



Tyro League Standings

90#	W	L	T
Cheektowaga	7	0	0
West Side	6	1	0
Stingrays	4	2	0
North Buffalo	4	2	0
Lackawanna	3	4	0
Riverside	2	6	0
Airlanes	1	6	0
Clinton-Lovejoy	0	7	0

110#	W	L	T
North Buffalo	7	0	0
Stingrays	6	1	0
Airlanes	4	3	0
Riverside	4	3	0
Lackawanna	4	3	0
West Side	2	5	0
Cheektowaga	1	6	0
Clinton-Lovejoy	0	7	0

130#	W	L	T
North Buffalo	7	0	0
West Side	6	1	0
Riverside	5	2	0
Cheektowaga	4	3	0
Lackawanna	3	4	0
Airlanes	1	5	1
Stingrays	1	5	1
Clinton-Lovejoy	0	7	0

Current as of: 11/04/09 (Regular Season Final Standings)

8/30 at
Lackawanna

A stingy defense and a big play offense overpowered the Lackawanna Mustangs as the Cheektowaga Thunderbirds won their season opener 19-7 in the 90 lbs. division.

The 110lb Thunderbirds dropped their season opener to Lackawanna 34-8. After falling behind early, Cheektowaga was unable to recover. A second half touchdown run by Ryan Majorowski's broke the shutout with Mitch Dietl catching the 2 point conversion on a pass from Paul Woodward.

The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 130lb squad opened their season with a convincing 28-15 victory over the Lackawanna Broncos. Noah Sacilowski & the offensive line opened gaping holes for Daniel Farinacci's big day at RB (2 TDs, 100+ yards). Aaron Wesley, Brendan Delbert, and Jeff Retzer caused havoc defensively with gang tackling & several turnovers.

9/13 vs.
North Buffalo

The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90 lbs. football improved their record to 2-0 by defeating the North Buffalo Rams Sunday morning at Cheektowaga Town Park. For Cheektowaga the defense controlled the game by completely shutting down the Rams offense. Cheektowaga's offense was workman like on its way to a 19-0 victory.

The 110lb Cheektowaga Thunderbirds lost to North Buffalo 30-0.

The 130lb squad lost a hard fought, physical contest against defending champion North Buffalo Rams, 12-0. Jaylin Rose & Andrew Mergenhagen were standouts on defense, while Michael McDonald led a productive 4th quarter drive - but ran out of time. Cheektowaga's record now stands at 1-1 which keeps them right in the thick of things in the early going.

9/20 vs.
Airlanes

Cheektowaga Little Loop's 90 lbs team improved its record to 3-0 by defeating Airlanes Junior Football 40-20. The Thunderbirds continued to excel in all three phases of their game; offense, defense and special teams. After jumping out to an early lead in the first half 20-7 Cheektowaga's second team players sealed the victory in the second half.

The 110 pound Thunderbirds lost to the Airlanes Buccaneers 29-6 on Sunday. Strong performances were turned in by Jairus Huggins who had a sack and numerous tackles for losses. Connor Mages returned to the lineup after missing several weeks due to injury and helped contribute on both sides of the ball while leading the defense on a key defensive stand on the goal line in the first half and also making key blocks on the offensive line. Adam Bellaus scored the Thunderbirds lone touchdown late in the 4th quarter.

The 130lb Thunderbird team improved to 2-1 this past weekend, capitalizing on some costly turnovers by crosstown rival Airlanes. The final score was 12-0, but the game felt much closer. T-Birds bend but don't break defense was led by DT Daniel Jasinski & safety Paul Majerowski. The offense, led by RT Kyle Meyer used misdirection & a short pass to penetrate the defensive front.

9/27 at
Stingrays Cheektowaga Thunderbirds pee wee team upped it's record to 4 – 0 by defeating the Stingrays of South Buffalo 33 – 7. The game was much closer than the score indicated with the Thunderbirds leading only 7 – 0 at half time. Touchdown drives in the third quarter and on the first play of the fourth quarter gave Cheektowaga a 20 – 0 margin. The final scores of the game came with the Thunderbirds second unit in the game.

110 Thunderbirds lost to the Stingray Wildcats 21-0 on September 27

The 130# Thunderbirds rallied from a 1st quarter deficit with an offensive explosion. Niahjel Hunley made some key receptions, while Miquan Derby (20 yard run), Joe Perillo (30 yard catch) tallied their first touchdowns on the season. Robbie Calder & Matthew Eldridge led a stout defensive line that eventually overwhelmed the Stingrays with a final score of 35-12. Cheektowaga rides a 2 game win streak (3-1 overall) when Riverside visits this Sunday.

10/4 vs.
Riverside Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90lb. team beat Blackrock / Riverside 25 – 6 to up their record to 5 – 0. The Thunderbirds took the opening kick off back for a touchdown and the out come of the game was never in doubt. The offense scored on its next two possessions before the end of the first half. Cheektowaga's second unit played strong in the second half securing the victory.

This past Sunday, the 110 Thunderbirds lost to Blackrock/Riverside 27-6. The game was played in sloppy conditions for both teams as the Thunderbirds defense was able to recover 4 fumbles, including two by Ryan Majerowski. His first came on the first play from scrimmage as he made the tackle on a blitz and stripped the ball from the Blackrock/Riverside running back. Majerowski also scored the Thunderbirds only touchdown late in the 4th quarter on a drive that was helped out with blocks by Connor Sirdevan and Jeremy Clark. Sirdevan had a key tackle at the end of the first half that prevented the opposition from scoring. The 110 Thunderbirds hope to get into the win column for the first time this Sunday as they host Clinton-Love Joy Cheektowaga Town Park, 12:00 Sunday) in the final home game of the season.

In a waterlogged showdown between two 3-1 teams, Cheektowaga came up a bit short in hosting Riverside. The final score was 21-0, but the game felt closer. David "Grayson" Taylor and the offensive line found it difficult opening running lanes in the mud, with teammates Scott Popczyinski & Tim Noonan inspiring their teammates from the sidelines. Ultimately it was turnovers & penalties that sealed the Thunderbirds fate; that look to bounce back this Sunday versus Clinton-Lovejoy Lions (Cheektowaga Town Park, 1:30 Sunday).

10/11 vs
Clinton/Lovejoy Despite a sloppy field, sloppy play and being plagued with penalties the Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90 lb football team remained unbeaten moving its record to 6 – 0. Cheektowaga led 13 – 0 at half time and held on for a 20- 0 win in its final home game of the season. The Thunderbirds next opponent will be West Side Little League at LaSalle Park to determine the number one seed heading into the playoffs.

The 110 Thunderbirds won their first game of the season against the Clinton/Love Joy Lions Sunday afternoon with a final score of 19-12. After giving up an early touchdown, the Thunderbirds offense charged down field with Ryan Majerowski gaining yards on huge runs. The drive was capped off by Connor Sirdevan scoring from 3 yards out. Paul Woodward found Adam Bellaus in the end zone on a nice pass and catch. Woodward finished off the drive by making several Lion defenders miss while scampering into the end zone for the conversion. Ryan Majerowski also scored for the Thunderbirds late in the 3rd quarter. The Lions made things interesting by scoring a touchdown in the 4th quarter to make the game close. The Thunderbirds defense buckled down and was able to stop the Lions drive as Christopher Linehan sacked the Clinton/Love Joy quarterback to seal the win. Also making key stops on defense were the Thunderbirds defensive line consisting of Linehan, Jairus Huggins, Joel Mead, and Jason Burress. Jeremy Clark and Bernard Dent had a huge day as both contributed on key blocks on offense as well. The Thunderbirds travel to Westside Saturday night.

The 130# team secured a winning season, improving to 4-2 overall with their 26-8 victory over visiting Clinton-Lovejoy Lions. Daniel Farinacci took a first quarter punt 40+ yards to start the scoring while adding an interception late in the 1st half. Miquan Derby scored on a short run while also adding an electrifying 42 yd run later that included stiff arms, cutbacks & spin moves. QB Michael McDonald kept the opposing defense off-balance all day while also finding the end zone himself on a keeper. Noah Sacilowski, Matt Elderidge, & Aaron Wesley pressured the Lions QB relentlessly while LB Joe Perillo made a key interception in the 2nd half that sealed the victory. The Thunderbirds travel to West Side this Saturday evening at 6pm under the lights in LaSalle Park to close out the regular season.

10/17 at

West Side

In dramatic fashion the Cheektowaga Thunderbirds ended the regular season undefeated by beating the West Side Longhorns 14 – 13. The victory gave Cheektowaga the top seat in the 90 lbs. division with a 7 – 0 record. The game was tied at half time at 7 – 7 between the two teams who both entered the game unbeaten. West Side took the lead late in the third quarter 13 – 7. Cheektowaga took the lead for good with less than three minutes left in the game with the Thunderbirds facing a fourth down and ten. Cheektowaga quarterback raced 40 yards up the middle for the deciding touchdown. The extra point gave them the lead. The Thunderbirds defense then sealed the victory.

Unable to ride the momentum of their first win, the 110 Thunderbirds lost to the Westside Bills 34-6 Saturday night at LaSalle Park. After falling early 14-0, Ryan Majerowski was able to break a long run to cut the score in half. Untimely penalties and missed tackles led to Westside scoring three more times in the second half. The defense hung tough with Jairus Huggins, Christopher Linehan, Jason Burress, and Joel Mead providing a strong rush and numerous tackles in the backfield. The 110 Thunderbirds move into the playoffs to face the number two seed Stingrays this Sunday.

In a hard-hitting regular season finale, the 130lb. Thunderbirds left LaSalle Park on the wrong end of a 27-0 score vs. West Side. Some poor tackling in the 1st quarter forced QB Michael McDonald into early passing mode, finding success on connections to Dan Farinacci & Jeff Retzer, but ultimately running out of time on drives at the end of both halves. Paul Majerowski provided a spark on the defensive line for the Thunderbirds who are looking forward to a 1st round playoff game this weekend. The dates and times of their opponent are yet to be determined. They wind out their regular season record at 4 wins and 3 losses.

PLAYOFFS ~ Round 1

10/25 at

Lackawanna

The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90# football team remained unbeaten and advanced into the semi finals of in the TYRO Football Conference playoffs. The pee wee Thunderbirds defeated Clinton Love Joy 27 – 0 to improve their record to 8 – 0 and advanced to the second round of playoffs. The game was never in doubt. Cheektowaga took the opening kick off and returned it for a touchdown. On offense the Thunderbirds dictated the tempo of the game for the afternoon while the defense pitched its third shutout of the season. Second teamers played most of the second half to preserve the victory. Cheektowaga’s next opponent is the Stingrays of South Buffalo at Cheektowaga Town Park with the winner advancing to the TYRO Bowl Championship game on

at

Stingrays

Battling injury and sickness, the 110 Thunderbirds gave a Spartan like effort in their playoff game against the Stingrays. Similar to that of the movie 300, where the numbers were against them, 12 Thunderbirds gave it their all in a loss to the second seeded Stingrays, who outnumbered Cheektowaga 3-1. Gritty performances were turned in by all the players, as many of them never left the field in typical “Iron man” football fashion. Those players include Adam Bellaus, Jeremy Clark, Buster Derby, Connor Fusiler, Christopher Hawbaker, Jairus Huggins, Christopher Linehan, Ryan Majerowski, Joel Mead, Riley Sawning, Connor Sirdevan, and Paul Woodward.

at

Lackawanna

Cheektowaga traveled to Lackawanna in the 1st round of playoffs, a rematch from week 1. The 130lb. Thunderbirds found themselves in a defensive dogfight against the much improved Broncos. Offensively the RB trio of Miquan Derby, Jaylin Rose, & Dan Farinacci were finally able to hit pay dirt in the game's waning minutes for a 6-0 lead. Linebacker Jeff Retzer & safety Joe Perillo rallied their troops in several key stops to secure the victory as time expired. This Sunday at Cheektowaga Town Park, the T-Birds will try and upset the top-seeded North Buffalo Rams at 1:30pm.

PLAYOFFS ~ Round 2

11/1 vs.

The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90# football team continued their quest to become TYRO Bowl champions by defeating the Stingray Angels of South Buffalo in a second round playoff game 19 – 0. The victory improved the teams record to 9 – 0. The Thunderbirds got off to a quick start against the Angels scoring on its second offensive play from scrimmage taking a 6 – 0 lead. Once again Cheektowaga’s defense was dominant and the Thunderbirds led at half time 12 – 0.

The second half was all Thunderbirds. After forcing the Angels to give up the ball on downs Cheektowaga's offense ran out the clock with a 14 minute drive that consumed half of the third quarter and most of the fourth quarter. The drive ended with a Cheektowaga touchdown making the score 19 – 0 with less than two minutes remaining.

The Thunderbirds completed the regular season undefeated and have advanced with two victories in the playoff rounds to earn a birth in the TYRO Football Conference championship game November 8, against the West Side Longhorns. The championship game will be played at Robert Rich Jr. All High Stadium -- at Bennet High School. Kickoff is set for 10am.

Stingrays

110# ~ SEASON OVER

vs.

This past Sunday's matchup between the hometown Thunderbirds versus the heavily favored, top-seeded, & undefeated North Buffalo Rams was as exciting and drama filled as you will ever see at the 130# level. Against all odds, Cheektowaga put forth a dynamic defensive front complete with sacks, big hits, and gang-tackling to keep the game scoreless. In the 2nd half, the coaches & fans could sense the momentum changing as the Thunderbirds outstanding work ethic began to pay off in moving the ball on offense and switching the field position. The Rams were in shock as they were forced into quick pass mode, and had trouble stopping the devastating pass rush. The game went to triple overtime as neither offense could gain the necessary 10 yards in 4 downs. Finally, on Cheektowaga's 3rd possession, QB McDonald followed his tireless line and plunged up the middle on a 4th and 1 dive. The emotional atmosphere was something of a Hollywood ending as Cinderella advances to the TYRO Bowl Championship for the first time. They will face West Side at 2pm in All-High Stadium at Bennett High School.

North Buffalo

PLAYOFFS ~ TYRO BOWL

11/1 vs.

The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds 90# football team concluded its football season on November 8, 2009 by hosting the West Side Longhorns in the 2009 TYRO Bowl. The two teams met previously in the final game of the regular season only to find themselves pitted against each other once again on the gridiron to determine who was number one. The Thunderbirds emerged from the first confrontation victorious in a 14 – 13 contest to determine the number one seat going into the playoff round. On a beautiful fall morning the two teams meet once again. The atmosphere was surreal. The bleachers were packed with fans, parents, and grandparents on a day where the weather seemed more like August than November. It was a clash of the Pee Wee titans; Cheektowaga Thunderbirds (9 – 0) vs. West Side Longhorns (8 -1) with a Cheektowaga victory being the only blemish on West Side's record. The game was a defensive struggle between two offensive power houses and was played mostly between the 20 yard lines. A classic battle of attrition to see which team could outlast the other. Offensive flurries were met head on with defensive stalemate. The Thunderbirds made the only challenge to penetrate the end zone and appeared to be up to the task only to be stopped at the 2 yard line on forth down early in the final quarter. In dramatic fashion, both teams deserved to win; in a contest where neither team should lose; the 2009 90# Division Championship was played to a 0 – 0 draw. Crown Cheektowaga and West Side Co-Champions. In the end, The Cheektowaga Thunderbirds remained unbeaten (9 – 0 – 1) they were the only loss on West Sides otherwise perfect season (8 – 1 – 1) and the best West Side could do that day was play as good as Cheektowaga.

West Side

vs.

The 130# Thunderbirds first appearance in the TYRO Bowl started off badly as West Side took their first 2 possessions the distance for an early 14-0 lead. Cheektowaga then buckled down on defense with some improved tackling. A heartbreaking last second touchdown ended the first half with the score 21-0. As they have all year, the boys in Blue & Gold responded positively in the 2nd half. With an overwhelming difference in size in the trenches, the offense made some strides with screens & misdirection plays & eventually cracked the end zone on a sweep. Seizing the momentum swing, a perfect onside kick was executed and recovered. The defense came up huge in the 2nd half with 4 turn-overs, some devastating hits, and overall willed to stop the run - limiting West Side to only 2 first downs. Ultimately, our hometown boys ran out of time - but left with a sense of pride knowing they could play and compete with the very best. Final score: 21-7. The coaches would like to thank the entire team for such a wonderful season, but will recognize the following individuals who after 2 years spent together will not be eligible to return: Brendan Delbert, Mikquan Derby, Daniel Farinacci, Joseph Perillo, Jeffrey Retzer, Noah Sacilowski, David Taylor, Cory Wantuck, and Aaron Wesley.

West Side