

Ohio high school football 2026 | Greater Akron rankings heading into Week 5



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Week 5 in the [high school football power rankings](#) might need to be renamed “moving day.”

[Last week's results](#) pushed teams everywhere as half the poll is in a new position this week.

Here's what the rankings look like:

1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (4-0)

Previous ranking: 1

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Why Walsh: Because the Warriors keep bringing in one heavy hitter after another and keep winning. Two of their opponents have only lost to Walsh. St. Ignatius looks like the Wildcats of old this season but they still came to Conway Memorial Stadium and left with a loss.

Last week: 31-24 win over St. Ignatius

This week: Bye week

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (4-0, 1-0)

Previous ranking: 2

Why Wadsworth: Everyone talks about Wadsworth's offense, which averages 32.5 points behind Brysen Hall and Jay'len King. Fans should start talking about a defense that allows 9.3 points a game. Either way, the Grizzlies are looking to four-peat in the Suburban League National Conference, and they just might do it.

Last week: 42-8 win over Solon

This week: at North Royalton (3-1, 0-1)

3. Hudson Explorers (4-0, 1-0)

Previous ranking: 4

Why Hudson: The Explorers' average margin of victory this season is 25 points (44-19). They're averaging 309.8 yards, and it's pretty much right down the middle, with Hudson picking up 144.5 yards on the ground and 165.3 yards through the air. That makes the Explorers a tough out week after week.

Last week: 42-7 win over North Royalton

This week: at No. 5 Nordonia (3-1, 0-1)

4. Highland Hornets (3-1, 0-1)

Previous ranking: 7

Why Highland: Because we were too quick to judge the Hornets after a 34-point shutout loss to No. 1 Walsh Jesuit in Week 1. Since then, Highland has scored 109 points, beaten Strongsville on the road and previous No. 3 Nordonia at home. Highland faces Wadsworth and Hudson in Weeks 9 and 10. Both games could be epic.

Last week: 23-21 win over No. 5 Nordonia

This week: at Medina (1-3, 1-0)

5. Nordonia Knights (3-1, 0-1)

Previous ranking: No. 3

Why Nordonia: The Knights' only loss came to the team directly above them in the rankings this week. A win at home over No. 3 Hudson this week could prove just how strong Nordonia is. This is a tough three-week stretch for the Knights, who faced one-loss Highland last week, undefeated Hudson this week and one-loss North Royalton next week.

Last week: 23-21 loss at No. 4 Highland

This week: vs. No. 3 Hudson (4-0, 1-0)

6. Woodridge Bulldogs (4-0, 1-0)

Previous ranking: 6

Why Woodridge: Why not? The Bulldogs beat state semifinalist CVCA at home and have a win over 3-1 Revere on the road. There's a tough stretch ahead for Woodridge with a road game against Ravenna and two home games with Norton and Tallmadge to follow. All three teams enter Week 5 at 3-1.

Last week: 62-7 win over Field

This week: at Ravenna (3-1, 1-0)

7. Tallmadge Blue Devils (3-1, 1-0)

Why Tallmadge: The Blue Devils found the Metro Athletic Conference quite welcoming with a 10-point win at home over Kent Roosevelt last week. Like Woodridge, Tallmadge finds out what it's made of over the next three weeks, with a home game against Ravenna (3-1, 1-0) sandwiched around road games with Norton (3-1, 0-1) and Woodridge (4-0, 1-0).

Last week: 31-21 win over Kent Roosevelt

This week: at Norton (3-1, 0-1)

8. Hoban Knights (0-4)

Previous ranking: 8

Why Hoban: Is it controversial to put a winless team in the top eight after four weeks? Yes. Do the Knights deserve to be there? Also, yes. Hoban's opponents are 12-1 this season. The Knights lost by three to state semifinalist St. Edward last week and by four points to both undefeated West Orange, Fla. and unbeaten Eagle Academy, NY.

Last week: 17-14 loss at St. Edward

This week: vs. Cardinal Gibbons, N.C. (3-1)

Out: Norton (3-1, 0-1)

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