

High school football | Akron-area Week 5 breakdowns, predictions

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It's Week 5 of the [Ohio high school football season](#), with 25 games featuring [Greater Akron teams](#).

Who will win? Keep reading to see which teams the Beacon Journal staff thinks will prevail in those matchups this weekend.

All games kick off at 7 p.m. unless noted.

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Friday's high school football games in the Greater Akron area

[Buchtel](#) (0-4) at [Austintown Fitch](#) (3-1)

What to watch: Buchtel lost 21-18 last week at Kenston after leading 18-10 through three quarters. Griffins QB Arthur Thomas completed 19 of 30 passes for 211 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions. Daurean Johnson had eight catches for 95 yards and two TDs, and also intercepted a pass. Terrell Hall contributed three catches for 38 yards and a TD, Jordan Holloway forced and recovered a fumble and Quadire Harvey had 12 tackles (eight solos). ... Fitch opened with 28-14 loss at Hudson and then defeated Jackson (41-3), Erie, PA (28-0) and Painesville Riverside (17-14) ... Falcons QB Collin Kalaher completed 53 of 69 passes for 611 yards and six TDs in the three wins. ... Brady Evans has three TD catches in that stretch and Junie Higgs has two. Higgs also ran for three TDs against Jackson. ... Deon'Dray Richard ran for 199 yards and a TD on 13 carries against Jackson after gaining 221 yards on 19 carries against Hudson. ... LBs Marky Fitzgerald, Dylan Krohn and Anthony Nespeca and CB Davanzo Tate III lead Fitch's defense.

Who will win: Fitch 35-14

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Ellet (1-3) at Mogadore (3-1)

What to know: A year ago, the Wildcats got off to their first 0-3 start in decades and had to battle back just to earn a postseason berth. What a difference a year makes as Mogadore is 3-1 after an impressive Week 4 road win at Malvern. QB Maddox Smith and RB Corey Lehner both scored TDs against the Hornets, with Lehner seemingly recording multiple scores every week this season. ... The Orangemen are 1-3 but those three losses came against two Suburban American squads (Roosevelt and Tallmadge) and an Alliance team that has impressed in the early season.

Who will win: Mogadore 28-20

Firestone (0-4) at Mayfield (2-2)

What to watch: Firestone is in search of its first win after losing 49-7 at Willoughby South last week. RB Mekhi Tatum, RB Elijah Grice and QB Donniven Younger are key playmakers for Firestone. ... Mayfield opened the season with wins over Elyria (20-3) and Elyria Catholic (28-13), and then lost to Nordonia (59-46) and Jackson (33-6). ... Mayfield QB Danny D'Agostino completed 14 of 33 passes for 181 yards against Nordonia with three TDs and five interceptions. WR-DB Jayden Haynes caught two TD passes and WR-KR JD Sega caught one TD pass. ... RB Ben Koret ran for 102 yards and two TDs on 17 carries in the Nordonia game. ... The Wildcats' other key players are RB-DL Johnathon Harris, WR-KR Kingston Murchison and RB Brody Colello.

Who will win: Mayfield 49-7

Garfield (1-2) at Carrollton (2-2)

What to watch: Garfield looks to rebound after a 56-0 loss at CVCA last week and a 41-0 loss at home to Copley two weeks ago. ... The Golden Rams feature Ziiyahn Blair and Jamir Jenkins. ... This is the fifth year in a row these two teams have played. Carrollton is 4-0 in the series and won 10-7 last year. ... [Carrollton](#) has wins over Richmond Edison and Howland and losses to East Liverpool and Cloverleaf this season. ... RB Levi Kiko and QB Hunter Allison are two of Carrollton's top players. Kiko has 82 carries for 372 with three TDs in 2025.

Who will win: Carrollton 28-7

North (1-3) at Harrison Central (0-4)

What to watch: North has been shut out in each of the past two weeks, losing 64-0 at Hoover and 70-0 at Lexington. ... Harrison Central has lost to Claymont (34-14), Newcomerstown (28-21), Malvern (34-15) and Union Local (28-3).

Who will win: Harrison Central 21-14

Brush (2-2) at Archbishop Hoban (3-1)

What to watch: [Legendary Buchtel running back](#) and former Griffins coach [Ricky Powers](#) will return to Akron when he brings his Brush team to Hoban's Dowd Field. Powers and Hoban's [Tim Tyrrell](#) coached against each other in 2014 and 2015. Hoban defeated Buchtel 19-12 in the first meeting and 25-0 in the second. Powers, who played at Michigan (1990-93) and with the Browns (1995) coached Buchtel for 14 seasons (2007-20). He's in his fourth season at Brush, which has gone 2-8 in each of the past three years. ... Hoban is coming off a 52-0 rout of East. Knights junior RBs Brayton Feister and Jance Henry each rushed for three TDs. ... Brush suffered a heartbreaking 14-13 loss to Bedford last week.

Who will win: Hoban 42-14

VA-SJ (2-1) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (0-4)

What to watch: [STVM](#) lost 42-6 to Warren Harding last week after being shut out in each of the first three games this season. ... In Week 9 of last season, [STVM](#) lost this matchup 37-13. ... STVM traveled for the 2024 meeting. This time, the game will be played on Green Street Stadium's John Cistone Field. ... VA-SJ did not play last week after routing Mansfield 47-7 on Sept. 5. The Vikings lost 27-20 to Mooney in Week 2 after opening the season with a 27-16 win at Walnut Ridge.

Who will win: VA-SJ 35-10

Canisius, N.Y. (1-1) at Walsh Jesuit (4-0)

What to watch: The Warriors are coming off an impressive 31-0 win over St. Ignatius in which they hit in all phases. ... QB David Ternosky (43-of-68 passing, 575 yards, six TDs; 28 carries, 143 yards, TD) has the offense cranking. Marty Tobin (46 carries, 542 yards, four TDs) and Carlos Smith (34 carries, 152 yards, TD) continue to be a nuisance in the running game. ... Milan Parris (19 catches, 380 yards, five TDs) has been the deep threat no one wants to match up with, as his four receiving touchdowns the last two games prove. ... Caden Mariola and John Wollschleger each blocked a field goal last week for

Walsh. ... Canisius has a workhorse at running back in Elijah Kimble (43 carries, 400 yards, eight TDs). Last season, he rushed for 1,778 yards and 31 touchdowns on 216 carries .. The Crusaders will keep you honest with Matteo Brusco (14-of-35 passing, 279 yards, TD) at quarterback. His main receiver is Noah Harrison (seven catches, 132 yards, TDs). ... The Warriors and Crusaders have met 11 times, with Walsh winning seven times. The last time the two played was 2022, with the Warriors winning 48-6 at home. ... Walsh is fourth in Division II, Region 5.

Who will win: Walsh 35-14

Barberton (1-3, 1-0) at Tallmadge (1-3, 0-1)

What to watch: Angelo Gotto (55 carries, 287 yards, 287 yards, TD), Trent DeWitt (six catches, 128 yards, TD) and Brayden Louk (27-of-64 passing, 392 yards, three TDs) lead the Magics. ... Sonny Cuva (51 carries, 271 yards, two TDs; 23 tackles, three for loss), Braxton Dente (33-of-73 passing, 383 yards, three TDs), Chad Rusinko (six catches, 123 yards, two TDs) and Devin Bell (33 tackles, two for loss, three sacks) pace the Blue Devils. ... Barberton holds a 7-2 advantage since rejoining the Suburban League, but the last four meetings have been split. Tallmadge won 40-13 last season. ... Tallmadge is 20th in Division III, Region 9. The Magics are tied for 20th in Division II, Region 6.

Who will win: Tallmadge 28-21

Highland (4-0, 1-0) at Copley (3-1, 1-0)

What to watch: Dane Wininger (55-of-95 passing, 857 yards, eight TDs) has been outstanding for Copley this season, with all of his touchdown passes going to Andrew McKnight (20 catches, 484 yards). Jacob Kuczkowski provides a great secondary threat with 18 catches for 284 yards and Bryce Martin is getting it done on the ground with 561 yards and eight TDs on 71 carries. ... Hendrix Sickels (44 tackles, eight for loss) has been a menace at linebacker. ... QB Grady Gibb has had an outstanding beginning for the Hornets and is 32-of-35 passing for 546 yards and six TDs. His 265 yards rushing and three scores on 38 carries are the perfect complement to Casey Myser (62 carries, 410 yards, six TDs). ... Highland has a three-headed attack at receiver with Lucas Gerding (11 catches, 172 yards, TD), Nick Dobkowski (seven catches, 198 yards, two TDs) and Evan Foust (five catches, 143 yards, TD). ... Highland has a seven-game winning streak against Copley and hasn't scored less than 41 points in a game during that stretch. The senior class has outscored Copley 195-21 in the last three seasons. ... The Hornets sit atop Division II, Region 6. Copley is 10th in Division III, Region 10.

Who will win: Highland 42-7

Hudson (3-1, 1-0) at Stow (2-2, 0-1)

What to watch: Animosity between these two rivals is the norm and so are close results, although Hudson did win 45-7 in 2024. ... Outside of a Week 2 loss to Highland, Hudson's running game has been dominant. That starts with junior Reno Ferri, who ran for 180 yards and a TD in a Week 4 win over Solon. ... Quarterback Hayden Lipinski has run the offense well this season for Hudson ... The Explorers defense has allowed just three points in its last two games. ... Stow will be looking to bounce back after a Week 4 loss to Twinsburg, in which it gave up six TDs through air. ... Stow QB Jake Harrington will look to recapture his early season form, after going 8-of-20 passing for 76 yards with one TD and one interception against the Tigers. ... Stow has two dangerous receivers in Daylon Keeling and Andrew Rickelman.

Who will win: Hudson 28-21

Revere (3-0, 1-0) at Aurora (1-3, 0-1)

What to watch: This is a battle of two Suburban League American Conference teams who endured very different starts. ... Revere is undefeated, scoring more than 32 points per game and looking to make a push for American Conference title. ... Revere will rely on RB Johlil Blanchard to get its offense rolling. ... Aurora is in unfamiliar territory, having lost two straight. ... RB Xavier Board will be the backbone of the Greenmen's offense.

Who will win: Revere 21-14

Solon (1-3, 0-1) at Nordonia (4-0, 1-0)

What to watch: There was a time at Nordonia when mentioning the word "Solon" was enough to get a dirty look. Although the rivalry has cooled off a bit, Nordonia still gets up to face the Comets. ... Nordonia's Steven Fakult has been one of the area's best quarterbacks, including going 22-of-37 passing for 223 yards and two TDs in the Knights' Week 4 win over Brecksville ... Running back Connor Whapham also had a big game vs. Brecksville with 170 yards and a TD.

Who will win: Nordonia 35-14

Cuyahoga Falls (1-3, 0-1) at Kent Roosevelt (2-2, 0-1)

What to watch: The Rough Riders hope to end a four-game homestand on a high note when the Black Tigers come to town. ... Roosevelt was highly competitive against

undefeated Revere last week, with the two teams knotted at the half. QB Gavin Peeps has been a marvel for the Rough Riders, whether it was his 355 yards in their opening win at Ravenna or his 240 yards and four scores in a Week 3 win over Ellet. It helps that he has so many weapons to whom to throw, with Jaiden Portis scoring twice against the Ravens, Teddy Maccarone impressing against Streetsboro and Chace Dennison hitting the century mark against the Orangemen. ... Offense has been a challenge for the Black Tigers, who have been held to single digits in three of their first four games. The Rough Riders have won all five of their matchups since Cuyahoga Falls shifted into the Suburban League's American Division.

Who will win: Roosevelt 35-14

Twinsburg (4-0, 1-0) at Wadsworth (4-0, 1-0)

What to watch: Something has to give in this one as the Tigers begin a season 4-0 for the first time since 2010, while the Grizzlies have won 20 of their last 21 regular-season games against opponents from Ohio. ... Twinsburg QB [Dylan Fantone is coming off a 300-yard game against Stow](#) in which he threw for a school-record six touchdowns. He is 81-of-119 passing for 968 yards and 14 TDs. RJ Ruffin is his main target with 24 catches for 348 yards and three TDs... The Tigers are very good defensively with LB Bearon Grant (42 tackles, two for loss) and DE Bal Bal Bhullar (15 tackles, five for loss, three sacks) leading the charge. ... The Grizzlies are a defensive coordinator's nightmare. ... QB Brysen Hall is 45-of-65 passing for 982 yards and 12 touchdowns against one interception. His main target is Calix Lemp, who has 16 catches for 421 yards and six TDs. Last week, North Royalton held Lemp to two catches in a 48-14 loss. Both went for touchdowns and Lemp finished with 116 yards receiving. ... Wadsworth's backfield is no picnic either. Gavin Madigan has 345 yards rushing and five TDs on 29 carries. Cooper Gray has 33 carries for 324 yards and seven scores. ... Twinsburg won't fold under pressure either, as a 29-28 win over Boardman in Week 1 and 20-19 overtime victory over Aurora in Week 3 show. ... Wadsworth is 9-0 against Twinsburg since the Tigers joined the Suburban League and are scoring 43.0 points per game. ... Twinsburg is second in Division II, Region 5. Wadsworth is second in Division II, Region 6.

Who will win: Wadsworth 35-21

Green (1-3) at Jackson (2-2)

What to watch: The Polar Bears carry some good vibes into their Federal League opener after a [33-6 drubbing of Mayfield](#) last week to snap a two-game slide. The Bulldogs are

smarting from a [27-21 loss to Hoover](#) — their third one-score loss of the season. Green, which battled back from a 21-0 deficit last week, has been plagued by slow starts. ... Jackson senior Corey Jacobs has moved to running back from wide receiver the last two games for the injured Chase Maurer. He has produced a combined 269 yards and four TDs on 35 carries. Senior WR Max Cowles is one of the more dangerous players in the league. He's caught 14 passes for 251 yards and three TDs. ... Senior QB Lucas Ecrement threw for 113 yards and a TD last week while adding another 59 yards on seven carries for the Polar Bears. Ecrement's rushing production is a good sign after he missed the first two games after tweaking his surgically repaired knee. ... Speaking of running QBs, Green senior Tyson Hunka exploded for 193 yards on 22 carries last week. He also was 10-of-26 passing for 185 yards, three TDs and two interceptions. ... Anthony McMichael III caught three passes for 65 yards and a TD last week for Green. The senior also is one of the Bulldogs' top defensive players as a safety. ... Reed, Green's other senior two-way dynamo, continues to be hampered by a hamstring injury. He's played only one full game this season. ... Jackson leads the all-time series against Green 14-6, including 7-2 since Green joined the Federal League. The last four matchups have been decided by one score, with Green winning 21-17 last year in wild fashion.

Who will win: Jackson 31-28

Lake (4-0) at GlenOak (1-3)

What to watch: Off to their best start since 2022 and scoring 40.5 points a game, the Blue Streaks look to keep the momentum going as they visit Bob Commings Field. Lake leads the Division II, Region 5 computer rankings, according to JoeEitel.com. ... Lake forced five turnovers — including interceptions by Callen Pierce, Kyle Hammer and Brady Sommers — last week in a [31-15 win](#) against previously undefeated Perry. Meanwhile, GlenOak threw three interceptions and completed just one pass in a [38-0 loss](#) at McKinley. It was the fifth time since the start of last season the Golden Eagles have been shut out and the 10th time they've been held to nine points or less. GlenOak is 2-12 in that time span. ... Lake QB Alex Quior has five TDs passing and four running this season. Quinn Snyder has been his favorite target with 11 receptions for 221 yards and three TDs. ... Lake's Davis Matson has run for 290 yards and three touchdowns on 54 carries the past two weeks since returning from an appendectomy. ... RB Javi'ion McClendon leads GlenOak with 356 yards at 7.4 per carry and two TDs. ... Senior DE Angelo Wood finished last week with 10 tackles and a sack for the Blue Streaks. ... Lake has beaten GlenOak seven consecutive times, including 27-0 last year, and leads the all-time series 22-16.

Who will win: Lake 30-7

Kenston (2-2) at Manchester (4-0)

What to watch: All-Ohio RB Phil Partin will be a game time decision. If he's able to play, it adds another wrinkle to a potent offense. ... [Tyler Pappas](#) (39-of-58 passing, 796 yards, 12 TDs) is crushing it at quarterback with targets in Jake Livingston (10 catches, 240 yards, four TDs) and Malachi Cintron (10 catches, 191 yards, three TDs). [Ayden Meade](#) (56 carries, 516 yards, five TDs) has proved more than capable in the four games without Partin. ... Blaze Johnson (25 pancakes), Matthew Paljich (23 pancakes) and Tyler Sherman (21 pancakes) have made breakfast a thing in New Franklin once again. ... Jason Carmichael ran for two TDs in last week's 35-17 win over Canton South. Pappas threw a 60-yard TD pass to Lorenzo Donatelli and also ran for a TD. Meade contributed a rushing TD, Hayden Higgins made 5 of 5 PATs and Bryce Mauger, Gavin Gindlesperger, Johnson and Livingston each recorded a sack. ... Jack Bryner (39-of-62 passing, 540 yards, seven TDs) runs the offense for the Bombers, with main targets in Kahlil Hinton (12 catches, 229 yards, five TDs) and Max George (eight catches, 159 yards, two TDs). RBs Ethan Burge (67 carries, 348 yards, two TDs) and Will Hamm (55 carries, 274, three TDS) are a great one-two punch. ... Manchester is one of two undefeated teams left in Division V, Region 17 and is fourth in the playoff standings. Kenston is 16th in Division III, Region 9.

Who will win: Manchester 23-21

CVCA (3-0) at Boardman (2-2)

What to watch: No one has been able to slow down the Royals' rushing attack thus far, but CVCA could find a bit more resistance at Boardman. ... CVCA rolled up 347 yard rushing in a Week 4 win over Garfield, as four different Royals ran for TDs ... QB Charley Levak shows CVCA is not one dimensional, as he threw for 130 yards and two TDs vs. Garfield ... The Royals have shut out their last two opponents. ... After losing its first two games, Boardman is on a two-game win streak, including a 36-20 win at Maple Heights in Week 4.

Who will win: CVCA 35-14

Cloverleaf (3-1, 1-0) at Coventry (1-3, 0-1)

What to watch: Kellen Price (71 yards receiving, two TDs; 60 yards rushing, TD) had himself a game for the Colts in a 42-7 win over Springfield. ... RB Ethan Gray (38 carries, 208 yards, two TDs) and QB Isaac Smith (23-of-49 passing, 351 yards, two TDs) are other key Cloverleaf offensive performers. ... The Comets won their first nonconference game since 2022 when they beat Chippewa 31-0 in Week 3. ... Lamar Thomas is the feature back

for Coventry and had a three-TD game against the Chipps. ... Cloverleaf holds an 8-7 all-time record against the Comets and have won the last six meetings, including a 28-6 victory last season. ... Cloverleaf is fourth in Division IV, Region 14. Coventry is 19th in Division IV, Region 13.

Who will win: Cloverleaf 28-6

Field (0-4, 0-1) at Norton (3-0, 1-0)

What to know: The Falcons are more competitive than their record indicates, including losing on the final play against Ellet and rallying time and time again against Woodridge last week. ... Indeed, Field's offense has definitely begun to take shape, with freshman QB Mason Fulst making some impressive throws against the Bulldogs and RB Victor Brown surpassing 100 yards. ... Of course, the schedule doesn't get any easier for the Falcons this week. The undefeated Panthers have topped 50 points in all three of their games. QB Trey Kersten impressed with four TDs (three passing, one rushing) in last week's win over Ravenna. It helps that he's surrounded by playmakers like Jason Beverly, Alex Meinen and Buddy Willig. That will be a big challenge for Field, which is yielding 42.25 points per game.

Who will win: Norton 42-28

Springfield (1-3, 0-1) at Streetsboro (3-1, 1-0)

What to watch: After a 42-7 loss in Week 4 to Cloverleaf, the schedule doesn't get any easier for the Spartans. ... Since Week 1, Springfield has been outscored 120-13. ... After suffering its first loss in Week 3, Streetsboro bounced back in its Metro Athletic Conference opener, smashing Coventry 48-6.

Who will win: Streetsoboro 42-7

Woodridge (2-2, 1-0) at Ravenna (1-3, 0-1)

What to watch: Despite major injury issues, Woodridge is .500 ... Carter Maxa, thrust into the quarterback role because of those injuries, is 2-1 as a starter. He led the Bulldogs to 387 yards and six TDs in a Week 4 win over Field. ... RB Johnathan Tyree has been a workhorse for Woodridge, rushing for 224 yards and three touchdowns, along with a 30-yard TD catch vs. Field. ... Ravenna suffered a 56-24 loss in its Metro Athletic Conference opener vs. Norton.

Who will win: Woodridge 35-21

Canton South (1-3, 0-1) at Northwest (2-1, 1-0)

What to watch: Northwest is still catching up after its opener was canceled because of an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease in Norton (3-0 since the situation was resolved). In the last two weeks, Northwest dropped a 10-3 battle to Louisville (a 4-0 team now) and beat Triway (which came in at 3-0) 32-29. The Triway game came down to a last-second field goal by standout senior kicker Ben Schantz. Northwest coach John DeMarco said his team is “still feeling our way a little.” Northwest had some success running against Louisville, despite the low score, and again against Triway. ... Northwest has a first-year starter at quarterback in junior Brayden Venables. ... After using two quarterbacks in each of the first three games, Canton South went with one, Nolan Bonner, at Manchester, but Brodee Beegle might return from an injury soon. Scouts reviewing South are saying Bonner has a bigger arm but is not as consistent as Beegle. ... Northwest beat South 24-21 last year, dominating the net-offense stats, but giving up three touchdown catches to Torez Conley, a dangerous senior now.

Who will win: Northwest 21-14

Saturday's high school football game in the Greater Akron area

East (2-2) at University School (2-2), noon

What to watch: Sean Echols, Julius Vickers, Darshawn Spragling Jr., Marcus Henderson II and Tarrell Robinson lead East. ... East beat US 37-9 last season in Week 5. ... The Dragons lost 52-0 last week at Hoban with the Knights scoring 42 points in the second quarter. East committed five turnovers in that quarter. ... The Preppers have wins over Brookside (42-0) and Shaw (36-26) and losses to Bay Village (27-0) and Hubbard (37-14) this season.

Who will win: East 28-21

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