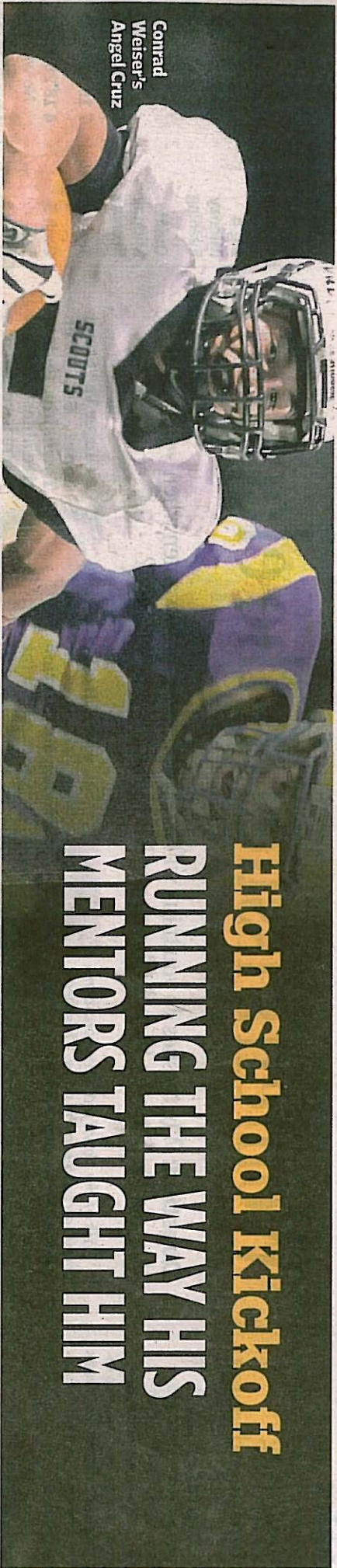


# RICH SCARCELLA: OHIO STATE'S JOHN SIMON A TRUE LEADER

Sports, C5



Conrad Weiser's Angel Cruz

## High School Kickoff RUNNING THE WAY HIS MENTORS TAUGHT HIM

# READING EAGLE

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# Educational foundation helps 17 students with private school tuition

By DAVID MEKEEL  
READING EAGLE

Evelyn Torres and her husband have six daughters.

Two have already passed through St. Peter School, a Catholic school on South Fifth Street in Reading, and moved on to college.

The middle two are current St. Peter students, and

the youngest pair plan to follow suit.

But with only one income in the family, all that wouldn't be possible without a little help. Torres told a small crowd gathered at the school Thursday afternoon.

The group was there to celebrate an \$11,675 donation from the Bridge Educational Foundation, a gift that will

help pay a portion of tuition for 17 current students at St. Peter and at High Point Baptist Academy, Geigertown.

"It does help so much," Torres said. "And I say thank you from the bottom of my heart."

The donation was given through the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, which allows local

businesses to make donations to private schools in exchange for a tax break.

The Harrisburg-based Bridge Educational Foundation made the donation on behalf of Associated Whole salers Inc., a Robsonia-based cooperative food distributor.

"The gift of your scholarship is helping all the children here," said Sister Anna Musi, point-

ing to a group of children who gathered for the ceremony.

Musi said St. Peter School, which opened in 1859 and has 256 students, has always managed to survive thanks in large part to the generosity of the community.

"I took it as a gift from God," she said of the scholarship money.

Soleil Torres, 13, an eighth-

grader, told those responsible for the scholarships that she and the other students they will help are sincerely grateful.

"Thank you so much for truly providing us a Catholic education," she said. "You have no idea how much it means to us."

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