

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Who's the best guard, center in NE Ohio football 2026? Our picks, your votes (poll)

By [Matt Goul](#) Published August 10, 2026 5:05 am

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Kirtland's Lucci Cantini prepares to snap the football to Ben Loncar on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026, during practice.



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CLEVELAND, Ohio — Guards and centers are up next in cleveland.com's watch list of the top high school football players in Northeast Ohio.

They are ordered alphabetically, followed by a poll and additional standouts to watch. The poll will be open until 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

Faisal Abuhamdeh, Strongsville, jr.

As a sophomore, Abuhamdeh started at guard for the Mustangs. The 6-foot-3, 285-pounder could move to tackle during the season, but has remained at guard through the preseason. Coach Jason Trusnik likes how he drives off the football and finishes blocks. Abuhamdeh also can contribute as a defensive tackle.

Lucci Cantini, Kirtland, sr.

A returning All-Ohioan, Cantini is a three-year starter at center for the defending OHSAA Division VI state champions. He also is the catcher on the baseball team and is powerful at 6-foot, 205 pounds. Cantini is moving from the defensive line to linebacker this year on defense.

Rocco Cocca, Canfield, jr.

Cocca made the Northeast Inland District second team in Division III as a sophomore. He also plays lacrosse.

Jackson Comer, Lakewood, sr.

Another multisport standout, Comer plays baseball. He is a center for the Rangers and made the Northeast Lakes District second team in Division II.

Jack Fitch, Avon, sr.

One of two returning starters up front for the two-time defending Division II state champions, Fitch's leadership will be immeasurable at center.

Nik Hanchuk, Berea-Midpark, sr.

Hanchuk plays center and defensive tackle for the Titans. He is a three-year starter who played every snap last season. The 6-1, 285-pounder gave up zero sacks on a team that attempted 412 passes.

Caden Krugman, Avon, sr.

Krugman is Avon's other returning starter on the line from its state-title run. His play at guard should help keep the Eagles steady in the run game.

Spencer Marquis, Highland, sr.

Marquis graded out at 90 percent with 25 pancakes at center last season for the Hornets, who ran through the Suburban League American Conference and didn't lose a game until the Division II regional finals. They are moving up to the Suburban's National Conference, and Marquis will be snapping to a new quarterback in fellow senior Johnny Prucha. Marquis also is a bigger center at 6-2, 250.

Josiah Neumeyer, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, sr.

Neumeyer can play guard or center. He made the All-Northeast Inland District first team in Division III, helping the Royals (12-1) to the state semifinals.

Sam Nurse, Garfield Heights, sr.

Nurse has interest from Kent State, Akron, Marshall, Miami (Ohio) and UMass. He's a 6-2, 310-pounder who will block for standout junior running back Elijah Harris.

Parker Osborne, Elyria, sr.

A four-year starter at center, Osborne is big and strong at 6-2 and 290 pounds. The position is often a tough one with a nose guard over the ball. Not for Osborne, who repeatedly took down defenders after the snap.

Drelyn Tubbs, Youngstown, sr.

Tubbs made the Northeast Inland District second team in Division III while at Youngstown East.

Landon Walkem, St. Edward, sr.

Walkem made the Northeast Lakes District second team in Division I as a punter on top of his offensive line duties for the Eagles.

Derek Weitzel, Avon, jr.

At 6-3, 280 pounds, Weitzel had a productive offseason that included a couple of MAC offers. He was in the line rotation on both sides of the ball during Avon's Division II state championship run, playing on the interior.

Matthew Wilson Jr., Benedictine, sr.

Wilson leads the Bengals' line at center after starting on both sides last season at guard and defensive tackle. He played only half the season because of an injury in Week 6.

Who is the best center or guard in Northeast Ohio?

☐ Faisal Abuhamdeh, Strongsville

☐ Lucci Cantini, Kirtland

☐

☐ Rocco Cocca, Canfield

☐ Jackson Comer, Lakewood

☐ Jack Fitch, Avon

☐ Nik Hanchuk, Berea-Midpark

☐ Caden Krugman, Avon

☐ Spencer Marquis, Highland

☐ Josiah Neumeyer, Cuyahoga Valley
Christian Academy

☐ Sam Nurse, Garfield Heights

☐ Parker Osborne, Elyria

☐ Drelyn Tubbs, Youngstown

☐ Landon Walkem, St. Edward

☐ Derek Weitzel, Avon

☐ Matthew Wilson Jr., Benedictine

Vote

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Also considered:

Brian Bostick, North Royalton, jr.

Connor Brugh, Lake Catholic, sr.

Sean Echols, Akron East, jr.

Jalon Goode, Benedictine, jr.

Aiden Hardesty, Chardon, sr.

Landen Harvey, Wooster Triway, jr.

Xavier Krzak, St. Edward, sr.

Amaud Lessears, Glenville, sr.

Makahi Maddox, Glenville, sr.

Danny O'Neil, Fairview, sr.

Rylee Pickering, Archbishop Hoban, sr.

Greyson Shaffer, Poland Seminary, sr.

Wyatt Sitz, Highland, sr.

Jermaine Wingo, Garfield Heights, sr.