

Akron Beacon Journal

Ohio high school football 2025 | Greater Akron rankings heading into Week 4

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Sept. 11, 2025, 5:45 a.m. ET

Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- Walsh Jesuit, Wadsworth, and Highland hold the top three spots, each with a 3-0 record and strong defensive performances.
- Hoban secured a win against a state runner-up with a game-winning field goal but remained at No. 4 in the rankings.

As we cross the one-third threshold of the regular season, things start to become clearer in the [Greater Akron high school football power rankings](#).

What rings clearest is that the area has some horses.

No one in the top eight lost, but two teams flipped positions and [another team beat a state runner-up but couldn't move up in the pecking order](#). That's how tough these rankings are.

Here's what we've got:

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1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (3-0)

Previous ranking: 1

Last week: 30-6 win vs. Clarkston North Canada

Why Walsh: The Warriors finally had a home game, and it was the Parris connection. [Milan Parris caught three touchdown passes and threw for another one](#) in the win over neighbors from the north. By the way, Walsh's defense has taken it to another level by allowing just over eight points per game so far this season.

This week: vs. St. Ignatius (0-3) at John Carroll

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (3-0)

Previous ranking: 2

Last week: 47-0 win at Medina

Why Wadsworth: The Grizzlies bumped up to the top spot in Division II, Region 6, and that's a big deal considering reigning state champ Avon, Highland and Olmsted Fall reside there. Quarterback Brysen Hall continues to dominate and [Wadsworth's defense hasn't given up more than seven points in a game yet](#).

This week: at North Royalton (1-2)

3. Highland Hornets (3-0)

Previous ranking: 3

Last week: 34-7 win at Avon Lake

Why Highland: How good is Grady Gibb? In his third varsity start at quarterback [he threw for 171 yards, rushed for another 120](#) and had a hand in four of the Hornets' five touchdowns against Avon Lake. In keeping with the theme so far, Highland has given up just 17 points this season and already has a shutout.

This week: vs. Aurora (1-2)

4. Hoban Knights (2-1)

Previous ranking: 4

Last week: 23-21 win over Detroit King

Why Hoban: Any other season and these Knights would be much higher after beating the reigning Division III state runner-up Crusaders. That's how good this top eight is. [Jeremy Hammel was the man of the hour with a 33-yard game-winning field goal](#) last week and special teams was on point overall with a forced fumble, blocked punt and blocked extra point. It even forced a 1-yard punt.

This week: vs. East (2-1)

5. Nordonía Knights (3-0)

Previous ranking: 6

Last week: 59-46 win at Mayfield

Why Nordonía: A battle of unbeaten teams turned into a [105-point slobberknocker, with the Knights prevailing over the Wildcats last week](#). Steven Fakult looks every bit the quarterback Nordonía hoped he would be. There's an interesting patch just down the road on state route 82 this week as the Knights look to start the season 4-0 for the fourth year in a row.

This week: at Brecksville (2-1)

6. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Royals (2-0)

Previous ranking: 5

Last week: 49-0 win over Woodridge

Why CVCA: How tough is this poll? The Royals pitched a shutout last week. In two games, they've outscored opponents 91-14 and the starters have played only four quarters. It wasn't enough to keep CVCA in the fifth spot in one of the toughest decisions of the week. [Charley Levak has a 136.0 quarterback rating](#) and the rushing game is producing 8.2 yards per carry and 308.5 yards per game.

This week: vs. Garfield (1-1)

7. Manchester Panthers (3-0)

Previous ranking: 7

Last week: 45-7 win over Firestone

Why Manchester: Because the Panthers look unstoppable and will only get better once Phil Partin returns. Tyler Pappis is completing 72% of his passes and has thrown for 677 yards and 11 touchdowns this season. [Ayden Meade](#) looked great in the backfield again, rushing for 90 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries.

8. Twinsburg Tigers (3-0)

Previous ranking: 8

Last week: 20-19 overtime win at Aurora

Why Twinsburg: [The Tigers rallied from a 13-point deficit to beat the Greenmen](#) and snap a seven-game losing streak to Aurora. Twinsburg is quickly becoming a team no one wants to face as Charles Saulter preps his Tigers for a gauntlet that includes Stow, Wadsworth, Hudson and Nordonía the next four weeks.

This week: at Stow (2-1)

Also considered: Norton (2-0), Hudson (2-1)

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