

Akron Beacon Journal

High school football | Akron-area Week 7 breakdowns, predictions

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Week 7 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association football season includes a full slate of games at 7 p.m. Friday plus two more Saturday afternoon for Summit County-area teams. Here's our look at those games, including a breakdown of each matchup and who we predict will win.

Friday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

Hoban (5-1) at Walsh Jesuit (6-0)

What to watch: The Warriors hold a 30-24 edge in the rivalry but have lost the last 11. That includes a 57-7 loss in Week 7 last season and a 30-6 Division II, Region 5 final defeat. ... The only losses Walsh has incurred in its last 20 games have come to Hoban. ... The Knights are on a five-game winning streak after losing to Archbishop Severn Spalding, Md., 28-14 in Week 1. ... Spalding enters the weekend ranked No. 12 in the nation. ... Hoban hasn't lost to Walsh since Oct. 3, 2014 (Walsh 35-14). The Knights' average margin of victory during the streak is 27.4 points. The closest game during Hoban's current stretch is a point (Hoban 35-34 2 OTs in 2021). The biggest margin of victory came in 2017 when the Knights won 54-0. ... Beacon Journal Midseason Defensive MVP Nick Crawford leads a defense full of Division I recruits such as Eli Lee (Ohio State commit), Tylan Boykin (Eastern Michigan), Elbert Hill, Brydon Feister, Jaiden Daniels and Ace Brown. It's a squad that has a 10-turnover game this season against Buchtel and one that allows 11.3 points per game. ... Hoban can go to a two-QB look with Ethan Roksandich (19-of-37, 343 yards, TD, 40 carries, 338 yards, 5 TDs) and Trent Hayden (12-of-16, 250 yards, 3 TDs), but it's the ground game of Brayton Feister (76 carries, 636 yards, 10 TDs), Roksandich and La'Near Folk (34, 249, 4) that gets it done. Hill (seven

catches, 233 yards, 3 TDs) is Hoban's primary receiver. Payton Cook (6, 131, 0) and Tayte Crable (7, 103, 1) keep defenses honest as well... The Warriors have a dual threat in 2023 third-team All-Ohio QB Keller Moten (49-of-87, 724 yards, 10 TDs, 66 carries, 580 yards, 8 TDs). Lucas Weaver (21 carries, 237 yards, 2 TDs in four games) is expected to return, but Walsh can go to Marty Tobin (79 carries, 576 yards, 5 TDs) when needed. Carlos Smith (35, 227, 5) is another option, if he is healthy. Milan Parris (11 catches, 307 yards, 6 TDs) and Aiden Henry (20, 205, 1) are the deep threats on an offense that averages 460.7 yards per game. ... Declan Norton and Caden Carter are part of a defensive unit that allows 12.5 points per game. ... Walsh leads Division II, Region 5 and Hoban is fourth.

Who will win: Walsh 21-14

Nordonia (6-0, 3-0) at Wadsworth (6-0, 3-0)

What to watch: First place in the Suburban League National Conference will be on the line when the Knights travel to Art Wright Stadium, which remains one of the toughest places to play in Northeast Ohio. ... Wadsworth is coming off its toughest challenge of the season, beating Hudson 21-14 in overtime ... The Grizzlies are led by QB Brysen Hall, who had a 11-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio heading into Week 6. He tossed the winning TD to Calix Lemp in overtime to beat Hudson. ... Lemp has been a weapon for Wadsworth, with eight TD catches this season. ... Gavin Madigan anchors Wadsworth's rushing attack. He ran for 70 yards vs. Hudson. ... Nordonia has dominated its first three conference opponents, including a 40-14 rout of Twinsburg in Week 6. ... QB Ben Chesser has been a two-way threat all season at the head of Nordonia's offense. He's put up 792 yards with eight TDs and two interceptions through the air and is Nordonia's second-leading rusher with 383 yards and 10 TDs. ... RB Rocco DeLorenzo leads the Knights with 493 rushing yards, while Liam Kountz and Khylan Osbey each have more than 200 yards this season.

Who will win: Nordonia 35-28

Manchester (6-0, 3-0) at Tuslaw (2-4, 0-2)

What to watch: The Panthers are 11-4 against the Mustangs in the last 15 meetings. ... Manchester's lone win across the 2022 and 2023 seasons came last year in a 24-21 victory over Tuslaw. ... Phil Partin (114 carries, 794 yards, 14 TDs) has been the workhorse for the undefeated Panthers. Yadin Sharp (25-of-50, 3 TDs) is solid as a dual-threat quarterback. ... Defense continues to be where Manchester shines. ... A week after a six-turnover showing against Orrville, the Panthers held Canton South to nine points. That unit has

allowed just 7.0 points per game. ...The Mustangs are led by Nathan Eberhardt (34 carries, 355 yards, two touchdowns) and Ethan Haer (48-of-83, 646 yards, two TDs). ... Manchester is second in Division V, Region 17. Tuslaw is 16th in Division VI, Region 21.
Who will win: Manchester 28-0

Lake (5-1, 1-1) at Jackson (3-3, 1-1)

What to watch: The Blue Streaks visit the Polar Bears in what feels like an elimination game for Federal League contention. Lake, Jackson, Green and Hoover each have one league loss and are behind McKinley (4-2, 3-0). ... Lake has won three of its last four games, all by shutout against Brecksville, GlenOak and Cleveland JFK by a combined score of 112-0. The three teams have a combined record of 2-15. The other game was a 17-7 loss at Perry in Week 4. ... Jackson has faced better overall competition with losses to 6-0 Mentor, 5-1 Austintown Fitch and 4-2 Green. The Polar Bears pulled away from Perry last week for a 31-13 win. Lucas Ecrement threw two touchdown passes to Max Cowles, and Foster Stanley and Kristian Satterfield combined for 238 rushing yards. ... Charlie Christopher, an Ohio University commit, leads Lake in rushing (351 yards) and tackles (51). Ty DeGeorge has run for six touchdowns and thrown for four. He also leads the Blue Streaks with three interceptions at safety. ... Zac Saleh leads the Jackson defense with 49 tackles, including 12 for loss. Mitchell Braucher has five sacks. ... Lake beat Jackson 19-7 last year, sacking Ecrement 10 times, and has won three of the last four matchups with the Polar Bears. The all-time series is even at 18-18.

Who will win: Jackson 20-14.

Woodridge (2-4, 1-2) at Streetsboro (6-0, 3-0)

What to watch: It's becoming increasingly clear just how good the Rockets are. They've only given up 27 points this season, have three straight shutouts and four shutouts in their last five games. On top of that, Streetsboro averages 54.0 points per game. ... These teams are 3-3 against each other the last six seasons and no one has won more than two in a row. ... Streetsboro won 48-16 last season. ... The Bulldogs shut out Ravenna and Coventry by a combined 40-0 the last two weeks in Metro Athletic Conference play. ... Marcus Council (nine carries, 152 yards) and Janiere Cook (six carries, 119 yards) each had a rushing TD and a defensive score last week in the Rockets' 55-0 win over Norton. Streetsboro finished with 416 rushing yards as a team. ... Leon Cross ran for 149 yards and two TDS, and Gavin Lynch added 110 yards and a TD in Woodridge's 27-0 win over Coventry last week. Rory Johnston went 5-of-9 passing for 54 yards and threw an 8-yard

TD pass to Andrew Stull. Woodridge held the Comets to 127 total yards. ... Streetsboro is third in Division IV, Region 13 and Woodridge is 19th in the region. ... Streetsboro is projected to finish third in the region and finish the regular season undefeated.

Who will win: Streetsboro 35-7

Hudson (3-3, 2-1) at Brecksville (1-5, 1-2)

What to watch: Hudson almost handed Wadsworth its first loss in Week 6, but fell 21-14 in overtime. ... Reno Ferri has emerged as the Explorers' top threat on offense. He caught a 12-yard TD pass vs. Wadsworth and ran for 136 yards and three TDs in Week 3 vs. Twinsburg. ... Brecksville picked up its only win of the season last week by beating Stow 37-7.

Who will win: Hudson 35-7

East (3-3, 1-0) vs. North (0-6, 0-1)

What to watch: East dispatched Ellet 42-0 last Saturday with Purdue recruit Ziaire Stevens running for 180 yards and three TDs on 22 carries. ... Marlin Engram completed 14 of 21 passes for 176 yards and two TDs against Ellet. Donte Swain totaled nine catches for 110 yards and one score, and Terrell Wharton Jr. added a 40-yard TD catch. Engram threw three successful 2-point conversion passes, two to Darshaun Sales and one to Braylon Bush. Emmanuel Jefferson returned a kickoff 86 yards for a TD, Braylon Bush had two interceptions and ZiVelle Thomas had one interception. ... North lost 35-22 last Saturday to Garfield. Marvin Causey Jr. caught a 27-yard TD pass from Jair Bell and returned a kickoff 75 yards for a TD for the Vikings. Sigmund Felding added a rushing TD. Bell completed 6 of 13 passes for 123 yards and also made an interception. Jaydein Echols contributed nine carries for 50 yards, two catches for 53 yards and one sack. ... North's other key players are Tyreon Jones, Ladanian Hughes, Devari Bennett and Marcos Melara.

Who will win: East 49-7

St. Vincent-St. Mary (1-5) at Youngstown Ursuline (5-1)

What to watch: Coming off a heartbreaking 28-22 loss to previously winless Elyria Catholic, St. Vincent-St. Mary is a massive underdog against Ursuline. ... A glance at common opponents this season illustrates the daunting task STVM faces. STVM lost 52-0 at Walsh Jesuit and 26-0 at Warren Harding. Ursuline lost 37-35 to Walsh and won 35-0

at Warren Harding. ... STVM lost 34-20 to Ursuline last season after prevailing in the series 35-28 in 2022 and 49-14 in 2021.

Who will win: Ursuline 42-10

Ex-NFL players coaching HS football: Browns legend Phil Dawson has advice for high school coaches who used to play in the league, like STVM's Doran Grant

Stow (2-4, 1-2) at North Royalton (1-5, 1-2)

What to watch: The Bulldogs will look to rebound from a tough 33-13 home loss to Brecksville in Week 6, which gave the Bees their first win of the season. ... North Royalton scored its lone win of the season vs. Brecksville in Week 4 55-21.

Who will win: Stow 21-20

Solon (2-4, 0-3) at Twinsburg (2-4, 0-3)

What to watch: For decades, whether in the Chagrin Valley Conference, Western Reserve Conference or Northeast Ohio Conference, Twinsburg-Solon was the epitome of a backyard rivalry. Now, these two neighbors meet for the first time in the Suburban League, each seeking their first league win. ... Twinsburg showed fight in the second half of its 40-14 loss at Nardon in Week 6.

Who will win: Twinsburg 21-14

Kent Roosevelt (2-4, 1-2) at Highland (6-0, 3-0)

What to watch: The Hornets are averaging 43.3 points per game behind Casey Myser who has rushed for 802 yards and 17 scores on 98 carries. The Beacon Journal Midseason Offensive MVP also has four receiving TDs. ... Highland has allowed 14 points in the last four games and have shutouts against Brunswick (37-0) and Tallmadge (49-0). ... The Hornets have won the last three contests vs. Roosevelt by a combined 160-0 and are 6-2 against the Rough Riders since they joined the Suburban League American Conference in 2015. ... Highland is second in Division II, Region 6. Roosevelt is 19th in Division III, Region 9.

Who will win: Highland 49-0

Barberton (1-5, 1-2) at Revere (4-2, 1-2)

What to watch: The Magics haven't lost to the Minutemen since rejoining the Suburban

League in 2015, going 8-0 against them. The last time Revere beat Barberton was Oct. 2, 2009 (22-14). ... It took a trick play by Tallmadge with 3:56 left to beat Revere 20-13 last week. Revere's Luke Farris threw TD passes to Nick Hall and Johlil Blanchard. ... Mark Tavanello's TD with 2:23 kept Barberton from being shut out in a 49-7 loss to Highland last week. ... Revere is sixth in Division III, Region 10. Barberton is 22nd in Division II, Region 5.

Who will win: Revere 21-7

Cuyahoga Falls (2-4, 0-3) at Copley (2-4, 1-2)

What to watch: Copley QB Gabe Mansel and WR Andrew McKnight played pass and catch to perfection last Friday with three TD connections in a 34-20 win over Kent Roosevelt. Can they do that again this week? ... McKnight started the season at quarterback with Mansel out with an injury. Mansel is also a threat to run. Jason Baines and Tony Cox are Copley's top running backs. ... Copley played Kent after losing to undefeated Highland 44-7 and undefeated Aurora 49-12. ... Cuyahoga Falls lost to Aurora 68-7 last Friday. Joey Earl threw a TD pass to Gino Capretta for Falls.

Who will win: Copley 35-7

Tallmadge (4-2, 2-1) at Aurora (6-0, 3-0)

What to watch: Tallmadge bounced back with a 20-13 win over Revere in Week 6, but it faces a huge test against undefeated Aurora. ... Ryan Loveless threw a TD pass to Caleb Reifsnyder and ran for another in the win over Revere ... Aurora exploded for 68 points vs. Cuyahoga Falls in Week 6. Ryan Dwyer went 6-of-8 passing for 187 yards and 3 TDs vs. Falls. Quincy John, Ben Lukasik and Tommy Tartabini caught the TD passes. Lucas Manderbach and Mason Romancak each ran for two TDs. Lukasik returned a punt for a TD, Xavier Board ran for a TD and Ryan Slisz returned a fumble fo a TD.

Who will win: Aurora 45-21

Cloverleaf (4-2, 2-1) at Norton (3-3, 2-1)

What to watch: Cloverleaf and Norton are looking to bounce back after each lost at home last Friday. ... Undefeated Streetsboro beat Norton 55-0 and Ravenna topped Cloverleaf 21-7. ... Norton beat Ravenna 34-0 in Week 4. ... Can Buddy Willig, Jason Beverly and their Panthers teammates get back on track?

Who will win: Norton 35-7

Field (5-1, 2-1) at Coventry (0-6, 0-3)

What to watch: The Comets return home to face a Field team having its best season in years. The Falcons bounced back from their first loss of the season by routing Springfield 49-8 in Week 6. Field's offense features RBs Drexal McAmis and Victor Brown. ...

Coventry has scored 12 points this season.

Who will win: Field 35-7

Springfield (1-5, 0-3) at Ravenna (2-4, 1-2)

What to watch: The Ravens upset Cloverleaf (4-2, 2-1) last week to snap a three-game losing streak where they were outscored 82-0. Bryant Thompson (eight carries, 107 yards, TD) led the way for Ravenna in the 21-7 win last week. ... The Spartans have lost three straight and have been outscored 132-11 in Metro Athletic Conference action. ... Ravenna holds a 10-game winning streak against Springfield and hasn't lost since Nov. 1, 2013 (Springfield 28-17). Springfield hasn't scored more than 14 points in the past six meetings... The Ravens are 14th in Division IV, Region 13. The Spartans are 22nd in the region.

Who will win: Ravenna 28-0

High school football: 2024 USA Today Network Preseason All-Ohio Football Team

Green (4-2, 2-1) at GlenOak (0-6, 0-3)

What to watch: The Bulldogs look to bounce back after their four-game winning streak was snapped by a 26-17 home loss to McKinley. Antonio Martin had his biggest performance of the season in just his third game since returning from offseason ACL surgery. He caught nine passes for 141 yards and a touchdown and made several plays on defense. ... GlenOak QB Adrion Burt ran for 109 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries; was 7-of-14 passing for 73 yards and one interception; and caught a 31-yard pass in last week's 21-7 loss at Hoover. Burt has two of GlenOak's three TDs on the season. ... GlenOak has lost to six winning teams: 5-1 Villa Angela-St. Joseph, 4-2 Massillon, 5-1 Fitch, 4-2 McKinley, 5-1 Lake and 4-2 Hoover. The Golden Eagles have been outscored 205-20 this season. ... Green QB Tyson Hunka is a threat to scramble and has thrown for 1,084 yards, nine touchdowns and three interceptions. Six different Green receivers have at least 100 yards. ... Anthony McMichael leads the Green defense with 46.5 tackles and two interceptions. David Potter has seven tackles for loss to lead GlenOak and Matt Rekstis

has four. ... Green rallied from a 21-3 deficit to beat GleOak 31-28 last year when it blocked a field goal as time expired.

Who will win: Green 28-7

Fairless (3-3) at CVCA (4-2)

What to watch: The Royals come in hot as winners of their last four games. That includes a 37-7 win over previously unbeaten Triway last week. ... CVCA has won the last two contests vs. Fairless and hold a 16-7 edge overall, including 8-2 at home. The Royals are averaging 33.3 points in wins and 14.0 points per game in their losses. ... The Falcons have lost to Triway, Northwest and Orrville the last three weeks. Those three teams are a combined 13-5 this season. ... The Royals are eighth in Division III, Region 9. The Falcons are 14th in Division V, Region 17.

Who will win: CVCA 35-14

Canton Central Catholic at Mogadore

What to watch: The Crusaders hope to start another winning streak that propels them into a playoff spot in Division V, Region 17. Last week's 7-6 loss to Louisville stopped a two-game win streak. ... Central's defense, led by LB John Hofacre, was at its best against the Leopards. The offense hopes to get back on track. RB Conner Thomas is having a solid season as a two-way threat for Central. He leads the team in rushing with 547 yards on 58 carries and nine TDs and in receiving with 18 catches for 322 yards and one TD. ... It's unusual to find Mogadore sitting with just two victories at this point of the season. The Wildcats' only wins have come against winless Newark Catholic and Ellet. Mogadore was shut out twice in its first three games. The return of QB Karson Jaber from injury sparked the offense before last week's 27-8 loss to Warren JFK.

Who will win: Central 21-14.

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Saturday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

Ellet (0-6, 0-1) at Buchtel (1-5, 0-1)

What to watch: Buchtel lost 31-26 to Firestone last Friday and Ellet lost 42-0 to East last Saturday. ... Buchtel's Stevie Diamond threw two TD passes against Firestone, one

apiece to Xavier Wilson and Karter Dawson. Marcus Britt and Arman Gable both ran for a TD and combined for 86 yards on 14 carries. ... Ellet is led by Brandon Knowles, Sean Thompson, Syncere Hill, Terrel Karim Jr. and Braxton Dente. Knowles has two sacks and 24 catches for 230 yards and six TDs. Dente has 826 passing yards and eight TDs.

Who will win: Buchtel 35-7

Firestone (2-4, 1-0) vs. Garfield (2-4, 1-0), at Kenmore Stadium

What to watch: Firestone defeated Buchtel 31-26 last Friday and Garfield topped North 35-22 last Saturday. ... Look for both teams to rely on running the football. ... Firestone ran for more than 200 yards against Buchtel behind linemen Blake Harris, Brandon Tilley, Nae'Than Milliner, Anwar Haslam and Cory Griffith. Dionte Younger Jr. ran for 126 yards and a TD on 15 carries and Daniel Peterson added 114 yards and two TDs on 11 carries. Daylyn Taylor ran for the game-winning TD from 3 yards out with 18 seconds remaining. He also connected with Taron Bowden and Younger on 2-point conversion passes. ... Garfield ran for more than 200 yards against North behind linemen William Lockett, James Thompson, Garrett Hoag, Roy Bell Jr. and Corey Williams. ... Isaiah Mathews ran for 129 yards and a TD on 14 carries against North and Thomas Walker had 119 yards and a TD on 11 carries. ... Kevin Strickling completed 5 of 9 passes for 142 yards and two TDs, one apiece to Brima Barry and Breshaun Nichols. ... Barry also returned an interception for a TD.

Who will win: Firestone 28-21

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