

Cleveland.com HS football Top 25: St. Edward still No. 1, but five new teams rise up

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High school football: St. Edward vs. Glenville, September 12, 2025

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By

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CLEVELAND, Ohio — St. Edward maintains its ranking at No. 1, but five teams made the jump into the cleveland.com high school football Top 25 [since last week](#).

The biggest ripple in this week's rankings comes from Youngstown Ursuline [cancelling its season](#). The Fighting Irish had not played since Week 2, but growing accusations of hazing — which includes two lawsuits — and multiple teams opting not to play them resulted in the school making its decision Friday to nix its season.

Ursuline had been ranked 14th in Northeast Ohio with convincing wins against Steubenville and Columbus Bishop Hartley.

Additionally, four more teams dropped out of the Top 25 after losses last week. Three of those teams — Maple Heights, North Ridgeville and Riverside — lost their first games. Perry lost its second straight game, falling in the final minutes to Chardon.

Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Lake Catholic, Norton, Twinsburg and Uniontown Lake jump into the Top 25 as a result.

Find out how they stack up entering Week 5 below with a look at the Northeast Ohio rankings:

High school football: St. Ignatius vs. Walsh Jesuit, September 12, 2025

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(The cleveland.com high school football Top 25 is expanding this season to provide a fuller picture of the top teams in Northeast Ohio. Previously, we limited the rankings to our traditional seven-county coverage area, but we're now considering all teams from the OHSAA's Northeast region of the state.)

25. Norton (3-0)

Last week: Not ranked, beat Ravenna 56-24

This week: Friday vs. Field

Norton's offense has not missed a beat with new quarterback Trey Kersten and four-year standout Buddy Willig, who scored on a kick return and rush in the Panthers' rout of Ravenna. They have scored at least 53 points in their three wins.

24. Twinsburg (4-0)

Last week: Not ranked, won at Stow-Munroe Falls 45-21

This week: Friday at Wadsworth

Twinsburg makes its Top 25 debut after junior quarterback Dylan Fantone threw for 300 yards and six TDs in their [win at Stow](#). Now comes their biggest test of the season at undefeated defending Suburban League champ Wadsworth.

23. Lake Catholic (3-1)

Last week: Not ranked, won at Gilmour Academy 31-14

This week: Friday at Benedictine

The Cougars have won three straight games since their season-opening home loss to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney. Junior running back Danny Zmorowski paced the ground game vs. Gilmour with 87 yards on 17 carries. Coach Marty Gibbons [told the News-Herald](#) he thought his team played a complete game, which has them trending upward for this week's showdown with Benedictine at John Carroll University.

22. Uniontown Lake (4-0)

Last week: Not ranked, beat Massillon Perry 31-15

This week: Friday at Canton GlenOak

The Blue Streaks took control in the second half last week against Perry, handing the Panthers their first loss. They forced five turnovers, including three interceptions, in a gutsy performance after losing junior standout Ty DeGeorge the previous week to injury.

21. Villa Angela-St. Joseph (2-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 22, idle

This week: Friday at St. Vincent-St. Mary

After a week off, coach Jeff Rotsky's Vikings head to Akron to face winless St. Vincent-St. Mary. They are amid a three-game stretch against opponents who are a combined 0-12, which does not boost their potential for playoff points in Division III.

20. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (2-2)

Last week: Ranked No. 21, lost at Steubenville 27-24 (OT)

This week: Friday vs. Chardon

The Cardinals lost a 14-0 lead on the road, as Steubenville walked off with a touchdown after a Mooney field goal in overtime. This team has lost two straight but is buoyed by its opening wins against Lake Catholic and VASJ.

19. Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (3-0)

Last week: Not ranked, beat Akron Garfield 56-0

This week: Friday at Boardman

CVCA looks to be one of the toughest outs in Division III, Region 9 as the Royals rolled again. Four different ball carriers rushed for touchdowns, not including Mason Frye with a game-high 75 yards on 10 attempts. Ky'Ron Fikes scored twice, and Joey Kopec ran for one touchdown on his only carry — a 43-yarder — that exceeded what CVCA gave up on the ground all night in Week 4: just 9 yards rushing and 56 total yards. They now face a Boardman squad (2-2) that knocked Maple Heights out of the Top 25 with its 36-20 win.

18. Benedictine (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 25, won at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin 28-14

This week: Friday vs. Lake Catholic

Sophomore Earl Jackson Jr. rushed for two TDs and 92 yards, while junior Corde Blair added 118 yards and a fourth-quarter score to remain unbeaten at NDCL. Now comes another big challenge and future North Coast Conference foe in Lake Catholic, which will meet the Bengals at John Carroll University.

17. Canfield (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 20, won at Poland Seminary 35-13

This week: Friday vs. Youngstown Chaney

The Cardinals handed Poland Seminary its first loss. They also are responsible for West Branch's lone defeat. Could this be the team to beat in Division III, Region 9? Quarterback Enzo Cocca is a dual threat that defenses have not been able to contain. He threw for 185 yards and three TDs on 8-of-8 passing. He also rushed for 82 yards with another score.

16. Nordonia (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 17, won at Brecksville-Broadview Heights 23-13

This week: Friday vs. Solon

Connor Whapham's 170 yards rushing and Steven Fakul's 223 yards passing paced the Knights, who held off the Bees to remain in the thick of the Suburban League National Conference title hunt. Their defense gave up just six first downs to Brecksville.

15. Austintown Fitch (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 16, beat Riverside 17-14

This week: Friday vs. Buchtel

Fitch held off Riverside in a Top 25 matchup, entering last week, with Junie Higgs' go-ahead TD run in the third quarter. The Falcons gave up only 165 yards. They have won three straight games since opening the season with a loss at Hudson, which they outgained despite that setback.



Hudson head coach Jeff Gough watches the action from the sideline in the first half Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at Highland. John Kuntz, cleveland.com

14. Hudson (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 15, beat Solon 35-3

This week: Friday at Stow-Munroe Falls

Hudson has been dominant in two weeks since its [32-0 loss](#) at Highland. The Explorers shut out St. Vincent-St. Mary and then beat Solon by a combined score of 84-3. They rushed for 307 yards against the Comets and were led by Reno Ferri with 180 yards and a score.

13. Canton McKinley (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 13, beat Canton GlenOak 38-0

This week: Friday at Massillon Perry

The Bulldogs' shutout of GlenOak came in what coach Renzy Parnell described as a ["sloppy" performance](#). They have won two straight since falling to undefeated New Jersey power St. Augustine Prep and will now face a Perry team in the Federal League that is coming off its first loss to Uniontown Lake.

12. Massillon (2-2)

Last week: Ranked No. 12, beat Buffalo Lewis J. Bennett (N.Y.) 35-0

This week: Friday vs. St. Edward

A big first half propelled the Tigers, who welcome the No. 1-ranked Eagles to Stark County on Friday. Massillon bounced back from a 50-35 loss to Rabun Gap of Georgia with last week's performance, which included holding Bennett to just 80 yards.

11. Strongsville (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 11, won at Cleveland Heights 29-26

This week: Friday vs. Euclid

Freshman running back Austin Tatulinski [stepped into the starting spot](#) and rushed for 208 yards on 21 carries. The Mustangs will have their fourth home game in five weeks Friday against an improving Euclid (2-2), which is coming off a 38-14 win vs. Lorain.

10. Olmsted Falls (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 10, beat Elyria 38-0

This week: Friday at Avon

Olmsted Falls gets its rematch with Avon after challenging the Eagles in last year's Division II playoffs. The Bulldogs have won three straight games, including last week's shutout that included 143 yards and two TDs on eight carries by Owen Singleton.

9. Kirtland (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 9, won at Fairview 45-21

This week: Friday vs. Trinity

Kirtland attempted just one pass while Fairview threw it 52 times in their Chagrin Valley Conference crossover. The Hornets rushed for 387 yards, led by John Silvestro with 183 yards and three TDs. Jake LaVerde added 104 yards and a score against the team in which he suffered his broken arm against last season.



Highland quarterback Grady Gibb hands the football off to running back Casey Myser on a rush in the first half of their shutout Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, against Hudson. John Kuntz, cleveland.com

8. Highland (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 8, beat Aurora 41-7

This week: Friday at Copley

The Hornets' unforgiving defense gave up only 107 total yards to Aurora in their rematch of last year's Suburban League American Conference championship game. They have given up only 24 points in their four wins.

7. Wadsworth (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 7, won at North Royalton 48-14

This week: Friday vs. Twinsburg

Gavin Madigan and Cooper Gray [combined for 258 yards rushing](#) on just 13 carries at North Royalton. The Grizzlies totaled 557 yards and look to continue their hot start with Twinsburg coming to town for a share of first place in the Suburban League's National Conference.

6. Glenville (2-2)

Last week: Ranked No. 4, lost at St. Edward 28-14

This week: Friday vs. John Adams

Two straight losses — albeit to defending state champion Avon and top-ranked St. Edward — have dropped the Tarblooders down from the No. 1 spot in the rankings, where they stood entering the season. They remain heavy favorites to win a third Division IV state championship in four years, but first up are three straight Senate League games before a trip in October to Archbishop Hoban.

5. Archbishop Hoban (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 6, beat Akron East 52-0

This week: Friday vs. Brush

Jance Henry and Brayton Feister each ran for three TDs and Josh Cribbs' son, sophomore Israel "Major" Cribbs, made a splash with a touchdown catch from Nick Kinsey as the Knights rolled in Akron. They will remain at home the rest of the season, including next week's showdown with undefeated Walsh Jesuit.

4. Mentor (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 5, won at Brunswick 45-7

This week: Friday vs. Medina

Jackson Farley's three TDs in the first quarter boosted Mentor at Brunswick. The Cardinals have won 22 of their last 24 games since an overtime loss in 2023 at Cleveland Heights — their last defeat in the Greater Cleveland Conference. Mentor returns to the site of that setback next week.

3. Avon (3-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 3, won at North Ridgeville 55-7

This week: Friday vs. Olmsted Falls

Could this week provide Avon's toughest test for the remainder of the regular season? They cruised past North Ridgeville, as Blake Elder hit Fin Jerdonek on a 71-yard pass to break a 7-all tie and cruise from there to hand the Rangers their first loss in convincing fashion. Elder threw for 232 yards and five TDs on 10-of-15 passing.

2. Walsh Jesuit (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 2, won at St. Ignatius 31-0

This week: Friday vs. Buffalo Canisius (N.Y.)

Walsh's defense allowed just 58 yards passing to the Wildcats, who were down to their third straight quarterback to start last week's encounter at John Carroll University. Marty Tobin had a big game there last year against Benedictine and had [another powerful performance](#) with 254 yards rushing and two TDs. The Warriors have won 17 of their last 18 games, except for last year's Division II regional final against Hoban. They meet in two weeks.

1. St. Edward (4-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 1, beat Glenville 28-14

This week: Friday at Massillon

Brandon White's 173 yards rushing and three fourth-quarter touchdowns [rallied the Eagles](#) past rival Glenville. White missed the game last year. Coach Tom Lombardo called this victory a vital one, considering they had two of their first four opponents down with a running clock. He also remembered two former coaches the program lost to battles with cancer in the last year, most recently Dan Waitkus — whose initials were placed with a sticker on the back of Lombardo's hat — and Dillon Franciscus, who died last spring. "We dedicated the game to Coach Waitkus," Lombardo said. "It's team. These kids play for each other."

Dropped out

Youngstown Ursuline (2-0, was No. 14), Maple Heights (3-1, was No. 18), Perry (2-2, was No. 19), North Ridgeville (3-1, was No. 23), Riverside (3-1, was No. 24)

On the cusp

Berea-Midpark (3-1), Buckeye (4-0), Chardon (3-1), Hawken (4-0), Louisville (4-0), Manchester (4-0), North Canton Hoover (4-0), Revere (3-0), Rocky River (3-1)