

NEW PALESTINE FOOTBALL

2014, 2018 & 2019 IHSA state champion | 5-time state finalist | 22 conference titles | 13 sectional titles

SEPT. 15, 2023 | vs. PENDLETON HTS. | KELSO STADIUM, NEW PALESTINE | 7 p.m.

SCHEDULES

NEW PALESTINE (2-2, 2-0)

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*	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Greenfield-Central*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	SHELBYVILLE*	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	NEW CASTLE*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Delta*	7:30 p.m.

*-Hoosier Heritage Conference game

PENDLETON HTS. (3-1, 1-1)

Aug. 18	LEBANON	W 15-0
Aug. 25	at Anderson	W 49-0
Sept. 1	NEW CASTLE*	W 42-0
Sept. 8	GREENFIELD-CENTRAL*	L 38-43
Sept. 15	at New Palestine*	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Mt. Vernon*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	DELTA*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Yorktown*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	SHELBYVILLE*	7 p.m.

*-Hoosier Heritage Conference game

HHC STANDINGS

	Conf	GB	Overall
New Palestine	2-0	--	2-2
Delta	2-0	--	4-0
Greenfield-Central	2-0	--	4-0
Pendleton Heights	1-1	1	3-1
Shelbyville	1-1	1	3-1
Yorktown	0-2	2	2-2
Mt. Vernon	0-2	2	1-3
New Castle	0-2	2	1-3

Last week's games

New Palestine 63, Mt. Vernon 39

Delta 22, Yorktown 13

Greenfield-Central 43, Pendleton Heights 38

Shelbyville 34, New Castle 14

This week's games

Pendleton Heights at New Palestine, 7 p.m.

Delta at Mt. Vernon, 7 p.m.

New Castle at Yorktown, 7 p.m.

Shelbyville at Greenfield-Central, 7 p.m.

Next week's games

New Palestine at Greenfield-Central, 7 p.m.

Pendleton Heights at Mt. Vernon, 7 p.m.

New Castle at Delta, 7:30 p.m.

Yorktown at Shelbyville, 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A POLLS

IFCA	AP
1. East Central	1. East Central
2. Kokomo	2. Ev. Reitz
3. Ev. Reitz	3. Kokomo
4. Ev. Memorial	4. Ev. Memorial
5. New Palestine	5. Greenfield-Central
6. Greenfield-Central	6. Columbia City
7. Columbia City	7. Northridge
8. Roncalli	8. Roncalli
9. Northridge	9. NorthWood
10. Northview	10. New Palestine

FOLLOW THE GAME

VIDEO (PPV): IHSAAtv.org

ONLINE RADIO: NewPalRadio.com

Andrew Smith/Mike Jackson/Mike Petry



(4A 5/10) NEW PALESTINE DRAGONS (2-2, 2-0 HHC)

HEAD COACH: Kyle Ralph (11th season, 118-13). 2022 4A sectional & HHC champion



(4A RV/-) PENDLETON HTS. ARABIANS (3-1, 1-1 HHC)

HEAD COACH: Jed Richman (8th season, 44-35; 14th overall, 79-65)

PREGAME NOTES

SETTING THE SCENE

- The Dragons conclude their three-game homestand with another key Hoosier Heritage Conference game against Pendleton Heights.
- This is the 37th meeting between the two schools. NP holds a 23-13 lead in the all-time series, which includes 11 straight victories. NP has won 21 of the last 23 meetings dating to 2003. Last year, the Dragons won 42-14, jumping out to a 35-0 lead at halftime and throwing for 310 yards.
- The Dragons won the 400th game in program history last week, joining Roncalli and Zionsville as programs started after 1965 with 400 wins. NP is 400-203-2 all-time.
- This is the Dragons' fifth straight opponent who is either ranked or receiving poll votes.

DRAGONS NOTES

- The Dragons posted their best offensive game of the season last week, tallying 604 yards to beat Mt. Vernon 63-39. QB **Gavin Neal** tied a school record with five touchdown passes, completing 6-of-11 for 256 yards. He joined Daniel Tippit, who threw five TDs against Greenfield-Central last week, among multiple Dragons QBs in the 5 TD club. His TD passes were for 30, 45, 50 and 57 yards to **Kyler Kropp** and 69 yards to **Ty Mitchell**.
- Kropp had four catches for 182 yards, each going for a touchdown, also setting a school record. The previous record of three TD catches was held by multiple people, most recently by Colby Jenkins in 2017. Kropp's receiving yardage last week was the fourth-highest single-game total in school history. He also had 20 rushing yards and a touchdown, becoming the first Dragon with rushing and receiving TDs in the same game since Charlie Spegal in 2018 against Anderson.
- The Dragons' 604 yards against MV marked the first 600-yard game since tallying 691 in a 78-0 victory over Anderson in the 2018 sectional final.
- Senior RB **Grayson Thomas** set a career high with 285 yards last week on 31 carries. He ran for two touchdowns. Thomas now has 4,678 career yards and is 220 yards away from becoming the first Dragon to rush for 1,000 yards in four seasons. He is second on the Dragons' career rushing list. His 68 career touchdowns are also second-most in school history.
- Thomas' 285-yard game was the first 250+-yard rushing game since Spegal ran for 277 in the 2019 semistate against Bloomington South. Thomas' 80-yard TD run was the Dragons' longest run since he broke an 88-yard TD Sept. 3, 2021 as a sophomore.
- The Dragons ran for 348 yards last week, their second 300-yard rushing game of the year. They also tallied 312 yards against Decatur Central.
- The Dragons' offensive line is anchored by senior **Ian Moore**. The Ohio State commit is the No. 2-ranked offensive lineman nationally by Rivals. He will be a two-way starter. Defensively, **Michael Thacker** returns for his third season as a starter after posting a sophomore season with 13 sacks and 34.5 tackles for loss. Both were named IFCA Top 50 All-State players in 2022.
- The Dragons forced three turnovers each of the last two weeks.

SCOUTING THE ARABIANS

- PH's success early came from its defense, which pitched three straight shutouts to begin the season. The last two weeks, PH has scored 80 total points. Last week, PH lost a 15-point lead in a 43-38 defeat to Greenfield-Central.
- PH has used a versatile offense, with Caden Sims (14-174) and Nate DeRolf (14-153) leading the Arabians in the passing game. Quarterback Isaac Wilson has thrown for 350 yards and run for 185, while QB Colton Frank is completing 70% of his passes for 170 yards.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Dragons travel to Greenfield-Central next week before returning home Sept. 29 to face Shelbyville in the Dragons' 56th annual Homecoming contest.

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POLLS

IFCA 4A Top 10 (Week 4)

1. East Central (4-0)
2. Kokomo (4-0)
3. Evansville Reitz (4-0)
4. Evansville Memorial (4-0)
5. New Palestine (2-2) (+1)
6. Greenfield-C. (4-0) (+1)
7. Columbia City (4-0) (+1)
8. Roncalli (2-2) (+1)
9. Northridge (3-1) (new)
10. Northview (4-0) (new)

AP 4A Top 10 (Week 4)

1. East Central (4-0)
2. Evansville Reitz (4-0)
3. Kokomo (4-0)
4. Evansville Memorial (4-0) (+1)
5. Greenfield-Central (5-0) (+1)
6. Columbia City (6-0) (+1)
7. Northridge (3-1) (new)
8. Roncalli (2-2)
9. NorthWood (3-1) (-5)
10. New Palestine (2-2) (-1)

COMPUTERS

Sagarin 4A rankings (week 4)

1. East Central (4-0)
2. NorthWood (4-0)
3. New Palestine (2-2)
4. Roncalli (2-2)
5. Kokomo (4-0)
6. East Noble (3-1)
7. Greenfield-Central (4-0)
8. Mooresville (2-2)
9. Pendleton Heights (3-1)
10. NorthWood (3-1)

MaxPreps 4A rankings (week 4)

1. East Central (4-0)
2. Evansville Reitz (4-0)
3. Evansville Memorial (4-0)
4. Greenfield-Central (4-0)
5. Kokomo (4-0)
6. Roncalli (2-2)
7. New Palestine (2-2)
8. Brebeuf (2-2)
9. New Haven (4-0)
10. Mooresville (2-2)

SECTIONAL 22

BEECH GROVE (1-3)

Last week: lost to Sccecina 44-23

This week: vs. Southport

GREENFIELD-CENTRAL (4-0)

Last week: beat Pendleton Heights 43-38

This week: vs. Shelbyville

MT. VERNON (1-3)

Last week: lost to New Palestine

63-39

This week: vs. Delta

MUNCIE CENTRAL (0-4)

Last week: lost to Kokomo 47-7

This week: at Lafayette Jeff

NEW CASTLE (1-3)

Last week: lost to Shelbyville

34-14

This week: at Yorktown

PENDLETON HEIGHTS (3-1)

Last week: lost to Greenfield-Central 43-38

This week: at New Palestine

RICHMOND (0-4)

Last week: lost to Laf. Jeff 36-0

This week: vs. Tech

PROBABLE STARTERS

NEW PALESTINE OFFENSE

WR: 2 Cameron Rollyson (5-11, 171, So.)

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: 24 Mason Hiatt (6-0, 181, Sr.)

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: 4 Grayson Thomas (6-0, 190, Sr.)

NEW PALESTINE DEFENSE

DT: 72 Abe Walling (6-2, 221, So.)

NG: 70 Ian Moore (6-6, 311, Sr.)

DT: 54 John Ranes (6-1, 248, 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, Jr.)

KR: 10 Micah Clark (5-6, 154, Sr.)

KR: 7 Kyler Kropp (6-1, 184, Sr.)

PR: 24 Mason Hiatt (6-0, 181, Sr.)

TEAM/PLAYER NOTES

SERIES HISTORY

This is the 37th meeting between the Dragons and Arabians. It has been one of dominant stretches for both programs. PH won seven straight from 1995-2002. Since, the Dragons have won 21 of the 23 meetings.

SERIES HISTORY

New Palestine leads 23-13

At New Palestine: New Palestine 12-6

Regular season: New Palestine leads 21-12

First meeting: 10/12/68: PH 28-13 (at PH)

LAST 10 MEETINGS

9/16/22: NP 42-14 (at PH)	9/15/17: NP 41-21 (at NP)
9/17/21: NP 38-3 (at NP)	9/17/16: NP 63-9 (at PH)
9/18/20: NP 13-3 (at PH)	9/19/15: NP 84-17 (Lucas Oil)
9/20/19: NP 47-6 (at NP)	9/19/14: NP 56-7 (at PH)
9/14/18: NP 42-21 (at PH)	10/25/13: NP 62-40 (sect at PH)

IN THE POLLS

The Dragons enter the week ranked No. 7 by the IFCA and No. 10 by the AP. They have been ranked for 14 consecutive weeks. The Dragons have been ranked for 94 of the last 102 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

IN THE PIPELINE

The Dragons subvarsity teams both won last Saturday at Mt. Vernon, with the JV winning 34-27 and the freshman winning 44-0. The freshmen are now 4-0, the JV 2-2. Both teams visit Pendleton Heights Saturday.

LAST MEETING

Game 5: Dragons 42, Pendleton Heights 14

Friday, Sept. 16 at Broughton Field, Pendleton

New Palestine (5-0, 3-0) 14 21 7 0 -- 42

Pendleton Hts. (2-3, 1-2) 0 0 7 7 -- 14

Scoring summary

NP-BI. Nunnally 26 pass from Tippit (Tanksley kick), 5:55

NP-I. Thacker 25 pass from Tippit (Tanksley kick), 3:04

NP-BI. Nunnally 7 pass from Tippit (Tanksley kick), 10:32

NP-Thomas 3 run (Tanksley kick), 2:20

NP-Thomas 5 run (Tanksley kick), :19

PH-Sims 5 pass from Wilson (Apo kick), 5:05

NP-Mitchell 8 pass from Tippit (Tanksley kick), :33

PH-Wilson 19 run (Apo kick), 6:54

Team stats

First downs: NP 21, PH 12

Rushes-yards: NP 31-160, PH 21-80

Passing C-A-I: NP 18-21-1, PH 11-23-2

Passing yards: NP 310, PH 134

Total plays-yards: NP 52-470, PH 44-214

Fumbles-lost: NP 0-0, PH 1-0

Penalties-yards: NP 5-49, PH 1-5

Punts-avg: NP 0-0, PH 3-46.3

Time of possession: NP 23:21, PH 24:39

Individual stats

New Palestine

Rushing: Thomas 18-85, Kropp 4-30, Armstrong 3-33, Co.

Jacobia 5-12, Tippit 1-0

Passing: Tippit 18-21-1-310

Receiving: I. Thacker 5-147, BI. Nunnally 5-67, Kropp 4-43,

Mitchell 2-19, Clark 1-21, Thomas 1-13

Pendleton Heights

Rushing: Wilson 12-43, DeVault 7-31, Hess 1-6, Roberts 1-0

Passing: Wilson 11-22-2-134, Hess 0-1-0-0

Receiving: Jordan 4-50, Sims 3-39, DeRolf 2-28, Reddington

2-17

State Rankings: NP 4A 1 (IFCA)/1 (AP)

FAMILIAR FOE

This is the 37th meeting between the Dragons and Arabians. PH is the second-most played opponent in Dragons football history.

NEW PALESTINE'S MOST-PLAYED OPPONENTS

64: Mt. Vernon (1968-present). NP 38-24-1 (33-22-1)

36: Pend. Hts. (1968-71, 1994-present). NP 23-13 (21-12)

32: Triton Central (1971-2002). NP 25-6-1.

31: Greenfield-Central (1994-present). NP 26-5 (25-4)

30: Delta (1977, 1997-present). Tied 15-15 (NP 14-13)

28: Yorktown (1983, 1989, 1999-present). NP 23-5 (21-4)

27: Shelbyville (1988, 1997-present). NP 18-9 (17-9)

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 4,393 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. He surpassed the 4,500-yard mark for his career in that contest.

He is the only Dragon to rush for 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons.

GRAYSON THOMAS' TOP RUSHING GAMES

1. 285 yards (31 carries, 2 TD) 9/1/23 vs. Mt. Vernon
2. 233 yards (22 carries, 4 TD) 8/25/23 at DecaturC
3. 228 yards (26 carries, 3 TD) 10/2/20 at Shelbyville
4. 207 yards (18 carries, 4 TD) 9/3/21 vs. Yorktown
5. 195 yards (35 carries, 3 TD) 10/9/20 at New Castle
6. 191 yards (33 carries, 1 TD) 10/21/22 at MV
7. 187 yards (17 carries, 5 TD) 10/14/22 vs. Delta
8. 187 yards (25 carries, 1 TD) 8/19/22 vs. Westfield
9. 180 yards (31 carries, 2 TD) 9/1/23 vs. Yorktown
10. 173 yards (12 carries, 3 TD) 8/26/22 vs. DecaturC

CAREER	GP	Car-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	HiGm
2023 senior	4	106-780	7.3	9	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	37	719-4678	6.5	68	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.

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

CAREER	GP	Solo-Ast	Total	TFL	Sacks	FC/FR
2023 junior	2	7-7	14	3	0	0/0
2022 sophomore	12	74-29	103	34.5	13	3/1
2021 freshman	10	50-39	89	22	5.5	2/1
Career	24	131-75	206	59.5	18.5	5/2

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.

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.

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.

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

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 distance of the field.

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 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.

QUICK STRIKE

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. **Grayson 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.

ABOUT NPHS

Nickname: Dragons

Colors: Red and white

Town: New Palestine

County: Hancock

Enrollment: 1,226

Conference: Hoosier Heritage

IHSAA member since: 1915

Varsity football began: 1968

All-time record: 400-203-2

Home stadium: Kelso Stadium

Field: Shepler Field

Surface: Sprin turf (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: 116-12 (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: 13

(1987, 1989, 1990, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022)

Conference championships:

22 (Hoosier Heritage Conference: 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022; Rangeline 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

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.

QUICK STRIKE

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. **Grayson Thomas** capped the first drive of the game with a 5-yard TD. After the Red Rage forced a three-and-out and **John Raney** deflected a punt, Thomas scored from 22 yards out on the Dragons' next offensive snap.

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.

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.

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.

TURNING IT UP TO 11

Sophomore LB **Josh Raney** had 15 tackles in the 63-39 victory over Mt. Vernon, a season high for the Dragons.

Senior DB **Mason Hiatt** is the only returning starter in the linebacking and defensive back corps for the Dragons. He had a strong season debut against Westfield with 11 tackles. He had six solos and five assists.

Micah Clark and **Garrett Raney** each had 10 tackles against Decatur Central.

POSTSEASON 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).

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.

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.

MAKING IT RANES

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

TWINNING

The Dragons' defensive backfield has a pair of familiar faces - **Caden** and **Connor Jacobia** are twins.

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.

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 2021 with a 104-10 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 also assists with the Dragons' track and field team, coaching the throwers.

Ralph lives in New Palestine with his wife Ashley, a New Palestine graduate and teacher, and their three children. He teaches advanced physical education at NPHS.

2023 STATS

RUSHING	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	HiGm
4 Grayson Thomas	106-780	7.4	9	80	285
7 Kyler Kropp	22-184	8.4	3	65	103
8 Gavin Neal	56-203	3.6	3	21	74
11 Brady Armstrong	4-14	3.5	0	8	9
32 T.J. Hammons	1-4	4.0	0	4	4

Totals 193-1146 5.9 15 80 348

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Lg	HiGm
8 Gavin Neal	24-49-4	552	6	69	256
Totals	24-50-4	552	6	69	256

RECEIVING	Rec-Yds	Yds	TD	Lg	HiGm
7 Kyler Kropp	13-355	27.3	4	57	182
13 Ty Mitchell	6-142	23.7	2	69	69
2 Cameron Rollyson	2-42	21.0	0	32	42
24 Mason Hiatt	2-8	4.0	0	4	4
4 Grayson Thomas	1-5	5.0	0	5	5

KICKING	PAT	FG	Lg
28 Jake Wells	20-20	1-1	24

PUNTING	N-Yds	Avg	Lg	In20
28 Jake Wells	10-290	29.0	45	1
8 Gavin Neal	1-25	25.0	25	0

RETURNS	KOR	Avg	PR	Avg	TD
7 Kyler Kropp	4	19.8			
10 Micah Clark	1	25.0			
9 Caden Jacobia	1	1.0			

TEAM STATS	NP	Opp
Points	149	138
Avg. game	37.3	34.5
First downs	68	64
Rushes-yards	193-1146	141-712
Passing C-A-I	24-50-4	57-119-5
Passing yards	552	797
Total offense	243-1698	260-1509
Avg play/game	7.0/424.5	5.8/377.3
Fumbles-lost	7-5	4-2
Punts-yds-avg	8-207-25.9	18-522-29.0
2-point conversions	0-1	2-5

Score by quarters

New Palestine	42	21	41	45--	149
Opponents	33	41	41	23--	138

DEFENSE

Tackles leaders: Josh Ranes 34, Garrett Ranes 33, Mason Hiatt 29, Caden Jacobia 27, Desmond Palmer 19, Micah Clark 19, Alex Guhl 18, Ian Moore 15, John Ranes 15, Michael Thacker 14, Conner Jacobia 10.

Sacks: Josh Ranes 1, Garrett Ranes 1, Ian Moore 1, Alex Guhl 1

Interceptions: Mason Hiatt 2, Caden Jacobia 1, Conner Jacobia 1, Garrett Ranes 1

Fumble recoveries: Ty Mitchell 1, Colton Wise 1

2023 GAME-BY-GAME

	Rusher	Passer	Receiver
Westfield	Kropp 103	Neal 69	Kropp 58
DecaturC	Thomas 233	Neal 108	Kropp 100
Yorktown	Thomas 180	Neal 119	Mitchell 62
MtVernon	Thomas 285	Neal 256	Kropp 182
PendHts			
GrnfieldC			
Shelbyville			
NewCastle			
Delta			

2023 SEASON HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL

Rush yards: 285, Grayson Thomas vs. Mt. Vernon

9/8

Rush att.: 31, Grayson Thomas vs. Yorktown 9/1; vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Rushing TDs: 4, Grayson Thomas at Decatur C.

8/25

Total TDs: 5, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Passing yards: 256, Gavin Neal vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Pass completions: 6, Gavin Neal at Westfield 8/18; at Decatur C. 8/25; vs. Yorktown 9/1; vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Pass attempts: 14, Gavin Neal at Westfield 8/18

Pass TDs: 5, Gavin Neal vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Receiving yards: 182, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon

9/8

Receptions: 4, Kyler Kropp at Westfield 8/18; at Decatur C. 8/25; vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Receiving touchdowns: 4, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt.

Vernon 9/8 (school record)

Total offense: 302, Gavin Neal 9/8 vs. Mt. Vernon (256 passing, 46 rushing)

Yards from scrimmage: 290, Grayson Thomas vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8 (285 rushing, 5 receiving)

Longest rush: 80, Grayson Thomas vs. Mt. Vernon

9/8

Longest pass: 69 yards, Gavin Neal to Ty Mitchell vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Most tackles: 11, Mason Hiatt at Westfield 8/18

Most sacks: 1, multiple players

Most INTs: 1, multiple players

TEAM

Total yards: 604 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Rushing yards: 348 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Rushing attempts: 52 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Passing yards: 256 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Pass completions: 6 at Westfield 8/18; at Decatur Central 8/25; vs. Yorktown 9/1; vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Pass attempts: 15 at Westfield 8/18

Total plays: 66 vs. Yorktown 9/1

First downs: 21 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Pass touchdowns: 5 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Rush touchdowns: 6 at Decatur Central 8/25

Return touchdowns: none

Points: 63 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Points in a quarter: 21, 1st quarter at Decatur Central 8/25; 1st quarter & 3rd quarter vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Points in a half: 35, 2nd half vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Fewest points allowed: 22 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Fewest rush yards allowed: 84 at Decatur Central 8/25

Fewest pass yards allowed: 94 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Fewest total yards allowed: 312 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Fewest first downs allowed: 12 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Turnovers caused: 3 vs. Yorktown 9/1; vs. Mt.

Vernon 9/8

Most sacks: 2 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

Most interceptions: 3 vs. Yorktown 9/1

Most fumble recoveries: 2 vs. Mt. Vernon 9/8

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 games 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.

2023 BOXES**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 from 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, Johnson 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)

THE LAST TIME

New Palestine shut out an opponent: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville (56-0)
New Palestine had back-to-back shutouts: Oct. 2, 2020 at Shelbyville (42-0), Oct. 9, 2020 at New Castle (28-0)
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: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon (63-39)
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. 11, 2019 vs. New Castle (68-6)
New Palestine lost by 40 points: Aug. 25, 2007 at Delta (7-49)
New Palestine scored 20-29 points in a quarter: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon (21 points in 1st & 3rd quarter of 63-39 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: Sept. 30, 2022 at Shelbyville (49 points in 1st half of 56-0 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: Sept. 8, 2023, vs. Mt. Vernon, 348 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. 14, 2022 vs. Delta, 99 yards
New Palestine allowed 0 or fewer yards of total offense: Oct. 3, 2014 at Shelbyville, -29 yards
New Palestine allowed 0 yards rushing: Sept. 6, 2019 vs. Yorktown, minus-8 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. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon, Gavin Neal 256 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: Oct. 14, 2022 vs. Delta, 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. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon, Kyler Kropp 182 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: Sept. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon, Grayson Thomas 31 carries
A Dragon had 40+ carries: Sept. 14, 2018 at Pendleton Hts. Charlie Spegal 40 carries.
A Dragon ran for 200-249 yards: Aug. 25, 2023 at Decatur Central, Grayson Thomas 233 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 3
A Dragon had two interceptions: Oct. 21, 2022 at Mt. Vernon, Blaine Nunnally 2
New Palestine had two 100-yard rushers in same game: Sept. 24, 2021 at Greenfield-Central, Grayson Thomas 146 yards, Damon Hockett 125 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. 8, 2023 vs. Mt. Vernon, Gavin Neal 256 yards passing, Grayson Thomas 295 yards rushing, Kyler Kropp 182 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: Sept. 2, 2022 at Yorktown, A.J. Reiersen 13 interception return.
New Palestine had special teams touchdown: Oct. 7, 2022 at New Castle, Isaiah Thacker 75 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: Oct. 7, 2022 vs. New Castle, Isaiah Thacker 75-yard 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: Sept. 1, 2023. Defeated 3A No. 10 Yorktown 30-22.
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**

1. 5,374, Alex Neligh 2013-15
2. 3,610, Justin Plummer, 1997-99
3. 3,462, Zach Neligh, 2015-18
4. 3,289, Connor Simmons, 2010-11
5. 3,282, Blake Luker, 2011-13
6. 3,007, Lincoln Roth, 2018-20
7. 2,782, Gary Greene, 1983-84
8. 2,546, Danny Tippit, 2022
9. 2,342, Chris Van Dyke, 1979-81

SEASON

1. 2,852, Alex Neligh, 2015
2. 2,795, Connor Simmons, 2011
2. 2,630, Blake Luker, 2013
4. 2,546, Danny Tippit, 2022
5. 2,469, Alex Neligh 2014
6. 2,006, Matt Rodgers, 1993
7. 1,861, Zach Neligh, 2017
8. 1,588, Mark Shepler, 1987
9. 1,575, Lincoln Roth, 2019
10. 1,572, Zach Neligh, 2018
11. 1,543, Gunnar Large, 2016
12. 1,527, Justin Plummer, 1997
13. 1,436, Damon Hockett, 2021
14. 1,426, Gary Greene, 1984
15. 1,416, Lincoln Roth, 2020
16. 1,359, Jeff Stephenson, 1991
17. 1,356, Gary Greene, 1983
18. 1,205, Justin Plummer, 1999
19. 1,079, Chris Van Dyke, 1981

GAME

1. 501, Alex Neligh vs. FW Snider, 2015
2. 399, Matt Rodgers vs. HSE, 1993
3. 341, Lincoln Roth vs. Franklin, 2020

**PASS COMPLETIONS
CAREER**

1. 306, Alex Neligh 2013-15
2. 239, Blake Luker, 2011-13
3. 224, Justin Plummer, 1997-99

SEASON

1. 176, Blake Luker, 2013
2. 174, Connor Simmons, 2011
3. 170, Alex Neligh, 2015

**PASSING TOUCHDOWNS
CAREER**

1. 64, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
2. 40, Blake Luker, 2011-13
3. 39, Connor Simmons, 2010-11
4. 36, Zach Neligh, 2015-18

SEASON

1. 36, Alex Neligh, 2014
2. 35, Connor Simmons, 2011
3. 33, Blake Luker, 2013
3. 33, Danny Tippit, 2022

GAME

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

**TOTAL OFFENSE
CAREER**

1. 8,718, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
2. 6,524, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
3. 5,821, Zach Neligh, 2015-18
4. 4,494, Blake Luker, 2011-13
5. 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87

SEASON

1. 4,949, Alex Neligh, 2015
2. 3,761, Blake Luker, 2013
3. 3,654, Alex Neligh, 2014
4. 3,356, Charlie Spegal, 2018
5. 3,168, Charlie Spegal, 2019
6. 2,991, Zach Neligh, 2017

GAME

1. 667, Alex Neligh, 2015 vs. FW Snider
2. 471, Blake Luker, 2013 at PH

**TOTAL OFFENSE TDs
CAREER**

1. 123, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
2. 120, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
3. 64, Blake Luker, 2011-13
4. 63, Zach Neligh, 2015-18

SEASON

1. 73, Alex Neligh, 2015
2. 68, Charlie Spegal, 2018
3. 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019
3. 54, Blake Luker, 2013

GAME

- 8, Alex Neligh, 2014 vs. New Prairie

YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE**CAREER**

1. 6,693, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
2. 4,793, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23
3. 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87
4. 3,344, Alex Neligh, 2013-15

SEASON

1. 3,478, Charlie Spegal, 2018
2. 3,215, Charlie Spegal, 2019

GAME

1. 414, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

TOTAL TDs FROM SCRIMMAGE**CAREER**

1. 125, Charlie Spegal, 2018

SEASON

1. 70, Charlie Spegal, 2018
2. 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019

GAME

1. 8, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

**RECEIVING YARDS
CAREER**

1. 2,238, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
2. 2,134, Tyler Walden 2011-13
3. 1,618, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
4. 1,610, Isaiah Thacker, 2021-22
5. 1,328, Blake Austin, 2018-20
6. 1,270, Jay Ehle, 1992-93
7. 1,174, Brandon Collins 2010-11
8. 1,120, Blaine Nunnally 2020-22
9. 1,060, Todd Yoder 1993-95
10. 1,042, Keith Roseman 1983-84

SEASON

1. 1,231, Tyler Walden 2013
2. 1,148, Duke Blackwell 2015
3. 929, Brandon Collins 2011
4. 917, Isaiah Thacker 2022
5. 904, Jay Ehle, 1993
6. 894, Josh Penley 2011
7. 845, Blake Austin 2020
8. 824, Duke Blackwell 2014

GAME

1. 328, Duke Blackwell vs. FW Snider 2015
2. 230, Blake Austin vs. Franklin 2020
3. 212, Tyler Walden vs. PH 2013
4. 182, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon 2023
5. 165, Tyler Walden vs. MV 2012
6. 156, Tyler Walden vs. Whiteland 2013
7. 152, Josh Marshall vs. HSE 1993
8. 151, Josh Penley vs. Richmond 2011

**RECEPTIONS
CAREER**

1. 138, Tyler Walden, 2011-13
2. 106, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
3. 95, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
4. 89, Isaiah Thacker, 2021-22
5. 81, Blake Austin, 2018-20
6. 76, Brandon Collins, 2010-11

SEASON

1. 86, Tyler Walden 2013
2. 60, Brandon Collins 2011
3. 54, Blake Austin 2020
4. 52, Duke Blackwell 2015

GAME

1. 14, Tyler Walden vs. PH 2013
2. 12, Blake Austin vs. New Castle 2020
3. 11, Josh Marshall vs. HSE 1993
4. 10, Duke Blackwell vs. FW Snider 2015
- 10, Tyler Walden at PH 2013
- 10, Tyler Walden vs. Danville 2013
- 10, Brandon Collins vs. Whiteland 2011

**RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS
CAREER**

1. 30, Duke Blackwell 2013-15
2. 22, Tyler Walden, 2011-13
3. 20, Colby Jenkins, 2015-18
3. 20, Josh Penley, 2010-11

SEASON

1. 17, Duke Blackwell, 2015
- 17, Josh Penley, 2011

GAME

- 4, Kyler Kropp vs. Mt. Vernon 2023

**RUSHING YARDS
CAREER**

1. 6,524, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
2. 4,678, Grayson Thomas, 2020-22
3. 3,963, Jeff Miles, 1985-87
4. 3,344, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
5. 3,307, Nick Roudebush, 1989-90
6. 2,919, Chris Grider, 2002-03

SEASON

1. 3,356, Charlie Spegal, 2018
2. 3,168, Charlie Spegal, 2019
3. 2,097, Alex Neligh, 2015
4. 2,061, Jeff Miles 1987
5. 2,020, Nick Roudebush 1990
6. 1,830, DuRon Ford, 2016
7. 1,764, Luke Canfield, 2017
8. 1,665, Chris Grider, 2003
9. 1,636, James Young, 2014
10. 1,629, Eric Alcorn, 2005
11. 1,627, Nick Brickens, 2015
12. 1,509, Grayson Thomas, 2022
13. 1,288, Grayson Thomas, 2021
14. 1,256, Greg Davis, 2004

GAME

1. 387, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Delta
2. 364, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson
3. 336, Chris Grider, 2002 at Tipton
4. 305, Luke Canfield, 2017 vs. PH

**RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS
CAREER**

1. 123, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
2. 68, Grayson Thomas, 2020-23
3. 56, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
4. 52, Jeff Miles, 1986-87
5. 46, James Young, 2013-14

SEASON

1. 68, Charlie Spegal, 2018 (state record)
2. 55, Charlie Spegal, 2019
3. 37, Alex Neligh, 2015
4. 35, James Young, 2014
5. 33, Jeff Miles, 1987
5. 33, DuRon Ford, 2016

GAME

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

**SCORING
CAREER**

1. 754, Charlie Spegal, 2018-19
2. 410, Grayson Thomas, 2020-22
3. 336, Alex Neligh, 2013-15
4. 312, Jeff Miles, 1986-87

SEASON

1. 422, Charlie Spegal, 2018 (state record)
2. 332, Charlie Spegal, 2019
3. 222, Alex Neligh, 2015
4. 210, Jeff Miles, 1987
4. 210, James Young, 2014

GAME

1. 48, Charlie Spegal, 2018 vs. Anderson

**KICK SCORING
CAREER**

1. 285, Spencer Corey, 2013-16
2. 220, Alex Kropp, 2017-19

SEASON

1. 128, Spencer Corey, 2015 (state record).
2. 119, Alex Kropp, 2018

**PATs
CAREER**

1. 243, Spencer Corey, 2013-16
2. 181, Alex Kropp, 2017-19

SEASON

1. 113, Spencer Corey, 2015 (state record)
2. 101, Alex Kropp, 2018

GAME

1. 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.
6	Cooper Hurst	RB/LB	5-8	173	So.	43	Connor Groves	WR/DB	5-10	145	So.
7	Kyler Kropp	RB/DB	6-1	189	Sr.	44	Cole Christopher	K	5-11	160	So.
8	Gavin Neal	QB/LB	6-0	208	So.	45	Austin Groves	WR/DB	5-8	140	So.
9	Caden Jacobia	RB/DB	5-9	188	So.	50	Liam Fuller	OL/LB	5-8	196	Sr.
10	Micah Clark	WR/DB	5-6	149	Sr.	52	Michael Thacker	OL/DL	6-0	271	Jr.
11	Brady Armstrong	QB/DB	5-10	162	Sr.	53/46	Colton Wise	OL/LB	5-11	200	Sr.
12	Desmond Palmer	WR/DB	6-0	163	So.	54	John Ranes	OL/DL	6-1	251	Jr.
13	Ty Mitchell	WR/DB	5-6	150	Sr.	55	Colin Whetsel	OL/DL	6-0	209	So.
14	Gavin Lumpkin	RB/DB	5-9	142	Jr.	56	Aiden Redmon	OL/DL	5-9	259	So.
15	Brayden Harley	WR/DB	5-7	126	Sr.	57	Dakota Scott	OL/LB	5-8	202	Sr.
16	Dylan Dragoo	WR/DB	5-10	165	Jr.	58	Luke Hensel	OL/DL	5-10	208	So.
17	Bryan Caldwell	WR/DB	5-10	169	So.	64	David Gorth	OL/LB	6-2	165	So.
18	Brody Perkins	QB/LB	6-0	193	Jr.	65	William Glesing	OL/DL	6-0	231	Fr.
19	Brody Meyer	WR/DB	5-9	148	So.	66	Carson Neligh	OL/DL	5-11	176	So.
20	Alex Guhl	TE/LB	6-0	210	Jr.	70	Ian Moore	OL/DL	6-6	311	Sr.
21	Keagan Harrison	WR/DB	6-1	153	Jr.	71	Isaiah Wise	OL/DL	5-9	213	So.
22	Ayden Ley	TE/LB	5-9	187	So.	72	Abe Walling	OL/DL	6-2	221	So.
23	Landon Maddox	WR/DB	6-0	156	Fr.	73	Logan Myers	OL/DL	5-10	180	So.
24	Mason Hiatt	WR/DB	6-0	181	Sr.	75	Brock Brownfield	OL/DL	6-3	249	So.
25	Marshall Giant	WR/DB	5-9	145	Fr.	76	Gabe Lytell	OL/DL	5-11	247	So.
26	Max Wiegand	WR/DB	5-9	155	Jr.	77	Landon Seib	OL/DL	6-0	246	Jr.
27	Malachi Haines	RB/DL	6-0	227	Sr.	80	Mason Oglesby	TE/LB	6-2	186	Fr.
28	Jake Wells	K	6-0	169	Jr.	81	Kole Hege	TE/LB	6-1	166	Fr.
29	Judea Holt	WR/DB	5-11	155	So.	84	Sam Adam	WR/DB	6-0	179	Jr.
30	Mallari Johnson	K	5-6	139	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

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

Student Managers

Alanna McDonald, Reese Rosenbaum

Medical Staff

TBA, 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
25 Jayden Rubrecht	ROO-breckt
26 Max Wiegand	wee-gund
66 Carson Neligh	NEE-lee
81 Kole Hege	HEG-gee

