

Ranking the top 8 Greater Akron teams

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High school football's Week 2 was easily the most combustible in recent memory.

The Greater Akron power poll saw its No. 1 team lose, two teams leave the top eight, and only one school hold its position heading into Week 3.

With great games on tap this week, here's a look at what the poll looks like now:

1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (2-0)

Previous ranking: 2

Last week: 30-6 win at Clark County Springfield

Why Walsh: The Warriors return to the top spot, where they closed the 2024 season, after impressive wins at Toledo Central Catholic and Springfield. Walsh has won 15 consecutive regular-season games, with their last loss coming to Hoban on Sept. 29, 2023. The Warriors have also won 23 of their last 24 regular-season games.

This week: vs. Clarkson North, Canada (1-0)

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (2-0)

Previous ranking: 3

Last week: 35-7 win at New Albany

Why Wadsworth: Brysen Hall has become a star for Wadsworth with 555 yards passing and seven touchdowns in just two weeks. Add Calix Lemp, Cooper Gray, Jacob Earnest and Gavin Madigan to this juggernaut and it's easy to see why the Grizzlies are picked to win the Suburban League National Conference for a third straight season.

This week: at Medina (1-1)

3. Highland Hornets (2-0)

Previous ranking: 5

Last week: 25-0 win over Hudson

Why Highland: The Hornets put it together in all phases in their win over the Explorers. They turned Hudson over four times, ran for 242 yards and held the Explorers to 195 yards of total offense. It was the second week in a row



Walsh Jesuit running back Carlos Smith, left, picks up a first down as Fitch defensive back Davanzo Tate tries to bring him down during a game last season.

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Highland held an opponent to 10 points or less. Could a Wadsworth-Highland matchup be in the offing come playoff time?

This week: at Avon Lake (0-2)

4. Hoban Knights (1-1)

Previous ranking: 1

Last week: 58-28 loss at Archbishop Spalding, Md.

Why Hoban: The Knights gave up the most points they have this decade, but don't expect them to stay at No. 4 long. With Division I talent at every level on both sides of the ball, Hoban is way

too good to be held down for long, especially with the offense the Knights roll out week after week.

This week: vs. Detroit King (1-0)

5. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Royals (1-0)

Previous ranking: 6

Last week: 42-14 win at Canton South

Why CVCA: The Royals opened the season by doing what they usually do: Run teams into submission. CVCA carried the ball 39 times for 201 yards. It was business as usual on the other side

of the ball for the Royals, who had a scoop and score and interception on the way to holding the Wildcats to 107 yards of total offense.

This week: vs. East (1-1)

6. Nardon Knights (2-0)

Previous ranking: Not ranked

Last week: 39-7 win vs. East

Why Nardon: It can be argued that Jeff Fox is one of the most underrated coaches in Northeast Ohio. The man who coached Kareem Hunt at Willoughby South picked up career win No. 100 last week. Considering most of his starters in 2024 graduated, wins over St. Vincent-St. Mary and East show Fox has the Knights back in the hunt, and that says a lot.

This week: at Mayfield (2-0)

7. Manchester Panthers (2-0)

Previous ranking: 7

Last week: 48-13 win at Sandy Valley

Why Manchester: The Panthers are doing all of this without first-team All-Ohioan Phil Partin, who is still on the shelf with an injury. Credit that to Tyler Pappas, who has thrown nine touchdown passes, and Ayden Meade, who ran for 167 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries last week.

This week: vs. Firestone (0-2)

8. Twinsburg (2-0)

Previous ranking: Not ranked

Last week: 37-16 win vs. Bedford

Why Twinsburg: The Tigers are 2-0 for the first time since 2010 and make their first appearance in the power poll since 2023 after a one-point win over Boardman and blowout of Bedford. Quarterback Dylan Fanton has really settled into his role with the Tigers and looked the part with two touchdown passes last week.

This week: at Aurora (1-1)

Out: Hudson (1-1), Green (0-2)

Also considered: Norton (1-0), Mogadore (2-0)

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