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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Cleveland.com football all-stars 2025: Meet the best offensive players from Northeast Ohio

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St. Edward running back Brandon White dives four a touchdown Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, against Mentor in the OHSAA Division I regional finals. White is the cleveland.com co-Offensive Player of the Year with teammate Zach Hackleman. Joshua Gunter, cleveland.com



By Matt Goul, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio — While Brandon White and Zach Hackleman could not get St. Edward back to the state finals, they came close and broke school records in the process.

Both will graduate from the school as its all-time leading rusher and receiver, historic milestones for a school that has established itself as the top Division I football program in Northeast Ohio.

Those records and stellar senior seasons in which both players came back from injuries that ended their junior years, White and Hackleman are the cleveland.com co-Offensive Players of the Year. Learn more about them and the all-area team, which considers a seven-county radius surrounding Cleveland, below:

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS STORIES

Girls basketball scoreboard and top performers from Dec. 17

Dec. 18, 2025, 12:19a.m.

Ohio high school boys soccer All-Stars: Meet the fan-voted 2025

team

Dec. 17, 2025, 2:13p.m.

Ohio high school girls soccer All-Stars: Meet the fan-voted 2025 team

Dec. 17, 2025, 12:59p.m.

Quarterback

Blake Elder, Avon

Height, weight: 6-foot-1, 180 pounds

Year: Senior

About Elder: For the second straight year, an Avon quarterback is QB1 on the cleveland.com all-star team. Elder led the Eagles’ repeat run to the OHSAA Division II state championship with 3,043 yards and 35 touchdown passes to just four interceptions. He tied a Division II state championship game record with four TD passes in Avon’s 37-20 win against Cincinnati Anderson. Elder beat the Raptors with his arm after Nolan Good did it last year as a dual threat. Avon finished 14-1 with its only loss coming in Florida.

Second team: Brysen Hall, Wadsworth, so.

Honorable mention: Sean Barnett, Brunswick, sr.; Cy Christensen, Amherst, sr.; Jonny Evanchick, St. Edward, sr.; Steven Fakult, Nordonia, jr.; Dylan Fantone, Twinsburg, jr.; Grady Gibb, Highland, sr.; Jake Harrington, Stow-Munroe Falls, sr.; Tyson Hunka, Green, sr.; Robert King III, Garfield Heights, sr.; Jake LaVerde, Kirtland, sr.; Charley Levak, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, sr.; Burke Lowry, Fairview, sr.; Cole Miller, North Ridgeville, sr.; Donovan Moorhead, Hawken, sr.; Arvell Nelson Jr., Glenville, sr.; Dylan Papushak, Berea-Midpark, jr.; Will Randall, Madison, sr.; Ryan Taylor, Rocky River, sr.; David Ternosky, Walsh Jesuit, jr.

Running backs

Brandon White, St. Edward

Height, weight: 5-8, 195

Year: Senior

About White: St. Edward’s all-time rushing leader did it despite missing most of his junior season with a torn ACL. White not only came back, but he rushed for 1,885 yards and 23

Cleveland.com football all-stars 2025: Meet the best offensive players f... <https://www.cleveland.com/highschoolsports/2025/12/clevelandcom-foo...>
touchdowns with some of his best games in the playoffs. St. Edward (11-3) returned to the state semifinals before a loss to eventual Division I state champion Olentangy Orange. White finished his high school career with 4,050 yards and 50 TDs on 588 carries. His yardage eclipsed the previous record, owned by Cole Gest with 3,951 yards.

Jackson Farley, Mentor

Height, weight: 5-9, 195

Year: Senior

About Farley: He will join White at Kent State next year, but first they share honors as the cleveland.com first-team all-stars. Both also made the All-Ohio first team in Division I. Farley rushed for 1,589 yards and 26 touchdowns on 142 carries in 10 games before an injury for the Cardinals (12-1).

Second team: Shahn Alston, Harvey, sr.; John Silvestro, Kirtland, sr.; Marty Tobin, Walsh Jesuit, sr.

Honorable mention: Drayton Allgood, Chardon, sr.; Miles Baker, West Geauga, sr.; Xavier Board, Aurora, sr.; Kendrick Boddie, Strongsville, jr.; Rocco Ereditario, Bay, sr.; Jacob Eterovich, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, sr.; Reno Ferri, Hudson, jr.; Cooper Gray, Wadsworth, sr.; Elijah Harris, Cleveland Heights, so.; Jayden Hardy, Willoughby South, sr.; Jance Henry, Archbishop Hoban, jr.; Conner Lehner, Mogadore, sr.; Kyndall McCaleb, Riverside, sr.; Marcus McMahon, Midview, sr.; T.J. Moore, Villa Angela-St. Joseph, sr.; Casey Myser, Highland, sr.; Kene Obi, Hawken, sr.; Evan Reed, Green, sr.; Bray Sandstrom, Eastlake North, sr.; Owen Singleton, Olmsted Falls, sr. Quiante Smith, Avon, sr.; Austin Tatulinski, Strongsville, fr.; Russell Tye, Orange, sr.; Daymon Watts, Valley Forge, sr.; Connor Whapham, Nardon, sr.; Danny Zmorowski, Lake Catholic, jr.





St. Edward's Zach Hackleman celebrates a fumble return for a touchdown by Collin Crocker on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, against Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller. Hackleman scored four touchdowns in the Eagles' 35-10 win. (Matt Goul, [cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com))

Wide receivers

Zach Hackleman, St. Edward

Height, weight: 6-1, 170

Year: Senior

About Hackleman: Like White with the run game, Hackleman broke most of the Eagles' receiving records in a season and career. He got a start at those marks last year when St. Edward threw the ball more with White out. This year, Hackleman still put up 888 yards and 16 touchdowns on 56 receptions for a balanced offense. He also scored four times on special teams, including two kickoff returns and two punts. Hackleman's 2,278 yards, 29 TDs and 136 receptions are all career records. He also broke his own record of 10 TDs in a season. Hackleman is heading to Ohio University after flipping from Toledo.

Justen Hodge, Mentor

Height, weight: 6-1, 187

Year: Senior

About Hodge: The Miami (Ohio) recruit has been Mentor's top receiver for three years. He had 1,074 yards and 14 touchdowns to pace them one more time as junior quarterback Brogan Jones' top target in his first season as a starter.

Milan Parris, Walsh Jesuit

Height, weight: 6-5, 210

Year: Senior

About Parris: His college recruitment led to a flip from Iowa State to Miami, where he will play

next year for the Hurricanes. Parris had 785 yards and 11 touchdowns on 50 receptions during a Division II state semifinal run for Walsh (11-2). He also had a 95-yard kickoff return for the opening score in the state semifinals.

Second team: Grant Barr, Avon, sr.; Nick Reece, Berea-Midpark, jr.; D’Angelo White, Villa Angela-St. Joseph, jr. (TE)

Honorable mention: Mike Banks, Maple Heights, sr.; Brett Beury, Firelands, so. (TE); William Bierfeldt, Westlake, sr.; Yomar Castellano, Fairport Harding, jr.; Tyson Clay, Berea-Midpark, jr.; Payton Cook, Archbishop Hoban, sr.; Alex Espay, Strongsville, sr.; Evan Foust, Highland, jr. (TE); Lucas Gerding, Highland, sr.; Trey Haddad, St. Ignatius, jr.; Jayden Haynes, Mayfield, jr.; Tristin Hughes, Rocky River, sr.; Dominick Jackson, Nordonina, jr.; Fin Jerdonek, Avon, jr.; Rowan Kennedy, Rocky River, so.; Colton Leavitt, Wadsworth, sr. (TE); Calix Lemp, Wadsworth, sr.; Dylan Maddox, Berea-Midpark, sr.; Charlie Mallett, Hawken, jr.; Andrew McKnight, Copley, sr.; Joe Moore, St. Edward, jr. (TE); Nick Piazza, North Royalton, sr.; Erique Robertson, Maple Heights, sr.; Charlie Rodgers, Bay, sr.; Chaz Rosiles, Orange, so.; R.J. Ruffin, Twinsburg, jr.; Pauly Sadler, Glenville, sr.; Joseph Saffold, Glenville, sr.; Luke Simms, St. Ignatius, sr.; Aidan Stewart, Avon Lake, sr.; Riley Verderber, Lakewood, jr. (TE); Terrell Wharton Jr., Akron East, sr.; Buddy Willig, Norton, sr.

Tackles

Sam Greer, Archbishop Hoban

Height, weight: 6-7, 315

Year: Senior

About Greer: There are four Ohio State recruits on the offensive line, including three tackles, on the cleveland.com all-area team. Greer is arguably the best, as the highest rated one in recruiting rankings. He also was a three-year starter on Hoban’s basketball team, but plans to graduate early and enroll at Ohio State. He played both strong and weak sides. Coach Tim Tyrrell said he had one of the highest football IQs of the players he has coached in the last decade at Hoban (10-2).

Maxwell Riley, Avon Lake

Height, weight: 6-5, 280

Year: Senior

About Riley: A four-year starter, Riley is an ultimate technician at tackle. He graded out at 96% and had 75 pancakes at Avon Lake (3-7). Riley also is headed to Ohio State.

Second team: Landry Brede, Mentor, sr.; Colton Crosley, Walsh Jesuit, sr.; Max Hauck, Avon, sr.

Honorable mention: Andrew Baggott, Chardon, sr.; Eian Englehart, Avon, sr.; Ellery Geho, Twinsburg, sr.; Nick Gustin, Perry, sr.; Andrew Hayes, Brunswick, sr.; Jordan Jones, Wadsworth, sr.; Gavin Kanar, Nordonia, sr.; Brody Kincaid, St. Edward, jr.; Ben Lazar, Buckeye, sr.; Cal Maloney, Berea-Midpark, sr.; Jack Marquard, St. Edward, jr.; Josh Messina, Highland, sr.; Jashawn Parish, Rhodes, jr.; Colin Prichard, Mentor, sr. Joe Rozak, Revere, sr.; Lucas Tielsch, Copley, sr.; Jack Turk, Kirtland, jr.; Michael van der Oord, St. Ignatius, sr. Xavier Young, Midview, sr.; Nathan Zappitelli, Lake Catholic, sr.

Guards

Marquis Whipple, Glenville

Height, weight: 6-3, 300

Year: Senior

About Whipple: He played all three spots this season for the Tarblooders (12-3), who won their third Division IV state championship in four years. Whipple even played center in the state title game, a 45-7 win vs. Shelby. He was committed to Miami (Ohio).

Mason Wilhelm, St. Edward

Height, weight: 6-4, 295

Year: Senior

About Wilhelm: Last year, Wilhelm moved from tackle to guard. This year, he added defensive tackle duties to his plate and helped the Eagles back to the Division I state semifinals. Wilhelm is headed to Ohio State, which flipped him this fall from North Carolina, and will follow in the footsteps of his father, Matt Wilhelm, who played linebacker for the Buckeyes.

Second team: Jahmal Menefield, St. Edward, sr.; Nathan Scheffler, Olmsted Falls, sr.

Honorable mention: Cody Bendau, Highland, sr.; Zach Freeburg, Kirtland, sr.; E.J. German, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, sr.; David Iannini, Lake Catholic, sr.; A.J. Lamb, Columbia, jr.; Andrew Lanham, Hudson, sr.; Gabe Ludtke, Wadsworth, sr.; Sean McCall, Villa Angela-St. Joseph, sr.; Gibril McLendon, Mentor, sr.; Josiah Neumeyer, Cuyahoga Valley Christian

Academy, jr.; Braylin Parker, Archbishop Hoban, sr.; Josh Porter, Riverside, sr.; Vince Prusock, Kirtland, jr.; Ben Truax, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, sr.; Quinten Young, Strongsville, sr.

Center

Lucci Cantini, Kirtland

Height, weight: 6-0, 225

Year: Junior

About Cantini: Quarterback Jake LaVerde called Cantini one of the leaders at Kirtland (15-0). He is on pace to be a four-year starter for the Division VI state champions. Cantini made the All-Ohio first team and is a multisport standout, who plays catcher on the baseball team. Kirtland got to the regional finals last spring with Cantini behind the plate.

Second team: JoJo LoDuca, Mentor, sr.

Honorable mention: Shepard Charlton, Benedictine, sr.; Jackson Comer, Lakewood, jr.; Jason Ellison, North Ridgeville, sr.; Jack Fitch, Avon, jr.; Aiden Flynn, Cuyahoga Heights, sr.; Randy Knight, Shaw, sr.; Cam Mullen, Madison, sr.; Rocco Ruggiero, Walsh Jesuit, sr.; Landon Walkem, St. Edward, jr.

Kicker

Jonah Kowza, Highland

Height, weight: 6-1, 168

Year: Junior

About Kowza: Coming into this season, Kowza had just as good of a resume as a punter. Problem was, Highland (12-1) hardly punted the ball. Kowza still made an impact in the Hornets' run to the Division II regional finals and another Suburban League American Conference championship. He made 3 of 5 field goals with a long of 43 yards. Thirty-three of his 46 kickoffs went for touchbacks. He also made 37 of 38 extra points with the only miss being blocked.

Second team: Ryan Cvitkovic, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, sr.

Honorable mention: Vincenzo DiTeodoro, Brunswick, sr.; Riley Edgehouse, Nordonia, sr.;

Jeremy Hammel, Archbishop Hoban, sr.; David Kennedy, Revere, jr.; Grady Kucharson, Kenston, sr.; Freddie Marcell, Walsh Jesuit, sr.; Roman Percic, Berkshire, jr.; Jensen Petro, Avon, sr.; Vincent Roncone, Strongsville, jr.; Joey Skoczen, Hawken, jr.; Marco Valentic, Kirtland, sr.



Matt Goul

Matt Goul has covered high school sports with some college and pros sprinkled in since 2005 with a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. He has covered high school basketball and football in Northeast...more

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