

2026 high school football | Akron-area Week 2 breakdowns, predictions

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It's Week 2 of the [Ohio high school football season](#), and it features a full slate of Greater Akron teams playing Friday, Aug. 28, and two teams facing off Saturday, Aug. 29.

[East](#) will travel to [Nordonia](#), with both teams coming off impressive wins, in what may be the top game of the night. But it has competition, with [Walsh Jesuit](#) hosting Clark County Springfield, and [Archbishop Hoban](#) looking for its first win in a home game against NFL Academy (U.K.).

Who will win? Keep reading and see which teams the Beacon Journal staff thinks have the upper hand.

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Friday's high school football games in the Greater Akron area

East (1-0) at Nordonia (1-0)

What to watch: Steven Fakult opened the season the way Nordonia would have hoped, throwing for 305 yards and five TDs in a 49-7 Week 1 win over St. Vincent-St. Mary ... The Knights will look to continue that arial attack against the Dragons. East will have to deal with a multitude of weapons, as Nordonia's Collin Atha, Dominick Jackson, Karsen Fisher and Brock Barwidi each caught a TD pass against STVM. ... The Knights defense gave up only one TD, but did allow 241 yards through the air. Fisher anchors the Knights defense at linebacker. ... East will look to Marcus Council, who rushed for a TD in a tight 12-7 win over Bedford. ... The Dragons defense will be tested after allowing just seven points in Week 1. ... Nordonia defeated East 39-7 last year at Boliantz Stadium.

Who will win: Nordonia 28-14

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Barberton (1-0) at Stow (0-1)

What to watch: The Bulldogs have a 15-12 all-time record against the Magics, have won the last two meetings and have been victorious in seven of the last nine meetings. ... Should Stow win, it would match its longest win streak (2019-21, 1999-2001, 1988-90) in the series. Barberton won three times in a row (2002-04). ... Barberton won in coach Pyrce Taylor's debut last week when the Magics beat Firestone 41-6 at home. ... Jackson Hanlin sparked in his debut at quarterback for Barberton, throwing for five touchdown and running for another to account for 36 of the Magics' 41 points. Mareon Peters (two TDs) was his main target, with Cleophus Thompson, Vernon Reynolds Jr and Noah Wright also connecting on scores through the air. ... The Bulldogs narrowly lost 36-34 to Aurora on the road in coach Dan Larlham's debut. ... Stow quarterback Gideon Larlham looked sharp in his debut, guiding the Bulldogs to 321 yards total offense with touchdown passes to Caden Boyd and Colten Barker. Larlham also had a rushing touchdown and Barker scored on a touchdown pass from Boyd. ... Jack Miller accounted for a touchdown on defense with a 35-yard fumble return.

Who will win: Stow 28-21

Clark Co. Springfield (1-0) at Walsh Jesuit (1-0)

What to watch: The Wildcats and Warriors meet for the first time in school history, according to the Walsh Jesuit football website. ... The Warriors played one of the most impressive games in Week 1 with a 34-0 win over two-time reigning Division II regional finalist Highland. ... The defense only gave up 69 yards and forced three turnovers. Mason Rodgers (11 carries, 87 yards, TD) and Dom Courtad (14 carries, 68 yards, TD) led the Warriors' rushing attack. David Ternosky was 8-for-13 passing for 158 yards. His main target was Cayden LeVert (three receptions, 94 yards). ... It was the fifth season in a row coach Nick Anderson opened the season with a victory. ... Springfield stopped Winton Woods' two-point conversion in overtime to win 14-13 in Week 1 to snap a three-game losing streak to the Warriors. All-Ohio quarterback CJ Wallace was 17-for-25 passing for 224 yards and a touchdown pass ... Springfield's rushing attack was lackluster, picking up 42 yards on 17 carries (2.5 average) but, true to form, the Wildcats defense, led by three-star Colorado commit Jahmiere Daniels-Portis, picked off Winton Woods quarterback Josiah Jones twice.

Who will win: Walsh Jesuit 35-14

NFL Academy, UK (1-0) at Archbishop Hoban (0-1)

What to watch: In Week 1, Hoban lost 28-24 to host West Orange in Winter Garden, Fla., and NFL Academy won 44-24 over Marietta (Georgia) in Loughborough, England. ... Hoban's defense had its hands full last week as West Orange QB AJ Chung completed 21 of 33 passes for 310 yards and three touchdowns, according to Chris Hays of the Orlando Sentinel. Chung threw a 15-yard TD pass to Mikel Victor, a 43-yard TD pass to Jayden Ammons and a 30-yard TD pass to Yuto Kawamura-Johnson. Ammons added a rushing TD. ... Hoban QB Israel "Major" Cribbs ran for 176 yards and a touchdown on seven carries against West Orange. Cribbs' 56-yard TD run and a PAT by Jeremy Hammel gave Hoban a 24-14 lead with 3:02 to go in the third quarter. Cribbs also had an 89-yard run to set up Jaiden Daniels' 6-yard TD, Kahlil Diming contributed a 5-yard TD run and Hammel made a 55-yard field goal. ... NFL Academy has players from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America and South America. ... NFL Academy finished with 498 yards of offense, including 344 rushing yards, according to John Bednarowski of the Marietta Daily Journal. NFL Academy's offensive linemen average 6-foot-4 and 300 pounds. German OL Niko Kampas (6-7, 295) has committed to play at Tennessee. German LB-DE Adeola Werner (6-4, 244) has committed to Texas Tech. ... Canadians Nathan Morris, Andrew Gomon and Viktor LaChambre are players to watch on offense. Morris had 15 carries for 137 yards and two TDs last week. Gomon ran for 68 yards and two TDs. LaChambre, a QB committed to Rice, completed 9 of 19 passes for 154 yards, two touchdowns and an interception, and ran for 83 yards.

Who will win: Hoban 35-28

Hudson (1-0) at Jackson (1-0)

What to watch: Both of these Region 1 teams earned quality road wins in Week 1. Carter Muhleman threw for three touchdowns, Chase Maurer rushed for 110 yards and the Polar Bears pitched a second-half shutout in [winning 34-13](#) at Chardon. Hudson led 24-3 at the half vs. Austintown Fitch and held on for a 24-19 win. Explosive senior RB Reno Ferri caught a touchdown, ran for a score and finished with 93 yards on 21 carries. Dual-threat QB Hayden Lipinski was 10-of-15 passing for 73 yards and one TD. ... The 6-foot-5 Muhleman hit five different receivers in his 19 completions for 256 yards last week. Micah Regimbal caught eight passes for 81 yards. Lucas Yoder's two catches were touchdowns of 54 and 26 yards. ... Jackson returns 29 lettermen from last year. Hudson brings back 19 lettermen from last year's 10-3 team that lost 35-3 to Hoban in the third round of the Division II playoffs. Hudson opted to play in Division I this season. Ohio

University commit Otto Grill (6-7, 285) anchors a big Hudson offensive line. ... Jackson coach Jay Rohr is very impressed with safeties Anthony Paolucci and Jack Williams from a Hudson defense that registered six shutouts last year. "Those two guys do it all," Rohr said. Paolucci also is dangerous at wide receiver and in the return game. Williams returned a fumble 39 yards for a touchdown last week. Hudson also got two scores (a field goal and a TD) after blocked punts against Fitch. ... Rohr lauded Hudson's scheme and smarts as much as its size and skill. "It might come down to the most disciplined team will be the one to come out victorious," he said. ... This is the first Jackson-Hudson matchup since Week 3 of 2010, a 16-9 Polar Bears win at Hudson. Jackson and Hudson faced each other for eight consecutive seasons from 2003-10, with the Polar Bears going 5-3.

Who will win: Jackson 23-21

Buchtel (0-1) at Indian Valley (1-0)

What to watch: Buchtel makes the drive to Gnadenhutten to meet Indian Valley, the Division IV state champion in 2024 and a Division IV state semifinalist in 2025. ... Buchtel lost 35-8 last week at Hoover. Griffins QB Arthur Thomas threw a TD pass to Trayvion Jones. ... Indian Valley rolled Green 42-13 last week in Gnadenhutten, running for 390 yards and finishing with 523 yards of total offense. Ryker Williams, Reese St. Clair, Brett O'Connor and Bodie Raymond each ran for a TD for Indian Valley last week. Williams also threw TD passes to Carsen Hostetler and Colt James. St. Clair finished with 190 yards on 10 carries. Williams added 83 yards on 14 carries, and completed 10 of 15 passes for 151 yards. O'Connor had seven carries for 66 yards. ... Indian Valley has won 23 consecutive regular-season games.

Who will win: Indian Valley 28-14

Highland (0-1) at Strongsville (1-0)

What to watch: The Hornets and Mustangs meet for the first time in school history, according to fourseasonsfootball.com. Highland's 69-game streak without being shut out was snapped at the same time its 20-game regular-season winning streak ended in a 34-0 loss to Walsh Jesuit at home last week. ... The Hornets put the ball on the ground four times, lost two of them and threw an interception. No one had more than 35 yards of offense. ... The Mustangs allowed Avon Lake to run off 22 straight points but held on to beat the Shoremen 24-22 behind senior linebacker George Majernik, who had a sack, forced fumble, interception and scored a defensive TD.

Who will win: Strongsville 14-10

Wadsworth (1-0) at Hilliard Davidson (1-0)

What to watch: The Grizzlies and Wildcats meet for the first time in school history, according to fourseasonsfootball.com Wadsworth beat Cleveland Heights 28-6 in Week 1. Brysen Hall was 21-for-28 passing for 265 yards and three touchdowns. Jay'len King caught seven passes for 148 yards and had two touchdowns. ... The defense held Tigers quarterback Brayden Higgins to 189 yards passing and picked him off twice. ... Davidson beat Mansfield Senior 30-6 behind in quarterback Joe Warino's 2026 debut. ... Davidson also has a trio of two-way standouts in WR/DB Armon McCoy, DE/TE Grady Kowalksi and LB/TE Carson Metzger. ... Last week's win snapped five-game losing streak dating back to Sept. 19, 2026 (Maysville, 22-7).

Who will win: Wadsworth 35-7

Manchester (0-1) at Streetsboro (0-1)

What to watch: After dropping their opener for the first time since 2022, the Rockets hope to avoid their first 0-2 start since 2018. There were positives to take from [Streetsboro's](#) 28-20 opening loss to Copley (which figures to be one of the better teams in the Suburban American), including senior running back Logan Fincham's 27 carries for 141 yards and a touchdown. Fincham was also one of three Rockets players to record two tackles for loss, alongside Jerry Benci and Jaxson Fedor. A week ago, Manchester gave up 186 rushing yards and two touchdowns on nine carries to Kentucky commit Tristin Hughes in a 28-7 loss to Rocky River.

Who will win: Streetsboro 31-21

Canton South (0-1) at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (0-1)

What to watch: After its first regular-season loss since Week 2 of 2024, the Royals will look to rebound at home. ... CVCA will try to establish its running game after being outrushed by Brecksville in Week 1. ... Tommy Kopec led the Royals with 80 yards rushing and TD vs. Brecksville. ... QB Alex Mammone will look to bounce back after throwing for just 20 yards in Week 1. ... Canton South also is looking for its first win after a 20-6 loss to Sugarcreek Garaway in Week 1.

Who will win: CVCA 21-7

Perry (1-0) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (0-1)

What to watch: This is the third year in a row the schools have met and the third time in school history. The Panthers own a 2-1 edge and have shut out the Irish the last two

seasons (36-0 in 2025 and 17-0 in 2024). ... While STVM lost 49-7 to Nordonio to open the season, the Irish were able to move the ball. QB Will Adamson finished 18-of-40 passing for 241 yards. ... Perry beat Canton Central Catholic 42-7 behind Jonathan Lemon, who rushed for 157 yards and returned a kickoff for a score.

Who will win: Perry 35-7

Firestone (0-1) at Copley (1-0)

What to watch: Copley defeated visiting Streetsboro 28-20 last week and Firestone lost 41-6 to Barberton. ... Copley QB Dane Wininger completed 11 of 19 passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns, one apiece to Jalen Owens, Breylen Stanford and Mason Chapman, in Week 1. Owens added 14 carries for 106 yards and a TD. Copley's defense is led by Landon Dorsey and Justin Chatmon. ... Donniven Younger, Lennox Wells, Carleon Smart, Shaquille Lundy and Kyrel El-Travis are players to watch for Firestone.

Who will win: Copley 35-14

Mogadore (1-0) at Canton Central Catholic (0-1)

What to watch: The [Wildcats](#) bounced back in 2025, shaking off a .500 season with an 11-2 record. They carried that momentum into 2026, with a [highly impressive opening performance against Crestwood](#), including holding the Red Devils to a handful of first downs entering the fourth quarter. On the offensive side, quarterback Maddox Smith passed for 143 yards and ran for 59 and fellow senior Kade Thomas made an impact all over the field, even showing an ability to run between the tackles after typically excelling at receiver in the past. The Crusaders, coming off a 1-9 season, lost by 35 to Perry in their opener, but it's worth noting they typically play an excruciating schedule, including opening with the Division II Panthers. Moreover, the Crusaders returned 25 letterwinners, including dual-threat quarterback Brock Bourquin and running back Kenny Stroud.

Who will win: Mogadore 28-21

Sheffield Brookside at Woodridge (0-1)

What to watch: Woodridge will look to continue the momentum after a solid win at Revere in Week 1. ... QB Blake Pumper threw for 275 yards with three TDs and an interception against Revere. He picked up after a slow start and looks to have numerous weapons available. ... Carter Maxa snagged two TD passes, and Johnathan Tyree ran for 150 yards and a TD in Week 1. Tyree also looked good, catching passes out of the

backfield, including a 60-yard TD. ... Brookside lost a 64-42 shootout to University School in Week 1.

Who will win: Woodridge 42-21

North (0-1) at Cuyahoga Falls (0-1)

What to watch: North and Cuyahoga Falls are in search of a victory after each lost last week. Cuyahoga Falls lost 34-0 at home to Willoughby South and North lost 39-12 at Warren Champion. ... Falls beat North 33-12 in 2025. ... North's Mykavion King caught a TD pass from Carmelo Felding and returned a kickoff for a TD last week against Champion.

Who will win: Cuyahoga Falls 21-14

Twinsburg (0-1) at Bedford (0-1)

What to watch: Twinsburg coach Charles Saulter returns to his old stomping ground, as the Tigers will look to rebound from tight loss in Week 1. ... Twinsburg had Kent Roosevelt on the ropes in Week 1, leading 19-7 heading into the fourth quarter before the Rough Riders rallied for a 22-19 win.

Who will win: Twinsburg 28-14

Coventry (0-1) at Rittman (1-0)

What to watch: Coventry seeks to rebound from a 47-0 loss to host Girard in Week 1. The Comets hit the road again to meet Rittman, a 52-0 winner at home last week over Cleveland John F. Kennedy. ... Rittman ran for 310 yards, with Carson Smith contributing 164 yards and two TDs and Rocco Taylor adding 67 yards and two TDs, last week.

Who will win: Rittman 49-7

Sandy Valley (0-1) at Norton (1-0)

What to watch: The Cardinals and Panthers meet for the first time in school history, according to fourseasonsfootball.com. ... Trey Kersten went 9-of-14 passing for 173 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score in a 49-7 win over Garfield. Alex Meinen caught all three TDs and finished with 104 receiving yards. Jason Beverly ran for three TDs. ... Sandy Valley lost 44-6 to Fairless in Week 1. Natch Overly's 1-yard touchdown run kept the Cardinals from being shut out.

Who will win: Norton 49-0

Minerva (0-1) at Springfield (0-1)

What to watch: Springfield managed only a field goal in its season-opening loss to Waterloo. ... The Spartans will look to wide receiver Dustin Sabolek and tight end Isaac Ternosky to find the end zone for the first time this season. ... Minerva also will try to rebound after the Lions were routed 42-7 by Hanoverton United in Week 1.

Who will win: Springfield 14-7

Hoover (1-0) at Medina (0-1)

What to watch: This is the second time in a row and second time in school history the two teams meet. Last season, the Vikings beat Medina 42-17. ... The Bees lost 27-7 to Findlay last week despite a solid performance by quarterback Adam Barr (30-for-47 passing, 290 yards, TD and two interceptions). .. Hoover scored the first 25 points in a 35-8 win over Buchtel last week. .. Hoover's Nolan Bonner rushed for three touchdowns. Michael Lammlein ran for 122 yards, Justin Oster recovered two fumbles, Brady Hassen recovered one fumble and Connor Doyle intercepted a pass for the Vikings.

Who will win: Hoover 42-14

Marlington (1-0) at Northwest (1-0)

What to watch: [Marlington](#) and [Northwest](#) meet in Week 2 for the sixth consecutive season, with [Northwest](#) holding a 4-1 edge over the [Dukes](#). ... WR Cam Evanich started the year strong for Marlington, as expected. Evanich caught four passes for 80 yards and a TD and ran for 70 yards on 10 carries. ... Northwest was expecting big things from LBs Connor Stephenson and Jakob Garber. Both lived up to that billing in a win over Alliance. Stephenson made 18 tackles and Garber played well at linebacker, contributed 50 yards rushing and also had a strong game as the punter.

Who will win: Northwest 28-21

Saturday's high school football games in the Greater Akron area

Revere (1-0) vs. Garfield (0-1) at Kenmore Stadium

What to watch: Revere and Garfield are each seeking a victory after losing last week. ... Woodridge defeated Revere 25-15 last week. Twin brothers Brady Hajdu and Carter Hajdu each ran for a TD for Revere. ... Norton beat Garfield 49-7 last week. Darius Sales threw a TD pass to Ja'Von Jackson.

Who will win: Revere 35-14

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