

## FOOTBALL

### Final Greater Akron high school football rankings: How they finished, where they started

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Congratulations. You made it to the final Greater Akron area power rankings in high school football.

We're going to do a little something different here and take a look at where the teams were in the [preseason rankings](#) as well as where they are now.

This week's games are all at 7 p.m. Friday.

Here's how the great eight look:



#### 1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (10-0)

**Preseason ranking:** 2

[The Warriors](#) bounced Padua 42-0 to claim the top spot in one of the hardest regions in football and will have a Division II, Region 5 home game the next two weeks should they win on Friday. They also finished undefeated for the first time in the regular season this century.

**This week:** No. 16 Willoughby South (3-7)



## 2. Highland Hornets (10-0)

**Preseason ranking:** 5

[The Hornets](#) completed the regular season undefeated for the second time in three years when they took out Aurora 34-0 on the road. The defense has allowed only 21 points since Week 2 behind a defensive front that includes Ryan Zywiec and Carson Noonan. Casey Myser continues to run through the competition at tailback. They have the No. 2 seed in Division II, Region 6.

**This week:** No. 15 Fremont Ross (5-5)



### **Hoban Knights (8-2)**

Preseason ranking: 1

[The Knights](#) jumped a spot with a 24-21 win over three-time reigning Division I state champion St. Edward on the road. That solidified the No. 2 spot behind Walsh Jesuit in Division II, Region 6 and gave Hoban a Week 12 home playoff game should it win on Friday.

**This week:** No. 15 Firestone (5-5)



#### **4. Wadsworth Grizzlies (9-1)**

**Preseason ranking: 3**

[The Grizzlies](#) gave up a touchdown with 39 seconds left in a 44-37 loss to North Royalton at home. It gave the Bears the No. 5 spot in Division II, Region 6. Who is Wadsworth's Week 11 opponent you ask? It's déjà vu all over again for the Grizzlies as their Week 10 matchup is also their Week 11 matchup.

**This week: No. 12 North Royalton (5-5)**





### **5. Nordonia Knights (8-2)**

**Preseason ranking: 7**

[The Knights](#) closed out the regular season with a 49-13 win at Brecksville. That locked up the three seed in Division II, Region 5 and gave Nordonia potentially two home games in the postseason. All of that is dependent on a win in Week 11, which is where the Knights fell out last season.

**This week: No. 10 Hoover (6-4)**



**6. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Royals (8-2)**

**Preseason ranking:** Not ranked

[The Royals](#) lost back-to-back games to eventual 10-0 Streetsboro and Lake Catholic and then rolled through the season with eight straight wins. It gave them the third seed in Division III, Region 9, which you know by now means they wouldn't have to play on the road in the playoffs until Week 13.

**This week:** No. 14 University School (5-5)



### **7. Manchester Panthers (9-1)**

**Preseason ranking:** Not ranked

The Panthers' dream of their first undefeated regular season ended last week when CVCA beat them 17-6. There's still magic in the air in New Franklin as [Manchester](#) locked up a second seed in the postseason. The Panthers finished the regular season on the road, but they'll be at home until Week 13 if they can grab back-to-back victories.

**This week:** No. 15 Youngstown Liberty (5-5)



### **8. Tallmadge Blue Devils (7-3)**

**This week:** at No. 6 Chardon (6-2)

[The Blue Devils](#) roll into Week 11 after a 41-0 win over Copley, which came into Week 10 on a four-game winning streak. Tallmadge is on a three-game winning streak itself and has won four of its last five games. That was good enough to put the Blue Devils at No. 11 in Division III, Region 9.

**Preseason ranking:** Not ranked

**Teams ranked in the preseason that aren't ranked now:** \*No. 4 Hudson (5-5); \*No. 6 East (6-5); No. 8 St. Vincent-St. Mary (1-9)

\* Made the postseason

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