

2011 OHSAA State Finals Notes & Previews



Division I

Cleveland St. Ignatius

Head Coach: Chuck Kyle
 Nickname: Wildcats
 2011 Record: 12-2
 2011 Seed: 2
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 7 Boardman (29-14), 6 Lakewood St. Edward (20-17), 1 Mentor (23-17)
 State Semifinal: Toledo Whitmer (17-6)
 State Championships: 10
 State Final Appearance: 12th
 All-Time Tournament Record: 60-12

Sixth-ranked Cleveland St. Ignatius squares off against unranked Pickerington Central in a matchup of tradition versus hunger in the Division I championship game.

After missing the playoffs for the first time in 23 years in 2010, St. Ignatius is back, not only in the playoffs, but the championship game. The Wildcats, owners of 10 titles, had to beat Youngstown Boardman along with Cleveland area foes, Lakewood St. Edward and Mentor, and a strong Toledo Whitmer team to make it to Canton Fawcett Stadium.

The Wildcats have capitalized on turnovers and some big plays during their playoff run. St. Ignatius was able to overcome a two touchdown deficit with the help of turnovers against St. Edward and kick a game-winning field goal on the

Pickerington Central

Head Coach: Jay Sharrett
 Nickname: Tigers
 2011 Record: 11-2
 2011 Seed: 2
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 7 Dublin Coffman (55-14), 6 Gahanna Lincoln (41-10), 1 Hilliard Davidson (24-0)
 State Semifinal: Cincinnati St. Xavier (14-7)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 2nd
 All-Time Tournament Record: 23-11

final play in the regional semifinal. The Wildcats also took advantage of Whitmer's five turnovers in the state semifinal in advancing to the championship game.

Pickerington Central, playing in its second championship game, is looking for its first title. The Tigers finished as runner-up in Division II in 2006. Pickerington Central's road to the title game took it through Columbus rivals, Dublin Coffman, Gahanna Lincoln and Hilliard Davidson. The Tigers then beat Cincinnati St. Xavier in a rematch of a Week 2 game, which St. Xavier won 38-21.

The Tigers defense has pitched five shutouts this year and has only allowed 31 points in the four games of the playoffs. Pickerington Central overcame a 0-2 start to begin the season, reeling off 11 straight victories to make it to the championship game.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State	
		Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)	
Cleveland St. Ignatius (AP #6)	12-2	1	2	23rd	2009	60-12	10 (2008)
Pickerington Central (AP NR)	11-2	3	2	12th	2010	23-11	

Division II

Avon

Head Coach: Mike Elder
 Nickname: Eagles
 2011 Record: 13-1
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Medina Highland (45-24), 4 Tol. Central Catholic (35-21), 7 Tiffin Columbian (35-21)
 State Semifinal: Aurora (43-20)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 1st
 All-Time Tournament Record: 7-4

A return trip to the championship game for Trotwood-Madison and the first appearance for Avon highlight the Division II championship game.

No. 1 ranked, and undefeated, Trotwood-Madison has made it back to Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium after falling to Maple Heights in the title game last year. The Rams' high-powered offense has put them into position to win their first championship game, averaging 40.5 points per game in the playoffs.

Trotwood-Madison's toughest tests have come the past two weeks in a regional final rematch of 2010 against Kings Mills Kings and against Columbus Marion-Franklin in the state semifinal. The Rams led Marion-Franklin 40-16 at halftime and were able to hold on, only scoring once in the second half to win 47-44.

Trotwood-Madison

Head Coach: Maurice Douglass
 Nickname: Rams
 2011 Record: 14-0
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Hamilton Ross (53-7), 5 Wapakoneta (27-6), 2 Kings Mills Kings (35-20)
 State Semifinal: Columbus Marion-Franklin (47-44)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 3rd
 All-Time Tournament Record: 13-6

Fifth-ranked Avon's offense is no slouch either when it comes to scoring. The Eagles have averaged 39.5 points during their playoff run, slightly above their regular season average of 32.4 points per game.

Avon, playing in its first championship game, had victories over Medina Highland, Toledo Central Catholic, Tiffin Columbian and sixth-ranked Aurora to make it to the championship game.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State
		Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)
AVON (AP #5)	13-1	6	1	5th	2010	7-4
Trotwood-Madison (AP #1)	14-0	8	1	7th	2010	13-6

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Division III

Youngstown Cardinal Mooney

Head Coach: P.J. Fecko
 Nickname: Cardinals
 2011 Record: 10-3
 2011 Seed: 4
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 5 Canal Fulton Northwest (42-22), 1 Steubenville (24-22), 2 Dover (70-44)
 State Semifinal: Chagrin Falls (24-14)
 State Championships: 7
 State Final Appearance: 11th
 All-Time Tournament Record: 55-17

Tenth-ranked Youngstown Cardinal Mooney and sixth-ranked Springfield Shawnee meet at Canton Fawcett Stadium to determine who will be crowned Division III champion.

The Cardinals made it through a tough regular-season schedule to make the playoffs. The tough test paid off preparing them to face No. 1 ranked Steubenville in the second round of the playoffs. Mooney, down 16-7 going into the fourth quarter, kicked a field goal with five seconds remaining to advance, winning 24-22.

Mooney went on to beat Dover, 70-44, in the regional final and 2010 Division IV runner-up Chagrin Falls in the state semifinal. The Cardinals are looking to win

Springfield Shawnee

Head Coach: Rick Meeks
 Nickname: Braves
 2011 Record: 14-0
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Cincinnati Taft (64-8), 4 Dayton Thurgood Marshall (20-13), 2 Plain City Jonathan Alder (21-10)
 State Semifinal: Elida (56-42)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 1st
 All-Time Tournament Record: 9-4

their eighth football championship, their last coming in 2009.

Undefeated Shawnee was able to overcome a 14 point deficit at halftime in its state semifinal to beat Elida, 56- 42, and advance. The Braves also defeated Plain City Jonathan Alder, Dayton Thurgood Marshall and Cincinnati Taft in the playoffs.

Shawnee has scored 20 or more points in every game this year, scoring over 50 points five times. The Braves are in their first state championship game and their 14 wins mark the most in school history.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State	
		Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)	
Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (AP #10)	10-3	11	4	25th	2010	55-17	7 (2009)
Springfield Shawnee (AP #6)	14-0	12	1	5th	2010	9-4	

Division IV

Creston Norwayne

Head Coach: Joe Harbour
 Nickname: Bobcats
 2011 Record: 13-1
 2011 Seed: 3
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 6 Brookfield (42-7), 2 Orrville (34-19), 1 Girard (33-32)
 State Semifinal: Johnstown-Monroe (59-28)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 1st
 All-Time Tournament Record: 5-2

No. 1 ranked Kenton and unranked Creston Norwayne meet at Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium for the Division IV championship game.

Undefeated Kenton, looking to win its third state championship, is led by its high-powered, passing attack, offense. The Wildcats have scored 642 points in 14 games averaging 45.9 per game.

Kenton's had it tests during the playoffs after being down early in its second round game against Genoa Area and coming back to win 32-22. The Wildcats also had to get past 2010 Division IV champion Columbus Bishop Hartley, after trailing 22-14, they did winning 30-28.

Kenton

Head Coach: Mike Mauk
 Nickname: Wildcats
 2011 Record: 14-0
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Wellington (74-22), 4 Genoa Area (32-22), 3 Columbus Bishop Hartley (30-28)
 State Semifinal: Clarksville Clinton-Massie (36-6)
 State Championships: 2
 State Final Appearance: 4th
 All-Time Tournament Record: 22-6

Norwayne is making its first championship appearance after beating sixth-ranked Johnstown-Monroe in the state semifinal. The Bobcats scored on nine straight possessions before Johnstown-Monroe was able to stop them.

The Bobcats were the three-seed in their region and defeated two-seed Orrville in the regional semifinal and one-seed Girard in the regional final. Norwayne defeated Girard on a touchdown pass with less than a minute to go in the game winning, 33-32.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State	
		Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)	
Creston Norwayne (AP NR)	13-1	13	3	3rd	2010	5-2	
Kenton (AP #1)	14-0	14	1	9th	2010	22-6	2 (2002)

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Division V

Kirtland

Head Coach: Tiger LaVerde
 Nickname: Hornets
 2011 Record: 14-0
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Columbiana (49-8), 4 Sugarcreek Garaway (52-7), 3 Columbiana Crestview (35-7)
 State Semifinal: Bucyrus Wynford (42-0)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 1st
 All-Time Tournament Record: 8-6

Coldwater

Head Coach: Chip Otten
 Nickname: Cavaliers
 2011 Record: 11-3
 2011 Seed: 5
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 4 Covington (31-7), 8 Versailles (43-0), 6 West Jefferson (28-6)
 State Semifinal: Hicksville (41-21)
 State Championships: 2
 State Final Appearance: 7th
 All-Time Tournament Record: 45-14

In its first state championship game appearance, second-ranked Kirtland faces ninth-ranked Coldwater who's played in the final four of the last five years.

Undefeated Kirtland comes in averaging 37.4 points per game while holding opponents to only 6.5. The Kirtland defense has posted five shutouts including the state semifinal, 42-0, victory against Bucyrus Wynford.

Making it to play in the title game for the first time at Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, the Hornets hope that their strong offense and defensive numbers will be able to matchup against the experience Coldwater has playing in the championship game.

Coldwater's regular-season schedule had four eventual state semifinalists in it, which helped prepare the Cavaliers for their playoff run. Coldwater defeated Covington, Versailles, West Jefferson and Hicksville in making it to the state championship game.

The Cavaliers are looking to win their third title after finishing as runners-up in 2009 and 2010. Coldwater is one of two Midwest Athletic Conference schools playing for a state championship. The other is Maria Stein Marion Local in Division VI.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State
	Region	Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)
Kirtland (AP #2)	14-0	17	1	7th	2010	8-6
Coldwater (AP #9)	11-3	20	5	17th	2010	45-14
						2 (2007)

Division VI

New Washington Buckeye Central

Head Coach: Jason Ratliff
 Nickname: Bucks
 2011 Record: 12-2
 2011 Seed: 2
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 7 Crown City South Gallia (46-0), 6 Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans (37-7), 5 Beallsville (40-0)
 State Semifinal: Berlin Center Western Reserve (22-21)
 State Championships: None
 State Final Appearance: 2nd
 All-Time Tournament Record: 8-6

Maria Stein Marion Local

Head Coach: Tim Goodwin
 Nickname: Flyers
 2011 Record: 12-2
 2011 Seed: 1
 Wins in 2011 Tournament:
 Regionals: 8 Lockland (53-0), 5 Ada (41-14), 6 Minster (28-0)
 State Semifinal: Delphos St. John's (21-14)
 State Championships: 4
 State Final Appearance: 6th
 All-Time Tournament Record: 42-9

Fourth-ranked Maria Stein Marion Local will face unranked New Washington Buckeye Central in the Division VI championship game at Canton Fawcett Stadium.

Marion Local earned the right to play in the championship game after defeating 2010 Division VI champion Delphos St. John's in the state semifinal, 21-14. The Flyers lost to St. John's by the same score in Week 9 of the regular season.

Going for its fifth state championship, Marion Local is one of two Midwest Athletic Conference schools playing for a state title. The other is Coldwater in Division V. The Flyers last won a championship in 2007.

Buckeye Central faced No. 1 ranked Berlin Center Western Reserve and was up 22-21 with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter. Western Reserve elected to pass up a 37-yard field goal attempt and go for it on fourth and two. The Bucks defense broke up the ensuing pass and advanced to the title game.

Buckeye Central had averaged 41.0 points per game in the playoffs before the Western Reserve game, while only allowing a single touchdown. The Bucks are playing in their second championship game. They finished as runners-up in their only other appearance in 1995.

	Record	Region	Year In	Last	All-Time	State
	Region	Finish	Tournament	Appearance	Tournament Record	Championships (Last)
New Wash. Buckeye Central (AP NR)	12-2	23	2	7th	2010	8-6
Maria Stein Marion Local (AP #4)	12-2	24	1	14th	2010	42-9
						4 (2007)