



BACKYARD FOOTBALL NEWS

FULL PREVIEWS FOR 41 AREA TEAMS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# 2022 SEASON PREVIEW

PRESENTED BY PAFOOTBALLNEWS

## BLACK HILLS

AREA RUNNING BACKS TAKE CENTER STAGE FOR UPCOMING WPIAL SEASON





# BLACK HILLS

2021 Champion: Cornell

WPIAL 1A

## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE



### BISHOP CANEVIN CRUSADERS

After winning last season's WPIAL title, the Crusaders bring back everyone. Canevin will once again be favorites to repeat as WPIAL champs, and possibly make some noise at the state level as well.



### OLSH CHARGERS

The Chargers were the WPIAL runner ups a year ago. Now with a new coach but plenty of contributors coming back, OLSH is poised to see if they can make it back to Heinz Field.



### CORNELL RAIDERS

The Raiders lost in the semifinals a year ago, but might be even better this year. The Raiders will be the biggest wild card in a loaded conference. Powered by a stacked defense, the Raiders will make noise.



### CHARTIERS HOUSTON BUCS

The Bucs drop down from 2A into a conference that might be more difficult. There's experience on the line, but the Bucs will be working in new skill to keep up with the Joneses.

### FT. CHERRY RANGERS



The Rangers lose their do-it-all QB and plenty more. They may be the best of the rest.

### BURGETTSTOWN B.DEVILS



The Blue Devils will work in a ton of new players in a more difficult conference.

### CARLYNTON COUGARS



The Cougars drop from 2A and bring back a young talented roster. Plenty of promise.

### AVELLA EAGLES



Avella will join a much more difficult conference with a team that is in the throes of a rebuild

## 2021 Final Standings

Rnk	Team	Record(Overall)
1	Cornell	6-1 (9-3)
2	Rochester	5-2 (9-3)
3	OLSH	4-3 (9-4)
4	Burgettstown	3-4 (5-5)
5	Shenango	3-4 (4-7)
6	Ft. Cherry	3-4 (5-5)
7	Northgate	2-5 (3-7)
8	Union Area	2-5 (4-6)

## PRESEASON SUPER 17

OL	Brian Humensky	Avella
QB	Jason Cross	Bishop Can
WR	Lesae Lacks	Bishop Can
WR	Xavier Nelson	Bishop Can
OL	Jaiden Collins	Bishop Can
RB	Corbin Harrison	Burgetts.
QB	Devonte Dean	Carlynton
WR	Jaydin McKnight	Carlynton
WR	Jake Mele	Char. Hou.
QB	Terry Fetsko	Char. Hou.
OL	Spencer Thomas	Char. Hou.
LB	EJ Dawson Jr.	Cornell
RB	Rae. Troutman	Cornell
OL	Dominic Salvini	Ft. Cherry
RB	Nate Heirendt	Ft. Cherry
QB	Nehemiah Azeem	OLSH
RB	Dior Devers	OLSH

## BIGGEST GAMES OF 2022

8/26	OLSH @ Shenango
9/2	Ft. Cherry @ Carmichaels
9/9	Keystone Oaks @ Bishop Can.
9/16	Char. Houston @ Ft. Cherry
9/23	Carlynton @ Cornell
9/30	OLSH @ Chartiers Houston
10/7	Cornell @ Bishop Canevin
10/14	Bishop Canevin @ Char. Hous.
10/21	OLSH @ Bishop Canevin
10/28	Cornell @ OLSH



# BISHOP CANEVIN CRUSADERS

Black Hills

RECORD: 9-1

## CRUSADERS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**COACH:** Rich Johnson

## 2021 RECAP

After the one of the most successful seasons in program history, the sky's the limit for a team that only graduates three contributors for a team that won the WPIAL title. The Crusaders will once again be in the conversation if not favorites to repeat at Heinz Field in November.

## OFFENSE

The Crusaders lose their key contributors in Jaiden Torres and Keshawn Harris, however replacements are ready and willing in XAVIER NELSON and MARQUIS CARTER. The biggest question will come under center as the Crusaders return regular season starter JASON CROSS JR. and postseason starter KOLE OLSZEWSKI who shined in the WPIAL semi and title game. The trenches are deep, and duo NICO MARGITTAI and JAIDEN COLLINS may be the best in 1A. LESAE LACKS is a human highlight reel and possibly the best playmaker on offense.

## DEFENSE

Defensively, the Crusaders return nearly everyone. The losses of Willie Banks and Eli Wilson will hurt, however the experience coming back in the trenches may be the best in the classification. BRADEN TRAVIS will be a name to watch as the leader at the LB position. The cupboards are full as well in the secondary as many will play both ways.



**Xavier Nelson**

## OVERVIEW

The Crusaders are not only WPIAL title contenders but possibly favorites to win the whole thing. A surprise upset from District 9 upstarts Redbank Valley kept the Crusaders from Hershey a year ago. A neutral site matchup with Steel High, a year removed from winning the state at 1A themselves, will be a big litmus test for the program. Cornell, Chartiers, and OLSH in 3 of the last 4 down the stretch will also be big tests. If Bishop Canevin comes back with the same talent and buy in as a program, there won't be another team in the WPIAL at 1A that will be able to match their skill and size. Having both the WPIAL champ and WPIAL runner up in the same conference will be a treat and the story of the season at 1A.

## KEY GRADUATES

RB	Keshawn Harris
RB	Jaiden Torres
DE	Willie Banks
LB	Eli Wilson
DT	Ja'shaun Butler

## TOP RETURNERS

QB	2	Jason Cross Jr.	JR.
WR	3	Lesae Lacks	SR.
WR	6	Xavier Nelson	SR.
LB	44	Braden Travis	SR.
OL	54	Camden Cooley	JR.
DT	70	Jaiden Collins	JR.
OL	79	Nico Margittai	SR.
		Justin Lashley	SR.

## FRESH FACES

QB	4	Kole Olszewski	SO.
DB	8	Jayden Lindsey	SO.
RB	28	Marquis Carter	JR.
OL	63	Ezekiel Swift	JR.
	7	Azjaun Marshall	JR.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	vs Steelton Highspire Rollers
9/2	Greensburg CC Centurions
9/9	Keystone Oaks Golden Eagles
9/16	@ Burgettstown Blue Devils
9/23	Avella Eagles
9/30	@ Fort Cherry Rangers
10/7	Cornell Raiders
10/14	@ Chartiers Houston Bucs
10/21	OLSH Chargers
10/28	@ Carlynton Cougars

## 2021 RESULTS

8/28	Frazier	21-0
9/3	@ Carlynton	50-0
9/10	Northgate	27-8
9/17	@ Springdale	13-10
9/24	Greensburg CC	20-14
10/1	@ Clairton	18-28
10/8	@ Leechburg	33-3
10/15	Jeanette	35-0
10/22	Riverview	FF
10/29	@ Imani	43-0

**MUST WATCH: Oct. 21st- vs OLSH**



# OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHARGERS

Black Hills

RECORD: 6-3

## CHARGERS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Coraopolis, PA

**COACH:** Donnie Militzer

## 2021 RECAP

The OLSH Chargers suffered a heartbreaking road loss at the tail end of the season to Northgate which hurt their playoff seeding, but it ultimately didn't matter, as the Chargers went on a historic November run, upsetting 1 seed Clairton and earning a bid to the WPIAL Final. Now with coach Dan Bradley exiting for Ellwood City, the Chargers return with a lineup fit for another deep season.

## OFFENSE

NEHEMIAH AZEEM is one of the top QBs in 1A in the entire region, and it will help that nearly all of his top targets return like ZIGGY MCINTOSH and DORRIEN TATE. DIOR DEVERS in the backfield will also be a lethal weapon for the new coach. The line is deep with returners as well, despite the loss of all-WPIAL Gavin Tonery. Expect to hear the name RYAN FARRELL much more down the stretch.

## DEFENSE

The Chargers return a fair amount of starters from a year ago, a team that struggled in the middle portion of the season on defense but locked down in the playoffs. OLSH will have to rely a lot on junior and sophomore depth especially at the second level. If everything translates on defense, OLSH could put themselves in the conversation for another WPIAL title.



Nehemiah Azeem

## OVERVIEW

Watch out for the Chargers offense to take a massive step forward in 2022 under a new look from Donnie Militzer. That step could take OLSH from WPIAL title contenders to state contenders. They'll have to survive a gauntlet of a conference first, something that the Chargers struggled with in 2021. The out-of-conference schedule will help OLSH down the road, opening up with three strong playoff teams before conference play. A playoff rematch against Clairton in early September will be appointment viewing for any lover of WPIAL football. The Chargers will also look to make a statement against a Rochester team that beat them handily. Even if OLSH drops a few close games in the regular season like they did in 2021, OLSH will still be a dangerous team to watch out for in the playoffs.

## KEY GRADUATES

WR	Roman Frankovich
CB	Gunnar Kiefer
T	Dion McIntosh
DT	Gavin Tonery
LB	Stephen Greer

## TOP RETURNERS

RB	1	Dior Devers	SR.
QB	2	Nehemiah Azeem	SR.
WR	6	Ziggy McIntosh	SR.
T	53	Ryan Farrell	SR.
WR	3	Dorrien Tate	JR.
SS	7	Dereon Greer	JR.
	5	Brad Vaughn	SR.
	58	Camden Branch	JR.

## FRESH FACES

OL	62	Tristan Vojtecky	SO.
LB	30	Brandon Brazell	JR.
TE	25	Iseia Schulz	SO.
WR	11	Ethan Gardner	SO.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	@ Shenango Wildcats
9/2	@ Rochester Rams
9/9	Clairton Bears
9/16	@ Carlynton Cougars
9/23	Fort Cherry Rangers
9/30	@ Chartiers Houston
10/7	Burgettstown Blue Devils
10/14	Avella Eagles
10/21	@ Bishop Canevin Crusaders
10/28	Cornell Raiders

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	@ Apollo Ridge	28-22
9/3	@ Riverside	20-13
9/10	Beaver Falls	No Contest
9/17	@ Burgettstown	33-13
9/24	Ft. Cherry	27-6
10/1	Rochester	7-34
10/8	@ Union	37-36
10/15	Shenango	7-14
10/22	@ Northgate	19-21
10/29	Cornell	13-12

**MUST WATCH: Oct. 21st- @ Bishop Canevin**





# CORNELL RAIDERS

Black Hills

RECORD: 7-2

## RAIDERS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Montour, PA

**COACH:** Ed Dawson

## 2021 RECAP

The Raiders rode a talented QB and a deep stable of running backs along with a dominating defense to a WPIAL semifinals berth before being knocked out in a close one to eventual champion Bishop Canevin. Now in a new conference, the Raiders are the wild card to contend for a conference title.

## OFFENSE

The Raiders lose QB Sincere Kimbrough and RB Timmy Henderson, both of which controlled the offense in 2021. Along with EJ DAWSON, RAEQUAN TROUTMAN will be the two names to watch for on offense to take the bulk of the carries. Junior JULIAN CORDICE should also filter in and out on offense. The biggest questions will be if the Raiders will have enough line depth to sustain the same offensive dominance that they showed in 2021.

## DEFENSE

The Raiders will feel the losses of Shamar Wilson, Carmine Delassandro and Craig Pullford on defense. EJ DAWSON JR is back to lead a senior heavy LB corps. ERIC DENNIS and CAGNEY SMITH will also be key pass rushers for a defense that dominated a year ago. The secondary should be deep as well, meaning that Cornell will be a difficult team to score on once again next season.



EJ Dawson Jr.

## OVERVIEW

Cornell may be the biggest question mark in the entire conference. If the defense is as good or possibly even better than a season ago, the Raiders could be WPIAL title contenders again. If everything goes right, and the offense continues their ground and pound dominance, Cornell could upstage Bishop Canevin for a conference title. Aside from a home matchup with Union Area that could be a close game. The Raiders should be able to overpower each of their opponents before visiting Dormont Stadium on October 7th for an inside track to a conference title. Fort Cherry the week after could be a possible trap game. If Cornell wins more of or half of that stretch of games, the Raiders will be a very dangerous team entering the playoffs once again.

## KEY GRADUATES

QB	Sincere Kimbrough
RB	Timmy Henderson
TE	Micah Dickerson
DB	Shamar Wilson
CB	Carmine Delassandro
DE	Craig Pullford

## TOP RETURNERS

LB	3	EJ Dawson Jr.	SR.
OL	51	Jamarcus Pierce	SO.
RB	28	Raequan Troutman	SR.
C	55	Cagney Smith	SR.
DT	57	Eric Dennis	SR.
LB	58	Jamiere Jones	SR.
WR	80	Hunter Wegley	SR.
WR	4	Drevon Newton	JR.

## FRESH FACES

QB	10	CJ Jackson	JR.
OL	72	Kenya Tench	JR.
RB	22	Julian Cordice	JR.
OL	53	Phil Barker	JR.
OL	54	Jayron Smith	SO.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	@ Shady Side Academy (SCR)
9/2	@ Monessen Greyhounds
9/9	Union Area Scotties
9/16	@ Avella Eagles
9/23	Carlynton Cougars
9/30	@ Burgettstown Blue Devils
10/7	@ Bishop Canevin Crusaders
10/14	Fort Cherry Rangers
10/21	Chartiers Houston Bucs
10/28	@ OLSH Chargers

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	No Opponent	
9/3	@ Mohawk	7-14
9/10	Jeff. Morgan	52-8
9/17	Northgate	42-18
9/24	@ Shenango	34-16
10/1	Union	34-22
10/8	@ Burgettstown	34-14
10/15	@ Rochester	14-7
10/22	Ft. Cherry	FF
10/29	@ OLSH	12-13

**MUST WATCH: Oct. 21st- vs Chartiers Houston**



# CHARTIERS HOUSTON BUCS

Black Hills

RECORD: 7-1

## BUCS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Houston, PA

**COACH:** Terry Fetsko

## 2021 RECAP

The Bucs took a giant leap forward in 2021, capturing second place in the 2A Century and toppling rival McGuffey in a program defining victory. The Bucs bread and butter linebackers all graduate, but they bring back enough depth to make 2022 a promising season in a lower classification.

## OFFENSE

The Bucs lose almost everyone from a talented stable of running backs from a year ago. Camden and Cavallo will be difficult to replace. Fortunately for Houston, TERRY FETSKO is back at QB along with top receiving target JAKE MELE. The biggest news for the Bucs is that they bring back a deep line, that although they lose three starters from, all got a wealth of experience in 2021. That experience will be vital for whoever the starting runner will be.

## DEFENSE

Much like on offense, on defense the Bucs bring back a couple talented pass rushers in DERRIAN SAULS and JACK HEISER. The biggest absences will be felt at the second level, as Tayvian Miller and Lane Camden both graduated. The Bucs prided themselves on an elite defense in 2021, and if suitable replacements are found at that spot, they should continue the defensive dominance.



Jake Mele

## OVERVIEW

The Bucs drop back down into 1A in 2022, but don't go back to the Tri-County South. Instead the Bucs will have to deal with 1A championship contenders OLSH and Bishop Canevin along with Cornell who made it to the semifinals. The drop down might have made the schedule more difficult for the Bucs. That being said, if the defense performs to expectations, and the offense finds a couple more playmakers on the roster, Chartiers Houston should be in the conversation to win the conference. The Bucs also have the benefit of having home matchups against two of the three teams in the conversation for a conference title. Chartiers Houston also has a good chance to start the season like they did last year, with several very winnable games before October.

## KEY GRADUATES

RB	Lane Camden
RB	Nathan Cavallo
WR	Justin Beekley
RB	Jordan Irson
LB	Tayvian Miller
OL	Blake Bard

## TOP RETURNERS

WR	4	Jake Mele	SR.
QB	7	Terry Fetsko	SR.
DE	33	Derrian Sauls	JR.
G	50	Spencer Thomas	SR.
C	52	Ryan Lane	SR.
DT	65	Jack Heiser	JR.
SS	32	Jessie Orbin	SR.
T	51	Cole Pawich	SR.

## FRESH FACES

WR	3	Anthony Romano	JR.
WR	82	Em. Ntummngia	SR.
DT	56	Joey Shuba	JR.
LB	43	Brock Spiker	SO.
G	77	Jacob Strimel	SR.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	@ Jefferson Morgan Rockets
9/2	@ West Greene Pioneers
9/9	Carmichaels Mighty Mikes
9/16	@ Fort Cherry Rangers
9/23	Burgettstown Blue Devils
9/30	OLSH Chargers
10/7	@ Carlynton Cougars
10/14	Bishop Canevin Crusaders
10/21	@ Cornell Raiders
10/28	Avella Eagles

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	Ft. Cherry	27-6
9/3	No Opponent	
9/10	@ Mapletown	44-15
9/17	Beth Center	29-0
9/24	@ Washington	0-35
10/1	Charleroi	27-10
10/8	@ Frazier	42-22
10/15	McGuffey	13-7
10/22	@ Waynesburg	27-24
10/29	No Opponent	

**MUST WATCH: Sep. 30th- vs OLSH**





# FT. CHERRY RANGERS

Black Hills

RECORD: 5-5

## RANGERS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** McDonald, PA

**COACH:** Tanner Garry

## 2021 RECAP

Fort Cherry shocked the region in 2020 with a massive upset win over Rochester to put the struggling program on the right track. In 2021, they took an ever bigger step, nearly making the playoffs and only missing out due to Gardner Points.

## OFFENSE

The Rangers lose their best two players from over the past few seasons in Maddox Truschel and his primary receiving target Anthony Dalessandro. Both runners return in NATHAN HEIRENDT and ETHAN FALETTO and will be relied upon especially early in the year, when the new QB and most of the wideouts are still being worked in. MATT SIEG will be the guy who gets the first look under center for the Rangers. LOUIS RYAN, DOMINIC SALVINI, and a healthy roster of underclassmen bolster the line and should be a positive throughout the year.

## DEFENSE

RYAN and SALVINI are back to lock down the interior defensive line, however the Rangers lose their all-conference ends in Weyers and Cook. Look for IAN MAWINNEY, ANTHONY SALVINI, or JACOB BROOKS to fill in those roles. The secondary has the chance to be loaded as well, with ZACH SERAFIN back to team up with a few two-way guys. In the end, this defense will likely retain the same continuity that they developed a year ago.



**DOMINIC SALVINI**

## OVERVIEW

Despite the losses, Fort Cherry has the chance to be a wholesale better team than they were a year ago. Unfortunately for the Rangers, the road gets much tougher. In-Conference wins against Northgate, Union, and Shenango a year ago, are now guaranteed losses against Cornell, Bishop Canevin and Chartiers Houston. If the Rangers have any aspirations of sneaking into the playoffs, they'll have to steal one or two of those games. An early home matchup and return to a rivalry against Chartiers Houston could be Fort Cherry's best opportunity. The Rangers will have the defense to stay in games in 2022 like they did a year ago, but for them to take the biggest step forward, the offense will need to produce at a much higher clip. The more experienced run heavier offense could help with that

## KEY GRADUATES

QB	Maddox Truschel
WR	Anthony Dalessandro
WR	Dylan Rogers
TE	Billy Felton
DE	Mitchell Cook
DE	Ian Weyers

## TOP RETURNERS

RB	21	Nathan Heirendt	SO.
RB	12	Ethan Faletto	JR.
WR	14	Shane Cornali	SO.
LB	4	Nate Harrison	JR.
OL	59	Brayden Kirby	JR.
S	2	Zach Serafin	JR.
DT	76	Dominic Salvini	SR.
WR	10	Nashaun Sutton	JR.

## FRESH FACES

C	75	Ian Mawinney	JR.
C	64	Anthony Salvini	JR.
G	61	Jacob Brooks	SO.
OL	77	Dalton Anderson	SO.
DT	58	Louis Ryan	JR.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	Northgate Flames
9/2	@ Carmichaels Mighty Mikes
9/9	Beth Center Bulldogs
9/16	Chartiers Houston Bucs
9/23	@ OLSH Chargers
9/30	Bishop Canevin Crusaders
10/7	Avella Eagles
10/14	@ Cornell Raiders
10/21	Carlynton Cougars
10/28	@ Burgettstown Blue Devils

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	@ Char. Houston	6-27
9/3	Avella	45-8
9/10	@ Carmichaels	27-20
9/17	Shenango	35-7
9/24	@ OLSH	6-27
10/1	Northgate	29-28
10/8	@ Rochester	0-35
10/15	Union	26-14
10/22	@ Cornell	FF
10/29	Burgettstown	0-23

**MUST WATCH: Sep. 9th- vs Beth Center**



# CARLYNTON COUGARS

Black Hills

RECORD: 1-8

## BUCS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Carnegie, PA

**COACH:** Rich Piccinini

## 2021 RECAP

The Cougars will look forward to the drop down to 1A after several middling seasons at the 2A level. The Big Seven will be just as difficult for a rebuilding Cougars team. Carlynton's only victory in 2021 came against Brentwood in a defensive battle. Expect plenty of improvement against a weaker schedule with a team that brings back almost everyone.

## OFFENSE

JAYDIN MCKNIGHT is already getting attention from division 1 schools and he's only entering his junior season. He'll be the big standout for the Cougars offense. His primary pass thrower is back as well with DEVONTE DEAN. DEAN is only a sophomore so expect the passing game to develop throughout the year. The Cougars will need to find someone to fill in in the backfield. The line will have to replace two stalwarts, which might prove difficult.

## DEFENSE

The Cougars had a defense in 2021 that was able to keep them in some games. With nearly everyone back, expect that to continue. Junior LBs NATE GIBSON and JACOB STIFFLER are both back as the strong point in the Cougars defense. There will be plenty of two way guys in the secondary that will make that unit strong as well.



JAYDIN MCKNIGHT

## OVERVIEW

Carlynton is the team with the most possible fluctuation in terms of record for the 2022 season. It isn't outside of the realm of possibility the Cougars could be competing for a conference title with the talent they have. MCKNIGHT will keep the Cougars competitive in games with better teams. Carlynton should have healthy challenges in the out of conference before taking on the gauntlet. Carlynton will have to travel to every team that they will have to beat to be the best of the rest, Ft. Cherry, Burgettstown, Avella. The good news is that they'll play host to every conference favorite aside from Cornell, the Cougars could easily play the spoiler in any of those games. With such a young team still, the Cougars could be looking at a team built for a deep run in 2023

## KEY GRADUATES

OL	Tyler Masdea
OL	Pierce Granier
DB	Bryce Rodriguez
WR	Elijah Babish
RB	Shawn Curry

## TOP RETURNERS

QB	7	Devonte Dean	SO.
RB	12	Jacob Stiffler	JR.
WR	3	Jaydin McKnight	JR.
OL	62	Wesley Maxwell	SR.
OL	68	Aaron Lee	SR.
LB	2	Nate Gibson	JR.
OL		Denny Gorny	SR.
T	60	Darrence Hatcher	SR.

## FRESH FACES

WR	Anthony Burkhart	SO.
WR	Kendric Carlson	JR.
RB	Brian Goodman	FR.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	Carrick Raiders
9/2	Riverview Raiders
9/9	@ Ellwood City Wolverines
9/16	OLSH Chargers
9/23	@ Cornell Raiders
9/30	@ Avella Eagles
10/7	Chartiers Houston Bucs
10/14	@ Burgettstown Blue Devils
10/21	@ Fort Cherry Rangers
10/28	Bishop Canevin Crusaders

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	@ Northgate	6-22
9/3	Bishop Canevin	0-50
9/10	@ Riverview	12-35
9/17	Shady Side Acad.	8-43
9/24	Serra Catholic	No Contest
10/1	@ Brentwood	6-0
10/8	South Side	14-49
10/15	@ Seton LaSalle	6-21
10/22	Western Beaver	14-50
10/29	@ Sto-Rox	0-41

**MUST WATCH: Aug. 26th- vs Carrick**





# BURGETTSTOWN BLUE DEVILS

Black Hills

RECORD: 5-4

## BLUE DEVILS AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Burgettstown, PA

**COACH:** Greg Marshall

## 2021 RECAP

The Blue Devils snuck into the playoffs off of Gardner Points a year ago. Their championship hopes ended in the first round against the class of the classification in Bishop Canevin. Row with a solid stable of backs coming back, the Blue Devils could be ready to take a step forward.

## OFFENSE

The Blue Devils lose their do-it-all QB in Jackson LaRocka, however the hope is there that the experience gained by CORBIN HARRISON and RUDY BROWN will be a help while working in freshman QB JAMIE SCHUMAKER. SCHROCKMAN, CHARLES and RUSSELL will all also provide excellent targets. The real experience comes up front and should keep the Blue Devils on the scoreboard more than they were in 2021.

## DEFENSE

The Blue Devils biggest strong point in 2021 was on defense, giving up 14 points or less in the final three weeks of the season to secure a playoff spot. BRODIE KUZIOR and BRIAN CHARLES should help fill in the roles of AJ Kuzior and Jaeron Cody whose strong LB play was the calling card for the Blue Devils a year ago. There's also depth up front which will help Burgettstown separate from some of the weaker teams in the Big Seven.



RUDY BROWN

## OVERVIEW

The Blue Devils could be very one dimensional in 2022, which means that they probably won't be in the conversation for a conference title in 2022. The run heavy offense will be a big help in a much tougher conference than a year ago. If the Defense performs like they did down the stretch in 2021, they'll be competitive in most of the games throughout the season. There's still a good chance the Blue Devils compete for the playoffs in 2022, and that will come down to the final three weeks of the year. If Burgettstown can sweep Carlynton, Avella, and Fort Cherry and steal a game from Cornell, OLSH or Chartiers Houston, the Blue Devils will be playoff bound. More likely than not, however, the Blue Devils could be 5th and the last team without a dance partner when the Dog and Pony show starts.

## KEY GRADUATES

QB	Jackson LaRocka
LB	AJ Kuzior
DE	Owen Romano
LB	Jaeron Cody
DL	Austin Nease

## TOP RETURNERS

RB	4	Corbin Harrison	SR.
RB	2	Rudy Brown	JR.
WR	5	Zack Schrockman	JR.
WR	24	Caleb Russell	SR.
OL	62	Luke Ferris	SR.
LB	7	Brodie Kuzior	JR.
T	78	Joe Baronick	JR.
DT	72	Tyler Cody	SR.

## FRESH FACES

TE	85	Brian Charles	SO.
DE	77	Teddy Gray	SO.
RB	15	Ryan Murray	JR.
		James Leuice	
DE	53	Gerry Cox	JR.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	@ Sto-Rox Vikings
9/2	@ Beth Center Bulldogs
9/9	South Side Area Rams
9/16	Bishop Canevin Crusaders
9/23	@ Chartiers Houston Bucs
9/30	Cornell Raiders
10/7	@ OLSH Chargers
10/14	Carlynton Cougars
10/21	@ Avella Eagles
10/28	Fort Cherry Rangers

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	South Park	SCR
9/3	@ West Greene	20-0
9/10	@ Avella	57-8
9/17	OLSH	13-33
9/24	@ Rochester	FF
10/1	Shenango	6-28
10/8	Cornell	14-34
10/15	@ Northgate	17-14
10/22	Union	12-8
10/29	@ Ft. Cherry	23-0

**MUST WATCH: Oct. 14th- vs Carlynton**



# AVELLA EAGLES

Black Hills

RECORD: 1-9

## EAGLES AT A GLANCE

**LOCATION:** Avella, PA  
**COACH:** Ryan Cecchini

## 2021 RECAP

Following a 2020 season of surprising success where everything went right and a playoff berth, the Eagles followed it up with a season where everything went wrong. QB controversy plagued the Eagles first half, however a surprise win against Bentworth kept the Eagles in playoff contention up until the final games.

## OFFENSE

The air raid offense from 2020 was far less effective in 2021. In order to return to their prior form in a new conference, the Eagles have to find an identity. AUSTIN OILER may give the Eagles enough talent to compete with bottom tier teams in the conference, however continuity of front will determine if the Eagles compete for a playoff spot. BRIAN HUMENSKY will be the likely anchor in the trenches

## DEFENSE

Defensively the only way to go is up. The Eagles gave up more than 40 points in six of their first seven games of the season in 2021. The Eagles showed promise in the back half of the season, especially up front. HAYDEN GATEWOOD should join Humensky to steady a defensive line that should be in the top half of the Big Seven. There's plenty of depth in the defensive backfield and expect one or two names to emerge.



**BRIAN HUMENSKY**

## OVERVIEW

The Eagles program isn't on life support, but it is certainly outmatched when compared to its peers. The Mapletowns and the Bentworths of the world are no longer within reach. Now with reclassification, Avella's playoffs hopes are on life support. The only teams on the schedule that the Eagles will compete with will be Bentworth early in the season and Carlynton in the middle. The Eagles enter 2022 with a massive question at QB, which could determine the trajectory of the program over the next few years. The gauntlet of the brand new Big Seven won't be kind to the Eagles in 2022, however if Ryan Cecchini can find young talent that shows promise against Fort Cherry or Burgettstown in the back half of the season, Avella could be looking up in 2023.

## KEY GRADUATES

QB	KJ Rush
RB	Noah Markle
WR	Brandon Samol
OL	Braden Rankin
OL	Harrison Fischer
OL	Garrett Horr

## TOP RETURNERS

RB	24	Austin Oiler	SR.
QB	13	Cole Jaworowski	JR.
WR	10	Chasten McConn	SR.
DE	54	Brian Humensky	SR.
Triton Shirley			

## FRESH FACES

DE	58	Hayden Gatewood	SO.
WR	11	Christian Patrene	SO
WR	88	Eli Maidment	SO.
WR	6	Nate Rankin	SO.
WR	1	Reed Jaworowski	SO.

## 2022 SCHEDULE

8/26	@ Mapletown Maples
9/2	@ Bentworth Bearcats
9/9	Mapletown Maples
9/16	Cornell Raiders
9/23	@ Bishop Canevin Crusaders
9/30	Carlynton Cougars
10/7	@ Fort Cherry Rangers
10/14	@ OLSH Chargers
10/21	Burgettstown Blue Devils
10/28	@ Chartiers Houston Bucs

## 2021 RESULTS

8/27	@ Mapletown	8-42
9/3	@ Ft. Cherry	8-45
9/10	Burgettstown	8-57
9/17	@ Jeff. Morgan	0-32
9/24	West Greene	0-48
10/1	@ California	FF
10/8	Mapletown	16-45
10/15	Bentworth	30-21
10/22	@ Carmichaels	22-63
10/29	Monessen	6-14

**MUST WATCH: SEP. 30th vs Carlynton**