

High school football spotlight

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BY STEVE BLACKLEDGE

• THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

GAMES AT 7:30 TONIGHT UNLESS NOTED

Game of the week

Upper Arlington (1-0) at Gahanna (1-0)

Among big-school programs in central Ohio, Upper Arlington and Gahanna have ruled for the good part of a half-century.

UA had the best winning percentage of any team in the 1960s (.905). Gahanna claimed the honor in the '70s (.811) and '80s (.769). Grove City (.757) edged out UA (.731) in the '90s. Since 1960, the Golden Bears and Lions have combined for only eight losing seasons while winning roughly 72 percent of their games.

Since their first meeting in 1927, UA has built a 26-8 series lead. Gahanna, however, won the only two games of the 21st century, 20-14 in 2004 and 21-19 in 2005.

Both teams won their openers in grand fashion, UA 70-0 over Westland and Gahanna 65-6 over Mifflin.

"It's hard to get a real good read on us, or Gahanna for that matter, based on the first game," UA coach Mike Golden said. "This will be a good measuring stick for how we stack up in our conference and with other teams who hope to make the playoffs."

The Golden Bears won't face many teams more athletic than Gahanna, Golden said.

"They have a real good combination of size and speed," he said. "I'm anxious to see how our kids react against a team with so many great weapons."