

# Batesville Bulldogs

## 2024 High School Football

### Bulldogs looking for a bigger prize

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

An 11-win season in 2023 and a Class 3A sectional championship for the first time since 2015 would have most high school football programs feeling rather content. But not Batesville.

As a matter of fact the Bulldogs are thinking well past what they accomplished a season ago. After a disappointing loss to eventual state runner-up Heritage Hills in the regional championship game that ended on a game-winning field goal, Batesville enters 2024 with the biggest of all goals in mind, playing at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis with a state title on the line.

Quite a few high school gurus think head coach Evan Ulery and company can do just that, especially given what talent returns for the Dogs on both sides of the football. It all starts with an offense that averaged 32.5 points per game last fall and returns its top three stars that should once again put on quite a show.

The two big names that stand out to most are the senior tandem of quarterback Will Jaisle and wide receiver Cade Kaiser. Jaisle, who has fully recovered from a back injury suffered last baseball season, completed 60 percent of his passes and threw for 1,840 yards and 22 touchdowns during his junior campaign. Of that total, 50 of his 112 completions, 799 of his yards and 17 of his scoring throws went to Kaiser, a 6-foot-5 target that has been a nightmare for op-

posing defenses to cover. But should that duo need a bit of a break, senior running back Gage Pohlman certainly reminds fans that Batesville can run the football too. Yes, Pohlman had 379 receiving yards and five touchdown catches but his role in the backfield produced 242 carries for 1,583 yards and 16 touchdowns.

A mix of veterans and newcomers on that offensive line will provide plenty of space for the trio. Other names to watch for include senior wideouts Damien Dance, Carson Schneider and Alex Krekeler and sophomore wide receiver Carson Hartley.

Dance and Krekeler will be tremendous assets on the defensive side. Krekeler was among state leaders with nine interceptions and Dance was not too far behind with five while the two combined for nearly 90 tackles. Around them is a cast that provides some pop in the middle and on the line. Pohlman and fellow linebacker John Dirkhising teamed up for five sacks and 11 hurries and Judd Renck will return after 32 tackles and a fumble recovery in just seven games played along with potential defensive tools in Kaiser, Jaisle and Marc Meneses.

Max Amberger helps anchor the defensive line and is back as a senior having tallied 38 tackles and a sack as a junior. Senior defensive lineman Damien Krekeler provides plenty of muscle at the position and will be a big aid. The Bulldogs in 2023 saw just four opponents score 20-plus points against them, one

of which was Heritage Hills in the regional and an East Central team that went undefeated and won the Class 4A State Championship.

Another big plus for Batesville is the return of junior kicker Brady Wonnell. Last year he finished with 3,125 yards on kickoffs and was 48-of-53 on extra point kicks. Potentially adding him as a consistent field goal leg will only add to the program's scoring options.

Batesville opens the season on Friday night at 7 p.m. and gets a big test right off the bat when they hit the road to take on Class 2A No. 13 Triton Central, a program that has won five consecutive sectional titles. Kicker Brady Wonnell who showed potential throughout his freshman year. The Bulldogs had 10 different players managing return man duties in 2022 and it appears that Batesville may also be in for a new punter after Roell's departure.

Batesville is at home on Friday night for its season opener, taking on Indian Creek in a rematch of last year's sectional semifinal that saw the Bulldogs pull out a 35-34 victory.



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER  
Senior running back Gage Pohlman rushed for nearly 2,000 yards last season in the Batesville backfield and will be a key part of the Bulldog offense and defense in 2024.

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# Milan Indians

## 2024 High School Football



### Milan reload fuels title hopes

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

For the past five seasons Milan football has accrued a 33-24 overall record yet has watched each of those years end in Class A sectional play to North Decatur, a four-time champion during the span.

Does North Decatur have the magic to continue the streak in 2024? The Chargers certainly have the talent but the Indians are locked and loaded and head coach Ryan Langferman is set to boast one of his most talented teams in recent memory. And the talent is so good, one could say Milan is primed to dethrone its archrival and use it as a kickstart to a long post-season run.

Milan is ranked ninth in the Class A state poll released by the Indiana Football Coaches Association, joining Batesville who sits at No. 11 in the Class 3A rankings. After back-to-back seasons under .500, the Indians went 8-4 in 2023 and also played to a sectional runner-up finish.

Much of the top talent from that eight-win team are back and now considered veterans inside the program. Defensively, Milan gave up only 15.6 points per game and returning weapons will only make the unit a bigger force to be reckoned with

as seven players who recorded double-digit tackles will be in uniform for 2024. All-State senior cornerback Dylan Offill picked off seven passes and had 51 tackles while senior Austin Green will also be at the corner spot after 43 tackles and an interception. Another fourth-year player in outside linebacker John McKeown is also set for a bigger role after last year's totals of 35 tackles, a sack and fumble recovery.

A pair of sophomore defensive ends in Grant Langferman and Zane Richardson combined for 60 tackles as freshmen. Cameron Gilb will boost the defense at the strong safety position and defensive tackle Landon Stanley is set to star his senior year to round out the top returning cast.

With regards to the offense, former All-State tight end Ethan Pierce and running back Mason Green will be missed but Milan's reload means a team that scored 32 points per game last season should have no problem finding the end zone again. The biggest return of all is Austin Green, who not only provides on defense but the running back also racked up 1,216 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns on 138 carries in 2023. He will be the main act in the backfield and will get some support from junior quarterback Wyatt Marsh who is a threat with



A strong Milan offensive line will once again pave the way for senior running back Austin Green who is back and ready to lead the Indians to their first sectional championship since 2016.

PHOTO BY LINDSAY DEBOLT

his feet. Marsh as a sophomore rushed for seven scores on 79 carries and 250 yards.

But with a year now to grow, Marsh may now be a bigger threat in the passing game. He only threw for 583 yards and six touchdowns in his first year under center but

he has back some familiar targets which includes Green out of the tailback spot and junior wide receiver Micah Norman who was one of two to haul in more than 100 receiving yards. Expect Offill and Gilb to also see more catches in 2024 and boost in

the air only makes the Indians an ever bigger threat.

The only area that sees any type of roster turnover is special teams, especially when it comes to kicking. Ayden Potts and Jeremiah Johnson are gone via graduation and senior Dylan Hon will

have his number called to provide a new boot for the black and gold.

Milan is on the road Friday to kick off the new year and pays a visit to Rushville with game time scheduled for 7 p.m.

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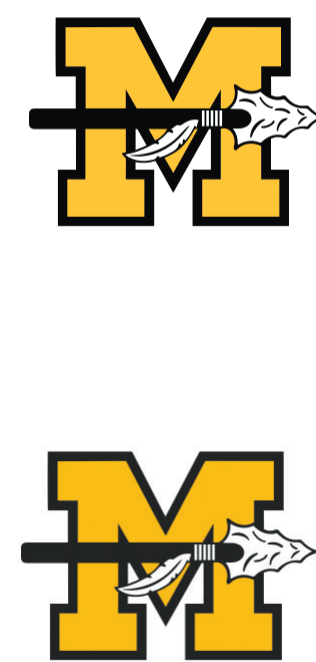
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2024 - 2025 Football (Boys V)

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Fri, Aug 30	Milan High School	7:00 PM	Milan High School Away
Fri, Sept 6	South Dearborn High School	7:00 PM	Home
Fri, Sept 13	Rushville Consolidated High School	7:00 PM	Rushville Consolidated High School Away
Fri, Sept 20	East Central High School	7:30 PM	East Central High School Away
Fri, Sept 27	Lawrenceburg High School	7:00 PM	Home
Fri, Oct 4	Greensburg High School	7:00 PM	Home
Fri, Oct 11	Franklin County High School	7:00 PM	Franklin County High School Away
Fri, Oct 18	Connersville High School	7:00 PM	Home



### Milan Jr-Sr High School

2024 - 2025 Football (Boys V)

Fri, Aug 23	Rushville Consolidated High Sch	7:00 PM	Rushville Consolidated High Sch Away
Fri, Aug 30	Batesville High School	7:00 PM	Milan Jr-Sr High School (Turf Field) Home
Fri, Sept 6	Lawrenceburg High School	7:00 PM	Lawrenceburg High School Away
Fri, Sept 13	Switzerland County High School	7:00 PM	Switzerland County High School Away
Fri, Sept 20	Greenwood Christian Academy	7:00 PM	Milan Jr-Sr High School (Turf Field) Home
Fri, Sept 27	Eastern Hancock High School	7:00 PM	Eastern Hancock High School Away
Fri, Oct 4	Providence Jr-Sr High School	7:00 PM	Milan Jr/Sr High School Home
Fri, Oct 11	South Decatur Jr/Sr High School	7:00 PM	South Decatur Jr/Sr High School Away
Fri, Oct 18	Madison Consolidated High School	7:00 PM	Milan Jr-Sr High School (Turf Field) Home



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