

Cleveland.com's HS football Top 25: Who are Northeast Ohio's best teams in Week 3?

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High school football: Hudson vs. Highland, August 29, 2025

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CLEVELAND, Ohio — Two of Northeast Ohio's most prominent high school football programs are coming off losses entering Week 3.

While Avon and Archbishop Hoban fall a few spots, they remain in the top 10 of the cleveland.com rankings. For Avon, which slipped one spot [since last week](#) after a three-point loss in Florida, it looks to rebound against top-ranked Glenville.

St. Edward moves up to No. 2 with Hoban's loss in Maryland to Archbishop Spalding, while Mentor and Walsh Jesuit also are on the rise. Highland moved up two spots with its shutout of Hudson.

Find out who else is on the move and how Northeast Ohio stacks up in cleveland.com's Top 25 entering Week 3:

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- [Week 2 Game Balls: Top performers of the 2025 high school football season](#) Aug. 31, 2025, 12:12p.m.
- [St. Edward's new football contributors quickly making an impression on veteran standouts](#) Aug. 31, 2025, 6:05a.m.
- [St. Edward starts fast vs. Delbarton \(video\)](#) Aug. 30, 2025, 6:32p.m.

25. Benedictine (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 24, won at Padua 7-0

This week: Friday vs. Lutheran West

Sophomore Kayden Forte's touchdown run provided the only points in Benedictine's road win, following the Bengals' Week 1 triumph against Gilmour Academy. They will be heavy favorites this week against Lutheran West, which struggled in losses to Garfield Heights and

Aurora, but a handful of teams are pushing for a spot in the Top 25. See them at the bottom of this post.

24. Riverside (2-0)

Last week: Not ranked, beat Green 16-15

This week: Friday vs. Erie Cathedral Prep (Pa.)

Riverside went up on two first-quarter touchdowns and held on as Green scored in the final minute but failed a go-ahead try for two points. Senior Kyndall McCaleb paced the Beavers with 195 yards rushing and a score.

23. North Ridgeville (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 25, beat Valley Forge 37-12

This week: Friday at North Royalton

The Rangers used a [21-point outburst in the second quarter](#) to pull away from the Patriots. They look to go 3-0 for the fourth straight year.

22. St. Ignatius (0-2)

Last week: Ranked No. 21, lost to Pickerington North 20-7

This week: Friday at Mentor

The Wildcats' schedule is as unforgiving as any. Defending Division II state champion Avon in Week 1 and Division I powerhouse Pickerington North in Week 2. Few teams in Northeast Ohio could fare better, but St. Ignatius is now 1-12 since last season. The Wildcats have four wins in their last six meetings with Mentor, which snapped its skid against them last year at John Carroll and later eliminated them in the playoffs.

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

Last week: Ranked No. 19, lost at Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 27-20

This week: Friday vs. Mansfield Senior

VASJ rallied Saturday in Youngstown, but could not hold on as Ike Lake's third touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter propelled Mooney. The Vikings' next three opponents, including a trip next week to St. Vincent-St. Mary, are off to 0-2 starts.

20. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (2-0)

Last week: Not ranked, beat Villa Angela-St. Joseph 27-20

This week: Friday at Canfield

Could Mooney be the favorite to come out of Division V, Region 17? The Cardinals followed their impressive win at Lake Catholic with another one vs. VASJ. Their next two games are on the road, including Steubenville after Friday's test in Canfield, which also is 2-0.

19. Maple Heights (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 23, won at Dover 28-22

This week: Friday at Columbus Beechcroft

Marlon Brown scored the go-ahead touchdown with 42.7 seconds left on a double reverse to win at Dover. Senior Mike Banks, playing quarterback in place of injured Luke Anzlovar, paced the Mustangs, who also were without Kindall Brown.

18. Perry (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 22, beat Kenston 35-30

This week: Friday at Kirtland

Bowling Green commit Trent Taylor chased down Kenston quarterback Jack Bryner to seal the Pirates' big win in the final 15 seconds. It came after McKoy Richards' big game at quarterback, as he threw four TD passes and rushed for another score with 364 yards from scrimmage.

17. Nordonía (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 20, beat Akron East 39-7

This week: Friday at Mayfield

Coach Jeff Fox earned his 100th win, as the Knights followed their opening-week shutout of St. Vincent-St. Mary with another stout performance. East did not score until the fourth quarter with the result in hand. Nordonía went up 29-0 after one quarter, as junior quarterback Steven Fakult completed 6 of 10 passes for 165 yards and two TDs.

16. Austintown Fitch (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 18, beat Massillon Jackson 41-3

This week: Friday at Erie (Pa.)

Talk about a bounce-back game. Fitch rebounded from a 28-14 loss at Hudson by dominating the Polar Bears in Austintown.

15. Hudson (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 15, lost at Highland 32-0

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

Hayden Lipinski and the Explorers had success in the short and intermediate passing game vs. Hudson, which forced them into four turnovers, all leading to scores by Highland. Their Week 1 win vs. Fitch keeps them at No. 15 here following the Falcons' impressive performance on Friday.

14. Youngstown Ursuline (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 14, beat Columbus Bishop Hartley 34-8

This week: Friday vs. Farrell (Pa.)

One of the favorites in Division III, Region 9, the Fighting Irish cruised for the second straight week after a 37-7 win to start the season at Steubenville.

13. Olmsted Falls (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 13, beat Brunswick 29-15

This week: Friday at Strongsville

Owen Singleton and Logan Connelly each gained at least 100 yards in the Bulldogs' bounce-back performance from their [35-28 loss](#) to Mentor. Coach Tom DeLuca [credited his seasoned line](#) vs. Brunswick, the second of three straight Greater Cleveland Conference opponents before opening Southwestern Conference play next week vs. Elyria.

12. Canton McKinley (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 9, lost to St. Augustine Prep (N.J.) 24-14

This week: Saturday vs. Cleveland Heights

The Bulldogs spotted St. Augustine Prep a 14-point lead and could not complete their comeback at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. They now face a Cleveland Heights team that dropped a heartbreaker to Chardon and heads to Stark County at 0-2.

11. Kirtland (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 11, beat Ashland Crestview 42-7

This week: Friday vs. Perry

The Division VI powerhouse used three John Silvestro TDs to put away Crestview and set up their showdown with Perry. Kirtland rushed for 303 yards and gave up just 74 yards on the ground, while Silvestro (120 yards) and quarterback Jake LaVerde (102 yards) led the way.

10. Highland (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 12, beat Hudson 32-0

This week: Friday at Avon Lake

The Hornets' shutout in [their Suburban League crossover](#) served notice, not only as the defending American Conference champions but as a Division II state-title contender. Any questions about their [new-look line are quickly being answered](#), too.

9. Strongsville (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 10, beat Solon 28-7

This week: Friday vs. Olmsted Falls

After a nail-biter in Week 1 vs. Avon Lake, Strongsville [cruised at home](#) in Week 2. The Mustangs remain there for their showdown with Olmsted Falls, one of the top games to watch. Kendrick Boddie paced them with 246 yards rushing and two TDs against Solon, bringing his early total to 448 and six scores on 56 carries.

8. Wadsworth (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 8, beat New Albany 35-7

This week: Friday at Medina

The defending Suburban League National Conference champs have cruised in their first two games at home. They got 318 yards on 12-of-15 passing last week from sophomore Brysen Hall are now on the road for the next two, including a rematch next week with North Royalton, which forced a share of last year's conference title with a Week 10 upset. Wadsworth got revenge in the first round of the Division II playoffs.

7. Massillon (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 7, beat Canton GlenOak 44-10

This week: Friday vs. Rabun Gap-Nacoochee (Ga.)

The Tigers' rebound effort included a 200-yard passing game by Mandwell Patterson and sets up the first of two out-of-state opponents. Bennett (N.Y.) looms next week before a Week 5 clash with St. Edward.

6. Archbishop Hoban (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 2, lost at Archbishop Spalding (Md.) 58-28

This week: Friday vs. Detroit King (Mich.)

Hoban found itself in a 7-all score after Brayton Feister's first-quarter touchdown run in Maryland. Then, Spalding countered with three more scores before halftime and didn't stop. The Cavaliers, who beat Hoban last year in Akron, gained 490 yards in total offense with 301 yards on 17-of-21 behind freshman Brian Snowden.

5. Avon (1-1)

Last week: Ranked No. 4, lost at Spruce Creek (Fla.) 25-22

This week: Friday vs. Glenville

A turnover late in the fourth quarter cost Avon, which had rallied for the lead in Florida, and [the Eagles' 28-game win streak in the regular season](#) came down to a 52-yard field goal in an attempt to force overtime in Florida. They now turn their attention to No. 1 Glenville. Avon has won this Week 3 matchup the last two years and three times in the last four seasons.

4. Mentor (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 6, won at Erie McDowell (Pa.) 42-12

This week: Friday vs. St. Ignatius

A week after Jackson Farley's [school record 364 yards rushing](#) at Olmsted Falls, the senior's 53-yard jaunt charged Mentor in Pennsylvania. Justen Hodge also returned from his injury scare in Week 1. That will be big for the Cardinals against St. Ignatius, which they beat twice last year after two losses to the Wildcats in 2023.

3. Walsh Jesuit (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 5, won at Springfield 30-6

This week: Friday vs. Clarkson Football North (Canada)

Walsh Jesuit rushed for 203 yards, led by senior Marty Tobin with 135 yards and two TDs at Springfield. Coach Nick Alexander's road Warriors ended Toledo Central Catholic's 26-game home winning streak in Week 1 and now they face a Clarkson Football North squad that also has been tough on the road, opening with a [30-6 win](#) at Pennsylvania powerhouse Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg.

2. St. Edward (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 3, beat Delbarton (N.J.) 48-28

This week: Friday vs. Huber Heights Wayne

Quarterbacks Jonny Evanchick and Langston Lucas were efficient in the Eagles' offense, [finding Zach Hackleman for three of his four scores](#), while the defense supplied its own early fireworks and [several first-year starters made their mark](#). Four big plays led to all four of Delbarton's scores, which came after St. Edward built a 20-0 lead. The Eagles now face Wayne in a rematch of their 2015 Division I state championship game. It marked coach Tom Lombardo's first of five state titles with the school.

1. Glenville (2-0)

Last week: Ranked No. 1, won at Olentangy Liberty 13-7

This week: Friday at Avon

Glenville opened the season with [heroics at Massillon](#), including a blocked field goal that led to their overtime win, and the Tarblooders' defense [pushed their performance last week](#) at defending Division I state champion Olentangy Liberty. Dion'dre Taylor's three sacks and two forced fumbles led the defensive line with Ohio State commit Cincere Johnson behind him. Now, they take on a defending state champ for the second straight week at Avon.

Dropped out

Avon Lake (0-2, was No. 16), Massillon Jackson (1-1, was No. 17)

On the cusp

Buckeye (2-0), Canfield (2-0), Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (1-0), Lake Catholic (1-1), Norton (1-0), Rocky River (2-0), Streetsboro (2-0)