

Ohio high school football 2025, Greater Akron rankings heading into Week 8

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Eight weeks of high school football and [the Greater Akron power rankings](#) have looked different in each one.

With two teams — Hoban and Highland — out of action, the moves weren't as crazy as last week but there was still significant shakeup.

Here's how the Week 8 poll looks:

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1. Hoban Knights (5-1)

Previous ranking: 1

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Last week: Bye

Why Hoban: [The Knights](#) took their Week 7 bye for the second year in a row so players could go on recruiting visits and have had two weeks to prepare for Cleveland Glenville. That left 13 days to get over some bumps and bruises as well. Hoban will need that as it closes out its schedule against a Division IV state semifinalist, a Pennsylvania 8A state finalist and a Division I state semifinalist.

This week: vs. Glenville (4-2)

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (7-0, 4-0)

Previous ranking: 2

Last week: 35-17 win at No. 7 Hudson

Why Wadsworth: [The Grizzlies](#) played in their first game that didn't go to a running clock. Gavin Madigan ran for 153 yards and two scores on 20 carries. Cooper Gray rushed for 133 yards on 26 carries and Wadsworth picked up 351 yards against Hudson. The Grizzlies finish their four-week gauntlet Oct. 10 against its second one-loss team in a row.

This week: at No. 7 Nordonía (6-1, 3-1)

3. Highland Hornets (6-0, 3-0)

Previous ranking: 3

Last week: Game canceled with Barberton

Why Highland: The Hornets didn't lose their spot atop Division II, Region 5 after [their highly publicized homecoming game was canceled against Barberton](#), so they're not going to lose their spot in the rankings either. Don't expect Highland to overlook this week's game with one-loss Revere on the horizon in Week 9. These Hornets are built for the postseason.

This week: at Kent Roosevelt (4-3, 2-2)

4. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (6-1)

Previous ranking: 4

Last week: 49-0 win over Columbus Bishop Watterson

Why Walsh: How good are this season's rankings? [The Warriors](#) are 38 seconds away from being undefeated this season and a single five-point loss to the top-ranked team in the area has them at No. 4. Don't be surprised to see Walsh make another deep run in the playoffs. There isn't a hole to be found with the Warriors, who continue to get better each week.

This week: Game with Ursuline canceled earlier this season

5. CVCA Royals (6-0, 2-0)

Previous ranking: 5

Last week: 35-0 win at Holy Name

Why CVCA: The Royals' first two big North Coast Conference tests turned into road wins at

Lake Catholic (28-21) and at Holy Name (35-0). [CVCA](#) returns home this week, but it's another tough league game with Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. The Royals, who are second in Division III, Region 9, may be the most overlooked team in Northeast Ohio this season.

This week: vs. NDCL (6-1, 2-0)

6. Norton Panthers (6-0, 4-0)

Previous ranking: 7

Last week: 48-21 win at Cloverleaf

Why Norton: [The Panthers](#), who sit atop Division IV, Region 13, continue to show why they're so good. Two weeks ago, they went on the road and beat reigning Metro Athletic Conference champion Streetsboro, which came in with one loss. Last week, it was a win over one-loss Cloverleaf. If Norton wins this week, there's a good chance it will run the table with one-win teams left in Weeks 9 and 10.

This week: vs. Woodridge (4-3, 3-1)

7. Nordonia Knights (6-1, 3-1)

Previous ranking: 8

Last week: 35-33 win over Twinsburg

Why Nordonia: [The Knights](#) played one of the most entertaining games of the season last week and pulled out a win over Twinsburg on a 20-yard field goal by Riley Edgehouse as time expired. Nordonia has a chance to really shake up the rankings with wins this week and next week as both games are against teams ranked in this power poll.

This week: vs. Wadsworth (7-0, 4-0)

8. Hudson Explorers (5-2, 3-1)

Previous ranking: 6

Last week: 35-17 loss to No. 2 Wadsworth

Why Hudson: [The Explorers](#) gave Wadsworth its best game of the season in an 18-point loss. There was plenty good to come out of the game with Hayden Lipinski (16-of-38 passing,

224 yards, two TDs) and Louie Castellarin (three catches, 102 yards, TD) testing the Grizzlies defense. There's a potential trap game this week before a big Week 9 game at home with Nordon.

This week: vs. Brecksville (4-3, 2-2)

Also considered: Manchester (6-1), Revere (5-1), Copley (5-2)

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