

Happy New Year!

Twinsburg Football is thankful for a lot in 2012. Check out what we were most thankful for

Happy Holidays!

The Tiger Football Team wants to wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Go Tigers!



National Champions!

Congratulations to Frank Orteca (class of 2009), Matt Fechko ('10), Mike Maier ('10), and Tre Jones ('12). They helped lead the University of Mount Union to their 11th National Title by beating St. Thomas 28-10.



Mount Union football team hungry to make this Stagg Bowl bus ride one to remember: Terry Pluto

Published: Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 3:57 PM Updated: Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 3:57 PM

By Terry Pluto, The Plain Dealer

ALLIANCE, Ohio - Make it a burger and a movie.

OK, there's also a 450-mile bus trip, and all the Gatorade you can drink.

That's how it will be for the Mount Union football team as it travels to Salem, Va., for Friday's 7 p.m. Alonzo Stagg Bowl against St. Thomas College (St. Paul, Minn.).

The Purple Raiders departed the Alliance campus on Tuesday by bus to play for the Division III national title. No school has ever won more Stagg Bowls than Mount Union, as they are aiming for their 11th title.

But they have lost in each of the last three years.

"We used to watch the Chevy Chase Christmas movie on the bus ride," said Vince Kehres, the team's defensive coordinator. "We stopped the last few years. We're going back to that."

NCAA rules for the Division III playoffs state if a school is within 500 miles of the site of the game, it's time to leave the driving to Greyhound . . . or some other bus company. So the players can prepare to watch Chevy Chase in that 1989 film "Christmas Vacation" as they think about what they will eat at the Tamarack rest stop on Interstate 77 near Beckley, W.Va.

Vince Kehres said most years, "We called ahead to the Burger King there and warned them that 58 football players were on the way. But this year, we hope to get there early enough so we can go to the sit-down restaurant upstairs rather than let each guy loose with 10 bucks so they could get burgers or pizza from Sbarro."

Remember, this is Division III non-scholarship football.

During the season for a few games that are extremely far from campus, the Purple Raiders will send about 25 players out in vans Friday night to stay at a hotel and rest up for the game. Saturday morning, the remainder of the team are up when the sun is not even a rumor as they take a bus to the game.

"We tend to pick motels with free breakfasts," said Vince Kehres. "We'll stop at food courts in malls to eat. You get the idea."

Real football, real life

Yes, head coach Larry Kehres recently passed Alabama's Bear Bryant on the all-time victory list. His record is 331-24-3.

As defensive lineman Matt Fechko said: "When you come to Mount Union, you know you'll play for a national title and you play for a coach who is a legend."

But Kehres is on the bus, too.

Both of them -- father Larry and son Vince.

"I love Division III," said Larry Kehres. "It's so genuine. You do your job in school to get a job when you get out."

Frank Orteca and Fechko are two stars on the team's defensive line. They played together at Twinsburg High. They worked together in the off-season cutting grass and doing other chores for the Twinsburg recreation department. They share a house (with two other students) near campus, and they also clean up and shut down the weight room as part of their work-study program on campus.

"Hey, we're just living the dream, like the guys playing for Ohio State," laughed Fechko.

He then told a story about how he committed to Mount Union. He did it on the phone, talking to Vince Kehres.

"I was at Steak 'n Shake when he called," said Fechko. "He (Vince Kehres) kept asking if I wanted to play for a national championship. Frank (Orteca) was already there. We had a coach (at Twinsburg, Joe Schiavone) who played at Mount and loved it."

Schiavone not only played at Mount, he was a senior on the same 1997 title team as Vince Kehres, who was a defensive end.

A review of the roster indicates at least half of the players come from high schools where at least one of the coaches has a Mount Union connection.

"It really is like a family here," said Orteca.

He then talked about his father Sal.

"It was Aug. 2, 2010," he said. "He was only 54. Just had a heart attack and died. Came out of nowhere. He never missed a game from the time I was 8 years old. He loved it even more than I do."

Orteca found himself drawing even closer to Fechko and some of his other teammates. The coaches became even stronger role models. He plans to graduate in May.

"I'm a criminal justice major," he said. "In January, I have an internship with the Portage County Sheriff's Department. I want to be a U.S. marshal. I don't want to sit behind a desk."

One last chance

Orteca is one of 25 seniors -- most of whom have been on the teams that lost to Wisconsin-Whitewater in the last three Stagg Bowls.

"That really bothers me because our seniors need their rings," said Fechko, a junior. "After we lost last year (13-10), I think our focus has been to make sure we win a title for them."

Mount Union has won 10 titles since 1993. If there is an upset by St. Thomas, this senior class would be the first in 20 years not to win a national championship at some point in their four years.

On Saturday, the Purple Raiders were nearly knocked out of the playoffs by Mary Hardin-Baylor. They were losing 28-14 entering the fourth quarter, and it was 35-28 with 3:45 left when Mount tied the game.

The Purple Raiders took the lead with five seconds left on a 12-yard run by Jake Simon, a senior from Holy Name. Fechko then recovered a fumble on the kickoff and rambled 25 yards for a touchdown, making the final score 48-35.

"It was the first time that we really were in a football game all year," said Orteca. "It was good for us because we didn't blow them out like everyone else."

Mount won the previous three playoff games by scores of 72-14, 55-13 and 72-17. The Purple Raiders allowed only seven points in the first seven regular season games.

The Purple Raiders had played Whitewater in the last seven Staggs Bowls -- winning three times. But this year, Whitewater was 7-3 and missed the playoffs.

"This is our year," said Orteca. "We have a great leader, and quarterback (Kevin Burke, St. Edward). He's a difference-maker."

Larry Kehres said it "shouldn't be about winning a title to be considered a success. How can you say that something is wrong if you win every game but the last one? But after all these years, it has become that for each class: To get a ring is the goal."

And it's what will make that long bus ride back to Alliance so much shorter than it has felt the last few years.

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Football Meeting

There will be a meeting for all potential football players (not in a winter sport) next Tuesday, December 18th at 2:15 in Coach Schiavone's room (A113). All that are interested in playing football in 2013 must attend. If there are any questions, please see Coach Schiavone.

Thank You!!

Thanks to all those who helped and came out to our Dairy Queen Fundraiser!!

All Conference Selections Announced N.O.C. Valley

Congratulations to the following Tigers who were named to the N.O.C. Valley division all conference Team.

Cameron Dial, Jr. De - Co-Defensive Player of the Year

Jalen Washington, Sr. QB

Scott Tegwoski, Sr. LB

Ben Bisesi, Sr. SS

Cooper Rea, Sr. FS/WR

Tyrone McGuniea, Sr. RB

Jacob Turay, Jr. LB

Honorable Mention:

Bob Liu, Sr. OL
Tailin Johnson, Jr. WR

Northeast Inland All-District football teams released for 2012 season
Associated Press, November 15, 2012 6:54 p.m.

DIVISION I

First Team

OFFENSE: Ends--Alex Alders, Macedonia Nordonia, 6-1, 185, soph.; Austin Feinberg, North Canton Hoover, 6-0, 172, sr.; Jeff Richardson, Canton McKinley, 5-9, 145, sr.; Gareon Conley, Massillon Washington, 6-2, 175, sr. Linemen--Nathaniel Devers, Massillon Washington, 6-5, 273, jr.; Jason Idoine, Hudson, 6-4, 235, sr.; Cameron Bell, Macedonia Nordonia, 6-7, 330, soph. Quarterbacks--Dom Iero, North Canton Hoover, 6-0, 175, sr.; Kyle Kempt, Massillon Washington, 6-5, 200, sr.; Eric Glover-Williams, Canton McKinley, 5-10, 155, soph.; Matt Futkos, Austintown Fitch, 5-11, 192, sr. Backs--LeShun Daniels, Warren Harding, 6-0, 220, sr.; Sam Woods, North Canton Hoover, 6-0, 180, sr. Kicker--Pierce Royster, Hudson, 5-10, 165, jr.

DEFENSE: Linemen--Patrick Benson, Canton GlenOak, 6-2, 215, sr.; Antoine Miles, Canton McKinley, 6-3, 250, sr.; Billy Price, Austintown Fitch, 6-4, 312, sr.; Adam Coberly, Hudson, 6-2, 210, sr.; **Cameron Dial, Twinsburg, 6-2, 225**, jr. Linebackers--Kentrell Taylor, Massillon Washington, 6-1, 225, sr.; Troy Lowe, Canton McKinley, 5-11, 225, sr.; Tre'Vontae Jackson, Canton McKinley, 6-1, 210, sr.; Charlie Dear, Massillon Jackson, 6-0, 210, sr.; Raymond Wesley, Canton GlenOak, 6-0, 210, sr.; Justin Babos, Boardman, 6-2, 230, sr.; Ben Gedeon, Hudson, 6-2, 220, sr.; Nick Winkler, Wadsworth, 5-9, 168, jr. Backs--Luke Grandjean, North Canton Hoover, 6-3, 170, jr.; Devon Allen, Massillon Perry, 6-0, 210, sr.; Keith Lawrence, Austintown Fitch, 5-10, 150, sr.; Jalyn Powell, Warren Harding, 6-2, 190, sr. Punter--Tyler Alders, Macedonia Nordonia, 6-2, 205, sr.

Offensive player of the year: Dom Iero, North Canton Hoover.

Defensive player of the year: Billy Price, Austintown Fitch.

Coach of the year: Steve Arnold, Warren Harding.

Second Team

OFFENSE: Ends--Tim Kennedy, Hudson, 5-10, 168, sr.; Marcus Whitfield, Massillon Washington, 6-1, 170, jr.; Terrance Burt, Canton McKinley, 6-0, 165, sr.; Keith Yohman, Brunswick, 5-9, 170, sr. Linemen--Xzavier McAllister, Canton McKinley, 6-6, 320, sr.; Chase Lash, Massillon Washington, 6-5, 298, jr.; Jim Hammontree, North Canton Hoover, 6-2, 265, sr.; Dave Johnson, North Canton Hoover, 6-0, 230, sr. Quarterbacks-- **Jalen Washington, Twinsburg, 6-0, 175, sr.**; Lamar Carmichael, Warren Harding, 5-10, 170, jr.; Reid Worstell, Canton GlenOak, 6-3, 215, sr. Backs--Seth Wieland, Green, 5-10, 170, sr.; Jordan Nobles, Macedonia Nordonia, 5-10, 175, jr.; Derek Tensley, Youngs. East, 5-10, 185, sr.

Kicker--Andrew David, Massillon Washington, 5-8, 170, soph.

DEFENSE: Linemen--John Babos, Boardman, 6-2, 225, sr.; Garrick Koermer, Brunswick, 6-1, 210, sr.; Rhodell Franklin, Youngs. East, 6-1, 190, sr.; JoJo Tayse, Massillon Perry, 6-0, 220, sr.; Victor Hudson, Macedonia Nordonia, 6-2, 195, sr.; Roger Craig, Warren Harding, 5-10, 260, sr. Linebackers--Nate Locke, Massillon Jackson, 6-1, 220, sr.; Dan Dorman, Canton GlenOak, 6-0, 205, sr.; Brad Darlington, Brunswick, 5-9, 185, sr.; Sam Ortz, Austintown Fitch, 6-1, 170, jr.; Alex Woichevich, Macedonia Nordonia, 6-2, 220, jr. Backs--Tyler Lancaster, Canton GlenOak, 5-7, 157, sr.; Brody Tonn, Massillon Washington, 6-1, 190, sr.; Ryan Looser, Wadsworth, 6-1, 167, jr.; Jamir Humphrey, Youngs. East, 6-2, 185, sr.; John Zuccaro, Hudson, 5-10, 170, jr.

Honorable Mention

John Zucal, North Canton Hoover; Joe Howard, North Canton Hoover; Maverick Sales, Canton GlenOak; Josh Lever, Canton GlenOak; Adron Bealer, Massillon Perry; Eian Elsass, Massillon Jackson; Roman Miller, Massillon Jackson; Ernie Baez, Massillon Washington; Ryne Moore, Massillon Washington; Jarrod Smith, Canton McKinley; Darryl Corrin, Green; Christian DiLauro, Green; Jamie Dawson, Green; Matt Beech, Stow-Munroe Falls; Tyler DeVitis, Stow-Munroe Falls; Mitch Guadagni, Hudson; Joe Repasky, Cuyahoga Falls; Evan Dalzell, Macedonia Nordonia; **Cooper Rea, Twinsburg; Scott Tegowski, Twinsburg; Jacob Turay, Twinsburg** ; Dan Yohman, Brunswick; Danny Stepp, Brunswick; Nick Roberts, Brunswick; Mitch Doraty, Medina; Connor VanFleet, Wadsworth; Daryk Maki, Wadsworth; Austin White, Wadsworth; Ty Howard, Warren Harding; Osha Jackson, Warren Harding; Rayfield Bell, Youngs. East; Chris Riwniak, Boardman; Turel Thompson, Boardman; Ryan Sayers, Austintown Fitch; Darrin Hall, Austintown Fitch; Tyler Groves, Austintown Fitch.

Thank You!!

The Twinsburg Football program wants to thank all of those who supported us this year. From the Tiger Den, students, parents, teachers, administration, the athletic boosters, and everyone who wore Tiger colors with Pride, we thank you!!