

## FOOTBALL

# Ohio high school football's Top 10 Greater Akron linebackers to watch



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## Key Points

The Greater Akron area is home to several top-ranked high school linebackers ahead of the 2026 football season.

CVCA's Tommy Kopec, a Class of 2028 prospect, is ranked as the top linebacker and has already received a Big Ten offer.

Several athletes on the list have already received college interest or have committed to universities like Toledo and Rutgers.

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As we prepare for the start of the [2026 Ohio high school football season](#), we're breaking down the top players by position. Throughout the preseason, we're ranking the top 10 Greater Akron quarterbacks, running backs, receivers/tight ends, offensive linemen, defensive linemen, linebackers, defensive backs, specialists and two-way players.

Today, we look at the top 10 linebackers, starting with a Power 5 recruit who was a backbone of a defense that reached the Division III state semifinals.

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## 1. Tommy Kopec CVCA, 6-1, 210 pounds, Class of 2028

[Big brother Joey](#) is now at Rutgers. However, Tommy has a chance to be just as good as his brother, having started at linebacker for CVCA since his freshman

year. Kopec was all over the field last year, finishing with 70 tackles, five QB pressures, five tackles for loss, three sacks and an interception. He already has received an offer to join Joey at Rutgers and is attracting attention from Big Ten schools.

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## **2. Karsen Fisher Nordon, 6-3, 225 pounds, Class of 2027**

The fact Fisher plays wide receiver on offense tells you everything you need to know about his speed. Fisher committed to play at the University of Toledo this summer over Army and Pittsburgh. In 2025, he finished with 79 tackles, along with three tackles for loss, 1½ sacks, a forced fumble and an interception. He could play as a edge rusher at the next level.

## **3. James Robinson Tallmadge, 6-2, 210 pounds, Class of 2027**

A third-team All-Ohio selection as a sophomore, Robinson will look to bounce back in his senior year. As a sophomore, Robinson was a tackling machine, finishing with 111 tackles and 16 tackles for loss. A healthy year could help him garner attention from Power Five colleges.

## **4. Evan Foust Highland, 5-11, 208 pounds, Class of 2027**

The reigning Suburban League American Conference co-defensive player of year returns to the center of the Hornets defense, as Highland shifts to the National Conference. Foust finished with 73 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, and five forced fumbles in 2025. Bucknell University and several Division II colleges have shown interest.

## **5. Jason Beverly Norton, 5-10, 170 pounds, Class of 2027**

Let's see. Three-sport athlete, two-way starter, All-Ohio wrestler, tough as nails ... yep, Beverly fits the mold of a Norton linebacker. He will pick up more time in

the middle after the Panthers lost some serious power to graduation. Last year, Beverly finished with 70 tackles, eight for loss and four sacks.

## **6. Emmett Tobin Walsh Jesuit, 5-11, 190 pounds, Class of 2027**

Marty Tobin was a major force in Walsh's run to the state semifinals a year ago. The Warriors expect his younger brother to be a force this fall as it rebuilds its linebacking corp. In limited time last season, Tobin finished with 37 tackles, eight for loss and half a sack.

## **7. Luke Kinser Wadsworth, 6-3, 220 pounds, Class of 2027**

After losing a ton of talent to graduation, Wadsworth will turn to Kinser to help anchor its defense after he transferred from Orrville. He has the physical mold of a Power Five linebacker, but was hurt much of last season. Kinser managed 78 tackles in just five games last fall for the Orrville.

## **8. Reed Jones CVCA, 5-11, 200 pounds, Class of 2027**

How can CVCA lose a player like Joey Kopec and still have one of the best linebacking corps in the area? Because this young man is back. Jones played on the weakside for CVCA last fall and had what coach Nick Cook called a breakout season. He finished with 50 tackles, four QB pressures, one interception and one defensive TD.

## **9. Nathaniel Lahoski Woodridge, 5-10, 185 pounds, Class of 2029**

Looking for a future superstar? As a freshman, Lahoski was among the leading tacklers last season for the Bulldogs in their 4-2-5 defense. The Lahoski name is a lot to live up to at Woodridge — the family name is on the stadium — but he looks primed to carry on the family legacy.

## **10. Caden Boyd Stow, 5-6, 165 pounds, Class of 2027**

Boyd is a two-way, three-year starter for the Bulldogs and will be back at the heart of their defense again. He will be looking for a fresh start under new coach Dan Larlham.

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