



Ohio Athletic Conference  
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Sarah Otey, Commissioner

## ***OAC Announces 2023 Football Special Awards & All-OAC Teams***

*(as voted by the League coaches)*

### ***Larry Kehres OAC Coach-of-the-Year: Andy Waddle, Marietta***

Marietta tenth-year Head Coach **Andy Waddle** has been selected as the Larry Kehres Coach-of-the-Year. Waddle led the Pioneers to a successful season with a 7-2 OAC record.

The Larry Kehres award is presented by the University of Mount Union. Kehres, served as the head football coach for 27 seasons (1986-2012). He retired with 11 national titles and a 332-24-3 record.

### ***OAC Assistant Coach-of-the-Year: Hayden Thomas, Wilmington***

Wilmington Offensive Coordinator **Hayden Thomas** has been chosen as the OAC Assistant Coach-of-the-Year. Thomas is in his 5th season and led the Quakers to third in the OAC for total offense with 4,076 yards and fourth in points-per-game with 31.8.

### ***Bob Packard Award: Braxton Plunk, Mount Union***

Mount Union senior quarterback **Braxton Plunk (Plant City, Fla./ Plant City)** has been chosen as the Bob Packard Most Outstanding Offensive Back for the fourth time.

In nine OAC games, Plunk ranked second in completions (181), completion percentage (73.3%), yards (2,194), pass efficiency (181.5) and touchdowns (27).

The Packard Award is presented by Baldwin Wallace University in honor of Bob Packard, who served as head coach of the Yellow Jackets from 1981-2001. He led B-W to six OAC championships and a 156-54-2 overall record.

### ***Ken Wable Award: Matt Wrather, John Carroll & Ben Lilly, Mount Union***

John Carroll junior **Matt Wrather (Powell, Ohio / Olentangy Liberty)** and Mount Union senior **Ben Lilly (Wadsworth, Ohio / Wadsworth)** have been named the Ken Wable Most Outstanding Offensive Linemen. In conference play, Wrather led the JCU offensive line to second in the conference in total offense per game with 459.6 yards, while Lilly led the Raiders to the top of the OAC with 493.3 yards. The pair has earned First Team All-OAC honors.

The Wable Award is presented by Mount Union College in honor of Ken Wable, who spent 24 years (1962-1985) leading the football program. During his time at Mount Union, he led the Purple Raiders to 123 victories and an OAC Championship.

### ***Ed Sherman Award: Wayne Ruby Jr., Mount Union***

Mount Union senior **Wayne Ruby (Pembroke Pines, Fla. / Flanagan)** has been selected as the Ed Sherman Most Outstanding Receiver for the third time.

Ruby finished conference play ranked at the top of the OAC in receptions with 47 and touchdowns with 13. Ruby has been selected First Team All-OAC.

The Sherman Award is presented by Muskingum University in honor of the winningest coach in school history. Sherman guided the Muskies to a 141-43-8 record from 1945-66.

### ***Paul Hoernemann Award: Chance Knight, Marietta & Rossy Moore, Mount Union***

Marietta senior **Chance Knight (Bridgeport, Ohio / Linsly School)** and junior **Rossy Moore (Lima, Ohio / Lima Central Catholic)** has been voted the Paul Hoernemann Most Outstanding Defensive Linemen.

Knight finished conference play with 8.5 sacks and 6.2 tackles per game. Moore finished conference play ranked first in sacks with 9.5 and averaged 6.9 tackles per game.

Heidelberg University presents the Hoernemann Award in memory of its most successful football coach, Paul Hoernemann, who directed the Student Princes to a 102-18-4 record from 1946-59. Hoernemann was inducted in 1997 to the College Football Hall of Fame.

### ***Gene Slaughter Award: Mason McMillen, Mount Union***

Mount Union senior **Mason McMillen (Wadsworth, Ohio / Wadsworth)** has been named the Gene Slaughter Most Outstanding Linebacker. McMillen closed conference play averaging 8.1 tackles-per- game, tallied 2.5 sacks and 9.5 tackles for a loss. Moore has been selected First Team All-OAC.

The Slaughter Award is presented by Capital University in honor of Gene Slaughter. Slaughter spent 25 years (1961-1985) at the helm of the Capital football program and guided it to a 120-94-3 record and a Stagg Bowl victory in 1970. He also served as Capital athletic director from 1981-1987.

### ***Lee J. Tressel Award: Josh Jones, Mount Union***

Mount Union senior **Josh Jones (Twinsburg, Ohio / St. Vincent-St. Mary)** has been named the Lee J. Tressel Most Outstanding Defensive Back.

During conference play, Jones averaged 2.7 tackles per game and tallied five interceptions. Kendall has received First Team All-OAC recognition.

Baldwin-Wallace presents the Tressel Award in memory of coach Lee J. Tressel, who guided the Yellow Jackets to four OAC championships, one national title and a 154-52-6 record from 1958-80. Tressel was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

### 2023 All- OAC Football Teams | First Team Offense

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
<b>Receiver</b>	Lathan Jones, Wilmington	Sr.	Sidney, Ohio / Sidney
	Zuri Edmondson, Muskingum *<	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio / Roger Bacon
	Brennan Fugh, John Carroll ?#<	Sr.	Pittsburgh, PA / Shaler Area
	Wayne Ruby, Mount Union +?#	Sr.	Pembroke Pines, Fla. / Charles W. Flanagan
<b>Tight End</b>	Lucas D'Orazio, John Carroll	Sr.	Cuyahoga Hts., Ohio /Cuyahoga Hts.
<b>Center</b>	Matt Wrather, John Carroll <	Jr.	Powell, Ohio / Olentangy Liberty
<b>Offensive Line</b>	David Busch, Marietta !\$	Sr.	Strongsville, Ohio / Lutheran West
	George Newcomb, Baldwin Wallace *\$	Sr.	West Seneca, N.Y. / West Seneca
	Matt Russo, John Carroll	Sr.	Depew, NY / Depew
	Gio Kennedy, Mount Union	So.	Avon, Ohio / St. Edward
	Ben Lilly, Mount Union \$	Sr.	Wadsworth, Ohio / Wadsworth
<b>Quarterback</b>	Braxton Plunk, Mount Union ?#<	Sr.	Plant City, Fla. / Plant City
	Joe Collins, John Carroll \$	Sr.	Grand Rapids, MI / Catholic Central
<b>Running Back</b>	Montavious Yearby, Heidelberg ~#<	Sr.	Port St. Lucie, Fla. / Port St. Lucie
	Bryce Agnew, Marietta ?#<	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Berea-Midpark
	Deandre Parker, Mount Union !<	Sr.	Crystal River, Fla. / Crystal River
<b>Kicker</b>	Branden Steckel, Heidelberg !<	Sr.	Cardington, Ohio / Cardington Lincoln

### 2023 All- OAC Football Teams | First Team Defense

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
<b>Defensive Line</b>	Tyler Turek, Heidelberg !<	Sr.	Bloomville, Ohio / Seneca East
	Chance Knight, Marietta <	Sr.	Bridgeport, Ohio / Linsly School
	Josh Bever, Ohio Northern!<	Sr.	Ashland, Ohio / Ashland
	Rossy Moore, Moun Union <	Jr.	Lima, Ohio / Lima Central Catholic
	Duke Hill, Mount Union #<	Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Germantown
	Von Factor, Mount Union &	Jr.	Fair Haven, N.J. / Rumson-Fair Haven
<b>Linebacker</b>	Harley Hopkins, Marietta	So.	Zanesville, Ohio / West Muskingum
	Conner Gurney, Muskingum	So.	Seminole, Fla. / Seminole
	Jaheim Peake, John Carroll <	Sr.	Akron, Ohio / St. Vincent-St. Mary
	Mason McMillen, Mount Union ?!<	Sr.	Wadsworth, Ohio / Wadsworth
<b>Cornerback</b>	Keyshawn Cunningham, Heidelberg	Sr.	West Palm Beach, Fla. / Forest Hill
	Josh Jones, Mount Union ?*\$	Sr.	Twinsburg, Ohio / St. Vincent-St. Mary
<b>Safety</b>	Griffin Pendry, Heidelberg #<	Sr.	Perrysburg, Ohio / Perrysburg
	Dalton Tjong, Ohio Northern \$	Jr.	Cumming, Ga. / West Forsyth
	John Roland, Mount Union	Sr.	Livonia, Mich. Northville
<b>Punter</b>	Yanni Volas, John Carroll \$	Jr.	North Canton, Ohio / Hoover
<b>Special Teams</b>	Ja'Lin Goodman, Muskingum \$	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio / Marion Franklin

## 2023 All-OAC Football Teams | Second Team Offense

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
<b>Receiver</b>	Saa'lih Muhammed, Wilmington	Jr.	Dayton, Ohio / Northridge
	Jay Melchiori, Marietta	So.	Marengo, Ohio / Highland
	Mike Elmore, Capital	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio / Dayton Early College Academy
	Joey Torok, John Carroll	Sr.	Kirtland, Ohio / Kirtland
<b>Tight End</b>	Chase Lawson, Mount Union	Sr.	Plant City, Fla. Lakeland Christian
	Gannon Unger, Muskingum	Sr.	Warsaw, Ohio / River View
<b>Center</b>	Seth Wallace, Marietta	Jr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Holy Name
<b>Offensive Line</b>	Zach Pokorny, Heidelberg	Sr.	Delaware, Ohio / Hays
	Kamari Hill, Muskingum &	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio / Chaminade Julienne
	Luke Gibbons, John Carroll \$	Sr.	Broadview Hts., Ohio / Brecksville-Broadview Hts.
	Nate Kovach, John Carroll	Sr.	Dublin, Ohio / Jerome
	Jarrett Burress, Mount Union \$	Jr.	Robertsville, Ohio / Minerva
<b>Quarterback</b>	Derek Larimer, Wilmington	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio / Hamilton Township
	Connor Vierstra, Marietta	Sr.	Thornville, Ohio / Lakewood
<b>Running Back</b>	Evan McVay, John Carroll \$	Jr.	Aurora, Ohio / Aurora
	Tyler Echeverry, Mount Union	Jr.	Naples, Fla. / Barron Collier
	Nehemiah Jenkins, Wilmington	So.	Bradenton, Fla. / Braden River

## 2023 All- OAC Football Teams | Second Team Defense

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
<b>Defensive Line</b>	Isaiah McCartney, Marietta	Jr.	Steubenville, Ohio / Steubenville
	Jordan Smith, Baldwin Wallace \$	Sr.	Painesville, Ohio / Riverside
	Jake Phillips, John Carroll	Jr.	Orrville, Ohio / Orrville
	Kaleb Brown, Mount Union	So.	La Plata, Md. / La Plata
	Bricker Thiel, John Carroll # \$	Sr.	London, Ohio / London
<b>Linebackers</b>	Easton St. Clair, Heidelberg ! \$	Sr.	Canton, Mich. / Detroit Central Catholic
	Brady McManaway, Marietta	So.	Pleasant City, Ohio / Meadowbrook
	Mason Levasseur, Baldwin Wallace * \$	Sr.	Panama City, Fla. / South Walton
	Ian Sexton, Mount Union	Sr.	Dover, Ohio / Dover
	Trey Farris, Heidelberg	So.	Atlanta, Ga. / Duluth
<b>Cornerback</b>	Joseph Norris, Heidelberg \$	Sr.	Lorain, Ohio / Clearview
	Jaelon Quiero-Gordon, Marietta &	Sr.	Westerville, Ohio / Westerville South
<b>Safety</b>	Randy Cochran, Otterbein	Jr.	Norcross, Ga. / Norcross
	Brandon Yanssens, Mount Union	Jr.	Columbiana, Ohio / Crestview
	Brady Panucci, Marietta	Jr.	Crescent, Pa. / Moon Area
<b>Punter</b>	Joe Evans, Baldwin Wallace	Fr.	Chardon, Ohio / Chardon
<b>Special Teams</b>	Johnny Papesh, Mount Union	Sr.	Aurora, Ohio / Aurora

## 2023 All-OAC Football Teams | Honorable Mention

<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Year.</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Hometown / High School</b>
Darius Stokes, Baldwin Wallace	Sr.	DB	Canton, Ohio / GlenOak
Nick Messenger, Baldwin Wallace	So.	OL	Painesville, Ohio / Riverside
James Curtis, Capital	Sr.	S	Zanesville, Ohio / Zanesville
Nate Younker, Capital	So.	WR	Pataskala, Ohio / Watkins Memorial
T.J. Rhamy, Heidelberg	Sr.	RB	McClure, Ohio / Patrick Henry
Oliver Kelleher, Heidelberg	Sr.	WR	Hobe Sound, Fla. / Martin County
Jacob Hufnagel, John Carroll	Fr.	CB	Pittsburgh, PA / Upper St. Clair
Tyler Mintz, John Carroll	Sr.	KR	Kenston, Ohio / Kenston Dayton
Dawson Snyder, Marietta	Jr.	WR/KR	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Moon Area
Jacob Visnic, Marietta	Jr.	DE	St. Clairsville, Ohio / Shadyside
Mason Fortner, Mount Union	Sr.	OL/C	Wadsworth, Ohio / Wadsworth
Deuce Parker, Mount Union	Sr.	CB	Allenhurst, Ga. / Liberty County
Toleo Malone, Muskingum	Jr.	DL	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
Austin Willforth, Muskingum \$	Jr.	LB	Warren, Ohio / Champion
Noah Miller, Ohio Northern	Sr.	TE	Coldwater, Ohio / Coldwater
Tyler Irigoyen, Ohio Northern	Sr.	DL	Palm Coast, Fla. / Flagler Palm Coast
Owen Menge, Otterbein	So.	WR	Columbia Station, Ohio / Columbia
Justin Bartlett, Otterbein &	Jr.	DL	Cambridge, Ohio / Cambridge
Steve Salyer, Wilmington	Sr.	OL	Piketon, Ohio / Piketon
Kaleb Easley, Wilmington	Sr.	LB	Albany, Ohio / Alexander

**-Key-**

**2023: < First Team ...\$ Second Team ...&\* Honorable Mention**

**2022: # First Team ... ! Second Team ...\* Honorable Mention**

**2021 Spring: All-OAC ?**

**2019: @ First Team...~Second Team...+ Honorable Mention... & At-Large**

**2018: ^ First Team...% Second Team...=Honorable**