

Akron Beacon Journal

FOOTBALL

Ohio high school football's Top 5 Summit County area tight ends to watch



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Key Points

The Akron Beacon Journal is ranking the top high school football players in the Greater Akron area by position.

This installment focuses on the top five tight ends for the upcoming 2026 season.

The list includes Division I college commits Karsen Fisher of Nardonía and Terrel Karim Jr. of East.

Returning All-Ohioan Evan Foust of Highland is also featured among the top players.

As we prepare for the start of the [2026 Ohio high school football season](#), we're breaking down [the top players](#) in the area by position.

[Throughout the preseason](#), we're ranking [the top 10 Greater Akron](#) quarterbacks, running backs, receivers/tight ends, offensive linemen, defensive linemen, linebackers, defensive backs, specialists and two-way players.

Today, we look at the top five tight ends, including [Division I college commit Karsen Fisher of Nardonía](#), [returning All-Ohioan](#) and [Division I college commit Terrel Karim Jr. of East](#) and [returning All-Ohioan Evan Foust of Highland](#).

1. Karsen Fisher

Nardonía, Class of 2027

What to know: [The 6-foot-3½, 225-pound Fisher](#) committed to play linebacker

at Toledo in July over other scholarship offers from Miami (Ohio), Dartmouth, Army, Sacred Heart, New Haven, Howard, Kent State and Morgan State. [Fisher](#) is a versatile playmaker returning for [first-year head coach Scott Barwidi](#). [Fisher](#) had 28 receptions for 393 yards and four touchdowns on offense last season. [Fisher](#) also had 66 tackles (nine for loss), 1½ sacks, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery, an interception, a TD and a blocked kick on defense and special teams.

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2. Carter Maxa

Woodridge, Class of 2028

What to know: [Maxa](#) (6-6, 225 pounds) has scholarship offers to play tight end from Cincinnati, Dartmouth, Toledo and Miami (Ohio), and is receiving interest from Pittsburgh, Arizona State and Michigan State. His father, Jeremy Maxa, played football at the University of Akron. [Carter Maxa](#) started last season at tight end, and moved to quarterback in the third quarter of Week 1 because of an injury. He was the starting QB Weeks 2-6 and returned to TE for Week 7. He had 10 catches for 165 yards and three TDs, 58 carries for 167 yards and eight TDs and completed 42 passes for 617 yards and two TDs. "I cannot say enough about him as a leader," Woodridge coach John Daraio said. "Our league [Metro Athletic Conference] unanimously voted him first-team tight end despite his receiving stats, understanding what all he did for us, and what he would have done with more games at his true position."

3. Terrel Karim Jr.

East, Class of 2027

What to know: The 6-foot-3, 200-pound [Karim](#), who committed to play linebacker at Bowling Green, was honorable mention All-Ohio in Division III as a defensive lineman and is also an impact player at tight end. [Karim](#) also had

scholarship offers from Kent State, Eastern Kentucky, Findlay, Ashland and Walsh University. [Karim](#) helped East win the Akron City Series title and win two playoff games last season with coach Marques Hayes. [Karim](#) had 31 catches for 503 yards and four touchdowns, and 42 tackles (19 for loss), 10 sacks, an interception and a TD on defense in 2025.

4. Grant Kaminski

Nordonia, Class of 2027

What to know: [Kaminski](#) (6-3½, 225 pounds) is another weapon in Nordonia's offense. [Kaminski](#) had 36 catches for 608 yards and three TDs last year as Nordonia made a Division II playoff appearance.

5. Evan Foust

Highland, Class of 2027

What to know: [Foust](#) (5-11, 208 pounds) earned second-team All-Ohio honors in Division II last season as Highland (12-1) won a Suburban League American Conference title and made a regional appearance under coach Mike Gibbons. [Foust](#) totaled 14 catches for 255 yards and four touchdowns, and added 73 tackles (14 for loss), 3½ sacks, five forced fumbles and an interception on defense.

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