

# Akron Beacon Journal

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## FOOTBALL

# Akron-area high school football Week 10 recaps: Highland, Walsh, CVCA, Norton win

**Brad Bournival, [Don Coughlin](#), [Michael Leonard](#) and [Michael Beaven](#)** Akron Beacon Journal

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## Highland 34, Aurora 0: Hornets dominate Greenmen in battle of unbeatens to win American Conference crown

Highland and Aurora played for the outright Suburban League National Conference title on Friday, and this time the Hornets walked out overwhelming winners.

It's the second league title in three years for Highland (10-0, 7-0), which outplayed Aurora, which was without Lucas Manderbach, its best player.

It was the fifth shutout of the season and third in a row for the Hornets, who certainly flexed on defense by allowing just one yard rushing in the first half and 14 yards on 16 carries for the game.

“The preparation we did is what helped us win this game,” Highland defensive end Carson Noonan said. “It should help us in the playoffs. [The Suburban League title] means everything. That’s what we strive for in the season.”

Casey Myser paced Highland with 215 yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries.

Dylan Borla was 3-for-3 passing for 98 yards and a touchdown. Evan Foust caught two passes for 76 yards and a score.

“This is a great team,” Myser said. “Aurora is a great team. They’re well coached. This is a great season, but the job isn’t done. We have to keep going.”

Ryan Dwyer was 19-of-31 passing for 176 yards and two interceptions for the Greenmen (9-1, 6-1).

Both teams will play at home in the playoffs next Friday.

## **Walsh Jesuit 42, Padua Franciscan 0: Warriors wrap up first undefeated regular season since 1998**

Walsh Jesuit routed Padua to complete its first undefeated regular season since 1998, when it also advanced to the Division III state title game.

With a perfect regular season in the books, Warriors coach Nick Alexander said, "Dec. 5 is our goal." That is the date of this year's Division II state final.

"I'm really proud of the way our seniors led us on senior night," Alexander said. "This was a weird game having locked up the No. 1 seed going into it, but we just go one week at a time. To be 10-0 for the first time since '98 is great and these guys can celebrate that tonight. But we know the real season starts tomorrow morning."

Quarterback Keller Moten finished with 93 yards rushing and scored three touchdowns on the ground, all in the first quarter, for the Warriors (10-0). He also went 6-of-8 passing for another 95 yards.

In the second quarter, Dominic Romanini blocked a 27-yard field goal attempt by Padua (5-5). Two plays later, Walsh was back in the end zone on to a 33-yard TD run by Vinnie Courtad.

Lucas Weaver ran in a 4-yard score in the second quarter and capped the game with a 14-yard TD run in the fourth. He finished with 76 yards rushing.

Walsh, which recorded its third shutout of the season, held Padua running back Roderick Love to just 54 yards rushing after he came into the game averaging 159 yards.

## **CVCA 17, Manchester 6: Royals prevent Panthers from completing perfect regular season**

Junior Charley Levak, junior Joey Kopec and freshman Tommy Kopec led the host Royals (8-2) to their eighth win in a row and prevented the Principals Athletic Conference champion Panthers (9-1) from completing an undefeated regular season.

Both teams will host a playoff game next week, with CVCA in Division III, Region 9 and Manchester in Division V, Region 17.

CVCA had never before in the history of its football program had an eight-game win streak. The Royals, playing as an independent this season, won all seven of their games against PAC-7 opponents after opening the season with losses to 10-0 Streetsboro and 10-0 Mentor Lake Catholic and a win over 3-7 Woodridge.

"Our kids know they couldn't win the PAC, but one thing that has never happened here even in the conference, they knew that no [CVCA] team had ever gone unbeaten against PAC opponents," Royals coach Nick Cook said. "That was a goal: 'Hey, you can't win the conference title, but lets set a goal regarding those seven games of the season.'

"This was something from back in February for our guys. Trying to set a clear goal, right? It was clear for their teammates. and did it tonight."

Levak scored on a 21-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and finished with 85 yards on 10 carries and 4-of-7 passing for 58 yards.

"My body took over and I just used the blocks that my guys give me," Levak said of the TD run that started to his right and ended to his left. "I guess I just made a play. This team has so much potential. ... I love these guys. It is a lot of fun playing with them."

The Kopec brothers gave Manchester fits as running backs and linebackers.

Joey Kopec threw a halfback pass to junior Brayden Harris for a 65-yard touchdown in the second quarter, intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter and ran for 50 yards on 13 carries.

His brother, Tommy Kopec, recovered a fumble that junior Ky'Ron Fikes forced in the second quarter, made a tackle on a Manchester 4th-and-1 play in the third quarter and intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter.

"Every time we win, we keep building," Tommy Kopec said. "We are playing our best and we are doing this all through God, too."

Harris finished with four catches for 101 yards, CVCA senior Ryan Wiehe contributed 77 rushing yards on 12 carries and senior Calvin Warren made two extra points and a 26-yard field goal.

Manchester senior Yadin Sharp completed 6 of 14 passes for 95 yards and threw a 20-yard TD pass to senior Evan Kusmits. Panthers sophomore Phil Partin ran for 96 yards on 17 carries.

"The offseason program is where it all starts," Joey Kopec said. "The first two games were a struggle, but it was really good to set us up for the next eight games. The first two teams were good."

## **North Royalton 44, Wadsworth 37**

The Grizzlies (9-1, 6-1) have certainly given fans some great finishes in the Suburban League American Conference, but it caught up to them when Mannix Wasco scored a touchdown with 39 seconds left to lift the Bears (5-5, 5-1) to a share of the title despite playing one less league game.

"The Suburban League has voted to make a one-year exception regarding how a football league champion is determined," Suburban League commissioner Keith Walker said in an email to The Medina Gazette. "Should North Royalton beat Wadsworth on Friday, both teams will be recognized at co-champs."

As has been the case in many Wadsworth games, this one was wild. And, to make things even crazier, the Bears are expected to travel to Art Wright Stadium again next week as the No. 12 seed against the No. 5 Grizzlies in a Division II, Region 6 playoff opener.

There were 36 points scored in the fourth quarter. There were four touchdowns scored in the span of eight minutes in the fourth quarter, with a touchdown by Grady Baugh giving North Royalton a 37-30 lead before Calix Lemp erased the deficit 100 seconds later.

All that went for naught thanks to Wasco, who helped the Bears wipe out a 12-point halftime deficit.

Jacob Earnest scored three touchdowns and Cooper Gray added a score for Wadsworth.

## **Other Akron-area high school football games Friday night**

### **Nordonia 49, Brecksville 13**

Jordan Byrd returned a fumble 63 yards for a touchdown to open the scoring for the Knights (8-2, 5-2) and then the offense took over in a Suburban League National Conference game. Ben Chesser went 12-of-19 passing for 187 yards and touchdown passes to Khylan Osbey, Brendan Chadock, Samuel Colins and Rocco DeLorenzo. Liam Kountz scored two rushing touchdowns for Nordonia, which locked up a top-four seed in Division

II, Region 5.

## **Tallmadge 31, Copley 0**

The Blue Devils (7-3, 5-2) finished the season on a three-game winning streak and clinched a road playoff spot in Division III, Region 9 with a win over Copley (5-5, 4-3). Mike Sprouse, JD Kanatzar and Ricky Maclean scored rushing touchdowns and James Robinson returned an interception for a touchdown. Maclean led the rushing attack with 82 yards on 15 carries. Copley has clinched a playoff spot as well.

## **Norton 37, Coventry 7**

Jason Beverly opened the game with a kickoff return for a touchdown for the Panthers (7-3, 6-1), who locked up the No. 10 spot in Division IV, Region 13 with a Metro Athletic Conference win. Norton scored the first 39 points on rushing touchdowns by Luke Senderak, Markus Brown, Buddy Willig, Beverly and Danny Adair. The Comets (1-9, 1-6) were eliminated from the playoffs.

## **Woodridge 50, Springfield 0**

Nassir Abdullah had two pick sixes and rushed for another score to help the Bulldogs (3-7, 3-4) end the season on a high note. Gavin Lynch was 5-of-9 passing for 114 yards and touchdown passes to Braden Mottice (four catches, 94 yards, two TDs) and Cameron Boone. Leon Cross and Lynch also scored rushing touchdowns against the Spartans (1-9, 0-7).

## **Solon 31, Hudson 10**

Hudson (5-5) dropped its second straight game to end the regular season. After the Explorers took the lead on a 1-yard TD run by quarterback Nathan Judy in the first quarter, Solon scored 17 unanswered points. The Explorers cut the lead to seven early in the fourth quarter on a 36-yard field goal by Brad Masiella before the Comets scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to pull away.

## **Lake 49, Green 21**

The host Blue Streaks ran wild in a Federal League win over the Bulldogs.

Charlie Christopher ran for 123 yards and two touchdowns on 14 carries, returned a kickoff 91 yards for a TD and had 11 tackles (six solos) and two sacks. Davis Matson totaled 173 yards rushing and two TDs on 15 carries, Ty DeGeorge contributed 133 yards and a TD on 15 carries and Ethan Hunt took his only carry to the end zone for a 62-yard TD.

Lake ran the ball 45 times for 491 yards and attempted one pass, which was intercepted by Green's Antonio Martin. DeGeorge and Chase Fuller each had an interception for Lake and Braden Talkington made 7 of 7 extra points.

Green's Tyson Hunka completed 22 of 36 passes for 319 yards and three TD passes, all to Martin, who had nine catches for 186 yards.

## **Buchtel 36, North 0**

The Griffins (4-6, 3-2 City Series) are headed to the Division IV playoffs with Stevie Diamond, Anthony McMullen, Dwight Shade, Jeremiah Manuel, Marcus Britt, Daurean Johnson, Arman Gable and Demetrice Coates leading the way. North finished 0-10.

## **Benedictine 39, St. Vincent-St. Mary 8**

Chris Maloney ran for three TDs to lead the Bengals (8-1) past the Irish (1-9) at John Carroll University. STVM senior Donald Johnson Jr. ran for a 75-yard touchdown on the game's final play and JaNeal Baker Jr. caught a two-point conversion pass from Vincent Brooks.

## **Streetsboro 63, Cloverleaf 15**

The visiting Rockets (10-0, 7-0) finished the regular season undefeated by topping the Colts (5-5, 3-4) in a Metro Athletic Conference game. Both teams are headed to the Division IV playoffs, with Streetsboro in Region 13 and Cloverleaf in Region 14. Streetsboro's closest game all season was a 29-21 win over CVCA in Week 1.

## **Revere 17, Kent Roosevelt 7**

Aaron French caught two touchdown passes from Luke Farris and David Kennedy made a 25-yard field goal and two extra points to lead the host Minutemen (6-4, 3-4) past the Rough Riders (2-8, 1-6) in a Suburban League American Conference game.

Farris connected with French for TDs on a 4th-and-4 in the first quarter and a 4th-and-5 in the second quarter. Donovan Farrow ended the game with a sack for Revere, which is headed to the playoffs in Division III, Region 10.

## **Mogadore 28, Rootstown 7**

Conner Lehner ran for two TDs and caught a TD pass from Karson Jaber to lead the host Wildcats (5-5) over the Rovers (4-6). Jaber also threw a TD pass to Maddox Smith. Both teams are headed to the playoffs in Division VI, Region 21.

## **Barberton 49, Cuyahoga Falls 6**

No details were reported from the game.

## **Stow 45, Twinsburg 28**

No details were reported from the game.

— **Compiled by Don Coughlin, Michael Leonard, Brad Bournival and Michael Beaven**