

Akron Beacon Journal

FOOTBALL

Ohio high school football 2025, Greater Akron rankings heading into Week 7

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Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- Hoban jumped to the top spot in the rankings after a come-from-behind win over previous No. 1 Walsh Jesuit.
- Six schools shifted positions in the Greater Akron high school football power rankings following Week 7.
- With four weeks left in the regular season, several key matchups will determine final conference and playoff standings.

We promised [chaos before Week 7 in the Greater Akron high school football power rankings](#), and mayhem is what we got.

With surprise losses, gigantic wins and epic games, six schools find themselves in new places and there were meteoric rises and large falls.

Here's what the Great Eight looks like with just four weeks left in the regular season.

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1. Hoban Knights (5-1)

Previous ranking: 4

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Last week: 19-14 over Walsh Jesuit

Why Hoban: [The Knights](#) jumped two undefeated teams back to the spot they held for the first two weeks. It took a come-from-behind win over previous No. 1 Walsh Jesuit to get there. Why No. 1? Consider this: Walsh had an 18-game win streak coming in. The Warriors are 25-4 in the last 29 games, and all losses have come to Hoban.

This week: Bye

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (6-0, 3-0)

Previous ranking: 2

Last week: 49-12 win over Brecksville

Why Wadsworth: The difference between the top spot and fourth spot is razor thin, but all [the Grizzlies](#) do is win. Cooper Gray and Gavin Madigan ran all over the Bees last week. Brysen Hall and Calix Lemp continue to be a solid force and the Grizzlies rise on defense. They're six-of-six in running clock games this season.

This week: at No. 6 Hudson (5-1, 3-0)

3. Highland Hornets (6-0, 3-0)

Previous ranking: 3

Last week: 62-0 win over Tallmadge

Why Highland: What [the Hornets](#) are doing in their final year in the Suburban League American Conference is mind-boggling. They're outscoring all opponents 259-33, and that includes 145-16 in the SLAC. Casey Myser continues to close the gap for most rushing and overall touchdowns in Medina County history and Evan Foust is only getting better as a two-way threat.

This week: bye; [Barberton canceled game](#) because it doesn't have enough healthy players

4. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (5-1)

Why Walsh: [The Warriors](#) were 38 seconds away from remaining undefeated, and did almost enough to beat Hoban. It wouldn't surprise anyone if Hoban and Walsh met in the postseason like they have the last two years. There's a solid test for the Warriors this week with Columbus Bishop Hartley, but that's the way coach Nick Alexander makes his schedule.

This week: vs. Hartley (4-2)

5. CVCA Royals (5-0, 1-0)

Previous ranking: 6

Last week: 28-21 at Lake Catholic

Why CVCA: [The Royals](#) opened North Coast Conference play with a huge win over the Cougars. If things hold the way they should, with Holy Name (4-2) and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin on the docket in the next two weeks, the Royals should be playoff ready as they look to continue their climb from the No. 2 spot in Division III, Region 9.

This week: at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin (4-2, 0-1)

6. Hudson Explorers (5-1, 3-0)

Previous ranking: 7

Last week: 35-0 win at Twinsburg

Why Hudson: [The Explorers](#) have answered a Week 2 loss to Highland with shutout victories over St. Vincent-St. Mary, Stow and Twinsburg and a 35-3 victory over Solon. Linebacker Nathan Judy (14 tackles, pass breakup, blocked field goal) was phenomenal against the Tigers and leads the Explorers in receiving after making the move from quarterback back to tight end.

This week: vs. No. 2 Wadsworth (6-0, 2-0)

7. Norton Panthers (5-0, 3-0)

Previous ranking: 8

Last week: 23-13 win at Streetsboro

Why Norton: [The Panthers](#) put the Metro Athletic Conference on notice with a road win over the Rockets and can continue their mastery of the league with games against Cloverleaf and Woodridge. The 10-point win over Streetsboro was the first game in which Norton didn't go to a running clock and it showed the Panthers' poise under pressure.

8. Nordon Knights (5-1, 2-1)

Previous ranking: 5

Last week: 48-39 loss at North Royalton

Why Nordon: Offense wasn't the issue in the loss to the Bears. Quarterback Steven Fakult set what is believed to be a school record in passing yards (518) when he went 34-of-49 passing with three touchdowns against North Royalton. [The Knights](#) usually play in high-scoring affairs — they've played in two 46-point games and games of 42, 62, 87 and 105 points.

This week: at Twinsburg (4-2, 1-2)

Also considered: Manchester (5-1), Revere (4-1)

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