

Best of Akron-area high school football: See our players, coach of first half and more

Brad Bournival Akron Beacon Journal

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Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

Wadsworth's Brysen Hall and Hoban's Elbert Hill are named midseason offensive and defensive players of the year, respectively.

Twinsburg is highlighted as the surprise team after starting the season 4-0 following a 3-7 record last year.

Twinsburg quarterback Dylan Fantone is noted for the performance of the first half, throwing for a school-record six touchdowns against Stow.

We've reached the halfway point of the [high school football season](#) and there have been some surprises to go with the success many thought some teams and individuals would have.

With [Week 6](#) just around the corner, here's a look at the midseason MVP on offense and defense as well as the coach and team of the first half. We also highlight the surprise team and superlative performances.

Here's where we are heading into the second half of the regular season:

Watch Ohio High School Football Live on the NFHS Network all season

Offensive player of the year

Brysen Hall, Wadsworth: Imagine only getting to play in half of your game every Friday night because your team is so good that it routinely wins with a running clock. That's exactly what the Grizzlies are doing. Hall has only played in 12 quarters this season yet he's 55-of-89 passing for 1,226 yards and 15 touchdowns passes and one interception. If you break that down by quarter, it's 102 yards and 1.3 touchdowns every 12 minutes.

Also considered: [Casey Myser, Highland](#); [Brayton Feister, Hoban](#); [Milan Parris, Walsh Jesuit](#); [Anthony McKnight, Copley](#); [Marty Tobin, Walsh Jesuit](#); [Buddy Willig, Norton](#)

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Offensive rookie of the year

Dylan Fantone, Twinsburg: Fantone led the Tigers to their first 4-0 start since 2010 before a loss last week to Wadsworth. In five games, the junior quarterback is 104-of-152 passing for 1,121 yards and 14 TDs.

Also considered: Tyler Pappas, Manchester; Steven Fakult, Nordononia; Grady Gibb, Highland; David Ternosky, Walsh Jesuit

Defensive player of the year

Elbert Hill, Hoban: Hill is the highest-rated defensive player from the area in quite some time, and with good reason. The USC commit has five interceptions and 22 pass breakups. He's also made 23 tackles with two going for loss.

Also considered: Ace Brown, Hoban; Joey Kopeck, CVCA; Donovan Crook, Copley; Jacob Earnest, Wadsworth; Brayton Feister, Hoban; Dario Jeras, Walsh Jesuit; Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth; Evan Foust, Highland; Nathan Judy, Hudson

Defensive rookie of the year

Brydon Feister, Hoban: "Squeak" may have singlehandedly kept the Knights in the game in a 23-21 win over Detroit King, but the sophomore linebacker is more than that. He's made 46 tackles, six for loss, logged four sacks, forced a fumble and recovered a fumble. He's also registered four pass breakups.

Also considered: Dan Miller, Highland; Dominick Jackson, Nordononia; Cade Romani, Walsh Jesuit; Vinny Courtad, Walsh Jesuit

Ohio high school football rankings: [OHSAA releases weekly computer ratings ahead of Week 6](#)

Football coach of the first half

Jeff Fox, Nordononia: There are a lot of candidates for this one, but you have to go with Fox, who continues to find success on South Bedford Road. The Knights graduated 18 starters from a 10-3 team last season and yet they roll into Week 6 undefeated and second in Division II, Region 5. On top of that, Nordononia has scored at least 39 points in four of its five games.

Also considered: Glen Kruger, Norton; Nick Alexander, Walsh Jesuit; Mike Gibbons, Highland; Nick Cook, CVCA

Surprise team of the first half

Twinsburg: The Tigers finished 3-7 last season and lost six of their last seven games. On top of that, Twinsburg graduated star QB Joey Pollock. But at 4-1, the Tigers already have surpassed last year's win total. They have won one-point games over Aurora (in overtime) and Boardman before losing their first game last week to two-time reigning Suburban League National Conference champion Wadsworth.

Also considered: [Nordonia](#), [Copley](#), [Revere](#)

Performance of the first half

Dylan Fantone, Twinsburg vs. Stow: There were so many great single-game performances but we're going to go with this one. The junior went 21-of-29 passing for 300 yards and a school-record six touchdowns in a 45-21 Suburban League National Conference win over Stow.

Also considered: [Brydon Feister, Hoban vs. Detroit King](#); [Buddy Willig, Norton vs. Field](#); [Marty Tobin, Walsh Jesuit vs. St. Ignatius](#); [Milan Parris vs. Clarkson North](#); [Steven Fakult vs. Mayfield](#); [Collin Atha, Nordonia vs. Solon](#); [Andrew McKnight, Copley vs. Firestone](#); [Tyler Pappis, Manchester vs. Coventry](#); [Calix Lemp, Wadsworth vs. Twinsburg](#); [Gavin Madigan vs. Twinsburg](#)

Contact Brad Bournival at bbournival@gannett.com and follow him on Twitter at [@bbournival](https://twitter.com/bbournival)

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