

Highland Hornets 2025 high school football schedule, preview

Brad Bournival Akron Beacon Journal

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Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

Highland's football team returns a strong offense, led by record-setting running back Casey Myser.

The team's biggest question mark is the offensive line, where only one starter returns.

Grady Gibb takes over at quarterback, replacing Dylan Borla.

HIGHLAND HORNETS**HEAD COACH:** [Mike Gibbons](#), 13th year overall, 95-41; 11th season at Highland, 84-30**LAST YEAR:** 11-2, 7-0**POSTSEASON:** Division II, Region 6**Highland football's returning lettermen (28)**

Cody Bendau, OG-DT, 5-10, 260, Sr.

Drew Divis, DT, 6-1, 240, Sr.

[Nick Dobkowski](#), WR-DB, 6-4, 180, Sr.

Neil Flannery, S, 5-10, 165, Jr.

Tommy Fearn, OT-DE, 6-1, 245, Jr.

Evan Foust, TE-LB, 6-0, 205, Jr.

[Lucas Gerding](#), WR-DB, 5-11, 170, Sr.

Grady Gibb, QB, 5-11, 205, Sr.

Jameson Gordon, MLB-DE, 6-3, 220, Sr.

Ryan Haney, WLB, 5-10, 180, Jr.

Carson Kwiatkowski, K, 5-9, 140, Sr.

Jonah Kowza, K, 6-0, 180, Jr.

Landon Kuzma, P, 5-10, 170, Sr.

Brock Leatherman, G, 5-8, 220, Sr.

Dylan Lazar, RB-LB, 5-7, 175, Sr.

Dan Miller, TE-DE, 6-1, 205, Sr.

Josh Messina, LT-DT, 6-2, 250, Sr.

Chris Mezger, WR-DB, 6-2, 205, Sr.

[Casey Myser](#), RB, 6-2, 210, Sr.

Aiden Price, QB, 6-0, 180, Sr.

Ben Radigan, WR-DB, 5-11, 170, Jr.

Noah Wolny, RB, 5-10, 170, Sr.

Kallen Whitling, RB-LB, 5-9, 185, Sr.

Jake Weber, WR-S, 5-10, 160, Jr.

Colton Winston, RB-LB, 5-9, 170, Jr.

Ryan Zahir, DE, 5-11, 210, Sr.

Cooper Zielinski, S, 5-10, 165, Sr.

Liam Zielinski, WR-DB, 5-10, 160, Sr.

Highland football's impact players

It begins with [Casey Myser](#). The first-team All-Ohioan set school records with 2,130 yards rushing and 39 touchdowns on the ground. Add 433 yards receiving and seven more scores and you see just how special he is. ... [Evan Foust](#) (28 receptions, 577 yards, five TDs), [Lucas Gerding](#) (25 receptions, 447 yards, three TDs) and [Nick Dobkowski](#) (22 receptions, 375 yards, seven TDs) return from a record-setting pass attack for the Hornets as well. ... "We feel really good about the skill guys we have coming back," Gibbons said. "It's big to have Casey back, especially after what he's done at running back the last two years." ... The entire linebacking group is back with Foust (88 tackles, four sacks), Jameson Gordon (73 tackles) and Kallen Whitling (59 tackles) in the mix. That should be critical as Highland fills in things up front. ... "It's huge having those guys back," Gibbons said. "A lot more will be expected of them to have even bigger years."

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What's new with Highland football in 2025

How do you replace two-way starters [Carson Noonan](#) (70 tackles, 20 for loss, 10½ sacks) and [Ryan Zyweic](#) (76 tackles, 21½ for loss, 9½ sacks)? You really can't. ... Josh Messina is the only returning starter on the offensive line and will be pushed out to tackle, with Cody Bendau moving over from the defensive line to be a two-way starter. After that, it's kind of up in the air for the other three positions. ... "If you're looking at our team, we have to figure it out quick up front. It's going to be about how quickly we can gel because we have all the pieces everywhere else." ... Quarterback Grady Gibb will take over for Dylan Borla (2,303 yards, 27 touchdowns). "He looked really good preseason," Gibbons said. "He's going to be a really good one. Sometimes you're bringing in a new starter, but he's been in the program a long time. He's really strong. He's built like a linebacker. He has all the intangibles. He's in line to have an amazing season."

Highland football's outlook

Highland's first four games are McDowell (Pa.), Hudson, Avon Lake and Aurora. Those four programs all made the playoffs last season, with the Greenmen leading that charge at 11-2. With the postseason going to a 12-team format in each region, it's no so much how you finish but how you start for the Hornets. ... "If we can come out of the start of the season healthy and with some wins, we'll be in line to have a really good year," Gibbons said. "It's like every year here — we're cautiously optimistic."

Highland football schedule for 2025

Aug. 22 at McDowell (Pa.)

Aug. 29 HUDSON

Sept. 5 at Avon Lake

Sept. 12 AURORA

Sept. 19 at Copley

Sept. 26 TALLMADGE

Oct. 3 BARBERTON

Oct. 10 at Kent Roosevelt

Oct. 17 at Revere

Oct. 24 CUYAHOGA FALLS

Home games in all CAPS. All games at 7 p.m., unless noted

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