

Akron Beacon Journal

FOOTBALL

High school football | Akron-area Week 2 breakdowns, predictions

[Brad Bournival](#), [Michael Beaven](#), [Michael Leonard](#) and [Nate Ulrich](#) Akron Beacon Journal

Updated Aug. 27, 2025, 8:33 a.m. ET

It's Week 2 of the [Ohio high school football season](#), but for two [Greater Akron](#) teams it will be Week 1.

[Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy](#) had an open date a week ago and [Norton](#) was forced to cancel its scheduled season opener against Northwest because of an [outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease](#). But both teams will take the field Aug. 29, with CVCA traveling to Canton South and Norton [hosting Lutheran East](#).

The biggest game of the week, though, features [Hudson](#) playing at [Highland](#) in a battle of Suburban League powerhouses.

Who will win? Keep reading to see which teams the Beacon Journal staff thinks will prevail in those matchups and the rest of a full slate of games this weekend.

Watch Ohio High School Football Live on the NFHS Network all season

Need a break? [Play the USA TODAY Daily Crossword Puzzle](#).

Friday's football games in the Greater Akron area

Hudson (1-0) at Highland (1-0)

What to watch: Both teams had impressive Week 1 wins. ... The Explorers defeated 2024 regional semifinalist Austintown Fitch 28-14 in Hayden Lipinski's debut as the starting quarterback despite being outgained 414-298.

[Reno Ferri](#) led Hudson with 133 yards on 20 carries and scored a touchdown and Lipinski was 11-of-15 passing for 117 yards with a TD pass to Christopher Horner. ... Nathan Judy returned to linebacker for the Explorers and finished with 17 tackles, two fourth-down stops and an interception. ... The Hornets traveled to Pennsylvania to take on perennial power McDowell and it was over early in a 49-10 rout by Highland. The Hornets set a school record for yards from scrimmage with 672 and had 514 of them by halftime for an average of 13.4 yards per play. [Casey Myser](#) rushed for 153 yards and two scores on 11 carries and had two catches for 42 yards. Grady Gibb was 7-of-7 passing for 226 yards and a TD pass to Nick Dobkowski in his debut as a starter. Highland finished with 402 yards rushing. ... Myser scored two TDs in the final 6:24 and rushed for 159 yards to lift Highland over Hudson 31-24 last season. ... This will be the rubber match for the senior classes as the Explorers opened the 2023 season with a 35-21 win over the Hornets. ... Hudson is tied for second in Division II, Region 5 heading in. Highland is tied for first in Division II, Region 6.

Who will win: Highland 24-21

East (1-0) at Nordonia (1-0)

What to watch: [Nordonia](#) dominated [St. Vincent-St. Mary](#) 42-0 last week and [East](#) topped Bedford 20-6. ... Nordonia returns just six total starters from last season, but is off and running. Gavin Kanar and Luke Williams are the only returning starters on offense, linebackers Connor Whapham, Karsen Fisher and RJ Jefferson are back on defense and Riley Edgehouse is the kicker and punter again this season. ... Nordonia's Dominick Jackson was a star against STVM, as he caught a TD pass from QB Steven Fakult, intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble. Fakult added a rushing TD and threw a TD pass to Fisher, Whapham ran for a TD, Jamison Elerick returned an interception for a TD, Jefferson recovered a fumble and Brock Barwidi and Matt Pines each forced a fumble. ... East's Emmanuel Jefferson scored two TDs against Bedford, as he caught a TD pass from Marlin Engram Jr. and ran for a TD.

Engram also tossed a TD pass to Terrell Wharton Jr. ... East's defense features Marcus Henderson II, Jon Jeffries, Lavance Bratton, Lawrence Cherry Jr., Tarrell Robinson and Wharton.

Who will win: Nordonia, 35-28

Ellet (0-1) at Field (0-1)

What to know: Ellet and Field look to shake off tough Week 1 losses, to Tallmadge (23-6) and Canton South (42-16), respectively. ... Both programs also have new head coaches. Bob Sax recently took over at Ellet after a decade-plus leading Garfield followed by eight years as an assistant at Lake. ... The Falcons' James Dutched, who spent years as an assistant coach for multiple Portage County programs, made his head coaching debut this past week. ... Expect a great battle between RBs Brandon Knowles and Victor Brown. [Ellet plans to get the ball to Knowles often](#), and the senior also plays a leading role at linebacker. Brown is a similarly imposing two-way threat. Sax also likes what he is seeing from QB Terrance Parker Jr., DL Jordan Robinson and LB Brandon Guest. Parker threw a TD pass to Jalon Austin last week.

Who will win: Ellet, 24-21

Firestone (0-1) at Copley (0-1)

What to watch: [Copley](#) and [Firestone](#) are both seeking to bounce back in Week 2. Streetsboro defeated Copley 34-20 and Rocky River defeated Firestone 52-7. ... Copley's Bryce Martin ran for two TDs last week and Dane Wininger threw a TD pass to Andrew McKnight. ... Firestone's Evan Riley ran for a TD last week. The Falcons also feature Donniven Younger and Brandon Tilley.

Who will win: Copley, 42-21

Garfield (1-0) at Revere (1-0)

What to watch: [Revere](#) defeated Woodridge 35-20 last week and [Garfield](#) beat Southeast 21-19. ... Harrison Drvenker was Revere's star last week as he

caught two TD passes from Chase Clifford and threw a 73-yard TD pass to Uriah Pulliam. Drvenker had five catches for 112 yards. ... Revere's James Perry contributed two rushing TDs and David Kennedy was 5-of-5 PATs and had five touchbacks on kickoffs. ... Johlil Blanchard and Elijah Sedor are two other key players for the Minutemen. Blanchard ran for 100 yards on 12 carries against Woodridge. ... Sheldon Corley led Garfield's offense last week when he ran for 153 yards and two TDs on 17 carries. Khamari Brady contributed a rushing TD, and Mohamed Kamara and Kemonte Harrison both grabbed interceptions against Southeast. ... Ziiyahn Blair, Jamir Jenkins and King Rollin are other defensive players to watch for Garfield.

Who will win: Revere, 28-21

Stow (0-1) at Barberton (0-1)

What to watch: The Suburban League crossover game pits two teams looking to rebound, though [Stow had a much tighter game in Week 1 vs. Medina](#). Stow quarterback Jacob Harrington threw for one touchdown and ran for another in the loss to the Bees. ... Barberton will look to comeback after being dominated by Wadsworth.

Who will win: Stow 21-10

St. Vincent-St. Mary football: [Parris Campbell, Doran Grant celebrate careers with jersey retirement](#)

St. Vincent-St. Mary (0-1) at Perry (1-0)

What to watch: [The Panthers](#) and new coach Spencer Leno look to keep the positive momentum going after [last week's 41-14 win at Central Catholic](#). Senior Connor Shephard and junior Jonathan Lemon combined for 176 yards and four TDs on the ground. Sophomore QB Cameron Treharn was 6-of-9 passing for 182 yards, two TDs and no interceptions in his first varsity start. He threw a 70-yard TD pass to Jayden Wilson and a 56-yarder to Nasir Foster as the Panthers displayed some big-play ability in their new offense. ...

Shephard led the Perry defense with nine tackles from his inside linebacker position. Junior Ryan Happoldt added six tackles and an interception as Perry limited Central to 209 yards of offense and 2.8 yards per carry. ... STVM opened the season with a 42-0 loss at Nordonia. The Irish committed four turnovers. Sophomore QB Will Adamson threw two picks. ... The Irish have lost 10 straight games dating back to last year, when they won their opener, then lost out to finish 1-9. It was the program's fewest wins since St. Vincent and St. Mary merged in 1972. ... This is the third consecutive season Perry and STVM have faced off in Week 2. The Panthers won 17-0 last season, and the Irish won 16-14 in 2023.

Who will win: Perry 32-7.

Walsh Jesuit (1-0) at Clark County Springfield (0-1)

What to watch: Is it an upset if you've reached the regional finals the last two seasons? Regardless, the Warriors will take a 17-14 win over Division III state runner-up Toledo Central Catholic on the Fighting Irish's home turf in Week 1. Walsh snapped a 26-home winning streak by TCC when it made a fourth-and-goal stop on the 2-yard line in the fourth quarter. Bowling Green commit [Caden Carter](#) led the Warriors defense with two interceptions and a sack. David Ternosky's quarterback debut included 65 yards rushing on 14 carries with a touchdown. He was 6-of-15 passing for 137 yards with a TD to Milan Parris (five catches, 116 yards). [Marty Tobin](#) rushed for 130 yards on 11 carries and Freddie Marcell's 24-yard field goal in the second quarter proved to be the difference. ... Springfield opened with a 21-14 loss to Winton Woods, which was led by Alabama commit Rihyael Kelley and Northern Illinois commit Bryshawn Brown. ... Springfield went 6-5 last season, ending a run three straight trips to the Division I state finals and five consecutive regional championships. ... C.J. Wallace is Springfield's quarterback. He is the son of Chris Wallace, who threw for 81 career touchdowns at Springfield North and South. Springfield also features RB Deontre Long and wide WRs Sherrod Lay and Braylon Keys. ... DT [Royce Rogers](#), a Buffalo commit, and LB [Taj Powell](#),

a West Virginia pledge, lead Springfield's defense. ... Walsh is tied for seventh in Division II, Region 5. Springfield is tied for ninth in Division I, Region 2.

Who will win: Walsh 21-20

Bedford (0-1) at Twinsburg (1-0)

What to watch: Twinsburg heads into Week 2 with momentum after it scored 20 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to stun Boardman in Week 1. QB Dylan Fantone threw the winning TD to Rob Herndon with 44 seconds left to beat the Spartans. Tigers coach Charles Saulter coached the Bearcats before arriving at Twinsburg.

Who will win: Twinsburg 24-14

Brecksville (1-0) at Tallmadge (1-0)

What to watch: Tallmadge found some balanced offense in its Week 1 win over Ellet, but it faces a Brecksville team coming off one of the biggest local upsets. The Bees rallied from 17 points down to beat Aurora 21-17 on the road. Look for Tallmadge's Braxton Dente to follow on a solid first start at quarterback.

Who will win: Tallmadge 21-17

Green (0-1) at Painesville Riverside (1-0)

What to watch: Although [Green](#) opened its season with a [28-21 loss at home to defending Division IV state champion Indian Hill](#), the Bulldogs reminded everyone they possess the ingredients to field one of the Akron area's most dynamic trios: senior QB Tyson Hunka and senior RBs Evan Reed and Anthony McMichael III. ... Hunka went 15-of-28 passing for 217 yards and a TD and rushed 13 times for 91 yards. Reed rushed eight times for 50 yards and a TD and caught five passes for 54 yards and a TD. McMichael compiled four carries for 12 yards and a TD along with four catches for 68 yards. As a safety, McMichael also forced Indian Valley senior RB and Ohio Mr. Football candidate [Grady Kinsey](#) to fumble amid an otherwise dominant

outing. ... In Week 2 last season, Green defeated Riverside 17-10 at home.

Who will win: Green 27-21

CVCA (0-0) at Canton South (1-0)

What to watch: CVCA will be champing at the bit to play after a Week 1 bye. The Royals face a tricky opener as they travel to a former PAC-7 rival. CVCA will operate out of multiple formations, but love to use the three-man T formation, where they have tons of depth at running back. Rutgers recruit Joey Kopec will get a lot of attention, but Tommy Kopec, Zac Anderson and QB Charley Levak all are capable of doing damage with their legs. CVCA also returns the bulk of a defense. Canton South outscored Field 26-6 in the second half to run away with a 42-16 home win. The Wildcats are coached by Matt Dennison.

Who will win: CVCA 24-21

Lutheran East (1-0) at Norton (0-0)

What to watch: The Panthers open the season after [hand, foot and mouth disease wiped out Week 1](#). Norton is led by [Buddy Willig](#) (628 yards rushing, nine TDs; 77 tackles, three interceptions), [Markus Brown](#) (507 yards rushing, six TDs; 106 tackles, 11 for loss, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, interception) and all-state RB-LB Jason Beverly (767 yards rushing, eight TDs; 73 tackles, eight for loss). ... The Falcons beat John Hay 34-0 last week behind Youngstown commit and former Medina quarterback Cason Diiuli, who threw for 300 yards and three scores.

Who will win: Norton 21-14

Manchester (1-0) at Sandy Valley (0-1)

What to watch: Three yards and a cloud of dust? Not this season for the Panthers. Transfer quarterback Tyler Pappas was 16-of-24 passing for 318 yards and set a school record with seven TD passes in a 62-0 win over Coventry. His main targets were Jake Livingston (seven catches, 155 yards,

three TDs) and Malachi Cintron (four catches, 97 yards, two TDs). ... All-Ohio RB Phil Partin (injured) is still questionable for Manchester. ... Sandy Valley dropped a 50-13 opener to Fairless. Natch Overly led the Cardinals with 41 yards rushing. Chase Helwig had 31 yards receiving. ... Manchester won 27-2 last season. ... The Panthers are tied for first in Division V, Region 17. Sandy Valley is tied for 13th.

Who will win: Manchester 42-0

North (1-0) at Cuyahoga Falls (0-1)

What to watch: [North](#) beat St. Thomas Aquinas 23-6 last week and [Cuyahoga Falls](#) lost to Willoughby South 34-0. ... Jair Bell and Nate Ruffin were the Vikings primary playmakers last week. Bell threw two 50-yard TD passes — one apiece to Harold Wright and Nate Ruffin. Ruffin also added a TD run, and LaDanian Hughes and Jayde Brabson tackled Aquinas' quarterback in the end zone for a safety. ... The Black Tigers are led by Gavanni Tuttle, Vincent Lambis, Cyrus Fortman, Jermaine Hampton and Uly Scribner.

Who will win: North 21-14

Rittman (1-0) at Coventry (0-1)

What to watch: [Coventry](#) lost 62-0 last week to Manchester and Rittman beat Cleveland JFK 63-0. ... Rittman ran for 241 yard and six TDs last week. Christian DuBiel, Hunter Cottrell, Wyatt Mills and Jordan Killough are in their fourth year starting at Rittman. DuBiel returned an interception for a TD last week. ... Odin Weirick, Tristan Riggs and Gabriel Whims are three other key playmakers for Rittman. ... Coventry features Jayden Stover, Evan Owen, Brad Little and Makai Woolridge.

Who will win: Rittman, 28-14

Rootstown (1-0) at Springfield (1-0)

What to know: The Rovers have plenty of momentum after a 42-0 win over

Toledo Christian to start the season. The Reuting brothers combined for three TDs as Damien had 13 carries for 89 yards and a score and Kiel had six carries for 46 yards and two TDs. Of course, Rootstown's bread and butter is arguably on the opposite side of the ball, with its hallmark defense holding the Eagles to 139 yards. ... [Springfield](#) carries its own momentum after winning its opener 40-32 over Waterloo, the first Week 1 win for the Spartans since 2017. The Spartans' strength is up front with multi-year starters Spencer Casto, Skylor McLaughlin and Elijah Mainor leading the way. Expect a great battle between those three and Rovers star lineman Braden Wright as well as between the Reuting brothers and Spartans ILB Martin Thurston. ... Springfield's Bryson Lanham had a sack, forced a fumble and scored two TDs after he recovered two fumbles against Waterloo. Dustin Sabolek returned a kickoff 85 yards for a TD, Koen Keller threw a TD pass to Isaac Ternosky and Thurston made four tackles for loss and ran for a TD and a two-point conversion. Omar Leon made four PATs and a field goal. Casto and McLaughlin each had a sack.

Who will win: Springfield, 21-14

Canton Central Catholic (0-1) at Mogadore (1-0)

What to know: The Crusaders and Wildcats meet for the third consecutive year and fourth time in the last five seasons. Mogadore topped CCC in the first round of the 2021 postseason, but the Crusaders have won their last two meetings — in the 2023 and 2024 regular seasons. All three games were decided by 10 points or fewer. ... Expect the Wildcats to keep feeding Conner Lehner after he had TD runs of 73 and 32 yards at Crestwood. ... CCC features just 10 returning letterwinners and six seniors, as it looks to bounce back from a 41-14 loss to Division II Perry. Expect a great contest between a stout Crusaders defense, led by LBs Brock Abbott and Vincent Sciarretti and S Tyler Cook, and that Lehner-led Wildcats ground game.

Who will win: Mogadore 21-17

Aurora (0-1) at Lutheran West (0-1)

What to watch: Aurora will look to rebound after giving up a 17-point halftime lead in Week 1 against Brecksville. The Greenmen got a solid game from RB Xavier Board, but committed two turnovers. Lutheran West needs to rebound in its home opener after losing 55-8 to Garfield Heights.

Who will win: Aurora 24-7

New Albany (0-1) at Wadsworth (1-0)

What to watch: If you haven't seen sophomore sensation Brysen Hall, this week would be a good time to catch the rising Wadsworth QB. The sophomore finished 12-for-18 passing for 240 yards with TD passes to Calix Lemp, Jack McNeill, Colton Leavitt and Jay'len King to help lift the [Grizzlies](#) to their fifth consecutive win over the Magics in a 55-7 rout. It should be noted that all of Hall's yards came in a quarter and a half and that three passes were dropped. ... Lemp had a game-high four catches for 85 yards. Gavin Madigan carried the ball four times for 79 yards and a score in the first half. ... [Jett Jerwers](#), who has offers from Louisville, Kentucky and Bowling Green, leads the Eagles. The junior rushed for 195 yards and a score last week in a 14-11 loss to London. ... Wadsworth beat new Albany 42-21 last season. It was the game that kickstarted Hall's career when he went 10-of-20 passing for 234 yards and a score in relief. Madigan ran for 156 yards and three scores. Cooper Gray ran for 93 yards and two scores ... The Grizzlies are tied for fourth in Division II, Region 6. New Albany is tied for 12th in Division II, Region 7.

Who will win: Wadsworth 42-21

Woodridge (0-1) at Brookside (0-1)

What to watch: After going toe-to-toe with Revere in Week 1, Woodridge had to deal with some injuries in its 35-20 loss. They will travel to Sheffield looking to earn coach John Daraio his first victory. Brookside had a rough opener, losing 42-0 to University School.

Who will win: Woodridge 21-7

Saturday's football games for Greater Akron teams

Warren Harding (0-1) at Buchtel (0-1)

What to watch: The Griffins had only 83 yards from scrimmage in a 35-0 loss to Hoover and Arthur Thomas was 10-for-20 passing for 50 yards in his Buchtel debut. Kylar Wilson had just 23 yards rushing in defeat. ... Harding fell 43-25 to Canton McKinley to open 2025. James Jones was 10-of-13 passing for 114 yards with a touchdown and interception. Like Buchtel, Harding couldn't get the running game going with Amiere Cobb and Miking Adair gaining only 25 yards each. ... Harding has won the last three meetings by a total of 13 points and never more than seven. Last season, the Raiders won 20-18. Buchtel is tied for 10th in Division IV, Region 13. Harding is tied for 15th in Division II, Region 5.

Who will win: Harding 14-7

Archbishop Hoban (1-0) at Archbishop Spalding (0-1)

What to watch: Hoban seeks to avenge a [28-14 loss at home to Spalding](#) in Week 1 of the 2024 season. This time, Hoban will be on the road against Spalding, which has won three consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association championships. ... Hoban is coming off a [31-12 home win over Harvest Prep](#). Spalding opened this season with a 36-23 loss at Brownsburg High School in Indiana. ... Hoban brothers Brayton and Brydon Feister are a punishing linebacker tandem. Brayton began his junior season by returning an interception 22 yards for a TD and rushing for an 8-yard TD as a running back. ... Hoban newcomers Nick Kinsey (8-of-17 passing for 205 yards and a TD with two interceptions) and Jance Henry (16 carries for 121 yards and a TD) had strong debuts with the Knights. ... Hoban senior cornerback and USC commit Elbert Hill had two interceptions. ... Spalding's top players include OT Kyle Lucas (Navy commit) and CB Sean Johnson (Florida State commit).

Who will win: Hoban 24-21

We occasionally recommend interesting products and services. If you make a purchase by clicking one of the links, we may earn an affiliate fee. USA TODAY Network newsrooms operate independently, and this doesn't influence our coverage.