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Best Ohio high school football kickers, punters heading into 2026

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Highland kicker Jonah Kowza successfully kicks an extra point against Hudson in the second half. John Kuntz, cleveland.com



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Best Ohio high school football kickers, punters heading into 2026

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By [Mike Swanson](#)

Leading up to the 2026 fall high school sports season, [cleveland.com](#) will be highlighting the [top football players in Ohio](#).

We're kicking off our preseason position lists by featuring some of the top kickers and punters in [Ohio high school football](#) heading into 2026.

We contacted coaches across the state and asked them to fill out a survey requesting information about their team.

If you are an Ohio high school football coach who did not receive the survey, email mswanson@advancelocal.com. We will continue to add to these lists throughout the summer.

Below the list of players highlighted by coaches are the returning all-state kickers and punters.

TOP KICKERS, PUNTERS IN OHIO, AS HIGHLIGHTED BY COACHES

Cohen Baker, Triway, Senior

Coach Cody Kelly described Baker as a “next-level kicker.” He went 48-for-56 on PATs and 6-for-8 on field goals with a long of 41 last year, plus six touchbacks. He’s an “all-district kicker with a big leg,” Kelly said.

Max Bigioni, Ottawa Hills, Junior

Bigioni boasts a big leg and is working on becoming more consistent as a placekicker. He “has punted the ball 70 yards and can

make field goals from 30-35,” coach Geoff Skibinski said.



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Braden Bond, Maumee, Senior

Bond will take over as Maumee’s starting punter this year. “After graduating two all-league specialists over the last two seasons, we are looking for new players to step into those important roles, and Braden has shown a lot of promise as a punter heading into the year,” coach Evan Karchner said. “What stands out most about Braden is his approach and attitude. He is coachable, works hard at his craft and understands the importance of the special teams phase of the game.”

Isaiah Brake, Fredericktown, Junior

Also a linebacker and offensive lineman, Brake earned first-team All-Knox Morrow Athletic Conference honors as a kicker last year.

Lex Brunner, Elyria, Senior

Brunner is a returning starter at kicker for Elyria. “He is extremely consistent and he has gotten stronger, allowing us to kick deeper,” coach Matt Wilson said.

Cameron Conn, Wheelersburg, Senior

Conn has a strong leg as both a placekicker and punter. “Cam is also extremely athletic, and the Pirates are known for their tricks on special teams,” coach Rob Woodward said.

Colton Crissinger, Perry, Junior

Crissinger “has traveled extensively this offseason to hone his skills and become more reliable as well as a true scoring threat from different parts of the field,” coach Bob Gecewich said.

Bryce Davidson, Edgewood, Senior

A returning starter at kicker, Davidson was 7-for-8 on field-goal attempts and 22-for-25 on extra points last year.

Baron Dye, Columbus Academy, Junior

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A three-sport athlete (football, wrestling, baseball), Dye works year-round on his kicking. “Baron has a very high ceiling as a kicker/punter, while also helping his team at RB and DB,” coach Robin Miller said. “We expect him to be the next specialist in a long — and very successful — line of them from CA (Columbus Academy).”

Jaron Edmonds, Warren G. Harding, Senior

Edmonds converted 7 of 8 field-goal attempts last year and also handled Harding’s punting duties. Coach Matt Richardson called him the “best kicker in Mahoning Valley.”

Mason Endlich, Woodridge, Senior

Endlich is a soccer player who took on the kicking duties for the football team last season, making 23 of 25 extra points. “Mason has done nothing but work since the season ended, including trainings and camps to improve for the 2026 season and give himself an opportunity beyond high school,” coach John Daraio said.

Nash Evans, Clear Fork, Senior

Evans earned all-Ohio honors as a punter after averaging 40 yards per punt and making all four field-goal attempts last year. The kicker/punter/wide receiver is a “jack of all trades,” coach Aaron Brokaw said.

Gavyn Fredriks, Lake Catholic, Senior

Fredriks made all six of his field-goal attempts last season, including a long of 38 against Glenville in the playoffs. He went 29-for-30 on extra points.

Elijah Hayes, Cuyahoga Falls, Sophomore

Hayes returns as the team’s kicker after converting 90% of his extra-point attempts as a freshman. “A standout soccer player as well, he provides consistency and reliability in the kicking game,” coach Kevin Pask said.

Carter Howard, Independence, Senior

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Howard does it all for Independence, playing running back, linebacker, punter and placekicker. “Carter has a strong leg and has flipped the field many times for the Blue Devils, forcing teams to drive the length of the field,” coach Matthew Burns said.

Cayden Hunt, Elgin, Sophomore

Hunt split time with JV and varsity as a freshman, and the 5-foot-6, 120-pounder will be the varsity starter this year. “Dynamite comes in small packages, which is true for Cayden,” coach Zack Winslow said. “He has had a great offseason, and we anticipate him to make a great impact.”

Matt Huth, Aurora, Junior

Huth averaged 35.2 yards per punt as a sophomore. He returns as Aurora’s starting punter and will also play defensive back.

David Kennedy, Revere, Senior

Kennedy went 2-for-4 on field goals and 30-for-31 on extra points last year. He “has the chance to set the all-time scoring record for kickers at RHS,” coach Robert Nickol said.

Jonah Kowza, Medina Highland, Senior

Kowza is a five-star kicker ranked No. 1 in Ohio by Kohls. Last year the all-state kicker went 3-for-5 on field goals with a long of 43, making 37 of 38 extra points and booting 33 touchbacks.

Nathan Majors, Benedictine, Junior

As a sophomore, Majors made 30 of 33 extra points and all three field-goal attempts, including a long of 38 yards. “Nathan Majors has quickly become one of the most dependable specialists in the program,” coach Matt Wilson said.

John Miller, Ashtabula St. John, Senior

Miller made 33 of 35 extra-point attempts and hit a 33-yard field goal last year. He also plays running back and linebacker.

“John is one of the most valuable and versatile players on our roster,” coach Bob Diwosh said, “giving us a dependable veteran presence in all three phases of the game.”



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Norton Panthers

Many teams struggle to find one reliable kicker, but Norton has two. Senior Blake Kaminski and junior Noah Heffelman form a “two-headed kicking monster for the Panthers,” coach Glen Kruger said. “These two combined to 77/85 on extra points last year, and Kaminski will take over the punting duties in 2026. Both have potential for touchbacks on every kickoff, while also being able to execute a multitude of onside kicks.”

Dusan Novakovic, Berea-Midpark, Senior

Novakovic is a returning kicker for Berea-Midpark who also starts on the soccer team. “He has seen amazing growth this past offseason and will be a difference-maker for the Titans in the kicking game,” coach Jonathan Hunek said.

Carson O’Morrow, Olentangy Liberty, Senior

Whether kicking or punting, few in the state have a bigger leg than O’Morrow. He finished his junior season 5-for-7 on field goals with a long of 52 (a school record), plus 16 touchbacks. As a punter he averaged 50.4 yards per kick with a long of 66.

Matthew Panzner, Copley, Sophomore

Panzner earned the kicking job as a freshman and made 33 of 35 extra points. He should come back stronger as a sophomore.

Justin Purcell, Valley Forge, Sophomore

In addition to pushing to be the starting quarterback, Purcell “will be called upon to handle the kicking duties this season,” coach Nick Ciulli said.

Nolan Ridgway, Danville, Senior

Ridgway was a first-team all-Ohio punter last season in addition to playing outside linebacker and running back. He had four punts over 50 yards last year and “broke our school record for punting average with over 40 yards per punt,” coach Matt Plum



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Griffin Roberts, St. Ignatius, Senior

A 6-foot, 195-pound kicker, Roberts routinely puts kickoffs in the end zone. He “has had a tremendous offseason,” coach Tom Kaufman said.

Isan Roberts, Kent Roosevelt, Senior

Roberts stars as a forward on the soccer field, and coach Kardell Jackson is looking forward to seeing what he can do as a kicker on the football field.

Vincent Roncone, Strongsville, Senior

A returning all-state kicker, Roncone made 60% of his field goals and 87% of his extra-point attempts last year. “He drives the ball on kickoffs with great hang time and yardage,” coach Jason Trusnik said. “I look forward to him doing big things this year as he has a strong leg for distance and height.”

Nathan Rutemueller, St. Bernard Elmwood Place, Senior

Rutemueller will take on the punting and kicking duties this year after serving as only the kicker last year. “He looks to chase the career records held by his sister (Emma),” coach Kyle Hogan said.

Charlie Skeels, Maumee, Senior

Skeels has had a solid offseason and will be Maumee’s starting kicker in 2026. “Charlie has a strong leg and has made great progress with his consistency and confidence as a kicker,” coach Evan Karchner said. “He has shown the ability to handle pressure situations well and continues to develop into someone we believe can be a dependable weapon for our special teams unit.”

Joey Skoczen, Hawken, Senior

Skoczen earned first-team all-conference honors as a kicker and was his league's MVP on the soccer field. He went 45-for-48 on PATs and 6-for-6 on field goals as a junior. "He kicked a last-second 35-yard field goal to put a game into OT," coach Mark Iammarino said.

Bradyn Sulzer, Solon, Senior

Sulzer averages 35 yards per punt and has a big leg as a placekicker. He's "good from 55 yards," coach Antonio Hall said.

Austin Sustersic, Cloverleaf, Senior

Sustersic enters his third season as Cloverleaf's kicker, earning all-district honorable mention as a junior. "Over the last two seasons Austin has made 52 extra points and eight field goals with a long of 47 yards," coach Justin Vorhies said.

CJ Woodside, Cincinnati Wyoming, Sophomore

Woodside was Wyoming's starting kicker as a freshman, going 2-for-3 on field goals and 62-for-63 on PATs. He has a "strong leg" and "will be a college-level kicker," coach Aaron Hancock said.

RETURNING OPSMA ALL-STATE KICKERS, PUNTERS

Franco Barcalow, Wintersville Indian Creek, Senior

Dom Bell, Sullivan Black River, Sophomore

Noah Colletti, New Philadelphia, Senior

Brody Cottrell, Crooksville, Junior

Erkan Erciyas, Worthington Kilbourne, Junior

Nash Evans, Bellville Clear Fork, Senior

Carter Frater, McComb, Senior

Luis Garcia, Barnesville, Senior



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Zane Graven, Thomas Worthington, Senior

Nate Griffin, Norwalk St. Paul, Senior

Christian Gutierrez Sanchez, Groveport-Madison, Senior

Zach Harrington, Toledo Waite, Junior

Everett Harris, Shelby, Senior

Grant Havens, Pike Eastern, Junior

JT Hummer, St. Ignatius, Junior

Colt James, Gnadenhutten Indian Valley, Senior

Carson Jones, Hannibal River, Senior

Jett Kaiser, Woodsfield Monroe Central, Sophomore

Kooper Kilgore, Ontario, Junior

Jonah Kowza, Medina Highland, Senior

Jack Mallabar, Archbishop Moeller, Senior

Blake Miller, Worthington Christian, Senior

Gabe Miyahara, Hamilton Badin, Senior

Blake Mulla, Rootstown, Senior



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Roman Percic, Burton Berkshire, Senior

Teddy Peterson, Cincinnati Wyoming, Junior

Nolan Ridgway, Danville, Senior

Kordaie Robinson, Crestline, Senior

Vincent Roncone, Strongsville, Senior

Josiah Sanders, East Cleveland Shaw, Junior

Hadyn Slomovitz, Grove City Christian, Senior

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Best receivers in Ohio Division VI, DVII high school football entering 2026 Jul. 25, 2026, 7:01 a.m.

Jadon Smoulder, West Lafayette Ridgewood, Senior

Marko Valentic, Kirtland, Junior

London Walker, St. Edward, Senior

Landon Waikem, St. Edward, Senior



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Mike Swanson has been in journalism since 2003. He's worked as a reporter, city editor, copy editor and high school sports editor in multiple states and as national VP of content for High School On SI. High...more

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