

FOOTBALL

Akron-area football Week 10 recaps: Highland, Nardon, Norton among winners

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Two Suburban League National Conference battles came down to the wire to highlight Week 10 of the Ohio high school football regular season for [Akron-area teams](#) on Friday, Oct. 23.

In one game, [Highland](#) edged [Hudson](#) to clinch the SLNC title in its first year in the big-school division. In the other, [Nardon](#) controlled the second half to rally past [Wadsworth](#).

[Streetsboro](#) and [Norton](#) also both won to forge a three-way tie for the Metro Athletic Conference title, [Woodridge](#) topped [Cuyahoga Falls](#) in the first football game between the two schools, and [Manchester](#) suffered a costly loss to [Northwest](#).

Read the highlights below.

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Highland 13, Hudson 10: Hornets claim SL National Conference and No. 1 seed with win

Highland made its case for being the best team in Division II, Region 5

with a huge Suburban League National Conference win over Hudson.

The victory gave the [Hornets \(9-1, 7-0\)](#) the outright Suburban League National Conference title and the No. 1 seed heading into the postseason. Highland ran the table in its first year in the Suburban League's big school division with the same solid defense it has displayed for decades.

But it didn't come without some heart-stopping action as Hayden Lipinski moved Hudson to the Hornets 25 with 8 seconds left. The Explorers' 42-yard field goal attempt went wide left and Highland escaped Hudson Memorial Stadium with the win.

"I believe defense wins championships," Hornets linebacker Evan Foust said. "The defense really stepped up and won us that game."

Chatham Phillips had two interceptions and Foust registered a fumble recovery to keep the [Explorers \(7-3, 4-3\)](#) from picking up big playoff points in Division I, Region 1.

Highland scored the first 13 points and then survived a 7-yard touchdown by Reno Ferri with 7:21 left. Ferri finished with 161 yards on 28 carries.

Despite Ferri's best efforts, the Hornets did it with defense again when Foust forced a fumble on the 13-yard line and Ben Radigan recovered the ball and returned it to the Highland 15 to preserve the lead with 2:20 left.

"Everyone doubted us, saying we were going to go 7-3," Phillips said. "It was amazing to prove everyone wrong. Our hard work paid off."

Foust scored the only touchdown for Highland on a 13-yard pass before halftime to put Highland up two scores. Jonah Kowza had field goals of 32 and 38 yards.

Anthony DePompei finished with 47 yards on 15 carries and Colton Wadle ran nine times for 53 yards and was 5-of-15 passing for 56 yards.

“I am very proud of our team in a hard-fought game with Hudson,” Highland coach Mike Gibbons said. “Defensively, we played really well. Created some big turnovers. Glad we were able to come out with the win.”

Lipinski was 9-of-17 passing for 120 yards for Hudson.

“You saw our heart here at the end,” Explorers coach Jeff Gough said. “Our defense gave us the ball with 30 seconds to go and we were able to put ourselves in a spot to tie the game with a field goal. This is definitely going to bleed over into the playoffs.”

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“We’re excited about the new challenge of Division I and a new landscape. A lot of those teams in the upper bracket we haven’t seen in a decade. It’s 1-0 every week. Does heart count? Absolutely, and I think we showed a lot tonight.”

Nordonia 42, Wadsworth 33: Brock Barwidi, Dominick Jackson lead Knights to win

Senior Brock Barwidi scored a touchdown and recorded two interceptions and senior Dominick Jackson scored two TDs to lead the visiting Knights (9-1, 6-1) to a Suburban League National Conference win over the Grizzlies (8-2, 5-2). Nordonia clinched a top-four seed in the Division II, Region 5 playoffs, a bye and a home playoff game in Week 12.

“It took all three phases tonight,” Nordonia coach Scott Barwidi said. “... We didn’t play great on offense in some situations. We had a punt return for a touchdown, a kickoff return for a touchdown and then the defense came up with three interceptions.”

Brock Barwidi returned a punt 77 yards for a touchdown with 3:43 remaining in the first quarter and recorded an interception on Wadsworth’s final two possessions of the fourth quarter.

“We played amazing,” Brock Barwidi said. “We had a great game plan with the defense, throwing their quarterback off, who is supposed to be one of the best players in Ohio, and he threw [three interceptions]. We just flustered him.”

Jackson ran for a 2-yard TD with 6:14 left in the second quarter and returned a kickoff for a 78-yard touchdown with 5:56 to go in the fourth quarter. Senior Jackson Neal followed with his sixth PAT as Nordonia turned a two-point lead into a nine-point lead.

“This has been one of our end of the year goals,” said Jackson, who had three catches for 44 yards. “Week 10 against a team that always gives us trouble, so we just focused on putting in the work every week and scoring as many ways as possible.”

Nordonia senior Shawn Zivkovich contributed a 28-yard TD run and senior Steven Fakult had a 20-yard TD run in the third quarter. Senior CJ Mayes added a 16-yard TD run in the fourth quarter one play after a 47-yard pass by Fakult to senior Collin Atha (three catches for 64 yards).

“To win with this [senior] class at their stadium, there was just so much fire and so much adrenaline,” said Fakult, who finished 10-of-20 passing for 133 yards and ran for 58 yards on nine carries.

Zivkovich said he and his teammates “stick to our basics, and that is play fast and physical.”

“We knew we had to come out strong,” said Mayes, who ran for 46 yards on 12 carries. “We don’t really like them as a team. We came in physical, violent and made plays.”

Wadsworth junior Brysen Hall completed 21-of-42 passes for 308 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions. Hall connected with junior Jay’len King on TDs that covered 7 yards and 14 yards and with sophomore Alex Porter on an 84-yard TD pass.

Grizzlies junior Braydan Todd ran for 105 yards and two TDs on 21 carries. Porter finished with four catches for 128 yards, King had five catches for 82 yards, senior Kyle Schmeltzer added 10 catches for 71 yards and junior Reid Close grabbed an interception.

Nordonia senior Jamiere Davis recorded an interception, senior Karsen Fisher blocked a PAT and Fisher, Barwidi and senior Trent Foster combined to make a tackle on a Wadsworth two-point conversion attempt. Foster had a sack, Fisher and junior Mason Farrell combined for a sack and Fisher and senior Dominic Schiavone combined for a sack.

"This means so much to us," Davis said. "This game had so much emotion. Coach told us 'to play with emotion, but don't be emotional,' meaning let our emotions about this team guide us to victory, be ourselves, but don't be too emotional to where the negative plays affect us."

Northwest 28, Manchester 21: Northwest rallies past Panthers

Northwest could not have scripted the final minutes of a win over Manchester any better. Conner Stephenson's 24-yard touchdown run with 39 seconds left wrapped up an 8-2 regular season for coach John DeMarco and his players and earned them a Division IV home playoff game next week.

Northwest rallied from a 21-14 deficit and knocked Manchester (5-5) out of postseason berth in Division V, according to [JoeEitel.com](https://www.joeetel.com). It was the team's first win over its neighborhood rival since 2023.

"This game means so much to us," Northwest quarterback, defensive back and returner [Brayden Venables](#) said. "This is our biggest game of the year. We look forward to this every year."

"To get that win, set us up great for the playoffs and get another game on this field, it just feels great."

Venables' interception on the final play of the game closed out Manchester, who struck with two big plays — Phil Partin's 80-yard touchdown run and Greyson Swaino's 77-yard TD pass to Noah Lance. Other than that, Northwest was able to contain Manchester's high-powered offense.

Woodridge 37, Cuyahoga Falls 7: Bulldogs win inaugural 'Rumble on the River'

Woodridge (8-2, 5-2) took control of the game early and won despite a solid effort by visiting Cuyahoga Falls (3-7, 1-6).

The Bulldogs will host a Division IV playoff game next week against an opponent to be determined.

One key factor in the win was the return of Woodridge running back John Tyree to full health. Tyree led the Bulldogs with a 138 yards rushing and scored the game's opening TD on a 7-yard run.

Tyree's return helped quarterback Blake Pumper settle in for a big night. Pumper went 15-of-19 passing for 142 yards and three touchdowns as Falls struggled to deal with Woodridge's short passing game.

Kai Jones, Kellen Morr and Sean Thompson each caught TDs for Woodridge, with Thompson's score accounting for all the second-half points.

Falls had its moments in the game, particularly quarterback Waseem Mustafa, who scored the Black Tigers' lone TD when he broke loose for an 80-yard run to start the second quarter.

Mustafa led Falls with 75 yards rushing, while going 3-of-9 passing for 48 yards and one pick.

However, Woodridge's defense kept Falls contained most of the night, picking off Mustafa in the fourth quarter to end the game.

Norton 42, Cloverleaf 7: Panthers earn share of MAC championship

Trey Kersten threw three touchdown passes and ran for a TD as the Panthers (9-1, 6-1) rolled the host Colts (8-2, 6-1) to earn a share of the Metro Athletic Conference championship. Norton, Cloverleaf and Streetsboro (8-2, 6-1) finished as the MAC tri-champs. Norton clinched a top-four seed in the Division IV, Region 13 playoffs, a bye and a home playoff game in Week 12.

Kersten threw an 11-yard TD pass to Alex Meinen and connected with Jason Beverly on two TD passes that covered 33 yards and 75 yards. Norton also had two rushing TDs as Beverly scored from 4 yards out and Kersten scored from 10 yards out. Hunter Maczko returned an interception 49 yards for a TD and Blake Kaminski made all six of his PATs.

Norton forced four turnovers as Maczko had the pick-six, Meinen recorded an interception, Jackson Lewis and Chase Bowman forced fumbles and Meinen and Zavier Penny recovered fumbles.

“Great job by our kids, led by our seniors to win six straight league games and clinch a share of our fifth MAC title in six years,” Norton coach Glen Kruger said. “We asked our guys to keep battling and go 1-0 every week, and these guys certainly came through to do that tonight. Extremely proud of all of our players and our fantastic coaching staff. Our offensive linemen Ian Starling, Owen Hallett, Layton Johnson, Caden Hochstrasser and Anderson Gross have played all season.”

Walsh Jesuit 35, Trotwood-Madison 8: Warriors earn first-round bye with impressive win

The Warriors (7-2) clinched the No. 2 seed on the arm of Kinzy Shea (10-of-16 passing, 167 yards), who threw touchdown passes to Cameron Brunson (four catches, two TDs) and Cayden LeVert (three catches, 61 yards, TD).

Dominick Courtad carried the ball eight times for 70 yards and scored a touchdown in the runaway win.

Walsh's defense was just as strong, limiting the Rams (7-2) to 60 yards rushing and 256 yards of total offense. The Warriors picked off Trotwood-Madison twice and forced a fumble.

Streetsboro 28, Tallmadge 14: Rockets secure tie for MAC title, top spot in Division IV, Region 13

The Rockets won a back-and-forth thriller and got some help from Norton to earn a share of the Metro Athletic Conference championship.

The Rockets (8-2, 6-1) needed the Panthers to win at Cloverleaf and needed to win their own game at Tallmadge to earn a share of the title.

Norton beat up Cloverleaf 42-7, but the action in Tallmadge was far closer.

Dallas Morris had an 83-yard punt return and Logan Sadowski added a 43-yard field goal to give Streetsboro a 10-0 lead with four minutes and change remaining until halftime.

The Blue Devils struck for a touchdown before halftime and added another roughly five minutes into the second half to take a 14-10 lead.

Sadowski added another long field goal, this time from 42 yards out, in the third quarter to draw the Rockets within a point and Colton Cox took care of the rest. The quarterback's 6-yard touchdown run and an ensuing two-point conversion gave the Rockets the lead with 9:48 remaining. His 27-yard touchdown toss to Kyle Giacomo clinched the game.

Meanwhile, Logan Fincham eclipsed the century mark running the football for Streetsboro.

The Rockets will share the 2026 MAC title with the Panthers, who they beat by a touchdown, and the Colts, who they lost to by a touchdown.

Kenston 43, Barberton 42: Magics just miss pulling off a big upset

The Magics (2-8, 0-7) almost pulled off a Suburban League American Conference upset of the Bombers (5-5, 4-3) but missed a 25-yard field goal with 21 seconds left.

It took a touchdown by Jackson Ehrenbeit and two-point conversion by Will Hamm with 3:33 left for Kenston to survive.

It didn't come without some exceptional games from Barberton.

Mareon Peters (250 all-purpose yards) rushed for a touchdown and threw TD passes to Clee Thompson (112 yards receiving), Vernon Reynolds (150 all-purpose yards), and Noah Wright (50 yards receiving).

Reynolds had a 60-yard scoop and score and Reggie Wyatt added a pick six. Michael Ellis made 20 tackles, four for loss and Logan Cunningham added a strip sack.

Aurora 28, Copley 24: Greenmen survive wild 4th quarter to beat Copley

Luke McGovern missed much of the season because of injury. He's more than made up for lost time since coming back. He capped the Greenmen's season with a two-touchdown effort, including the game-winner with 1:18 remaining.

Knotted 14-14 at the end of 36 minutes, the teams combined for 24 points in a wild fourth quarter. Matthew Panzner started the craziness with a 34-yard field goal to give Copley a 17-14 lead. Aurora answered with a 45-yard touchdown run by Carter Fitzgerald to go ahead 20-17. Copley responded with an even longer touchdown — a 74-yard pass from Dane Wininger to Noah Slattery — to take a 24-20 lead with 2:50 remaining. But the Greenmen answered with a 9-yard touchdown run by McGovern, who also had a 90-yard kick return touchdown for Aurora (5-5, 4-3 Suburban

American), which finished the season on a three-game win streak.

Slattery had four catches for 121 yards and two scores, serving as a leading receiver for Wininger (10-of-17 passing, 204 yards, two TDs, 2 INTs).

Wininger also ran for 109 yards on 15 carries and Jalen Owens added 94 yards on 14 carries for Copley (6-4, 3-4).

Fitzgerald turned 22 carries into 141 yards and two touchdowns for Aurora, while Marc McGovern completed 12 of 19 passes for 123 yards. Luke Hilditch and Luke McGovern added an interception apiece for the Greenmen.

Brecksville 28, Revere 7: Minutemen clinch top-8 seed, playoff home game despite loss

Carter Hajdu threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to TJ Meech to save the Minutemen (6-4, 4-3) from being shut out by the Bees (6-4, 5-2). Lane Shenigo rushed for 61 yards on 18 carries.

Revere clinched an Division III, Region 10 home game despite the loss. JoeEitel.com has the No. 8 Minutemen welcoming in No. 9 Holy Name (5-4) to open the postseason.

Solon 29, Medina 21: Bees season comes to an end

A 7-yard touchdown pass from Adam Barr to Bishop Burch and two-point conversion by Cooper Sokolowski with 2:23 brought the Bees (2-8, 2-5) to within one score, but they couldn't complete the comeback against the Comets (5-5, 3-4).

Burch also caught a 54-yard touchdown pass. Collin Gonzalez opened the scoring for Medina, which was eliminated from the Division I, Region 1 playoffs.

North Royalton 43, Stow 42: Bears rally with 3 fourth-quarter TDs to stun Bulldogs

Stow suffered another heartbreaker to end the season. After leading 42-23 with 11 minutes to go, Stow allowed the Bears to rally with three fourth-quarter TDs to steal the win.

North Royalton's winning TD came on a 27-yard pas from Daniel Piper to Robby Edmiston with 42 seconds left.

The game featured more than 850 yards of total offense between the two teams. The loss ruined an excellent game from Stow QB Gideon Larlham, who went 14-of-23 passing for 302 yards and four TDs while leading the Bulldogs with 68 yards rushing.

Stow's Hayden Mangira caught three passes for 142 yards and a TD, and Thomas Shaw had three catches for 99 yards and two TDs.

Israel Purkiss and Caden Boyd each scored a rushing TD in their final games as Bulldogs.

Mayfield 44, Twinsburg 19: Undefeated Wildcats hand Tigers season-ending loss

Mayfield (10-0, 7-0) completed an undefeated regular season by scoring 37 first-half points before Twinsburg (1-9, 1-6) could answer. The Wildcats won the Suburban League American Conference title.

Tigers QB Dylan Fantone broke the run with a 9-yard TD pass to Quentin-Lee Bailey just before the half.

Fantone and Lee-Bailey combined again in the fourth quarter for a 34-yard TD, followed by a 7-yard rushing TD by Zach Schobert.

CVCA 42, Elyria Catholic 7: Royals rout Panthers on the road

After an up-and-down season, CVCA (6-4) may have played its best game of the year in its season finale. The Royals, who failed to qualify for the Division III playoffs, took a 21-7 halftime lead and then pulled away from the Panthers in Elyria.

CVCA won the rushing battle 351-144, but QB Jackson Crews also had a solid game, going 3-of-5 passing for 84 yards with one TD and one pick.

Running back Tommy Kopec was in workhorse mode for the Royals, finishing with 125 yards and three TDs, including a 50-yard TD run at the end of the first half. He also scored on a 15-yard run and a 13-yard run.

Zac Anderson finished with 101 yards on eight rushes, Reed Jones had nine carries for 55 yards and Mason Frye (3 yards) and Will Perrow (20 yards) each ran for a score. Carter Walkley caught a 25-yard TD pass from Crews in the fourth quarter.

“Run with perseverance the race marked out before us, Hebrews 12:1 was our theme for the week,” CVCA coach Nick Cook said. “Our young men lived that out tonight. I believe this senior class [of 17 players] is the second winningest class in school history. Thirty-six wins is a heck of a high school football career. They have a lot to be proud of.

“Our defense was a total team effort. We were over 80% in tackles at first contact, our best tackling performance of the season. Carter Walkley forced a fumble that Zac Anderson recovered. Carter, Zac and Tommy Kopec led our defense.”

Canton South 55, Coventry 6: Comets fall in season finale

Canton South hammered Coventry with 42 first-half points before the Comets (1-9) responded.

Coventry's lone score came on a 12-yard fumble recovery in the third quarter.

Field 42, Springfield 7

Freshman quarterback Mason Ford ran for three touchdowns as the Falcons (3-7, 2-5) ended their season on a high note with a Metro Athletic Conference win. Ford's 38-yard touchdown run was the lone score of the opening quarter. After Springfield tied it in the second quarter, Ford put Field back in front, scoring from 18 yards out. Alex Williams added a pick six to give the Falcons a 20-7 lead at the half. Ford (20 carries, 185 yards) tallied his final rushing touchdown as part of Field's 22-point fourth quarter, a scoring explosion that also included a 51-yard touchdown run by Garrett Smith.

Lake 14, Green10: Lachlan Baker's 4th-quarter TD lifts Blue Streaks over Bulldogs

Lachlan Baker ran for a touchdown with 1:49 remaining to help Lake snap a four-game losing streak and spoil Green's playoff aspirations in Division II, Region 7. Baker ran for two touchdowns and led the Blue Streaks with 59 yards on 12 carries after Lake (5-5, 3-3) lost star Ty DeGeorge to a season-ending injury last week.

Green (4-6, 2-4) took the lead into the final quarter after Kam Worner ran for a 3-yard touchdown with 6:48 remaining in the third quarter to give the Bulldogs a 10-7 lead. Logan Noirot had a 23-yard field goal with 10:55 left in the second quarter to round out the scoring for the Bulldogs, who lost five of their last six games.

The Lake defense kept Green under wraps for much of the night. The Bulldogs were held to 46 yards rushing, sacked twice and intercepted twice. Zach Kutzera and Josh Lippe each recorded a sack for Lake. Marquel Skillern and Drew Pribanich posted the interceptions for the Blue Streaks. Aaron Mitchell had six tackles and two tackles for loss for Lake.

Aiden Rice caught three passes for 75 yards for Green.

Mogadore 28, Brush 22: Furious 4th-quarter rally carries Wildcats over Arcs

The Wildcats outscored the Arcs 21-0 in the fourth quarter to cap a stunning comeback and clinch a first-round bye.

Down 22-0, Maddox Smith got Mogadore on the scoreboard with a 9-yard touchdown run to end the third quarter. Smith added an 11-yard touchdown pass to Collin Hendrickson to make it 22-13 early in the fourth quarter, and Kade Thomas tallied two 2-yard touchdown runs to complete the comeback.

Thomas turned a game-high 30 carries into 98 yards for the Wildcats (8-2). Smith added a game-high 106 rushing yards on 23 carries. Smith also completed 9 of 18 passes for 157 yards, with Hendrickson (five catches, 105 yards) serving as his leading receiver.

Cleveland Benedictine 32, St. Vincent-St. Mary 7: Irish end season 1-9

Giovanni Iacampo ran for two TDs and threw a 16-yard TD pass to Michael Shropshire to lead the host Bengals (5-4) to a win over the Irish (1-9).

Benedictine's Kayden Forte ran for 98 yards and a TD on 16 carries and Nate Majors made a 40-yard field goal and three PATs. STVM's Tyler Wharton caught a 51-yard TD pass from Will Adamson and Liam O'Connor made a PAT.

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