

Akron Beacon Journal

Akron East Dragons 2025 high school football schedule, preview



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EAST DRAGONS

HEAD COACH: [Marques Hayes](#), 14th year, 73-64

LAST YEAR: 6-5, 4-1

POSTSEASON: Division III, Region 9

East football's returning lettermen (17)

Latrelle Allen, LB, 6-0, 215, Sr.

Lavance Bratton, RB-LB, 5-10, 180, Sr.

Lamarion Brown, WR-DB, 6-0, 170, Sr.

Sean Echols, OL-DL, 6-0, 265, So.

Marlin Engram Jr., QB-DB, 6-3, 190, Sr.

Mariece Fenn, LB, 6-0, 175, Jr.

Marcus Henderson II, DL-OL, 6-3, 285, Sr.

Emmanuel Jefferson, WR-DB-RB, 5-7, 150, Jr.

Jon Jeffries, LB-RB, 5-9, 195, Sr.

Camarion Magee, DL, 6-0, 200, Sr.

Tarrell Robinson, DB-RB, 5-10, 185, Sr.

Lamar Saulsberry, LB-RB, 5-10, 210, Soph.

Darshawn Spragling Jr., OL-DL, 6-5, 370, Sr.

Donte Swain Jr., DB-WR, 5-10, 170, Sr.

Rahmel Taylor, DB-WR, 6-3, 175, Jr.

Nasir West, DL-OL, 6-0, 265, So.

Terrell Wharton Jr., DB-WR, 6-2, 170, Sr.

East football's impact players

[Terrell Wharton Jr.](#) has more than a dozen Division I college scholarship offers, including from Penn State, Purdue, Wisconsin, Indiana, Bowling Green, Miami, Akron, Toledo, Kent State and Kentucky. Wharton totaled 32 tackles and 16 pass breakups on defense and 10 receptions for 288 yards and three touchdowns on offense last season. ... [Donte Swain Jr.](#) has offers from Bowling Green, Kent State, Albany and Youngstown State. Swain totaled 43 receptions for 617 yards and five TDs on offense and 27 tackles, nine pass breakups, one interception and one TD on defense. ... "They bring pure explosiveness and experience to the field," Hayes said of Wharton and Swain. "People call Terrell the long, smooth one at DB and Donte is the more twitchy and explosive one, especially with him being a kid that ran a 10.7 [seconds in the 100 meters] hand time in track this year. That kid can fly. They are both natural football players on both sides of the ball." ... [Darshawn Spragling Jr.](#) had 65 pancake blocks last season and has offers from Toledo, Kent State and Eastern Kentucky. ... [Marcus Henderson II](#) has committed to Youngstown State. Henderson had 38 tackles (10 for loss) and four sacks last season. ... [Marlin Engram Jr.](#) has offers from Division II and NAIA colleges. Engram completed 82 of 136 passes for 1,516 yards, 15 TDs and five interceptions. ... "Marlin has such a feel for what we are doing offensively and where we are trying to head with our plan that every time we go out to a practice and every time we go to a seven-on-seven, you can just see the command that he has," Hayes said.

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What's new with East football in 2025

[East](#) welcomes three transfers: junior DB-RB Lawrence Cherry Jr. from Archbishop Hoban, junior WR-TE-DB Terrel Karim Jr. from Ellet and senior DB-WR-QB Anthony Felding from St. Vincent-St. Mary. All three bring starting experience. ... Cherry is 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds. ... Karim is 6-3 and 195 pounds and has an offer from Kent State. Karim played in 10 games last season and totaled 29 receptions, 423 yards, three touchdowns and 28 tackles (nine solo and seven for loss). ... Felding is 5-10 and 170 pounds. ... "We have our heads to the ground and are trying to get better," Hayes said. "We have a couple of new faces that are integrating fine throughout this summer."

East football's outlook

East shared the City Series championship last year with Firestone and made the Division III playoffs for the seventh time in the last nine years. ... The Dragons move forward without several 2025 graduates, including Ziaire Stevens, Marquan Davis and Denico Knight Jr. ... East returns 10 of its starters from last season: Allen, Bratton, Echols, Engram, Henderson, Jeffries, Robinson, Spragling, Swain and Wharton. ... Jeffries had 70 tackles last season. ... "I am super optimistic about what we can go out there and accomplish," Hayes said. "I am definitely expecting some great things from a great group of seniors that we have that I think will be able to lead the way. I think we also have some promising underclassmen guys that are going to make their marks this year as well. Like any football season, it is going to come down to what we have up front on both sides of the ball as far as our offensive line and our defensive line."

East football schedule for 2025

Aug. 22 at Bedford

Aug. 29 at Nordonia

Sept. 5 at Canton South

Sept. 12 at Archbishop Hoban

Sept. 19 at University School, 5 p.m.

Sept. 26 at Ellet

Oct. 4 vs. North (at Ellet), noon

Oct. 11 vs. Firestone (at Ellet), noon

Oct. 18 at Buchtel, noon

Oct. 24 vs. Garfield (at Ellet)

Home games in all CAPS. All games at 7 p.m., unless noted.

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