

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Circle these dates for can't-miss Akron-area 2025 games

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The thrill of victory and agony of defeat will be inevitable on the Greater Akron area high school football scene this fall.

No matter on which side of the outcome your favorite team lands, everyone ought to be able to appreciate a good game when it unfolds.

It's impossible to know whether a game will be a dramatic thriller, yet history can provide clues about which matchups could yield gridiron gems.

Here are 10 we're saying have a chance:

1. Hudson at Highland, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, Week 2 of the 2025 high school football season

● Highland won 31-24 at Hudson in the 2024 season opener. Highland went 13-1, with its Ohio High School Athletic Association playoff run ending in a Division II, Region 6 final against eventual state champion Avon (16-0). Hudson went 6-6, falling to Walsh Jesuit (13-1) in a Division II, Region 5 quarterfinal.

● **Ticket info:** events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/highlandschools; 330-239-1901 ext. 5400

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Highland running back Casey Myser runs through several tackle attempts by Hudson defenders on Aug. 23, 2024, in Hudson. PROVIDED BY KM KLEMENIC

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2. Green at Jackson, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, Week 5

● Green beat Jackson 21-17 at home last season, but Jackson won its next six games while Green had an up-and-down finish. Jackson and Canton McKinley shared the Federal League title. Green went 7-5 last season. Jackson went 8-4.

● **Ticket info:** events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/jacksonlocal; 330-837-3501 ext. 1404

3. Walsh Jesuit at Archbishop Hoban, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, Week 6

● This is game of the year material. Walsh Jesuit (13-1) and Archbishop Hoban (12-3) split games last season. Walsh won the regular-season battle 19-14, but Hoban prevailed 21-7 in the play-off clash. The triumph resulted in Hoban being crowned the Division II, Region 5 champion. The next week, Hoban was eliminated by Avon in a state semifinal.

● **Ticket info:** hoban.org/athletics; 330-773-9107

4. Tallmadge at Revere, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, Week 7

● Tallmadge earned a Suburban League American Conference victory versus Revere at home last season, prevailing 20-13. Revere went 7-5, and Tallmadge went 7-4.

● **Ticket info:** revereminutemen.org/main/ticketing; 330-523-3205

5. Wadsworth at Nardonias, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, Week 8

● Wadsworth beat Nardonias at home 37-36 in overtime last season. Later, both teams advanced beyond two play-off rounds. Wadsworth went 11-2 and Nardonias 10-3. It took two of the best to knock them out, too. Avon sent Wadsworth home, and Hoban ushered Nardonias into the offseason.

● **Ticket info:** events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/nardoniaschools; 330-908-6000



Jackson running back Kristian Satterfield runs the ball against Green on Sept. 20, 2024, in Uniontown.

NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN/SPECIAL FOR THE AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

6. Walsh Jesuit at Youngstown Ursuline, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, Week 8

● Walsh opened its 2024 season with a 37-35 win at Youngstown Ursuline (13-2). Walsh will be the visitor again this year, though later in the season.

Ursuline advanced to the Division III state semifinals, where it fell to eventual runner-up Toledo Central Catholic, which is Walsh's Week 1 opponent this year.

● **Ticket info:** ursuline.com/athletics; 330-744-4563 ext. 121

7. East vs. Firestone at Ellet, noon Saturday, Oct. 11, Week 8

● East (6-5) and Firestone (5-6) were City Series co-champs last season. However, in the head-to-head matchup, Firestone beat East 13-12. The result in

2024 makes the 2025 showdown intriguing. Firestone will be designated as the home team at a neutral site.

● **Ticket info:** akronschools.com/divisions/athletics/tickets; 330-761-2813

8. CVCA at Parma Padua, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, Week 9

● CVCA went 10-3 last season, and this should be a good late-season test for the Royals as the playoffs approach. Padua (8-6) is another team whose postseason run ended against Toledo Central Catholic.

● **Ticket info:** events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/paduafranciscan; 440-845-0442

9. Northwest at Manchester, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, Week 10

● Manchester is coming off an 11-2

season. Northwest went 9-3 in 2024. Last year, Manchester won 29-22 in overtime at Northwest and went on to seize the Principals Athletic Conference title.

● **Ticket info:** panthercountryrv.org/athletics; 330-882-5578

10. St. Edward at Archbishop Hoban, 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, Week 10

● Whenever these perennial heavyweights square off, the encounter draws plenty of attention. Last season, Hoban triumphed 24-21 at St. Ed's, which finished 9-6 and as a Division I state semifinalist.

● **Ticket info:** hoban.org/athletics; 330-773-9107

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