

Who are the top-two way football players in NE Ohio 2025? Our picks, your votes (poll)

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[Hoban 'stacking days' toward ultimate goal](#)

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CLEVELAND, Ohio — For the last two weeks, the top high school football players at each individual position have been highlighted from the Greater Cleveland and Akron area.

Now, here are the top 30 players who are among the best on both sides of the ball.

Players considered for this list play at schools within the seven-county area of Northeast Ohio that includes Cuyahoga County and the counties that border it.

Read about them below and vote for who you think is the best in our poll below. It will remain open until 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21:

Recommended high school sports stories

- [Who are NE Ohio's strongest football teams by position? Unit rankings for 2025](#)Aug. 16, 2025, 6:05a.m.
- [Benedictine football: Bengals' bite comes down to the trenches — 2025 camp tour](#)Aug. 15, 2025, 10:05a.m.
- [Perry football: Pirates filling their spots with versatile pieces — 2025 camp tour](#)Aug. 15, 2025, 8:05a.m.

Drayton Allgood, Chardon senior quarterback and cornerback

Add slotback as a third option for Allgood, who is returning behind center as a dual-threat at quarterback. The Hilltoppers expect to use him in a variety of ways with emerging sophomore quarterback Andrew Cole. Allgood first got his chance as a sophomore in the secondary for coach Brian Landies and the versatility could lend to more usage on defense. That will be a recurring theme with a few converted quarterbacks on this list, but Allgood remains a quarterback, too.

Kindall Brown, Maple Heights defensive back and receiver

Another Ohio commit, Brown's high school career is as decorated as anyone. He started as a freshman cornerback, then took on the quarterback position as a sophomore. Last season, Brown broke up 11 passes and came up with two interceptions. He added 709 yards and nine TDs on 41 receptions for Maple (8-4).

Brady Bush, Solon defensive end and tight end

On pace to be a four-year starter at Solon (3-8), Bush is a junior who received an early scholarship offer last year from Kent State. He built on that to finish with 64 tackles and earn All-Northeast Lakes District honorable mention last season in Division II, doubling as a tight end.

Payton Cook, Archbishop Hoban receiver and cornerback

A Louisville recruit, Cook is one of two fourth-year starters for Hoban at the skill positions with USC cornerback commit Elbert "Rock" Hill IV. Cook came up as a quarterback before settling in as a receiver for the Knights (12-3), who reached the Division II state semifinals. He also plays cornerback. An injury limited him to eight games.

Jacob Earnest, Wadsworth linebacker and tight end

One of Wadsworth's captains and a fourth-year starter, Earnest led the Grizzlies' defense as a junior with 129 tackles. Eighty-three were solo hits. He also had 10 TFLs, three sacks and 10 quarterback hurries for Wadsworth (11-2), which won the Suburban League National Conference and reached the Division II regional semifinals. Earnest made the All-Ohio second team. He doubled as a tight end with 308 yards and three TDs on 19 receptions, plus three more rushing scores.

Brayton Feister, Archbishop Hoban running back and linebacker

While Feister is Hoban's leading rusher, he's better as a linebacker. That is where Feister is projected as a college prospect. Coach Tim Tyrrell agreed last season with that assessment and noted his opportunity to showcase that ability will come this year with a handful of graduated starters on that side of the ball. Feister rushed for 1,583 yards and 22 TDs as the lead back last season for Hoban (12-3), which reached the Division II state semifinals. He made the All-Ohio second team on offense. He is a four-star prospect on defense with offers that include Akron, Kentucky, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Evan Foust, Highland linebacker and receiver

A junior, Foust led the back end of Highland's defense throughout the season with 81 tackles, including 36 solo, seven TFL and three sacks. Foust can play up as a linebacker and on offense double as a receiver or tight end. The Hornets (13-1) won the Suburban League American

Conference title and reached the Division II regional finals. Foust made the All-Northeast Inland District second team as a punter.

Elbert “Rock” Hill IV, Archbishop Hoban cornerback and receiver

A fourth-year starter, Hill committed in May to USC. He picked the Trojans over Ohio State, Alabama, LSU and Oregon. He had three interceptions and three more PBUs last season, earning a spot on the cleveland.com all-area team and All-Ohio first team in Division II, playing both ways with time at receiver. Hill scored seven times for Hoban (12-3), which reached the state semifinals.

Carter Hopkins, Perry running back and linebacker

Hopkins emerged on both sides of the football as a sophomore, rushing for 984 yards and 16 TDs at running back and compiling 63 tackles at linebacker. Hopkins also had six TFL and two sacks for the Pirates (12-2).

Tristin Hughes, Rocky River receiver and defensive back

A junior, Hughes spent his sophomore year at St. Ignatius after beginning at St. Edward as a freshman. Hughes allowed only six receptions with the Wildcats. Now, he is at Rocky River with offers from Kent State, Miami (Ohio) and Toledo. He also can be one of quarterback Ryan Taylor’s top targets on offense.

Nathan Judy, Hudson quarterback and linebacker

These aren’t the only positions played by Judy. He also took snaps at tight end in July during 7-on-7 competition with fellow quarterback Hayden Lipinski. Judy threw for 1,679 yards and 12 TDs last year. As a sophomore, he had 14 TFL, four sacks and two interceptions at linebacker.

Joey Kopec, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy running back and linebacker

A Rutgers commit, Kopec is a multi-sport standout at CVCA. He led the Royals last season both as a running back and linebacker with 80 tackles and six interceptions. Offensively, he rushed for 1,043 yards and scored 17 TDs. Kopec is the reigning Northeast Inland District Defensive Player of the Year in Division III, also making the All-Ohio first team.

Jake LaVerde, Kirtland quarterback and safety

Not too many quarterbacks make this list. Most of them aren’t asked to add more positions to their plate, but LaVerde has done just that for the Division VI powerhouse. He made the All-Ohio first team last year, despite a broken arm sidelining him for much of the season. Hurt in Week 6 last year, he returned for the regional finals to help the Hornets back to the state finals.

He rushed for 1,135 yards and 11 TDs on just 81 carries and threw for 276 yards and 10 TDs to three interceptions, completing 64% of his passes, entering the state-title game.

Savion Lewis, Villa Angela-St. Joseph cornerback and receiver

A senior for the Vikings, Lewis holds offers from North Carolina, Akron, Dartmouth and Yale. He gave up zero touchdowns on defense, had 26 tackles, 17 PBU and one interception. On offense, Lewis added 456 yards and six TDs on 15 receptions.

Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth running back and safety

A fourth-year starter, Madigan committed in March to Army. He is a running back and safety for the Grizzlies (11-2), who reached the Division II regional semifinals in 2024. Madigan earned All-Northeast Inland District and honorable mention All-Ohio despite missing three games because of an injury. He totaled 103 tackles, including 72 solo, with six TFLs, three interceptions and four PBUs.

C.J. Newell, Glenville safety and running back

Newell took over the lead running back role last season for Glenville after establishing himself in the secondary as a sophomore. He returned to safety down the stretch and finished with 67 tackles, eight TFL and an interception. He also had two PBUs on three targets, plus a forced fumble for the Tarblooders (11-4), who returned to the Division IV state semifinals. Newell made the All-Ohio third team, gaining 1,136 all-purpose yards with 18 TDs. His offer list includes Kentucky, Pittsburgh and several MAC schools.

Tyrell O'Neal, Benedictine defensive end and tight end

O'Neal is a senior committed to Toledo. He's been a starter since his freshman year at Garfield Heights and doubles as a tight end that defenses must track. O'Neal finished with 27 tackles for the Bengals (10-3), who made the Division III regional semifinals.

Jamir Perez, Glenville tackle

Perez flipped this summer from Florida to Ohio State. Colleges recruited him as a defensive tackle, but Perez is adding offensive tackle duties to his plate this season. His physically imposing presence will again be vital for Glenville (11-4), which reached the Division IV state semifinals. Perez emerged as a sophomore at Cleveland Heights before joining the Tarblooders as a junior.

Henry Perrymond, Cleveland Heights cornerback and receiver

Colleges up and down the East Coast are interested in Perrymond, who has been a standout since his freshman year at Cleveland Heights. He made the All-Northeast Lakes District second team in Division I for the Tigers (6-5).

Khyier Robinson, Solon cornerback and receiver

A multisport athlete and junior for the Comets, Robinson garnered attention from colleges before his sophomore season. He holds offers from Akron, Kent State, Miami (Ohio) and Toledo. Cornerback is Robinson's primary position, but he is expected to have an increased role at receiver.

Charlie Rodgers, Bay running back and safety

Whether it is running back or safety, Rodgers has been a Swiss Army Knife for Bay since his freshman season. He rushed for 600 yards and four TDs as a junior on offense. On Defense, he added 46 tackles, including 20 solo, with two TFL and three interceptions. He made the All-Northeast Lakes District second team on defense.

Arthur Scott III, Streetsboro tackle

A two-way starter for the Rockets (12-1), Scott made the All-Ohio first team in Division IV on defense. He posted a whopping 26 ½ TFL with 5 ½ sacks and 80 total tackles. Scott's offers include Cincinnati, West Virginia and Wisconsin. He also is the Northeast Inland District Defensive Player of the Year. He is committed to Wisconsin.

Kent Staten, Bedford receiver and defensive back

Like LaVerde at Kirtland, Staten played quarterback last year and can do much more. For that reason, first-year coach Desean Washington opted to move him out of that position to utilize his talents as a receiver and defensive back.

Trent Taylor, Perry defensive end and tight end

A starter since his sophomore year, when Perry won a Division V state championship with an undefeated record, Taylor has always stood out on the field. He is committed to Bowling Green at tight end, but has made his mark the last few years on defense.

Kei'shjuan Telfair, Euclid cornerback and receiver

An all-area second-team cornerback last year as a sophomore, Telfair also earned a spot on the All-Ohio second team in Division II. He had five interceptions and has 10 in his career, plus 28 tackles in 2024, with offers from Penn State, Michigan State and Pittsburgh. Telfair expects to have an expanded offensive role this year as a junior.

Cooper Walker, Solon receiver and defensive back

Another two-way threat for the Comets, Walker totaled 40 tackles with four PBU and interception. He added a sack and scored on a blocked kick return. Offensively, Walker hauled in 22 passes. Walker scored in the pass game both as a receiver and passer, adding in with the rushing game.

Jakob Weatherspoon, Avon defensive back and receiver

An Ohio State recruit who flipped in July to North Carolina, Weatherspoon can play cornerback or safety — where the Eagles utilized him on the way to their Division II state championship. Weatherspoon made the All-Ohio first team and cleveland.com all-area first team. Through the regional finals, he had 42 tackles with two interceptions and four PBU. In the state championship, Weatherspoon blocked an extra point that kept Cincinnati Anderson from tying the score in Avon's [20-13 win](#). Weatherspoon took on a greater offensive role as a junior at receiver. Expect that to continue in 2025.

Terrell Wharton Jr., Akron East cornerback and receiver

He holds offers from Indiana, Kentucky, Penn State and several MAC schools. Wharton earned All-Ohio honorable mention last season in Division III. He can play cornerback or safety.

Zionte Williams, Bedford receiver and defensive back

Like Staten, Williams played quarterback last year as a sophomore. He will be primarily used as a receiver and defensive back, too. Williams also is a starter on the basketball team.

Buddy Willig, Norton receiver and safety

An All-Ohio second-team pick in Division IV as a defensive back, Willig stars on both sides of the ball for Norton (7-4). Offensively, he moved to quarterback because of injuries. Willig totaled 77 tackles, including 56 solo hits, three interceptions and two TFL. He also played some running back, but receiver is his natural position on that side of the ball.

(Editor's note: Cleveland.com polls are intended to be fun. We do not allow votes that are generated by script, macro or other automated means. Cleveland.com reserves the right to adjust the voting based on irregularities.)

Who is the best two-way player in Northeast Ohio?

- Evan Foust, Highland 59.04% (98 votes)

- Joey Kopec, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 10.84% (18 votes)

- Brady Bush, Solon 9.04% (15 votes)

- Gavin Madigan, Wadsworth 4.22% (7 votes)

- Brayton Feister, Archbishop Hoban 3.01% (5 votes)

- Elbert "Rock" Hill IV, Archbishop Hoban 1.81% (3 votes)

- Tristin Hughes, Rocky River 1.81% (3 votes)

- Savion Lewis, Villa Angela-St. Joseph 1.81% (3 votes)

- Nathan Judy, Hudson 1.2% (2 votes)

- C.J. Newell, Glenville 1.2% (2 votes)

- Tyrell O'Neal, Benedictine 1.2% (2 votes)

- Kei'shjuan Telfair, Euclid 1.2% (2 votes)

- Jakob Weatherspoon, Avon 1.2% (2 votes)