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Week 3 Game Balls: Top performers of the 2025 high school football season

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Avon gets back to work vs. Glenville



By Matt Goul, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Game balls go out to the following players for their performances from Week 3 of the high school football season.

Coaches are encouraged to send statistics and nominations to Matt Goul (mgoul@cleveland.com) by Sunday evening. This post will be updated through Monday morning with additions, so be sure to check back and vote in the poll below for who you think is the player of the week:

Mike Banks, Maple Heights: Banks totaled 198 yards from scrimmage as the Mustangs made quick work of Columbus Beechcroft in a 42-6 road win. Banks completed 5 of 8 passes for 101 yards and four TDs. He also rushed for 97 yards on seven carries with another score.

Zack Barnhart, North Ridgeville: Barnhart's two touchdowns, including an 80-yard kickoff return in the third quarter, sparked the Rangers to a 16-6 road win at North Royalton. Barnhart rushed for 115 yards on 20 carries.

Grant Barr, Avon: Needing a bounce-back performance against Glenville, Barr delivered that for Avon with 156 yards on 10 receptions. He didn't score, but he didn't need to. His plays set up the Eagles' scores in a [28-16 win](#) against Northeast Ohio's preseason No. 1 team and re-established the defending Division II state champions after their close loss in Florida to Spruce Creek.

Jason Beverly, Norton: Beverly ran for 144 yards and two TDs on 10 carries in the Panthers 53-7 rout of Tuscarawas Valley. He also tied for the team lead in tackles with five, including a sack and three tackles for loss. If that's not enough, the junior running back and linebacker blocked a kick.

Johlil Blanchard, Revere: In Revere's [34-14 win](#) Thursday night at Valley Forge, Blanchard scored the go-ahead touchdown and rushed for 167 yards on 21 carries. He finished with two TDs.

Ty Bledsoe, Kirtland: While Bledsoe returned at nose tackle for the Hornets, he showed how potent he can be as a running back Friday in Kirtland's 44-24 win vs. Perry. The senior rushed for 182 yards and three TDs on 18 carries.

Cy Christensen, Amherst: No footballs fell to the turf when Christensen threw them at North Olmsted. He completed all nine of his passes for 265 yards in and three TDs in a 34-0 win.

Andrew Cole, Chardon: The Hilltoppers' sophomore quarterback rushed for 148 yards and a score on 18 carries in their 26-9 win vs. Erie (Pa.) McDowell.

Logan Connelly, Olmsted Falls: He did a little bit of everything on both sides of the ball in the Bulldogs' [24-21 win](#) at Strongsville. Defensively in the secondary, Connelly broke up a handful of big passes. Offensively, he totaled 139 yards from scrimmage with 84 yards rushing on nine carries and 55 yards with a score on two receptions from quarterback Cam Pesch.

Nick Dobkowski, Highland: Dobkowski came up with two more interceptions, after having one in last week's shutout of Hudson. His effort helped Highland to five takeaways in a 34-7 win at Avon Lake.

David Dudziak, Amherst: Dudziak scored twice against North Olmsted, including a 99-yard TD reception in the second quarter to set the final score. He had a fumble return for another TD earlier in the game with four tackles, a pass breakup and interception. Dudziak did this while playing with the flu.

Jonny Evanchick, St. Edward: A senior quarterback, Evanchick totaled 307 yards from scrimmage in the Eagles' 63-27 win vs. Huber Heights Wayne. He threw for 236 yards on 13-of-14 passing with three TDs. On three runs, Evanchick added 71 yards and a score.

Steven Fakult, Nardon: The Knights lit up the scoreboard with Mayfield, and Fakult threw for 335 yards and four TDs on 16-of-21 passing. The junior's performance paced a 59-46 road win.

Dylan Fantone, Twinsburg: The Tigers are 3-0. They also ended a seven-game losing streak to Aurora with their 20-19 victory in overtime, as junior quarterback Dylan Fantone completed 18 of 29 passes for 213 yards and two TDs. One of his biggest strikes came on fourth-and-2 to J.D. Okuma for a go-ahead score. It took Lucas Kienzen's 4-yard run and Mason Boener's extra point in overtime to win it.

Brayton Feister, Archbishop Hoban: The Knights' four-star linebacker had 12 tackles with 12 TFL in their 23-21 win vs. Detroit King. He also broke up two passes and forced a fumble.

Reno Ferri, Hudson: Ferri, a junior, rushed for 139 yards and four TDs on only 10 carries in a 49-0 shutout of St. Vincent-St. Mary.

Grady Gibb, Highland: A senior, Gibb waited his turn to be Highland's quarterback. It proved to be well worth the wait with his performance in the Hornets' win at Avon Lake. Gibb threw for 171 yards on 12-of-13 passing with three TDs. He rushed the ball 11 times for 120 yards and another score.

Zach Hackleman, St. Edward: Hackleman tied Alex Stump's career records, set in 2014, for most receptions (92) and receiving touchdowns (18) with two scores in the Eagles' win vs. Huber Heights Wayne. Hackleman broke Stump's single-season records in those categories last season. He had 66 yards on four receptions against the Warriors.

Kenny Hamilton, Mentor: A junior defensive lineman, Hamilton came up with two TFLs, a sack and four tackles to pace the Cardinals' effort on that side of the ball in their 35-21 win vs. St. Ignatius.

Jeremy Hammel, Archbishop Hoban: The Knights' junior kicker connected on a 35-yard field goal with 30 seconds left against Detroit King to give Hoban a 23-21 victory. Hammel shook off two missed kicks, an extra point and field goal, earlier in the game to come up with the clutch play.

Jayden Hardy, Willoughby South: The Rebels' senior turned in another big game with 176 yards and four TDs on 30 carries in a 40-34 overtime loss at Brush.

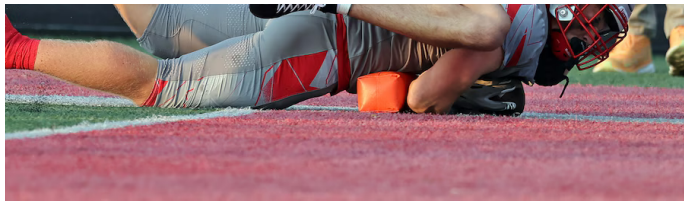
Nate Henegar, Brecksville-Broadview Heights: In the Bees' 48-34 loss to Berea-Midpark, Henegar threw for 318 yards and three TDs with an interception on 25-of-38 passing.

Tommy Hohn, Wadsworth: The Grizzlies' cornerback had two interceptions in their 47-0 shutout of Medina that included five first-half takeaways. They held the Bees to only 121 yards.

Dominick Jackson, Nardon: Fakult's top receiver had a game at Mayfield. A junior, Jackson scored twice with 212 yards on seven receptions.

Brogan Jones, Mentor: The Cardinals' junior quarterback completed 18 of 23 passes for 224 yards with three TDs in their win vs. St. Ignatius. He found Justen Hodge six times for 102 yards and a score, while Logan Berwald added two TDs and 39 yards on six receptions.





High school football: St. Ignatius at Mentor, September 5, 2025

Dylan Kreighbaum, Revere: A senior linebacker, Kreighbaum paced Revere's defense with seven solo tackles and 13 total in Revere's win at Valley Forge. The Minutemen starters gave up one touchdown on the opening drive and didn't surrender another score, as Valley Forge added a TD late in the game with the reserves on the field.

Joey Kopec, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy: Kopec rushed for three TDs and 140 yards on just eight carries in the Royals' 49-0 shutout of Woodridge.

Jake LaVerde, Kirtland: The Hornets' quarterback rushed for a game-high 197 yards and three TDs on 17 carries in their win vs. Perry.



High school football: Kirtland vs. Perry, September 5, 2025

Munir Lewis, Brush: A junior defensive end, Lewis and the Arcs walked off with their overtime win against Willoughby South after his strip sack led to a 70-yard fumble return by Braylon Williams for the score in overtime.

Marty Loncar, Lake Catholic: The Cougars' dominant linebacker scored his first touchdown Saturday night in a 36-6 rout of Buchtel. Loncar also had a hand in the defense forcing three turnovers.

Burke Lowry, Fairview: The Warriors' senior completed 22 of 27 passes for 380 yards and six TDs, plus a seventh touchdown on the ground, in a 63-28 win vs. Orange.

Charlie Mallett, Hawken: Mallett hauled in 13 passes for 154 yards and three TDs in Hawken's 42-13 rivalry Friday win at Gilmour Academy.

Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside: His 165 yards and two TDs on 22 carries paced a 26-7 win vs. Erie (Pa.) Cathedral Prep.

Andrew McKnight, Copley: McKnight scored three times with 120 yards receiving in Copley's 41-0 win Saturday at Akron Garfield.

T.J. Moore, Villa Angela-St. Joseph: A senior, Moore rushed for 251 yards and five TDs Friday in the Vikings' 47-7 win vs. Mansfield Senior.

Donovan Moorhead, Hawken: Moorhead completed 31 of 34 passes for 320 yards and four TDs to beat Gilmour and avenge last year's loss to the Lancers.

Sully Murray, Olmsted Falls: A senior, Murray blocked a field goal in overtime at Strongsville that allowed the Bulldogs to kick the winner by junior Aidan O'Malley.

Sean O'Connell, Benedictine: The Bengals' senior defensive end led their shutout of Lutheran West, which managed only 30 yards of total offense. Benedictine won, 41-0.

Aiden O'Neal, Brush: O'Neal scored three times, including an 84-yard TD pass in the second quarter from Jayvyn Gilchrist and an 87-yard run after that to push the Arcs' overtime win against Willoughby South. O'Neal finished with 142 yards rushing and two of his TDs on 13 carries. He added 91 yards on two receptions in the passing game.

Milan Parris, Walsh Jesuit: An Iowa State recruit, Parris scored three times with six receptions for 79 yards in a half of work against Clarkson Football North. Parris also threw a 69-yard touchdown pass in the 30-6 win.

Gavin Peeps, Kent Roosevelt: Peeps completed 21 of 28 passes for 240 yards and four TDs in a 40-20 win against Ellet.

Drew Platz, Chardon: A junior fullback and linebacker, Platz rushed for 107 yards and a score on 20 carries against Erie McDowell. Platz played both ways and had a critical interception to set up a touchdown in the second quarter for the Hilltoppers. That propelled them to a 17-9 halftime lead. They limited McDowell to single digits and no points in the second half, allowing just 127 yards of total offense.

Will Randall, Madison: Randall completed 11 of 15 passes for 202 yards and a score in the Blue Streaks’ 33-0 road shutout of Eastlake North.

Kent Staten, Bedford: Back in the pocket, Staten threw for 110 yards passing and rushed for 155 yards in the Bearcats’ 23-22 overtime win vs. Padua. Staten, a junior, rushed for two scores and added four tackles from his defensive spot in the secondary.

Ryan Taylor, Rocky River: In a 34-28 loss at Uniontown Lake, Taylor put up 391 yards from scrimmage with four TDs. He completed 18 of 25 passes for 295 yards and two TDs. Taylor also rushed for 96 yards and two scores on 18 carries. His top targets included Tristin Hughes (145 yards and a score on seven receptions) and Rowan Kennedy (two catches for 70 yards and a score).

Vince Weaver, Berea-Midpark: Weaver threw for 365 yards and three TDs to lead the Titans’ 48-34 win at Brecksville-Broadview Heights.

Carmello Williams, Oberlin: A week after his interception sealed Oberlin’s win at Brooklyn, he came up with a pick six against Toledo Woodward and scored twice in a 21-18 victory. The Phoenix have won two straight since snapping a 31-game losing streak.

Shay Williams, Midview: Williams threw for 203 yards and three TDs on 12-of-16 passing in the Middies’ 41-20 win vs. Elyria Catholic.

RECOMMENDED

[Cleveland.com state football rankings: St. Edward, Glenville and Kirtland remain in top spots entering Week 4](#) Sep. 9, 2025, 4:28 p.m.

[Can St. Ignatius snap two streaks vs. Walsh Jesuit? Week 4 football games to watch on Cleveland’s east side](#) Sep. 10, 2025, 6:05 a.m.

Dane Wininger, Copley: Wininger scored five times at Akron Garfield, including three rushing TDs and two passes. He threw for 146 yards in the win.

(Editor’s note: Cleveland.com polls are intended to be fun. We do not allow votes that are generated by script, macro or other automated means. Cleveland.com reserves the right to adjust the voting based on irregularities.)

Who is the player of the week? (Poll Closed)

- Nick Dobkowski, Highland 35.33% (159 votes)
- Nate Henegar, Brecksville-Broadview Heights 16.67% (75 votes)
- Steven Fakult, Nordonia 15.33% (69 votes)
- Dylan Kreighbaum, Revere 10.67% (48 votes)
- Grady Gibb, Highland 4.44% (20 votes)
- Dominick Jackson, Nordonia 1.56% (7 votes)
- Milan Parris, Walsh Jesuit 1.56% (7 votes)
- Jake LaVerde, Kirtland 1.33% (6 votes)
- Sean O’Connell, Benedictine 1.33% (6 votes)
- Tommy Hohn, Wadsworth 1.11% (5 votes)
- Joey Kopec, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 1.11% (5 votes)
- Ryan Taylor, Rocky River 1.11% (5 votes)
- Zach Hackleman, St. Edward 0.89% (4 votes)

- Johlil Blanchard, Revere 0.67% (3 votes)
- Logan Connelly, Olmsted Falls 0.67% (3 votes)
- Jonny Evanchick, St. Edward 0.67% (3 votes)
- Charlie Mallett, Hawken 0.67% (3 votes)
- Ty Bledsoe, Kirtland 0.44% (2 votes)
- Reno Ferri, Hudson 0.44% (2 votes)
- Burke Lowry, Fairview 0.44% (2 votes)
- Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside 0.44% (2 votes)
- Will Randall, Madison 0.44% (2 votes)
- Mike Banks, Maple Heights 0.22% (1 votes)
- Grant Barr, Avon 0.22% (1 votes)
- Dylan Fantone, Twinsburg 0.22% (1 votes)
- Kenny Hamilton, Mentor 0.22% (1 votes)
- Marty Loncar, Lake Catholic 0.22% (1 votes)
- Andrew McKnight, Copley 0.22% (1 votes)
- Donovan Moorhead, Hawken 0.22% (1 votes)
- Sully Murray, Olmsted Falls 0.22% (1 votes)
- Aiden O'Neal, Brush 0.22% (1 votes)
- Vince Weaver, Berea-Midpark 0.22% (1 votes)
- Carmello Williams, Oberlin 0.22% (1 votes)
- Shay Williams, Midview 0.22% (1 votes)
- Zack Barnhart, North Ridgeville 0% (0 votes)
- Jason Beverly, Norton 0% (0 votes)
- Cy Christensen, Amherst 0% (0 votes)
- Andrew Cole, Chardon 0% (0 votes)
- David Dudziak, Amherst 0% (0 votes)

- Brayton Feister, Archbishop Hoban 0% (0 votes)
- Jeremy Hammel, Archbishop Hoban 0% (0 votes)
- Jayden Hardy, Willoughby South 0% (0 votes)
- Brogan Jones, Mentor 0% (0 votes)
- Munir Lewis, Brush 0% (0 votes)
- T.J. Moore, Villa Angela-St. Joseph 0% (0 votes)
- Gavin Peeps, Kent Roosevelt 0% (0 votes)
- Drew Platz, Chardon 0% (0 votes)
- Kent Staten, Bedford 0% (0 votes)
- Dane Wininger, Copley 0% (0 votes)

Total Votes: 450

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