

NEW PALESTINE FOOTBALL

2014, 2018 & 2019 IHSAA state champion | 5-time state finalist | 23 conference titles | 14 sectional titles

NOV. 17, 2023 | at EAST CENTRAL | SEMISTATE | EAST CENTRAL HS | 7 p.m.

SCHEDULES

NEW PALESTINE (11-2, 7-0 HHC)

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---------|
| Aug. 18 | at Westfield | L 14-34 |
| Aug. 25 | at Decatur Central | L 42-43 |
| Sept. 1 | YORKTOWN* | W 30-22 |
| Sept. 8 | MT. VERNON* | W 63-39 |
| Sept. 15 | PENDLETON HEIGHTS* | W 34-14 |
| Sept. 22 | at Greenfield-Central* | W 21-14 |
| Sept. 29 | SHELBYVILLE* | W 49-7 |
| Oct. 6 | NEW CASTLE* | W 35-7 |
| Oct. 13 | at Delta* | W 38-7 |

IHSAA Class 4A Sectional 22

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------|
| Oct. 20 | NEW CASTLE | W 63-0 |
| Oct. 27 | GREENFIELD-CENTRAL | W 35-0 |
| Nov. 3 | at Mt. Vernon | W 42-6 |

IHSAA Class 4A regional

| | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|
| Nov. 10 | MOORESVILLE | W 39-6 |
|---------|-------------|--------|

IHSAA Class 4A semistate

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Nov. 17 | at East Central | 7 p.m. |
|---------|-----------------|--------|

*-Hoosier Heritage Conference game

EAST CENTRAL (13-0, 3-0 EIAC)

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---------|
| Aug. 18 | at Lawrenceburg* | W 42-7 |
| Aug. 25 | HARRISON (O) | W 42-7 |
| Sept. 1 | CINCINNATI MOELLER (O) | W 38-28 |
| Sept. 8 | at Franklin County* | W 55-0 |
| Sept. 15 | at Batesville | W 42-0 |
| Sept. 22 | SOUTH DEARBORN | W 51-0 |
| Sept. 29 | CONNERSVILLE* | W 64-0 |
| Oct. 6 | GREENSBURG | W 62-0 |
| Oct. 13 | at Roncalli | W 41-7 |

IHSAA Class 4A Sectional 23

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Oct. 20 | SHELBYVILLE | W 62-7 |
| Oct. 27 | at Martinsville | W 56-20 |
| Nov. 3 | GREENWOOD | W 47-0 |

IHSAA Class 4A regional

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|--------|
| Nov. 10 | at Evansville Memorial | W 47-7 |
|---------|------------------------|--------|

IHSAA Class 4A semistate

| | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Nov. 17 | NEW PALESTINE | 7 p.m. |
|---------|---------------|--------|

*-Eastern Indiana Athletic Conference game

HHC STANDINGS

| | Conf | GB | Overall |
|--------------------|------|----|---------|
| New Palestine | 8-0 | -- | 11-2 |
| Greenfield-Central | 6-1 | 1 | 9-2 |
| Pendleton Heights | 5-2 | 2 | 7-3 |
| Mt. Vernon | 4-3 | 3 | 7-5 |
| Delta | 3-4 | 4 | 8-5 |
| Yorktown | 2-5 | 5 | 5-6 |
| Shelbyville | 1-6 | 6 | 3-7 |
| New Castle | 0-7 | 7 | 1-9 |

This week's games

New Palestine at East Central, 7 p.m. (4A)

CLASS 4A SEMISTATES

Friday, Nov. 17

NorthWood (11-2) at (9) Leo (11-2)

(3) New Palestine (11-2) at (1) East Central (13-0)

State Finals: Friday, Nov. 24 or Saturday, Nov. 25
at Lucas Oil Stadium

FOLLOW THE GAME

ONLINE VIDEO: IHSAAtv.org (PPV)

Rob Brown

ONLINE RADIO: NewPalRadio.com

Mike Petry/Mike Jackson/Jeff Wright



(4A 3/3) NEW PALESTINE DRAGONS (11-2, 7-0 HHC)

HEAD COACH: Kyle Ralph (11th season, 127-13). 2023 HHC & regional champion



(4A 1/1) EAST CENTRAL TROJANS (13-0, 3-4 EIAC)

HEAD COACH: Jake Meiners (5th season, 55-9). 2023 EIAC & regional champion

PREGAME NOTES

SETTING THE SCENE

- For the eighth time in school history and the first in four years, the Dragons are competing in a semistate with a trip to Lucas Oil Stadium on the line. This matchup features the two highest-ranked 4A teams remaining, as the Dragons visit defending state champion East Central.
- Both of these programs have rich pedigrees - each has won three state championships. East Central coach Jake Meiners has led the Trojans to a pair of titles, in 2017 and 2022. NP coach **Kyle Ralph** has led the Dragons to championships in 2014, 2018 and 2019.
- This is the first-ever meeting between the Dragons and Trojans. The Dragons have played two EIAC schools in Coach Ralph's tenure, beating Connersville 43-14 in the 2022 sectional final and Lawrenceburg 56-14 in the 2015 season opener.
- The Dragons are 5-2 all-time in semistate games, including 4-1 under Coach Ralph.
- This is the Dragons' sixth game against a team in the Top 10 at game time.

DRAGONS NOTES

- The Red Rage defense remains dominant, and was so again last week against a high-powered Mooresville offense, holding the Pioneers to two field goals. In the last seven weeks, the first-unit defense has allowed just two touchdowns and 20 total points. The Dragons have outscored opponents 179-13 in the tournament, and the defense has scored more points (14) than it has allowed (12) in that span.
- The Dragons forced four takeaways last week and have had seven in the last two weeks. **Brady Armstrong** had an interception for his third takeaway - two picks and a fumble recovery - in the last two weeks. **Desmond Palmer** also had an INT, while **Michael Thacker** and **Mason Oglesby** recovered fumbles.
- The Dragons have 12 takeaways and are plus-11 in turnover ratio during the four state tournament games. They are plus-9 for the season.
- In the last seven games, the Red Rage is allowing 126.1 yards per game, including 38.7 yards per game on the ground. Mooresville's 202 total yards last week were the most allowed by the Dragons since Week 6. The Dragons are gaining 370.9 yards per game in that stretch, 270 on the ground, outscoring teams by an average of 41-5.
- Senior RB **Grayson Thomas** tied his career high with five rushing touchdowns last week. He had 137 yards on 29 carries and now has 6,157 yards for his career, second-most in school history to Charlie Spegal, the state's all-time rushing leader. With 2,259 yards this season, he is second in Class 4A in rushing to EC's Josh Ringer.
- Thomas has 33 rushing touchdowns this season, tying him for fifth on the school's single-season list. His 92 career rushing TDs are second to Spegal's 123.
- WR **Kyler Kropp** is the Dragons' Swiss Army knife, and he moved into fifth place in career receptions (83) and yards (1,359) last week. He had 32 yards receiving, breaking a string of four games with 100-plus yards from scrimmage. This season, he has 1,275 yards and 19 touchdowns from scrimmage.
- The Dragons are sixth in Class 4A in scoring offense (38.8), ninth in scoring defense (15.3) and sixth in victory margin (23.5)

SCOUTING THE TROJANS

- The Trojans lead Class 4A in scoring offense (49.9), defense (6.4) and victory margin (43.5). They have shut out six opponents this season and have allowed only two teams - Cincinnati Moeller and Martinsville - to break double digits.
- RB Josh Ringer leads Class 4A with 2,512 yards. He averages 11.2 yards per carry and has scored 50 touchdowns. The Trojans average 416 yards per game, including 309 on the ground. QB Cole Burton completes 69% of his passes for 101 yards per game. He has thrown for 21 TDs. His top target is Ryan Brotherton (756 yards, 14 TDs). Ringer ran for 214 yards and 5 TDs last week at Evansville Memorial. He had a season-high 325 yards against Martinsville in the sectional and has five 200-yard games.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Tonight's winner will head to Lucas Oil Stadium for the Class 4A State Finals and face either No. 9 Leo or NorthWood. Both teams in the north semistate are 11-2.

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POLLS**IFCA 4A Top 10 (final)**

1. East Central (13-0)
2. Evansville Reitz (11-1)
3. **New Palestine (11-2)**
4. Greenfield-C. (9-2)
5. Mississinewa (12-1)
6. New Haven (8-2)
7. East Noble (8-3)
8. Kokomo (9-3)
9. Leo (11-2)
10. New Prairie (10-3)

AP 4A Top 10 (final)

1. East Central (13-0)
2. Evansville Reitz (11-1)
3. **New Palestine (11-2)**
4. Greenfield-Central (9-2)
5. Mississinewa (12-1)
6. East Noble (8-3)
7. New Haven (8-2)
8. Northridge (9-3)
9. Kokomo (9-2)
10. Leo (11-2)

COMPUTERS**Sagarin 4A rankings**

1. East Central (13-0)
2. **New Palestine (11-2)**
3. East Noble (8-3)
4. Leo (11-2)
5. Evansville Reitz (11-1)
6. NorthWood (11-2)
7. Greenfield-Central (9-2)
8. Pendleton Heights (7-3)
9. Mooresville (7-6)
10. Jasper (7-4)

MaxPreps 4A rankings

1. East Central (13-0)
2. **New Palestine (11-2)**
3. Leo (11-2)
4. Evansville Reitz (11-1)
5. NorthWood (11-2)
6. East Noble (8-3)
7. Greenfield-Central (9-2)
8. Evansville Memorial (9-4)
9. Martinsville (7-4)
10. Pendleton Heights (7-3)

CLASS 4A**SECTIONAL FINALS**

New Prairie 43, Culver Academy 14
 NorthWood 17, Northridge 14
 Leo 31, FW Dwenger 13
 Mississinewa 31, Kokomo 24
 Mooresville 40, Brebeuf 39
New Palestine 42, Mt. Vernon 6
 East Central 47, Greenwood 0
 Ev. Memorial 21, Ev. Reitz 16

REGIONAL FINALS

NorthWood 38, New Prairie 14
 Leo 41, Mississinewa 7
New Palestine 39, Mooresville 6
 East Central 47, Ev. Memorial 7

SEMISTATE

NorthWood (11-2) at (9) Leo (11-2)
(3) New Palestine (11-2) at (1)
 East Central (13-0)

STATE FINALS

Nov. 24 or 25 at Lucas Oil Stadium

PROBABLE STARTERS**NEW PALESTINE OFFENSE**

WR: 24 Mason Hiatt (6-0, 181, Sr.)
 SL: 13 Ty Mitchell (5-6, 150, Sr.)
 LT: 70 Ian Moore (6-6, 311, Sr.)
 LG: 77 Landon Seib (6-0, 246, Jr.)
 C: 75 Brock Brownfield (6-3, 249, So.)
 RG: 55 Colin Whetsel (6-0, 209, So.)
 RT: 72 Abe Walling (6-2, 221, So.)
 SL: 7 Kyler Kropp (6-1, 184, Sr.)
 WR: 2 Cam Rollyson (5-11, 171, So.)
 QB: 8 Gavin Neal (6-0, 208, So.)
 RB: 4 Grayson Thomas (6-0, 190, Sr.)

NEW PALESTINE SPECIALISTS

K: 28 Jake Wells (6-0, 169, Jr.)
 P: 28 Jake Wells (6-0, 169, Jr.)
 LS: 55 Colin Whetsel (6-0, 209, So.)

NEW PALESTINE DEFENSE

DT: 52 Michael Thacker (6-0, 271, Jr.)
 NG: 27 Malachi Haines (6-0, 227, Sr.)
 DT: 54 John Ranes (6-1, 251, Jr.)
 SLB: 20 Alex Guhl (6-0, 210, Jr.)
 MLB: 34 Josh Ranes (6-0, 219, So.)
 WLB: 33 Garrett Ranes (6-1, 224, So.)
 AL: 9 Caden Jacobia (5-9, 188, So.)
 AL: 24 Mason Hiatt (6-0, 181, Sr.)
 CB: 10 Micah Clark (5-6, 154, Sr.)
 CB: 12 Desmond Palmer (6-0, 163, So.)
 FS: 5 Connor Jacobia (6-1, 150, So.)

KR: 10 Micah Clark (5-6, 154, Sr.)
 KR: 7 Kyler Kropp (6-1, 184, Sr.)
 PR: 10 Micah Clark (5-6, 154, Sr.)

TEAM/PLAYER NOTES**SERIES HISTORY**

This is the first-ever meeting between the Dragons and Trojans in football.

IN THE POLLS

The Dragons finish the regular season ranked No. 3 in both polls. They have been ranked for 20 consecutive weeks. The Dragons have been ranked for 99 of the last 107 poll weeks, dating to Sept. 2, 2013, with their only stint out of the poll in that time the last eight weeks of the 2021 season.

The Dragons were No. 1 in the IFCA poll for the last eight poll weeks and in the AP poll for the last nine in 2022.

| POLL WEEK | AP | IFCA |
|-------------------------|-----|------|
| Preseason (Aug. 14) | N/A | 2 |
| After Week 1 (Aug. 21) | 6 | 5 |
| After Week 2 (Aug. 28) | 10 | 7 |
| After Week 3 (Sept. 6) | 9 | 6 |
| After Week 4 (Sept. 13) | 10 | 5 |
| After Week 5 (Sept. 20) | 10 | 6 |
| After Week 6 (Sept. 27) | 7 | 4 |
| After Week 7 (Oct. 2) | 5 | 3 |
| After Week 8 (Oct. 9) | 4 | 3 |
| Final (Oct. 16) | 3 | 3 |

THREE-PEAT

The Dragons won their third consecutive sectional title last week with a 42-6 victory over Mt. Vernon. It's the second sectional three-peat in school history. The Dragons also won three straight sectional titles from 2013-15, also under coach **Kyle Ralph's** tutelage. The Dragons have won back-to-back titles three other times - 1989-90, 2004-05 and 2018-19.

MOORE AN ALL-AMERICAN

Senior **Ian Moore** has been named to the roster for the 2024 All-American Bowl, which will be played Jan. 6 in San Antonio. Moore is one of 100 high school seniors who have been chosen for the prestigious all-star game.

HHC HONORS

Seven Dragons were named to the All-Hoosier Heritage Conference team - senior OL **Ian Moore**, senior RB **Grayson Thomas**, senior WR **Kyler Kropp**, senior DB **Mason Hiatt**, junior P **Jake Wells**, sophomore LB **Garrett Ranes** and sophomore DL **Abe Walling**.

STRONG SCHEDULE

The Dragons' two non-conference regular season opponents also won regional championships last week - 6A Westfield and 5A Decatur Central. Delta also won its Class 3A sectional from the Hoosier Heritage Conference. HHC teams have gone 5-2 against non-conference foes in the state tournament.

27 AND OUT

The Dragons capped off their first regional title since 2019 with a 27-point fourth quarter in a 39-6 victory over Mooresville. The Dragons led 12-6 and stopped the Pioneers on downs inside the NP 25 late in the third. **Grayson Thomas** then capped a nine-play, 73-yard drive with a 2-yard TD run - which was set up by a 37-yard pass to **Ty Mitchell** on third-and-13. On the ensuing kickoff, **Mason Oglesby** recovered a fumble and Thomas scored again two plays later to put the Dragons up 25-6 with their second score in 40 seconds. The Red Rage then forced a fourth-down stop on the Mooresville 23 and Thomas capped a short 3-play drive with a 1-yard run with 6:23 left - the Dragons' third score in less than five minutes. After an interception by **Desmond Palmer**, **Malachi Haines** took a handoff 52 yards for a score to cap the game.

It marked the most points the Dragons had scored in a quarter since tallying 35 in the second quarter Oct. 7, 2022 in a 63-12 victory at New Castle.

RUSHING LEADER

Senior RB **Grayson Thomas** had a tall task - taking over for the state's all-time leading rusher when he became the Dragons' starting running back in 2020. Since, he has put his name all over the NPHS rushing record book. Thomas has rushed for 6,157 yards over his career. He passed Jeff Miles for second place on the NPHS rushing list in Week 1 and became the second player in school history to rush for 4,000 yards in Week 2. In Week 2 against Decatur Central, he tallied 233 yards, scoring four touchdowns on 22 carries. He had runs of 76 and 52 yards in the contest. In Week 3 against Yorktown, he ran for 180 yards, the eighth-highest total of his career.

In Week 4 against Mt. Vernon, he eclipsed that career high with a 285-yard game, including an 80-yard touchdown run.

Thomas is the only back to rush for 1,000 yards in four consecutive seasons in NPHS history. He also is one of two to reach the 6,000-yard mark, a mark he broke in the sectional final against Mt. Vernon. Thomas' 2,259 yards this season is the third-highest single-season total in school history.

GRAYSON THOMAS' TOP RUSHING GAMES

1. **285 yards (31 carries, 2 TD) 9/1/23 vs. Mt. Vernon**
2. **243 yards (27 carries, 2 TD) 10/13/23 at Delta**
3. **233 yards (22 carries, 4 TD) 8/25/23 at DecaturC**
4. **228 yards (26 carries, 3 TD) 10/2/20 at Shelbyville**
5. **210 yards (30 carries, 5 TD) 10/6/23 vs. NewCastle**
6. **207 yards (18 carries, 4 TD) 9/3/21 vs. Yorktown**
7. **195 yards (35 carries, 3 TD) 10/9/20 at New Castle**
8. **192 yards (31 carries, 1 TD) 9/15/23 vs. Pend Hts.**
9. **191 yards (33 carries, 1 TD) 10/21/22 at MV**
10. **187 yards (17 carries, 5 TD) 10/14/22 vs. Delta**
10. **187 yards (25 carries, 1 TD) 8/19/22 vs. Westfield**

| CAREER | GP | Car-Yds | Avg | TD | Lg | HiGm |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 2023 senior | 13 | 328-2259 | 7.1 | 33 | 80 | 285 |
| 2022 junior | 11 | 189-1509 | 7.9 | 26 | 51 | 191 |
| 2021 sophomore | 12 | 203-1288 | 6.3 | 19 | 88 | 207 |
| 2020 freshman | 10 | 211-1101 | 5.2 | 14 | 76 | 228 |
| Career | 46 | 931-6157 | 6.6 | 92 | 88 | 285 |

DOMINANT UP FRONT

Junior DL **Michael Thacker** returns for his third season as a starter on the defensive line after a standout sophomore season, in which he posted 103 tackles and an eye-popping 34.5 tackles for loss. His 13 sacks were among the state leaders last season. He returned from a six-game absence in Week 9 against Delta and had eight tackles, 4 TFL and 2.5 sacks. He followed with seven tackles, 5.5 TFL and a sack in the sectional opener against New Castle. In the regional against Mooresville, he had two sacks, 3.5 TFL and a fumble recovery.

Thacker currently holds offers from Tennessee, West Virginia and Ball State.

| CAREER | GP | Solo-Ast | Total | TFL | Sacks | FC/FR |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 2023 junior | 7 | 30-17 | 47 | 18 | 7 | 1/1 |
| 2022 sophomore | 12 | 74-29 | 103 | 34.5 | 13 | 3/1 |
| 2021 freshman | 10 | 50-39 | 89 | 22 | 5.5 | 2/1 |
| Career | 29 | 154-85 | 239 | 74.5 | 25.5 | 6/3 |

TO "THE" NEXT LEVEL

Senior OL **Ian Moore** is committed to play collegiately at Ohio State. Moore is the No. 1-ranked prospect in Indiana and No. 38 overall and the No. 2-ranked offensive lineman nationally in the 2024 class according to Rivals. 247 has Moore ranked the No. 3 prospect in Indiana, the No. 6 offensive lineman nationally and No. 157 prospect overall nationally.

PERFECT PASSING

The Dragons were nearly perfect on their passing in the Sept. 8 victory over Mt. Vernon. QB **Gavin Neal** was 6-for-11, with five of his completions going for touchdowns of 30, 45, 50 and 57 yards to **Kyler Kropp** and 69 yards to **Ty Mitchell**. The other completion was a 5-yard screen pass to **Grayson Thomas**.

Neal's QB rating - using the NCAA formula - was 399.6 for the game. Each of Kropp's catches went for a TD, setting a school record for receiving TDs in a game. Neal's 5 TD passes tied a school record. Kropp's 182 receiving yards were fourth-most in school history.

On Sept. 29 against Shelbyville, Neal was 9-for-10 for 221 yards and a score, a 308.6 passer rating. He completed four passes for 126 yards to Kropp.

VERSATILE KROPP

Senior slot **Kyler Kropp** has been versatile for the Dragons, as a weapon both as a runner and a receiver, as well as in special teams. Kropp is ninth all-time on the NPHS receiving list and reached the 1,000-yard mark for his career Sept. 29 against Shelbyville.

Against Decatur Central, he had 216 all-purpose yards - his first 100-yard receiving game with exactly 100 yards on four catches. He also had 66 rushing yards and a touchdown and 50 kick return yards. He tallied his third career 100-yard rushing game with 103 yards against Westfield, and also led the Dragons with 58 yards on four receptions.

Against Mt. Vernon, he had a career game in the receiving game with four catches for 182 yards and four TDs - of 30, 45, 50 and 57 yards. He also had 20 yards rushing and a TD.

The next week, he ran the opening kickoff for an 89-yard touchdown and had a 9-yard rushing TD. Against Shelbyville, he had another big day with four catches for 126 yards. He reeled in 49 and 47-yard receptions in that contest.

Kropp had two 100-yard rushing games as a junior - tallying 149 yards against Greenfield-Central and 112 against Connersville in the sectional.

| RUSHING | GP | Car-Yds | Avg | TD | Lg | HiGm |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 2023 senior | 13 | 55-502 | 9.1 | 10 | 65 | 124 |
| 2022 junior | 13 | 68-406 | 6.0 | 5 | 35 | 149 |
| 2021 sophomore | 12 | 34-214 | 6.3 | 5 | 33 | 52 |
| Career | 39 | 157-1122 | 7.1 | 20 | 65 | 149 |
| RECEIVING | GP | Rec-Yds | Avg | TD | Lg | HiGm |
| 2023 senior | 13 | 37-773 | 20.9 | 9 | 57 | 182 |
| 2022 junior | 13 | 28-398 | 14.2 | 5 | 57 | 86 |
| 2021 sophomore | 12 | 18-188 | 10.4 | 1 | 37 | 46 |
| Career | 39 | 83-1359 | 16.4 | 15 | 57 | 182 |

ABOUT NPHS

Nickname: Dragons
Colors: Red and white
Town: New Palestine
County: Hancock
Enrollment: 1,206
Conference: Hoosier Heritage
IHSAA member since: 1915
Varsity football began: 1968
All-time record: 408-203-2
Home stadium: Kelso Stadium
Field: Shepler Field
Surface: Sprinrturf (2018)

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent: Dr. Lisa Lantrip
Principal: Jim Voelz
Asst. prin.: Nicholas Mitchaner
Asst. principal: Craig Moore
Athletic director: Brian Murphy
Asst. AD: Trent Whitaker
Assoc. AD: Nancy Workman
Ath.sec.: Summer Parsons
SID: Andrew Smith

FOOTBALL INFO

Head coach: Kyle Ralph
 HS: Cincinnati St. Xavier '02
 College: North Carolina '06
Career record: 126-13 (11 yrs.)
 2022 record: 12-1 (7-0 HHC)

Offense: Power spread

Defense: 3-3 stack

FOOTBALL HISTORY

State championships: 3

(2014, 2018, 2019)

State Finals appearances: 5
 (1990, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019)

Regional championships: 7
 (1987, 1990, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019)

Sectional championships: 14
 (1987, 1989, 1990, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Conference championships:

23 (Hoosier Heritage Conference: 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023; Range-line Conference: 1991, 1992; Big Blue River Conference: 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988)

ATHLETIC HISTORY

Team state titles: 10

Football: 2014 (4A), 2018 (5A), 2019 (5A)

Baseball: 2004 (3A)

Softball: 2004, 2007, 2008, 2017, 2018, 2019 (3A)

Team state runners-up: 4

Football: 1990 (3A), 2015 (5A)

Baseball: 2003 (3A)

Softball: 2003 (2A)

Individual state champs: 8

Samuel Voelz, T&F 2017

Alec White, WR 2017

Chad Red, WR 2013-16

Kyle Ulrey, WR 2009

Lori Swegman, T&F 1976

600 CLUB

The Dragons amassed 604 yards of total offense in the Sept. 8 63-39 victory over Mt. Vernon - 256 through the air and 348 on the ground. It was the first 600-yard game since tallying 691 Nov. 2, 2018 in a 78-0 sectional championship victory over Anderson.

IN THE PIPELINE

The Dragons subvarsity teams both had strong seasons. The freshmen finished 8-1, while the JV was 6-2. Both were undefeated against Hoosier Heritage Conference foes.

DOUBLE 100

In the 35-0 sectional semifinal victory over Greenfield-Central, both **Grayson Thomas** and **Kyler Kropp** ran for 100-plus yards. Thomas had 145 and two TDs on 21 carries, while Kropp had 124 yards and three TDs on 13 carries. Kropp also tallied 29 receiving yards for 153 yards from scrimmage. It marked the first time two Dragons have rushed for 100 yards in the same game since Thomas and Damon Hockett did so Sept. 24, 2021 against Greenfield-Central.

14 in 5

The Dragons scored two touchdowns in five seconds Oct. 13 against Delta. **Kyler Kropp's** 11-yard run put NP up 28-7 with 8:02 remaining in the third quarter. On the ensuing kickoff, the Dragons recovered the free kick on the Delta 2 after the Eagles did not touch it. **Grayson Thomas** scored on the next play to make it a 35-7 lead in an eventual 38-7 victory.

The Dragons had two TDs 40 seconds apart in the regional against Mooresville. Thomas scored on a 2-yard run with 11:09 left in the fourth quarter, then after Mooresville fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Thomas scored on a 6-yard run at 10:29.

The Dragons scored three touchdowns in the first quarter of the Week 2 game against Decatur Central, with the first two coming 1:11 apart. Thomas capped the first drive of the game with a 5-yard TD. After the Red Rage forced a three-and-out and **John Ranes** deflected a punt, Thomas scored from 22 yards out on the Dragons' next offensive snap.

TAKE A QUARTER

The Dragons finished the Delta game with a mammoth drive that took 16 plays - all runs except for a forward pitch - and chewed up 11:15 of clock. It ended with **Jake Wells'** 34-yard field goal. The Dragons were 2-2 on fourth down and also converted a third down on the drive. The Dragons gained 71 yards on the drive.

GOING THE DISTANCE

In the Dragons' Sept. 8 victory over Mt. Vernon, the Dragons went the distance on a first-quarter drive. After **Mason Hiatt** intercepted a pass at the 1, the Dragons marched 99 yards in six plays, keyed by a 14-yard run by **Grayson Thomas** to the 20, a 15-yard run by **Gavin Neal** on third down to the 43, followed by a 57-yard TD pass from Neal to **Kyler Kropp**. The Dragons needed 2:14 to travel the 99 yards.

START WITH A BANG

Kyler Kropp took the opening kickoff against Pendleton Heights back 89 yards for a touchdown. It was the Dragons' first kick return TD since Isaiah Thacker's 75-yard return Oct. 7, 2022 at New Castle.

The next week, the Dragons waited until the first snap to score. **Ty Mitchell** reeled in a 65-yard pass from **Gavin Neal** on the game's first snap in the Dragons' 21-14 victory over Greenfield-Central.

They have scored on their first possession in seven games this season, including five straight from Week 4 to Week 8.

FIRST DRIVE TOUCHDOWNS, 2023

10/27 vs. Greenfield-Central: Kyler Kropp 1 run (5:22 1Q)

10/20 vs. New Castle: Mason Oglesby 12 pass from Gavin Neal (8:59 1Q)

10/6 vs. New Castle: Grayson Thomas 2 run (8:29 1Q)

9/29 vs. Shelbyville: Grayson Thomas 8 run (9:46 1Q)

9/22 at Greenfield-Central: Ty Mitchell 65 pass from Gavin Neal (11:44 1Q - first offensive snap)

9/15 vs. Pendleton Heights: Kyler Kropp 89 kickoff return (11:47 1Q - opening kickoff)

9/8 vs. Mt. Vernon: Kyler Kropp 30 pass from Gavin Neal (10:34 1Q)

8/30 at Decatur Central: Grayson Thomas 5 run (5:30 1Q)

IN THE LONG RUN

Senior **Grayson Thomas** broke an 80-yard TD run at a critical moment against Mt. Vernon - with the Dragons leading 28-23 but having surrendered 20 straight points, Thomas took a handoff up the middle and outran the MV defense. It was the Dragons' longest rush since Thomas broke an 88-yard TD run Sept. 3, 2021 against Yorktown.

BIG PLAYS

The Dragons had a number of big plays in the Week 2 game against Decatur Central. **Grayson Thomas** took the first play of the second half 76 yards to set up a touchdown. It's the first 70+-yard play from scrimmage since Sept. 17, 2021. Thomas also had a 52-yard touchdown run, while **Kyler Kropp** had receptions of 48 and 41 yards, the former setting up the Dragons' first touchdown of the game.

7-for-7

The Dragons offense was perfect against Shelbyville, scoring on all seven of its drives. The Dragons ran 43 plays, tallying a touchdown or first down on 24. **Gavin Neal** threw for 221 yards and rushed for two TDs. **Kyler Kropp** caught four passes for 126 yards and **Grayson Thomas** ran for 108 yards and three TDs on 16 carries. The Dragons had 417 yards of total offense.

GROUND GAME

The Dragons offense had a big game on the ground against Decatur Central, rushing for 312 yards. It was their first 300-yard rushing game since tallying 316 Oct. 15, 2021 against Delta.

The Dragons also ran for 348 yards in Week 4 against Mt. Vernon and 302 yards in Week 8 against New Castle, before hitting a season-high 363 against Greenfield-Central in the sectional semifinal. **Grayson Thomas** tallied 200-yard games in all three of the regular-season contests. He and **Kyler Kropp** both broke the 100-yard mark against G-C.

FINDING THE FOOTBALL

The Dragons have had a number of double-digit tackle games this season, led by a lot of big efforts Sept. 22 against Greenfield-Central, when sophomore LB **Garrett Ranes** had 16 stops and senior DB **Mason Hiatt** had 15. They were among five players with double-digit tackles. Against Mt. Vernon, sophomore LB **Josh Ranes** had 15 stops in a 63-39 victory.

MOST TACKLES, 2023

16, Garrett Ranes 9/22 at Greenfield-Central

15, Mason Hiatt 9/22 at Greenfield-Central

15, Josh Ranes 9/8 vs. Mt. Vernon

12, Caden Jacobia 10/6 vs. New Castle

12, Mason Oglesby 9/22 at Greenfield-Central

11, Josh Ranes 9/22 at Greenfield-Central

11, Garrett Ranes 9/15 vs. Pendleton Hts.

11, Mason Hiatt, 8/18 at Westfield

10, Micah Clark 10/27 vs. Greenfield-Central

10, Brock Brownfield 9/22 at Greenfield-Central

10, Micah Clark 8/25 at Decatur Central

10, Garrett Ranes, 8/25 at Decatur Central

DUAL-THREAT QB

A hallmark of head coach **Kyle Ralph's** offense has been the dual-threat quarterback. Sophomore **Gavin Neal**, who stands 6-0, 209, has shown that so far, with 74 rushing yards on 15 carries against Westfield, while also throwing for 69 yards on 14 attempts. Neal threw for 119 yards in Week 3 against Yorktown and a score, while he also ran for 70 yards and a score. Against Mt. Vernon in Week 4, Neal threw for 256 yards and five touchdowns. In Week 8, Neal ran for a career-high 93 yards against New Castle and also threw for 96, completing a career-high 10 passes.

MAKING IT RANES

The Dragons' defensive front six has a lot of Ranese - three of them. **John Ranese** is a junior defensive lineman, while sophomore brothers **Garrett** and **Josh Ranese** are starting linebackers. While Garrett and Josh are in the same class, they are not twins. The Ranese are cousins of another trio of former Dragon football players - Charlie, Devon and David Spegal.

FACING THE TOP

The Dragons' Week 1 loss to Westfield was their fourth game against a 6A school in school history - all since 2018. The Dragons had won the previous three - victories over Center Grove in 2018 and 2019 and over Westfield in 2021.

PICK-6

Senior **Brady Armstrong** had one of the Dragons' three interceptions against Pendleton Heights and took it back 55 yards for a TD. It was the Dragons' first defensive TD since A.J. Reier's 13-yard INT return vs. Yorktown Sept. 2, 2022.

Armstrong wasn't done. In the sectional championship game against Mt. Vernon, he grabbed a fumble out of mid-air and ran it 58 yards for a score. He also had an interception in that contest and followed with another pick against Mooresville in the regional.

The Dragons added another defensive TD late in the New Castle game, as **Liam Fuller** had a 16-yard fumble return for a score.

SUB-ZERO

The Red Rage held New Castle to minus-26 yards of total offense and minus-57 rushing yards in the sectional opener against New Castle. The Dragons had five sacks in the game, with **Cameron Rollyson** posting three - including a sack-fumble. He led the team with eight tackles in the game. **Michael Thacker** had 5.5 tackles for loss. As a team, the Dragons had 13 tackles for loss on 33 defensive snaps.

It marked the first time holding a team to negative rushing yards since Sept. 6, 2019, when the Dragons held Yorktown to minus-8 yards. It was the first time the Dragons held a team to negative total yardage since holding Shelbyville to minus-29 yards on Oct. 3, 2014.

The shutout was the first since a 56-0 victory over Shelbyville Sept. 30, 2022.

The Dragons followed it up with a dominant performance in a 35-0 victory over Greenfield-Central, allowing just 140 total yards. It marked the first back-to-back shutouts since the 2020 season.

NINE TDs

The Dragons tallied 60 points in their 63-0 sectional-opening victory over New Castle. It was the second time this season scoring 63 points. It was the largest margin of victory since a 63-0 victory over Shelbyville Oct. 4, 2019. **Kyler Kropp** and **Grayson Thomas** scored two touchdowns each. **Micah Clark**, **Mason Oglesby**, **Malachi Haines** and **Bryan Caldwell** scored offensive TDs. **Liam Fuller** also had a defensive score. Clark, Oglesby, Caldwell and Fuller all scored their first career TDs in that contest.

The Dragons also scored 63 points against Mt. Vernon in Week 4, with Kropp tallying a school-record four receiving TDs - on four catches - and **Gavin Neal** tying a school record with five TD passes. Kropp also had a 10-yard TD run. Thomas scored two TDs, Neal ran for one and **Ty Mitchell** had a touchdown reception. Six of the nine TDs came from 30 yards out or more.

2022 HONORS

The Dragons roster sports multiple players who received postseason honors last season. Senior OL/DL **Ian Moore** and junior DL **Michael Thacker** were IFCA Top 50 All-State players last season. Also, senior RB **Grayson Thomas** was named All-Hoosier Heritage Conference.

DRAGONS IN COLLEGE

Twenty-six former Dragons are currently playing college football, including seven at the NCAA Div. I level - Maxen Hook (Toledo), Kyle King (Ball State), Charlie Spegal (Ball State), Isaiah Thacker (Ball State), Luke Burgess (Louisville), David DeGuzman (Maryland) and Matthew Brown (Indiana State).

Also playing collegiately are Ethan Sturgeon, Tucker Keevers and Austin Keele (Indianapolis), Damon Hockett, Jacob Hockett, Aven Jones and Trey Keele (Taylor), Aidan Ewers (St. Francis), Nick Bastian, Richard Clevenger and Will Olive (Wabash), Caleb Byers and Gus Walling (Anderson), Brody Luker, Eric Roudebush, Eian Roudebush and Ben Purciful (Hannover), Brendan Tanksley (Rose-Hulman) and Daniel Tippit (DePauw).

TWO-SPORT KICKERS

The Dragons' three kickers are all doing double-duty in the fall. Junior **Jake Wells** is a goalkeeper on the boys soccer team, while sophomore **Cole Christopher** - who is joining the football team this year - is a forward. Junior **Mallari Johnson** is a member of the girls soccer team. All are HHC champs in both football and soccer this fall.

SACK DANCE

The Dragons had five sacks in the Oct. 6 victory over New Castle. **Caden Jacobia** and **Garrett Ranese** had two each, while **Josh Ranese** had one. All three are sophomores. They also had four two weeks later against New Castle. **Cameron Rollyson** had three. **Michael Thacker** had one.

RETURNING HOME

The Dragons' coaching staff features five players who played for Coach **Kyle Ralph**. **Duke Blackwell** was a stand-out receiver who graduated in 2016 and remains the school's career receiving leader. **Nick Brickens** is also a 2016 graduate. Both played collegiately at St. Francis, where they won an NAIA national championship together. **Alex Neligh** quarterbacked the 2014 state championship team and 2015 state runner-up squad and graduated in 2016. **Garrett Kuhn** was a standout two-way player on Coach Ralph's first New Palestine team in 2013. He joins the high school coaching staff this year. Also joining the staff this year is **Gunnar Large**, the Dragons' starting QB in 2016.

COMMUNITY OF CHAMPS

The football team isn't the only Dragons program having success this fall. The girls golf team won Hancock County, HHC and sectional championships and placed 15th at the State Finals. The boys and girls soccer teams both won the HHC championship. **Jake Wells** was the starting goalkeeper for the boys soccer team. The cheerleaders also won the HHC title and placed third at the State Finals.

Last spring, the baseball team won sectional and regional championships - with current starting QB **Gavin Neal** playing 22 games as a freshman - and the softball team won the HHC title. Over the winter, the boys basketball team won both HHC and sectional championships. **Brady Armstrong** was part of the varsity roster. Gymnastics also won a sectional title and finished ninth at the State Finals. Boys swimming also won its first-ever sectional championship.

2023 BOXES

Sectional Round 2: Dragons 35, Greenfield-C. 0

Friday, Oct. 27 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|----|---|------|
| Greenfield-Central (9-2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | --0 |
| New Palestine (9-2) | 14 | 7 | 14 | 0 | --35 |

Scoring summary

NP-Kropp 1 run (Wells kick), 5:22
 NP-Kropp 5 run (Wells kick), :46
 NP-Thomas 7 run (Wells kick), 5:14
 NP-Thomas 4 run (Wells kick), 10:58
 NP-Kropp 31 run (Wells kick), 3:45

Team stats

First downs: G-C 9, NP 19
 Rushes-yards: G-C 20-37, NP 49-363
 Passing C-A-I: G-C 13-22-2, NP 2-3-0
 Passing yards: G-C 103, NP 29
 Total plays-yards: G-C 42-140, NP 52-392
 Penalties-yards: G-C 3-20, NP 2-15
 Fumbles-lost: G-C 1-0, NP 1-0
 Punts-avg: G-C 4-35.3, NP 2-32.0
 Time of possession: G-C 21:46, NP 26:14

Individual stats**Greenfield-Central**

Rushing: Benavente 9-28, C.Hinton 3-6, J.Hinton 3-6, Foley 1-3, Freeman 4-(-6)
 Passing: Freeman 13-22-2-103
 Receiving: Knecht 5-41, Wadle 3-36, J.Hinton 2-14, Willard 2-5, Ford 1-7

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 21-145, Kropp 13-124, Neal 8-45, Haines 5-39, Armstrong 2-10
 Passing: Neal 2-3-0-29
 Receiving: Kropp 2-29
 State rankings: NP 4A 3 (IFCA)/3 (AP), G-C 4A 4 (IFCA)/4 (AP)

Sectional Round 1: Dragons 63, New Castle 0

Friday, Oct. 20 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|------|
| New Castle (1-9) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | --0 |
| New Palestine (8-2) | 21 | 14 | 7 | 21 | --35 |

Scoring summary

NP-Oglesby 12 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 8:59
 NP-Kropp 16 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 4:51
 NP-Clark 8 run (Wells kick), :15
 NP-Thomas 1 run (Wells kick), 3:21
 NP-Thomas 7 run (Wells kick), :47
 NP-Kropp 10 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 3:37
 NP-Haines 1 run (Wells kick), 9:39
 NP-Caldwell 34 run (Johnson kick), 3:47
 NP-Fuller 16 fumble return (Johnson kick), 1:49

Team stats

First downs: NC 2, NP 17
 Rushes-yards: NC 15-(-57), NP 36-242
 Passing C-A-I: NC 4-18-1, NP 10-15-0
 Passing yards: NC 31, NP 147
 Total plays-yards: NC 33-(-26), NP 51-389
 Penalties-yards: NC 0-0, NP 2-25
 Fumbles-lost: NC 3-2, NP 0-0
 Punts-avg: NC 5-36.2, NP 1-45.0
 Time of possession: NC 25:14, NP 22:46

Individual stats**New Castle**

Rushing: Wagers 3-3, Hannan 2-0, Thompson 4-(-2), Lewis 5-(-46), team 1-(-12)
 Passing: Lewis 4-17-1-31, Bell 0-1
 Receiving: Logston 3-22, Anderson 1-9

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 19-142, Caldwell 3-37, Kropp 1-33, Haines 3-9, Neal 6-8, Clark 1-8, Mitchell 1-6, Hammons 1-4, Harley 1-(-5)
 Passing: Neal 10-15-0-147
 Receiving: Kropp 4-74, Oglesby 3-32, Mitchell 2-29, Rollyson 1-12
 State rankings: NP 4A 3 (IFCA)/3 (AP)

Week 9: Dragons 38, Delta 7

Friday, Oct. 13 at Delta Stadium, Muncie

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----|----|---|------|
| New Palestine (7-2, 7-0) | 7 | 14 | 14 | 3 | --38 |
| Delta (5-4, 3-4) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | --7 |

Scoring summary

NP-Thomas 34 run (Wells kick), 4:06
 NP-Kropp 15 run (Wells kick), 4:42
 NP-Kropp 25 pass from Neal (Wells kick), :17
 D-Ritchie 33 pass from Edwards (Stanley kick), 9:37
 NP-Kropp 11 run (Wells kick), 8:02
 NP-Thomas 2 run (Wells kick), 7:57
 NP-Wells 34 FG, 3:54

Team stats

First downs: NP 17, D 8
 Rushes-yards: NP 48-339, D 33-41
 Passing C-A-I: NP 3-8-1, D 7-13-0
 Passing yards: NP 41, D 81
 Total plays-yards: NP 56-380, D 46-122
 Penalties-yards: NP 7-80, D 3-24
 Fumbles-lost: NP 4-1, D 2-0
 Punts-avg: NP 2-36.5, D 5-46.2
 Time of possession: NP 26:41, D 21:19

Individual stats**New Palestine**

Rushing: Thomas 27-243, Kropp 7-60, Neal 10-45, team 4-(-9)
 Passing: Neal 3-8-1-41
 Receiving: Kropp 3-41

Delta

Rushing: Bond 15-71, Carpenter 3-17, J.Jones 3-4, Backus 1-0, Russell 1-(-1), Ritchie 1-(-2), Lennis 1-(-4)
 Edwards 7-(-42), team 1-(-2)
 Passing: Edwards 7-13-0-81
 Receiving: Ritchie 2-47, J.Manor 2-19, J.Jones 2-10, Bratton 1-5
 State rankings: NP 4A 3 (IFCA)/4 (AP)

Week 8: Dragons 35, New Castle 7

Friday, Oct. 6 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| New Castle (1-7, 0-6) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | --7 |
| New Palestine (6-2, 6-0) | 14 | 7 | 7 | 7 | --35 |

Scoring summary

NP - Thomas 2 run (Wells kick), 8:29
 NP - Thomas 1 run (Wells kick), 4:57
 NP - Thomas 3 run (Wells kick), 6:01
 NP - Thomas 3 run (Wells kick), 6:40
 NC - Semler 4 pass from Thrine (Barrett kick), 2:24
 NP - Thomas 1 run (Wells kick), 6:40

Team stats

First downs: NC 11, NP 24
 Rushes-yards: NC 34-55, NP 47-302
 Passing C-A-I: NC 9-22-1, NP 10-16-2
 Passing yards: NC 109, NP 96
 Total plays-yards: NC 56-164, NP 63-398
 Penalties-yards: NC 8-84, NP 4-35
 Fumbles-lost: NC 1-0, NP 1-1
 Punts-avg: NC 4-51.5, NP 0-0
 Time of possession: NC 24:39, NP 23:21

Individual stats**New Castle**

Rushing: Thrine 14-43, Hannan 9-29, Semler 1-4, Logsdon 1-(-4), Lewis 9-(-17)
 Passing: Lewis 8-21-1-105, Thrine 1-1-0-4
 Receiving: Thrine 5-60, Semler 2-33, McMartin 2-16

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 30-210, Neal 16-93, team 1-(-1)
 Passing: Neal 10-16-2-96
 Receiving: Kropp 3-31, Mitchell 3-31, Hiatt 3-25, Rollyson 1-9
 State rankings: NP 4A 3 (IFCA)/5 (AP)

Week 7: Dragons 49, Shelbyville 7

Friday, Sept. 29 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|---|---|------|
| Shelbyville (3-4, 1-4) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | --7 |
| New Palestine (5-2, 5-0) | 21 | 14 | 7 | 7 | --49 |

Scoring summary

NP-Thomas 8 run (Wells kick), 9:46
 NP-Neal 1 run (Wells kick), 6:50
 NP-Thomas 3 run (Wells kick), :34
 NP-Neal 1 run (Wells kick), 8:28
 NP-Hiatt 19 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 1:32
 NP-Thomas 6 run (Wells kick), 4:00
 S-Martin 4 run (Heifer-Vazquez kick), 9:05
 NP-Haines 10 run (Christopher kick), :36

Team stats

First downs: S 6, NP 19
 Rushes-yards: S 18-20, NP 33-196
 Passing C-A-I: S 12-15-0, NP 9-10-0
 Passing yards: S 107, NP 221
 Total plays-yards: S 33-127, NP 43-417
 Penalties-yards: S 6-42, NP 4-35
 Fumbles-lost: S 0-0, NP 0-0
 Punts-avg.: S 5-34.2, NP 0-0
 Time of possession: S 25:41, NP 22:19

Individual stats**Shelbyville**

Rushing: Martin 7-14, Chappelow 9-7, Conover 2-(-1)
 Passing: Chappelow 12-15-0-107
 Receiving: Brinkman 3-54, Fitzgerald 1-21, Myers 2-15, Conover 2-14, Schene 1-7, Martin 3-(-4)

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 16-108, Neal 5-24, Haines 8-35, Harley 1-15, Caldwell 3-14
 Passing: Neal 9-10-0-221
 Receiving: Kropp 4-126, Mitchell 2-44, Hiatt 2-28, Rollyson 1-23
 State rankings: NP 4A 4 (IFCA)/7 (AP)

Week 6: Dragons 21, Greenfield-Central 14

Friday, Sept. 22 at Clayton Myers Field, Greenfield

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|---|------|
| New Palestine (4-2, 4-0) | 14 | 0 | 0 | 7 | --21 |
| Greenfield-C. (5-1, 3-1) | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | --14 |

Scoring summary

NP-Mitchell 65 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 11:44
 NP-Thomas 6 run (Wells kick), 2:33
 G-C-Foley 3 run (run failed), 4:00
 G-C-Foley 1 run (Freeman run), 6:02
 NP-Thomas 1 run (Wells kick), 5:28

Team stats

First downs: NP 15, G-C 23
 Rushes-yards: NP 41-214, G-C 58-222
 Passing C-A-I: NP 5-11-0, G-C 10-19-1
 Passing yards: NP 120, G-C 105
 Total plays-yards: NP 52-334, G-C 77-327
 Penalties-yards: NP 5-50, G-C 6-55
 Fumbles-lost: NP 0-0, G-C 2-1
 Punts-avg: NP 2-39.5, G-C 1-51.0
 Time of possession: NP 20:30, G-C 27:30

Individual stats**New Palestine**

Rushing: Thomas 29-186, Neal 7-23, Kropp 3-9, team 2-(-4)
 Passing: Neal 5-11-0-120
 Receiving: Mitchell 3-75, Hiatt 2-45

Greenfield-Central

Rushing: Foley 21-84, J.Hinton 14-66, Freeman 13-35, C.Hinton 7-17, VanOsdol 2-16, Willard 1-4
 Passing: Freeman 10-18-1-105, team 0-1
 Receiving: Knecht 4-41, Wadle 3-41, Willard 3-23
 State rankings: NP 4A 6 (IFCA)/10 (AP), G-C 4A 5 (IFCA)/5 (AP)

2023 BOXES (cont.)**Week 5: Dragons 34, Pendleton Heights 14****Friday, Sept. 15 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine****Pendleton Hts. (3-2, 1-2) 0 0 7 7 -- 14****New Palestine (3-2, 3-0) 14 6 7 7 -- 34****Scoring summary**

NP-Kropp 89 kickoff return (Wells kick), 11:47
 NP-Kropp 9 run (Wells kick), 6:24
 NP-Wells 43 FG, 5:03
 NP-Wells 44 FG, :00
 NP-Thomas 56 run (Wells kick), 10:28
 PH-DeRolf 11 pass from Frank (Apo kick), 1:22
 NP-Armstrong 55 interception return (Wells kick), 10:40
 PH-Sims 16 pass from Wilson (Apo kick), 6:13

Team stats

First downs: PH 11, NP 13
 Rushes-yards: PH 25-53, NP 43-184
 Passing C-A-I: PH 13-34-3, NP 4-9-1
 Passing yards: PH 125, NP 56
 Total plays-yards PH 59-178, NP 52-240
 Penalties-yards: PH 5-30, NP 9-75
 Fumbles-lost: PH 0-0, NP 0-0
 Punts-avg: PH 3-44.3, NP 4-36.8
 Time of possession: PH 22:52, NP 25:08

Individual stats**Pendleton Heights**

Rushing: Wilson 15-35, Surface 3-10, Roberts 2-6,
 Jones 2-3, Trout 1-3, Frank 2-(-4)
 Passing: Wilson 7-20-2-63, Frank 6-14-1-62
 Receiving: Sims 4-49, DeRolf 4-28, Stevens 3-35,
 Reddington 1-11, Wilson 1-2

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 31-192, Kropp 2-18, Neal 8-6, team
 2-(-32)
 Passing: Neal 4-8-1-56, team 0-1
 Receiving: Kropp 2-12, Clark 1-34, Rollyson 1-10
 State rankings: NP 4A 5 (IFCA)/10 (AP); PH 4A RV
 (IFCA)

Week 4: Dragons 63, Mt. Vernon 39**Friday, Sept. 8 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine****Mt. Vernon (1-3, 0-2) 3 14 22 0 -- 39****New Palestine (2-2, 2-0) 21 7 21 14 -- 63****Scoring summary**

NP-Kropp 30 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 10:34
 MV-Vinard 38 FG, 9:06
 NP-Kropp 57 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 3:07
 NP-Neal 9 run (Wells kick), :37
 NP-Mitchell 69 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 9:55
 MV-Jones 25 pass from Ertel (Vinard kick), 8:01
 MV-Brogan 3 run (Vinard kick), 1:53
 MV-Brogan 4 run (run failed), 8:59
 NP-Thomas 80 run (Wells kick), 8:47
 NP-Kropp 50 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 6:26
 MV-Brogan 65 run (Etherington pass form Ertel), 6:16
 NP-Kropp 10 run (Wells kick), 1:12
 MV-Brogan 62 run (Jones run), :53
 NP-Kropp 45 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 11:30
 NP-Thomas 2 run (Wells kick), 5:02

Team stats

First downs: MV 18, NP 18
 Rushes-yards: MV 34-268, NP 50-348
 Passing C-A-I: MV 9-20-1, NP 6-11-0
 Passing yards: MV 94, NP 256
 Total plays-yards: MV 54-364, NP 61-604
 Penalties-yards: MV 6-33, NP 7-75
 Fumbles-lost: MV 2-2, NP 1-1
 Punts-avg: MV 5-15.8, NP 3-36.3
 Time of possession: MV 20:36, NP 27:24

Individual stats**Mt. Vernon**

Rushing: Brogan 26-246, Jones 2-14, Ertel 5-4, John-
 son 1-4
 Passing: Ertel 9-20-1-94
 Receiving: Jones 3-46, Barnett 2-29, Etherington 2-27,
 Joy 1-(-3), Brogan 1-(-5)

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 31-285, Neal 13-46, Kropp 4-20,
 team 2-(-3)
 Passing: Neal 6-11-0-256
 Receiving: Kropp 4-182, Mitchell 1-69, Thomas 1-5
 State rankings: NP 4A 6 (IFCA)/9 (AP); MV 4A RV (AP)

Week 3: Dragons 30, Yorktown 22**Friday, Sept. 1 at Kelso Stadium, New Palestine****Yorktown (2-1, 0-1) 9 0 6 7 -- 22****New Palestine (1-2, 1-0) 0 14 6 10 -- 30****Scoring summary**

Y-Weaver 22 FG, 5:51
 Y-Webster 10 interception return (kick failed), :28
 NP-Mitchell 30 pass from Neal (Wells kick), 10:06
 NP-Neal 12 run (Wells kick), 6:12
 Y-Ewing 48 run (pass failed), 9:01
 NP-Thomas 1 run (pass failed), 6:05
 NP-Thomas 8 run (Wells kick), 11:42
 NP-Wells 24 FG, 3:33
 Y-Dougherty 43 pass from Moulton (McKay kick), 2:40

Team stats

First downs: Y 12, NP 21
 Rushes-yards: Y 24-128, NP 54-214
 Passing C-A-I: Y 14-39-3, NP 6-12-1
 Passing yards: Y 184, NP 119
 Total plays-yards: Y 63-312, NP 66-333
 Penalties-yards: Y 10-79, NP 7-59
 Fumbles-lost: Y 0-0, NP 4-2
 Punts-avg: Y 5-40.6, NP 1-45.0
 Time of possession: Y 22:09, NP 25:51

Individual stats**Yorktown**

Rushing: Ewing 13-77, Moulton 7-48, Webster 3-5,
 Cummins 1-(-2)
 Passing: Moulton 14-39-3-184
 Receiving: Williams 5-64, Perdue 5-58, Dougherty
 3-57, Webster 1-5

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 31-180, Neal 19-70, Armstrong 1-5,
 Kropp 1-(-5), team 2-(-36)
 Passing: Neal 6-12-1-119
 Receiving: Mitchell 3-62, Rollyson 2-42, Kropp 1-15)
 State rankings: NP 4A 7 (IFCA)/10 (AP); Y 3A RV
 (IFCA)/10 (AP)

Week 2: Decatur Central 43, Dragons 42**Friday, Aug. 25 at Devere Fair Stadium, Indianapolis****New Palestine (0-2) 21 0 14 7 -- 42****Decatur Central (2-0) 7 17 6 13 -- 43****Scoring summary**

DC - Richmond 38 pass from Polston (Vogel kick), 8:37
 NP - Thomas 5 run (Wells kick), 5:30
 NP - Thomas 22 run (Wells kick), 4:19
 NP - Thomas 1 run (Wells kick), :41
 DC - Richmond 48 pass from Polston (Vogel kick), 9:54
 DC - Dodo 27 run (Vogel kick), 5:54
 DC - Vogel 40 FG, :00
 NP - Neal 4 run (Wells kick), 11:35
 NP - Kropp 13 run (Wells kick), 8:19
 DC - Dodo 1 run (pass failed), 2:53
 DC - Vogel 44 FG, 9:00
 NP - Thomas 52 run (Wells kick), 5:50
 DC - Vogel 46 FG, 5:13
 DC - Polston 7 run (Vogel kick), :42

Team stats

First downs: NP 14, DC 17
 Rushes-yards: NP 41-312, DC 29-84
 Passing C-A-I: NP 6-12-2, DC 24-43-0
 Passing yards: NP 108, DC 354
 Total plays-yards: NP 53-420, DC 72-439
 Penalties-yards: NP 3-30, DC 8-59
 Fumbles-lost: NP 1-1, DC 1-0
 Punts-avg: NP 2-32.0, DC 4-26.0
 Time of possession: NP 19:50, DC 28:10

Individual stats**New Palestine**

Rushing: Thomas 22-233, Kropp 10-66, Neal 9-13
 Passing: Neal 5-11-2-104, Armstrong 1-1-0-4
 Receiving: Kropp 4-100, Mitchell 1-4, Hiatt 1-4

Decatur Central

Rushing: Polston 15-41, Dodo 4-35, Berry 2-15, Aguirre
 4-7, Richmond 2-1, team 1-(-14)
 Passing: Polston 24-43-0-354
 Receiving: Carter 11-74, Richmond 6-176, Hicks 3-28,
 Aguirre 2-8, Berry 1-39, Dodo 1-30
 State Rankings: NP 4A 5 (IFCA)/6 (AP), DC 5A 8
 (IFCA)/9 (AP)

Week 1: Westfield 34, Dragons 14**Friday, Aug. 18 at Riverview Stadium, Westfield****New Palestine (0-1) 0 0 0 14 -- 14****Westfield (1-0) 14 10 7 3 -- 34****Scoring summary**

Scoring summary
 W-Gilbert 9 run (Boehm kick), 8:45
 W-B.Braun 38 pass from Gilbert (Boehm kick), 8:27
 W-Boehm 28 FG, 4:19
 W-Webster fumble recovery in end zone (Boehm kick),
 2:21
 W-Gilbert 5 run (Boehm kick), 9:44
 NP-Thomas 3 run (Wells kick), 9:45
 W-Boehm 23 FG, 4:49
 NP-Kropp 65 run (Wells kick), 4:35

Team stats

First downs: NP 15, W 17
 Rushes-yards: NP 48-272, W 38-152
 Passing C-A-I: NP 6-15-1, W 10-17-1
 Passing yards: NP 69, W 165
 Total plays-yards: NP 63-341, W 59-317
 Penalties-yards: NP 2-10, W 6-40
 Fumbles-lost: NP 1-1, W 2-0
 Punts-avg: NP 5-19.2, W 4-34.0
 Time of possession: NP 22:10, W 25:50

Individual stats**New Palestine**

Rushing: Kropp 7-103, Thomas 22-82, Neal 15-74,
 Armstrong 3-9, Hammons 1-4
 Passing: Neal 6-14-1-69, team 0-1
 Receiving: Kropp 4-58, Mitchell 1-7, Hiatt 1-4

Westfield

Rushing: Garnett 16-71, Webster 4-31, Gilbert 4-23,
 Umbaugh 6-23, Arambales 2-9, Grabowski 4-6,
 J.Braun 1-4, team 1-(-15)
 Passing: Gilbert 8-14-1-138, Grabowski 2-3-0-27
 Receiving: Nosler 3-19, Arambales 2-64, Parker 2-27,
 B.Braun 1-38, Irwin 1-12, J.Braun 1-5
 State Rankings: NP 4A 2 (IFCA), W 6A 7 (IFCA)

TOURNEY HISTORY

All-time tournament record: 74-37

Sect: 58-27; Reg: 8-6; Semistate: 5-2; State: 3-2

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (14)

2023: 4A. 11-2. Kyle Ralph (reg)
 2022: 4A. 12-1. Kyle Ralph
 2021: 5A. 8-4. Kyle Ralph
 2019: 5A. 14-0. Kyle Ralph (reg, ss, st)
 2018: 5A. 14-0. Kyle Ralph (reg, ss, st)
 2015: 5A. 13-1. Kyle Ralph (reg, ss)
 2014: 4A. 15-0. Kyle Ralph (reg, ss, st)
 2013: 4A. 13-1. Kyle Ralph (reg)
 2009: 4A. 10-3. Tim Able
 2005: 3A. 10-3. Doug Armstrong
 2004: 3A. 10-3. Doug Armstrong
 1990: 3A. 12-2. Marvin Shepler (reg, ss)
 1989: 3A. 10-2. Marvin Shepler.
 1987: 3A. 11-2. Marvin Shepler (reg)

DRAGONS IN SECTIONAL FINAL (14-9)

Class 4A

2023: New Palestine 42, *Mt. Vernon 6

2022: *New Palestine 43, Connersville 14
 Class 5A

2021: *New Palestine 20, Whiteland 17

2020: *Whiteland 48, New Palestine 13

2019: *New Palestine 49, Franklin 14

2018: *New Palestine 78, Anderson 0

2017: Zionsville 26, *New Palestine 24

2015: New Palestine 24, *Columbus E. 14

Class 4A

2014: New Palestine 83, *Beech Grove 20

2013: *New Palestine 33, Mt. Vernon 0

2011: Pendleton Hts 24, *New Palestine 13

2009: *New Palestine 48, And. Highland 22

Class 3A

2006: *Mt. Vernon 17, New Palestine 14

2005: New Palestine 31, *Mt. Vernon 14

2004: New Palestine 37, *Yorktown 20

2002: Hamilton Hts. 26, *New Palestine 14

1995: *Roncalli 35, New Palestine 21

1990: New Palestine 21, *Elwood 16

1989: *New Palestine 7, Hamilton SE 3

1988: *Lawrenceburg 20, New Palestine 0

1987: *New Palestine 36, Lawrenceburg 14

Class 2A

1984: *Hagerstown 11, New Palestine 6

1983: Yorktown 14, *New Palestine 7

DRAGONS IN REGIONAL (8-6)

Class 4A

2023: *New Palestine 39, Mooresville 6

2022: *Roncalli 20, New Palestine 7

Class 5A

2021: *Cathedral 23, New Palestine 7

2019: *New Palestine 35, Cathedral 10

2018: New Palestine 31, *Harrison 7

2015: *New Palestine 49, Zionsville 21

Class 4A

2014: New Palestine 44, *Roncalli 13

2013: *New Palestine 27, Chatard 14

2009: *Cathedral 45, New Palestine 3

Class 3A

2005: Chatard 14, *New Palestine 0

2004: Chatard 38, *New Palestine 7

1990: New Palestine 20, *Chatard 12

1989: *Roncalli 21, New Palestine 3

1987: *New Palestine 29, Cathedral 28, OT

DRAGONS IN SEMISTATE (5-2)

Class 5A

2019: *New Palestine 45, Bloomington South 0

2018: *New Palestine 35, Michigan City 10

2015: *New Palestine 56, Castle 6

Class 4A

2014: *New Palestine 30, Columbus East 28

2013: *Columbus East 49, New Palestine 14

Class 3A

1990: New Palestine 20, *Tell City 14

1987: *Zionsville 24, New Palestine 6

DRAGONS IN STATE TITLE GAMES (3-2)

Class 5A

2019: New Palestine 27, Valparaiso 20

2018: New Palestine 28, Decatur C. 14

2015: FW Snider 64, New Palestine 61

Class 4A

2014: New Palestine 77, New Prairie 42

Class 3A

1990: FW Dwenger 56, New Palestine 14

MEET COACH RALPH

Head coach **Kyle Ralph** is in his 11th season at New Palestine and has led the program to new heights. In his time at NPHS, the Dragons have won three state titles, four semistate championships, five regional titles and seven sectional titles. The Dragons have also won eight Hoosier Heritage Conference titles under his tutelage. He was the fastest coach in Indiana history to 100 wins, needing just 109 games to reach that milestone.

Ralph brought immediate success to New Palestine, with an attacking, aggressive mindset on and off the field, a commitment to the weight room and a philosophy of building a program with character and class. It led to immediate success, as the Dragons won 65 consecutive regular-season games to start his tenure - the second-longest streak in state history - and won their first regional title in 23 years in his first year. A state title followed in 2014, and a year in which the Dragons set state records for total offense (7,701 yards) and scoring offense (854 points) followed in 2015. Ralph has coached multiple All-State performers and two Mr. Football position award winners. Ralph enters 2023 with a 116-11 career record.

Ralph is a 2002 graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and a 2006 graduate of the University of North Carolina, where he was a two-time First-Team All-ACC performer at offensive tackle. He was the ACC's Coastal Division Lineman of the Year in 2005. Ralph has participated in NFL training camps with the Carolina Panthers and Seattle Seahawks. Prior to coming to NPHS, he coached at St. Xavier, Oak Hills and Withrow University High Schools in Cincinnati. He coaches the throwers in track and field.

Ralph lives in New Palestine with his wife Ashley, a New Palestine graduate and teacher, and their three children. Ralph teaches advanced physical education at NPHS. He also is on the Dragons' track and field staff, where he coaches the throwers.

COVERING THE DRAGONS

The New Palestine High School athletic department welcomes media coverage of all of our athletic programs throughout the season and school year. Please contact Sports Information Director Andrew Smith (asmith@newpal.k12.in.us or 317-861-4417 x2132) with all media requests. Email is preferred.

Credentials: Credentials will be issued to media covering games for a newspaper, radio or television station. Please contact Andrew Smith at least five days in advance of the game. Credentialed media members will have access to the Kelso Stadium press box and the sidelines. The pass gate is on the west side of Kelso Stadium, just south of the home bleachers.

All spaces in the Kelso Stadium press box are reserved. Each credentialed media member will receive pregame media notes and access to a pregame hospitality area. Wireless internet will also be available to media members covering games. Please note the press box is a working area that includes game workers, broadcasters and print reporters and no cheering is allowed.

Broadcasts: All stations wishing to originate live radio/audio or tape-delayed video/television broadcasts of NPHS regular season athletic events must make requests through Andrew Smith at least seven days in advance of the contest. IHSAA Tournament rights must be arranged through 360 Group. Live video broadcasts of regular season events being hosted by NPHS are not permitted other than New Palestine's IHSAAtv stream.

There is one courtesy telephone line in the press box for visiting radio stations, available on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting Andrew Smith in advance of the game. Wireless internet is available in the press box and cellular service is strong if needed.

Interviews: Please contact Andrew Smith with any midweek or pregame interview requests. We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests. Coach Ralph and players will be available to media on the field after the conclusion of the team postgame huddle.

THE LAST TIME

New Palestine shut out an opponent: Oct. 27, 2023 vs. Greenfield-Central (35-0)

New Palestine had back-to-back shutouts: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle (63-0) & Oct. 27 vs. Greenfield-Central (35-0)

New Palestine was shut out: Oct. 29, 2010 at Greenfield-C. (0-7)

New Palestine scored 50-59 points: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville (56-0)

New Palestine scored 60-69 points: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle (63-0)

New Palestine scored 70-79 points: Nov. 2, 2018 vs. Anderson (78-0)

New Palestine scored 80+ points: Oct. 12, 2018 vs. Delta (84-13)

New Palestine allowed 60 points: Nov. 27, 2015 vs. FW Snider (61-64)

New Palestine allowed 70 points: Oct. 27, 2000 at Elwood (7-79)

New Palestine won by 60+ points: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle (63-0)

New Palestine lost by 40 points: Aug. 25, 2007 at Delta (7-49)

New Palestine scored 20-29 points in a quarter: Nov. 10, 2023 vs. Mooresville (27 points in 4th quarter of 39-6 victory)

New Palestine scored 30-39 points in a quarter: Oct. 7, 2022 at New Castle (35 points in 2nd quarter of 63-12 victory)

New Palestine scored 40+ points in a quarter: Oct. 12, 2018 vs. Delta (42 points in 1st quarter of 84-13 victory)

New Palestine scored 40-49 points in a half: Nov. 4, 2022 vs. Connersville (43 points in 1st half of 43-14 victory)

New Palestine scored 50-59 points in a half: Oct. 15, 2021 at Delta (52 points in 1st half of 55-6 victory)

New Palestine scored 60+ points in a half: Oct. 7, 2022 at New Castle (63 points in 1st half of 63-12 victory)

New Palestine had 500-599 yards of total offense: Oct. 21, 2022 at Mt. Vernon (509 yards in 35-24 victory)

New Palestine had 600-699 yards of total offense: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon (604 yards in 63-39 victory)

New Palestine had 700-799 yards of total offense: Nov. 27, 2015 vs. FW Snider (757 yards in 64-61 loss)

New Palestine had 800+ yards of total offense: Sept. 19, 2015 vs. Pendleton Heights (813 yards in 84-17 victory)

New Palestine had 300-399 yards rushing: Oct. 27, 2023 vs. Greenfield-Central. 363 yards.

New Palestine had 400-499 yards rushing: Sept. 27, 2019 at Greenfield-C., 457 yards

New Palestine had 500+ yards rushing: Nov. 2, 2018 vs. Anderson, 560 yards

New Palestine had 300-399 yards passing: Sept. 16, 2022 at Pendleton Heights, 310 yards

New Palestine had 400+ yards passing: Nov. 27, 2015 vs. FW Snider, 501 yards

New Palestine allowed 100 or fewer yards of total offense: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle. minus-26 yards.

New Palestine allowed 0 or fewer yards of total offense: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle. minus-26 yards.

New Palestine allowed 0 yards rushing: Oct. 20, 2023 vs. New Castle. minus-57 yards

New Palestine allowed 0 yards passing: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville, 0 yards

New Palestine had 10 sacks: Sept. 5, 2014 vs. Yorktown, 11 sacks

A Dragon threw for 200-299 yards: Sept. 29, 2023 vs. Shelbyville, Gavin Neal 221 yards

A Dragon threw for 300-399 yards: Sept. 16, 2022 at Pendleton Heights. Danny Tippit 310 yards.

A Dragon threw for 400+ yards: Nov. 27, 2015 vs. FW Snider. Alex Neligh 501 yards

A Dragon had 300 yards total offense: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon, Gavin Neal 302 yards (256 passing, 46 rushing)

A Dragon threw 5 TD passes in a game: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon. Gavin Neal 5 TDs

A Dragon threw 4 TD passes in a game: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville. Danny Tippit 4 TDs

Four different Dragons caught TD passes in the same game: Sept. 23, 2022 vs. Greenfield-Central. Blaine Nunnally (2), Kyler Kropp, Ty Mitchell, Cameron Rollyson TDs from Danny Tippit.

Three different Dragons caught TD passes in the same game: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville. Blaine Nunnally (2), Kyler Kropp, Ty Mitchell TDs from Danny Tippit.

A Dragon ran for 6 TDs in a game: Oct. 11, 2019 vs. New Castle, Charlie Spegal 6 TDs

A Dragon ran for 5 TDs in a game: Nov. 10, 2023 vs. Mooresville. Grayson Thomas 5 TDs

Two Dragons each had 4 TDs in a game: Aug. 25, 2017 vs. Richmond. Luke Canfield (4 rush) & Colby Jenkins (3 rec, 1 rush)

A Dragon had 3 receiving TDs in a game: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon. Kyler Kropp 4 TDs (school record)

A Dragon had a rushing and receiving TD in a game: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon. Kyler Kropp 4 receiving TDs, 1 rushing TD

A Dragon had two 70+ yard catches in a game: Oct. 19, 2012 vs. Mt. Vernon. Tyler Walden 73, 78-yard TD receptions from Chaz Hill

A Dragon had 100+ yards receiving: Sept. 29, 2023 vs. Shelbyville. Kyler Kropp 126 yards

A Dragon had 200+ yards receiving: Oct. 30, 2020 vs. Franklin. Blake Austin 230 yards

A Dragon had 300+ yards receiving: Nov. 27, 2015 vs. FW Snider. Duke Blackwell 328 yards

A Dragon had 10 receptions: Oct. 9, 2020 at New Castle. Blake Austin 12 receptions.

A Dragon had 30-39 carries: Oct. 6, 2023 vs. New Castle. Grayson Thomas 30 carries

A Dragon had 40+ carries: Sept. 14, 2018 at Pendleton Hts. Charlie Spegal 40 carries.

A Dragon ran for 200-249 yards: Oct. 13, 2023 at Delta. Grayson Thomas 243 yards

A Dragon ran for 250-299 yards: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon. Grayson Thomas 285 yards.

A Dragon ran for 300+ yards: Nov. 2, 2018 vs. Anderson, Charlie Spegal 364 yards

A Dragon had 300-399 yards from scrimmage: Sept. 27, 2019 at Greenfield-Central, Charlie Spegal 300 yards (288 rushing, 12 receiving)

A Dragon had 400+ yards from scrimmage: Nov. 2, 2018 vs. Anderson. Charlie Spegal 418 yards (364 rushing, 54 receiving)

A Dragon ran for 100 yards and threw for 200: Sept. 1, 2017 at Yorktown. Zach Neligh 174 rush/200 pass

A Dragon ran for 200 yards and threw for 200: Sept. 19, 2015 vs. Pendleton Heights. Alex Neligh 200 rush/248 pass

A Dragon had five sacks: Sept. 5, 2014 vs. Yorktown. Gabe Estes 5

A Dragon had three interceptions: Sept. 12, 2014 at Mt. Vernon. Garrett Kuhn

A Dragon had two interceptions: Oct. 21, 2022 at Mt. Vernon. Blaine Nunnally

A Dragon had two takeaways: Nov. 3, 2023 at Mt. Vernon. Brady Armstrong fumble recovery and interception.

New Palestine had two 100-yard rushers in same game: Oct. 27, 2023 vs. Greenfield-Central. Grayson Thomas 145 yards, Kyler Kropp 124 yards.

New Palestine had three 100-yard rushers in same game: Sept. 19, 2015 vs. Pendleton Heights. Alex Neligh 200 yards, Nick Brickens 168 yards, Luke Ely 137 yards

New Palestine had a 200-yard passer, 100-yard rusher and 100-yard receiver in the same game: Sept. 29, 2023 vs. Shelbyville. Gavin Neal 221 yards passing, Grayson Thomas 108 yards rushing, Kyler Kropp 126 yards receiving

New Palestine had two plays from scrimmage go for 70+ yards: Oct. 12, 2018 vs. Delta. Brody Luker 73 pass from Zach Neligh; Charlie Spegal 82 run

New Palestine had two plays from scrimmage go for 80+ yards: Sept. 16, 2016 at Pendleton Hts. Gunnar Large 80 run; DuRon Ford 90 run

New Palestine had a play from scrimmage go for 70-79 yards: Aug. 25, 2023 at Decatur Central. Grayson Thomas 76 run

New Palestine had a play from scrimmage go for 80-89 yards: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon. Grayson Thomas 80 run

New Palestine had a play from scrimmage go for 90+ yards: Sept. 16, 2016 at Pendleton Hts. DuRon Ford 90 run

New Palestine had a defensive touchdown: Nov. 3, 2023 at Mt. Vernon. Brady Armstrong 58-yard fumble return.

New Palestine had special teams touchdown: Sept. 15, 2023 vs. Pendleton Heights. Kyler Kropp 89-yard kickoff return.

New Palestine had a player record an offensive, special teams and defensive score: Oct. 17, 2014 vs. Delta. Garrett Kuhn 25-yard INT return, 49-yard punt return & 25-yard reception for TDs

New Palestine had a player record an offensive and defensive score: Sept. 3, 2021 vs. Yorktown. Blaine Nunnally 12-yard TD reception, 35-yard INT return.

New Palestine scored two defensive TDs in the same game: Sept. 4, 2020 at Yorktown. Hunter Burks 45 INT return, Aidan Ewers 36 INT return.

A New Palestine player scored two defensive TDs in the same game: Sept. 23, 2016 vs. Greenfield-C. Adam Kincaid 83 and 60-yard fumble returns

New Palestine blocked a punt: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville. Blaine Nunnally blocked punt.

New Palestine recorded a safety: Oct. 29, 2021 vs. Franklin. Blaine Nunnally tackled Franklin punter in end zone.

New Palestine recorded two safeties in the same game: Sept. 12, 2014 at Mt. Vernon. MV punter & QB each fumbled ball out of end zone.

New Palestine had a kickoff return for touchdown: Sept. 15, 2023 vs. Pendleton Heights. Kyler Kropp 89-yard kickoff return.

New Palestine had a punt return for touchdown: Oct. 2, 2015 vs. Shelbyville. Nick Brickens 88-yard return (statistically: Oct. 11, 2019 vs. New Castle, Maxen Hook 2 blocked punt return).

New Palestine beat a ranked opponent: Oct. 27, 2023: Defeated 4A No. 4 Greenfield-Central 35-0.

New Palestine won after trailing by 20+ points: Oct. 30, 2020 vs. Franklin. Won 31-27 after trailing 27-3 with 2:44 remaining in third quarter.

New Palestine played an overtime game: Aug. 21, 2009 vs. Whiteland 22-16. (note: New Palestine has won five straight OT games since 2004)

RECORD BOOK**PASSING YARDS****CAREER**

- 5,374, Alex Neligh 2013-15
- 3,610, Justin Plummer, 1997-99
- 3,462, Zach Neligh, 2015-18
- 3,289, Connor Simmons, 2010-11
- 3,282, Blake Luker, 2011-13
- 3,007, Lincoln Roth, 2018-20
- 2,782, Gary Greene, 1983-84
- 2,546, Danny Tippit, 2022
- 2,342, Chris Van Dyke, 1979-81

SEASON

- 2,852, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 2,795, Connor Simmons, 2011
- 2,630, Blake Luker, 2013
- 2,546, Danny Tippit, 2022
- 2,469, Alex Neligh 2014
- 2,006, Matt Rodgers, 1993
- 1,861, Zach Neligh, 2017
- 1,588, Mark Shepler, 1987
- 1,575, Lincoln Roth, 2019
- 1,572, Zach Neligh, 2018
- 1,543, Gunnar Large, 2016
- 1,527, Justin Plummer, 1997
- 1,436, Damon Hockett, 2021
- 1,434, Gavin Neal, 2023**
- 1,426, Gary Greene, 1984
- 1,416, Lincoln Roth, 2020
- 1,359, Jeff Stephenson, 1991
- 1,356, Gary Greene, 1983
- 1,205, Justin Plummer, 1999
- 1,079, Chris Van Dyke, 1981

GAME

- 501, Alex Neligh vs. FW Snider, 2015
- 399, Matt Rodgers vs. HSE, 1993
- 341, Lincoln Roth vs. Franklin, 2020

PASS COMPLETIONS**CAREER**

- 306, Alex Neligh 2013-15
- 239, Blake Luker, 2011-13
- 224, Justin Plummer, 1997-99

SEASON

- 176, Blake Luker, 2013
- 174, Connor Simmons, 2011
- 170, Alex Neligh, 2015

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS**CAREER**

- 64, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 40, Blake Luker, 2011-13
- 39, Connor Simmons, 2010-11
- 36, Zach Neligh, 2015-18

SEASON

- 36, Alex Neligh, 2014
- 35, Connor Simmons, 2011
- 33, Blake Luker, 2013
- 33, Danny Tippit, 2022

GAME

- Several (**Gavin Neal vs. MV, 2023**)

TOTAL OFFENSE**CAREER**

- 8,718, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 6,524, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 6,157, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 5,821, Zach Neligh, 2015-18
- 4,494, Blake Luker, 2011-13
- 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87

SEASON

- 4,949, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 3,761, Blake Luker, 2013
- 3,654, Alex Neligh, 2014
- 3,356, Charlie Spegal, 2018
- 3,168, Charlie Spegal, 2019
- 2,991, Zach Neligh, 2017

GAME

- 667, Alex Neligh, 2015 vs. FW Snider
- 471, Blake Luker, 2013 at PH

TOTAL OFFENSE TDs**CAREER**

- 123, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 120, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 92, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 64, Blake Luker, 2011-13
- 63, Zach Neligh, 2015-18

SEASON

- 73, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 68, Charlie Spegal, 2018
- 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019
- 54, Blake Luker, 2013

GAME

- Alex Neligh, 2014 vs. New Prairie

YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE**CAREER**

- 6,693, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 6,272, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87
- 3,344, Alex Neligh, 2013-15

SEASON

- 3,478, Charlie Spegal, 2018
- 3,215, Charlie Spegal, 2019

GAME

- 414, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

TOTAL TDs FROM SCRIMMAGE**CAREER**

- 125, Charlie Spegal, 2018

SEASON

- 70, Charlie Spegal, 2018
- 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019

GAME

- 8, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

RECEIVING YARDS**CAREER**

- 2,238, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
- 2,134, Tyler Walden 2011-13
- 1,618, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
- 1,610, Isaiah Thacker, 2021-22
- 1,359, Kyler Kropp, 2020-23**
- 1,328, Blake Austin, 2018-20
- 1,270, Jay Ehle, 1992-93
- 1,174, Brandon Collins 2010-11
- 1,120, Blaine Nunnally 2020-22
- 1,060, Todd Yoder 1993-95
- 1,042, Keith Roseman 1983-84

SEASON

- 1,231, Tyler Walden 2013
- 1,148, Duke Blackwell 2015
- 929, Brandon Collins 2011
- 917, Isaiah Thacker 2022
- 904, Jay Ehle, 1993
- 894, Josh Penley 2011
- 845, Blake Austin 2020
- 824, Duke Blackwell 2014

GAME

- 328, Duke Blackwell vs. FW Snider 2015
- 230, Blake Austin vs. Franklin 2020
- 212, Tyler Walden vs. Pendleton Hts. 2013
- 182, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon 2023**
- 165, Tyler Walden vs. Mt. Vernon 2012
- 156, Tyler Walden vs. Whiteland 2013
- 152, Josh Marshall vs. Hamilton SE 1993
- 151, Josh Penley vs. Richmond 2011

RECEPTIONS**CAREER**

- 138, Tyler Walden, 2011-13
- 106, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
- 95, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
- 89, Isaiah Thacker, 2021-22
- 83, Kyler Kropp, 2021-23**
- 81, Blake Austin, 2018-20
- 76, Brandon Collins, 2010-11

SEASON

- 86, Tyler Walden 2013
- 60, Brandon Collins 2011
- 54, Blake Austin 2020
- 52, Duke Blackwell 2015

GAME

- 14, Tyler Walden vs. Pendleton Hts. 2013
- 12, Blake Austin vs. New Castle 2020
- 11, Josh Marshall vs. Hamilton SE 1993
- 10, Duke Blackwell vs. FW Snider 2015
- 10, Tyler Walden at Pendleton Hts. 2013
- 10, Tyler Walden vs. Danville 2013
- 10, Brandon Collins vs. Whiteland 2011

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS**CAREER**

- 30, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
- 22, Tyler Walden, 2011-13
- 20, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
- 20, Josh Penley, 2010-11

SEASON

- 17, Duke Blackwell, 2015
- 17, Josh Penley, 2011

GAME

- 4, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon 2023**

RUSHING YARDS**CAREER**

- 6,524, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 6,157, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87
- 3,344, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 3,307, Nick Roudebush, 1989-90
- 2,919, Chris Grider, 2002-03

SEASON

- 3,356, Charlie Spegal, 2018
- 3,168, Charlie Spegal, 2019
- 2,259, Grayson Thomas, 2023**
- 2,097, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 2,061, Jeff Miles 1987
- 2,020, Nick Roudebush 1990
- 1,830, DuRon Ford, 2016
- 1,764, Luke Canfield, 2017
- 1,665, Chris Grider, 2003
- 1,636, James Young, 2014
- 1,629, Eric Alcorn, 2005
- 1,627, Nick Brickens, 2015
- 1,509, Grayson Thomas, 2022**
- 1,288, Grayson Thomas, 2021**
- 1,256, Greg Davis, 2004

GAME

- 387, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Delta
- 364, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson
- 336, Chris Grider, 2002 at Tipton
- 305, Luke Canfield, 2017 vs. PH

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**CAREER**

- 123, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 92, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 56, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 52, Jeff Miles, 1986-87
- 46, James Young, 2013-14

SEASON

- 68, Charlie Spegal, 2018 (state record)
- 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019
- 37, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 35, James Young, 2014
- 33, Grayson Thomas, 2023**
- 33, Jeff Miles, 1987
- 33, DuRon Ford, 2016

GAME

- Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Kokomo
- Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Delta
- Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

SCORING**CAREER**

- 754, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
- 554, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23**
- 336, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
- 312, Jeff Miles, 1986-87

SEASON

- 422, Charlie Spegal, 2018 (state record)
- 332, Charlie Spegal, 2019
- 222, Alex Neligh, 2015
- 210, Jeff Miles, 1987
- 210, James Young, 2014

GAME

- 48, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

KICK SCORING**CAREER**

- 285, Spencer Corey, 2013-16
- 220, Alex Kropp, 2017-19

SEASON

- 128, Spencer Corey, 2015 (state record)
- 119, Alex Kropp, 2018

PATS**CAREER**

- 243, Spencer Corey, 2013-16
- 181, Alex Kropp, 2017-19

SEASON

- 113, Spencer Corey, 2015 (state record)
- 101, Alex Kropp, 2018

GAME

- 12, Spencer Corey, 2016 vs. G-C;
- 12, Alex Kropp 2018 vs. Delta

CONSECUTIVE

- 115, Spencer Corey, 2014-15 (state record)

INTERCEPTIONS**CAREER:** 20, Tom Breeden, 1984-86**SEASON:** 10, Tom Breeden, 1984**GAME:** 3, Garrett Kuhn, 2014 at MV**LONGEST PLAYS**

Pass: 93 yards, Matt Rodgers to Jay Ehle, 1993 vs. Hamilton Southeastern

Run: 98 yards, James Young, 2014 vs. New Prairie (State Finals record)

Field goal: 47 yards, Brendan Tanksley, 2022 at Yorktown

THE 2023 DRAGONS

| No. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Class | No. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|------|-----|-------|-------|------------------|-------|------|-----|-------|
| 2 | Cameron Rollyson | WR/DB | 5-11 | 171 | So. | 32 | T.J. Hammons | RB/DB | 5-6 | 154 | Jr. |
| 3 | Austin McMahan | WR/DB | 6-1 | 156 | Jr. | 33 | Garrett Ranes | TE/LB | 6-1 | 224 | So. |
| 4 | Grayson Thomas | RB/DB | 6-0 | 190 | Sr. | 34 | Josh Ranes | RB/LB | 6-0 | 219 | So. |
| 5 | Connor Jacobia | RB/DB | 5-10 | 143 | So. | 35 | Rudy Hubbard | WR/DB | 5-8 | 170 | So. |
| 7 | Kyler Kropp | RB/DB | 6-1 | 189 | Sr. | 43 | Connor Groves | WR/DB | 5-10 | 145 | So. |
| 8 | Gavin Neal | QB/LB | 6-0 | 208 | So. | 44 | Cole Christopher | K | 5-11 | 160 | So. |
| 9 | Caden Jacobia | RB/DB | 5-9 | 188 | So. | 45 | Austin Groves | WR/DB | 5-8 | 140 | So. |
| 10 | Micah Clark | WR/DB | 5-6 | 149 | Sr. | 46/53 | Colton Wise | OL/LB | 5-11 | 200 | Sr. |
| 11 | Brady Armstrong | QB/DB | 5-10 | 162 | Sr. | 50 | Liam Fuller | OL/LB | 5-8 | 196 | Sr. |
| 12 | Desmond Palmer | WR/DB | 6-0 | 163 | So. | 52 | Michael Thacker | OL/DL | 6-0 | 271 | Jr. |
| 13 | Ty Mitchell | WR/DB | 5-6 | 150 | Sr. | 54 | John Ranes | OL/DL | 6-1 | 251 | Jr. |
| 14 | Gavin Lumpkin | RB/DB | 5-9 | 142 | Jr. | 55 | Colin Whetsel | OL/DL | 6-0 | 209 | So. |
| 15 | Brayden Harley | WR/DB | 5-7 | 126 | Sr. | 56 | Aiden Redmon | OL/DL | 5-9 | 259 | So. |
| 16 | Dylan Dragoo | WR/DB | 5-10 | 165 | Jr. | 57 | Dakota Scott | OL/LB | 5-8 | 202 | Sr. |
| 17 | Bryan Caldwell | WR/DB | 5-10 | 169 | So. | 58 | Luke Hensel | OL/DL | 5-10 | 208 | So. |
| 18 | Brody Perkins | QB/LB | 6-0 | 193 | Jr. | 64 | David Gorth | OL/LB | 6-2 | 165 | So. |
| 19 | Brody Meyer | WR/DB | 5-9 | 148 | So. | 65 | William Glesing | OL/DL | 6-0 | 231 | Fr. |
| 20 | Alex Guhl | TE/LB | 6-0 | 210 | Jr. | 66 | Carson Neligh | OL/DL | 5-11 | 176 | So. |
| 21 | Keagan Harrison | WR/DB | 6-1 | 153 | Jr. | 70 | Ian Moore | OL/DL | 6-6 | 311 | Sr. |
| 22 | Ayden Ley | TE/LB | 5-9 | 187 | So. | 71 | Isaiah Wise | OL/DL | 5-9 | 213 | So. |
| 23 | Landon Maddox | WR/DB | 6-0 | 156 | Fr. | 72 | Abe Walling | OL/DL | 6-2 | 221 | So. |
| 24 | Mason Hiatt | WR/DB | 6-0 | 181 | Sr. | 73 | Logan Myers | OL/DL | 5-10 | 180 | So. |
| 25 | Marshall Giant | WR/DB | 5-9 | 145 | Fr. | 75 | Brock Brownfield | OL/DL | 6-3 | 249 | So. |
| 26 | Max Wiegand | WR/DB | 5-9 | 155 | Jr. | 76 | Gabe Lytell | OL/DL | 5-11 | 247 | So. |
| 27 | Malachi Haines | RB/DL | 6-0 | 227 | Sr. | 77 | Landon Seib | OL/DL | 6-0 | 246 | Jr. |
| 28 | Jake Wells | K | 6-0 | 169 | Jr. | 80 | Mason Oglesby | TE/LB | 6-2 | 186 | Fr. |
| 29 | Judea Holt | WR/DB | 5-11 | 155 | So. | 81 | Kole Hege | TE/LB | 6-1 | 166 | Fr. |
| 30 | Mallari Johnson | K | 5-6 | 139 | Jr. | 84 | Sam Adam | WR/DB | 6-0 | 179 | Jr. |

Varsity Coaching Staff

- Kyle Ralph (head coach/offensive coordinator)
- Scott McMurray (defensive coordinator)
- Duke Blackwell
- Nick Brickens
- Dan Buchanan
- James Evans
- John Horan
- Garrett Kuhn
- Gunnar Large
- Alex Neligh

Freshman Coaching Staff

- Kerry Estes, Will Elsbury, Matt Hayden, Doug Pardue, Brad Ralph, Kirk Woodcock

Student Managers

- Alanna McDonald, Reese Rosenbaum

Medical Staff

- Melissa McKinney, athletic trainer
- Dr Greg Estes, team physician

Athletic Administration

- Brian Murphy, athletic director
- Trent Whitaker, assistant athletic director
- Nancy Workman, associate athletic director
- Summer Parsons, athletic secretary
- Andrew Smith, sports information director

School Administration

- Dr. Lisa Lantrip, superintendent
- Jim Voelz, principal
- Nicholas Mitchaner & Craig Moore, assistant principals

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| New Palestine | pal-uh-steen |
| 3 Austin McMahan | mic-MAY-un |
| 7 Kyler Kropp | crop |
| 16 Dylan Dragoo | drag-goo |
| 22 Ayden Ley | lay |
| 26 Max Wiegand | wee-gund |
| 66 Carson Neligh | NEE-lee |
| 81 Kole Hege | HEG-gee |

