

Akron Beacon Journal

FOOTBALL

Highland High School football schedule, lettermen, 2026 preview



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HIGHLAND HORNETS

- **COACH:** [Mike Gibbons](#), 14th year overall, 107-42; 12th season at Highland, 96-31
- **LAST YEAR:** 12-1, 7-0
- **POSTSEASON:** Division II, Region 5

Highland football's returning lettermen (14)

- Nathan Capotosto, DE-TE, 6-2, 215, Jr.
- Anthony Depompei, WR-DB, 5-9, 165, Sr.
- Evan Foust, LB-TE-RB, 6-0, 215, Sr.
- Lukas Grills, DE-TE, 6-2, 225, Jr.
- Ryan Haney, LB, 5-10, 185, Sr.
- Frankie Iannaggi, WR-DB, 5-9, 165, Sr.
- Jonah Kowza, K, 6-1, 185, Sr.
- Spencer Marquis, OL-DL, 6-1, 245, Sr.
- Ethan McCarthy, OT-DE, 6-1, 230, Sr.
- Johnny Prucha, QB, 6-1, 185, Sr.
- Ben Radigan, WR-DB, 6-0, 185, Sr.
- Wyatt Sitz, OL-DL, 5-11, 265, Sr.
- Jake Weber, WR-DB, 5-10, 165, Sr.
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Colton Winston, RB-LB, 5-10, 185, Sr.

Highland impact players

It's a three-headed monster between tight end/H-back/linebacker Evan Foust, lineman Spencer Marquis and kicker Johnah Kowza. ... Foust returns was the Suburban League American Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year and Division II second-team all-state in 2025. He led the team in tackles (73), tackles for loss (14) and forced fumbles (five). At H-back, he caught 14 passes for 255 yards and four touchdowns. ... Marquis powered an offense that averaged 238.8 yards on the ground. ... Kowza is the secret weapon at kicker. ... Of his four field goals, the SL Specialist of the Year had two of more than 40 yards and logged 43 touchbacks on 63 kickoffs. Kowza is a five-star recruit who is ranked fifth in the nation and No. 1 in Ohio.

High School Sports: [The most thorough local sports coverage in the region, from clubs through varsity.](#)

What's new with Highland football in 2026

With Division II first-team All-Ohioan Casey Myser in the backfield and Grabby Gibb at quarterback, the Hornets averaged 402.9 yards last season. Myser, who broke almost every Highland record imaginable, finished a four-year career with 4,497 yards rushing, 885 yards receiving and 92 total TDs and was a two-time Suburban League Offensive Player of the Year behind a line that included Josh Messina, Cody Bendau and Marquis. ... Marquis is back. The rest are gone.

Highland football's outlook

The Hornets come over to a new division after burying the Suburban League American Conference for years. Look for Johnny Prucha to get it done at quarterback for Highland. The junior varsity went 8-2 last season so things should stay status quo despite being in the middle of the pack in terms of size in the National Conference. ... As lone as Foust and Co. can move the offense,

Gibbons' run-heavy offense should keep things moving. ... The Week 1 game with Division II, Region 5 winner Walsh Jesuit should go a long way to showing just what these Hornets are all about.

Highland football schedule for 2026

- Aug. 21 WALSH JESUIT
- Aug. 28 at Strongsville
- Sept. 4 AVON LAKE
- Sept. 11 NORDONIA
- Sept. 18 at Medina
- Sept. 25 at Stow
- Oct. 2 at North Royalton
- Oct. 9 SOLON
- Oct. 16 WADSWORTH
- Oct. 23 at Hudson

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