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**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**

# **OHSAA Division II regional semifinals preview: Avon takes state-title defense to undefeated Wadsworth**

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Twinsburg HS at Wadsworth HS football, September 19, 2025



By **Matt Goul, cleveland.com**

CLEVELAND, Ohio — No football team in Ohio has been able to beat Avon. No team at all has been able to take down Wadsworth.

That will change Friday, when they meet at Art Wright Stadium in Wadsworth during the OHSAA Division II regional semifinals.

The Eagles (10-1) seek to defend their state championship in a rematch with the Grizzlies (11-0), who they defeated at this stage last year in the Region 6 semifinals, [41-10](#). The winner will play top-seeded Highland or North Ridgeville next week at a neutral site in the regional finals.

First, one must survive this showdown.

Both teams dominated last week after first-round byes — part of the OHSAA's new 12-team

format in each region — with Avon shaking rust for a 46-13 victory against Olmsted Falls. The Eagles took down their Southwestern Conference rival with senior quarterback Blake Elder throwing for 256 yards and two touchdowns, both to Grant Barr, who finished with 111 yards on three receptions. Barr and Finn Jerdonek have been a dynamic duo in the passing game for Elder, who has completed 68.6% of his passes this year for 2,391 yards and 28 TDs to three interceptions. Barr has 846 yards and 10 TDs on 52 receptions, while Jerdonek has 531 yards and seven TDs on 35 catches.

Barr scored last year against the Grizzlies, who have a capable secondary to match up in the passing game. Seniors Tommy Hohn and Calix Lemp, a two-way standout, lead that group with sophomore safety Jude Haller and senior Gavin Madigan. Senior Jaiden Gross came up with a defining interception last week in the second quarter of the Grizzlies' 34-7 rout of Toledo St. Francis. They were up by one score at the time of Gross' play, which set up a 31-yard touchdown pass from sophomore Brysen Hall to Lemp.

Hall completed 17 of 25 passes for 192 yards and two TDs, both to Lemp, an Air Force recruit who had 118 yards on three receptions. Senior running back Cooper Gray added 112 yards and a second-quarter touchdown on 30 carries. Madigan, an Army recruit, added 81 yards on 10 carries.

Their effort sends them to Friday's regional semifinal in better shape than they were last season against Avon. Coach Justin Todd noted that earlier this season that he hoped to have a healthier team ready for this postseason. The bye helped that, along with double-digit wins every week.

No team has kept closer than 18 points against Wadsworth. Avon has won nine straight games, with the closest being a 28-16 victory against Glenville, which followed the Eagles' lone defeat in Florida to Spruce Creek.

There are seven more teams in Northeast Ohio, including Massillon (8-3) in Region 7 traveling to Columbus DeSales, playing Friday in the Division II playoffs. All games will kick off at 7 p.m. Here is a look at the rest of those games in Regions 5 and 6:

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## **Hudson (10-2) at Archbishop Hoban (9-1)**

Hoban seeks its 11th straight appearance in a regional final under coach Tim Tyrrell. The Knights got closer to that last week as senior quarterback Nick Kinsey returned from an injury that has kept him out since the second half of a Week 8 win against Glenville.

Kinsey threw 109 yards on 4-of-4 passing off the bench last week in Hoban's 38-0 rout of Boardman.

Coach Tim Tyrrell won his 150th game at Hoban and will have one more this season at Dowd Field against the Explorers. They last met in the 2022 regional finals, a 41-7 win for the Knights. Seniors Elbert "Rock" Hill IV and Payton Cook played in that game as freshmen.

Hoban gave up just 116 yards last week to Boardman, while Hudson used its defense in a 14-12 win at Uniontown Lake. While the Knights shut down Boardman's run game, Hudson took away the pass as junior Anthony Paolucci came up with two of the Explorers' four interceptions.

Defense has been vital this season for Hudson, which has six shutouts. The No. 5 seed in Region 5 will need another stout performance to upset the top-seeded Knights. The winner will play Austintown Fitch or Walsh Jesuit.

## **North Ridgeville (10-1) at Highland (11-0)**

Quarterback Cole Miller continues to lead North Ridgeville, gaining 300 yards from scrimmage last week in their 42-7 win against Anthony Wayne.

The Rangers have won seven straight games since their only loss to Avon. They will need to be at their best for a Region 6 semifinal at North Gateway Tire Stadium in Granger Twp., where Highland has not given up more than two scores in any game this season.

The Hornets' defense benefited from the absence of Brecksville-Broadview Heights leading rusher Jacob Eterovich last week in their 38-7 win, but Peter Chermonte still rushed for 135 yards on 14 carries. He scored the Bees' only touchdown in the fourth quarter, with Highland already up 38-0.

Meaningful yardage has still been tough to come by against Highland, which is capable of matching any high-powered offense in its way. Senior Casey Myser is a big reason for that, becoming Medina County's all-time leading scorer last week. He rushed for 99 yards and three TDs last week, while dual-threat quarterback Grady Gibb completed all nine of his passes for 141 yards. Gibb also rushed for 59 yards and a score.

This game could come down to which quarterback breaks loose. Miller has thrown for 1,473 yards and rushed for 1,159 yards with 30 total TDs.

## **Austintown Fitch (9-1) at Walsh Jesuit (9-1)**

Walsh's hopes took a hit last week with an injury suffered by junior quarterback David Ternosky in the Region 5 quarterfinals. Senior running back Marty Tobin rushed for 267 yards and four TDs to mask that loss, as Walsh remains at Conway Memorial Stadium this week against Fitch.

The Falcons come in as the third seed in their region, getting a four-touchdown game from Deon'Dray Richard in their 28-25 win against Green. Richard rushed for 166 yards in the comeback from a 17-7 deficit. Fitch gave up 329 yards passing to Green quarterback Tyson Hunka, who also ran for 120 yards in his final high school game.

Walsh turned to junior Ben Biel last week after Ternosky's injury.

“We love David Ternosky, it is just heartbreaking to see a guy who is so valuable to your team go down like that,” coach Nick Alexander said after Walsh’s 49-18 win vs. Nordonia. “The next-man-up mentality is something we have preached all year, and Ben did a great job stepping up.”



**Matt Goul**

Matt Goul has covered high school sports with some college and pros sprinkled in since 2005 with a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. He has covered high school basketball and football in Northeast...more

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