

High school football | Akron-area Week 4 breakdowns, predictions

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It's [Week 4](#) of the [Ohio high school football season](#), with 25 games featuring [Greater Akron](#) teams.

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.

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Friday's football games in the Greater Akron area

Walsh Jesuit (3-0) vs. St. Ignatius (0-3)

- **What to watch:** The Warriors come in on a 16-game regular season unbeaten streak, including a 42-7 win last season in Week 3. Walsh is coming off a 30-6 win over Clarkson North, Ontario. ... St. Ignatius dropped a 35-21 decision to unbeaten Mentor when the Cardinals scored 21 unanswered points in a second-half rally to extend the Wildcats' losing streak to 11 games. ... The Walsh-Ignatius game will be played at Don Shula Stadium on the campus of John Carroll University. ... Iowa State commit Milan Parris, who just picked up an offer from the Miami Hurricanes, is the top target in the passing game with 15 catches for 280 yards and four touchdowns. He also threw a TD pass in last week's win. ... David Ternosky (30-of-49 passing, 402 yards, four TDs) leads the passing attack. Marty Tobin (34 carries, 340 yards, two TDs) and Carlos Smith (25 carries, 96 yards, TD) are the go-to backs for the Warriors. ... Dario Jeras (28 tackles, three for loss, sack), Caden Carter (19 tackles, one for loss, two interceptions) and James Brewer (18 tackles, tackle for loss, four pass breakups, interception) lead the defense. ... Expect RB Jake Bobinski to take the lion's share of the carries for St. Ignatius behind Pitt commit and OT Mike Vanderoord. The Wildcats have a talented group of receivers with Luke Simms and Trey Haddad, who holds an offer from West Virginia. ... Dane Donovan took over at QB for senior Daniel Chalhoub, who got hurt in 40-14 season opener against Avon. ... LBs Quinn Kennedy, Nick Rivera and James Conrad are the heart of the defense. ... The Wildcats have faced opponents that are a combined 7-2. ... Walsh Jesuit is fifth and St. Ignatius tied for 15th in Division I, Region 1.
- **Who will win:** Walsh Jesuit 35-21

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Wadsworth (3-0) at North Royalton (1-2)

- **What to watch:** The Grizzlies and Bears shared the Suburban League National Conference last season despite North Royalton playing one less league game. The Bears did that with a 44-37 win in Week 10 to ruin Wadsworth's undefeated season. It snapped a 15-game winning streak by Wadsworth against Ohio opponents. ... Wadsworth holds a 16-4 series edge against North Royalton. ... Wadsworth bounced back a week later and took North Royalton out of the playoffs in a 38-7 victory at Art Wright Stadium. ... The Grizzlies are coming off a 47-0 win over Medina. ... The Bears lost 16-6 to undefeated North Ridgeville. ... The Grizzlies have a great one-two punch at running back in all-state stars Cooper Gray (24 carries, three TDs) and Gavin Madigan (25 carries, 205 yards, four TDs). ... Brysen Hall continues to light up the competition and is 37-of-52 passing for 748 yards and nine TDs. The sophomore threw his first interception of the season last week against Medina. Calix Lemp (14 catches, 307 yards, four TDs) is his primary receiver. ... All-Ohio LB Jacob Earnest (15 tackles, two for loss, interception for a TD) is the leader of the defense. ... North Royalton QB Nathan Klingbell is 36-of-74 passing for 498 yards and five TDs. ... Two of those went to Nick Piazza, who has 157 yards receiving and 14 catches. Cameron Saul (35 carries, 187 yards, two TDs) paces the rushing attack. ... The Grizzlies are atop Division II, Region 6. The Bears are 20th.
- **Who will win:** Wadsworth 44-7

Aurora (1-2) at Highland (3-0)

- **What to watch:** What is this game doing in Week 4 when Aurora-Highland has been the de facto Suburban League American Conference championship game each of the last three seasons? ... The two teams have had different nonconference results ... Highland has looked unstoppable, outscoring its three opponents 115-17 over the first three weeks. ... RB Casey Myser continues to be the Hornets' main man, as he ran for 84 yards and a TD in Highland's Week 3 win over Avon Lake. ... Highland QB Grady Gibb is finding his feet, passing for 171 yards

and running for 121 yards, as well as four TDs in the win over the Shoremen. ... Aurora will look to bounce back after suffering its [second come-from behind loss of the season vs. backyard rival](#) Twinsburg in Week 3. ... RB Xavier Board has been the mainstay for the Greenmen offense, as he ran for 76 yards and two TDs vs. Twinsburg.

Who will win: Highland 35-21

Buchtel (0-3) at Kenston (1-2)

What to watch: [Buchtel](#) is seeking its first win of 2025 after losing to Hoover (30-0), Warren Harding (25-6) and Mentor Lake Catholic (36-6). ... Griffins QB Arthur Thomas is 29-of-70 passing for 287 yards with two TDs and seven interceptions. Terrell Hall has eight catches for 119 yards and a TD and Dwight Shade five catches for 69 yards and a TD. ... Buchtel's Quadire Harvey has 22 tackles (11 solo and five for loss) and Kylar Wilson has three sacks. ... Kenston opened the season with a 30-13 win over Solon and then lost to Lake County Perry 35-30 and Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin 48-45 in three overtimes.

Who will win: Kenston 28-14

East (2-1) at Hoban (3-0)

What to watch: The Knights are coming off [a last-second win on a field goal by Jeremy Hammel](#) that lifted them over Michigan Division III state runner-up Detroit King. ... Nick Kinsey threw three TD passes last week. ... Brayton Feister (five), Jance Henry (two) and Payton Cook (two) have multiple TDs for Hoban. ... East is coming off [a 27-20 win over Canton South](#) and is led by Marlin Engram Jr. (25-of-51 passing, 292 yards, three TDs) and Lawrence Cherry Jr. (32 carries, 235 yards, TD). .. Hoban is ninth in Division II, Region 5. East is 11th in Division III, Region 9.

Who will win: Hoban 42-7

Alliance (2-1) at Ellet (1-2)

What to watch: [Alliance](#) and [Ellet](#) will meet for the third consecutive season, with the Aviators 2-0 after a 46-24 win last year. ... Ellet has given up at least 23 points in each game this year. ... Brandon Knowles is a physical RB for Ellet and Terrance Parker Jr. is a talented QB. Parker ran for two touchdowns and threw a TD pass to Trey Carter in last week's 40-20 loss to Kent Roosevelt. ... Alliance defeated Streetsboro 46-13 last week with QB JR Jackson accounting for four total touchdowns. Jackson threw for 238 yards and three TDs, and ran for 83 yards and a TD. Taije Nicholson caught two TD passes and Ravhan Hawkins returned an offensive fumble for a TD and also ran for a 58-yard TD. ... Jackson has accounted for 1,000 yards of total offense in three games. Jackson is 54-of-76 passing for 692 yards with four TDs and one interception. He has run for 338 yards and three TDs. ... Nicholson has 13 catches for 253 yards and two TDs this season. ... Hawkins has 46 carries for 338 yards with three TDs for the Aviators.

Who will win: Alliance 35-14

Firestone (0-3) at Willoughby South (1-2)

What to watch: [Firestone](#) is aiming for its first win of 2025 after losses to Rocky River (52-7), Copley (49-19) and Manchester (45-7). ... Donniven Younger, Elijah Grice, Gucciano Stephens and Evan Riley are four of Firestone's top playmakers. ... Willoughby opened the season with a 34-0 win over Cuyahoga Falls and then lost 48-29 to Lake County Madison and 40-34 in overtime to Brush.

Who will win: Willoughby South 28-21

Garfield (1-1) at CVCA (2-0)

What to watch: [Garfield](#) will try to rebound from a 41-0 loss to Copley last week after opening the season with a 21-19 win over Southeast and being idle in Week 2. ... The Golden Rams were penalized for more than 100 yards last week with several false starts and offsides infractions. ... Darius Sales, Dominique Douglas, Ziiyahn Blair and Jamir Jenkins are four of Garfield's top players. ... [CVCA](#) rolled through its first two opponents, beating Canton South 42-14 and Woodridge 49-0. ... Rutgers recruit Joey Kopec ran for 131 yards and three TDs on just six carries against Woodridge. His brother, Tommy Kopec, had a 59-yard TD run, Mason Frye contributed a 60-yard TD run, Wesley Keeler added a 4-yard TD run and QB Charley Levak completed a 22-yard TD pass to Zac Anderson.

Who will win: CVCA 49-7

North (1-2) at Lexington (2-1)

What to watch: [North](#) looks to get back in the win column after losses to Cuyahoga Falls (33-12) and Hoover (64-0) after opening the season with a 23-6 win over St. Thomas Aquinas. ... Jair Bell, Jeffrey Williams and Nate Ruffin are three key playmakers for the Vikings. ... Lexington's season features a 36-16 win over Ontario, a 37-13 loss to Shelby and a 31-28 win over Clear Fork.

Who will win: Lexington 42-7

Warren Harding (1-2) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (0-3)

What to watch: St. Vincent-St. Mary will try to get out of neutral this week after three straight shutouts against Nordonio, Perry and Hudson. ... Expect Duke Clayton and Rylan Hurley to have breakout games. ... The Raiders return to Akron after beating Buchtel 25-6 for their only win. They scored the last 25 points in that one and had two pick sixes in the final minutes to make the score look worse than it was. James Jones (27-of-49 passing, 335 yards, three TDs) is the quarterback, but wildcat QB Satavian Hill is sneaky fast. ... It's a running-back-by-committee offense for Harding. ... Julius Ferrell (11 catches, 130 yards, two TDs) is arguably Harding's best player.

Who will win: STVM 21-6

Barberton (0-3) at Cuyahoga Falls (1-2)

What to watch: [Cuyahoga Falls](#) is set to host its final game on the natural grass at Clifford Stadium against rival [Barberton](#). Clifford Stadium opened in 1940 with bleacher seating and lights for Friday night football games after Cuyahoga Falls had played games on the lot for years prior to that. ... Cuyahoga Falls is scheduled to open its new stadium at its new high school against Aurora (Oct. 3). ... Cuyahoga Falls lost 29-8 to Southeast last week after losing 34-0 to Willoughby South in Week 1 and defeating North 33-12 in Week 2. ... The Black Tigers are led by Waseem Mustafa, Jordan Saunders, Zachary Coleman, Madden Horner, Josh Bell, Gavanni Tuttle and Jayden Weirs. ... Barberton has struggled in losses to Wadsworth (55-7), Stow (49-14) and South Range (48-7). ... The Magics' top players are Noah Wright, Jackson Hanlin, Angelo Gotto, Ricco Varner, Brice Crowe, Trent Dewitt and Jamar McCray.

Who will win: Cuyahoga Falls 28-21

Revere (2-0) at Kent Roosevelt (2-1)

What to watch: This could be an interesting start to the Suburban League American Conference season for both teams. ... Revere has averaged 34.5 points in its two victories, anchored by RB Johlil Blanchard.... Blanchard ran for 159 yards and two TDs in [the Minutemen's Week 3 win over Valley Forge](#). ... [Kent Roosevelt](#) comes in after a 40-20 bounce-back win over Ellet. Gavin Peeps and Ke'Shan Talbert lead the Rough Riders.

Who will win: Revere 28-14

Tallmadge (1-2) at Copley (2-1)

What to watch: [Copley](#) opens Suburban League American Conference play after a dominant 41-0 win over Garfield in Week 3 ... Copley QB Dane Wininger threw three TD passes to Andrew McKnight and ran for two other TDs against Garfield. Wininger completed 9 of 19 passes for 146 yards and ran for 24 yards on five carries. McKnight finished with seven catches for 121 yards and also recorded an interception. ... Copley's Collin Witherspoon II also recorded an interception against Garfield, Jalen Owens forced a fumble on a kickoff return and Jacob Kuczkowski recovered the ball and scored a TD. ... Copley's Bryce Martin ran for 94 yards on 14 carries versus Garfield, and Minnesota recruit Lucas Tielsch is having a big season as an offensive and defensive lineman. ... By contrast, [Tallmadge](#) will have to rebound after a 42-7 loss to Green. ... QB Braxton Dente has had an up-and-down start to the season, as he went 5-of-12 passing for 115 yards and a TD against Green.

Who will win: Copley 21-14

Twinsburg (3-0) at Stow (2-1)

What to watch: Twinsburg and Stow each are off to their best starts in years. After an overtime win over Aurora in Week 3, [the Tigers are 3-0](#), while the Bulldogs have a winning record after nonconference play for the first time under Martin Poder. This game could come down to a quarterback battle between Stow's Jake Harrington and Twinsburg's Dylan Fantone, both of whom are coming off huge games.

Who will win: Stow 20-17

Solon (1-2) at Hudson (2-1)

What to watch: These two National Conference rivals open league play after different wins in Week 3. ... Hudson bounced back in style [with a 49-0 win over St. Vincent-St. Mary](#), anchored by a four-TD game by RB Reno Ferri. ... By contrast, Solon picked up its first win, 10-7 over Shaker Heights. Look for Hudson's running game to continue to roll.

Who will win: Hudson 35-10

Nordonio (3-0) at Brecksville (2-1)

What to watch: The Knights are 7-2 against the Bees since joining the Suburban League National Conference and have won four in a row. ... On the surface, Nordonio lost the most talent of anyone in Greater Akron, yet the Knights continue to rack up wins. ... Last week, it was a 59-46 win over Mayfield in which Steven Fakult (16-of-21 passing, 335 yards, four TDs) took a huge step toward becoming the elite quarterback he is expected to be. ... The Knights are scoring almost 47 points per game this season with a low of 39 points in Week 2 against

East. ... Brecksville could be the last team with a winning record the Knights play until Week 7, so expect points to continue to stack up as the Knights build toward the postseason. ... Fakult is 30-of-61 passing for 630 yards and eight TDs without an interception. Dominick Jackson (10 receptions, 309 yards, four TDs) and Grant Kaminski (seven receptions, 127 yards, two TDs) are his main targets. Connor Whapham (26 carries, 143 yards, two TDs) paces the running attack. ... The Bees' chance for an unbeaten season ended in a 48-34 loss to Berea-Midpark. ... QB Nate Heneger, WR Carson Zabakar and RB Jacob Eterovich are the ones to watch for Brecksville. ... The Knights are second in Division II, Region 5. The Bees are tied for ninth in Division II, Region 6.

Who will win: Nordonnia 28-21

Canton South (1-2) at Manchester (3-0)

What to watch: Although the Panthers are still up in the air about Phil Partin (questionable with injury), they're still rolling through 2025. Much of that is thanks to [Ayden Meade](#) (33 carries, 302 yards, four TDs), [Jake Livingston](#) (nine catches, 216 yards, four TDs), [Malachi Cintron](#) (nine catches, 176 yards, three TDs) and [Tyler Pappas](#) (35-of-47 passing, 663 yards, 11 TDs). ... Torez Conley's speed could be a factor for the Wildcats. He had 35 catches for 581 yards and nine TDs last season. ... Manchester is fourth in Division V, Region 17. Canton South is tied for 20th in Division IV, Region 15.

Who will win: Manchester 41-7

North Canton Hoover (3-0) at Green (1-2)

What to watch: Hoover's first three games against Buchtel, Medina and North (a combined 2-7) basically have been over by halftime. Green fell in one-score slugfests with 3-0 teams Indian Valley and Riverside before blasting Tallmadge 42-7 last week. ... Green's Kaden Worner ran for 86 yards and two TDs on six carries versus Tallmadge to complement QB Tyson Hunka and RB Anthony McMichael III. ... Hunka completed 8 of 8 passes for 149 yards and ran for 50 yards on seven carries against Tallmadge. Hunka threw a 27-yard TD pass to junior Sam Dubravetz and added a 6-yard TD run. McMichael ran for two TDs and 54 yards on 16 carries. ... Hoover hasn't needed to use OL-DL Jack Ziarko much on defense so far. Friday night should be different for the Miami University recruit. "This is the kind of week you're ready to use all your plans and all the things you've been deciding on about personnel," Hoover coach Brian Baum said. "We're excited for it." ... QB John Collins makes the Hoover offense go. He's run for five TDs and completed 21 of 29 passes for 452 yards, five TDs and one interception. Jack Andes has caught four of those TDs and is gaining 23.0 yards per reception. "Those guys are good, man," Green coach Mark Geis said. ... Green limited Tallmadge to 28 yards of offense last week. Geis gave a lot of credit to Dario Lombardi and the Bulldogs defensive line for the pressure it applied. ... The Vikings have posted two shutouts and allowed 17 points so far this season. Senior LB Carter Lukens has 37 tackles, including six for loss. He had a pick six last week. ... "I think he's one of the better kids we'll face all year," Geis said. ... Hoover leads the all-time series against Green 13-5, but the Bulldogs have won three straight and four of the last five against the Vikings.

Who will win: Hoover 24-20.

Perry (3-0) at Lake (3-0)

What to watch: This could be an early season statement game in the Federal League race. ... The task for Lake got more difficult after junior Ty DeGeorge broke his ankle five plays into last week's [34-28 win over Rocky River](#). Losing DeGeorge is like losing three or four players, considering everything he does for the Blue Streaks. The good news for Lake is it has a lot of speed and athletes on the roster this year, and getting senior RB Davis Matson back helps in a major way. Matson rushed for 173 yards and two TDs on 26 carries in his season debut last week after missing the first two games because of an appendectomy. ... Perry's goal is to run the football effectively on offense while stopping the run defensively. The Panthers have achieved that to this point, having outgained the competition 734-146 on the ground. ... Perry senior Connor Shephard ran for two TDs and 203 yards on 29 carries during last week's [25-15 win at Warren Harding](#). Shephard has a team-high 338 yards for the season. Junior Jonathan Lemon adds 326 yards at 8.4 per carry. And there is a chance Perry senior Caelob Hundley could make his season debut this week. Hundley, who was slated to be Perry's feature back, suffered a collarbone injury in the preseason. ... The Panthers certainly have some balance with sophomore QB Cameron Treharn throwing for 436 yards and four TDs — two each to Jayden Wilson and Nasir Foster. The 6-3 Wilson has two interceptions on the season, including a pick six. ... Lake senior QB Alex Quior is 31-of-41 passing for 525 yards, four TDs and one pick. He took a larger role in the running game after DeGeorge went down last week, rushing nine times for 51 yards and two TDs. ... Perry beat Lake 17-7 last year to snap a three-game losing streak to the Blue Streaks.

Who will win: Lake 23-20

Ravenna (1-2) at Norton (2-0)

What to watch: The Panthers showed no signs of rust in back-to-back wins over Lutheran East and Tusky Valley. ... [Trey Kersten](#) (22-of-37 passing, 364 yards, six TDs), [Jason Beverly](#) (16 carries, 153 yards, two TDs), and [Buddy Willig](#) (11 catches, 214 yards, two TDs; 167 yards kick returning, TD) lead Norton. ... LaDarion Askew has over 300 yards offense and is the one to watch for the Ravens. ... Norton is

third in Division IV, Region 13. Ravenna is tied for 16th.

Who will win: Norton 48-0

Springfield (1-2) at Cloverleaf (2-1)

What to watch: Can Springfield recapture its Week 1 form and pick up its first win in Metro Athletic Conference play? A tough trip to Cloverleaf will be a big test. ... Springfield has scored just six points since its opening week win, while the Colts put up 42 points in their Week 3 victory over Carrollton.

Who will win: Cloverleaf 28-7

Streetsboro (2-1) at Coventry (1-2)

What to watch: Coventry scored one of its biggest wins in recent memory with a 31-0 Week 3 win over Chippewa. However, its Metro Athletic Conference opener will be a huge test. ... RB Lamar Taylor has been the anchor of Coventry's offense, as he rushed for 188 yards and three TDs on 25 carries against Chippewa. QB Brad Little completed 4 of 9 passes for 105 yards and a TD to Jaydon Stover (four catches for 105 yards). Evan Owen recorded an interception. Brady McCracken, Alex Barker and Brennan Howley are three other key defenders for the Comets. ... Streetsboro will look to bounce back from a 46-13 loss to Alliance in Week 3.

Who will win: Streetsboro 35-14

Woodridge (1-2) at Field (0-3)

What to know: The [Bulldogs](#) and [Falcons](#) look to shake off tough Week 3 losses, with Woodridge losing by 49 points at state-ranked CVCA and Field falling by 44 at Poland, which is also undefeated through three games. ... Both teams have new coaches, with [former Ellet coach John Daraio taking over the Bulldogs](#) and James Dutched making his head coaching debut with the Falcons. ... Both also have new QBs, with Woodridge's Carter Maxa moving over from tight end and freshman Mason Fulst impressing early for Field. ... Both boast stout running backs as well, with the Bulldogs' John Tyree reaching 100 yards in Week 2 against Brookside and the Falcons' Victor Brown gaining 4.8 yards per carry last week against Poland.

Who will win: Woodridge 24-21

Mogadore (2-1) at Malvern (2-1)

What to know: Surprisingly, the [Hornets](#) and [Wildcats](#) are squaring off for the first time this century despite sharing a division and even a region at times. Malvern has been on a real upswing of late, with five consecutive winning seasons, finishing the last two with double-digit victories. Aaron "Julius" Gore has been particularly impressive, with two TDs apiece in the Hornets' Week 1 and Week 3 wins. Gore also rushed for more than 100 yards in both games. ... Of course, Mogadore has its own electric running back in Conner Lehner. After scoring two TDs apiece in wins over Crestwood and Canton Central Catholic, Lehner added a 55-yard TD run in last week's loss to Dalton.

Who will win: Mogadore 28-14

Triway (3-0) at Northwest (1-1)

What to watch: [Northwest](#) opens PAC-7 play with Triway, a 3-0 team for the second consecutive season. Northwest is 3-2 against the Titans since John DeMarco took over as coach in 2020. Northwest defeated Triway 38-21 last season. ... Northwest has allowed only 10 points its first two games, with four sacks, three forced fumbles and two interceptions. ... LB Conner Stephenson has 24 tackles and three sacks. ... DB Logan Allman has both interceptions for Northwest. ... RB Joey Medure shows a good burst of speed at the point of attack for Northwest. Medure has 136 yards and a touchdown this year and is producing 5.2 yards per carry. He is also the top receiver for Northwest with 55 yards on three catches. ... Triway QB Luke Starr is 39-of-65 passing for 535 yards with six TDs and three interceptions. Starr is also the leading rusher for Triway with 110 yards and a TD. Starr is gaining 5.0 yards per carry. ... DL Roman Gilbert (6-4, 230) has 15 tackles, six tackles for loss and four sacks this season.

Who will win: Northwest 17-14

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