

Akron Beacon Journal

FOOTBALL

Walsh, Hoban, Hudson, East, CVCA among playoff winners in Akron-area high school football

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Division II, Region 5

Walsh Jesuit 49, Nordonia 18: Walsh overcomes quarterback injury, aided by Marty Tobin scoring 4 touchdowns

Walsh Jesuit starting quarterback David Ternosky was sidelined with an injury in the second quarter, but his backup, fellow junior Ben Biel, performed well, the Walsh defense dominated and Warriors senior running back Marty Tobin scored four touchdowns.

The ingredients combined for second-seeded Walsh's easy win over No. 7 Nordonia in a regional quarterfinal at Conway Memorial Stadium.

Walsh (9-1) advanced to face No. 3 Austintown Fitch (9-1). Nordonia (8-4) ended its season.

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During a stellar outing by Ternosky, he was hurt on an 8-yard run, examined by medical personnel on the field and eventually walked to the sideline under his own power with 3:31 left in the second quarter.

Biel entered the game, and his first pass went for a 13-yard touchdown to junior wide receiver Cambell Lann with 2:28 left in the second quarter. Earlier, Ternosky and Lann connected for a 48-yard TD with 5:52 left in the second quarter, and Ternosky also threw a 24-yard TD pass to senior wide receiver Milan Parris with no time left in the opening quarter.

“I love David Ternosky,” Walsh coach Nick Alexander said. “Your heart hurts when you see a guy go down because you know what he put into it to get out here, and to earn the right to be our starting quarterback is not easy. It's a coveted spot. I don't know what [the status is for] David.

“It's crazy because Ben Biel's our holder [on placekicks]. He was back there on our punt return tonight. He's on every special team, and he started at safety for us. He's truly our Swiss Army knife. We gave him a bunch of reps during the bye week, and fortunately it paid off.”

Nordonia scored with no time left in the first half when junior quarterback Steven Fakult threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Collin Atha. Senior Riley Edgehouse's ensuing extra-point kick trimmed Nordonia's deficit to 28-15 at halftime.

Nordonia got the ball to begin the second half, but the Knights had a turnover on downs and lost a fumble on their first two possessions of the third quarter. Walsh capitalized on each opportunity. Tobin turned a pass from Biel into a 25-yard catch-and-run TD. Tobin added a 29-yard TD run after senior linebacker Caden Carter forced a fumble and senior defensive end Cade Romanini recovered.

“There's no margin for error against a team that good, and I was really proud,” Nordonia coach Jeff Fox said. “We hung in there at times and had chances midway through that game to keep it close, and they took advantage of the mistakes we did make.

“But I'm extremely proud of our kids' efforts. Then you talk about the season,

what a great season with great young men that represent Northfield, Macedonia and Sagamore Hills so well.”

For Nordonia, Fakult went 20-of-43 passing for 195 yards and a TD, senior running back Connor Whapham rushed eight times for 30 yards and a TD and Edgehouse made a 30-yard field goal.

As Walsh continues its playoff run, Tobin is expected to continue to be a focal point. Coming off Walsh’s first-round bye, Tobin broke away for an 80-yard TD run on the first play from scrimmage against Nordonia. He finished with 13 carries for 262 yards and three TDs and one catch for a 25-yard TD. Walsh’s records date to 1995, and, according to those, Tobin’s 262 yards ranks third among the program’s single-game rushing totals.

With Tobin running wild, Walsh didn’t flinch after losing its starting quarterback and surrendering a TD to close the first half shortly thereafter.

“Coach [Alexander] had a great speech at halftime that got us all pumped up,” Tobin said. “Yeah, we had to face a little bit of adversity, but we showed we could get the job done.”

No. 1 Hoban 38, No. 9 Boardman 0: Nick Kinsey, Jackson Callaway, Feister brothers propel coach Tim Tyrrell to 150th win with Knights

Nick Kinsey threw two touchdown passes and Jackson Callaway returned a punt 95 yards for a score to lead the host and No. 1 seed Knights (9-1) to a win over the No. 9 seed Spartans (6-6) at Dowd Field. The win improved 13th-year Hoban coach Tim Tyrrell’s record to 150-26 with the Knights and 215-77 overall in 24 seasons.

“They run a wing-T offense, which we haven’t seen since 2017 [in the first half of a state championship win against Cincinnati Winton Woods], so you never have enough time to go over that,” Tyrrell said. “There are never enough days. I think

our kids did a really good job this week of focusing and playing a different style of defense. Offensively ... we did what we wanted to do, which was be effective having the ball and score every single time without punting."

Payton Cook got the start at quarterback for the third game in a row for Hoban as Kinsey returned in a reserve role after an injury he sustained on Oct. 10 in a 12-9 win over Cleveland Glenville.

Kinsey's first pass was a 68-yard TD completion to John Johnson as time expired in the first quarter. Kinsey's fourth and final pass of the night was a 17-yard TD pass to Tony Burleson to give Hoban a 28-0 lead with 7:04 to go in the second quarter.

"The team played great," Johnson said. "All week we practiced, we played hard and we worked hard."

Kinsey finished 4-of-4 passing for 109 yards.

"I gotta give all the credit to my O linemen and my receivers," Kinsey said. "They made plays for me all night. I just got the ball to them when they needed it and in the space that was open. I am really grateful for all of my guys around me."

Hoban's Jance Henry ran for a 2-yard TD with 6:02 remaining in the first quarter and Callaway scored his punt return TD with 1:36 to go in the first quarter.

"I took the ball and I had great blockers," Callaway said.

Hoban's La'Near Folk contributed 5-yard TD run in the third quarter. Kicker Jeremy Hammel made a 33-yard field goal as time expired in the second quarter, and finished 5 of 5 on PATs. Brayton Feister ran for 62 yards on five carries and Folk ran for 36 yards on four carries.

"We played very physical and we executed our keys," Feister said. "We dominated on both sides of the ball, and it showed early. We were able to get a lot of guys

that are younger in the game quick because we played excellent."

"We all ran to the ball well," Brydon Feister said. "We swarmed the ball. It was 11 hats to the ball every time."

Hoban's Diggy Williams recovered a fumble.

"The front seven [defensively] was unbelievable," Tyrrell said. "Devanaire Riley, Liam Barger, Ace Brown, Patrick Kinsell, both the Feisters, Kahlil Diming and Antonio Williams Jr., those were all of the guys in the box. They really kept them contained."

Hudson 14, Lake 12: Explorers intercept 4 passes, hang on to beat Lake

Hudson's defense came as advertised. The No. 5 seed Explorers (10-2) intercepted four passes in a win over the No. 4 seed Blue Streaks to advance to a regional semifinal against No. 1 Hoban next week.

Even after the four interceptions, the Explorers needed a Lake turnover on downs in their own territory with 1:27 left to seal the win.

"This group has six shutouts on the year, which I think is the most in school history," Hudson junior defensive back Anthony Paolucci said. "Coming in we were going to go a lot of man coverage, and our D-line played awesome."

Three of Hudson's four interceptions came on three consecutive Lake passes in the second half. Paolucci had two of them. It was the first time he had multiple interceptions in a game.

"That was awesome," Paolucci said. "I'm super blessed. Yeah, to get two picks, it's super cool. I guessed right a couple times and got lucky."

Still, Lake (7-4) had chance to win. Alex Quior's 30-yard touchdown pass to Ty DeGeorge with 7:32 left cut Hudson's lead to 14-12.

The Blue Streaks forced a Hudson punt and took over at their own 19 with 2:28 left. Quior's 22-yard run on third-and-8 and Davis Matson's 14-yard run pushed Lake into Explorers 41. But Brennan Funyak's tackle for loss on a DeGeorge run made it third-and-11 from the 42, and two consecutive incompletions ended Lake's final drive.

"It's a tough one," Blue Streaks coach Dan DeGeorge said. "You hate to lose, but when you know you can play better, it's even more hard to swallow."

Lake's JP Moorhead kicked a 30-yard field goal to open the scoring and Hudson countered with two big passes on consecutive plays to end the first quarter up 7-3. Quarterback Hayden Lipinski connected with Myles Pratt for a 39-yard gain and threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to tight end Nathan Judy.

Lipinski left the game with an injury in the second quarter and Judy moved to QB. Judy delivered a 5-yard TD pass out of the wildcat formation to Paolucci with 13 seconds left in the first half and Hudson led 14-3.

Hudson's Louie Castellarin and Funyak each recorded an interception.

"I loved our guys tenacity on defense," Hudson coach Jeff Gough said. "Lake is a great football program and that was a great team win. We fought through a number of penalties and found a way to win. Our QB, Hayden, went down with an injury so Judy had to step in and did a great job running our offense. Defensively, we were outstanding. Our pressure up front combined with some great coverage by our DBs led to four interceptions."

Austintown Fitch 28, Green 25: Bulldogs can't hold 10-point lead against Falcons

Deon'Dray Richard ran for 166 yards and four touchdowns on 30 carries as host Fitch rallied to beat Green.

The No. 11 seed Bulldogs led 17-7 when Logan Noirot kicked a 34-yard field goal

with 8:22 left in the second quarter. The No. 3 seed Falcons scored the next 27 points in the game on Richard's four TDs.

Junie Higgs added 69 yards on 14 carries for Fitch (9-1). Collin Kalaher completed 10 of 12 passes for 53 yards, a TD to Brady Evans and one interception.

Green quarterback Tyson Hunka accounted for 329 yards of offense. He ran for 120 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries, and completed 15 of 33 passes for 209 yards, one TD and one interception.

Aiden Rice caught three passes for 51 yards and a touchdown for the Bulldogs (6-6), who had a five-game winning streak snapped. Evan Reed caught three passes for 68 yards and ran for a TD.

Division II, Region 6

Highland 38, Brecksville 7: Casey Myser, Hornets run wild on Bees

Deep playoff runs and the No. 1 seed Hornets (11-0) have become commonplace in Granger Township. Highland returned to its sixth consecutive regional semifinal with a win over the No. 8 seed Bees (7-5).

Casey Myser scored his 22nd, 23rd and 24th touchdowns of the season and went over 1,000 yards. Grady Gibb added a rushing touchdown and Dylan Lazar scored on the ground as well.

Jonah Kowza added a field goal.

The Hornets play host to No. 4 North Ridgeville (10-1) next week. The Rangers beat No. 5 Whitehouse Anthony Wayne 42-7.

Wadsworth 34, Toledo St. Francis de Sales 6: Grizzlies defense steps up; reigning champs next

Wadsworth's Brysen Hall was 17-for-24 passing for 190 yards and two touchdown passes to Calix Lemp (nine catches, 116 yards) in the Air Force commit's return. Cooper Gray had 113 yards and two touchdowns on 30 carries. Gavin Madigan rushed for 80 yards and a score on 11 carries.

The No. 2 seed Grizzlies (11-0) rushed for 203 yards and held the No. 7 seed Knights (7-5) to 58 yards rushing and 181 total yards. Wadsworth's Jaiden Gross intercepted a screen pass.

"We controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball," Wadsworth coach Justin Todd said. "Our kids played extremely physical against a very good football team. They posed a lot of problems for our team, but our kids handled their speed, size and athleticism very well. Offensively we were efficient, converting some key third down plays in the first half. Defensively, we stayed locked in each snap eliminating their explosive plays and taking away their run game."

Wadsworth will play in Week 13's headliner, with reigning state champion Avon (10-1) traveling to Art Wright Stadium after the Eagles beat No. 6 Olmsted Falls 46-13.

The game will be a rematch of a regional semifinal last season won 41-10 by Avon.

Division III, Region 9

CVCA 42, Geneva 7: Royals running game, defense overpower Eagles

CVCA's playoff opener looked much like its regular-season games did. The Royals' running game dominated Geneva early, while its defense shut down the Eagles for an easy win.

Joey Kopec got the party started for No. 2 seed CVCA with a 61-yard TD run. He also hauled in a 62-yard TD pass from Charley Levak just before halftime.

Kopec finished with 102 yards on five carries, while Zac Anderson led the Royals with 118 yards and a TD.

Levak and Wesley Keeler also scored rushing TDs, as CVCA finished with a 310-97 edge in rushing yards

CVCA's defense also got in on the act when Brayden Harris snagged an interception in the first quarter and returned it 48 yards for the TD.

Geneva quarterback Caden Proy had a rough night, going 1-of-6 passing for 5 yards with three picks. Proy led the Eagles with 67 yards rushing and broke up the shutout with a 39-yard TD run in the fourth quarter.

CVCA will host East in a regional semifinal Nov. 14.

East 36, Hawken 16: Marlin Engram Jr., Emmanuel Jefferson lead Dragons past Hawks

No. 6 seed East (10-2) is headed to the third round of the OHSAA playoffs for the first time in program history after an upset win over host Gates Mills Hawken (8-3) a week after beating Cleveland Benedictine (8-3) at Ellet.

East QB Marlin Engram Jr. gave No. 3 seed Hawken fits, completing 6 of 11 passes for 159 yards and running for 65 yards on nine carries. Engram threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Lawrence Cherry Jr. in the first quarter and ran for a 2-yard TD in the fourth quarter.

East's Emmanuel Jefferson and Lavance Bratton each ran for a TD in the second quarter, and Terrel Karim Jr. returned an interception 30 yards for a TD in the third quarter. Engram threw three successful two-point conversion passes, one each to Bratton, Terrell Wharton Jr. and Jefferson.

"I am so proud of our guys," East coach Marques Hayes said. "The leadership is really showing up from the seniors that we do have. Those guys are playing fantastic ball, and then our underclassmen are coming in and filling in the holes as well. Right now, it seems like we are clicking."

Cherry ran for 73 yards on seven carries. Jefferson contributed seven carries for 49 yards, a 21-yard reception and seven tackles. Bratton added five carries for 39 yards and five tackles. Jon Jeffries had six tackles, Rahmel Taylor added five tackles and Marcus Henderson II had a sack. Wharton had two catches for 88 yards and recorded an interception. Karim had two catches for 20 yards and five tackles (two for loss).

"Marlin Engram Jr. stood out," Hayes said. "Lawrence Cherry stood out. Emmanuel Jefferson has been standing out all season long. Terrel Karim Jr. had a huge game tonight as well. The offensive line played great. King Arthur Love, Marcus Henderson II, Julius Vickers, Nasir West and Sean Echols opened up holes up front. Underclassmen Rahmel Taylor stepped in and had to play a pivotal role for us in this game, and did a fantastic job at outside linebacker. This is a great day to be a Dragon."

Division III, Region 10

Rocky River 23, Revere 14: Minutemen show grit, but fall to high-tempo Pirates

Revere (8-3) was in the game from the start, but could not find enough offense to get past Rocky River (10-2).

The game pitted Revere's run game against Rocky River's passing prowess.

Revere established the run early, as a 44-yard run by James Perry set up quarterback Chase Clifford for a 5-yard touchdown scramble on the opening drive.

However, the Minutemen sputtered on offense from there. Although Perry finished with 120 yards rushing on 18 carries, the closest Revere came to scoring again until the fourth quarter was a missed field goal before the half.

Meanwhile, Rocky River took a 9-7 halftime lead on a 43-yard field goal by Eric Gorius and a 27-yard TD pass from Ryan Taylor to Rowan Kennedy.

Twice in the third quarter, Revere's defense stuffed the Pirates on fourth down in Minutemen territory. The first was a goal-line stand at the Revere 1, as a Pirates penalty and incomplete pass left Rocky River empty-handed after a 16-play drive.

In the fourth quarter, however, River found the big play it needed when Taylor threw a long ball down the sideline to Kennedy for a 79-yard TD to make it 16-7.

Down by two scores, Revere went to the passing game and then to its bag of tricks to reply. Perry took a handoff from Clifford and then threw the ball back to Clifford, who turned it into a 19-yard TD pass.

Clifford did it all, going 6-of-10 passing for 79 yards, rushing for 39 yards and a TD, and had the receiving TD before leaving the game late in the fourth quarter with an injury.

However, Rocky River found its own quick answer. Taylor threw a screen pass to Tristin Hughes, who turned into a 36-yard TD to put the game out of reach.

Taylor finished 19-of-29 passing for 303 yards and three TDs and one interception.

Division IV, Region 13

West Branch 35, Norton 14: Defensive TDs help Warriors overcome Panthers

The host Warriors got two defensive touchdowns and led 14-0 before the Panthers recorded a first down.

Despite that start, Norton kept the game close until West Branch quarterback Grady Hirst scored on a 7-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Jeremiah Thomas scored on a pick six and Gavin Gregory scored on a fumble recovery return for the Warriors. Both scores came after the Panthers closed to within seven points.

“We made mistakes and good football teams take advantage of those mistakes,” Norton coach Glen Kruger said. “They played a great game, they were physical with us.

“Obviously, we’d like to have about three, four plays back. The pick six, the fumbled snaps and the fumble for a touchdown were the difference in the game.”

The fourth-seeded Warriors (10-1) won their 10th consecutive game to advance to a showdown at top-seeded Lake County Perry.

Markus Brown ran for touchdowns of 5 and 23 yards for the Panthers (10-2), who lost on the field for the first time all season, with their other loss a controversial forfeit.

Kruger told his players to be proud of being on only Norton’s third 10-win team.

“I told the kids don’t be sad that you lost tonight, be sad that it’s over,” he said. “It was a great season, nothing to be ashamed of.”

Mentor Lake Catholic 16, Streetsboro 0: Rockets fail to get off the ground in shutout loss

Streetsboro (9-3), averaging more than 37 points coming in, was shut out and had its five-game win streak snapped by Mentor Lake Catholic. No details were provided.

Division V, Region 17

Girard 28, Manchester 14: Panthers rally, but fade late

The Panthers (8-4) spotted Girard (11-0) a 14-point lead at the break, but came roaring back with a 1-yard touchdown by Ayden Meade midway through the third quarter and tied it 5 seconds into the fourth quarter on an 8-yard TD pass from Tyler Pappas to Phil Partin.

But that tie lasted just 3 minutes as Girard marched the length of the field to take the lead for good with 8:27 left. Girard AJ Pearson then put the game away with a short touchdown run off tackle with 93 seconds left.

Girard travels to No. 3 Poland Seminary (9-2) next week. The Bulldogs beat No. 6 Youngstown Liberty 35-14.

Division VII, Region 25

Mogadore 54, East Palestine 7: Conner Lehner, Wildcats overpower Bulldogs

Senior running back Conner Lehner sprinted past the East Palestine defense for a 69-yard touchdown run on Mogadore's second offensive play from scrimmage, and the Wildcats didn't let up in an easy win to advance to a regional semifinal Nov. 14 against East Canton.

On the third play of Mogadore's next drive, Lehner surged inside the left tackle on third-and-3 for a 73-yard touchdown run. Lehner finished with 242 rushing yards and four touchdowns on just eight carries — all in the first half.

Mogadore built a 54-0 halftime lead, triggering the running clock.

Wildcats junior quarterback Maddox Smith added a 21-yard rushing touchdown and threw two play-action passes to Collin Hendrickson for a combined 92 yards and two scores.

Kade Thomas added two picks for Mogadore.

— Compiled by Michael Beaven, Michael Leonard, Don Coughlin and Jonah Rosenblum

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