

Can Glenville take down another defending state champ? Week 3 football games to watch on Cleveland's west side

St. Ignatius at Avon HS football, August 21, 2025

- [Matt Goul, cleveland.com](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Glenville took down one defending OHSAA state football champion.

Now it looks to do it again.

The Tarblooders (2-0), who are [ranked No. 1 in the cleveland.com Northeast Ohio Top 25](#), head Friday night to the Avon Early Learning Center for what is becoming an annual Week 3 rivalry. They face No. 5 Avon (1-1), the defending Division II state champion that handed Glenville a [13-12 loss](#) last season in the rain.

The Eagles had racked up 28 straight wins in the regular season, including that performance last year and another win against the Tarblooders in 2023. In fact, Glenville was the last team to beat Avon in the regular season until the Eagles' trip last week to Florida against Spruce Creek.

Avon's [22-19 loss](#) came down to a late fourth-quarter turnover, which allowed the hosts to take the lead, followed by a 52-yard field goal that just missed sending the game into overtime.

Glenville, meanwhile, avenged last year's loss at Olentangy Liberty by taking down the defending Division I state champs with a [13-7 win](#) in Central Ohio. Kent State recruit Dion'dre Taylor led the Tarblooders' defense with three sacks and two forced fumbles. They had the Patriots shut out until the final 19 seconds. Additionally, running backs Romell Phillips and Da'von McDougle scored Glenville's touchdowns and paced the ground game, which should again be vital in this clash.

It's an area that concerned Avon coach Mike Elder after his team's [40-14 win](#) in Week 1 vs. St. Ignatius.

"We didn't run the ball as well as Avon normally runs the ball," he said, "and that makes it tough sledding."

The Eagles gained only 106 yards vs. St. Ignatius and its talented linebackers, but improved at Spruce Creek with 146 yards. Senior Cam Wendell rushed for 96 yards and all three touchdowns. They now face a Glenville defense led by Ohio State linebacker recruit Cincere Johnson and tackle Jamir Perez.

Here are four more games to watch on Cleveland's west side in Week 3. All are 7 p.m. Friday, unless noted:

High school football: Massillon vs Glenville, August 22, 2025

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No. 13 Olmsted Falls (1-1) at No. 9 Strongsville (2-0)

The Bulldogs challenge their third straight opponent from the Greater Cleveland Conference when they head to Pat Catan Stadium at Strongsville High School, where the Mustangs play their third straight game to start the season.

Strongsville, which escaped Avon Lake's rally and late two-point conversion try in Week 1, is coming off a 28-7 victory against Solon. Junior running back Kendrick Boddie has rushed for 448 yards and six touchdowns through those two games and will now face an Olmsted Falls defense led by junior linebacker Mason Cerovac, who holds scholarship offers from Kent State, Toledo and Massachusetts.

The Mustangs are led by Texas A&M recruit Storm Miller at middle linebacker for their defense, which looks to slow an Olmsted Falls offense led by senior running back Owen Singleton (181 yards and one TD last week in a 29-15 win vs. Brunswick), slotback Logan Connelly and junior quarterback Cam Pesch.

No. 10 Highland (2-0) at Avon Lake (0-2)

Former scrimmage partners, Highland and Avon Lake now meet for playoff positioning within Division II, Region 6 before their attention turns to conference opponents.

Highland is firing on all cylinders, especially on defense, after it swarmed Hudson last week with a [32-0 shutout](#). The Hornets now head to Avon Lake Memorial Stadium, which serves as the home opener for the Shoremen after narrow defeats at Strongsville and Lake Catholic, which took advantage of a blocked punt and turnovers for last week's upset.

The Shoremen rushed for only 49 yards last week as their offense cooled, but they outgained Lake Catholic by a margin of 212 to 164 yards. Much of their success came through the air, as Dawson TenBrink threw for 160 yards. Top receiver and Air Force commit Aidan Stewart (109 yards, three TDs on 10 receptions this season) had four receptions for only 19 yards against the Cougars, who are coached by Marty Gibbons — brother of Highland coach Mike Gibbons.

Expect Highland to lean on senior running back Casey Myser, who rushed for 99 yards and two TDs on 18 carries last week. He has 252 yards and five TDs so far through two weeks.

No. 23 North Ridgeville (2-0) at North Royalton (1-1)

The Rangers look for a fourth straight year of 3-0 starts, and they get that chance with this trip to Serpentine Stadium in North Royalton.

Both have a common opponent in Valley Forge, which the Rangers beat 37-12 last week. The Bears lost to the Patriots in Week 1, but rebounded for a 43-13 victory last week at Wooster. Coach Nick Ciulli's squad got touchdowns from Cam Saul, Rory Hanna and a Nolan Klingbeil pass to Nin Piazza in the first half to take control, while senior cornerback Tyler Rowles paced the defense with an interception, forced fumble and recovery.

Meanwhile, North Ridgeville used a big second quarter to get by Valley Forge. Senior running back Zack Barnhart, a starter since the Rangers' run of fast starts to the season as a freshman, rushed for 105 yards and two TDs.

Orange (0-2) at Fairview (1-1)

Both Fairview and Orange are coming off close losses and meet in a Chagrin Valley Conference crossover that could see plenty of points put on the scoreboard. That's because the host Warriors feature All-Ohio quarterback Burke Lowry and a potent passing game, while Orange likes to run with record-setting back Russell Tye, also a returning All-Ohioan.

Lowry has 668 yards and seven TDs through two games with top target and basketball teammates Will Allen (234 yards, three TDs) and Savijan Harris (184 yards, two TDs).

Orange is coming off a 22-19 loss to Chagrin Falls, while Fairview fell 27-20 last week at Columbia.