

August 2022

Perrysburg High School

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

A special supplement to the
Perrysburg Messenger
Journal



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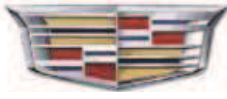
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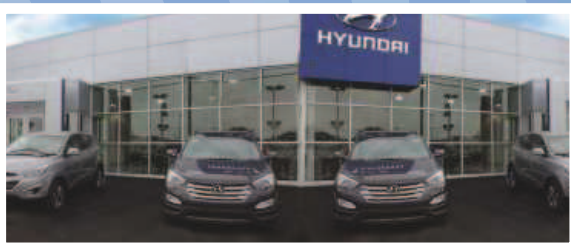
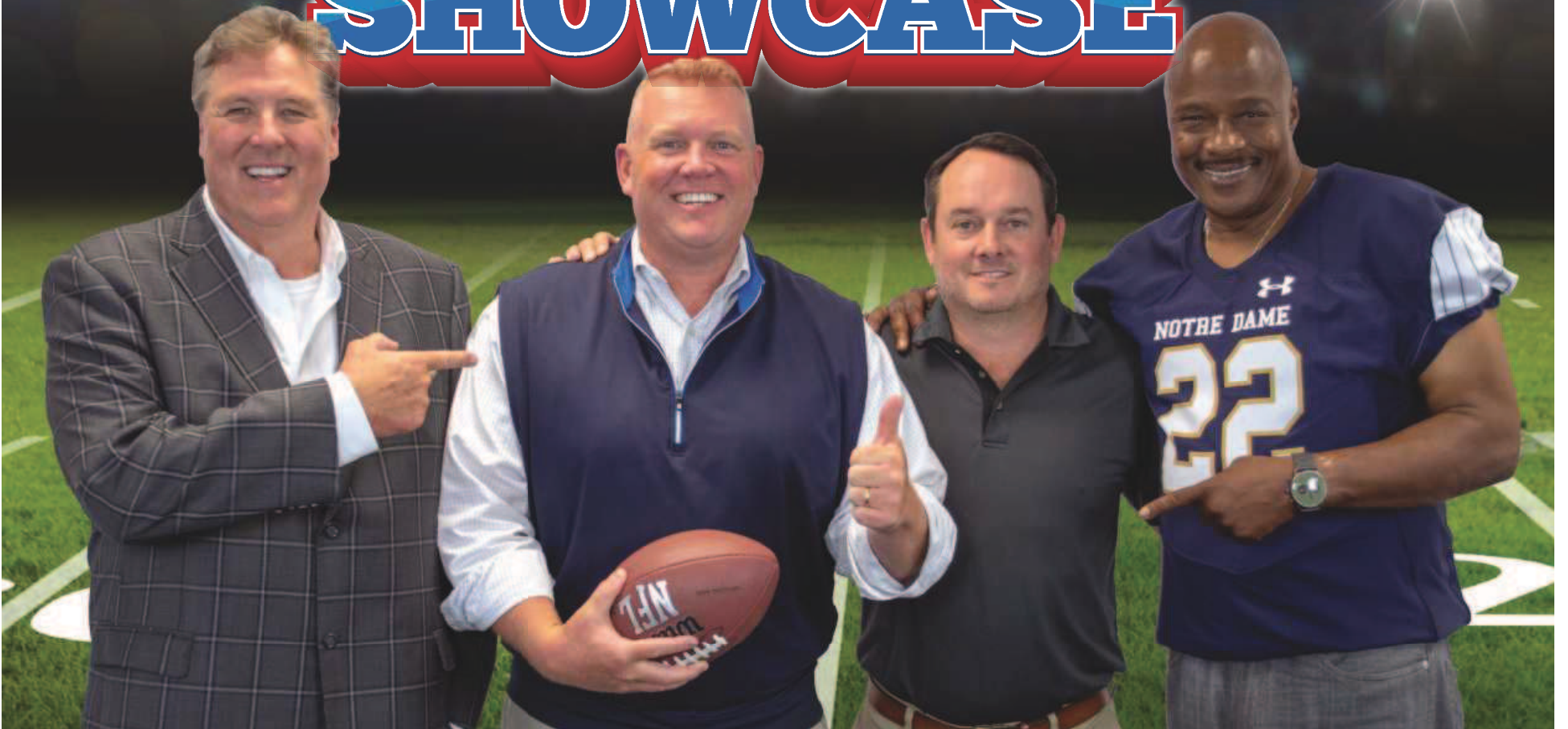
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Boys soccer looks to challenge for NLL crown

By Michael Krieger

This fall, the Perrysburg boys varsity soccer team returns nine of 11 starters from last year's team that tallied a 10-7-2 overall mark, finished third in the Northern Lakes League, and reached the district semifinals.

Third-year Head Coach Dennis Jeansonne believes the Jackets are poised to improve

and shoot for higher goals.

"We have high hopes," he said. "We haven't won the NLL since 2010, so we would like to win that. We also want to be district champs and then see how far we can go from there."

For Jeansonne, the goals are personal. He played for the Jackets at a time when he recalls, "they never lost

the NLL."

Leading the way this season will be several key returners.

Up front in the striker position will be junior Alex Diaz, who led the team with 21 goals last year. He will be joined by seniors Gavin Stork and Keegan Motter.

In the midfield positions, the Jackets bring back a host

of experience with seniors James Xiao and Drew Mack along with junior Matthew Zinn.

Defensively, they will rely on the aggressive play of seniors AJ Bibb and Trevor Pollock plus junior Taylor Thomas.

In goal, junior Isaac Revill returns as well.

"To be successful, we need

to keep people out of our net. We were inexperienced on defense last year. We gave up too many goals," Jeansonne said. "I'm confident that with a year of experience, we will be better."

Jeansonne predicts the squad's strength will be its offense.

"I'm confident that we are going to score goals. We have

three very special players up front."

The Yellow Jackets opened their season August 12 facing St. Francis, an opponent that should give a good indication of Perrysburg's status early on.

"We hope that game will give us momentum into the rest of the season," Jeansonne said.



Boys varsity soccer team roster—Isaac Revill, Bryce Motter, Owen Felaris, Noah Grant, Trevor Pollock, Matthew Zinn, Omar Touray, Taylor Thomas, Andrew Mack Jr., Keegan Motter, Alexander Diaz, AJ Bibb, James Xiao, Isaac Klapper, Abdul Hashem, Connor Sniadanko, Ethan Rieman, Bennett Geissler, Gavin Stork, Ryan Oesterle, Jack Bowe.



Boys junior varsity A soccer team roster—Aidan Yost, Chase Jeansonne, Tucker Benge, Evan Keller, Caden Geissler, Alexander Heil, Sawyer Scheff, AJ Buck, Nicholas Jockett, Dylan Motter, John Harlow, Nathan Mitchell, London Stock, Noah Cordova, Connor Motter, Jacob Xiao, Austin Drown, Brayden Heitmeyer, Zach Gray, Henry Parker, Thomas Leonard.



Boys junior varsity B soccer team roster—Frederick Dowling, Ben Mack, Karson Klapper, Jackson Razor, Austin Schlieman, Cameron Smith, Owen Middleton, Caden Williamson, Dylan Young, Myles Broadway, Ben Seuberling, Jack Switala, Carson Page, Will Buckner, Nathaniel Poland, Landin Conley, Jared Worst, Tytus White, Nick Heil.

Girls soccer preps for exciting action

By Michael Krieger

Head Coach Jorge Diaz predicts the 2022 season for the Perrysburg varsity girls soccer team should be “exciting and fun to watch.”

The Jackets have capable returners back from a team that finished third in the talent-rich Northern Lakes League and reached the semifinals of the district tournament last year.

Key players back for the 2022 version of the squad will largely center around senior Adelle Francis, a First Team All-State selection and the Jackets’ leading scorer a year ago.

Now in her fourth year with the program, the athletic striker will be depended upon to score, and in fact, she needs just 22 goals to break the school record for a career.

Offensively, Francis will be teamed with Avary Zeisloft, a junior who plays attacking midfield. Diaz noted that she is an exciting player to watch. Zeisloft is the second leading scorer and is the leader for assists.

Defensively, seniors Ashlyn Brown and Elena Neceski will play center and midfield positions.

The coach explained that so much of what the team tries to do comes from Brown’s ability to distribute to other players.

“A lot revolves around her,” he said, adding that Neceski maintains the tempo of the game and plays a key role in helping the defense.

The Yellow Jackets have lofty expectations this season, hoping to challenge for the NLL title and make a tournament run.

“With the right things happening, we can go all the way to state,” he said.

To reach these goals, Diaz believes the team needs to not get ahead of itself.

“We need to take it one game at a time and prepare for each team separately,” he acknowledged.

The team will focus on three basic goals in every game: score, don’t give up scores and win the possession.

Diaz feels confident that if the team can accomplish these goals, they should be successful more often than not.

At presstime, the Jackets were preparing to face Notre Dame Academy and then play Avon Lake, the eighth-ranked team in the state.

Diaz pointed out that it is essential for the girls to face tough competition.

“We try to get a sense of different teams that we might face if we advance,” he said.



Girls varsity soccer team roster—Elizabeth Motter, Camille Francis, Adelle Francis, Lauren Kepp, Michaela Christie, Ashlyn Haeft, Ashlyn Brown, Marial Caputo, Emma Ogdahl, Avary Zeisloft, Grace Langendonk, Aubry Petree, Kendolynn Sadowski, Caroline Thomas, Maci Maxwell, Kendra Pantenburg, Kinsley Jones, Elena Neceski.




Girls junior varsity A soccer team roster—Amaya Peterson, Jera Harrington, Kasey Hill, Mia Harlow, Kylie Haye, Emma Mc Nerney, Adyson Brown, Sylvia Pennese, Sophie Mitchell, Aria Longoria, Alexis Kaufold, Ellie Ramage, Grace Pruss, Courtney Wyckhouse, Eliza Williamson, Paige Toflinski, Isabella Villareal, Lexie McGuire, Chelsea Jassal.



Girls junior varsity B soccer team roster—Emerson Gower, Calli Peer, Anna Allen, Alexis Martens, Adrianna Ibarra, Abigail Woessner, Alivia Zeisloft, Lexi Decker, Alyson Seuberling, Olivia Rieman, Claire Hudak, Kaelyn Becken, Brayleigh Becken, Olivia Garcia, Riley Hartzell, Avery Rettig.

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Golfers take aim at new season

By Michael Krieger

The Perrysburg varsity boys golf team placed third in the Northern Lakes League and qualified for districts as a team last year. Now, they will look to improve on that mark in the 2022 season.

With five seniors returning, the Jackets have ample opportunity to be one of the

better teams in the league, according to Head Coaches Ryan DeLauter and Dan Thompson.

The five who make up the core for the squad are Jack Weisenberger, Mackeane Hanley, Cody Schneider, Kyle Ross and Alex Wilhelm.

"All of them contributed last year. They are solid

players and consistent in their scores," DeLauter explained. "They are a close-knit group."

He also believes an asset to this team is that these golfers all play other sports as well—primarily, they play hockey together.

"They are more competitive, probably because they play other sports. They push

each other and challenge each other. A little competition within the team is a good thing," he added.

The Jackets' goals this season are simple in terms of explanation. They want to win.

That being said, DeLauter indicated that Anthony Wayne and Northview should field excellent teams

this year, so it's not unrealistic for Perrysburg to finish in the top two in the golf-strong NLL. He also believes the Jacket athletes can qualify again for districts as a team.

To accomplish these goals, Thompson noted they will need to take care of fundamentals of the game.

"We need to focus on keeping the big scores off the card. They need to limit mistakes and play within themselves," Thompson said. "The five seniors are averaging upper 70s or low 80s. As long as they are in that range, we should have a successful year."

The team played its first dual match August 17 when they entertained the Fremont Ross Little Giants at Belmont Country Club.

The Perrysburg girls varsity golf team remains the team to beat in the NLL.

After an undefeated regular season and winning back-to-back NLL championships, 12-year Head Coach Rick Rettig predicts his squad stands a good chance of repeating.

They won last year with most of their scoring players being sophomores.

Losing just one senior to graduation, the Jackets will host a starting line-up of juniors—all of whom have gained significant varsity experience.

He also has several competitive JV golfers from last year vying for the fifth and sixth spots in the lineup.

The most notable returner is Sydney Deal, who is currently ranked number one in

northwest Ohio. She won the Ohio Junior Tournament this summer and is rated as the best junior in the state.

The two-time D-I District Player of the Year has an 18-hole average of 69.4 and a nine-hole average of 34.9.

She recently shot a course and school record of 62 at Thunderbird South Golf Course in Huron, Ohio.

Joining Deal will be Ariyah Ellis, who earned Second Team All-NLL a year ago. To round out the potential scorers for the Jackets will be Olivia Eisaman and Paige Feldkamp.

"Their leadership and focus are very mature for juniors," Rettig noted. "They have all taken on a different intent to grow as golfers."

Rettig believes a key to the Jackets' success is their discussions about goals as part of their daily routine.

"We work on going through the daily behaviors that make us successful. We set goals every day. Then, the championships will be the celebration of our hard work," he explained.

While Rettig admits that the play of Deal will be a strong contributor to the team's success, he wants his team to focus on improving in fundamental areas.

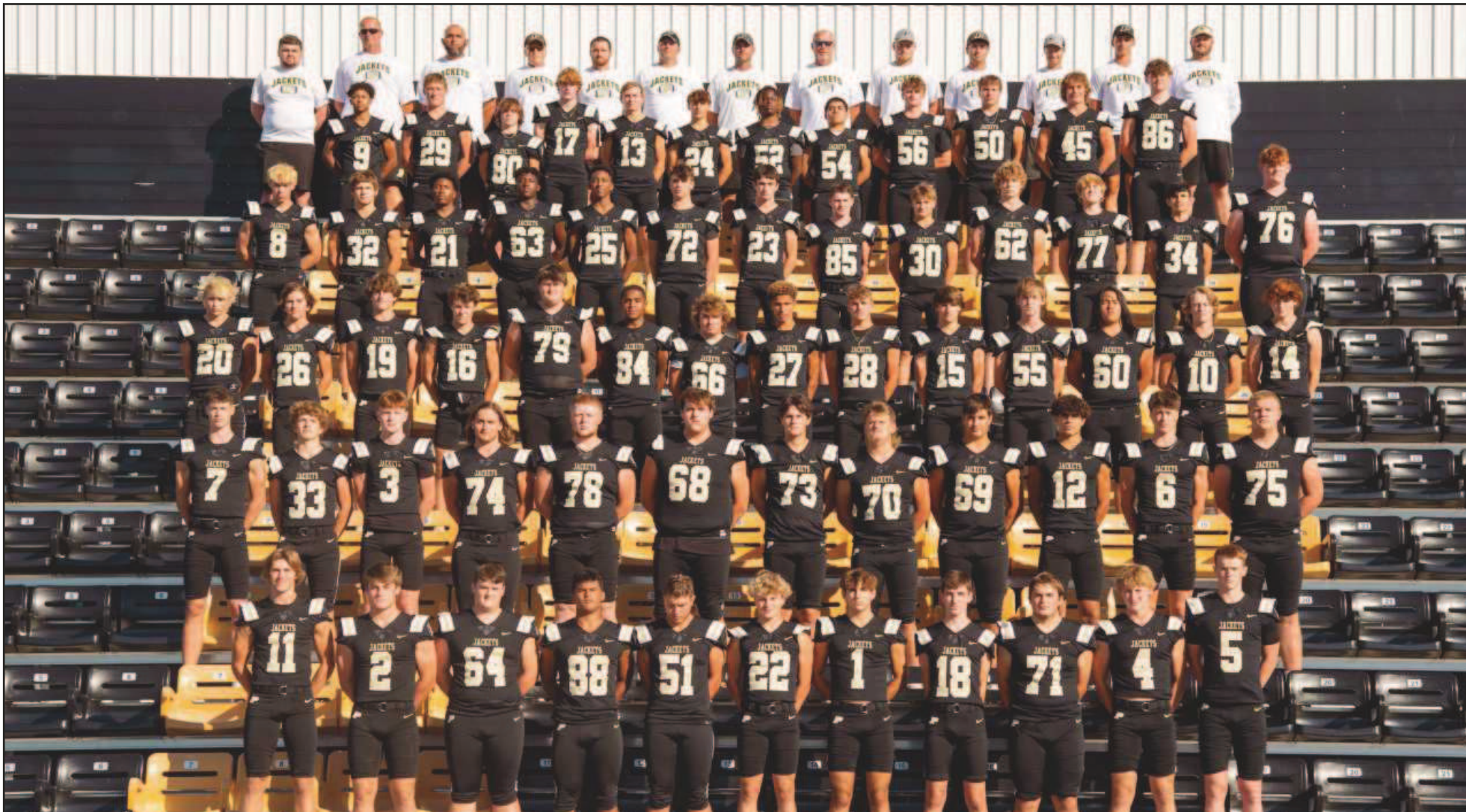
"We need to putt and chip well. We need to work on the short game. Sure, we want to be good off the tee, but we want to be consistent and work on approach shots and the style of shots we take around the green," Rettig said.



Girls varsity golf team roster—Ella Calvin, Sydney Deal, Olivia Eisaman, Ariyah Ellis, Paige Feldkamp, Mia Moffitt, Lilly Pafford, Sophia Strzesynski. Junior varsity players are Ella Calvin, Mary Kate Collins, Peyton Lynch, Lilly Pafford, Sophia Strzesynski, Samy Thodeti, Lauren Yoder.



Boys varsity golf team roster—Kaigan Gwin, Mackeane Hanley, Kyle Ross, Cody Schneider, Jack Weisenburger, Josh Weisenburger, Alexander Wilhelm. Junior varsity players are Jacob Achenbach, Will Keller, Asher Lattimore, Rhys Mandery, Elijah Morris, Colston Orlando, Ryan Rettig, Carson Rogers, Evan Schuck, John Schuck.



Football team roster—Giovanni Restivo, Connor Walendzak, Matt McEwen, Ryan Ozimek, TJ Takats, Avery Hunt, Andrew Hunt, Reece Bauman, Sam Lawanson, Christian Conrad, Jack Borer, Caiden Johnson, Grey Swanson, David Butterfield, Dylan Blubaugh, Braxton Mefferd, Gavin Fenneken, John Sullivan, Josh Takats, Abram Hire, Aiden Owens, AJ Bernthisel, Iain Hall, Lukas Pollock, Terry Cooper, Carter Holy, Dominick Woods, Nick Oros, Zach Schroeder, Carson Pershing, Taylor Thomas, Joseph Seney, Xavier Rodz, Emilio Cardenas Guel, AJ Bibb, Paulo Walkosky, Caiden Nichols, Caleb McGrady, Xavier Pruitt, Santiago Rios, Nolan Moore, Oliver Ziemann, Brenden DeRosia, Yong Rata, Mincho Stanchev, Eric Bush, Jack Nordahl, Connor Courtney, Joel Cady, Sam Yonker, Gavin Moore, Derrick McGuire, Aiden McDowell, Noah Laubenthal, Brock Falkenstein, Grant Zimmerly, Andrew Boden, Trenton Schenk, Cody Oakley, Paul Laubenthal, Aidan Materni, Tivan Bennett, Mario Gutierrez, Landon Graham, Braden Klocinski.

Football team hopeful league carousel swings back to PHS

By Sean Maiolo

For nearly 10 years now, the Northern Lakes League has been dominated by two sets of colors: black and gold or blue and white. Not surprisingly, 2022 looks to be no different.

The Yellow Jackets enter their second season under the tutelage of Head

Coach Dirk Conner eager to reclaim the NLL crown they had captured in 2020 after three successive years of rival Anthony Wayne dominance. The reigning champs they will need to dethrone this season? Anthony Wayne, of course.

That likely pivotal contest is still quite a ways

down the road—September 30, week seven,—and the Yellow Jackets will certainly be tested before that. The nonconference slate again features a trio of top programs in Dublin Jerome, Findlay and St. John's, respectively. Though daunting, there's reason for optimism that the stretch will be a good one for Perrysburg given the talent they have on hand.

Leading the way is senior tailback Connor Walendzak. The fourth-year runner has amassed one of the best careers of any po-

sition player in Perrysburg's impressive gridiron history, including Second Team All-Ohio honors in 2021. His annual growth earned him offers from Toledo and the Naval Academy, the former of which he verbally committed to during the summer.

Impressive as his career has been to date, that success would not be possible without consistently strong play along the offensive line, and that unit is led by their own imposing senior in Grant Zimmerly.

Listed at 6'5, 288 pounds, Zimmerly has

been perfecting his craft of moving defenders for as long as Walendzak has been running past them. Like his backfield classmate, Zimmerly is also destined to be a Toledo Rocket following his senior season, verbally committing to the school this past spring.

Adding to the optimism on offense are two more seniors in quarterback TJ Takats and wide receiver Jack Borer. Each garnered First Team All-NLL and All-District honors last season, giving the Yellow Jackets quite a skill posi-

tion trio with which to work on offense.

Controlling the line of scrimmage will be key to getting all those weapons in sync on game days, and as usual the Yellow Jackets have some impressive size beyond Zimmerly to push the pocket on defense and set the tone on offense.

Time will tell if this group, one that features 24 seniors, can emerge on top of the NLL and push deeper into the Division I playoffs. But with the rare talent on hand, the Yellow Jackets will be favored to do just that.

Week one comeback effort falls short for Yellow Jackets

The season opening trip to the Columbus area to take on perennial power Dublin Jerome was going to be a tall task for Perrysburg on the gridiron, and indeed it was despite some impressive performances as the Yellow Jackets lost 24-21.

Perrysburg was largely stifled on the ground by the host Celtics, at least in comparison to what they're used to doing. Dublin Jerome kept the Jackets under 100 yards rushing despite 29 attempts, with senior Connor Walendzak largely held in check with only 47 yards on 14 carries. Senior quarterback TJ Takats amassed most of the remaining rushing yards with 48 on 13 carries and a second quarter touchdown.

The lackluster results, however, were not as demoralizing or debilitating as they may have been in years past. Takats showed why he's the Northern Lakes League's signal caller, particularly late in the contest.

Through three quarters, the game appeared to be well in hand with the Celtics holding a three-score lead at 24-7. With few options but to air it

out more, Head Coach Dirk Conner allowed his senior quarterback to do just that. The result was a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns that, while not enough to secure a victory, showed this team could still do damage offensively even if the running game falters.

Takats twice connected with classmate and wide receiver Jack Borer to get the game within a field goal. For the night, Takats finished 18-28 for 229 yards and those two scores. Borer, likely to be a favorite target in this offense, totaled 190 of those yards receiving on 10 catches.

The Yellow Jackets will look to right the ship this Friday night at Findlay, the last time the two schools will face off as nonconference foes. The host Trojans lost their opener as well by just three points to Anthony Wayne and have some serious talent of their own. They are led by senior lineman and future Ohio State Buckeye Luke Montgomery, widely considered the top high school prospect in the state.

Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. at Donnell Stadium.

~Sean Maiolo



Freshman football team roster—Shane Saito, Jordan Zeeb, Dominic Gibson-Willis, Logan Trczinski, Brendon Rowe, Xavier Ramirez, Lucas Graham, Cole Peppers, Wyatt Favot, Nicholas Elsass, Beckett Walters, Josiah Cook, Nicolò Walkosky, Derek Patchen, Cole Klingensmith, Roman Ruiz, Jonathan Butterfield, Brody Thorp, Kendrick Rome, Brandon Badik, Carsen Clarke, Brady Dauterman, Silas Gildner, Daniel Rios, Piotr Bloda Lopez, Flynn Sattig, Kaleb Totten, Del Warner, Ulises Coronel Flores, Cruz Vasquez, Nathan McCune, Isaiah Reed, Dietrick Heath, Samuel Smith, Preston Faris, Luke Falkenstein, Alec Robert.



Varsity volleyball team roster—Avery Adamski, Maddie Trautman, Sara Pahl, Casey Ng, Brooklynn Okoneski, Giana Frayer, Lydia Steyer, Sophie Burkey, Danielle Cleavenger, Josie Hubbard, Katie Pahl, Mackenzie Hurley and Wrigley Takats. The team is led by Head Coach Laura Davidson and assistants Amanda Fintel, Stephanie Reeves, Jeff Beck, Jason Tansey and Bri Appelfeller.



Junior varsity volleyball team roster—Abigail Bartolo, Mia Brandeberry, Ali Cherry, Riley Doria, Gia Johnson, Reese Kaminski, Kay Pierce, Lia Sibersen, Hayden Siebenaler, Olivia Thomasson and Berkley Zeh. Coaching the squad are Stephanie Reeves and Jason Tansey.

Loaded Lady Jackets volleyball team eyes new heights

By Sean Maiolo

Four Northern Lakes League titles in five years sounds pretty nice. So does having the reigning NLL and District Player of the Year. Reigning district champs? That rings pretty well, too.

But is that enough for Head Coach Laura Davidson—herself a now three-time District Coach of the Year—and the 2022 Lady Jackets volleyball squad? No, and for good reason.

Last year’s team made it further than they ever had in Davidson’s tenure, advancing to the regional semifinals before falling 3-2 against St. Joseph Academy from Cleveland.

The memory of that match is still quite real for Davidson and five returning seniors, three

of whom in particular, all at different levels of the court, give Perrysburg reason to believe a regional title and trip to Columbus are well within their grasp this season.

That conversation has to start on the back end with senior libero Avery Adamski, the aforementioned player of the year in both the league and district who is verbally committed to play for the University of Toledo in 2023.

“She is definitely rearing to go,” said Davidson. “She’s very excited for her senior year and to see what this team can do. I challenge her every day on her leadership and she’s stepping up because she loves this program and she obviously wants to do well her senior year.”

Davidson noted that her

fourth-year libero has grown her game in just about every way since first stepping on the varsity court. Her journey has not been one simply rooted in supreme athletic ability, though she has plenty of that to spare.

“I think she’s really worked hard on her skills and herself through club and school [competition],” the coach said. “I think she does a nice job reading [the opponent], and she’s pretty quick. Her ball control is amazing. And just that mental aspect of the next play. I think she really controls the tempo on the floor and has done a nice job and really grown into that role as she’s gotten older.”

Ideally, Adamski will be digging the ball with regularity to classmate and setter Giana Frayer. The third-year starter earned league and district acco-

lades in 2021 and brings steadiness and stability to arguably the most important position on the floor.

And like Adamski, she too has not shied away from taking on a significant leadership role in her final high school campaign.

“That [experience] is a huge part of the confidence with the girls,” said Davidson. “Our leaders are really stepping up to not only lead but to have confidence in themselves as well. I really teach them to play for each other and communicate with each other on what they need.”

Frayer will largely be tasked, as always, with getting the ball to the many weapons at the Lady Jackets disposal to finish. That group of hitters will be led by senior Sara Pahl who

last year took home First Team All-NLL and Second Team All-District honors.

“Our outsides are doing a nice job,” noted Davidson. “Our number one outside is Sara Pahl, but she’s currently injured. She should be back in about two weeks or so in time for the beginning of the season. Obviously, we’ve had some other players stepping up on the outside so that’s great to see.”

“Middles are holding their own and honestly, we always have a really strong right-side aspect to our game. I think we’re kind of strong across the board.”

That strength in particular should give the Lady Jackets an edge on many of their opponents. But Davidson noted that they don’t want too much of a good thing in funneling the attack to that side and becoming predictable on offense.

“I definitely like to spread out my offense as much as possible,” she said. “We want to keep the other side guessing. So, when I’m able to have a strong right side, most teams aren’t used to blocking a right-side hitter that’s good so they struggle with it. But obviously our outside hitters are usually better at putting that ball down.”

Thus far the team has been coalescing quite well together even with hiccups like Pahl’s injury. The buy-in and drive to do better than last year’s impressive run is there, and they’ve had opportunities already to hone their skills.

“I think we’re pleasantly surprised,” said Davidson. “We have some upperclassmen and leaders doing a nice job leading the way. We’ve had four scrimmages already and have really walked away with a lot of positives. Just a great team that has

some confidence and the ability to really mentally come together and power through so far. We’ve played some tough teams in these scrimmages and we’ve been pretty happy.”

“With Avery and Giana and Sara kind of at the helm,” she added, “we’re looking for them to do some nice things for us and obviously give everyone else some experience and confidence in being on the varsity court with them.”

They will need that to power through a schedule that features the usual stiff competition from several league foes as well as nonconference matches against teams like Notre Dame Academy and Rocky River Magnificat, last year’s Division I state champions. Matchups like those against the state’s top private schools—ones that feature an available talent pool far in excess of most public school programs—are not only scheduled but welcomed and winnable is a testament to just how strong the volleyball culture is in Perrysburg. It’s something Davidson and all of her teams embrace year in and year out.

It also might be the biggest reason to believe the Lady Jackets could find themselves in Columbus at season’s end.

“Perrysburg is one of the top schools in the state for athletics, right?” opined the coach. “So, I would say it’s definitely a school mentality but also these kids grow up in a really foundational and supportive environment with coaches and parents supporting them to do their best. If they want to excel and make these varsity teams, they just have an attitude of ‘we want to win and we love our school,’ at least my group does.”

“I think it’s just sort of a school and program mentality.”

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Freshmen volleyball team roster—Ava Hafner, Mia Williams, Alyssa Adkins, Carley Thanasiu, Anjali Malik, Tatum McCoy, Emily Cleavenger, Riley Kollarik and Lily Wideman-Kernz. The team is coached by Bri Appelfeller.



Girls cross country team roster—Alexis Alvarado, Alison Bailey, Ava Beeks, Harshini Bharadwaj, Abigail Bowden, Mokshitha Chatla, Sage Colon, Kaedin Cooper, Holly Dalton, Brooke Daudelin, Sydney Daudelin, Paloma DeLaFuente-Steeb, Lauren Drown, Aubrey Evans, Sydney Evert, Tanishka Gaur, Kayla Geise, Claire Gerken, Janet Gou, AnnaSophia Gower, Natalie Griffioen, Selina Halterman, Grace Heinold, Baye Highhouse, Lily Hinline, Hope Keller, Ava Kelly, Hannah Kersten, Moana Kitamura, Cameron Lindsey, Autumn Marshall, Madeline Marshall, Leah McElfresh, Taylor Moody, Annabelle Mora, Lauren Oesterle, Sophie Orlop, Nina Rando, Lydia Reiter, Caden Rothbard, Jenna Sahi, Natalie Sanders, Katherine Sherman, Ella Sibbersen, Sophie Smith, Ashley Strayer, Courtney Sutter, Ella Tafelski, Addison Thomas, Laura Valette, Vainavi Vuppala, Carly Williamson, Aubrey Wyckoff, Alexa Zeeb.

Girls cross country seeks to build off state title

By Michael Krieger

The PHS girls cross country team enjoyed a great year in 2021, racing to championships in the Northern Lakes League, districts and regionals before bringing home the state championship trophy.

Head Coach Jon Monheim, now in his 20th year, believes this year's squad could be in line for a similar run.

"I'm trying to downplay some of the repeat hype,

but the reality is, it's out there," he admitted. "If we stay healthy, we should be one of the best teams in the state, as long as we continue to improve."

He was quick to acknowledge that the Yellow Jackets will have a target on their backs at every meet.

"There's a lot of good teams in the state," he added. "Girls cross country is typically dominated by youth, so there could be

girls out there that we don't know about."

Still, Monheim likes his chances since he returns five of the top seven runners from last year's state champion team.

Leading the way is sophomore Ava Beeks, who finished 13th in the state last year. She will be joined by classmate, Natalie Sanders, who finished 25th in the state meet.

Completing the top five should be senior AnnaSophia

Gower and a pair of juniors Sydney Daudelin and Taylor Moody.

In summer workouts, newcomer Hannah Kersten emerged as a runner who could contribute early as well as senior Ella Sibbersen, who should provide some leadership and has an opportunity to round out the top seven.

The girls opened their season August 20 returning to the site of the state meet for the OHSAA Early Sea-

son Invitational, a true invite, where teams have to be asked by the OHSAA to compete in a field that boasts the state's best competition.

The coach noted that it gives the runners a chance to gain early experience on the same course that will be used for the state championship.

The Jackets have the biggest team in school history with 54 girls on the roster.

To be successful in the pursuit of their goals, Monheim recognizes that his girls need to be willing to train together.

"The core group has to commit to work on the tough workouts together. They need to try to keep in a big group so they can hold each other accountable and challenge one another."

This strength in numbers method could once again lead to a state trophy for the Jacket runners.





Boys cross country team roster—Jack Alcroft, Logan Bailey, Brody Bauman, Kasey Baumgartner, Andrew Beeks, AJ Bohman, Brennan Bruen, Gavin Butler, Roman Cady, Jacob Callaway, Patrick Chen, Miles Christoff, Anthony Clark, Isaac DeBruin, Carter Fry, Caleb Gildner, Hayden Gillen, Nathaniel Gospodinov, Benjamin Groman, Dane Guinsler, Nick Guinsler, Inesh

Gupta, Gage Hayes, Jack Hayes, Austin Hinesman, Wesley Imel, Colin Jones, Michael Justen, Adeel Khatri, Andrew King, Abraham Kirkham, Gavin Kleman, Jacob Kramer, Ethan Laeng, Noah Lindsey, Jacob Luce, Zach Madaras, Owen Madden, Isaiah Matthews, Ryan Matthews, Connor Mead, Luke Miller, Kaden Montross, Ryan Montross, Kenneth Morgan Jr., Derrick Newlove,

Zachary Patterson, Liam Pitzen, Daniel Rando, Demetrios Reid-Ortiz, Brayden Riston, Anthony Rodriguez, Robbie Rojas, Dominic Ruiz, Andrew Seiverth, Jonathan Severt, Alexander Sherman, Evan Sterling, Jacob Sterling, Colt Sutphin, Dylan Szepiela, Ian Tomlinson, Ethan Vile, Nicholas Walton, Ethan Williamson, Ethan Young, Boyang Zhang.

Boys cross country to rely on leadership for success

By Michael Krieger
The 2021 Perrysburg boys varsity cross country team was young and often

lacked strong upperclass leadership. Still, they developed and improved through the

course of the season and finished second in the NLL, won the district title and finished third at re-

gionals—one spot away from qualifying for state as a team.

Eight-year Head Coach Keith Madaras believes that if the team can continue to improve and if it can take advantage of a greater sense of leadership from the upperclassmen, the 2022 Jackets could push to be a state qualifier.

“Every year our goals are the same as a team. We want to be very competitive in the league, and we want to try to qualify for state,” he said.

Madaras will lean heavily on Anthony Clark. The sophomore was the Jackets undisputed num-

ber one runner last year, and he returns with high hopes.

Joining him as key returners are seniors Andrew Beeks and Zach Madaras, along with a pair of juniors, AJ Bohman and Ethan Laeng.

Madaras admits that his top seven could be rounded out by those who can step up on any given day.

The squad definitely has a luxury of depth with 67 runners on the roster, including what Madaras describes as “some good freshmen coming in.”

Like the girls team, the boys team also will com-

pete August 20 at the OHSAA Early Season Invitational at the state championship course. The race will feature what the OHSAA deems to be some of the top programs in the state.

The PHS coach likes this opportunity for his runners because it gives them experience on the state course.

To be successful this season, Madaras acknowledged that the team needs leaders.

“Leadership will be a big part of the team this year. We need our upperclassmen to motivate and push our younger guys.”

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YELLOW JACKETS™

Girls tennis expects to improve in 2022

By Michael Krieger

Head Coach Charles Brigode believes the Perrysburg girls varsity tennis team should be better than last year. A year ago, the Yellow Jackets finished third in the Northern Lakes League and sent individuals to the district meet.

But with the returners coming back and several worthy newcomers, Brigode expects his team is ready to challenge the upper echelon of the league standings.

"As a team, Anthony Wayne and Northview are good teams," he said. "But we should be better than last year. We should be able to compete for a league title. We want to prove that we're one of the top teams in the area."

The squad returns three players from last year's starting lineup.

Allison Barry and Briana Dunham, both juniors, will serve as co-captains and provide leadership and experience.

The Jackets also welcome back Emerson Metzger, who showed promise as a freshman, is now a sophomore and should take the next step in her development.

The team adds Penelope Giammarco, an incoming freshman who could have the game to compete for a first singles slot.

They also are joined by Amelia Taylor, a transfer from Notre Dame Academy, an experienced player who should provide early contributions.

According to Brigode, the rest of the lineup will be flexible with several capable candidates competing for the spots.

One of the basic ways the coach predicts the Jackets can be successful is by uniting as a team.

"We need to come together and gel," he said. "We need to find ways to support each other, win or lose. We have some talent, but we have tough matches and we need to support



Girls junior varsity tennis team roster—Layelle Alammar, Katherine Avery, Asiah Bays, Jocelyn Bernard, Shambhavi Brahme, Ileana DeLaFuente-Steeb, Emma Erlenbusch, Eden Ewbank, Lily Ewing, Vasha Garg, Sophie Gawron, Erin Harte, Ocean Hays, Sophia Keeton, Rhyann Keilman, Claire Kreienkamp, Allison Kulmatycki, Jessica Liao, Kerrigan Lockhart, Campbell Looser, Allison Ludwig, Madison Luttke, Brooke Modlin, Iris Morris, Elizabeth Nedley, Ava Ogdahl, Nithya Rajan, Paige Riney, Claire Schroeder, Riya Shah, Alexa Struffolino, Jia Thakker, Libby VanCamp, Reina Wang, Claire Wellstein, Autumn Wittenmyer.

each other through those matches."

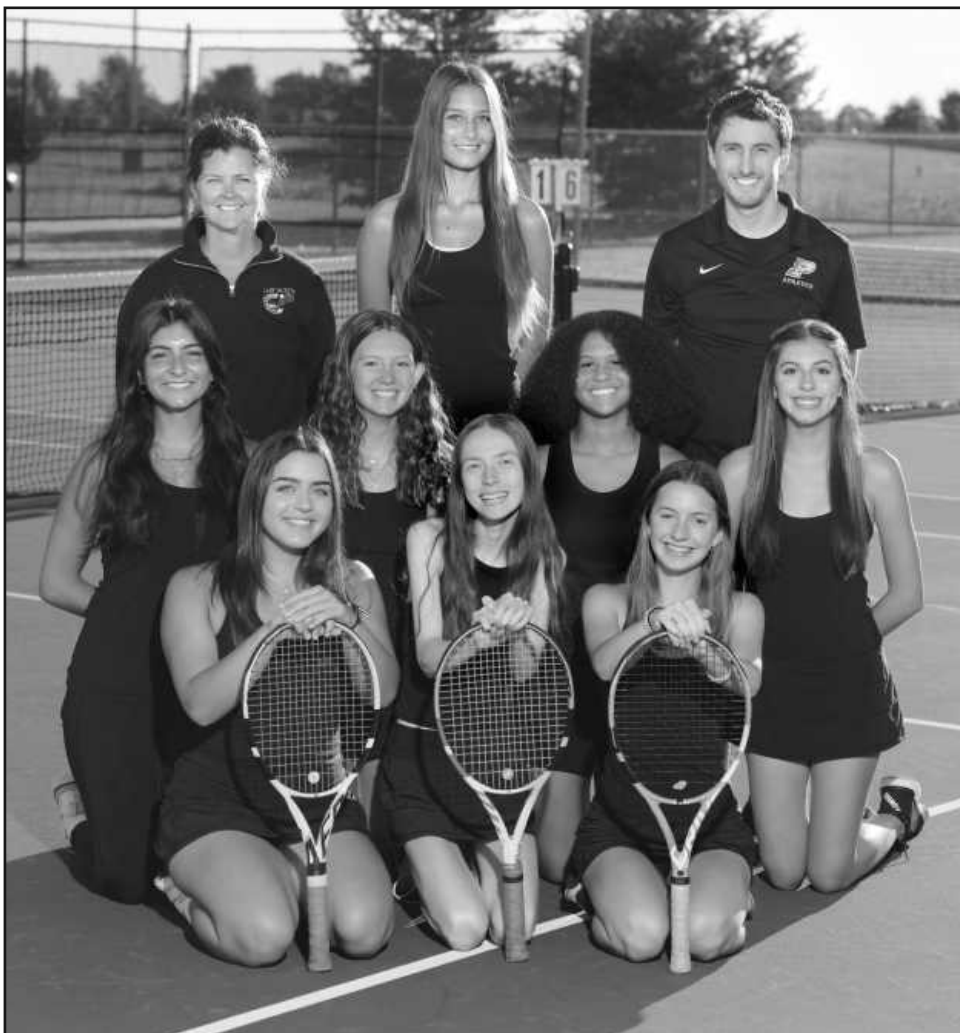
At presstime, the Yellow Jackets were 3-0 on the new season, but prepared to face league foe Sylvania Northview Au-

gust 19 at Perrysburg Tennis Center. The match will not count as a league match, however, but will instead be the Jackets' pairing for the first round of the OTCA Tournament, a statewide competition to

determine the best high school tennis team in the state.

Only elite programs are invited to participate, and Brigode feels fortunate that his team has such an opportunity.

The match comes immediately following a tough non-league schedule where the team traveled to Cincinnati to face premier programs Sycamore High School and Wyoming High School.



Girls tennis team roster—Allison Barry, Brianna Dunham, Penelope Giammarco, Faith Hashem, Sophia Lanno, Emerson Metzger, Amelia Taylor, Madison Watkins. Coaching staff: Head Coach, Charles Brigode; Assistant Coach, Kelly Carter.



Sports without sportsmanship

Sports is universally one of the great life-learning platforms anywhere in the world.

I once had an extremely bright academic, who had really never participated in athletics but was an observer, tell me, "Most of the best life lessons can be learned playing team sports—learning how to compete, sacrificing for goals, giving your all and learning to take on a role."

In real life, you are not always going to be the star. You are not always going to be the focal point. Many times, you are going to be asked to take a secondary position. That is why athletics in our society is vital in character development and in a myriad of other ways.

However, something is happening in our precious world of sports.

Officials are attacked physically and verbally. Players are fighting one another. Coaches leave the sport they love because of parental interference. Fans feel that they can say or do anything they want.

How you play the game matters.

How you react at a game as a player, coach or

a fan matters.

Yes, everyone wants to win. No one goes out on the field and says, "I hope we lose today or I hope they kick the heck out of me today." But how you win, how you play and how you lose are all equally important.

Today, some teams don't even shake hands after a game. To me, that is ridiculous. You play hard and give it your all, but when the game is over, it is over. You respect your opponent. If you take respect and sportsmanship out of competitions, what is the point? Many parents also need to understand that just because your son or daughter is not starting, does not mean they are not important to the team.

I had the privilege to coach high school and college football for 30 years, and I always had the utmost respect for the non-starters. They did not get the kudos, interviews or their photo in the newspaper. All they did is show up every day and work hard. They were always the players I most admired.

I once had a parent come up to me, and ask a question about his son. I

had known the dad for awhile. I was not his son's position coach, but he asked me to honestly tell him in his words "was his son any good or not?" I told the dad in no uncertain terms that I thought his son was fantastic.

He was not a starter but gave his all when asked, and he was a total team player.

Lastly, many parents think their youngsters should receive a college scholarship to play sports. There is a very small number of athletes who can do that.

If your son or daughter does not receive a scholarship, do not blame the coach. There should be no blame at all.

The real reward is being on a team and playing.

To me, sports in America is very special. We all should partake if we can and appreciate what it is all about. It should be about being a humble winner and a gracious loser—a person who respects their teammates, coaches and their opponents.

Sport without sportsmanship is an oxymoron. How you play the game counts.

Senior Stinger passes available by appointment

Perrysburg School District residents age 60 or older can apply for a senior citizen activity pass, called a Senior Stinger.

Pass holders are given free admittance to high school and junior high school home athletic events, including football and basketball games. They also are good for plays and musicals produced by the drama departments.

While admittance is free, there

are times when pass holders need to pick up their free tickets in advance to reserve a seat.

The passes are not valid at away games or tournaments.

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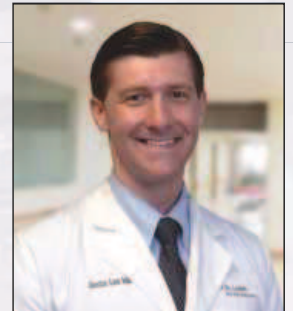
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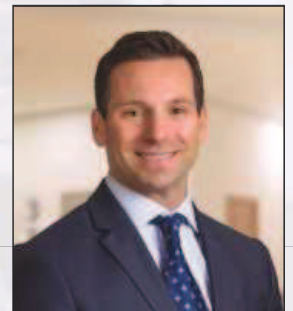
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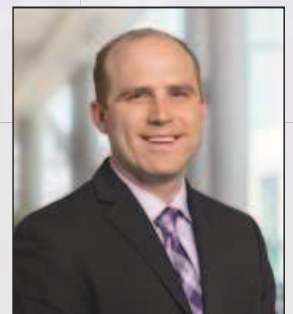
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