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Ohio's top running backs in Division 2 high school football

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Penn State recruit Jance Henry Jr. visits for the Michigan game on Nov. 11, 2023. Henry transferred from Central Valley (Pennsylvania) to Archbishop Hoban (Ohio) for his junior year. Joe Hermitt | jhermitt@pennlive.com Joe Hermitt | jhermitt@pennlive.com





By [Mike Swanson](#)

High school football is here again, and [cleveland.com](#) is highlighting the top players in Ohio in 2025.

Our first statewide lists focused on the [top players in Ohio Division VI](#) and [Division VII](#).

We're covering Division II this week, leading off with the [top quarterbacks](#), and now it's the running backs' turn.

We contacted coaches across the state and asked them to fill out a survey requesting information about their team. The names listed below are the result of those surveys. Cleveland.com also contributed players to the list when necessary.

If you are an Ohio high school football coach who did not receive the survey, email mswanson@advancelocal.com. We will continue to add to these lists throughout the summer.

TOP RUNNING BACKS, OHIO DIVISION II

Zack Barnhart, North Ridgeville, Senior

Barnhart is a four-year starter who [rushed for over 1,200 yards](#) last season to earn second-team All-Ohio honors. He helped the Rangers (9-3) surge into SWC contention last year.

Eli Beal, Toledo St. Francis, Senior

Beal earned first-team All-State honors as a junior after amassing over 1,600 all-purpose yards and 29 touchdowns. He has offers from Bowling Green and Miami (Ohio).

Jonathan Brown, Columbus DeSales, Senior

A three-star recruit who earned All-State honorable mention as a junior, Brown committed to Michigan in June.

Nolan Buirley, Big Walnut, Junior

Buirley nearly hit the 3,000-yard mark in all-purpose yardage as a sophomore. He earned first-team All-State recognition after rushing for 2,153 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Jayden Cherry, Northland, Senior

After leading the team in rushing yards in 2024, Cherry is “set to pick up right where he left off,” coach Ryan Sayers said. He’s an excellent receiver out of the backfield as well. “He will be a weapon that will give defenses plenty of problems,” Sayers said.

Jordan Davis, Anderson, Junior

Davis already holds offers from Kent State, Toledo and Miami (Ohio) and is poised for a breakout junior campaign. As a sophomore he rushed for 671 yards and added 177 yards receiving for the state finalist.

Jacob Eterovich, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Senior

Eterovich made the All-Northeast Lakes District second team last year for the Bees after rushing for 812 yards and six touchdowns, never fumbling in 108 carries. “When healthy, he is arguably the most explosive running back in the conference,” coach Jason Black said.

Brayton Feister, Archbishop Hoban, Junior

Feister rushed for 2,096 yards and 26 touchdowns as Hoban’s lead back last season, earning All-Ohio second-team honors. He’s a four-star prospect as a linebacker, with offers that include Akron, Kentucky, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Preston Flick, Harrison, Senior

Flick led the team in touchdowns with 14 through six games before suffering an injury last season. Now healthy, Flick returns looking to lead Harrison’s ground attack in his final year of high school football.

Cooper Gray, Wadsworth, Senior

Gray's 1,697 yards and 21 touchdowns on 207 carries sparked the Grizzlies to a 9-0 start and share of the Suburban League National Conference crown last year. Gray made the Northeast Inland District first team and All-Ohio honorable mention.

Jance Henry Jr., Archbishop Hoban, Junior

Feister is the power back, and Henry brings a ton of speed. The transfer from Central Valley High School in Pennsylvania rushed for over 1,000 yards as a freshman and holds a bunch of Division I offers, including Pittsburgh, Michigan State, Mississippi, West Virginia, Southern Miss and Wisconsin.

Jett Jerwers, New Albany, Junior

Already holding multiple Division I offers, Jerwers accumulated over 1,000 yards in total offense as a sophomore. Coach Brian Finn praised his "plus speed to go along with his overall athleticism" and will provide big-play ability for the Eagles' offense. "All eyes will be on him this year as we expect him to have a great year," Finn said.

Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth, Senior

A fourth-year starter, Madigan committed in March to Army. Madigan earned All-Northeast Inland District at safety and honorable mention All-Ohio despite missing three games because of an injury. He rushed for 726 yards and 12 touchdowns on 82 carries, sharing time in the backfield with Cooper Gray.

Joseph McCane Jr., John Adams, Sophomore

McCane emerged last year as one of the top freshmen in the state, rushing for 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns. "He's worked extremely hard on and off the field to ensure his sophomore season is even better," coach Jarvis Gibson said.

Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside, Senior

A Harvard commit, McCaleb rushed for 1,670 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior with zero fumbles. He earned third-team All-Ohio honors.

Casey Myser, Medina Highland, Senior

Highland won plenty of games by blowout, but Myser still picked up plenty of yards on the way to a regional final appearance with the Hornets (13-1). He gained 2,688 all-purpose yards and scored 46 touchdowns, making the All-Ohio first team and earning Suburban League MVP.

Brody O'Banion, Edgewood, Junior

After rushing for 875 yards and eight touchdowns as a sophomore, O'Banion returns looking for more as a junior. Starting QB is a question mark for Edgewood entering the season, but there's little doubt who will be getting the lion's share of the carries.

Deon'Dray Richard, Austintown-Fitch, Junior

Richards earned third-team All-Ohio recognition after carrying 170 times for 1,499 yards and 19 touchdowns as a sophomore.

Owen Singleton, Olmsted Falls, Senior

Singleton rushed for 1,382 yards and 21 touchdowns on 209 carries, earning a spot on the All-Ohio third team. His production should get a boost as a senior after the graduation of three-year starting dual-threat QB Jimmy Rosol Jr.

Quiante Smith, Avon, Senior

A key returner from Avon's [2024 state championship team](#), Smith emerged as the Eagles' lead back during the playoffs. He finished the season with 624 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns on just 88 carries.

Marty Tobin, Walsh Jesuit, Senior

Tobin emerged last season after an injury to teammate Lucas Weaver, and he did not disappoint, rushing for 975 yards and nine TDs on 117 carries for the Warriors (13-1), who reached the [Division II regional finals](#).

Deaunte White, Xenia, Senior

White broke school records for single-game rushing yards (388) and touchdowns in a game (7), the latter of which set a 72-year-old mark. He earned first-team All-State honors.

Spike Woods, Teays Valley, Senior

RECOMMENDED

Best Division 7 high school football players in Ohio: Links to all the positions [Aug. 18, 2025, 10:27 a.m.](#)

Ohio's top quarterbacks in Division 2 high school football [Aug. 19, 2025, 6:01 a.m.](#)

Woods is a 6-foot, 210-pound power back who's had a busy summer proving at college camps that he's back to 100%. He piled up 696 all-purpose yards and nine touchdowns before a season-ending injury in Week 3 of his junior season.

For complete coverage of Ohio high school football, including schedules, scores, and additional player spotlights, visit [cleveland.com's high school sports section](#) throughout the season.

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