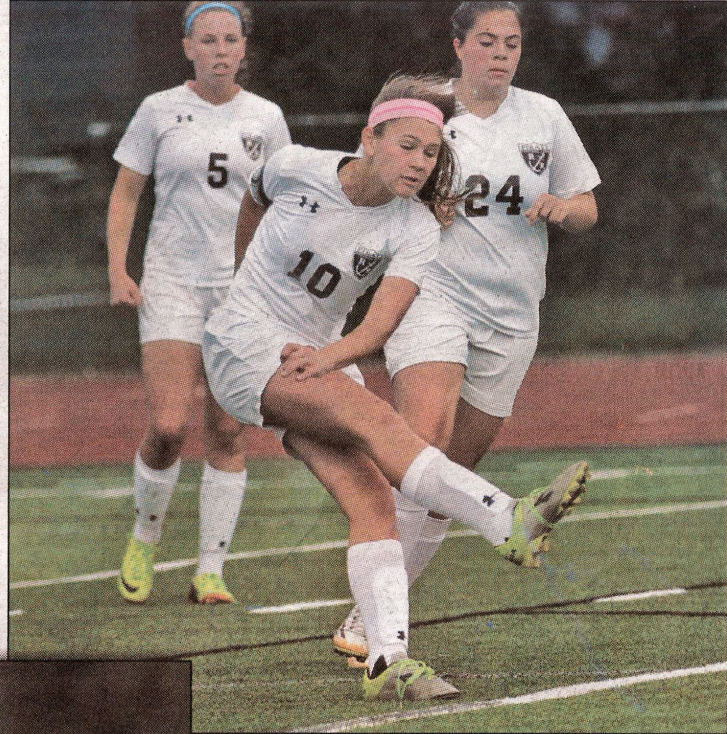
Q: Do you have a favorite professional soccer player?

A: Not really. I don't watch that much soccer. I don't really have that much time for TV. Between soccer and course work, there's not a lot of time left.

Q: What will you be doing next year at this time?

A: Hopefully I will be in (The Ohio State University's) honors college studying to get a degree in biomedical engineering. (Playing college soccer) is something I've always thought about doing, but I'm really focused on schoolwork and I don't want that to get in the way. I wish I could play soccer in college, but I don't know if I could manage it. Maybe for a club team or something like that.

Soccer season **HEATS** up through **CHILLY** September nights



Rocky River senior Jillian Krebs scored the game-tying goal against Division I power Springsboro on Saturday. The two teams played to a draw. Photo courtesy of Kent Klodnick



Pirates begin big week with shutout win over Avon



Story by Jim Horvath

Photos by Ryan Kaczmarek

The Rocky River girls soccer team went into Wednesday night's West Shore Conference game at Avon with a specific goal in mind:

Win the week.

After a playing a tough preseason schedule and possibly an even tougher first half of the regular season, the defending Division II state champions were looking to turn the corner in Week 5. With three road games in four days, including a pair of matches in Toledo, the Pirates knew that would be no easy task.

But on Wednesday night at Avon's Joe Firment Stadium, Rocky River notched its fourth victory of

the season in convincing fashion. The Pirates scored a pair of goals in the first 11 minutes and ran away with a 7-0 win over the Eagles to remain tied with Bay atop the WSC standings.

"We started out at the beginning of the week saying we wanted to win the week," explained Rocky River head coach Patrick Hopkins, whose team moved to 4-2-2 on the season and 2-0-1 in the conference.

"That's what we talked about before the game tonight," he said. "We wanted to win tonight first, and we wanted start that by winning the first half. Then we moved on to the second half. What happened tonight was us piecing things together after playing all of those tough teams early.

"Tonight we really worked together as a solid team. We created opportunities and scored some nice goals," he added.

Rocky River had already run the gauntlet just to get to Avon, which fell to 1-2-1 in the WSC. A preseason game against nationally-ranked Northern Highlands of Allendale, New Jersey, plus scrimmages with Solon and Chagrin Falls and a road trip to Dayton, was the warm-up.

The Pirates' season started with a 3-0 loss at Brecksville and a 2-2 tie with arch-rival Bay. A second loss came in a 2-1 decision at Strongsville, currently ranked at the top of Division I in the OSSCA poll. River's second tie came at the hands of Springboro, a strong program from the Dayton area.

But on Wednesday night, the Pirates began to put things together offensively.

In the ninth minute, senior Eva Schneider ripped a long shot from 20 yards out on the right side. Avon keeper Rachel Grudzien made the stop, but could not secure the ball at the left lower corner of the goal.

In stepped fellow senior Jessica Vitou, who tapped in the rebound shot for her first of two goals on the night. With 31:32 left in the first half, the Pirates were off and running.



Less than two minutes later, River struck again. Senior Jillian Krebs raced up field with the ball and touched it ahead to junior Emily McDonald, who beat an Avon defender and shot the ball past a charging Grudzien for a 2-0 River lead with 29:40 remaining in the half.

"We did a great job of penetrating in the final third," Hopkins said. "We created opportunities and challenged their keeper.

"We were able to capitalize with some really nice goal scores. And getting those goals early really takes off some of the pressure. That's one thing we're lacking from last year. Last year, we were able to overpower teams so quickly that after awhile, you kind of took that for granted.

"All of a sudden, you're looking around wondering who's going to do it. So yes, it's nice to see that halfway through the season, we're getting there," he said.

His Pirates got there three more times in the first half. Vitou scored again at the 18:00 mark as she made good on a sharp-angled shot from the right side. Krebs scored on a high, arching shot that made it in just under the crossbar at 12:39, then freshman Olivia McDonald scored off a throw-in with 8:23 left in the half.

Rocky River scored two more goals in the second half, with Schneider zipping one in from 20 yards out in the 58th minute and junior Emily Soltes capping things off with a long-distance goal with 18:44 remaining.



With the Pirates controlling the ball most of the night, it was a relatively easy shutout win for junior keeper Sophia Braun. Avon had few threats on the night, with one Eagle shot hitting the crossbar in the 20th minute and an open shot rolling wide left in the 66th minute. The Eagles did not get a corner opportunity until the 79th minute.

Now it's on to Toledo, where the Pirates will face perennial powerhouses Perrysburg and Toledo St. Ursula.

"We're where we want to be, but we still understand what we need to work on," Hopkins said.

"We know we want to have success against the Springboros. We want to face teams like Strongsville and Brecksville and get the win. I'd love to play them later on in the season. We're developing, and it's all going to work out in the end.

"We're on schedule. We're in the right place, and we're where we need to be. As long as we keep progressing forward, we'll be fine," he added.

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WEST SHORE SUN

SUN NEWS SPORTS

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Varsity timeout

Five questions for Rocky River senior soccer forward Jillian Krebs

SCOTT PATSKO | spatsko@cleveland.com

Rocky River senior forward Jillian Krebs was a major contributor in the Pirates' girls soccer team winning the Division II state title last season

Krebs had 28 assists and six goals last season as the Pirates became the first Rocky River team to win state championship in 86 years.

She spoke with the Northeast Ohio Media Group about her memories of last season, how she spends time away from soccer, and her future plans in this week's varsity timeout.

Q: What moments do you remember most from last season's state title run?

A: "Overall it was such a crazy, awesome year. There's never going to be a year like that again. We had such a good team and we were so used to each other. We were one big family. I just remember how much of a family it was."

Q: Do this year's opponents play a little harder against your team now that you're defending champs?

A: "Yes, I definitely think so. When teams see that they play us, they know it's going to be a challenge for them and they have to step up their game. We definitely have to step it up, too, and keep it there. It's a really high level to maintain."

Q: What do you do when you're not playing soccer?

A: I focus a lot on my schoolwork

and I also volunteer on Sundays at my church. I also tutor some of my teammates in math and chemistry. Those are definitely my two favorite subjects.

Q: Do you have a favorite professional soccer player?

A: Not really. I don't watch that much soccer. I don't really have that much time for TV. Between soccer and course work, there's not a lot of time left.

Q: What will you be doing next year at this time?

A: Hopefully I will be in (The Ohio State University's) honors college studying to get a degree in biomedical engineering. (Playing college soccer) is something I've always thought about doing, but I'm really focused on schoolwork and I don't want that to get in the way. I wish I could play soccer in college, but I don't know if I could manage it. Maybe for a club team or something like that."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KURT KLONICK
Rocky River senior Jillian Krebs hopes to earn a biomedical engineering degree in college.

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Rankings
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Jon Behm/JBehm@MorningJournal.com

Norwalk freshman Matra Jaworski, right, tries to get the ball around Perkins junior Eriel Davis during the first half on Sept. 20 in Perkins. Norwalk won, 4-0.

GIRLS SOCCER NOTES

Panthers still unbeaten

Stephanie Metzger
SMetzger@MorningJournal.com
@SMetzgerMJ

Notables

Elyria Catholic can't be stopped. The Panthers have yet to lose, posting a 9-0-2 record this season. The team is stacked with experience and a top-notch goalkeeper in sophomore **Stevie Holbrook**, who has permitted just five goals this year. The team has recorded six shutouts, and has never permitted opponents more than one goal per match, outscoring them, 47-5.

The Panthers' senior class is well on its way to its fourth district title and awaits an anticipated matchup against Rocky River on Oct. 1.

Avon Lake keeps rolling, largely due to its defense. The team recorded its sixth straight shutout during a 1-0 victory over North Ridgeville on Sept. 22. Avon Lake also managed to shut out Lakewood in a tie on Sept. 20, a notable feat considering Lakewood had averaged five goals per game heading into the match.

Norwalk has sealed four straight wins, which included a pair of shutouts over Perkins and Wellington last week. Senior captain **Laurel Campbell** recorded two goals against Wellington to help Norwalk pick up its 10th win of the season on Sept.

22. Bay notched a big 3-2 upset over Canfield, which is ranked second in the state, on Sept. 20.

Canfield had lost just once before the match. The Rockets have now won four straight for a 5-4-1 overall record.

Rocky River had a tough week as the Pirates fell to Perrysburg, 1-3, and tied St. Ursula, 1-1.

Brookside has struggled this season, but the Cardinals have picked up the pace as of late.

The team is 3-6-0 with its three wins all occurring since Sept. 13. They defeated Vermilion, 2-0, on Sept. 22.

BOYS SOCCER NOTES

Top scorers face off for Falcons, Phoenix

Sam Ameen
SAmeen@MorningJournal.com
@SamAmeen

Brandon Knitt and **Jack McMillin**. You may not know who they are, but you should. Knitt, from Firelands, and McMillin, from Oberlin, are two prominent scorers in the Cleveland District and in Ohio. The two will face off Sept. 24 in a match at 5 p.m. at Oberlin High School.

In the Division II Cleveland District, Knitt ranks third in goals scored with 16 and ranks 15th in the state. In the Division III Cleveland District, McMillin ranks first in goals scored with 16 and is tied for fifth in the state. McMillin has four assists on the year and Knitt has three.

In addition to featuring some of the best goal scorers in the area, the match also has two of the best teams in the Patriot Athletic Conference. Firelands is currently still undefeated at 6-0-4. Oberlin is 9-2-1.

"I think they (Firelands) can match up. They have the speed up top. Last year, they dominated us," Oberlin coach **Michael Schmid** said. "They were all over the field. We had them shut out till the end of the last 15 minutes, and then they got two goals. Our boys know we need to come out and play hard and strong and that we can't take it lightly against them."

Bay, Avon to meet

Vying for the West Shore Conference title, the Avon Eagles and Bay Rockets are currently 2-0-1 in the WSC.



Knitt



McMillin

The teams meet Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. at Avon.

Avon (9-0-1) has been on a roll, winning five straight matches.

The Eagles' **Will Sharer** has been on a tear, being a vital part in three wins last week. Sharer scored two goals and had one assist in a win against Olmsted Falls on Sept. 15 and scored both of his team's goals in a 2-0 WSC win over Rocky River on Sept. 17.

Bay is no pushover, being ranked No. 2 in the state in D-II. The Avon match is third in a six-game span against WSC teams. It would be a quality win for Bay, as three of the next four games are WSC matches. The Rockets are currently on a six-game winning streak.

Notable performances

- Brookside keeper **Kenny Pierson** compiled five saves and recorded his 75th of the season in a 5-0 win over Wellington on Sept. 20. It was Pierson's fourth shutout in 12 games this season.

- Amherst's **Joe Pritchard** scored both of his team's goals in a 2-1 victory over Parma Normandy on Sept. 20.

- Elyria Catholic's **Liam O'Halloran** scored two goals in a 3-2 WSC win over North

The Morning Journal Top of

The Crop

Boys soccer

1. (1) **Bay** 9-1-1
2. (3) **Avon** 9-0-1
3. (6) **Elyria Catholic** 6-3
4. (4) **Norwalk** 9-2
5. (NR) **Oberlin** 9-2-1
6. (2) **Rocky River** 6-2-2
7. (5) **Westlake** 6-2-0
8. (NR) **Firelands** 6-0-4
9. (8) **Brookside** 7-3-2
10. (7) **North Olmsted** 4-3-1

Crop comments: Bay stays at the Top of the Crop as it is still ranked No. 2 in the state. ... Avon jumps to No. 2 after two West Shore Conference wins against Elyria Catholic and Rocky River. ... Oberlin rises from the ashes as the Phoenix have surpassed their win total from 2013. ... Rocky River drops after going 2-2 since the last Top of the Crop. ... Firelands is the only team in the coverage area that has not suffered a loss. ... Brookside drops after going 2-1-1 since the last Top of the Crop.

Ridgeville on Sept. 17.

- Open Door's **Solomon Dutton** scored two goals in a 6-0 victory over First Baptist, giving him eight on the season.

- **Garrett Fixx** chipped in his first two goals of the year in the match as the Patriots crawl closer to the .500 mark on the year (4-5).

Rocky River girls back on top of WSC standings

Filed by [ryankaczmarski](#) September 24th, 2014 in [Sports](#).

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Rocky River senior Jillian Krebs was one of six Pirates to score against Avon last Wednesday. Photo – Ryan Kaczmarski

West Shore Conference

By Ryan Kaczmarski

Last Wednesday, the Rocky River High School girls varsity soccer team rolled into Avon's Joe Firment Chevrolet Stadium to play a key WSC game against the Lady Eagles. The Pirates came, saw and dominated, winning easily 7-0.

"Coming into this season, the schedule was really designed to have really tough nonconference games," Rocky River head coach Patrick Hopkins said. "We brought in a team from New Jersey, who was second in the country last year, for a scrimmage. They were great competition.

"We followed that up with games against Brecksville, Bay, Strongsville (which is ranked No. 1 in the state) and Springboro, who just has one loss."

Although Hopkins likes to see his team win a big conference game, the big picture of this season is to win the last game they play.

"To be sitting at 5-2-2 overall right now is an accomplishment for these girls," he explained. "As I've been saying since day one, is our focus is on the last seven games (in the postseason).

"We are just getting stronger and stronger, and what happened tonight – with all of those tough games we've played so far – is we were able to start to piece everything together as a solid team and create offensive opportunities and score some goals."

Rocky River senior Jessica Vitou led the Pirate offense with two goals in the game, followed by Emily McDonald, Jillian Krebs, Olivia McDonald, Eva Schneider and Emily Soltes, who each scored one goal.

"We did a great job penetrating, creating opportunities and challenging their goalkeepers," Hopkins said. "We knew the other team's strengths and weaknesses and used that knowledge to our advantage.

"Tonight we were able to capitalize with some really nice goal scoring."

The Pirates led 2-0 barely 10 minutes into the game, and stretched the lead to 5-0 at halftime.

"Getting the early goals always takes away some of the pressure in the game," Hopkins said. "That's one thing we've been lacking from last year. Last year, we were able to overpower teams so quickly that we started to take it for granted.

"It's nice to see finally – half way through the season – we're getting there," he added. "We're where we



Rocky River's Mary DeVito, left, Eva Schneider, middle, and Sydney Hamker are the backbone of the Pirates defense. Photo – Ryan Kaczmarski

need to be, and we need to keep progressing forward.”

The Pirates sit tied with Elyria Catholic at the top of the WSC right now at 3-0-1 in the conference, followed by Bay, which is a half game behind at 2-0-1 (as of Sept. 17).

Lakewood is steady in fourth place with a conference record of 2-1, followed by Avon (1-2-1), Midview (1-3) and Vermilion and North Ridgeville in the basement, each at 0-3.

The Pirates host North Ridgeville tonight at Rocky River Stadium with varsity to start at 7 p.m.

Rocky River girls back on top of WSC standings

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Rocky River senior Jillian Krebs was one of six Pirates to score against Avon last Wednesday. Photo – Ryan Kaczmariski



Rocky River's Mary DeVito, left, Eva Schneider, middle, and Sydney Hamker are the backbone of the Pirates defense. Photo – Ryan Kaczmariski

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS OF THE WEEK

Simon Perales, Oberlin

YEAR: Junior
LAST WEEK: Was third out of 172 runners at Saturday's Obenour Memorial Invitational at Vermilion with a time of 16:55.54.

OTHER SPORT: Track
BIO: Was a Division III regional qualifier in cross country and an All-Patriot Athletic Conference selection a year ago. Also qualified to the Division III regionals in track in the 2,200. A member of band, choir and Omnia, he has a 4.0 grade-point average.

Hannah Heath, Black River

YEAR: Freshman
LAST WEEK: Finished fourth out of 114 at Saturday's John Speer Invitational at Collins Western Reserve in a time of 19:50.

OTHER SPORTS: Track, volleyball, basketball

BIO: As an eighth-grader last year, finished fourth at the Division II middle school state track meet as a member of the 1,600-meter relay. Took third at last year's PAC track meet in the same event. Plays middle hitter for the varsity volleyball team and is a forward in basketball. A member of Future Farmers of America (FFA), her favorite movie is "The Hunger Games" and she likes ATV riding in West Virginia. Has also enjoyed family vacations to Gettysburg and Hershey in Pennsylvania. Has a 3.4 gpa.

PARENTS: Andy and Jill

NEXT UP

WHAT: 46th annual Jack Wilhelm Cross Country Classic
WHERE: Lorain County Community College

WHEN: Saturday
VARSITY RACE TIMES: 11 a.m., girls; 11:45 a.m., boys

TEAMS: Brookside, Clearview, John Hay, Midview, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Valley Forge, Western Reserve and Western Reserve Academy.

THE SKINNY: Should be quite another battle between Brookside senior Creighton Jensen and Oberlin junior Simon Perales. The two have split six matchups this year. Last year, Jensen won the series 6-2. Jensen (17:28.70) defeated Perales (17:51.65) at last year's Wilhelm meet as they finished first and second. Rarely is there a blowout win by either. Perales (third, 16:55.54) defeated Jensen (fourth, 17:16.39) last Saturday at the Vermilion Obenour Memorial Invitational at Salkoway Middle School.

— Paul Heyse



KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE

Elyria Catholic junior Meliah Roman, right, gets ready to switch directions in an effort to shake Rocky River's Eva Schneider on Wednesday night. Defenses ruled in the 0-0 tie.

EC

From B1

"They (Pirates) were able to force us to take our shots a bit further out than we would have liked."

Rocky River was able to get a few attacks going later in the first half, but the Panthers didn't budge.

The Pirates' best opportunity came with a free kick in the 38th minute.

Senior Sydney Hamker's long attempt sailed wide of the goal, however, and the Panthers were able to regain control to close out the half.

"Honestly, we really just weren't able to get many goal-scoring opportunities tonight," Rocky River coach Pat Hopkins said. "I have a ton of respect for Elyria Catholic. They're a great team, but we have to do a better job of creating opportunities."

The second half was much the same for both teams, which relied on the back four and overall defense to keep the game scoreless.

Freshman Abby Birsic's defense was a key to the Panthers' success as she made aggressive cleos-outs and kept pressure on the Pirates attackers.

"Our defense was just about perfect all night," Roznace said. "Our back four was out-

standing and I believe we have one of the best goalenders in the state ... period."

That would be Stevie Holbrook, a sophomore. She had six saves and repeatedly pushed Rocky River away from the goal.

Things got a bit chippy in the 75th minute as Ellington got tied up with a Rocky River player who earned a yellow card.

A late save by Braun in the 79th and final minute ended the Panthers' hopes of a late goal, however, cementing the tie.

The Panthers, who came into the game ranked eighth in the state in Division III, avoided losing for the second time in three games after starting the season undefeated through the first 11.

They have two more regular-season games. "I love the way we've been coming together and I'm excited to see where we can take this," Roznace said. "We've been close the last few years but I really think this is the year we can take the next step."

Contact Paul Williams at 329-7135 or ctpports@chronicle.com.

Elyria Catholic 0, Rocky River 0

SAVES: (RR) Sophia Braun 5; (EC) Stevie Holbrook 6
SHOTS ON GOAL: Rocky River 6, Elyria Catholic 6
HALFTIME: 0-0
FOULS: Rocky River 7, Elyria Catholic 9
HAND BALLS: Rocky River 1, Elyria Catholic 1
CORNER KICKS: Rocky River 2, Elyria Catholic 1

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Darden keys Elyria victory

ELYRIA — Tyra Darden had 27 kills, 21 digs and three block assists to lead Elyria to a 25-21, 22-25, 25-19, 25-17 win over Solon on Tuesday in a Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division volleyball match.

Mariah Johnson added 10 kills, six solo blocks and five block assists for the Pioneers, while Sybil Roseboro had 13 kills and 26 digs. Carly Bachna and Alison Guerin had 14 and 12 digs, respectively, for the winners.

Emily Gonzalez had 43 assists, was 170-for-172 setting and had 15 digs for Elyria, while Kara Keim had three aces in the pivotal fourth set.

Keystone 25-25-25, Firelands 22-21-18
LAGRANGE — Brooke Trego had 36 assists, eight points (three aces) and six block kills for the Wildcats (9-8, 7-6 PAC) in a Patriot Athletic Conference Stars Division match.

Mikayla Walborn had three aces, eight digs and 27 assists for the Falcons (11-8, 7-6 PAC).

KEYSTONE STATISTICS
Delaney Rogalski, three kills; Mikayla Walborn 10-for-15 serving with three aces, eight digs, 80-for-86 setting with 27 assists.

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Girls tennis

St. Joseph Academy 3, Rocky River 2

ELYRIAN — Avon Lake resident Hannah Schutte lost only two games in her first singles win to pace St. Joseph Academy non-conference play.

Allison Saracina also won a singles matches for the Jaguars.

SINGLES: Hannah Schutte (SJA) def. Robynne 6-0, 6-2; Veronique (RR) def. Colleen FitzGerald 6-4, 6-1; Allison Saracina (SJA) def. Julia 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

DOUBLES: Orion-Sullivan (RR) def. Molly McInnes-Abigail Reys 6-0, 6-0; Grace Hendrix-Brittany Hegeman (SJA) def. Doreen Sawyer 6-4, 6-4.

BOYS SOCCER
AVON 7, VERMILION 0
VERMILION — Daniel Minotti scored three goals to pace Avon in a West Shore Conference game.

Vihor Reis added a pair of goals and had an assist for the Eagles (12-0-2), who led 5-0 at halftime.

GOALS: (A) Daniel Minotti 3, Vihor Reis 2, Zach Hubbard, Tony Teldis.
ASSISTS: (A) Michael Smogol 2, Teldis 2, Will Shaw, Reis, Nick Mazzola.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Vermilion 0, Avon 17.
SAVES: (V) Lynn Moore 5; (W) Shane Robinson 10.
HALFTIME: Avon, 5-0.

Oberlin 5, Lutheran West 0

VERMILION — Jack McMillin scored three goals for the Phoenix (10-3-2, 4-2-2 PAC) in a Patriot Athletic Conference Stripes Division game.

GOALS: (O) Jack McMillin 3, Sam Levine 2.
ASSISTS: (O) Thomas Prodanovic 2, Aiden DeBovio 2, Tim Galbreath.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Lutheran West 2; Oberlin 7.
SAVES: (O) Ethan Carmichael 2.
HALFTIME: Oberlin, 2-0.

Wellington 3, Keystone 3

WELLINGTON — Ian Gifford, Ian Lara and Hayden Bartolovich scored goals for the Dukes in a non-conference game Tuesday.

GOALS: (W) Grace Noon 2, Alvia Albro, Alvia Albro.
ASSISTS: (W) Robbie Bliss, Cole McLean.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Open Door 2.
SAVES: (O) Selena Frasier 8, Ivy Warren 3.
HALFTIME: Berkshire, 3-0.

Girls soccer

Elyria 4, Parma 0

ELYRIA — Darlan Jones scored a goal and had an assist to pace Elyria in a Northeast Ohio Conference Lake Division game at Ely Stadium.

'Ja Maya Ward, Abbey Ramirez and Haley Gansel scored the other goals for the Pioneers (8-5-1, 4-1-1 NOC), who had a 23-6 advantage in shots on goal.

GOALS: (E) Darlan Jones, 'Ja Maya Ward, Abbey Ramirez, Haley Gansel.
ASSISTS: (E) Jones.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Parma 6; Elyria 23.
SAVES: (P) Cheryne Carney 7; (E) Sabrina Johnson 1, Kaitlyn Morgan 2.
HALFTIME: Elyria, 3-0.

Bay 3, North Ridgeville 1

NORTH RIDGEVILLE — Melanie Kukura assisted on all three goals for the Rockets (9-4-1, 5-0-1 WSC) in a West Shore Conference game.

GOALS: (N) Nicole Pohlkamp, Autumn Meuninger, Madeline Holmes, (RR) Burnette.
ASSISTS: (N) Melanie Kukura 3.
SAVES: (N) Jillian Dubi 1; (NR) Ben Casement 12.
HALFTIME: Avon, 3-0.

Avon 5, Vermilion 0

AVON — The Eagles outshot the Sailors 33-1.

GOALS: (A) Mollie Jensen 2, Farmer, O'Connor.
ASSISTS: (A) Batts 2, Farmer.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Vermilion 1, Avon 33.
SAVES: (V) M. Caris 21; (A) Guenzler 1.
HALFTIME: Avon, 3-0.

Firelands 8, Black River 0

SOUTH AMHERST — Brandi Holowecy scored two goals and Becca Jackson had two assists for the Falcons (8-4-1, 5-3-1 PAC) in a Patriot Athletic Conference Stars Division game.

GOALS: (F) Camie Kubicki, Zoe Simmons, (BR) Erin Toland, Brandi Holowecy 2, Sydney Novak, Jessie Beran.
ASSISTS: (F) Becca Jackson 2, Simmons, Kaiti Bakovic, Grace Hasbuck, Beran.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Black River 0; Firelands 16.
SAVES: (BR) Erin Helms 10; (F) Alex Willis 2; Bakovic 2.
HALFTIME: Firelands, 4-0.

Lutheran West 1, Oberlin 0

ROCKY RIVER — Lutheran West's Alex Marcaro scored the lone goal in Patriot Athletic Conference Stripes Division play.

GOALS: (W) Alex Marcaro.
SAVES: (O) Kenzie Talmer 8; (LW) Saquel Calzavara 6.
HALFTIME: Lutheran West, 1-0.

Amherst 4, Olmsted Falls 0

AMHERST — Bailey Philblad scored two goals for the Comets in a Southwestern Conference game.

GOALS: (A) Bailey Philblad 2, Alana Gonzalez, Aly Perkins.
SHOTS: Olmsted Falls 2; Amherst 12.
SAVES: (O) Rylie Ferguson 4; (W) Lizzie Keller 1; Haazen Barnes 1.

Westlake 6, St. Joseph Academy 0

WESTLAKE — Missy Murthy scored two goals, and Riza Forbush scored a goal and had two assists for the Demons (8-5-0) in a non-conference game.

GOALS: (W) Missy Murthy 2, Riza Forbush, Erin Langemeyer, Elise Brozos, Amanda Jacquot.
ASSISTS: (W) Finucan, Katie Dubois, Forbush.
SAVES: (SJA) Becky Trent 9; (W) Lauren Krans 3.

Berkshire 5, Open Door 0

BURTON — Breana Tucker and Luayyn Brown each had a shot on goal for the Patriots (0-12-1) in a non-conference game Tuesday.

GOALS: (B) Grace Noon 2, Alvia Albro, Alvia Albro.
ASSISTS: (B) Selena Frasier 8, Ivy Warren 3.
HALFTIME: Berkshire, 3-0.

BRIEF

Burnett, Olszewski pace Northwood

Mick Burnett (13:20) and Madison Olszewski (15:51) led Northwoods boys and girls cross country teams at the Jim

Obenour Invitational at Vermilion High School.

Nate Collins, Dylan Shawyer, Trey Monschein and Alex Dabulewicz were the other scorers for the Pioneer boys.

Abby Shollenberger, Haley Morton, Eleyra Rudolph and Sam Schuh also scored for the Northwood girls.

Alivia Ybarra and Tommy Hullman had personal-best times for the Pioneers.

DUKES

From B1

Her second goal put the game out of reach in the 78th minute. "I knew the game was getting a little heated at the time," Sparks said. "Getting the third goal was like we could finally breathe and relax, because we couldn't relax even though we were winning."

"When we got two goals in the first half, I thought that was nice," Wellington coach Kevin Ziegler said. "But I warned them at halftime that Keystone wouldn't be done, that they would come out on fire."

He was right. The Wildcats scored in the first minute after the break on junior Koral Kasnyik's goal with an assist by senior Alicia Sadowski.

Then Keystone junior Kelsey Yusko put a shot right on the Wellington net in the 56th minute, freshman Grace Barasckai followed suit in the 69th minute and sophomore Lauren LaPointe got off back-to-back close-range shots in the 80th and final minute, one of them off the Wellington crossbar.

"But we kind of regrouped and held the fort, kept them out and kept pressing," Ziegler said. "I thought we were going to get a third goal a little earlier in the game, and I don't know how we didn't. But Keystone wanted to beat us this year because they haven't beaten us in a while and they're a much better team than they've been."

Keystone coach Tim Giesel said he liked the way his team played despite the loss. "We passed the ball well and we possessed the ball well," he said. "We just couldn't put it in the net. They made a couple of incredible shots early on. We kept our heads up, stayed in the game and just couldn't quite get it in the net."

Contact Bob Daniels at 329-7135 or soccer@bobdaniels.info.

Wellington 3, Keystone 1

GOALS: (W) Sam Sparks 2 (29th, 78th minutes), Faith Alley (26th); (K) Koral Kasnyik (41st).
ASSISTS: (W) Emma Horocich; (K) Alicia Sadowski.
SAVES: (W) Kayla Sparks 6; (K) Sammie Stefan 5.
SHOTS: Wellington 13; Keystone 3.
SHOTS ON GOAL: Wellington 7; Keystone 6.
CORNER KICKS: Wellington 3.
GOAL KICKS: Wellington 5; Keystone 10.
OFFSIDE: Keystone 1.
HANDBALLS: Keystone 1.
FOULS: Wellington 6; Keystone 7.
YELLOW CARDS: (W) Sam Sparks (70th minute), Jamie Bartolovich (78th).
HALFTIME: Wellington, 2-0.



STEVE MANHEM / CHRONICLE

Wellington's Jamie Bartolovich (17) and Keystone's Koral Kasnyik race for the ball Wednesday in a PAC Stars Division game.



Friday Night Live
Follow our live high school football coverage on Oct. 3 at MorningJournal.com/highschool-football-live-coverage, or on mobile by scanning the QR code.

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THURSDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2014

Cavaliers

Fans welcome LeBron

Bob Finnan
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When 16,723 fans show up for a scrimmage, one gets the idea just how amped they are about the new-look Cavaliers.

They were boisterous on Oct. 1 in their first look at the revamped team. Of course, they got to see superstar LeBron James back in a Cleveland uniform for the first time in four years.

The Wine topped the Gold, 66-52, in three quarters of action.

"It was a special night," James said. "I'm grateful to be in this position."

A slimmed-down version of James led all scorers with 13 points, three rebounds and two assists for the Wine team.

Center Anderson Varejao added 12 points and five rebounds for the Gold.

"The crowd was electrified," Cavaliers coach David Blatt said. "That was pretty exciting."

"(Almost) 17,000 at a scrimmage. That's amazing."

James hasn't worn the Wine & Gold since Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against Boston on May 11, 2010. The Cavaliers were throttled by the Celtics, 120-88.

But now he's back home. "I'm not surprised at all the way he's been received," Blatt said. "The way LeBron came back, it was exceptional, genuine and admirable."

The only minor quirk in the starting lineup was Tristan Thompson starting at center with the Wine team. The other four starters were expected with James, Kevin Love, Kyrie Irving and Dion Waiters.

Thompson was "dealt" to the Wine team in the second quarter. He finished up with 12 points, eight rebounds and a block.



Cavaliers guard Mike Miller defends as LeBron James advances toward the basket during the Wine & Gold Scrimmage at Quicken Loans Arena on Oct. 1.

"I've not committed yet to our starting five," Blatt said. "We'll temper a little bit with the starting lineup. It's not locked in."

The 6-foot-9, 228-pound Thompson is a player who will defend, rebound and do all the dirty work — much like Varejao.

"He's a high-energy guy who gets his hands on the ball on both ends of

the court," Blatt said. "He has a high motor and is active all around the court. He doesn't need the ball to play. He's a screener, cutter, roller and deflector. He can match up with several different players. Andy is the same kind of player."

"Who's the starter? I don't know. We'll see. I imagine Kevin Love will start."

James has been bothered by a sore back. He played 18 minutes, 52 seconds.

"When and where he needs help, he gets it," Blatt said. "Overall, he's fine. He has a little bit of back soreness. We have to get LeBron and all the players ready for the first game."

See Fans, Page C4

He's back, thinner and a winner

Good news from the Cavs scrimmage:

LeBron James played with the first team! Looks like he has pretty good chance of being a starter!

This was the yearly Wine & Gold Scrimmage, which in the non-LeBron years might as well have been called the Whine & Moan Scrimmage.

But if you've been reading the papers during the summer, you know we're not in Lotteryville anymore, Toto.

Still, it was a scrimmage. It didn't count. It could have been shirts vs. skins. But to the mob that was there — The Q was almost full — it didn't matter that it didn't matter.

Because he's back — and he has brought some friends with him.

So it mattered a lot.

Because this changes everything. It's like the last four years never happened. It's the King and his Court, on his court, in front of nearly 20,000 of his closest worshippers.

Say amen, someone.

Two months after announcing he was coming home — here he was. He and they.

How stacked are they?

They come out for warmups and Kyrie Irving is now only the third or fourth guy you look for.

The scrimmage presentation was a lot like the game presentation, which means the usual quiet, understated player intros ("What? Huh? Are you talking to me?"), although this one carried with it some extra added spice.

That would be the order in which the last five players were introduced?

See Ingraham, Page C4



Jim Ingraham

WESTLAKE 3,
NORTH OLMSTED 1

Demons notch rivalry game

Matt Logron
SLogron@MorningJournal.com
@MJournalSports

Sharing a border and a legacy of great soccer teams, Westlake topped host North Olmsted, 3-1, on Oct. 1 in another exciting installment of what has become one of the area's top rivalries.

Peppering shots on goal in the first half, the Demons walked into halftime with a 3-0 lead that the Eagles just could not overcome.

With a goal from senior Brian Stutcliffe to start the game, the Demons flamed any hope of a comeback with a pair of goals minutes later from Moe Mustafa and Jason Rebholz to give Westlake a strong cushion with more than 20 minutes to go in the first half.

"We came out after a loss the other day and the guys had a bunch of injuries, and they still are, but I thought we played phenomenal in the first half," Westlake coach Mike Besu said. "We played as a team and I thought we moved the ball around well. The three guys that scored was on three good finishes."

On the other side of the field, North Olmsted and coach Christian Marsh struggled to get the Eagles off in motion.

See Demons, Page C5



Michael Allen Blair/Digital First Media

Browns quarterback Brian Hoyer sets the offense during the first quarter of the Browns' 24-21 loss to the Ravens on Sept. 21 in Cleveland. The efficiency of the Browns' offense has been a surprise this season.

Browns See a Jordan Cameron interview at MorningJournal.com

Gordon? Who needs him

Offense has been effective without best receiver

Jeff Schudel
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@JSBrownsinsider

The Browns are averaging 24.7 points a game, 12th best in the NFL, and the best part is they have done it without Josh Gordon and virtually without Jordan Cameron.

Gordon has to sit out six more games of a league-imposed 10-game suspension. Cameron missed a half of one game and all the New

Inside
Locker to start at QB for Titans
Page C4

Oleian game with a shoulder injury. He has three catches for 70 yards.

Cameron and Gordon combined for 167 catches, 2,663 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns last season when they averaged 19.25 points a game.

Remarkably, the Browns (1-2) are on pace to finish

with their highest point total since scoring 402 points in 2007.

They will try to add to that production when they play the Titans on Oct. 5 in Nashville. The Titans (1-3) have given up a total of 100 points in three straight losses.

"It's still early," quarterback Brian Hoyer said after practice Oct. 1. "I have a lot of confidence in Jordan."

See Offense, Page C4



Browns at Titans

- **When:** 1, Oct. 5
- **Where:** LP Field, Nashville, Tenn.
- **Records:** Browns 1-2; Titans 1-3
- **TV:** WOIO; Radio: WKRF-FM 92.3, WNXC-FM 98.5, WKRN-AM 850

ELYRIA CATHOLIC 0,
ROCKY RIVER 0

Pirates, Panthers battle to a tie

Stephanie Metzger
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Put two tough forces together and the outcome is often energetic.

The host Elyria Catholic Panthers (10-1-3) and Rocky River Pirates (6-3-4) engaged in an aggressive match on Oct. 1 that resulted in a scoreless tie.

The Panthers entered the match ranked eighth in the Division III state rankings, while the Pirates held a 6-3-3 record coming off a state title season.

Rocky River coach Pat Hopkins noted that his current crop of players differs from last year's, meaning they don't feel the pressure of past success.

"It's a new team, new year and they knew that coming into it," Hopkins said.

Panthers coach Tony Rozanc said his squad doesn't feel pressure from the state rankings.

"We kind of feel like it's been long overdue," Rozanc said. "We've had pretty good years and maybe felt like we weren't getting recognized. They were glad to finally break the top 10 and I think even a tie against River is strong enough to hold that."

Rozanc also said he felt his team was dominant during the match, despite the score.

See Tie, Page C5

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS NOTES

Avon sends three players to districts

Stephanie Metzger smetzger@MorningJournal.com @SMetzgerMJ

The Northeastern Ohio Sectionals took place this week and the West Shore Conference was the group to beat.

D-1 sectionals across the board as Tess Moran took first place in singles and Lauren O'Malley and Alexandra Vesikallio teamed up to secure the doubles title.

In the consolation round, Lopez defeated Priemer for third place, 6-3, 6-4. O'Malley and Vesikallio had to overcome Avon duo Madison Rini and Madison Nakon in the doubles finals.

In the end, Magnificent came out on top, 6-2, 6-2. Advancing to districts are: Singles 1. Moran 2. Payne 3. Lopez 4. Priemer

Tie

The Panthers increased their attack in the match's final moments, but their shots failed to find their targets. "We did everything but put the ball in the back of the net," Rozanc said.

Elyria Catholic made it 11 games into the season before their first loss to Lakewood on Sept. 24. Rozanc said he feels his team's strength is its balance, boasting both a potent offense and formidable defense.

The defense held tough against Rocky River, an important factor against a powerful Rocky River offense. Over the past three hours, the Pirates have outscored Elyria Catholic, 21-0.

The Pirates also had their share of spots, but Hopkins said failing to finish on opportunities hurt. The team has outscored its opponents, 38-13, this season, despite a tough schedule.

The Pirates also had their share of spots, but Hopkins said failing to finish on opportunities hurt. The team has outscored its opponents, 38-13, this season, despite a tough schedule.

"We want more than just the conference trophy," Hopkins said. "The whole season has provided us with opportunities to learn from when we get there."

Demons

"We just toyed with it in the first half," Marsh said. "They literally came out and ran us off the field and you miss the field and you miss the field and you miss the field."

Marsh said, "I think first and foremost that we need to learn how to keep the ball. It's one thing getting players back and healthy, it's another thing keeping the ball."

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HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

BOYS SOCCER Oberlin 5, Lutheran West 0. Hoffman score: Chris, 20. Goals: Jack McMillin, 5; Sam Levine, 2.

Westlake 6, St. Joseph 0. Hoffman score: Westlake, 50. Goals: Mike Murphy, 2; Rita Fortsch, 1; Tom Langhammer, 1; Eric Stiers, Amanda Fineman.

Girls Soccer Lutheran West 1, Oberlin 0. Hoffman score: Megan. Goals: Mercedes.

Area Schedule Oct 2 Boys Soccer Hopevalley 0, Sandusky 0. Girls Soccer Hopevalley 0, Sandusky 0.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL NOTES

Team chemistry key to success for Brookside

Scott Sommers Sports@MorningJournal.com @MJournalSports

It didn't take very long for Brookside to sit atop the Patriot Athletic Conference Stars Division.

Getting the first year under their belt, it was the offseason to which Bruck pointed to for Brookside's success in winning the division.

With setter Natelee Halkiadakis at the helm of the offense, senior middle hitter Tyler Holley and junior Mary Williams have comprised a formidable 1-2 combination at the net.

As potent as the offense has been, the defense has been outstanding in getting the ball up to Halkiadakis. Senior libero Lisa Campo had registered 463 digs, including a season-high 42 against Lorain last week.

The Crop

- 1. Amherst 14-3
2. Olmsted Falls 17-2
3. Norwalk
4. Huron 12-3
5. Monroeville 15-2
6. St. Paul 14-3
7. Avon 16-3
8. Brookside 16-2
9. Vermilion 12-5
10. Clearview 13-4

Crop comments: A three set loss to state-ranked Perysburg dropped the Amherst to 10th in the Coaches Poll ... Ranked 17th in the coaches poll, Olmsted knocked off Avon at the Elyria Power Quad last weekend ... A great 1-2 punch at the net is helping Norwalk stay in the top 10 in the Coaches poll ... The Huron have clinched a share of the Sandusky Bay Conference and can win it outright Thursday ... Monroeville clinched at least a share of the Firelands conference defeating rival St. Paul Tuesday ... Two of St. Paul's losses have come at the hands of Monroeville ... Avon won their first conference championship since 1969 ... Just two years removed from Brookside's last Stars championship, but this time under a different coach ... A big win over Clearview pushed the Clippers into the top 10 ... The Clippers are sitting behind Lutheran West in the Stripes Division.

(asked) 1989 that is the year I was born and that is the last time you won a conference title," Radigan said. "They responded, 'Yeah, coach, we don't win our conference.' I said before I leave here we are getting a year on that banner ... if you win your conference that's your first step to becoming a special program."

Jets' Smith still confident despite rough stretch to start the season

Dennis Waszak Jr. Associated Press FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Geno Smith believes he is still the answer. Yes, he knows he needs to get a lot better, and fast. But he also thinks the New York Jets' search for a franchise quarterback, a mostly fruitless task since the days of Joe Namath, could end right in front of their eyes.

Smith is getting in, but yelling an expletive at a backer after the Jets' 24-17 loss to Detroit last Sunday suggested there's perhaps a slight crack in what had previously been considered thick skin. He expects to get a letter from the NFL about that, and a fine, too. "Always be above the situation," he said. "Never let

people get to you. Never let anyone's words affect you in that manner. It's something I've already known, but I've just got to handle those situations better." A few minutes later, though, Smith bristled when he was asked if there's any value in playing Vick for a quarter in a game — which means Smith obviously would be sent to the sideline. "I don't know what you're trying to lead to with that question," he said. "Maybe that's your opinion. That is not a question."

against the Lions, even as fans at MetLife chanted for him to replace Smith. So, Smith was asked if it could help the Jets by putting Vick in for not just a play or two, but an entire quarter — and he, predictably and understandably, got testy. "It doesn't make sense," Smith said. "What team do you see doing that?" Well, none. The bottom line, though, for the Jets is this: They are committed, for now, to Smith. They want to find out for sure whether he is that franchise-type quarterback, and so far they've had 20 games to evaluate him. With Miami, Buffalo and New England all 2-2 and the Jets 1-3, the AFC East appears to be wide open. So, Ryan needs to find the delicate balance between developing the young quarterback and preserving the season.

ELYRIA CATHOLIC 0,
ROCKY RIVER 0

Pirates, Panthers battle to a tie

Stephanie Metzger

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Put two tough forces together and the outcome is often energetic.

The host Elyria Catholic Panthers (10-1-3) and Rocky River Pirates (6-3-4) engaged in an aggressive match on Oct. 1 that resulted in a scoreless tie.



**Girls
soccer**

The Panthers entered the match ranked eighth in the Division III state rankings, while the Pirates held a 6-3-3 record coming off a state title season.

Rocky River coach Pat Hopkins noted that his current crop of players differs from last year's, meaning they don't feel the pressure of past success.

"It's a new team, new year and they knew that coming into it," Hopkins said.

Panthers coach Tony Rozanc said his squad doesn't feel pressure from the state rankings.

"We kind of feel like it's been long overdue," Rozanc said. "We've had pretty good years and maybe felt like we weren't getting recognized. They were glad to finally break the top 10 and I think even a tie against River is strong enough to hold that."

Rozanc also said he felt his team was dominant during the match despite the score.

Tie

From Page C1

The Panthers increased their attack in the match's final moments, but their shots failed to find their targets.

"We did everything but put the ball in the back of the net," Rozanc said. "If we're going to play like this going into the Division-III tournament, I think we've got good things ahead of us."

Elyria Catholic made it 11 games into the season before their first loss to Lakewood on Sept. 24. Rozanc said he feels his team's strength is its balance, boasting both a potent offense and formida-

ble defense.

The defense held tough against Rocky River, an important factor against a forceful Rocky River offense. Over the past three years, the Pirates have outscored Elyria Catholic, 21-0.

"I think today, we showed them we're at that level," Rozanc said.

Elyria Catholic crafted some strong buildups, but the Pirates defense didn't relent as two to three defenders swarmed on each attack.

Abby Birsic and Andi Widmer took shots that missed wide in the second half before Jenna Ellingson came closest on a shot that

was deflected, preventing any damage to Rocky River.

Rozanc said his offense seemed to tense up during its scoring opportunities, making it tough to close them out. Though the Panthers took an increase in shots in the second half, none found the net. "We weren't playing for a tie," Rozanc said. "Never in this game are you playing for a tie."

On the defensive end, Panthers' sophomore keeper Steve Holbrook held tough, securing six saves on shots on goal. Elyria Catholic has granted opponents six goals this season, just five of them on Holbrook.

The Pirates also had their share of shots, but Hopkins said failing to finish on opportunities hurt. The team has outscored its opponents, 38-13, this season, despite a tough schedule, including Charleston Catholic of West Virginia and a scrimmage against Northern Highlands Regional, a New Jersey school ranked first in the nation. Now, both teams have their sights set on tournaments.

"We want more than just the conference trophy," Hopkins said. "The whole season has provided us with opportunities to learn from when we get there."

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL: TOURNAMENT DRAWS

Comets only area top seed

Amherst grabbed the top seed at the Midview Division I volleyball sectional-district with Olmsted Falls landing the third seed and Avon the fourth.

In Division II at Holy Name, Brookside picked up the fourth seed, while in Division III at Elyria High, Lutheran West earned the second seed and Elyria Catholic the fourth.

MIDVIEW DIVISION I

MONDAY, OCT. 13: Midview v. North Ridgeville, 6:30; Midview v. Avon Lake, 6; Westlake v. Lorain, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Amherst v. Elyria-N. Ridgeville, 7:30; Olmsted Falls v. North Olmsted, 6; Brunswick v. Westlake-Lorain, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Clearview v. Max Hayes, 5; Bay v. Buckeye, 6:30; Fairview v. Brooklynn, 8; TUESDAY, OCT. 14: Brookside v. Keystone, 6; Vermilion v. Finlands, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Holy Name v. Clearview-Max Hayes, 5; Revere v. Bay Buckeye, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Padua v. Fairview-Brooklynn, 6; Brookside-Keystone, 7; Vermilion-Finlands, 7:30.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17: Holy Name-Clearview-Max Hayes, 5; Revere-Bay Buckeye, 6; Padua-Fairview-Brooklynn, 7; Brookside-Keystone-Vermilion-Finlands, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Beachwood v. Columbia-Richmond Hills, 6; Independence-Wickliffe-Black River, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Cuyahoga Hills-Wellington, 7:30; Oberlin, 7:30.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17: Lutheran West-Elyria Catholic-Warrensville Hills, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Medina v. Lorain, 7:30; Open Door, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Mapleton v. Whitney Young, 6; Kidron v. Hillsdale, 7:30.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17: Lake Ridge v. Our Lady of Elms, 6; Hartsville v. Bremen, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 7:30.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Open Door-Lutheran Hills, 7:30; Mapleton-Whitney Young, 6; Kidron-Hillsdale, 7:30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Lake Ridge v. Our Lady of Elms, 6; Hartsville v. Bremen, 7:30.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17: Lutheran Hills, 7:30; Mapleton-Whitney Young, 6; Kidron-Hillsdale, 7:30.

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THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Brookside v. Keystone, 6; Vermilion v. Finlands, 7:30.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: TOURNAMENT DRAWS

Avon, EC boys top seeds

Todd Shapiro The Chronicle-Telegram Avon and Elyria Catholic have been ranked in the top 10 in the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association boys state poll in their respective divisions for most of the season, so it's only fitting the West Shore Conference foes earned top seeds when the district tournament pairings were announced Sunday.

Avon, the top seed in Division I, opens play Saturday, Oct. 18, against the winner of the Midview-Amherst game.

Down the road, the 12-0-2 Eagles, the No. 8-ranked team in Division I, will likely have to get past Strongsville, which they beat 3-2 earlier this season and either Westlake or Berea-Midpark if they want to return to regionals for the first time since 2011.

The No. 2-seeded Demons are hoping to repeat their success of 2011 and '12 when they advanced to the regional finals.

In Division II, a 9-0-5 record was good enough to get Firelands only a No. 4 seed. The Falcons open play Oct. 18, hosting the winner of Brookside and Vermilion.

If the Falcons win their first match, a potential district semifinal matchup with Bay awaits.

The Rockets, the top-seed in the Rocky River district, are 11-2-1 and ranked fourth in the state.

First-year Falcons coach Jim Fossie thinks his team is ready for the tough Division II draw.

"We have a great group of kids, especially our seniors, who work hard and play well together," Fossie said. "We know it's a tough district and every game is going to be a battle."

At this time of the year there are no surprises, you know what your team can do. It's just a matter of working hard, making the right in-game adjustments and hoping the ball bounces your way.

The Panthers begin defense of their Division III district title Oct. 18 against the winner of Lutheran West and Cleveland MLK.

Columbia is the No. 2 seed in Division III. The Raiders are 11-2-1 with one of those losses coming against Elyria Catholic.

"Our guys are exceptionally hard workers and have done everything I have asked of them all season," Columbia coach Hank Proctor said. "We only have a few seniors so in some ways we're ahead of schedule. We have the talent, it's just really a matter of the guys getting the confidence and winning swagger you need in big games."

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION I (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Midview at Amherst; Avon Lake at North Olmsted; Elyria at Olmsted Falls; North Ridgeville at Lakewood.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Amherst-Midview winner at Avon; North Olmsted-Avon Lake winner at Strongsville; Olmsted Falls-Elyria winner at Westlake; Lakewood-North Ridgeville winner at Berea-Midpark; Rocky River winner at Berea-Midpark.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17: North Olmsted-Avon winner at Amherst, which ended their season.

"We really finished strong and I think we can be a dangerous team in the playoffs," first-year coach Gary Gonzalez said. "We played five of the top 10 teams in the state and it really toughened us up. There is nothing these girls haven't seen and ending the season with a tie at Oregon Clay gave the girls the confidence to understand what is possible when we work together."

Elyria hosts North Ridgeville on Oct. 13 with the winner earning the right to take on No. 1 seed and defending district and regional champion Magnificat.

Contact Todd Shapiro at 329-7135 or tcsports@chronicle.com.

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION I (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) MONDAY, OCT. 13: Olmsted Falls at Westlake, 5 p.m.; Berea-Midpark at Midview; North Ridgeville at Elyria.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14: Avon at Avon Lake THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 7:30.

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION II (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) MONDAY, OCT. 13: Oberlin at Cuyahoga Heights; Lake Ridge at Wellington, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Open Door at Elyria Catholic; Columbia at Independence THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Oberlin-Cuyahoga Heights winner at Lutheran West; Wellington-Lake Ridge winner at Trinity, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 20: Open Door at Elyria Catholic; Wellington-Lake Ridge vs. Trinity winner at Columbia Independence winner THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District final

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION III (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) MONDAY, OCT. 13: Oberlin at Cuyahoga Heights; Lake Ridge at Wellington, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15: Open Door at Elyria Catholic; Columbia at Independence THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Oberlin-Cuyahoga Heights winner at Lutheran West; Wellington-Lake Ridge winner at Trinity, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 20: Oberlin-Cuyahoga Heights vs. Lutheran West winner at Open Door at Elyria Catholic; Wellington-Lake Ridge vs. Trinity winner at Columbia Independence winner THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District final

Lake v. Strongsville winner at Amherst-Midview vs. Avon winner; Lakewood-North Ridgeville v. Berea-Midpark winner at Olmsted Falls-Elyria vs. Westlake winner

THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 7:30.

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION II (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) MONDAY, OCT. 14: John Hay at Fairview; Vermilion at Brookside; Keystone at Bay, 4 p.m.; Avon Lake vs. Brooklynn winner at Fairview, 4 p.m.; Brooklynn winner at Rocky River, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22: District championship, 7 p.m.

ROCKY RIVER DIVISION III (all games at 7 p.m., unless noted) TUESDAY, OCT. 14: Luthern West at Cleveland MLK; Lakewood Ridge at Wellington, 5 p.m.; Trinity at Garfield Heights, 6 p.m.; VASA at Independence

THURSDAY, OCT. 16: Luthern West-MLK winner at Elyria Catholic, 1 p.m.; Wellington-Lake Ridge winner at Open Door, 1 p.m.; Trinity-Carroll Heights winner at Columbia, 1 p.m.; Independence-VASA winner at Oberlin, 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21: Wellington-Lake Ridge v. Open Door winner at Lutheran West; MLK vs. Elyria Catholic winner; Independence v. Oberlin winner at Trinity-Carroll Heights vs. Columbia winner THURSDAY, OCT. 23: District championship, 3 p.m.

EC ready for home run Elyria Catholic will have home-field advantage in its quest for a fourth consecutive district title.

The Panthers, the No. 6-ranked team in the Division II state poll, is once again the top seed in the Rocky River district and opens play Oct. 15 against crosstown rival Open Door.

"I think we're exactly where we want to be right now," Elyria Catholic coach Tony Rozanc said. "We're coming off a tie with Rocky River and that's one of the best teams on our schedule."

Elyria Catholic's defense has allowed just six goals all season.

"Since the girls came in for the first day of workouts this summer, they've had the mindset that anything short of going to Columbus to play for the state championship will be a disappointment," Rozanc said.

"The girls know what it takes to win at this time of year."

Wellington is the third seed in Division III. The Ducks have been Elyria Catholic's opponent in the district championship game each season since the OHSAA went to three divisions.

North Olmsted is the top local team in Division I, earning the No. 2 seed.

Amherst, which ended their season Sunday, picked up the No. 4 seed. The Comets open play against the winner of the Berea-Midpark at Midview match.

The Comets, who are 6-1-1 in their last eight matches, have defeated both teams this season.

"We really finished strong and I think we can be a dangerous team in the playoffs," first-year coach Gary Gonzalez said. "We played five of the top 10 teams in the state and it really toughened us up. There is nothing these girls haven't seen and ending the season with a tie at Oregon Clay gave the girls the confidence to understand what is possible when we work together."

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NORWALK 7, SANDUSKY 0

Truckers rout Blue Streaks on senior night

Sam Ameen smameen@morningjournal.com @SamAmeen

In their last regular season home game, the Norwalk Truckers routed the Sandusky Blue Streaks, 7-0, on Oct. 7.

It was also senior night for the Truckers, and six of the seven goals were scored by seniors.

"It was great, the seniors had a really fun night in front of their home fans. A lot of their friends were here," Norwalk coach Paul Lamb said.

"They played very well. They passed the ball well, and the seniors scored and that was special."

Jason Penza scored the first goal for Norwalk — a shot off of Sandusky keeper Treven Johnson's hands that ricocheted into the net to put the Truckers up, 1-0, in the second minute.

Norwalk's Devon Miller was the only non-senior to obtain a goal on the evening. The junior scored in the 11th minute on a cross from Caden Foss to put the Truckers up, 2-0.

Keyan Leroux scored in the 14th minute and Foss scored moments before halftime to give Norwalk (13-2-1) a 4-0 advantage after 40 minutes of play.

John Cousino tallied a goal in the 63rd minute on an Angel Garcia assist and Othor Ramirez scored in the 75th minute on Foss' second assist of the game to put Norwalk up, 6-0.

Garcia added a goal to his stat line after scoring on a penalty kick with 20 seconds left in the game.

Sandusky (11-13-1) had limited opportunities to score, finishing the night with two shots and four shots on goal.

The Blue Streaks have one of the final regular season games against Toledo on Oct. 9 before playing in the postseason next week against No. 1 seed Lexington in the Division II Clyde District on Oct. 13.

"We have to analyze what we did wrong and we have to do our best to correct them in the next five days before the tournament game," Sandusky coach Ryan Fry said.

"I want to see them (his team) compete, that's the first thing. I haven't had too many games where we've competed for a full 80 minutes. I want to see us focused in the game."

Norwalk, the No. 4 seed in the D-II Clyde District, will host Clyde on Oct. 13. Lamb said his team is capable of being successful in the postseason.

"They've had a great year and I think they're going to have a great tournament," Lamb said. "We have a strong defensive squad, we have a good midfield, and we have leadership — we have 12 seniors. It's just solid. It's giving us a good year. I'm looking forward to the tournament and I know they are, too."

For the latest updates on your favorite local teams, follow Morning Journal Sports on Twitter: @MJJournalSports

GIRLS SOCCER NOTES

Panthers jump up wo spots in state poll after tie with Pirates

Stephanie Metzger smetzger@morningjournal.com @SMetzgerM

Elyria Catholic coach Tony Rozanc knew his team's scoreless tie with Rocky River would help the Panthers maintain their No. 8 ranking.

Instead, the Panthers moved up two notches in the state poll, taking over the No. 6 slot on Oct. 6.

The Panthers also picked up their 11th win of the season with a 5-2 victory over St. Joseph's Academy on Oct. 6. They will head to Bay for the final regular season match of the year to face the 10-4-1 Rockets in an anticipated matchup.

In the Division III sectional bracket, Elyria Catholic, seeded No. 1, drew Open Door, the No. 10 seed.

Notable: The Norwalk Truckers completed their regular season with a 13-3-0 record. They get a bye in Round 1 of sectionals before

hosting the winner of the Madison-Lexington matchup on Oct. 16.

Huron (9-2-2) is still seeking double-digit wins in the regular season. They have the opportunity to do so as they still have two regular season matches with Firelands (9-4-2) and Port Clinton (8-5-1) remaining.

Rocky River (7-3-4) has had a tough schedule and the end doesn't relent. Another anticipated match takes place Oct. 11 as the Pirates host Magnificat (11-2-1), the No. 1 seed in sectionals. First, the Pirates have to get past the 11-3-1 Lakewood Rangers on Oct. 8.

Area sectionals Division I North Olmsted received the No. 2 seed in sectionals and is slated to face the winner of the first-round match between Westlake and Olmsted Falls. Amherst, the No. 4 seed, will play the winner of Midview and Berea-Midpark. Avon squares off against Avon

Lake in Round 1 as the No. 5 and 6 seeds respectively. Elyria and North Ridgeville will play in the No. 9 and 11 seeds.

Division II Bay holds the No. 1 seed on a bye. The Rockets will take on the winner of the seventh-seeded Brookside and 10th-seeded Vermilion match.

Rocky River, seeded second, has a good shot at beating Brooklyn, the No. 11 seed, while Firelands (No. 6) and Keystone (No. 8) will fight for a chance at Holy Name (No. 3).

Division III Oberlin, seeded seventh, must get past No. 4 Cuyahoga Heights in the first round for a chance at Lutheran West (No. 6). The winner of that match can expect Elyria Catholic in the semifinals.

Wellington (No. 3) faces Lake Ridge (No. 8) in Round 1. Sectionals begin Oct. 13.

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for sport (Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Area Schedule, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country) and school names with scores.

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Table with columns for sport (Football) and school names with scores.



Norwalk's Laurel Campbell passes the ball during the Truckers' victory over Mapleton on Oct. 2 in Norwalk.

Campbell

Now, Campbell will be aiming to help her team advance through sectionals. With a bye in the first round, Norwalk will host the winner of the Madison-Lexington matchup on Oct. 16.

An outgoing senior, Campbell hopes to prolong her final season as much as she can. Last year, the Truckers took the sectional title before falling to Ontario in the district semifinals.

"The team is just super excited," Campbell said. "It's almost like a bit-

tersew ending since we won't be able to play with each other after tournaments, so hopefully we go far."

Campbell also aims to go far after graduation. She intends to attend Lorain County Community College before transferring to North Carolina. She will adhere to her tendency to assist others as she plans to study medicine to become an obstetrician.

"There's a reason why she's been a captain for three years," Ignezzi said. "There's not a bad part of her game."

HS FOOTBALL COMPUTER RANKINGS

Large table listing high school football computer rankings for various teams across different divisions and conferences.

Sports

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 C5

GIRLS SOCCER NOTES

Panthers jump up two spots in state poll after tie with Pirates

Stephanie Metzger

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The Panthers also picked up their 11th win of the season with a 5-2 victory over St. Joseph's Academy on Oct. 6. They will head to Bay for the final regular season match of the year to face the 10-4-1 Rockets in an anticipated matchup.

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Notables

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Area sectionals

Division I

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Division II

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Rocky River, seeded second, has a good shot at beating Brooklyn, the No. 11 seed, while Firelands (No. 6) and Keystone (No. 8) will fight for a chance at Holy Name (No. 3).

Division III

Oberlin, seeded seventh, must get past No. 4 Cuyahoga Heights in the first round for a chance at Lutheran West (No. 6). The winner of that match can expect Elyria Catholic in the semifinals.

Wellington (No. 3) faces Lake Ridge (No. 8) in Round 1.

Sectionals begin Oct. 13.

GIRLS SOCCER NOTES

Rockets and Pirates set for deep tourney runs

Stephanie Metzger

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Postseason play has started and area teams are looking to make a deep tournament run. Several teams crafted successful regular season records, including the Bay Rockets (10-4-2) and Rocky River Pirates (8-4-4), who share the West Shore Conference title. Both teams posted 5-0-2 records in conference play.

Bay received a bye in the first round of tournament play. They will take on Vermillion in Round 2. Rocky River, also on a bye, should reach the semifinals after facing Brooklyn, the 11th seed.

The Huron Tigers (10-2-4)

also split their conference championship with Oak Harbor. In tournament play, Huron received a bye in the first round. They will play the winner of the Oregon Cardinal Stritch and Northwood matchup on Oct. 18.

Tournament notes

Midview (10-6-1) grabbed a huge 3-2 win over Berea-Midpark in Round 1 on Oct. 13. The match went to overtime, where **Maddie Blaine** picked up a steal on the kick-off and passed to **Morgan Hamker**, who scored. The Middies face Amherst (8-7-1) in Round 2 on Oct. 16.

Westlake (10-6-1) got the best of Olmsted Falls in Round 1 with a 4-0 score. The Demons are slated to

face second-seeded North Olmsted next.

North Ridgeville, seeded 11th, defeated the No. 9 seed Elyria in Round 1. The Rangers have a tough task ahead as they face Magnificat (13-2-1) in the next round.

In Division II play, Firelands defeated Keystone, 3-1, on Oct. 13. The Falcons next head to St. Ignatius, where they will play Holy Name on Oct. 16.

Edison (5-11-1) shut out Sandusky (5-11-1), 5-0, in Round 1. The Chargers face a huge challenge in Round 2. They will face Clear Fork (12-2-2), ranked fifth in the state.

Perkins (1-11-1) also has a tough roadblock in Round 2.

The Pirates must overcome Ontario (11-3-2), who rolled past Mansfield Senior, 12-0, in the first round.

The Norwalk Truckers (13-3-0) host Madison (Mansfield) on Oct. 16. The Rams were 6-7-1 during the regular season, and fell to Norwalk, 1-2, on Sept. 25.

Elyria Catholic (11-1-4) highlights the D-III bracket as the No. 1 seed. They play Open Door, the 10th seed, on Oct. 15.

Oberlin was eliminated in Round 1 after a 7-0 loss to Cuyahoga Heights.

Lake Ridge also fell in the first round, 4-0, to third-seeded Wellington. Wellington (9-7-1) takes on Trinity next.

Bay, Rocky River share last-ever WSC girls soccer title

WEST SHORE CONFERENCE
By Ryan Kaczmarek

Both the Bay and Rocky River girls varsity soccer teams went into last Wednesday night's games with the final West Shore Conference championship on the line.

With a win, the Bay Rockets would own the title outright, but that was not to be, as the two teams battled to a 0-0 tie, which secured Bay a share of the WSC along with Rocky River – which defeated Lakewood 5-1 the same night – and both schools ended the final WSC season with a 5-0-2 record.

The Rockets had plenty of chances, with seven shots on goal in the first half alone, including two crossing passes right in front of the E.C. goalkeeper, which were just missed.

"We had 13 opportunities to be exact, and we just couldn't take advantage," Bay head coach Jack Griffiths explained. "I told the girls after the game that all those opportunities, especially in the first half, we have to put one of those in and we didn't."

"We played well enough to win, but came away with the tie."

Bay now sits at 10-4-2 overall, while Elyria Catholic brings its record to 11-1-4 overall and 3-1-3 in the WSC.

"Elyria Catholic is a very good team," Griffiths added. "Tony (Rozanc) has built a great program over there, and they played us tough."

"I think we possessed the ball and controlled it mostly down in their end, but they got us in a couple counters, though. It's a good learning experience for the girls."

"Again, we play for the conference championship, but it's really all about the state tournament."



Above: The Bay High School girls soccer team tied Elyria Catholic on Oct. 8, which gave the Rockets a share of the final WSC conference title. Photo courtesy of Matt Nasman

Rockets freshman goalkeeper Jillian Dubil tallied four saves in the game, and the shutout of the Panthers gave her 11 shutouts on the season. For Dubil, this season has been one of great growth, being propelled into the starting lineup at such a young age.



The Rocky River girls soccer team defeated Lakewood, 5-1, on Oct. 8, to propel the Pirates to a co-championship in the WSC. Photo courtesy of Kent Klodnick

SEE SOCCER, PAGE B5

SOCCKER, from page B1

"It was really intimidating in the beginning, but I've become comfortable with my team and I rely on my defense," she said. "I love them, and this is a position that I've grown into."

The Rockets defense and midfield kept the Elyria Catholic attack at bay most of the game, as the Panthers were only able to manage seven shots in the game, with a mere two E.C. shots being taken in the entire second half.

"I've had games that have been shutouts, then I've had games which were shooting galleries for me," Dubil explained. "Getting some action in front of my net keeps me in the game and gives me a chance to work with my team, so I enjoy having some shots on goal."

Dubil feels the top-seeded Rockets are clicking on all cylinders and the regular season has prepared them to tough it out in the OHSAA Division II Rocky River district tournament.

"You have to keep a positive attitude in knowing that you're a team and you'll be able to work together to get it done."

"I feel very good about going into this tournament," Griffiths added. "We were 1-4-1 at one point in the season – and again it was the same thing, we just couldn't find the net. We were playing good soccer, then we rattled off nine straight wins, and with the tie here, the last 10 games we are undefeated."

"I think we are peaking. We beat Canfield and Magnificat – two state-ranked teams – and Columbus St. Francis DeSales, but I think we don't really get any respect in the state."

At the time of the contests, Canfield High School was ranked No. 2 in the state at the Division II level, and Magnificat was ranked No.7 in the state at the Division I level.

Rockets senior midfielder Nicole Pohlkamp (a team captain) scored a pair of goals, the second coming on a 30-yard free kick, to help Bay stun Magnificat, 2-1, at Memorial Stadium. Sydney Duggan scored the lone Blue Streaks goal in the contest.

According to Griffiths, to get through the postseason bracket, the Rockets will need to be aggressive on the 50-50 balls, and not wait for it to come to them.

"We teach the girls that if you can win the ball, go get it," he said. "If you can't win it, play off the ball."

"So tonight, what they were waiting for was to see if the other girls were either going to head the ball or make a chest trap."

"If they hit it off the chest, then that's why we were off the ball. They should have been a little more aggressive tonight in this game."

The Rockets and Panthers did not play a passive game, though. Bay tallied 13 fouls, including two yellow cards, while E.C. had an amazing 21 fouls, including one yellow card.

The Rockets will start playing in the postseason tournament next Thursday, against the winner of the first-round game between Vermilion and Brookside.

"I don't know exactly how the tournament is going to play out," Griffiths explained. "There's 11 teams vying for the district title, and when you look at it, the No. 2 and No. 3 seed are Rocky River and Holy Name."

"Hopefully those two schools beat each other up, and we get the winner of that game – if we get by Padua, Fairview or whomever else comes our way."

"We are definitely peaking at the right time. Last year we peaked during the regular season and when we got into the tournament, and we got blindsided. This year, we're coming in at 10 straight games without a loss, and I think we're ready."

Rocky River head coach Patrick Hopkins stated at the beginning of the season that winning the WSC is not his team's ultimate goal, but after the victory over Lakewood, he changed his tune a little.

"I have to admit that after we beat Lakewood and the news came in that E.C. and Bay tied and we won the conference (along with Bay), the happiness on the girls' faces and the excitement they showed reminded me that this is still really important," he explained. "As much as I don't focus on it, winning the conference shows the girls that they can accomplish something this year."

The Pirates started the season with a tough loss to Brecksville-Broadview Heights, then opened WSC play with a 2-2 tie with Bay, but jelled as a team over the course of the season.

Final WSC Girls Soccer Standings, Updated 10/08/2014

Place	School	WSC Record	Points
1	Rocky River	5-0-2	17
1	Bay	5-0-2	17
3	Lakewood	5-2-0	15
4	Elyria Catholic	3-1-3	12
5	Avon	3-3-1	10
6	Midview	2-5-0	6
7	N. Ridgeville	1-6-0	3
8	Vermilion	0-7-0	0

"Coming in from last year's state-championship season, it was back to reality," Hopkins said. "You look at our record and you see 8-4-4, but now our team has found our identity and we know who we are going into the postseason."

"At the beginning of the season we were moving people around and trying to see where they would fit, and it's working now."

Rocky River junior Emily Soltes scored an amazing four times in the victory over Lakewood, with Emily McDonald adding the fifth goal in the 5-1 victory.

The Pirates open postseason play tonight by hosting Brooklyn at 7 p.m. If everything goes chalk in the bracket, Rocky River and Bay could meet up again, for the Division II district championship.

"We both have games that we have to win to get to that point," Hopkins stated. "At this point of the year, anything can happen."

GOLF, from page B1

"Generally, nothing really bothers me," she said. "I have to keep that focus and keep calm when something doesn't go my way. I can't control exactly where the ball goes, so I plan on staying detached from the results and just having fun."

"State is very different from other events that I have played in, because a lot of people come out to watch. There's usually a nice gathering of 50-70 people on the first tee, so staying relaxed will be key."

"I'm looking forward to wearing maroon and gold one last time. It has been great being able to represent Avon Lake, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. No matter what happens, I'm going to have fun and enjoy the moment."

Gerome said she would love to shoot around the 70s at the state tournament.

"I think just getting a chance to go is going to be such a good experience," she said. "It's really hard just to get there, so to be there is a great opportunity. I've never played the course, so I just want to have fun and not worry about the other players. I just have to focus on me and beating the course."



Nicole Gerome

Pirates open tournament with win over Hurricanes



Story by Jim Horvath

Photos and video by Larry Bennet

This time last season, the undefeated Rocky River girls soccer team was embarking on journey of a lifetime. The Pirates, coming off a 15-0-1 regular season, went on to win seven straight to claim the Division II state championship.

Fast forwarding to Wednesday night, the Pirates were coming off an 8-4-4 regular season. They had settled for a tie for the final West Shore Conference championship with arch rival Bay, tying both the Rockets and Elyria Catholic in their head-to-head meetings.

They opened the 2014 tournament by hosting Brooklyn at Rocky River Stadium. The first leg of another tournament run went well as the Pirates took a 4-0 halftime lead and came away with an 8-0 decision against the Hurricanes.

Next up for the Pirates is familiar tournament nemesis Holy Name, which disposed of Firelands 9-0 on Thursday night.

Head coach Pat Hopkins, in his ninth season with the program, said the goals remain high as the post season begins.

"When you look at our starting lineup, six of those girls were on the field last year in Columbus," Hopkins said.

"Of those six girls, five of them have been given Division I offers to play college ball," Hopkins said. "So, we have some great players on our team. It's different this year because we don't have the other girls on the team, but it's not like those girls went over to Holy Name, or they're at Bay Village.

"They're gone. We need to focus on what we have this year, what we're going after and the teams we're facing," he said.

The Pirates lost several seniors off their state title team, including current collegiate players Grace Bennett, Abby Elinsky and McKenna Klodnick. Still, Hopkins said the expectations for the program, both inside and outside, have remained high throughout the regular season and into the tournament.

"This has been a difficult year, coaching wise, because of the expectations," admitted Hopkins following Wednesday night's win.



"It's a matter of trying to keep everyone level-headed and understanding that we have a goal. It's a goal we've been working toward, especially now that it's tournament time," Hopkins said. "Now we're here, and yes, there's a lot of pressure there. Anything can happen.

"I'm very confident in this team and its abilities, but it's easy to say all year 'wait for the tournament.' But before you walk out onto that field for that first game, there's always that thought: We've done everything we should have done, but is it going to be enough?

"We talked about that prior to the game tonight. We had a strong season, but have we had those big wins? Not necessarily. But we feel the big wins are going to be coming," he said.

With Brooklyn coming into the game with a 5-10-1 record, Wednesday's win might not be considered big for most people. But it was big enough in that it allowed the Pirates to advance to Monday's district semifinal match.

It also allowed them to work on certain aspects of their game in preparation for the match, according to Hopkins.

"Tonight was a great night," Hopkins said. "Nobody got hurt, and we played 22 girls. It was a great overall outcome, and we had girls score tonight who hadn't scored this season.



"In the second half, we did not come out the way we should have, so we made some adjustments," Hopkins said. "I needed the girls to get organized better and get their heads back into it. You probably heard me constantly yell '10 minutes, 10 minutes.'"

"That's because there have been times this season where we've taken 10-minute breaks in our games, and those breaks cost us. It cost us the other day against Magnificat (a 3-2 loss), and it cost us against Bay earlier in the year. We are not going to let 10 minutes of a game dictate the outcome anymore."

"Tonight, we played a complete 40 minutes in that second half. We did not have a letdown. Did we play the best soccer during that 40 minutes? No, but overall it was a great second half for us tactically. All 22 of our girls understood what our expectations were, and that helped us start to prepare for our next game," he added.

In the first half, the Pirates scored late in the second minute as senior Jessica Vitou scored from inside the box off a pass from junior Emily Soltes. Then at the 27:40 mark, senior Eva Schneider scored an unassisted goal on a sharp-angled shot from the right side.

River made it 3-0 in the 16th minute when junior Samantha Zamarripa scored the first of her two goals on the night. She took a lead pass from senior Sydney Hamker, maneuvered the ball past two Brooklyn defenders and zipped it past Hurricane keeper Becky Crossman at 24:58.

A penalty kick from Soltes with 21:37 left in the half gave the Pirates their 4-0 lead at the intermission.

In the second half, Hopkins was able to substitute freely as his team continued to maintain possession in the Brooklyn third for most the remaining 40 minutes. Zamarripa scored her second goal on a breakaway at 34:04, then Hamker scored off a Bella Rizi assist with 25:58 remaining.

Senior Katie Bobbitt scored her first goal of the season with 14:26 left off a Vitou assist,. Junior Claudia Stohr, thanks to an assist from sophomore Laura DeVito, got her first goal in the final minute to close out the scoring. Junior keeper Sophia Braun got the shutout, while Crossman was credited with 17 saves.

With that, the Pirates turned their attention to Monday night and what lied in store.

"We're a strong team, and a well-respected team. Nobody is going to take us lightly," Hopkins said.

"I told the girls that it didn't matter what their schedule was, or what their record is. That Holy Name team has one thing in mind. They want to beat Rocky River. Our focus on that starts tonight. That's our next goal.

"There are seven games left, and we just got the first one. Now our focus is on the next one Monday night," he said.

(You can follow us on Twitter @BeAFanatic, and on Facebook too by clicking here: BeAFanatic.com.)



Cavs

From Page C1
Cavaliers coach David Blatt said he was going to treat the next-to-last preseason game like a regular-season game. James played a pre-season-high 32 minutes before exiting with 6 minutes, 29 seconds to play.

points at halftime, 51-49. "I'm not surprised at all," James said. "It's great for the league to have him back and playing at a high level." Blatt just threw his hands up trying to devise a plan to stop Rose.



The Cavaliers' Dion Walters, left, shoots over the Bulls' Pau Gasol during the first quarter on Oct. 20 in Columbus.

CAVALIERS NOTES

LeBron expects friction with Blatt

Bob Finnan
Finnan@MorningJournal.com
@BobCavsinsider
COLUMBUS — There are some theatrics coming between LeBron James and David Blatt. Just ask James.

Starting center Blatt announced before the game he would start Anderson Varejao at center against the Bulls. Tristan Thompson, the

HOLY NAME 3, ROCKY RIVER 2

Clock runs out on Pirates' season

Matt Lofgren
Sports@MorningJournal.com
@MJournalSports
Holy Name held off Rocky River just long enough to earn a 3-2 victory over the host Pirates for a girls soccer district semifinal victory and the right to play Bay in the district final.

a beautiful finish, and we panicked for a few minutes and were down 3-0." Down 3-0 with under 18 left in the first half, something clicked on the River sideline as the team started to play with a sense of urgency and purpose.

she wouldn't be denied a second time. Holy Name went into half with a 3-1 lead with the Pirates' carrying some momentum. "We talked about at half-time that earlier in the year Holy Name was up 2-0 on Lake Catholic, then ended up losing that game 3-2," Hopkins said.

Panthers

From Page C1
"I struggled finishing, but I'm not going to beat them up. We did what we needed to do," Elyria Catholic coach Tony Rozanc said.

Spicer's kick was timed perfectly by Anna Stegmaier, who knocked the ball in for the score. Bircic scored in the 74th minute on an assist from Smith to secure the victory.

"They know the importance of winning a district championship. The seniors that are here right now were here for the first time we ever won one," Rozanc said.

Amherst

From Page C1
With college diving offering 1-, 3- and 5-meter diving, Lamb said she has some work to do. "I'm definitely stronger on the 1-meter," she said.

Boys soccer district capsules

Division II district semifinals
Elyria Catholic vs. Lake Ridge
When: 7 p.m., Oct. 21
Where: Elyria Catholic High School

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team Name. Lists top 25 teams in Ohio high school football.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

Table with 2 columns: Division and District. Lists volleyball tournament results for various districts.

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer. Lists scores for recent games.

HOLY NAME 3, ROCKY RIVER 2

Clock runs out on Pirates' season

Matt Lofgren

Sports@MorningJournal.com
@MJJournalSports

Holy Name held off Rocky River just long enough to earn a 3-2 victory over the host Pirates for a girls soccer district semi-final victory and the right to play Bay in the district final.



**Girls
soccer**

As the rain fell for all 80 minutes, it was hard to distinguish tears, sweat and rain from the faces of the Rocky River girls after a battle between two of Ohio's best teams.

Falling behind, 3-0, the Pirates took a bit of time, but meshed as a team in an exciting match.

"In the first half, we came out a little bit slow and as I told the girls prior to the game, they are going to come at us," Rocky River coach Patrick Hopkins said. "Basically they scored the first goal off a corner kick, it was

a beautiful finish, and we panicked for a few minutes and were down 3-0."

Down 3-0 with under 18 left in the first half, something clicked on the River sideline as the team started to play with a sense of urgency and purpose.

"We were under a bit of pressure," Hopkins said. "Then finally we started finding our confidence in ourselves, in each other and started piecing things together and playing the game that we've been playing and working on all year."

It took until 14:14 left in the first half for the Pirates to get off their first shot, but once junior Emily Soltes did, it was worth the wait.

After breaking away from the Holy Name defense, Soltes ripped a hard shot that the Green Wave keeper could only block, not save. With a bit of luck, the ball rolled right back to Soltes' foot as

she wouldn't be denied a second time.

Holy Name went into half with a 3-1 lead with the Pirates carrying some momentum.

"We talked about at half-time that earlier in the year Holy Name was up 2-0 on Lake Catholic, then ended up losing that game 3-2," Hopkins said. "We knew that if we pressured them and just came out confident and went at them to create opportunities, we knew that we could break them."

Using that confidence, it appeared as though Hopkins and his Pirates knocked Holy Name out of its game plan. All second half the ball could be found on the Green Wave side of the field as the Pirates looked to generate chances.

Finally, with 5:56 left in the game, the Pirates scored on a long shot by senior Eva Schneider to pull within a goal. Holy Name kept a

defensive unit on the field as the Pirates hoped for just one more open look to force overtime.

Getting a couple of chances, the Pirates could not net the game winner as the clock ran out on the Rocky River girls' season.

"We are coming out of one of the toughest districts in the state with Holy Name, Bay Village and Rocky River," Hopkins said. "It's a battle. It almost seems like the regional is easier than the district, but with the group that we had and their experience, nothing can be taken away from them."

"Our expectations are high and I think tonight showed that we reach for it and you don't always get what you want, but part of the growth and development of a high school athlete is learning what to do to get there and I believe they showed that tonight."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Second round

Table with 2 columns: Game details (Division I, II, III) and opponent names.

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AREA ACHIEVERS: SPORTS NEWS FROM YOU



PHOTO PROVIDED

Members of the St. Joseph CYO eighth grade volleyball team, which went 10-0 in the regular season, won the Our Lady of Angels tournament and finished second in the Diocesan Division I Championship...

CRUSHERS

From C1

The Crushers will be the first home opponents for the Boomers on Friday, May 22, Sunday, May 24. The Boomers defeated the Crushers in the 2013 Frontier League Championship Series...

All home games will be at 7:05 p.m., except for Sundays. Currently, the Crushers' website lists them as TBA - last year, the club experimented with 1:05 p.m. starts on Saturdays after starting games at 5:05 p.m. the previous five seasons.

The other exception is the traditional school field day Wednesday, May 27, against the Evansville Otters, which starts at 10:35 a.m.

The Crushers will end the season on the road Friday, Sept. 4-Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Gateway Grizzlies.

This summer, the Crushers will have every Monday off during the regular season. The Frontier League also announced that the 2015 division alignment will remain the same, with the Crushers, Evansville, Florence, the Greys, Southern Illinois, Traverse City and Washington in the East and Gateway, Joliet, Normal...

Schedule for Crushers vs. River City, Rockford, Schaumburg and Windy City in the West.

Schedule for Crushers vs. Evansville, TBA, Washington, and other opponents.

ALL-OHIO

From C1

season at Elyria Catholic that he realized he had the potential to achieve All-Ohio status. "When I came in as a freshman, I just thought I would come in and have a fun time but I ended up becoming really serious about it and getting to the point where I can earn an award like this," he said.

Arvis is still undecided where he will continue his soccer career. He is looking for a Division II or III school that has both a strong soccer program and a challenging academic curriculum.

Salem, a dynamic midfielder who not only scored 14 goals but was also one of the best ballhandlers and distributors in the area, was a four-year starter for the Demons.

"Omars was the big-name player on our team who drew the most attention from opposing defenders. He was double-teamed almost every game," veteran Westlake coach Mike Besu said.

Besu described Salem, who has already committed to Bowling Green State University, as the "type of player who does not come along every often."

Arvon's Will Sharer, Open Door's Solomon Dutton and Elyria Catholic's Liam O'Halloran earned second-team, All-Ohio honors on the boys side. Four local girls — Amherst's Ally Perkins, Avon Lakes's Rada Zurnich, North Olmsted's Madison Johnson and Westlake's Erin Langreier — were named to the Division I second team.

Contact Todd Shapiro at 329-7135 or csports@chroniclelive.com

Boys

Table listing boys' sports teams and their coaches across various schools.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Baseball Softball: OLYMPIAN AT CLINIC: Two-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Fernandez and South Carolina assistant coach Calvin Deans will be featured at a softball clinic for players ages 14-18 and coaches on Saturday and Sunday at the Frontier Grizzlies in Lorain.

Baseball Softball: REBELS NEED PLAYERS: Rebels Fastpitch Softball has openings for a few positions for its 2015 U12, 2015, 12 and 14 age groups. All players are eligible. Call 829-7180 or email rebeledfastpitch@yahoo.com.

Baseball Softball: THUNDERBOLT PLAYERS: The U19 Amherst Thunderbolt team is looking for players for the 2015 summer season. Girls ages 15-18 as of June 1, 2015, are eligible to play. Call 864-2980 or email jomphd42@yahoo.com.

Baseball Softball: AMHERST OPENINGS: Amherst Fastpitch Softball is looking for openings interested in playing at a more competitive level and has openings in its 12U, 14U and 18U age groups and 12 and 14 age groups. All players are eligible. Call 864-2980 or email amherstfastpitch@gmail.com.

Baseball Softball: YOUNGSTOWN TROUPTS: A summer softball organization will conduct tryouts for its 2015 teams in the 18U, 16U and 14U age groups in Youngstown, Ohio. Call 330-719-0581 for more information.

Schools: STUDENTS NEED COACHES: Lorain City Schools is accepting applications for middle school wrestling, assistant high school girls basketball, assistant high school boys basketball and assistant high school wrestling coaches. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 330-719-0581 for more information.

Schools: TOYS FOR TOTS TOURNAMENT: The annual Lorain County Community College Toys for Tots could help Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, at 7 a.m. at the Lorain County Community College campus. Registration is \$20 per team. Divisions are girls youth 2-13 and 14-15 and adult A, B and C. Call 330-719-0581 for more information.

Schools: GREAT PRICES + PERSONAL SERVICE: 30 YEARS OF LOYAL CUSTOMERS. State Farm logo.

When I say "good," you say "neighbor." State Farm logo.

Now that's teamwork. CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7. State Farm logo.

Girls

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Girls

DIVISION I

First Team: Abby Allen (Anthony Wayne, sr., F); Karleigh Clere (Oregon Clay, so., F); Jordan Coteur (Copley, sr., F); Susan D'isidoro (Twinsburg, sr., M); Bayley Feist (Oak Hills, sr., M); Alison Green (Boardman, sr., F); Layne Hartnell (Dresden Tri-Valley, sr., F); Aaliyah Patten (Fairborn, sr., F); Kaleigh Piscioneri (Magnificat, sr., GK); Emma Ranalli, (Olentangy Liberty, sr., M); Briana Shingary (Medina, sr., F); Taylor Spaulding (Strongsville, sr., D); Halle Stelbaski (Walsh Jesuit, sr., F); Corynne Swift (Loveland, sr., F); Jenna Szabo (Thomas Worthington, sr., F); Lexie Ulrich (Beavercreek, sr., F); Jill Vetere (Mason, sr., F); Marissa Weirzbicki (Bishop Watterson, sr., GK).

Second Team: Hannah Angelo (Massillon Jackson, sr., M); Alex Berry (Upper Arlington, sr., D); Alex Brown (Perrysburg, sr., F); Samantha Damante (New Albany, sr., F); Dena Deeb (Toledo Notre Dame, jr., F); Patrice Dipasquale (Kings, sr., F); Megan Farr (Grove City, sr., D); Kayla Fischer (Kent Roosevelt, fr., F); Maria Gardner (Centerville, sr., M); Dani Giles (North Royalton, sr., D); Meghan Grable (Mason, sr., D); Rebekah Haught (Marietta, sr., M); Sarah Hawk (Springboro, sr., M); Chaunteal Houk (Brecksville, sr., F); Adriana Johnson (Hilliard Bradley, sr. D); **Madison Johnson, (North Olmsted, jr., M); Macey Juguilon (Brunswick, sr., M); Erin Langermeir (Westlake, sr., D);** Hannah Lehmkuhl (Dublin Coffman, jr., M); Samantha Leshnak (Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame, sr., GK); Katie Murray (Oak Hills, sr., M); Payton Naylor (Olentangy, sr., F); **Ally Perkins (Amherst, jr., M);** Brittney Petrosky (Vandalia Butler, so., F); Rianna Reese (Lakota East, sr., D); Sara Robertson (Cincinnati Uruline, sr., F); Erica Schrader (Gahanna Lincoln, sr., M); Kayla Schrubb (Piqua, sr., F); Cassie Schuster (Ashland, sr., F); Mallory Shaw (Lakewood, jr., F); Aisha Suhaiba (Pickerington Central, sr., F); Erin Torrence (Hudson, jr., F); Maryellen Tully (Cincinnati Turpin, sr., F); Sydney Wright (Hilliard Davidson, sr., D); **Rada Zunich (Avon Lake, sr., D).**

Player of the year: Jill Vetere, Mason

Coach of the year: Andy Schur, Mason

Assistant coach of the year: Brad Wojnarowski, Medina

DIVISION II

First Team: Allie Attkinsson (Ontario, sr., M); Brianna Baker (Chagrin Falls, jr., M); Bekah Carr (Celina, sr., F); Lexi Carrier (Indian Hill, jr., D); Mackenzie Cowell (Niles McKinley, jr., D); Nikki Cox (Granville, jr., M); Ashley Dobbins (Akron Hoban, jr., M); Caroline Dreher (Holy Name, sr., M); Bailey Fischer (Canfield, sr., M); Sophie Gorman (Cincinnati McNicholas, so., M); Audrey Harding (Revere, so., M); Jordyne Helinski (Clear Fork, jr., F); Alyssa Manley (Lima Bath, sr., F); Bri Mays (Monroe, sr., M); Peyton Miller (Jackson, sr., M); Deajah Swihart (Clear Fork, sr., M); Mallory Wahl (West Holmes, sr., F); Mckenna Welsh (Bishop Hartley, sr., F).

Second Team: Norah Barnes (Buckeye, sr., M); Raeli Barnes (Warren Vincent, jr., F); Lexi Blair (Tipp City Tippecanoe, jr., F); Sarah Blasiman (Lima Bath, sr., M); Darbi Brewer (Circleville, sr., GK); Bethany Bube (Richmond Edison, sr., F); Laurel Campbell (Norwalk, sr., M); Josie Chaddock (Minerva, jr., M); Maddie Cherry (Pemberville Eastwood, jr., F); Kerrie Dolick (New Concord John Glenn, sr., F); Halley Eck (CVCA, jr., F); Katie Exline (Jackson, jr., F); Emily Giel (Pauda, sr., M); Kayla Hampton (Wyoming, so., F); Monica Hennen (Bellbrook, sr., M); Mation Jackson (Milton-Union, sr., M); Joy Leindecker (New Philadelphia, jr., M); Sophia Mancini (Canfield, sr., M); Elyse McKenzie (Bloom-Carroll, jr., F); Abby McNamara (Dayton Carroll, so., F); Alivia Milesky, (Plain City Jonathan Elder, jr., M); Sunny Millar (Springfield Greenon, sr., D); Clair O'Brien (Hathaway Brown, jr., GK); Brett Paufl (Elida, sr., M); Abby Pavlik (Cortland Lakeview, jr., M); Nicole Pohkamp (Bay, sr., M); Trista Rhodes (Hillsboro, jr., M); Danielle Ruffolo (Kettering Alter, sr., M); Iman Salhieh (Kenton Ridge, jr., F); Isabella Shivley (Columbus St. Francis DeSales, so., M); **Emily Soltes (Rocky River, jr., D);** Jordan Staggs (Hamilton Ross, sr., M); Jordyn Taylor (Milbury Lake, sr., M); Allison White (Wilmington, sr., D); Sammy Williams (Tallmadge, sr., F).

Player of the year: Nikki Cox, Granville

Coach of the year: Pamela Malone, Chagrin Falls

Assistant coach of the year: Chris Laux, Clear Fork

DIVISION III

BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Will Sharer, Avon. The senior midfielder scored 27 goals and tallied five assists on the season...



Sharer

— Sam Ameen

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bobby Dougherty, Bay. Led his team to a 19-3-1 season and to its third-straight state semifinal appearance...

— Sam Ameen

FIRST TEAM

(Alphabetical Order)

Caden Foss, Norwalk

Division I first-team All-Ohio.

Gage Jarvis, Elyria Catholic

21 goals, 9 assists, D-III first-team All-Ohio, first-team All-WSC, first-team All-Lorain County.

Sutton Klodnick, Rocky River

14 goals (4 game-winners) 11 assists, second-team All-Ohio, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-WSC.

Dan Linhart, Bay

15 goals, 7 assists, D-III first-team All-Ohio.

Jack McMillin, Oberlin

25 goals, 6 assists, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-Lorain County, first-team All-Patriot Athletic Conference.

Daniel Minotti, Avon

15 goals, 8 assists, first-team All-District, first-team All-WSC, first-team Lorain County.

Liam O'Halloran, Elyria Catholic

16 goals, 9 assists, D-III second-team All-Ohio, first-team All-WSC, first-team, D-III Player of the Year Lorain County.

Omar Salem, Westlake

15 goals, 9 assists, D-III first-team All-Ohio, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-Southwestern Conference, MVP of SWC.

Josh Scofield, Lake Ridge

27 goals 14 assists, D-III second-team All-Ohio, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-Lorain County.

Michael Smigel, Avon

12 goals 18 assists, Honorable Mention All-District, first-team All-WSC, first-team Lorain County.

SECOND TEAM

(Alphabetical Order)

Tyler Damante, Edison. 18 goals, 4 assists, 1st Team All-NOSSCA, first-team All-Sandusky Bay Conference.

Solomon Dutton, Open Door. 17 goals, 8 assists, D-III second-team All-Ohio.

Jeremy Kelling, Elyria Catholic. 17 goals, 13 assists, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, second-team All-Lorain County, second-team All-WSC.

Brandon Knitt, Brookside. 18 goals, 4 assists, second-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-PAC.

Austin Mitchell, Olmsted Falls. 0.71 Goals Against Average, eight-straight shutouts (Qualifies for state record) second-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-SWC.

Moe Mustafa, Westlake. 7 goals, 4 assists, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-SWC.

Jordan Ruffner, Firelands. 20 goals, 8 assists, first-team All-District, Lorain County D-III POY, first-team All-PAC.

Brian Sutcliffe, Westlake. 9 goals, 5 assists, Honorable Mention All-Greater Cleveland, second-team All-SWC.

Alec White, Bay. 7 goals 14 assists.

Jacob Wischmeier, Rocky River. 21 goals (3 GWs), 10 assists, first-team All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-SWC.

THIRD TEAM

(Alphabetical Order)

Max Becker, North Olmsted. 12 goals, 6 assists, first-team All-SWC.

Edgar Campos, Sandusky. 4 goals, 1 assist, first-team All-District, first-team All-Northern Ohio League.

Justin Delaney, Vermilion. 10 goals, six assists.

Miki Dutton, Open Door. 15 goals, 3 assists.

Tyler George, North Ridgeville. 2 goals, 3 assists, HM GCSSCA, first-team LCSCA, first-team All-WSC.

Turner Giesel, Keystone. 17 goals, 6 assists, first-team All-PAC, Scholar Athlete.

Colin Howell, Lake Ridge. HM All-Greater Cleveland, HM All-Lorain County, first-team All-Conference.

Dante Laticcia, Oberlin. 4 goals, 4 assists, shutout as a goalie, HM All-Greater Cleveland, first-team All-PAC, second-team All-Lorain County.

Lucas Munroe, Edison. 7 goals, 24 assists, first-team All-NOSSCA, first-team All-SWC.

Oshae Vorthorn, Huron. 6 goals, 6 assists.

HONORABLE MENTION

Avon Lake: Evan Carlson, Kane Adams; Bay: Mark Comiensi; Edison: Lucas Wallace; Firelands: Tristan Clark; Keystone: Evan Valentik; Avery Whitman; Midview: Nicolas Thomas; North Ridgeville: Tristan Coffey; Rocky River: Chase Newby; Sandusky: Evan McGory, Joseph Ramon.

GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Laurel Campbell, Senior, Norwalk. 12 goals, 15 assists, 1st North Central District, 2nd All-Ohio, 1st Ohio Academic. Some star players stand out for their stats...



Campbell

— Stephanie Metzger

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tony Rozanc, Elyria Catholic. Rozanc's Panthers achieved what no Lorain County soccer team has done before - reach state. The trip to state was four years in the making...

— Stephanie Metzger

FIRST TEAM

(Alphabetical Order)

D Kirsten Fehlan, Elyria Catholic, Sr. 13 shutouts, 1st All-Ohio, Lorain County D-III Player of the Year, WSC Player of the Year.

MF/D Emily Joyce, Avon, Sr. 6 goals, 3 assists, 1st Lorain County, Lorain County D-I Player of the Year, 1st WSC, Greater Cleveland Honorable Mention.

D Erin Langermeier, Westlake, Sr. 11 goals, 2 assists, 22 saves, broke Oberlin High School's career goals record with 44, 1st PAC, 1st Lorain County.

F/GK Judith Lesesne, Oberlin, Sr. 11 goals, 2 assists, 22 saves, broke Oberlin High School's career goals record with 44, 1st PAC, 1st Lorain County.

MF Ally Perkins, Amherst, Jr. 14 goals, 6 assists, 1st Lorain County, 1st SWC, 1st Greater Cleveland, 2nd All-Ohio.

MF Nicole Pohlkamp, Bay, Sr. 14 goals, 16 assists, 1st WSC, 1st Northeast District, 2nd All-Ohio.

F Abbey Ramirez, Elyria, Sr. 16 goals, 5 assists, 1st NEO, 1st Lorain County, NEO Scholar Athlete.

F Andi Widmer, Elyria Catholic, Sr. 24 goals, 4 assists, 1st Lorain County, 1st Greater Cleveland, 2nd WSC, leading goal scorer in Lorain County.

GK Audra Wisheart, Huron, Sr. 89 saves, 11 clean sheets, 1st SBC, 1st North Central District, North Central District Player of the Year, 1st All-Ohio.

D Rada Zunic, Avon Lake, Sr. 1st SWC, 1st Greater Cleveland, 1st Lorain County, 2nd All-Ohio.

SECOND TEAM

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

F Sarah Bartolomeo, Vermilion, Jr. 14 goals, 7 assists, North Central Honorable Mention, 2nd WSC, 1st Lorain County.

MF Keely Birsic, Elyria Catholic, Sr. 13 goals, 17 assists, 1st Lorain County, 1st Greater Cleveland, 2nd WSC.

F/MF/D Maddie Blaine, Midview, Fr. 9 goals, 3 assists, 1st WSC, 1st Lorain County, Greater Cleveland Honorable Mention.

D Casey Duncan, Norwalk, Sr. 9 goals, 8 assists, 1st North Central District.

GK Elise Durval, Avon Lake, Jr. 76 saves, 10 clean sheets, 1st Lorain County, 2nd WSC, 2nd Greater Cleveland.

GK Steve Holbrook, Elyria Catholic, Sr. 13 shutouts, 1st Lorain County, 2nd WSC.

MF Madison Johnson, North Olmsted, Jr. 2nd All-Ohio, 1st Greater Cleveland, 1st SWC.

MF Melanie Kukura, Bay, Sr. 6 goals, 12 assists, 2nd WSC, 1st Northeast District.

F Yana Miller, Lake Ridge, So. 58 goals, ranked OHSAA Top 5 in goals scored in one season.

F/D Emily Soltes, Rocky River, Jr. 16 goals, 3 assists.

THIRD-TEAM

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

GK Bri Casement, North Ridgeville, Jr. 120 saves, 1st WSC, WSC Goalie of the Year, 1st Lorain County, Greater Cleveland Honorable Mention.

F Amanda Fincan, Westlake, Sr. 14 goals, 5 assists, 1st SWC, 2nd Greater Cleveland, 1st Ohio Academic.

D Sarah Fortune, Keystone, Sr. 1 goal, Lorain County Player of the Year, 1st Greater Cleveland.

F Monika Giardina, Huron, Sr. 11 goals, 10 assists, 1st SBC, 1st North Central District.

MF Shannon Hughes, Huron, Sr. 11 goals, 1 assist, 1st SBC, 2nd North Central District.

F/MF Becca Jackson, Firelands, Sr. 6 goals, 5 assists, 1st PAC, 1st Lorain County, 2nd Greater Cleveland.

MF Kayleigh Penton, Vermilion, Fr. 5 goals, 7 assists, 1st North Central District, 1st WSC, 1st Lorain County.

MF Diamond Sharp, Sandusky, Sr. 4 goals, 1 assist, 1st NCL.

F Hannah Sears, Brookside, Jr. 9 goals, 10 assists.

F Samantha Sparks, Wellington, So. 20 goals, 4 assists.

HONORABLE MENTION

Amherst: Bailey Pihlblad, Madison Pihlblad, Lindsay Sands, Veronica Sakalis, Avon: Regan Betts; Avon Lake: Kellie Norris, Olivia Silver; Bay: Maddie Holmes, Autumn Meisenburg, Dakota Meisenburg; Black River: Rachel Barletta; Edison: Savanna Smith; Elyria Catholic: Jenna Ellington; Firelands: Brandi Holowczyk; Keystone: Paige Forbush, Korai Kasnyk, Lauren LaPointe; Midview: Morgan Hamler; North Ridgeville: Anna Chalkey, Sam Graham; Norwalk: Megan Casselberry, Mallorie Gregory; Oberlin: Lauren Garcia; All-Halibison: Olmsted Falls: Katie Owens; Perkins: Eriell Davis; Rocky River: Sophia Braun, Jillian Krebs; Sandusky: Molly Franklin; Westlake: Peyton Rimko.

Ingraham

That would be a player making selfish comments in the midst of a winning streak. So the decision was made to eliminate Tate. This is not a decision that is going to make or break this Browns' season...

Decision-making is how good teams are built and how bad teams stay bad. The teams that make the most good decisions tend to win the most games. The teams that don't, don't. Guess which group the Browns have been in the last 15 years?

What's most interesting, and encouraging, about this latest batch of Browns decision makers, and latest round of Browns decision making, is there have been no wild swings and misses. No duck hooks. No airballs. So far, anyway, Farmer and Pettine, each of whom are rookies in their current positions, have put the but on the ball with virtually all of their important decisions.

That is to say, for example, that the Browns, under Farmer and Pettine, have not drafted a quarterback who is best remembered for being trapped under a giant American flag prior to his first NFL start.

In these parts, that's progress. More substantially, there was Farmer's decision throughout the entire three-day Kiper-Bozza NFL draft, to ignore the looming suspension of Josh Gordon. Farmer not only refused to draft a wide receiver, he traded out of the spot in which he could have selected the highest-rated one in the draft - Sammy Watkins, whom the Bills selected with the No.4 overall pick they got in the trade with the Browns.

Nobody banged the drum louder than I did in opposition to Farmer's decision to ignore the wide receiver position in the draft. But in hindsight now, Farmer was right and I, and we, were wrong.

The dead-end kids Farmer assembled as the receiving corps has not been the five-alarm fire it appeared it would be. Could the receivers have been better? Yes. Are they the worst group of receivers in NFL history? No. Advantage Farmer.

Drafting West and signing Crowell are also looking like two bull's-eyes. Drafting guard Joe Bitonio, who nobody talks about but to these amateur eyes appears to be having a terrific season for a rookie lineman, is another decision making gold star.

The Brian Hoyer/Johnny Football preseason "competition" was a little flimsy, forced and awkward, but in the end, the decision makers made the right call - and have resisted the urge to knee jerk their way to a premature call to the bullpen.

The closest to a whiff is probably using the eighth overall pick in the draft on cornerback Justin Gilbert, who after looking lost and in over his head early in the season, showed signs of progress after that.

The biggest decision for Farmer and company still remains: Making a call on Hoyer's contract situation. But so far, the quality of the decision making is best reflected in the team's record: 6-4.

High School Playoff Ticket Information. Tickets for Midview's showdown with Nordonia in the Division II, Region 4 final on Nov. 21 at Judy Kirks Field at Brunswick Auto Mart Stadium can be purchased at Midview High School for \$8 on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., as well as on Nov. 20, 21 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$9 at the gate.

Tickets for the Bay vs. Benedictine Division IV, Region 11 final on Nov. 21 at Byers Field will be available for purchase at the Bay Athletic Department office on Nov. 19-14 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and on Nov. 20-21 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 if purchased prior to the game, otherwise they will be \$9 at the gate.

Fans have the opportunity to purchase resale tickets for the Division VII, Region 23 final between St. Paul and Berlin Center Western Reserve on Nov. 22 at InfoCision Field at Copley Stadium. Tickets will be available for \$8 at the St. Paul Athletic Office on Nov. 19 from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Nov. 20 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and Nov. 21 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the gate for \$9.

For the latest updates on you favorite local teams, follow Morning Journal Sports on Twitter: @MJJournalSports

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Table with 7 columns: Division I - Games at 7 p.m., Nov. 22; Division II - Games at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 21; Division III - Games at 7 p.m., Nov. 22; Division IV - Games at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 21; Division V - Games at 7 p.m., Nov. 22; Division VI - Games at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 21; Division VII - Games at 7 p.m., Nov. 22. Each column lists game details including teams, scores, and venues.

Boys

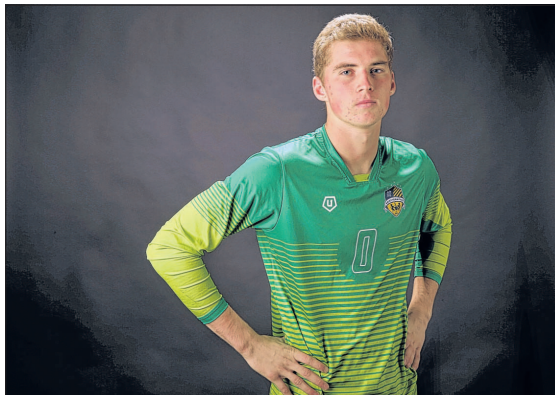
Player of the Year | Chris Brennan, Copley, junior, forward



THOMAS ONDREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Chris Brennan was an integral part of the Indians' run to the Division I state semifinals. Brennan led high-scoring Copley in goals (23) and points (63). He was second on the team with 17 assists. Brennan was the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year and Mr. Soccer for Division I. He also is The Plain Dealer Player of the Year. Brennan plans on playing college soccer and has been talking with Louisville and Akron.

Goalie of the Year | Mikal Outcalt, St. Ignatius, senior



THOMAS ONDREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

With 11 shutouts in 19 starts and an 0.42 goals-against average, St. Ignatius' Mikal Outcalt was a main factor in helping the Wildcats to the sixth state championship in school history. Outcalt was a Division I first-team All-Ohio selection. The Plain Dealer Goalie of the Year and Pittsburgh recruit recorded 25 shutouts in 47 career starts for the Wildcats, finishing with a 0.74 goals-against average.

Coach of the year

DAVID ANTAL

Copley

Antal led Copley to a 20-1-1 record and a trip to the Division I state semifinals, where the Indians lost to St. Ignatius, 1-0. This season marked the second time in four years Antal has coached the Indians to the semifinals.

All-Stars

RYDER BELL

University School

Senior, Forward

College: William & Mary. Bell earned first-team All-Ohio honors in Division II for the second straight year. The 2014 National Soccer Coaches Association of America voted him All-Great Lakes Region and the Division II Cleveland Player of the Year. He tallied 45 goals, nine assists and 99 points to give him 105 goals and 37 assists in his high school career.

DANIEL BRANCH

Revere

Junior, Forward

College: Undecided. In addition to earning Division II first-team All-Ohio honors, Branch also was named as the Greater Akron Division II Player of the Year and made the All-Midwest Region team. He tallied 21 goals and seven assists for the Minutemen.

TREVOR COLAZZO

Hudson

Senior, Midfielder

College: Vermont. Colazzo was an assist machine for the Explorers, leading all Division I boys players in Ohio with 22, according to the O-SCA. He also scored nine goals and racked up 40 points. He earned first-team All-Ohio, first-team Greater Akron All-District and was the Northeast Ohio Conference Player of the Year.

JOE HORTH

Cuyahoga Valley Christian

Senior, Defender

College: Undecided. Horth helped the Royals post five regular-season shutouts and four more in the playoffs while also recording eight goals and an assist in his third year as a starter, earning first-team All-Ohio honors.

JORDAN IANIRO

Kirtland

Senior, Forward

College: Cleveland State. Ianiro racked up 24 goals, 10 assists and 58 points to earn Division III first-team All-Ohio honors and inclusion on the National Soccer Coaches' Association All-America team. He ended his high school career with 77 goals and 21 assists.

GAGE JARVIS

Elyria Catholic

Senior, Forward

College: Undecided. With 24 goals, Jarvis was the Panthers' leading scorer and earned himself Division III first-team All-Ohio honors. He helped Elyria Catholic win its fifth consecutive district title.

DANIEL LINHART

Bay

Senior, Forward

College: Undecided. Linhart led his team in goals with 15 and points with 37 and tallied seven assists to help Bay reach the Division II state final. His play earned him Division II first-team All-Ohio honors.

ZANDER PERELMAN

Cleveland Heights

Senior, Forward

College: Undecided. Perelman was the leading scorer for Cleveland Heights this season with 57 goals and four assists. He helped the team claim a Lake Erie League title and earned Division I first-team All-Ohio honors.

OMAR SALEM

Westlake

Senior, Midfielder

College: Bowling Green. Salem scored 14 goals and was constantly setting up his teammates for scoring opportunities. He was selected to the Division I first-team for All-Ohio.

Honorable mention

Max Becker, North Olmsted; Antonio Burgoa, Strongsville; Julian Castro, St. Edward; Gianluca DiFranco, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin; Miguel Espinoza, Perry; Matt Gordon, Aurora; Ryan Hassell, Western Reserve Academy; Skye Harter, Copley; Chad Kanakannatt, St. Vincent-St. Mary; Christian Keiper, Chagrin Falls; Sutton Klodnick, Rocky River; Matthew McGee, Archbishop Hoban; Liam McIntosh, Lake Catholic; Will Meyer, Solon; Stephen Milhoan, St. Ignatius; Will Morisak, Coventry; Mo Mustafa, Westlake; Liam O'Halloran, Elyria Catholic; Michael Parios, Walsh Jesuit; Nick Perez, Aurora; Charlie Platia, Wickliffe; Kurt Rane, Mentor; Noah Reider, Akron Garfield; Lax Rosul, Lakewood; Asaf Roth, Beachwood; Danny Ruple, Berea-Midpark; Josh Scofield, Lake Ridge; Will Sharer, Avon; Elias Silvola, Shaker Heights; David Sisson, St. Ignatius; John Sternasty, Revere; Nick Sullivan, Hudson; Collin Surace, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy; Will Velotta, Gilmour; Joey Winiacki, Stow; Kurt Wysocki, St. Edward.

— Robert Rozboril

Girls

Player of the Year | Halle Stelbasky, Walsh Jesuit, senior, forward



THOMAS ONDREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Halle Stelbasky didn't let a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered during her junior season deter her from finishing strong her senior season. The Plain Dealer Player of the Year returned to the field after an off-season of rehab to lead the Warriors to their third straight state championship. The Butler recruit scored a team-high 29 goals and earned All-Ohio and All-American honors. Walsh Jesuit lost one game during Stelbasky's time at the school.

Goalie of the Year | Kaleigh Piscioneri, Magnificat, senior



THOMAS ONDREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Kaleigh Piscioneri was the Blue Streaks' last line of defense all season — and she excelled in that role. The Cincinnati recruit and The Plain Dealer Goalie of the Year made 170 saves, anchoring a defense that allowed just 12 goals all season. Piscioneri's efforts in goal helped the Blue Streaks reach the Division I state semifinals for the second year in a row.

Coach of the year

PAT DOBBINS

Archbishop Hoban

In just his second season as Hoban's coach, Dobbins led the Knights to 10 wins in the regular season before the team's impressive postseason run. The Knights won in the regional final against Leke Catholic, to reach the Division II state championship game for the second time in school history. The Knights lost to Cincinnati McNicholas in the state final, 3-0.

All-Stars

ASHLEY DOBBINS

Archbishop Hoban

Senior, Midfielder

College: Marshall. Dobbins was one of the better set-up players in the area, recording a team-high 24 assists, which was fifth in the state, according to the OSSCA. She also scored nine goals and was one of two players on her team to have 40 points or more. Dobbins was a first team All-Ohio selection in Division II.

CAROLINE DREHER

Holy Name

Senior, Midfielder

College: Indiana. Dreher was the leader in the midfield for Holy Name. She was a first-team All-Ohio selection in Division II and helped the Green Wave win a district championship with a goal in overtime against Bay.

KIRSTEN FEHLAN

Elyria Catholic

Senior, Defender

College: Miami (Ohio). Fehlhan helped anchor a defense that kept 13 clean sheets. Fehlhan was a first-team All-Ohio selection, the West Shore Conference Player of the Year and the Lorain County Division III Player of the Year.

KAYLA FISCHER

Kent Roosevelt

Freshman, Forward

College: Undecided. The freshman scored six goals in her high school debut on her way to setting the single-season school record for goals (38) and points (88). Fischer was a second-team All-Ohio player in Division I.

BIANCA MEDANCIC

Hawken

Senior, Forward

College: Miami (Ohio). Medancic led her team with 22 goals and had 10 assists as a senior. She helped Hawken reach the Division III state championship in 2013 and a regional semifinal in 2014.

SOFIA ROSSI

Walsh Jesuit

Sophomore, Midfielder

College: Undecided. Rossi had 13 goals and 23 assists and was a first-team All-North Coast League and All-District selection. Rossi scored the game-winning goals in the 2013 and 2014 state championship games.

BRI SHINGARY

Medina

Senior, Midfielder

College: Buffalo. Shingary wrapped up her strong high school career with 16 goals and seven assists in her senior season. She was a first-team All-Ohioan and the Northeast Ohio Conference and Medina County MVP.

TAYLOR SPAULDING

Strongsville

Senior, Defender

College: Northern Kentucky. Spaulding was the key of a Strongsville defense that recorded 11 shutouts, including shut outs of Medina and Hudson, and led her team with

1,450 minutes played. She was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American, a first team All-Ohio selection and the Greater Cleveland Player of the Year.

ERIN TORRENCE

Hudson

Junior, Forward

College: Undecided. Torrence had a team-high 25 goals, earning her second team All-Ohio honors and first team All-District and Northeast Ohio Conference honors.

Honorable mention

Brianna Baker, Chagrin Falls; Norah Barnes, Buckeye; Marissa Brannon, Lake Catholic; Maggie Canitia, Hawken; Jordan Cotleur, Copley; Susan D'Isidoro, Twinsburg; Sydney Duggan, Magnificat; Hailey Eck, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy; Dani Giles, North Royalton; Marissa Handel, Mayfield; Audrey Harding, Revere; Jessie Hegedus, Mentor; Chantel Houk, Brecksville; Madison Johnson, North Olmsted; Macey Jugulion, Brunswick; Juli Knapp, Walsh Jesuit; Erin Langermeier, Westlake; Cyndee Martin, Brush; Zoe McCormick, Western Reserve Academy; Clair O'Brien, Hathaway Brown; Ally Perkins, Amherst; Sarah Potratz, Gilmour; Mallory Shaw, Lakewood; Alex Sheldon, Archbishop Hoban; Delaney Smith, St. Vincent-St. Mary; Emily Soltes, Rocky River; Riley Tatonetti, Chardon; Andi Widmer, Elyria Catholic; Jen Wisniewski, Independence; Rada Zunich, Avon Lake.

— Tim Bielick

39TH ANNUAL BOYS AND 30TH ANNUAL GIRLS STATE SOCCER FINALS



November 7 & 8, 2014

Columbus Crew Stadium



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DIVISION I — CUYAHOGA FALLS WALSH JESUIT (20-0-3)

Front Row (from left): Caitlyn Glascott, Julia Nouse, Maddie Filicko, Christina Trickett, Colleen Grace, Jackie Audino, Kaity Malek, Gabby Young, Jordan DiTommaso. *Row 2:* Kelly Kovachick, Alyssa Simon, Abby Major, Gabby LoPresti, Julia Thomas, Lauren Demarchi, Libby Grace, Alex Kithcart, Holland Erb, Talia Suglia, Maggie Salek. *Row 3:* Assistant Coach John Congrove, Marissa Bradley, Juli Knapp, Kaitlyn Semelsberger, Katie Quinn, Maddie Anzelc, Head Coach Dino McIntyre, Marin Auth, Halle Stelbasky, Emily Rogers, Jess Hlosek, Sofia Rossi, Assistant Coach Steve Knapp.

2013 State Tournament Results

State Semifinal #1

Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 1, Rocky River Magnificat 0

State Semifinal #2

Mason 1, Pickerington HS North 0 (1 ot)

State Championship

Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 2, Mason 0



DIVISION II — ROCKY RIVER (22-0-1)

Front Row (from left): Anna Jaffe, Maddie Henricks, Caroline Auzenbergs, Eva Schneider, Mary DeVito, Liesl Fahrenkopf, Sara E. Connelly, Sophia Braun, Grace Bennett, Grace Tigue, Katie Bobbitt, Cathy Eichler, Maeve Walsh, Claudia Stohr. *Row 2:* Assistant Coach Kelly Farrell, Assistant Coach Nicole Kusek, Emily Fox, Sara V. Connelly, Emily Soltes, Jessica Vitou, Sydney Hamker, Sydney Abby Eliinsky, Jillian Krebs, Megan Killeen, Emily McDonald, Samantha Zamarripa, Amanda Oster, McKenna Klodnick, Head Coach Patrick Hopkins, Assistant Coach Jeff Kaufmann.

2013 State Tournament Results

State Semifinal #1

Rocky River 6, Shaker Hts. Hathaway Brown 2

State Semifinal #2

Granville 1, Kettering Archbishop Alter 0

State Championship

Rocky River 3, Granville 1



DIVISION III — HAMILTON BADIN (15-4-4)

Front Row (from left): Samantha Lecker, Amy Seither, Michelle Hessling, Mandy Lucking, Briana Scowden, Morgan Langhammer. Row 2: Alison Kalberer, Shelby Lamping, Emily Henson, Kate Bach. Row 3: Gabby Geigle, Lydia Braun, Taylor Smith, Holly Reed, Maggie Adams, Sabrina Bernardo. Row 4: Assistant Coach Ken Murrell, Madelyn Kah, Rachel Riley, Annika Pater, Head Coach Todd Berkely. Not Pictured: Malia Berkely, Assistant Coach Jeff Pohlman.

2013 State Tournament Results

State Semifinal #1
Gates Mills Hawken 4, Oak Harbor 1

State Semifinal #2
Hamilton Badin 2, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 1 (2ot)

State Championship
Hamilton Badin 3, Gates Mills Hawken 2

2013 OHSAA Girls Soccer State Championships

Nov. 8 at Crew Stadium

Girls Division III

Gates Mills Hawken (16-2-5) 2-0-0-3-2
Hamilton Badin (15-4-4) 0-2-0-4-3

Hamilton Badin defeats Gates Mills Hawken for Girls Division III Soccer Title

Rams Overcome Two-Goal Deficit,

Win Title In Penalty Kicks

Hamilton Badin defeated Gates Mills Hawken 3-2 in penalty kicks in the 2013 OHSAA girls Division III state soccer championship on Friday at Crew Stadium in Columbus. Badin senior goalkeeper Michelle Hessling saved a PK before stepping up to net a goal herself in the 4th round of PKs. Hawken then missed its next shot, sealing the victory for the Rams in the shootout (4-3).

Badin (15-4-4) put pressure on Hawken in the second half with seven of their 15 shots and three of their five shots on goal. Hawken had five corners compared to Badin's two, but could not capitalize on the set pieces.

Hawken (16-2-5) was on the board first in the sixth minute of the first half. Senior Kat Zalar scored on a penalty kick after being fouled in the penalty box. Zalar added her second goal for the Lady Hawks in the 23rd minute, putting Hawken up 2-0 at halftime. Badin rallied in the second half with a goal in the 60th minute from Malia Berkely (assist by Morgan Langhammer). Langhammer then scored in the 74th (assisted by Gabby Geigle) to tie the game.

Both teams had scoring opportunities in the overtime, but it would take a penalty shootout to crown a champion. The first three shooters for each team scored, but Badin would break the tie with a save and a goal in the 4th round. Hawken missed its final shot.

This is Badin's eighth state appearance and second state title, its first coming in 2005.

Hawken comes away as runner-ups for the first time in its first state final appearance. The Hawks were a first-time state participant in 2012 (lost in semifinal).

Girls Division II

Rocky River (22-0-1) 2-1-3
Granville (19-3-1) 0-1-1

Rocky River Wins First State Title

Pirates Defeat Granville 3-1

Rocky River controlled most of the 2013 OHSAA girls Division II soccer state championship game at Crew Stadium in Columbus, defeating Granville 3-1 Friday evening.

The Pirates finish the season 22-0-1 and take home the state title as a first-time state participant. Granville (19-3-1) ends its season as state runner-up in its first state appearance.

Rocky River senior Grace Bennett scored the game's first goal in the third minute. Classmate Abby Elinsky scored just six minutes later in the ninth minute to give Rocky River a commanding 2-0 lead headed into halftime. Granville senior Nikki Cox answered in the second half with a goal on a penalty kick in 49th minute. Grace Bennett added her second goal of the game in the 71st minute after netting a rebound that had bounced off the post to give the Pirates a 3-1 lead.

Rocky River gave Granville plenty of pressure with 25 shots and 10 shots on goal, compared to the Blue Aces' four shot and four shots on goal.

Girls Division I

Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (20-0-3) 1-1-2
Mason (18-3-2) 0-0-0

Walsh Jesuit Wins Seventh State Title

Warriors Defeat Mason 2-0,

Win Back-To-Back Titles

Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit capped off an undefeated season with a 2-0 victory over Mason in the 2013 OHSAA girls Division I soccer state championship game on Friday at Crew Stadium in Columbus.

With the victory, Walsh Jesuit finishes with a 20-0-3 record and its seventh girls state soccer championship.

In the first half, freshman Sofia Rossi put the Warriors on the board in the 36th minute. Sophomore Katie Quinn added another goal in the 69th minute of the second half. Mason had scoring opportunities, but could not finish in the box.

The championship game was a well contested, physical battle between both teams. Walsh Jesuit committed eight fouls to Mason's 11. Mason also had two players receive yellow cards, while Walsh Jesuit received one. The Warriors were able to convert on half of their shots on goal (4), having a total of seven shots. Mason only had four shots and two shots on goal.

Mason, in its second appearance in the state tournament, finishes as runner-up for the second year in a row, with a 18-3-2 record.

GIRLS SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECORDS (1985-present)

(No 1997, 1998 included)

Single Class (1985-94)
Multi Class/Divisions (1995-2013)

TEAM RECORDS

Single Class Tournament

Most Goals, Game

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 4 Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North 1993
- 4 Clayton Northmont vs. West Carrollton 1989
- 3 Westerville North vs. Centerville 1992
- 3 Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North 1991
- 3 Clayton Northmont vs. Cincinnati Turpin 1985

Most Goals, Period

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Westerville North vs. Centerville (2nd) 1992
- 3 Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North (2nd) 1991

Most Combined Goals, Game

Goals Teams Year

- 5 Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy (4) and Westerville North (1) 1993
- 5 Westerville North (3) and Centerville (2) 1992
- 5 Clayton Northmont (4) and West Carrollton (1) 1989

Most Assists, Game

Assists Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Westerville South vs. Massillon Jackson 1994
- 3 Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North 1993

Multi-Class/Division Tournament

Division I

Most Goals, Game

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 4 Medina vs. Dublin Coffman 2009
- 3 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Pickerington North 2010
- 3 Strongsville vs. Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy 2002
- 3 Medina vs. Worthington Thomas Worthington 1997
- 3 Westerville South vs. Hudson 1995

Most Combined Goals, Game

Goals Teams Year

- 5 West Chester Lakota West (3) and Hudson (2) 1999
- 4 Medina (4) and Dublin Coffman (0) 2009
- 4 Strongsville (3) and Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy (1) 2002
- 4 Medina (3) and Worthington Thomas Worthington (1) 1997
- 4 Westerville South (3) and Hudson (1) 1995

Most Goals, Period

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Medina vs. Dublin Coffman (2nd) 2009
- 3 Westerville South vs. Hudson (2nd) 1995

Most Assists, Game

Assists Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Medina vs. Dublin Coffman 2009
- 2 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Dublin Coffman 2004
- 2 Hudson vs. Cincinnati Mother of Mercy 2000
- 2 West Chester Lakota West vs. Hudson 1999

Division II

Most Goals, Game

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 5 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Columbus St. Francis DeSales 2012
- 5 Bay Village Bay vs. Cincinnati Indian Hill 2003
- 5 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Kettering Archbishop Alter 2001
- 4 Kettering Archbishop Alter vs. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 2001
- 4 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Hamilton Badin 2000

Most Combined Goals, Game

Goals Teams Year

- 9 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (5) and Kettering Archbishop Alter (4) 2001
- 6 Bay Village Bay (5) and Cincinnati Indian Hill (1) 2003

Most Goals, Period

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 4 Kettering Archbishop Alter vs. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit (2nd) 2001
- 3 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Columbus St. Francis DeSales (1st) 2012
- 3 Bay Village Bay vs. Cincinnati Indian Hill (2nd) 2003
- 3 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Kettering Archbishop Alter (2nd) 2001
- 3 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Hamilton Badin (1st) 2000

Most Assists, Game

Assists Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Bay Village Bay vs. Cincinnati Indian Hill 2003
- 2 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Hamilton Badin 2000

Division III

Most Goals, Game

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 5 Cincinnati Summit Country Day vs. Shaker Heights Laurel 2011
- 3 Hamilton Badin vs. Gates Mills Hawken 2013
- 3 Middletown Bishop Fenwick vs. Ontario 2012

Most Combined Goals, Game

Goals Teams Year

- 7 Cincinnati Summit Country Day (5) and Shaker Heights Laurel (2) 2011
- 5 Hamilton Badin (3) and Gates Mills Hawken (2) 2013
- 5 Middletown Bishop Fenwick (3) and Ontario (2) 2012

Most Goals, Period

Goals Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Cincinnati Summit Country Day vs. Shaker Heights Laurel (2nd) 2011
- 2 Gates Mills Hawken vs. Hamilton Badin (1st) 2013
- 2 Hamilton Badin vs. Gates Mills Hawken (2nd) 2013
- 2 Cincinnati Summit Country Day vs. Shaker Heights Laurel (1st) 2011
- 2 Shaker Heights Laurel vs. Cincinnati Summit Country Day (2nd) 2011

Most Assists, Game

Assists Team vs. Opponent Year

- 3 Middletown Bishop Fenwick vs. Ontario 2012
- 3 Cincinnati Summit Country Day vs. Shaker Heights Laurel 2011
- 2 Hamilton Badin vs. Gates Mills Hawken 2013

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Single Class Tournament

Goals, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Brynn Catino, Westerville South vs. Centerville 1994
- 2 Katie Vieth, Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North 1993
- 2 Jill Baker, Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy vs. Westerville North 1993
- 2 Gina Grossarth, Clayton Northmont vs. North Olmsted 1987

Multi-Class/Division Tournament

Division I

Goals, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Sandra Yu, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Pickerington North 2010
- 2 Maura Gorman, Medina vs. Dublin Coffman 2009
- 2 Mary Boland, Hudson vs. Cincinnati Mother of Mercy 2000

Assists, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Becca Candler, Medina vs. Dublin Coffman 2009

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Girls State Tournament Record Book



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Division II

Goals, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Grace Bennett, Rocky River vs. Granville 2013
- 2 Maddy John, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Columbus St. Francis DeSales 2012
- 2 Bryn Heinicke, Bay Village Bay vs. Cincinnati Indian Hill 2003
- 2 Colleen Hoban, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Kettering Archbishop Alter 2001
- 2 Michelle Sarmiento, Kettering Archbishop Alter vs. Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 2001
- 2 Katie Schwager, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Hamilton Badin 2000

Assists, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Abbey Filicko, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Columbus St. Francis DeSales 2012
- 2 Kristen Weiss, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit vs. Hamilton Badin 2000

Division III

Goals, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Katherine Zalar, Gates Mills Hawken vs. Hamilton Badin 2013
- 2 Meghan Blank, Middletown Bishop Fenwick vs. Ontario 2012
- 2 Meredith Schertzinger, Cincinnati Summit Country Day vs. Shaker Heights Laurel 2011

Assists, Game

No. Player, Team vs. Opponent Year

- 2 Sydney Riddle, Shaker Heights Laurel vs. Cincinnati Summit Country Day 2011

MISCELLANEOUS

Penalty Kick Shootout Games

Division I

West Chester Lakota West 3, Hudson 2 (1999 championship)

Division II

Parma Heights Holy Name 1, Hamilton Badin 0 (2006 championship)
Columbus St. Francis DeSales 3, Kettering Archbishop Alter 2
(1998 championship)

Division III

Hamilton Badin 3, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 2 (2013 championship)

Overtime Games

Division I

West Chester Lakota West 3, Hudson 2 (1999 championship) (2ot, so)

Division II

Cincinnati Madeira 2, Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown 1 (2010 championship)
Parma Heights Holy Name 1, Hamilton Badin 0 (2006 championship) (2ot, so)
Hamilton Badin 2, Doylestown Chippewa 1 (2005 championship)
Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown 2, Cincinnati Indian Hill 1 (2004 championship)
Bay Village Bay 2, Columbus Bexley 1 (1999 championship)
Columbus St. Francis DeSales 3, Kettering Archbishop Alter 2 (1998 championship) (2ot, pk)

Division III

Hamilton Badin 3, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 2 (2013 championship) (2ot, pk)
Middletown Bishop Fenwick 3, Ontario 2 (2012 championship) (2ot)

1-0 Games

Single Class

Championship – Westerville North 1, Centerville 0, 1990 (championship)

Division I – six times

Championship – six times (last time, Perrysburg 1, Mason 0 - 2012)

Division II – four times

Championship – four times (last time, Middletown Bishop Fenwick 1, Akron Archbishop Hoban 0 - 2008)

Division III

Championship – never