## Akron Beacon Journal

## Akron-area high school football garners 5 Northeast Inland District players of the year

**Brad Bournival** Akron Beacon Journal

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Try to move the ball in Akron-area high school football this season and you didn't have a chance.

The Northeast Inland All-District team was announced Nov. 18, and three local players were named their division's defensive player of the year.

Two others earned offensive player of the year. The area also had a coach of the year.

The awards were based on regular-season statistics, so some of the winners' numbers are even more absurd now.

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## A look at the Akron-area Northeast Inland District award winners

Greater Akron cleaned up in Division II, with Highland running back Casey Myser winning offensive player of the year, Hoban linebacker Brayton Feister nabbing defensive player of the year and Wadsworth's Justin Todd winning coach of the year.

In Division III, CVCA linebacker Joey Kopec was named defensive player of the year. In Division IV, Norton wide receiver Buddy Willig shared offensive player with West Branch wideout Jeremiah Thomas. The area also had the defensive player of the year in Streetsboro defensive tackle Arthur Scott III.

Feister had 102 tackles, 32 for loss, had two interceptions, four forced fumbles, nine sacks and scored two defensive touchdowns in nine games for the Knights and the three-time

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MaxPreps All-American has received 27 Power Four offers.

Kopec is a Rutgers commit and three-time All-Ohio selection. He won district defensive player of the year honors after a season in which he had 36 tackles, three for loss, a sack, two quarterback pressures, a pass breakup, interception and two fumbles in only 25 quarters because of running-clock games. He graded out at 93% this season.

Scott was also a repeat defensive player of the year. The Wisconsin pledge made 47 tackles, 15 for loss, and had six sacks in only six games because of an injury.

Myser played in eight running-clock games but still logged 1,057 yards and 22 TDs on the ground in just 26 quarters. He is the Medina County leader in career points, rushing touchdowns and total TDs.

Willig exits Norton after a senior season in which he caught 41 passes for 945 yards and added 13 TDs in only 24 quarters because of running-clock games. He also returned six kicks for TDs.

Todd led Wadsworth to a 10-0 season for the second time as coach and the fifth time in school history (1966-67, 1996, 2018, 2025) and won the Suburban League National Conference for the third consecutive season.

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