

Akron-area Week 3 breakdowns, predictions

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Nordonia quarterback Steven Fakult runs the ball during a game against the East Dragons on Aug. 29 in Macedonia. NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN/SPECIAL FOR THE AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Brad Bournival, Michael Beaven, Michael Leonard, Nate Ulrich and Jonah Rosenblum

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It's Week 3 of the Ohio high school football season, with 26 games featuring Greater Akron teams.

A full schedule of 22 games Friday, Aug. 5, is bookended by two games each on Thursday, Aug. 4, and Saturday, Aug. 6.

Who will win? Keep reading to see which teams the Beacon Journal staff thinks will prevail in those matchups and the rest of a full slate of games this weekend.

Thursday's football games in the Greater Akron area Cleveland JFK (0-2) at Stow (1-1)

- What to watch: After struggling to find its offense in Week 1, the Bulldogs found it last week in a 49-14 win at Barberton. Quarterback Jake Harrington passed for 247 yards and four TDs against the Magics, with Daylon Keeling reaping the rewards with 110 yards and two TDs. Stow wasn't one dimensional in its win, as Caden Boyd ran for 70 yards and a TD on just seven carries. The Bulldogs might be in for another feast against JFK, as the Eagles have been outscored 133-0 in its first two games against Rittman and Wrensville Heights.

- Who will win: Stow 48-7 **Revere (1-0) at Valley Forge (1-1)**

- What to watch: Revere will be champing at the bit at Byers Field in Parma after having its Week 2 game with Garfield canceled after the Minutemen had multiple cases of hand, foot and mouth disease. They will look to reprise the form they showed in the second half vs. Woodridge in a Week 1 35-20 win. ... Harrison Drvenker, Chase Clifford, Uriah Pulliam, James Perry, David Kennedy, Jahlil Blanchard and Elijah Sedor are playmakers to watch for Revere. ... Valley Forge beat North Royalton 33-29 and lost 37-12 to North Ridgeville.

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- Who will win: Revere 21-20 **Friday's football games in the Greater Akron area East (1-1) at Canton South (1-1)**

- What to watch: Look for East to bounce back after losing 39-7 to Nordonia last week. Marlin Engram Jr., Terrell Wharton Jr., Lawrence Cherry Jr., Terrel Karim Jr., Lavance Bratton and Anthony Felding are playmakers to watch for East. ... Canton South lost 42-14 to CVCA last week. The Wildcats are led by Brody Beegle, Torez Conley and Braylon Conley. • Who will win: East 21-14 **Ellet (1-1) at Kent Roosevelt (1-1)**

- What to watch: Ellet won 29-27 last week at Field after Elijah Griffin recovered a fumble in the end zone for a touchdown with no time left on the clock and Jayden Cooper converted a two-point conversion. ... Ellet's other top players are Demetrius Halsell, Brandon Knowles, Trey Carter, Andrew Statler, Travontae Harbin, Jaloni Austin and Brandon Guest. ... Roosevelt opened its season with a 35-14 win over Ravenna and a 42-7 loss to Streetsboro. ... The Rough Riders feature Gavin Peeps, Ke'Shan Talbert, Makhii Jones, Teddy Maccaroni, Jaiden Portis, Justin Green, Sevy Jones, Tyler Ellington and Chace Dennison. • Who will win: Kent Roosevelt 28-14 **Firestone (0-2) at Manchester (2-0)**

- What to watch: Firestone has lost to Rocky River (52-7) and Copley (49-19) this season. ... The Falcons are led by Elijah Grice, Gucciano Stephens, Donniven Younger and Brandon Tilley. ... Manchester has not been challenged this season in wins over Coventry (62-0) and Sandy Valley (48-13). ... Tyler Pappas ran for a touchdown and completed two TD passes last week against Sandy Valley.

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Malachi Cintron and Lorenzo Donatelli each caught a TD pass last week, Ayden Meade ran for 167 yards and a TD on 14 carries and Donatelli also ran for a TD. Jason Carmichael contributed a rushing TD and a punt return TD.

- Who will win: Manchester 28-21 **North (1-1) at Hoover (2-0)**

- What to watch: North ventures to North Canton after a 33-12 loss last week to Cuyahoga Falls. ... The Vikings won their last game in Stark County, 23-6 over St. Thomas Aquinas in Week 1. ... North is led by Jair Bell, Harold Wright, Nate Ruffin, LaDanian Hughes, Jayde Brabson and Deon Williams. ... Hoover is 2-0 for the first time since 2018 with wins over Buchtel (30-0) and Medina (42-17). ... Hoover QB John Collins accounted for five TDs (three rushing and two passing) against Medina. Jack Andes, John Collins, Michael Lammlein, Carter Lukens and Brycen Beyer are other playmakers for the Vikings. ... Hoover beat North 40-6 last year.

- Who will win: Hoover 49-7 **Hudson (1-1) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (0-2)**

- What to watch: Hudson was shut out 32-0 last week at Highland. St. Vincent-St. Mary was shut out in each of its first two games, losing 42-0 at Nordonia in Week 1 and 36-0 at Perry in Week 2. ... This will be STVM's home opener. ... Hudson junior running back Reno Ferri rushed for 133 yards and a TD on 20 carries in Week 1 and compiled 34 yards on 12 carries and two catches for 33 yards in Week 2. Anthony Paolucci recorded an interception last week.

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- Who will win: Hudson 42-14 **Detroit King (1-0) at Hoban (1-1)**

- What to watch: The Knights gave up the most points it has this century in a 58-28 road defeat to Archbishop Spalding, Md. The 30-point loss was the worst by Hoban in 62 games, since a 42-7 loss to Bergen Catholic (Md.) on Sept. 27, 2021. ... The Crusaders are coming off a 32-7 win over Toledo Whitmer. ... Hoban still moved the ball against Spalding as evidenced by its 135 yards rushing and 146 yards passing. There's quite the one-two punch in the backfield for these Knights, who can go to Brayton Feister or Jance Henry. Feister scored three touchdowns in the loss to Spalding. Henry added another after running for 121 yards and a TD in the season opener against Harvest Prep. ... Besides the backfield, Hoban has standouts in OT Sam Greer (Ohio State recruit), CB-WR Elbert Hill (USC), DE Ace Brown (Colorado State), WR-DB Payton Cook (Louisville) and QB Nick Kinsey (Eastern Michigan). ... Hoban will need to find an answer for

Rutgers commit Michael Dukes, who ran for 172 yards and four TDs against Whitmer. ... The Crusaders also have standouts in wide receiver Darryl Flemister (22 Division I offers, including Auburn and Michigan), quarterback Andrew Knight (Illinois State), offensive tackle Jameer Henry (24 offers including Michigan and Tennessee) and guard Jordan Henry (six offers including Toledo). ... Hoban is tied for 19th in Division II, Region 5.

- Who will win: **King 28-24 Clarkson North, Canada (1-0) at Walsh Jesuit (2-0)**

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- What to watch: A week after beating Division III state runner-up Toledo Central Catholic on the road, the Warriors (2-0) pushed their regular-season winning streak to 15 with a 30-6 win over Clark County Springfield. ... Marty Tobin rushed for 131 yards and two TDs on 14 carries and Carlos Smith added 55 yards and a TD on 10 carries. David Temosky was 10-of-15 passing for 104 yards and rushed five times for 23 yards and a score. Milan Parris led the way with three catches for 69 yards. The Warriors flexed on defense as well with two interceptions and held the Wildcats to 52 yards rushing and just nine first downs. ... Jacob Muller rushed for 95 yards and was 7-of-20 passing for 139 yards with a rushing and passing touchdown in the win. Tyson Clarke (four catches, 90 yards) was his primary target. ... The Chargers beat reigning Pennsylvania 5A state champ Bishop McDevitt 27-7 in Week 1 and are coming off a bye. ... The school is located in Mississauga, Ontario. ... Walsh is tied for third in Division II, Region 5.

- Who will win: **Walsh 21-14 South Range (1-1) at Barberton (0-2)**

- What to watch: Barberton has sputtered out of the gate with back-to-back losses totaling a combined 83 points. The Magics haven't scored more than 14 points in either game against Wadsworth and Stow and haven't given up less than 49 points. ... South Range bounced back from a 36-point loss to Lake in Week 1 with a 48-21 win over Salem in Week 2. Nick Toy threw for 339 yards and four touchdowns in the win. ... South Range is tied for eighth in Division V, Region 17. Barberton is tied for 21st in Division II, Region 6.

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- Who will win: **South Range 42-7 Highland (2-2) at Avon Lake (1-1)**

- What to watch: Led by Evan Foust (three tackles for loss, two third-down stops, forced fumbles) and a defense that forced two interceptions, Highland rolled to a 32-0 win over Hudson. Casey Myser ran for 100 yards and two TDs on 18 carries. Lucas Gerding added 42 yards and a TD on six carries and Grady Gibb was 4-of-8 passing with an interception for the Hornets (2-0). ... Dan Miller, Lukas Grillis and Jameson Gordon each had a sack and Gordon and Nick Dobkowski had interceptions for the Hornets, who forced four Explorers turnovers. ... Avon Lake dropped a 21-14 nailbiter to Lake Catholic. ... Marty Loncar blocked a punt and recovered a fumble on two separate occasions to give the Cougars great field position. ... The Shoremen are led by Ohio State commit Maxwell Riley at offensive tackle. ... Myser set school records with 2,130 yards rushing and 39 touchdowns on the ground last season. Foust (28 receptions, 577 yards, five TDs), Lucas Gerding (25 receptions, 447 yards, three TDs) and Nick Dobkowski (22 receptions, 375 yards, seven TDs). ... Highland is on top of Division II, Region 6.

Avon Lake is tied for 21st.

- Who will win: **Highland 35-14 Woodridge (1-1) at CVCA (1-0)**

- What to watch: CVCA put out a statement win in their season opener, running away from Canton South 42-14. The Royals' run game proved to be deep and prolific, as eight different players help CVCA rush for more than 200 yards, despite working with a short field throughout the game. Wesley Keeler led CVCA with 68 yards and a TD on seven carries. The Royals defense was just as good, turning two turnovers in 14 points. Quarterback Charley Levak passed for two TDs vs. Canton South. ... By contrast, Woodridge's quarterback situation already has gone into crisis mode, as tight end Carter Maxa had to step in in Week 2 with the Bulldogs' top three quarterbacks injured. The fact the Bulldogs scored a 28-0 win over Sheffield Brookside in such conditions speaks to their resilience. Woodridge also may have found a running back, as John Tyree ran for 105 yards rushing and two TDs in the win over the Cardinals.

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- Who will win: **CVCA 35-10 Cuyahoga Falls (1-1) at Southeast (0-2)**

- What to watch: Cuyahoga Falls is coming off a 33-12 win over North last week. Jordan Saunders returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown for Falls. Zachary Coleman, Madden Horner and Josh Bell added rushing TDs for the Black Tigers, Gavanni Tuttle caught a TD pass from Jayden Weirs and Elijah Hayes kicked an extra point. Bell also contributed a two-point conversion run. ... Southeast lost to Garfield (21-19) and Grand Valley (25-14) to open the season. ... Cuyahoga Falls topped Southeast 21-6 last season.

- Who will win: **Cuyahoga Falls 21-14 Nordonia (2-0) at Mayfield (2-0)**

- What to watch: Despite not being conference rivals for years, Nordonia-Mayfield remains a rivalry on the football field. The Knights have dominated their first two opponents, outscoring St. Vincent-St. Mary and East 81-7. ... Nordonia QB Steven Fakult has been impressive with WRs Grant Kaminski, Dominick Jackson and Karsen Fisher, RBs Kris Olan Montiel and Connor Whapham and offensive linemen Luke Williams and Gavin Kanar (Kent State recruit). ... The Knights defense features Fisher, Whapham, Kaminski and Kyle Nealon at linebacker and Jackson, Brock Barwidi and RJ Jefferson in the secondary. ... Riley Edgehouse is one of the top kickers/punters in the Greater Akron area. ... The Wildcats have won two defensive games against Elyriabased opposition, defeating Elyria 20-3 in Week 1 and Elyria Catholic 28-13 in Week 2.

- Who will win: **Nordonia 28-21 Green (0-2) at Tallmadge (1-1)**

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- What to watch: Tallmadge has played very impressive defensively and struggled offensively in two games this season, a 23-6 win over Ellet and a 14-7 loss to Brecksville. ... Chad Rusinoko, Lucas Sferra and Braxton Dente are three playmakers to watch for Tallmadge. ... Green is winless with losses to reigning Division IV state champion Gnadenhutten Indian Valley (28-21) and regular Division II playoff participant Painesville Riverside (16-15). ... Anthony McMichael III, Logan Noiro and Tyson Hunka are three playmakers to watch for Green. ... Green won this matchup 14-6 last season. • Who will win: **Green 28-21 Rocky River (2-0) at Lake (2-0)**

- What to watch: This is the first-ever matchup between Rocky River and Lake, and it could be a lot of fun. Both teams have rocketed out of the gates. Division II Lake rolled to road wins over South Range and Boardman by a combined 97-33. Division III Rocky River blasted Firestone and John Marshall by a combined 107-13. ... Lake senior RB Davis Matson (6-0, 205) will make his season debut after missing the first two games due to his appendix being removed. Matson, who ran for 704 yards at 5.8 a carry and six TDs as a junior, adds a power-running element to an explosive Lake offense. ... Junior Ty DeGeorge, the son of Blue Streaks coach Dan DeGeorge, has scored nine touchdowns and thrown for one in the first two weeks. He has scored TDs on five rushes, two punt returns, one reception and one interception return. ... Of the Blue Streaks' 14 TDs this season, only three have been less than 13 yards. They have seven of 46 yards or more. "Having some athletes who can take the ball the distance has been the big thing," Dan DeGeorge said. "We've created some turnovers. We've also scored a few times on special teams, which is huge. That can change the game." ... Senior QB Ryan Taylor is one of 16 lettermen back from last year's 8-4 team for Rocky River. He threw for 2,009 yards and 25 TDs as a junior. ... Rocky River junior WR-S Tristan Hughes (6-1, 190) is a transfer from St. Ignatius. He's received multiple D1 college offers, including one from Syracuse. The Pirates will move him around in their spread offense, even putting him at running back at times.

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- Who will win: **Lake 38-31 Norton (1-0) at Tusky Valley (0-2)**

- What to watch: The Panthers opened the season with a four-touchdown performance from Buddy Willig in a 54-20 win over Lutheran East. Quarterback Trey Kersten was 13-of-20 passing for 185 yards and four touchdowns in the win. ... Tusky Valley lost 29-23 at Coshocton, where it had a chance at the end to rally for the upset. The Trojans are led by offensive tackle Ben Congdon, a University of Miami recruit with 26 scholarship offers from Division I colleges. ... Norton is fourth in Division IV, Region 13. .. Tusky Valley is tied for 12th in Division V, Region 17.

- Who will win: **Norton 42-14 Springfield (1-1) at Minerva (1-1)**

- What to watch: Springfield opened its season under first-year coach Ben Lolli with a 40-32 win over Waterloo and a 44-6 loss to Rootstown. ... The Spartans are led by Koen Keller, Isaac Temosky, Bryson Lanham, Dustin Sabolek and Martin Thurston. ... Minerva lost 35-0 to Hanoverton United in Week 1 and defeated Crestwood 23-8 in Week 2, the Lions' first win under first-year coach Zach Slates. Timmy Kirkpatrick is the Lions' top running back. ... Springfield beat Minerva 13-7 last season.

- Who will win: **Springfield 21-14 Twinsburg (2-0) at Aurora (1-1)**

- What to watch: Twinsburg is 2-0 for the first time since 2010, but the Tigers face a big test when they travel to play their neighbors to the east. Twinsburg quarterback Dylan Fantone put up

two touchdowns in a Week 2 win over Bedford, and the Tigers defense forced four turnovers to run away from the Bearcats. ... After a stunning loss to Brecksville in Week 1, Aurora rebounded in emphatic fashion, routing Lutheran West 47-0 on the road. Look for Xavier Board to carry the load for the Greenmen. Although Aurora has dominated in terms of wins over the last decade, this backyard rivalry tends to produce games that come down to the wire.

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- Who will win: Aurora 24-21 **Wadsworth (2-0) at Medina (1-1)**
- What to watch: The Grizzlies travel to Dukes Stadium to take on their most common opponent in the 120-season history of the program. Wadsworth snapped a six-game losing streak to the Bees last season with a 51-7 road win. They hold a 42-32-2 edge over Medina in the series. ... Brysen Hall completed 12 of 15 passes for 318 yards and two touchdowns to Calix Lemp to lead the Grizzlies to a 35-7 win over New Albany. Lemp finished with three catches for 119 yards, and Cooper Gray added 74 yards and a TD on eight carries. He also had three catches for 101 yards. ... For the second week in a row, Wadsworth finished with some eye-popping stats on offense. The Grizzlies finished with 472 total yards, including 318 on the ground. In two games, they are averaging 464.0 yards, with 278.0 of that coming on the ground. ... River Blomquist was 18-of-36 passing for 167 yards with a touchdown and interception in a 42-17 loss to Hoover last week. He also ran for 59 yards and a score. ... Wadsworth is fifth in Division II, Region 5. ... Medina is fifth in Division I, Region 1.
- Who will win: Wadsworth 42-7 **Alliance (1-1) at Streetsboro (2-0)**
- What to watch: Alliance meets Streetsboro in Week 3 for the third consecutive season. The Aviators are 0-2 in those games and lost 56-0 to the Rockets last season. ... Streetsboro is coming off a 42-7 win over Kent Roosevelt. ...The Rockets offense runs through RB Janiere Cook, who has 40 carries for 263 yards and five TDs this season. Cook averages 6.6 yards per carry. ...Junior OLB Kyle Giacomo has proven dangerous in pass coverage. Giacomo has two interceptions and has been credited with two passes defended ... Alliance QB JR Jackson is 35of-52 passing for 456 yards with two TDs and one interception. He has also run for 111 yards and two TDs this season. ...Senior Jarrin Blair has 14 catches for Alliance. Bair has 122 receiving yards and is averaging 8 yards per catch.

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- Who will win: Streetsboro 28-21 • What to know: It's a battle of small-school powers, with the Bulldogs reaching the state title game in 2023 and the regional finals in 2024 and the Wildcats making three consecutive regional finals from 2021 to 2023. This is the third straight season these teams have faced off in the regular season, with Dalton winning the first two by a combined score of 81-14. ... Mogadore, however, looks much improved coming off a rare .500 season. Conner Lehner, in particular, has been a force with four rushing touchdowns in the Wildcats' first two games. ... Not that scoring will come easily for anyone in this game. Mogadore has allowed just 13 points this season. And Dalton? The Bulldogs have allowed a grand total of six.
- Who will win: Dalton 28-14 **Chippewa (0-2) at Coventry (0-2)**
- What to watch: After two consecutive losses to undefeated teams, Coventry needs a morale booster when it faces the Chippys, who have been outscored 78-7 in their first two games. Something will have to give in this one.
- Who will win: Coventry 20-7 **Northwest (1-0) at Louisville (2-0)**
- What to watch: This will be the fourth consecutive season Louisville and Northwest have met in Week 3. Northwest has a record of 2-1 in those games. Northwest won 35-28 last year and has won two in a row in the series. ...Brayden Ve nables had a successful debut at quarterback in Northwest's 35-0 win over Marlinton in Week 2. He was an efficient 15-of-19 passing with a touchdown and no interceptions. ...Northwest looks to employ a close to 50-50 run pass balance on offense. Northwest has no shortage of talented ball carriers, including Joey Medure, Kellan Reinford and Conner Stephenson. Medure recorded 12 of Northwest's 26 carries last week. ... Louisville limited Alliance's high powered offense to 233 rushing yards and 13 points last week. Those were the first points the Leopard defense has allowed this season. ...Louisville likes to run the football. QB Gabe Stoffer (152 yards, two touchdowns) and RB Owen DiMarzio (104 yards) are the leading rushers for Louisville. ...Stoffer has been efficient when asked to throw. He is 21-of-29 passing for 291 yards, three TDs and no interceptions this season.

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- Who will win: Louisville 17-13 **Saturday's football games for Greater Akron teams Copley (1-1) vs. Garfield (1-0)**
- What to watch: Garfield hosts Copley in its home opener at Kenmore Stadium at 2 p.m. ... Garfield's Week 2 game with Revere was canceled after the Minutemen had multiple cases of hand, foot and mouth disease. ... The Golden Rams topped Southeast 21-19 in Week 1 with Sheldon Corley running for 153 yards and two TDs on 17 carries. Khamari Brady contributed a rushing TD, and Mohamed Kamara and Kemonte Harrison both had interceptions against Southeast. ... Ziyahn Blair, Jamir Jenkins and King Rollin are three key defensive players for Garfield. ... Copley defeated Firestone 49-19 last week after opening the season with a 34-20 loss at Streetsboro. ... Copley's Lucas Tielsch, a Minnesota recruit, is one of the best left tackles in the area. ... Andrew McKnight caught three touchdown passes from Dane Wininger, including a 99-yarder, in Copley's win over Firestone. Wininger and Bryce Martin each ran for two TDs, and Jaylen Owens had two interceptions. Hendrix Sickels, Donovan Crook and Rhalachai Childs are three of Copley's best defenders. • Who will win: Copley 28-21 **Buchtel (0-2) vs. Mentor Lake Catholic (1-1)**
- What to watch: Although the Griffins led most of the way in a 25-6 loss to Warren Harding, they couldn't get out of their own way in a five-interception performance. They also had three snaps go over the intended target that resulted in a combined minus-38 yards and a safety. ... A blocked punt and fumble recovery by Marty Loncar led to two short fields and touchdowns in Lake Catholic's 21-14 win over Avon Lake. ... The Griffins have scored only six points the first two weeks. ... Lake Catholic is tied for 11th in Division IV, Region 13. Buchtel is tied for 17 th.

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- Who will win: Lake Catholic 35-0 *We occasionally recommend interesting products and services. If you make a purchase by clicking one of the links, we may earn an affiliate fee. USA TODAY Network newsrooms operate independently, and this doesn't influence our coverage.*