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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Ranking the top 12 football games to watch in Northeast Ohio for Week 9

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Ranking the top 12 football games to watch in Northeast Ohio for Week 9

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By Matt Goul, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Here are previews for the top 12 high school football games to watch around Northeast Ohio for Week 9. Times are 7 p.m. Friday, unless noted:

12. — No. 19 Mayfield (8-0) at Copley (6-2)

The Wildcats, who are 19th in the cleveland.com [Northeast Ohio Top 25](#), have already clinched a share of the Suburban League’s American Conference. They are undefeated, while the rest of the conference has at least two losses. One of them is Copley.

A win Friday wraps up the outright title in Mayfield’s first year as a league member since leaving the Western Reserve Conference with Kenston. The Wildcats beat the Bombers last week, 7-3. Sophomore quarterback Dario D’Agostino’s 47-yard pass to Ryan Eppich scored the only touchdown.

Copley had been a game behind Mayfield until a 26-21 loss two weeks ago at Brecksville-Broadview Heights. The Indians bounced back last week to beat Twinsburg (1-7), as Jalen Owens gained 191 yards from scrimmage with two TDs. They are at Aurora (3-5) next week, while Mayfield has Twinsburg at home.

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11. — Euclid (4-4) at No. 25 Riverside (5-3)

Two of Ohio's top college recruits will be on the same field in Painesville, as Kei'Shjuan Telfair and the Panthers head to Riverside, and it should attract Penn State fans.

Tackle David Tarawallie has risen up the recruiting boards, while Riverside finds itself tied for first place in the Greater Cleveland Conference with Mentor and Strongsville. The Penn State commit has led the way for an offense that helped Dominic Bottiggi rush for 231 yards and five touchdowns last week at Brunswick.

Telfair, also headed to Happy Valley next year, scored four touchdowns in Euclid's 30-12 win against Cleveland Heights.

Both teams are in position to make the playoffs. Euclid sits at 11th in Division I, Region 1. Riverside is eighth in Division II, Region 5.

The top 12 teams make the playoffs in each region.

10. — Maple Heights at No. 18 Garfield Heights (6-2), 4:30 p.m.

Both quarterbacks put on a show last week in wins.

Maple's Kentsten Staten totaled six TDs against his former team at Bedford. Staten, a Toledo commit at safety, threw for 160 yards and three TDs. He also rushed for 143 yards and three TDs.

Jariah Morgan, meanwhile, didn't throw a pass in the Bulldogs' romp of Warrensville Heights. He rushed for 219 yards and two TDs on 16 carries. The Bulldogs rested junior standout Elijah Harris, as Byron Turner (64 yards, one TD) and Anthony Black (44 yards, one TD) picked up the slack — not that it was needed with Morgan's big plays.

A year ago, Garfield Heights won at Maple Heights for bragging rights and an unofficial Lake Erie League title after the league broke up that summer. They are now in the United Athletic Conference, which will become a full league next year.

Both teams are in Division III, Region 9. The Bulldogs are fourth. Maple is 15th and needs to make up ground to qualify for the playoffs.

9. — No. 17 St. Ignatius (4-4) at St. Xavier (4-4), 6 p.m.

St. Ignatius looks to snap a two-game skid, as it heads to Cincinnati to play St. Xavier. Note the 6 p.m. kickoff on Friday.

The Wildcats have clinched a playoff spot in Region 1, according to Joe Eitel, but they are ninth

The Wildcats have clinched a playoff spot in Region 1, according to Joe Elder, but they are still and would be on the road if the playoffs started now.

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Junior quarterback Jacob Mikin threw for 310 yards last week at home against Archbishop Moeller, but the Crusaders picked him off twice in a 43-21 loss. They also sacked him four times.

St. Xavier is eighth in Region 4, coming off a 38-14 win at La Salle. Coach Steve Specht's team has not put together back-to-back wins or losses this season.

Both teams have used two quarterbacks this season in similar fashion. While Tom Kaufman has made Mikin (1,223 yards, 17 TDs to three interceptions) his starter, Dane Donovan (159 yards rushing, two TDs) comes in as a change-of-pace runner. Specht similarly uses Thomas George as his passer while Aidan Newdigate is the runner. George has started the last three games, including the Bombers' upset of Elder. He threw for 196 yards and two TDs against La Salle. Newdigate started the first five weeks and has rushed for 606 yards with 11 TDs.

Leading tacklers Anthony Anghilante (51 tackles, four interceptions) at safety and James Conrad (41 tackles, 6.5 sacks, 14 TFL) at linebacker will lead the Wildcats' defense that looks to bounce back and slow them down. Conrad, a Buffalo commit, picked up an offer last week from Ohio State.

8. — No. 15 Rocky River (8-0) at Buckeye (4-4)

Rocky River returns to the site of its Division III regional semifinal win last year in York

Township, where the Pirates avenged a Division III conference loss to Buckeye.  [cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com/highschoolsports/2026/10/ranking-the-top-1...)  

Now, the Bucks look to return the favor and keep alive their hopes at a CWC repeat. They are led by senior Liam Phillips (1,038 yards, six TDs) and junior Denis Shevchenko (757 yards, 12 TDs), who scored the winning touchdown last week in Buckeye's 20-17 comeback at North Olmsted. It moved the Bucks to 4-1 in the CWC, a game behind the Pirates.

Buckeye's ground game will be tested by a tough defensive front, led by junior end Jackson Greear and senior Steven McHenry. Greear has picked up offers from Louisville and Minnesota in the last month. He has a team-high 10 TFL and three sacks in seven games. McHenry, a Tiffin commit, has eight TFL with a sack.

Tristin Hughes became Rocky River's all-time receptions leader last week in a 48-19 win against Westlake. Hughes had seven receptions for 93 yards with one of his two touchdowns (the other came on a rush) and now has 110 for his career.

Last year, Buckeye won at Rocky River in Week 9 of the regular season with a 35-27 victory to take the CWC. Rocky River responded with a 48-41 win in the rematch.

Both teams are now in Division IV this year. The Pirates are the top seed in Region 13, while Buckeye is 11th in Region 14.

7. — **Benedictine (4-3) at No. 16 Villa Angela-St. Joseph (6-2)**

Coming off an idle week, Benedictine needs a win with three straight road games to close the regular season. The Bengals fell two weeks ago in Youngstown to Cardinal Mooney. They are now 12th in Division III, Region 9 and head to Lakeshore Boulevard, where VASJ is 5-0.

Coach Jeff Rotsky's Vikings took down Columbus DeSales and Garfield Heights there for signature wins. They won last week at Youngstown, as Louisville tight end commit D'Angelo White scored three TDs with 191 yards on five receptions. The Vikings, who moved up to Division II this year, are seventh in Region 5.

Benedictine has lost three of its last four games after a strong start to the season under first-year coach Matt Wilson. Their trip to Mooney included losing starting quarterback Giovanni Iacampo to injury. If he cannot return, expect the Bengals to lean more on their talented backfield and the run game, led by junior Kayden Forte (693 yards, seven TDs).

VASJ won last year, 33-22.



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6. — No. 7 Avon (6-2) at Avon Lake (4-4)

Avon looks to clinch its 11th straight Southwestern Conference championship and retain the Silver Rail Trophy against rival Avon Lake.

The Eagles have won four straight against their rivals to the north. In fact, Avon Lake is the last SWC team to beat Avon, which now has won 39 straight conference games.

Senior receiver Fin Jerdonek made sure that streak continued last week in a 45-7 win against Amherst. He had 126 yards and two TDs on four receptions, while junior Nick Lombardy blocked two punts. Lombardy also has forced two fumbles this season. Jerdonek (753 yards, 12 TDs on 35 receptions) has led the pass game with junior quarterback Trevor Sykora (1,409 yards, 19 TDs), while Michael Colburn (708 yards, 15 TDs) is on pace to be a 1,000-yard rusher after emerging in the second half of last season.

Avon is 5-0 in the SWC and in line for a first-round bye in Division II, Region 6 as the No. 2 seed this week.

Avon Lake is ninth in the same region and 4-1 in the SWC, coming off a 35-21 win at North Ridgeville in which junior Mason Ambrose and sophomore Chris Gaulding had big games. Ambrose threw for 299 yards and three TDs. Two of the TD passes went to Gaulding, who had 218 yards on seven receptions. Ambrose now has 909 yards and nine TDs on the season, while

Gaulding has 587 yards and seven TDs on 32 receptions. The 6-foot-2 sophomore picked up early offers from Kent State and Miami  ahead of this season.  

5. — No. 21 Jackson (6-2) at No. 4 Canton McKinley (7-1)

The Federal League championship, and maybe a first-round bye in Division I, are on the line at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

Neither McKinley nor Jackson has lost in league play, and this gives the Bulldogs plenty to play for and not look ahead to next week's rivalry game at Massillon. The Bulldogs beat Uniontown Lake last week on the road without several starters, including All-Ohio junior Kyelin West. DeMarlo Rozier stepped in to rush for 135 yards and a touchdown to lead McKinley to its sixth straight victory.

Jackson has won five straight since a close loss to Wadsworth. The Polar Bears shut out GlenOak last week, as Chase Maurer rushed for 130 yards and two TDs.



Walsh Jesuit coach Nick Alexander calls a play in the first half against St. Ignatius on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026.

Alexander's Warriors play host to Bishop Watterson on Friday. John Kuntz, [cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com)



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4. — Bishop Watterson (7-0) at No. 9 Walsh Jesuit (6-1)

Walsh Jesuit will find out whether it truly is a Division II state-title contender on Friday at Conway Memorial Stadium with its regular-season home finale against Bishop Watterson.

The Eagles come in as the state's No. 1-ranked team, both in Division II and the Ohio Big 25. They have won 37 straight games, including the last two Division III state championships before moving up in the offseason.

Watterson junior quarterback Dash Hoy rushed for 122 yards and four touchdowns, plus a passing TD, last week in the Eagles' 63-7 win against Bishop Watterson. For the season, Hoy has 618 yards rushing and 11 TDs — second to Caden Mangini with 670 yards and 13 TDs — plus 696 yards and 11 TDs passing. Hoy has stepped in after All-Ohio quarterback Drew Bellisari graduated, following their back-to-back title runs in Division III.

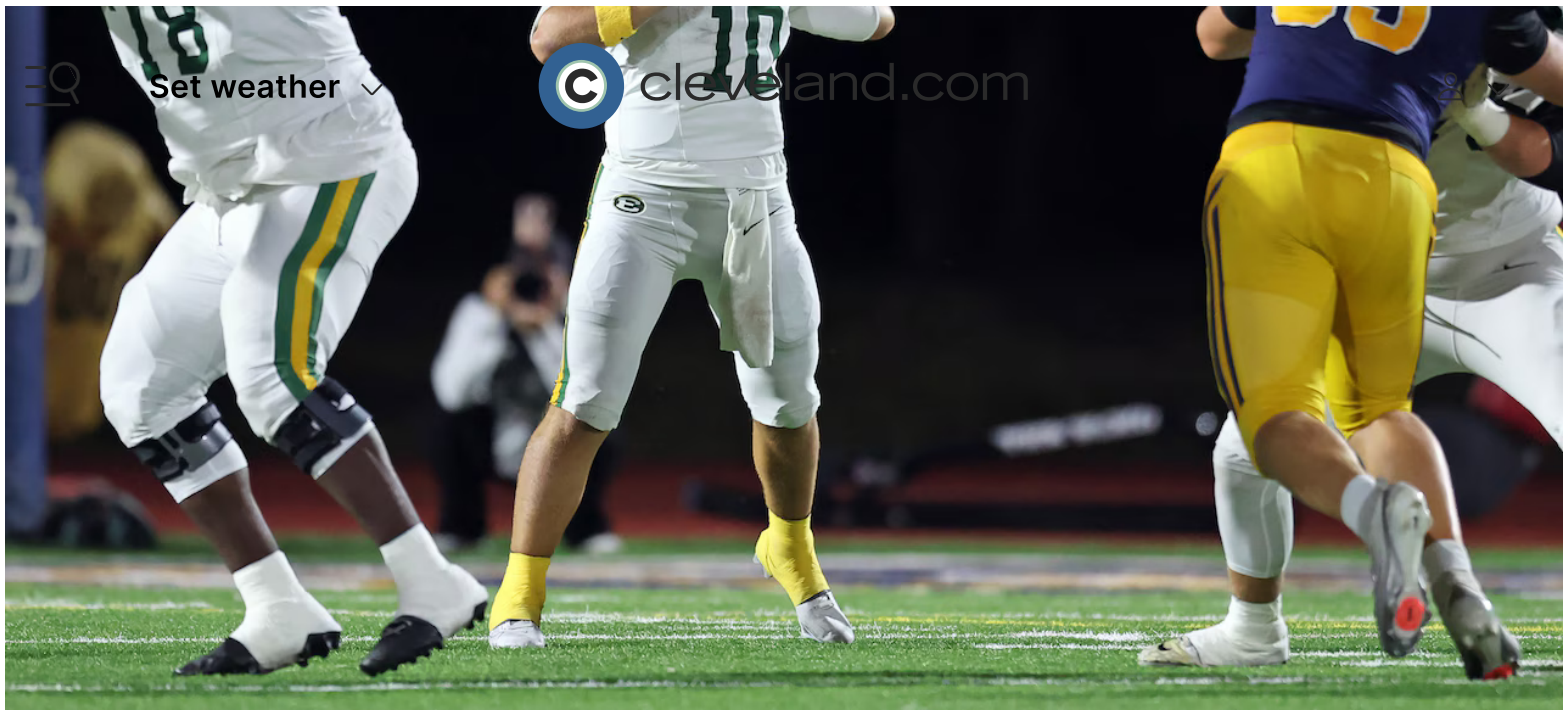
Walsh, meanwhile, has questions at quarterback.

Senior David Ternosky suffered an injury last week in the Warriors' 45-7 romp of Ursuline. Freshman Kinzy Shea, son of former Browns tight end Aaron Shea, stepped in to complete 10 of 13 passes for 137 yards and two TDs.

Whoever plays quarterback will have talented targets at his disposal, including sophomore Cayden LeVert and freshman Cameron Brunson. However, Walsh also was without junior running back and leading rusher Dom Courtad because of an injury. They also lost sophomore Mason Rodgers, leading to more questions against a fierce Watterson defense.

That unit is led by returning All-Ohioans Ben Uhlenhake at linebacker, Michael Boyle up front and Nate Henderson in the secondary. Ten of Watterson's starters on defense from last year are back. The Eagles also have four returning starters on the offensive line, led by Ohio State commit Davis Seaman at tackle.





St. Edward's Langston Lucas throws the ball against St. Ignatius on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026. Lucas and the Eagles head to Cincinnati on Saturday to play Archbishop Moeller. Joshua Gunter, cleveland.com

3. — No. 2 St. Edward (7-1) at Archbishop Moeller (6-2), 3 p.m. Saturday

If last week is any indication, expect the points to pile up Saturday in Cincinnati.

Archbishop Moeller put up 43 points Friday last week in its win at St. Ignatius, where sophomore Juice Glover-Brown ran for 168 yards and two touchdowns against the Wildcats.

St. Edward scored 63 points in a shootout win against Canada's Clarkson Football North, as senior quarterback Langston Lucas threw four TD passes and rushed for three more scores.

It leads to Saturday afternoon's showdown at West Clermont High School. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m., as both teams have hopes of reaching the OHSAA Division I state finals in Canton.

Lucas completed 10 of 13 passes for 232 yards with his four TDs through the air. He rushed for 125 yards with his other three TDs.

Meanwhile, Moeller sophomore quarterback Hunter McLaughlin is third in the Greater Catholic League South with 1,016 yards passing and 11 TDs. He has offers from Cincinnati and Purdue. McLaughlin threw for just 82 yards last week at St. Ignatius, where Glover-Brown put up his big numbers.

Glover-Brown leads the GCL with 885 yards rushing and 10 TDs. He has drawn comparisons to former Moeller standout Jordan Marshall, a Mr. Football winner now at Michigan.

Moeller has already clinched the GCL South crown by beating Elder, St. Xavier and La Salle. The Crusaders, who are fourth in Region 1, have won five straight games.

St. Edward leads Region 1, which it has won five straight years. The Eagles beat Moeller last year, 35-10, in Lakewood.

2. — No. 22 Willoughby South (8-0) at Eastlake North (8-0)

Cross-town rivals Willoughby South and Eastlake North have enjoyed success, but often at different times.

They are now on a collision course with undefeated records and the Chagrin Valley Conference Lake Division championship on the line. Both also are in their first year in the CVC after departing the Western Reserve Conference, where South won last year, 33-13.

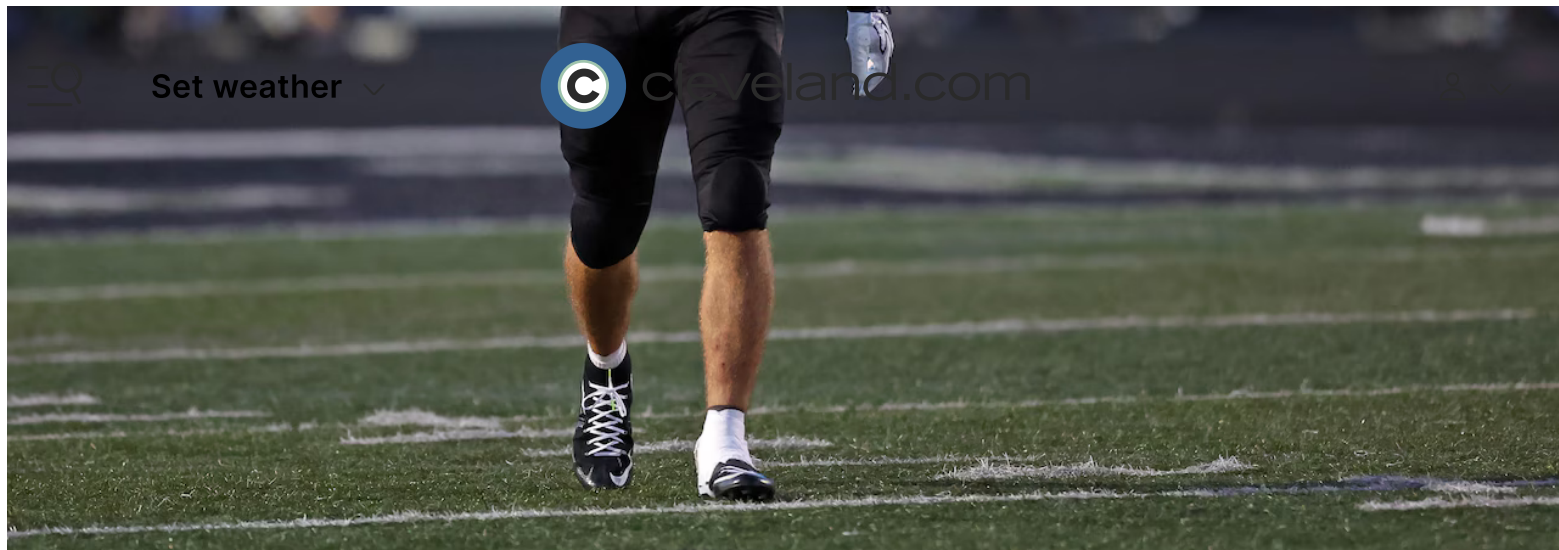
The Rebels have won 22 of the last 26 games in this rivalry, as documented by Ohio Varsity, which now sees North coming in with its first 8-0 start in school history under coach Shawn Dodd.

Matt Duffy's Rebels have been paced by senior quarterback Luke Jensen (1,925 yards, 23 touchdowns) and junior brother Josh Jensen (784 yards, 11 TDs on 31 receptions) at receiver. Moggy Fullerton (449 yards, six TDs) and sophomore Elijah Fitch (414 yards, five TDs) have paced the ground game. The quarterback threw four TD passes last week with 140 yards on 9 of 12 attempts in South's 42-6 win at Harvey.

North is much more run heavy. King Mattice rushed for 133 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries last week in the Rangers' 37-7 road win at Madison. Quarterback Josh Fenick, Javion Whaley and Kaydn Young are among Dodd's options out of the backfield, too.

Mattice has a team-high 762 yards rushing and six TDs on the season.





Highland's Evan Foust watches after a punt against Walsh Jesuit on Friday, Aug. 21, 2026. Foust and the Hornets play host to Wadsworth on Friday. Joshua Gunter, cleveland.com

1. — No. 3 Wadsworth (8-0) at No. 10 Highland (7-1)

The Suburban League National Conference championship could come down to this, as defending champion Wadsworth heads to Highland.

Nordonia waits in the wings for a shot at the Grizzlies next week in Wadsworth, but Highland's North Gateway Tire Stadium will be the host for the league's showcase of defending champion vs. champion.

Highland, the Suburban League's American Conference champ for the last two years, moved up to the bigger National Conference this season with the league's influx of new teams and realignment.

Both teams are undefeated in the league and could meet again in the Division II, Region 5 playoffs. Wadsworth enters this week second in the region, while Highland is fourth.

Hudson came close to changing that last week, rallying from a 24-3 halftime deficit before a 24-22 loss that came down to a blocked extra point and failed 2-point conversion.

Junior quarterback Brysen Hall threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns, both to senior Kolbey Ostervich, who had 92 yards on seven receptions. Junior Jude Haller rushed for 81 yards and a score on 22 carries, while Ostervich converted a critical first down late in the game to preserve the Grizzlies' win and keep them in position for a fourth straight Suburban League crown.

Ostervich has enjoyed a breakout season for the Grizzlies, now with 465 yards and four TDs on 39 receptions. He is second on the team behind junior Jay'len King, who has 804 yards and 11 TDs on 45 receptions. Hall has 2,108 yards and 23 TDs. He has thrown just two interceptions.

Highland has been on a roll for the last seven weeks.

Coach Mike Gibbons' Hornets have won their last four games with a running clock, as senior linebacker Evan Foust (Medina County's tackles leader with 72, as compiled by Albert Grindle of the Medina Gazette) and junior end Lukas Grillis (county-high 14.5 sacks, 18.5 tackles for loss) have led their defense. Sophomore Colton Wadle (1,089 yards, 10 TDs to two interceptions) took over at quarterback for senior Johnny Prucha, who has since returned to the lineup. Both played last week in Highland's 51-7 victory against Solon.

Friday's game could crown the Suburban League National Conference champion, but that is far from certain because Highland is at Hudson (6-2, 3-2) next week, while Wadsworth plays host to Nordonia (7-1, 4-1).

FULL WEEK 9 SCHEDULE

(Times are 7 p.m., unless noted)

Friday, Oct. 16

All-American Conference

Boardman at Austintown Fitch

Chagrin Valley Conference, Chagrin Division

Geneva at Hawken

Jefferson Area at Orange

Ashtabula Edgewood at Perry

Chagrin Valley Conference, Lake Division

Ashtabula Lakeside at Chardon

Willoughby South at Eastlake North

Madison at Lutheran West

Chagrin Valley Conference, Metro Division

Cuyahoga Heights at Beachwood

Fairport Harding at Independence

Chagrin Valley Conference, Valley Division

Chagrin Falls at Conneaut

Rootstown at Crestwood

Fairview at Kirtland

Cleveland West Conference

Westlake at Bay

Rocky River at Buckeye

Valley Forge at Lakewood

North Olmsted at Normandy

Eastern Buckeye Conference

Alliance at Beloit West Branch

Carrollton at Salem

Federal League

Massillon Jackson at Canton McKinley

Massillon Perry at Green

Uniontown Lake at North Canton Hoover

Greater Cleveland Conference

Cleveland Heights at Brunswick

Lorain at Mentor

Euclid at Riverside

Strongsville at Shaker Heights

Lorain County League

Keystone at Firelands

Black River at Wellington

Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference, Grey Tier

Garrettsville Garfield at Columbiana Crestview

Brookfield at Newton Falls

Leavittsburg LaBrae at Ravenna Southeast

Warren Champion at Youngstown Liberty

Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference, Scarlet Tier

Waterloo at Lowellville

McDonald at New Middletown Springfield

Metro Athletic Conference

Kent Roosevelt at Cuyahoga Falls

Tallmadge at Field

Akron Springfield at Norton

Cloverleaf at Ravenna

Woodridge at Streetsboro

North Coast Conference

Padua at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

Lake Catholic at Holy Name

Elyria Catholic at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin

Northeastern Athletic Conference

Cardinal at Andover Pymatuning Valley

 Ashabula St. John at Leetonia

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Grand Valley at Vienna Mathews

Northeast 8 Athletic Conference

Hubbard at Girard

Poland Seminary at Cortland Lakeview

Struthers at Niles McKinley

Principals Athletic Conference

Fairless at Canal Fulton Northwest

Massillon Tuslaw at Canton South

Orrville at Manchester

Senate Athletic League

John Hay at Cleveland JFK, 3:30 p.m.

Glenville at John Adams, 3:30 p.m.

East Tech at John Marshall, 3:30 p.m.

Southwestern Conference

Avon at Avon Lake

North Ridgeville at Amherst

Berea-Midpark at Elyria

Midview at Olmsted Falls

Suburban League, American Conference

Aurora at Barberton

Mayfield at Copley

Kenston at Revere

Suburban League, National Conference

Wadsworth at Highland

Stow-Munroe Falls at Hudson

Medina at Nordonia

North Royalton at Solon

United Athletic Conference

Maple Heights at Garfield Heights, 4:30 p.m.

Nonconference

St. Ignatius at Cincinnati St. Xavier, 6 p.m.

Trinity at Berkshire

Lutheran East at Brush

Canfield South Range at Canfield

Brookside at Collins Western Reserve

University School at Columbus St. Charles

Rhodes at Gilmour Academy

Archbishop Hoban at Indianapolis Cathedral (Ind.)

Canton GlenOak at Louisville

Coventry at Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas

Mogadore at Marlinton

Youngstown Cardinal Mooney at St. Vincent-St. Mary

Benedictine at Villa Angela-St. Joseph

Columbus Bishop Watterson at Walsh Jesuit

Minerva at Warren Howland

Cleveland Central Catholic at Warren JFK

Richmond Heights at Warrensville Heights

Harvey at West Geauga

Canton Central Catholic at Wooster Triway

Shaw at Youngstown Ursuline

Saturday, Oct. 17

Akron City Series

Firestone at East, 10 a.m.

Garfield at Buchtel, noon

Ellet vs. North at Ellet, noon

United Athletic Conference

Youngstown at Bedford, time TBD

Nonconference

St. Edward at Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller, 3 p.m.



Matt Goul

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