

*Tribe will  
look to  
make first  
repeat trip  
to regional*

Fort Recovery High School fall sports preview 2025





Pictured is the 2025 Fort Recovery High School girls cross country team. Front row from left are Addyson Heitkamp, Yoselin Juarez-Gomez, Kendall Ranly and Makenna Huelskamp. Back row are coach Christy Diller, Riley Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Claire Grube and assistant coach Matt Roessner.

**Coach Christy Diller says**

*"It's a work in progress. We do have some experience on the team. But, we're a young team, so it'll probably be more about individual progress and trying to mesh as a team and just trying to do as well as we can at MAC and in districts."*

**Projected lineup**

Makenna Huelskamp  
Riley Heitkamp  
Maddie Heitkamp  
Kendall Ranly  
Yoselin Juarez-Gomez  
Claire Grube  
Addyson Heitkamp

**Key Departures**

**Joelle Kaup**  
20 minutes, 59.96 seconds

**Anna Roessner**  
22 minutes, 30.45 seconds

**Nicole Braun**  
26 minutes, 35.10 seconds

**Top returners**

**Makenna Huelskamp**  
21 minutes, 45.18 seconds

**Riley Heitkamp**  
21 minutes, 54 seconds

**Maddie Heitkamp**  
23 minutes, 21.95 seconds

**2024 season**

The Tribe kept up the success of the past four seasons, but broke its streak of making it to state as the season ended with a ninth-place finish in the regional meet. The high points of their season came in the Mercer County Invite, in which they placed second and the Tour de Sewer (third). The Tribe placed seventh out of 20 teams in the district meet to advance to the regional before bowing out. Fort Recovery finished sixth out of nine teams at the Midwest Athletic Conference Championships. Joelle Kaup had the highest finish in the conference as her time of 20 minutes, 27.55 seconds, netted her 12th.

FRHS cross country		
Date	Opponent	Time
Tuesday, Aug. 19	Mercer Co. Invite	5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23	Bob Schul Invite	8:15 a.m.
Saturday, Aug 30	Treaty City Invite	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 2	Jay County	5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 6	Brookville	9 a.m.
Saturday, Sept. 13	Troy Twilight	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 20	Tour De Sewer	9 a.m.
Saturday Oct. 4	Lions Invite	9 a.m.
Saturday, Oct.11	MAC Championships	9 a.m.
All meets are away		

**GOOD LUCK INDIANS!**

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**GO, TEAM!**

Good luck to our local student athletes!

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Pictured is the 2025 Fort Recovery High School boys cross country team. Front row from left are Alex Roessner, Russell Hart, Reese Diller and Gavin Heitkamp. Middle row are Ben Vogel, Charlie Stammen, Evan Diller, Henry Jutte and Mason Laux. Back row are coach Christy Diller and assistant coach Matt Roessner.



### Projected lineup

Reese Diller  
Russell Hart  
Evan Diller  
Henry Jutte  
Charlie Stammen  
Mason Laux  
Gavin Heitkamp  
Alex Roessner  
Ben Vogel

### Key departures

**Evan Evers**  
20 minutes, -4.69 seconds

**Milo Fiely**  
21 minutes, 16.33 seconds

**Chase Fiely**  
22 minutes, 50.35 seconds

### Top returners

**Reese Diller**  
18 minutes, 29.69 seconds

**Russell Hart**  
20 minutes, 54.73 seconds

**Evan Diller**  
21 minutes, 16.33 seconds

### Meets to watch

**Tuesday, Aug. 19,  
at Mercer County Invite**

The Mercer County Invite always provides the Tribe with an opportunity to see how the two teams will fare against multiple MAC opponents right out of the gate.

### Fast facts

•The Tribe has had representation at the state tournament as recently as 2023, when the girls team made the trip and placed 10th, while Trevor Heitkamp competed for the boys.

•This will be Christy Diller's seventh year at the helm of the Indians. She was inducted into Fort Recovery's Hall of Fame in 2018 for her time coaching and competing in cross country and track.

### 2024 season

Fort Recovery's boys cross country team took a slight step backward following the graduation of Trevor Heitkamp, but an influx of freshmen helped to pick up the slack. The Tribe's best finish came at the Tour de Sewer, where they placed 10th out of 13 competing teams. They ended up finishing in ninth at the Midwest Athletic Conference Championships, only beating New Knoxville by 41 points. Reese Diller was the only runner to crack the top-50 as he finished 26th in 17 minutes, 51.97 seconds. The Indians' season came to a close as a team at the district, where they placed 17th out of 23 teams. Diller advanced to the regional as an individual, where he earned 57th with a time of 18:14.85.

### Coach Christy Diller says

*"A lot of potential. We've got three freshmen coming up that will absolutely vie for spots on varsity and we bring back four members of varsity. It'll be interesting to see who ends up (in the top seven) and I think that'll change every single week. We bring back Reese Diller, who was our top runner last year and Alex Roessner is right there with him this year. So that'll be nice and we'll have a tighter spread for our top five this year, which should help us team-wise. Our goal is to hopefully qualify a team to regional."*

## Going to Bat for Our Student Athletes

Good luck,  
Indians, on a  
great season!



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Local Teams a  
Safe, Successful  
and Fun Season!***

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured above is the 2025 Fort Recovery High School football team. Pictured in the front row from left are Troy Post, Cayson Kaikala, A.J. Siefring, Anthony Roessner, Brodie Hart, Alex Gaerke, Reece Wendel, Colson Post, Caden Homan, Josh Evers, Matthew Marchal, Luke Lochtefeld, Drew Heitkamp, Aiden Brunswick and Ray Grube. Second row are Ayden Bozarth, Brady Evers, Isaac Roessner, Coby Schmitz, Ethan Wenning, Jake Meyer, Ian McCain, Brody Barga and Breaker Jutte. Third row are Ricky Rodriguez, Braylon Rammel, Trevor Wycuff, Braylon Dilworth, Huntly Ward, Cooper Overman and Hudson Overman. Fourth row are Reid Willmann, Jett Tobe, Stetson Fullenkamp, Emmitt Dues, Briar Leuthold, Crew Fortkamp, Tony Evers and Jakob Homan. Fifth row are Kaiser Albers, Ethan Schmitz, Vince Wenning, Ross Timmerman, Isaac Niekamp, Carter Kaiser, Landon Gehret and Andrew Martinez. Sixth row are managers Chase Wendel, Ezekiel Grieshop and Elijah Grieshop. Back row are assistant coaches Steve Jutte, Tanner Koch, Kirk Link, coach Wes Wenning, assistant coaches Tyler Wuebker, Charlie Vasey, Brandon Schoen and Will Homan.

Projected lineup

<b>Offensive skill</b> Alex Gaerke – quarterback Reece Wendel – running back Brodie Hart – running back Luke Lochtefeld – running back Isaac Roessner – wide receiver Troy Post – wide receiver Breaker Jutte – WR/TE Brody Barga – WR/TE		<b>Offensive line</b> Josh Evers – center Caden Homan – tackle Jake Meyer – tackle Matthew Marchal – guard Ray Grube – guard		<b>Defensive line</b> Coby Schmitz – tackle Cayson Kaikala – tackle Caden Homan – end Ricky Rodriguez – end Hudson Overman – end		<b>Linebackers</b> Reece Wendel – middle Brodie Hart – middle Jake Meyer – outside Josh Evers – outside		<b>Defensive backs</b> Anthony Roessner – cornerback A.J. Siefring – cornerback Brady Evers – cornerback Colson Post – safety Troy Post – safety Braylon Dilworth – safety	
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<b>Top returners</b>	<b>Key departures</b>
<b>Reece Wendel</b> 100.8 rushing y/g, 8 TD	<b>Caden Grisez</b> 22.1 rushing y/g, 1 TD
<b>Isaac Roessner</b> 5.1 rushing y/g, 1 TD	<b>Ethan Hartnagel</b> 19.2 rushing y/g, 4 TD
<b>Breaker Jutte</b> 12.8 receiving y/g, 4 INT	<b>Gavin Evers</b> 8.7 receiving y/g, 2 TD
<b>Troy Post</b> 39 tackles, 0.5 sacks	<b>Gabe Knapke</b> 24 tackles

**2024 season**

The Tribe won the first game of the season against Wayne Trace before going on a seven-game skid. Fort Recovery picked up its second win of the season, and first in the Midwest Athletic Conference, by taking down Parkway 36-24 in week eight. It dropped two more games to finish the regular season, but snuck its way into the playoffs before falling to eventual state champion Marion Local. The Indians finished with a 2-10 record to close out Brent Niekamp’s 21-year career.

**Coach Wes Wenning says**

*“What we want to establish is a culture of love. That’s love for this community, love for the game of football and love for that guy that you’re lining up with that’s to your left and to your right. If we can establish that culture, we’re off to a tremendous start in this era. We’re laying down the foundation of everything we’re looking forward to establishing in these next few years. We’ve just reiterated it with the guys, it’s all about love and those three pillars.”*



**Matches to watch****Friday, Aug. 22, vs. Ponitz**

Pontiz will ring in a new era of Fort Recovery football as Wes Wenning takes over at the helm. Along with it being the first look at a new group of Indians, it is a big game for potential playoff implications.

**Friday, Sept. 26, vs. New Bremen**

The Tribe had its closest finish of the season against New Bremen, but fell short 14-12. Despite being ranked fifth in Division VI, the Cardinals only came out on top due to a pair of failed 2-point attempts.

**Friday, Oct. 10, at Parkway**

The Indians' sole win in the Midwest Athletic Conference came against the Panthers last year. If they want to climb in the MAC, they'll need to take care of business at PHS.

**FRHS football**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Friday, Aug. 22</b>	<b>Ponitz</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Friday, Aug. 29	Allen East	7 p.m.
<b>Friday, Sept. 5</b>	<b>Coldwater</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Friday, Sept. 12	St. Henry	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 20	St. John's	1:30 p.m.
<b>Friday, Sept. 26</b>	<b>New Bremen</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, Oct. 3</b>	<b>Marion Local</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Friday, Oct. 10	Parkway	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 17	Anna	7 p.m.
<b>Friday, Oct. 24</b>	<b>Minster</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>Home games in bold</b>		

**Fast facts**

•This will be Wes Wenning's first year as the Indians' head coach after taking over for Brent Niekamp. Wenning was coached by Niekamp and a part of the 2015 team that won the Division VII state title. Niekamp finished with a record of 81-137.

•Fort Recovery's roster is 48 players deep and the largest it's been since the 2020 season. Thirteen of those players are upperclassmen who didn't play last season, including six who did compete in 2023.

•The Indians have made eight playoff appearances, winning at least one game in five of those years. All of Fort Recovery's playoff losses have come against Midwest Athletic Conference rivals.

Hope this  
season is the  
best one yet!

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Good Luck, Indians!

## Good luck to INDIANS!

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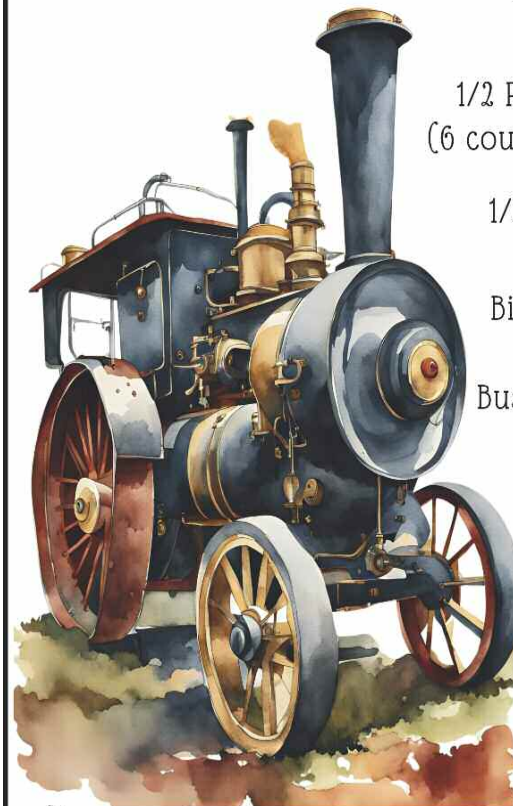
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Pictured is the 2025 Fort Recovery High School volleyball team. Pictured, front row from left, are managers Harper Bruns, Oaklee Kremer, Brinley Steinbrunner, Nora Schoen, Leah Willmann, Ciera Gaerke and Kendall Wehrkamp. Middle row are Haley Easton, Alexis Grisez, Trinity Rammel, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Kenna Dues, Bridget Homan, Brynn Willmann and Paisley Hart. Back row are coach Travis Guggenbiller, Chloe Brockman, Hope Evers, Kayden Ranly, Kayla Gaerke, manager Kaylor Wendel, assistant coach Kiah Bruns and assistant coach Dawn Willmann.



**Projected lineup**

Bridget Homan – Middle/Opposite  
 Brynn Willmann – Middle/Opposite  
 Alexis Grisez – Middle/Opposite  
 Cameron Muhlenkamp – Outside  
 Kenna Dues – Outside  
 Kayden Ranly – Setter  
 Kayla Gaerke – Libero  
 Trinity Rammel – Defense

**Top returners**  
**Cameron Muhlenkamp**  
 244 kills, 28 aces, 276 digs  
**Bridget Homan**  
 164 kills, 28 aces, 217 digs  
**Brynn Willmann**  
 134 kills, 10 blocks  
**Kenna Dues**  
 1 kill, 45 aces, 282 digs

**Key departures**

**Kennedy Muhlenkamp**  
 164 kills, 22 aces, 342 digs  
**Kayla Heitkamp**  
 54 aces, 729 assists, 197 digs  
**Karlie Niekamp**  
 188 kills, 12 blocks

**FRHS volleyball**

Date	Opponent	Time
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 19</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Thursday, Aug. 21	National Trail	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 28	Marion Local	5:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday, Aug. 30</b>	<b>Arcanum</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>
Tuesday, Sept. 2	Jay County	6 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 4	Parkway	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 8	Celina	4:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Sept. 11</b>	<b>New Bremen</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Monday, Sept. 15	Crestview	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 16	Minster	4:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Sept. 18</b>	<b>Coldwater</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Saturday, Sept. 20	Russia	10 a.m.
Monday, Sept. 22	Wapakoneta	5:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 23</b>	<b>Fort Loramie</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>
Thursday, Sept. 25	New Knoxville	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 29	Spencerville	5:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Oct. 2</b>	<b>Versailles</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, Oct. 4</b>	<b>Ansonia</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>
Monday, Oct. 6	Mississinawa Valley	5:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 7</b>	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Thursday, Oct. 9	St. Henry	5:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday, Oct. 11</b>	<b>Tri-Village</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>
Home matches in bold		

**Matches to watch**

**Saturday, Aug. 30, vs. Arcanum**

The Trojans beat FRHS in the 2024 regular season, but got swept at home in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 2 District opener. Arcanum will be looking to enact some revenge for the postseason loss while the Indians look to set a standard for 2025.

**Thursday, Sept. 4, at Parkway**

After struggling in the MAC last year, the Tribe will want to secure a win over the Panthers to give itself a head start in the standings.

**Thursday, Oct. 9, at St. Henry**

St. Henry falls a week before the sectional tournament starts for the Indians and will act as a final test for how much they've grown before heading into postseason play.

**GO TEAM!**

Good luck to our local student athletes!

*We admire your hard work, dedication and enthusiasm, and we thank you for making this community proud.*

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured above is the 2025 Fort Recovery girls golf team. Front row from left are Claire Wenning, Liza Knapke, Georgia Wenning, Mallory Evers, Olivia Knapke and Evvie Briner. Back row are Cora Pearson, Kali Brunswick, Layla Armstrong, Macy Kaffenberger, Emily Boeckman and coach Jeff Vaughn. For a full preview of the FRHS boys and girls golf teams see the Aug. 2 edition of The Commercial Review.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured above is the 2025 Fort Recovery boys golf team. Front row from left are Carson Fullenkamp, Caleb Smith, Reece LeFevre, Garrett Diller and Luke Fortkamp. Middle row are Carter Fortkamp, Will Westgerdes, Hudson McAbee, and Kolton Thompson. Back row are Andrew Rehmert, Owen Grieshop, Kale Diller, Will Faller and coach Dean Sanders.

### 2024 season

The move to the Southwest District treated the Indians well in 2024 as they made it to the regional semifinal match for the fourth time and the first since 2020 by rolling through Yellow Springs and Twin Valley South in the sectional and topping host Arcanum and Miami Valley Christian Academy in the district. The Tribe's season came to an end at the hands of Anna as it fell 25-19, 25-18, 22-25, 25-22 in the regional opener. Fort Recovery started off the season hot as it claimed six of its first nine contests before suffering a five-match skid just prior to the postseason run. FRHS finished with a 13-14 record and placed eighth in the Midwest Athletic Conference at 2-7.

### Fast facts

- The Tribe made its fourth regional appearance last year, but fell short of advancing to its first regional semifinal since 1991. Guggenbiller has been the coach for the last two regional appearances.

- This will be Guggenbiller's sixth year at the helm of the Indians. He is 73-52 (24-21 Midwest Athletic Conference) with the best finish in the MAC coming in 2020 (second).

- Fort Recovery will have a sizable change to its back row after graduating both of its setters from 2024 and Kenna Dues making a position change from libero to outside hitter.

### Coach Travis Guggenbiller says

*"We're looking at our growth this year. We're going to take it one day at a time. We're going to learn to grow as a team. We don't have any seniors on the team, so it's all about learning each other, working together with each other, figuring out what works, areas of improvement and just learning the game. Our focus is in the post-season. We want to have another successful postseason, so we're going to take it day-by-day. We want to compete within our league and have a good record overall, but it's about learning each and every day. About getting 1% better every day."*

# GOOD LUCK!

Wishing all of our local athletes a successful year in the field, on the court and in the classroom. Your achievements make this community proud, and we salute your hard work and dedication to the sport and to the team. Keep up the great work!

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# *Good luck during the fall season*



## **Football**

*Opening date: August 22*

*Regional: October 31*

## **Volleyball**

*Opening date: August 19*

*Sectional: Oct. 13-18*

## **Cross country**

*Opening date: August 19*

*District: October 18*