

Ohio high school football 2025 | Top 10 Akron-area running backs to watch

Michael Beaven and Brad Bournival Akron Beacon Journal
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Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

The top 10 Greater Akron area high school running backs are ranked ahead of the 2025 season, highlighting players such as Casey Myser and Brayton Feister.

Casey Myser of Highland set assorted school records last season.

Hoban's Brayton Feister ran for more than 2,100 yards a year ago.

Other top-ranked running backs include All-Ohio selections Phil Partin, Cooper Gray and Joey Kopec.

As we prepare for the start of [the 2025 Ohio high school football season](#), we're breaking down [the top players by position](#).

[Throughout the preseason](#), we're ranking the top 10 [Greater Akron](#) quarterbacks, running backs, receivers/tight ends, [offensive linemen](#), defensive linemen, [linebackers](#), defensive backs, specialists and two-way players.

Today, we look at the top 10 running backs, starting with [the powerful tandem of Casey Myser of Highland and Brayton Feister of Hoban](#).

1. Casey Myser

Highland, running back, 6-foot-2, 215 pounds, Class of 2026

What to know: [Myser](#) was first-team [All-Ohio in Division II last year](#) after he set school records with 2,130 rushing yards, 39 rushing touchdowns and 46 total TDs. [Myser](#) totaled 254 carries and contributed 21 catches for 558 yards and seven TDs. He averaged 8.4 yards per carry and 26.6 yards per catch as Highland (13-1) won the Suburban League American Conference championship and advance to the Division II, Region 6 final. Myser has offers from Mercyhurst and Ashland, and is receiving interest from Ohio, Central Michigan, Kent State, Miami, Eastern Michigan and Akron for football. He also has an offer from Oakland for baseball, and is receiving interest from Ohio State, Ohio, Akron, Kent State, Cincinnati and Ashland.

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2. Brayton Feister

Hoban, running back, 6-2, 240, Class of 2027

What to know: [Feister](#) was [second-team All-Ohio in Division II last year](#) after running for 2,104 yards and 26 TDs on 296 carries. He helped Hoban (12-3) win the Division II, Region 5 championship and advance to a state semifinal. [Feister](#) also is a standout linebacker with 23 Division I college scholarship offers, including Kentucky, Wisconsin, Cincinnati, Missouri, Arizona State, Indiana, West Virginia, Oregon, Michigan, USC, Washington, Penn State and SMU.

3. Phil Partin

Manchester, running back, 5-9, 178, Class of 2027

What to know: [Partin](#) was [first-team All-Ohio in Division V last year](#) after he totaled 268 carries for 1,961 rushing yards (7.3 average) and 32 TDs to lead Manchester (11-2) to a Principals Athletic Conference championship and a Division V, Region 17 semifinal appearance. [Partin](#) was named the All-Northeast Ohio Inland District Division V Co-Offensive Player of the Year and accounted for 43% of Manchester's total offense. He also made 38 tackles, eight pass breakups and two interceptions at cornerback.

High school football rankings: [Ohio high school football 2025 | Top 10 Akron-area linebackers to watch](#)

4. Cooper Gray

Wadsworth, running back, 5-11, 180, Class of 2026

What to know: [Gray](#) received [honorable mention All-Ohio in Division II last year](#) after he ran for 1,673 yards and 21 TDs on 211 carries (7.3 average). [Gray](#) caught nine passes for 201 yards and three TDs as Wadsworth (11-2) earned a share of the Suburban League National Conference title and made a Division II, Region 6 semifinal appearance.

5. Joey Kopec

CVCA, running back, 6-2, 210, Class of 2026

What to know: Kopec earned All-Ohio first-team honors in Division III as a linebacker last year with 85 tackles and six interceptions for CVCA (10-3), a Division III, Region 9 semifinalist. He was named the All-Northeast Ohio Inland District Division III Defensive Player of the Year, and he is very good on offense and special teams, too. Kopec totaled 1,072 rushing yards, 230 receiving yards, 541 return yards and 17 total TDs. Kopec committed to Rutgers and had assorted MAC offers.

6. Marty Tobin

Walsh Jesuit, running back, 5-11, 185, Class of 2026

What to know: Tobin is expected to step into a larger role for Division II, Region 5 runner-up Walsh (13-1), following the graduation of RB Lucas Weaver. Tobin ran for 974 yards and nine TDs on 117 carries (8.3 average) last season and was honorable mention All-Northeast Ohio Inland District.

7. Reno Ferri

Hudson, running back, 5-8, 195, Class of 2027

What to know: Ferri battled injuries last season, but still was named second-team All-Northeast Ohio Inland District Division II as he ran for 880 yards and 11 TDs and recorded 192 receiving yards and two TDs. Ferri averaged 6.2 yards per carry, and also returned a kickoff for a score for playoff participant Hudson (6-6).

8. Gavin Madigan

Wadsworth, running back, 5-11, 210, Class of 2026

What to know: Madigan, an Army commit, garnered All-Ohio honorable mention honors in Division II last year as a defensive back with 92 tackles, eight pass breakups and three interceptions in 10 games. Madigan is also a talented running back who totaled 764 yards and 11 TDs on 98 carries and caught a TD pass as Wadsworth (11-2) earned a share of the Suburban League National Conference title and made a regional semifinal appearance.

9. Jance Henry Jr.

Hoban, running back, 5-8, 200, Class of 2027

What to know: Henry transferred to Hoban after previously playing at Central Valley in Pennsylvania. He rushed for 1,008 yards as a freshman and 688 yards as a sophomore. He scored 13 touchdowns in each of the past two seasons. Henry has scholarship offers from 16 Division I programs, including Michigan State, North Carolina State, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

10. Carlos Smith

Walsh Jesuit, running back, 5-10, 205, Class of 2026

What to know: Smith is another Walsh running back ready to step into a larger role this season. Smith averaged 9.3 yards a carry last season, finishing with 558 yards and eight TDs on 60 carries.

Michael Beaven can be reached by email at mbeaven@thebeaconjournal.com and is on Twitter at @MBeavenABJ.