

Undefeated Highland 'can hurt you in different phases' on football field



[Michael Beaven](#)

Akron Beacon Journal

- The Highland football team is undefeated with a 5-0 record heading into Week 6 of the 2025 season.
- Coach Mike Gibbons credits the team's success to their hard work and focus on daily improvement.
- The team is led by a large group of senior starters on both offense and defense.
- Quarterback Grady Gibb and running back Casey Myser are key offensive players with impressive statistics.

A "boring" message can lead to big wins.

Just ask coach [Mike Gibbons](#), who leads [the Highland football team](#) into Week 6 of the 2025 season with a 5-0 record.

"The kids continue to try to improve day in and day out," Gibbons said Sept 19 after [a 42-9 win over host Copley](#). "I know that sounds boring, but that is our message to them. I think they have really taken that to heart. I think that has really led to the success. The kids just work hard, take it one day at a time and come out here and play well."



Talent is also necessary to win, and [Highland](#) (5-0, 2-0) has an abundance of it heading into a [Suburban League American Conference](#) game Sept. 26 at home against [Tallmadge](#) (2-3, 1-1).

Looking for a free mini puzzle? [Play the USA TODAY Quick Cross now.](#)

"From Week 1 to now, I think we are getting a lot more comfortable with each other and we are learning each other's play styles a lot better," [Highland running back Casey Myser said.](#)

Myser is a senior starter on Highland's offense with left tackle Josh Messina, right guard Cody Bendau, right tackle Thomas Fearn, [quarterback Grady Gibb](#) and wide receivers Lucas Gerding and Nick Dobkowski.



The defense features nine senior starters: end Dan Miller, tackles Bendau and Ryan Zahir, linebackers Jameson Gordon and Kallen Whitling, safeties Nick Dobkowski and Cooper Zielinski, and cornerbacks Chris Metzger and Liam Zielinski.

Senior Landon Kuzma is the starting punter and backup kicker to junior Jonah Kowza.

"I am really happy with the senior group," [Gibbons](#) said. "You come through our program and it starts at a young age. For me, this is my 11th year coaching, so I have had the opportunity to see this group come up through our youth program all the way to their senior year here.

"It means a lot, I know, to play for Highland, and for them to be seniors and come out here and dominate the way they have the first five games, I am really proud of them. We gotta keep it rolling. They are a great group and they are fun to watch."