

# Akron Beacon Journal

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## OHSAA football playoffs. Highland beats North Ridgeville to set up rematch with Avon

**Brad Bournival** Akron Beacon Journal

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### Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- Highland defeated North Ridgeville 48-0 in a dominant playoff performance.
  - Quarterback Grady Gibb led the Hornets with two rushing and four passing touchdowns.
  - Highland's defense secured its fifth shutout of the season, allowing just 224 total yards.
  - The win sets up a regional championship rematch against defending state champion Avon.
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Fourth-seeded [North Ridgeville](#) found out if you pay too much attention to Casey Myser, a Gibb brother might sing you all the way home.

The Rangers keyed on the Hornets star running back and Highland quarterback Grady Gibb took quickly them out .

It happened Nov. 14 in a 48-0 win in which Gibb rushed for two scores and threw for four more to power the top-seeded [Hornets](#).

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Up next is a Division II, Region 6 championship rematch against defending state champion Avon (11-1) at Brunswick, according to the Eagles Twitter page.

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The third-seeded Eagles beat second-seeded Wadsworth 42-21 to advance.

"We have a lot of different kids that can do a great job," Hornets coach Mike Gibbons said. "[Gibb] knows where to get the ball and takes what they give him."

## Highland QB Grady Gibb near perfect in win over Rangers

With the Rangers keying on Myser (13 carries, 106 yards, TD), Gibb took things to another level for Highland (12-0).

He was 8-of-9 passing for 219 yards and touchdowns to Lucas Gerding (two), Nick Dobkowski and Jake Weber. He also logged 61 yards on nine carries.

Gibb spread it around to Myser (two catches, 55 yards), Dobkowski (one catch, 53 yards), Weber (two catches, 45 yards), Gerding (two catches, 33 yards) and Evan Foust (one catch, 31 yards).

But if you've followed Highland this season, you know the Hornets are just as solid on defense.

The unit picked up its fifth shutout of the season by allowing just 50 yards on the ground and 174 yards through the air. It picked off Cole Miller (14-of-23 passing, 142 yards) once and forced two turnovers.

Two quick scores and two three-and-outs gave Highland the edge early before the backbreaker came for North Ridgeville.

"We started quick, but what I really thought got us going was a stop on the goal line after our first two scores," Gibbons said. "They were inside the 10 and we stopped them on fourth-and-1 and then scored [on a 53-yard pass to Dobkowski] to make it 21-0. That was a huge momentum swing right there."

## Tasty rematch with Avon up next for Highland

Highland knows exactly what stands in its way next week with Avon.

A terrible start to last season's regional final put Highland in a two-touchdown hole against Avon.

It's a game the Hornets haven't forgotten and one they hope to flip the script on next week.

"These guys have been looking forward to this all year," Gibbons said. "It's been in the back of their minds since last year. They remember how it felt and wanted to get back there and hopefully get another crack at them. It's been one day at a time, one game at a time, but we're really excited to get back there."

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