

Akron Beacon Journal

Ohio high school football's Top 10 Summit County two-way players to watch



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Greater Akron high school football has never been shy of [two-way stars](#).

The 2026 will have some of the best to keep the tradition alive.

Here are the top 10 from the area:

1. Karsen Fisher

Nordonia tight end/linebacker, 6-4, 225, Class of 2027

[Fisher](#) committed to Toledo over offers from Army, Kent State, Buffalo, New Haven, Pitt and Sacred Heart. The two-way standout returns with 59 tackles, three for loss, 1½ sacks, a forced fumble and an interception from last season. He also had 28 receptions for 393 yards and five touchdowns at tight end.

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2. Tommy Kopec

CVCA, running back/linebacker, 6-1, 210, Class of 2028

[Kopec](#) returns as a Division III honorable mention All-Ohioan. Last season, he rushed for 446 yards and seven touchdowns on 56 carries and scored another two touchdowns as a receiver. On defense, he made 61 tackles, five for loss, and registered three sacks, four quarterback pressures and four pass breakups.

3. John Johnson

Hoban, wide receiver/safety, 6-4, 190, Class of 2027

Johnson returns to help the defense at safety just like he did as a sophomore. He'll play wide receiver for the third season in a row. In a run-heavy offense last season, Johnson made 16 catches for a season-high 361 yards and scored three touchdowns. [Johnson](#) committed to Bowling Green on June 5 over Kentucky, Toledo, Miami (Ohio), Western Michigan, Kent State, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Ball State and Marshall.

4. Evan Foust

Highland, 5-11, 208, tight end/linebacker, Class of 2027

[Foust](#) was the Suburban League American Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year and Division II second-team all-state in 2025. He led the team in tackles (73), tackles for loss (14) and forced fumbles (five). At H-back he caught 14 passes for 255 yards and four touchdowns.

5. Marcus Council

East, 5-9, 175, defensive back/running back, Class of 2027

Council was a [third-team All-Ohio](#) defensive back in Division IV a year ago at Streetsboro High School. He had six interceptions, 36 tackles, three pass deflections and a fumble recovery as a defensive back and tied a school record with six interceptions. Council rushed for 851 yards and 13 touchdowns on 91 carries in 2025. He also caught 14 passes for 100 yards and TD.

6. Jason Beverly

Norton, running back/linebacker, 5-10, 170, Class of 2027

[Beverly](#) was Division IV honorable mention All-Ohio last season. He rushed for 932 yards and 17 touchdowns on 99 carries last season and had 70 tackles, eight for loss, with four sacks last season.

7. Carter Maxa

Woodridge, tight end/defensive end, 6-6, 225, Class of 2028

[Maxa](#) was a quarterback, defensive end, tight end and punter last season and will add linebacking duties to his resume this season. He played two games on defense last season and

made 17 tackles and accounted for 949 yards and 13 touchdowns on offense. He has offers from Cincinnati, Dartmouth, Miami (Ohio) and Toledo.

8. Dominick Jackson

Nordonia, 6-1, 195, wide receiver/cornerback, Class of 2027

[Jackson](#) is a matchup nightmare on offense. He led the Knights last season in receptions (49), yards (933) and touchdowns (12). He logged 31 tackles, seven pass breakups, two fumble recoveries and three interceptions in 2025. He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown. He has offers from Clarion and Albany.

9. Jude Haller

Wadsworth, 6-0, 215, running back/linebacker, Class of 2028

Grizzlies coach Justin Todd describes [Haller](#) as Gavin Madigan 2.0 with the ability to run around and through defenses. He's taking over for two All-Ohio backs in Cooper Gray and Madigan. On defense, Haller shines. He made 73 tackles, nine for loss, with three pass breakups, two interceptions and a fumble recovery for a touchdown. He also returned a kick for a score. He has offers from Akron, Miami (Ohio) and Kent State.

10. Terrel Karim Jr.

East, 6-3, 195, WR/DE, Class of 2027

Wadsworth, 6-3, 275, offensive line/defensive line, Class of 2027

[Karim](#) registered 31 tackles, 16 for loss, and had 10 sacks last season. He made 27 receptions for a team-high 458 yards and scored four touchdowns. Karim committed to Bowling Green in June over the likes of Eastern Kentucky, and Kent State.

Also considered: Lawrence Cherry, East, 5-10, 200, RB/SS, Class of 2027; ; Kahlil Diming, Hoban, 5-11, 185, WR/SS, Class of 2027; Reno Ferri, Hudson, 5-8, 175, RB/S, Class of 2027; Nehemiah Moten, St. Vincent-St. Mary, 6-1, 175, WR/DB, Class of 2028; Anthony Paolucci, Hudson, 5-9, 165, WR/CB, Class of 2027; Phil Partin, Manchester, 5-10, 180, RB/S, Class of 2027; Anderson Tetzl, Wadsworth, 6-3, 275, OL/DL, Class of 2027;

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