

Beacon Journal All-Greater Akron defensive team for 2025



Walsh Jesuit's Caden Carter (3) makes a tackle against Avon in a Division II state semifinal on Nov. 28
ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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“He’s a very talented player, but what sets him apart from others is his relentless effort. He never stops.”

Those are words of Hoban coach Tim Tyrrell about linebacker Brayton Feister, but anyone who has ever watched the junior player knows he has a motor that doesn’t stop.

Feister is the Beacon Journal’s Defensive Player of the Year and has a good chance to repeat the feat in 2026.

Feister has received 25 Division I offers from schools that include Oregon, Michigan, USC, Colorado and Indiana and will add even more big schools this offseason.

See DEFENSIVE, Page 5B

Hoban’s Brayton Feister (18) eyes the St. Edward offensive line on Oct. 24.

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By the time his senior season begins, it wouldn’t be a surprise to see every team in the college football playoffs dole out an offer to him.



And why not? On offense, he rushed for 1,098 yards and 17 touchdowns on 116 carries.

Defensively, he led the Knights back to a regional final and was named the Division II Co-Defensive Player of the Year with Cincinnati Anderson senior linebacker Brady Kuhn.

Feister leads our 24-player All-Greater Akron defense.

Check out the team below, including information on each player.

2025 Beacon Journal All-Greater Akron High School Defensive Football Team

Defensive linemen: Ace Brown, Hoban; Gavin Gindlesperger, Manchester; Dario Jeras, Walsh Jesuit; Patrick Kinsell, Hoban; Elijah Sedor, Revere Linebackers: Brayton Feister, Hoban; Joey Kopec, CVCA; Brydon Feister, Hoban; Nathan Judy, Hudson; Jacob Earnest, Wadsworth; Markus Brown, Norton; Jameson Gordon, Highland; Caden Carter, Walsh Jesuit; Tommy Kopec, CVCA; Nick Hall, Revere; Tarrell Robinson, East Defensive backs: Elbert Hill, Hoban; Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth; Maddox Smith, Mogadore; Grant Blascak, Walsh Jesuit; Anthony Paolucci, Hudson; Bryce Martin, Copley; Terrell Wharton, East Punter: Rylan Hurley, STVM **Defensive linemen Gavin Gindlesperger, Manchester**

6-1, 220, senior

The second-team Division V All-Ohioan made 50 tackles, 20 for loss, and logged 13 sacks with a fumble recovery.

Ace Brown, Hoban

6-3, 230, senior

The second-team Division II All-Ohioan and Colorado State commit made 44 tackles, 18 for loss, and registered 10 sacks with three forced fumbles.

Dario Jeras, Walsh Jesuit

6-2, 240, junior

The honorable mention Division II All-Ohioan made 67 tackles, 13 for loss, and registered six sacks for the state semifinalist Warriors.

Patrick Kinsell, Hoban

6-0, 222, senior

The honorable mention Division II All-Ohioan made 59 tackles, 23 for loss, and registered 14 sacks and two forced fumbles.

Elijah Sedor, Revere

6-1, 265, senior

The honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan made 50 tackles, 13 for loss, and registered a team-high 12 sacks.

Linebackers Brayton Feister, Hoban

6-3, 230, junior

The Co-Division II Defensive Player of the Year made 133 tackles, 39 for loss, and registered 13 sacks, four forced fumbles, had two interceptions and two defensive touchdowns. He also had 116 carries for 1,098 yards and 17 TDs.

Joey Kopec, CVCA

6-2, 210, senior

The Division III Co-Defensive Player of the Year, a Rutgers commit and a four-time All-Ohioan, made 51 tackles, four for loss, and registered three quarterback pressures, three pass breakups, two interceptions and two forced fumbles. He also had 110 carries for 907 yards and 13 touchdowns, and seven catches for 143 yards and one TD. Kopec shared his DPoY honor with Toledo Central Catholic senior defensive back Victor Singleton.

Brydon Feister, Hoban



Hudson's Nathan Judy breaks a tackle after a catch against St. Vincent-St. Mary on Sept. 5 in Akron.
PROVIDED BY KM KLEMENCIC

6-3, 210, sophomore

The first-team Division II All-Ohioan made 110 tackles, 22 for loss, and registered five sacks, forced two fumbles, recovered two fumbles and made an interception.

Nathan Judy, Hudson

Jacob Earnest, Wadsworth

6-4, 225, senior

The second-team Division II All-Ohioan made 98 tackles, eight for loss, and registered four sacks and an interception.

6-3, 230, senior

The second-team Division II All-Ohioan and Penn commit made 106 tackles, 10 for loss, and registered 2 1 / 2

sacks, an interception and a fumble recovery.

Markus Brown, Norton

5-11, 184, senior

The second-team Division IV All-Ohioan made 103 tackles, 10 for loss, and registered two sacks, a forced fumble and fumble recovery.

Jameson Gordon, Highland

6-3, 225, senior

The second-team Division II All-Ohioan made 71 tackles, 10 for loss, and registered three sacks, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

Caden Carter, Walsh Jesuit

6-1, 220, senior

The third-team Division II All-Ohioan and Bowling Green commit registered 96 tackles, six for loss, and registered four sacks, two interceptions and two defensive touchdowns.

Tommy Kopec, CVCA

6-0, 180, sophomore

The honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan made 61 tackles, five for loss, and registered three sacks, four quarterback pressures and four pass breakups.

Nick Hall, Revere

6-2, 165, senior

The honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan made 110 tackles, five for loss, and logged four interceptions, two sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Tarrell Robinson, East

5-9, 190, senior

The honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan made 70 tackles, 19 for loss, and registered three sacks, an interception, three fumbles recoveries, two forced fumbles and two defensive touchdowns.

Defensive backs Elbert Hill, Hoban

6-0, 180, senior

The first-team Division II All-Ohioan and USC commit made 43 tackles, five for loss, and registered nine interceptions and 33 pass breakups and blocked a punt.

Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth

6-0, 220, senior

The first-team Division II All-Ohioan and West Point commit made 89 tackles, 5 1 / 2 for loss, and registered two interceptions and forced a fumble.

Maddox Smith, Mogadore

6-1, 190, junior

The second-team Division VII All-Ohioan made 42 tackles and logged an interception. He also had 1,401 yards offense and scored 13 touchdowns.

Grant Blascak, Walsh Jesuit

6-3, 210, senior

The third-team Division II All-Ohioan made 106 tackles, five for loss, and registered seven pass breakups, two interceptions and a forced fumble.

Terrell Wharton, East

6-1, 17 0, senior

The third-team Division III All-Ohioan made 30 tackles and registered three interceptions. He also had 703 yards receiving and eight touchdowns on offense.

Anthony Paolucci, Hudson

5-10, 17 5, senior

The honorable mention Division II All-Ohioan made 53 tackles and registered five interceptions and forced a fumble.

Bryce Martin, Copley

5-11, 180, senior

The honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan logged an interception and rushed for 1,225 yards and 17 touchdowns.

James Brewer, Walsh Jesuit

6-2, 17 5, senior The second-team All-Northeast Inland selection and Ohio University commit made 45 tackles, three for loss, and registered seven pass breakups and two interceptions.

Punter Rylan Hurley, St. Vincent-St. Mary

5-9, 185, senior The first-team Division II All-Ohioan had a punting average of 46.8 yards and a long of 72 yards. He also made 95 tackles, six for loss, and registered two fumbles.

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