

Free Press top 25 prep football teams: Nos. 11-15

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Mick McCabe picks the state's top-25 teams. Here are Nos. 11-15 (come back Wednesday for Nos. 6-10):

11. Canton

2010: 10-1.

All-time state playoff record: 20-11.

Strength: Running game.

Top players: FB/LB Zac Merillat, RB/DB Kevin Buford (Toledo), junior OT Cameron Dillard, RB/DB Ryan Jones, junior OT Dan DeRoso.

Outlook: The Chiefs will have an explosive running attack. Buford is a threat to score when he has the ball, and Jones has blazing speed. Merillat is a two-way warrior. If QB Kyle Adams handles the job and the D-line develops, Canton should be good again.

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12. Midland

2010: 7-3.

All-time state playoff record: 25-21.

Strength: Offensive line.

Top players: OT Andrew Wylie, junior OT Steven Elmer, C Joe Vieau, OG/DT Alek Swiercz, WRs David Walter and Alec Moulton, RBs Avery Chatman and T.J. Wilson; DB Ty Kuehne.

Outlook: Midland should record its 35th consecutive winning season -- second in state history to Marysville's 39. Elmer (6-feet-6, 305 pounds) is a national recruit on perhaps the biggest O-line in the state. Chatman has outstanding speed and doesn't need much of a hole. Thirteen starters are back.

• [Nos. 16-20](#)

• [Nos. 21-25](#)

13. Warren De La Salle

2010: 9-3.

All-time state playoff record: 17-9.

Strength: Passing game.

Top players: QB Shane Morris (U-M), OT Marchello Brown, RB Damorria Lilly, OG David Van Ittersum, FB/LB Zach Biliary, DB/RB Mike Abiragi.

Outlook: Morris is the state's most highly regarded junior QB since Drew Henson. The Pilots also have a successful ground attack. If the D-line develops, they will be a contender in the Catholic League and in Division 2.

14. Plymouth

2010: 11-3.

All-time state playoff record: 4-5.

Strength: Offensive line.

Top players: QB Shaun Austin, LB/OT Tyler Goble, RB/DL-DB Donte Fox, OT/DT Bobby Rich, junior K/P Brenton Zuzo, DB/WR Jamarl Eiland.

Outlook: All four playoff wins in school history came last fall as the Wildcats shocked the state and advanced to the Division 1 final. Austin is a talented passer, and the Wildcats will have an effective running game.

15. Orchard Lake St. Mary's

2010: 11-3.

All-time state playoff record: 45-13.

Strength: Linebackers.

Top players: LBs James Ross and Joe Eroyan, TE David Talley, RB Spencer McInnis, DB/WR-RB Keith Stonestreet.

Outlook: A fourth trip to the Division 3 final in five years is a possibility with a strong corps of linebackers. Seven starters return defensively. The Eaglets will have an effective running attack again with McInnis and Stonestreet.