

Akron Beacon Journal

High school football | Akron-area 2nd-round playoffs breakdowns, predictions

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Week 12 has arrived and it brings the second week of the OHSAA playoffs across all seven divisions and 28 regions.

Here's our look at games featuring Summit County-area teams, including a breakdown of each matchup and who we predict will win.

Friday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

Division II, Region 5

No. 9 Hudson (6-5) at No. 1 Walsh Jesuit (11-0)

What to watch: The more things change, the more they stay the same. This will be the fourth season in a row that the two schools meet in the playoffs. Last season, the Warriors beat the Explorers 35-14 in a Region 5 semifinal. Hudson won a Region 5 quarterfinal 34-7 in 2022. It was Walsh 23-14 in a Region 5 quarterfinal three seasons ago. ... This is the 22nd time Walsh has made the playoffs and the fifth season in a row it qualified. The Warriors are coming off a 42-0 win over No. 16 Willoughby South. ... This is the 17th time Hudson has made the postseason and the sixth season in a row. The Explorers are coming off a 37-7 win over No. 8 Boardman. ... Third-team All-Ohio QB Keller Moten (88-of-157, 1,473 yards, 16 TDs; 98 carries, 983 yards, 17 TDs) leads Walsh. Marty Tobin (101 carries, 819 yards, 8 TDs), Lucas Weaver (77, 554, 6) and Carlos Smith (49, 467, 7) head the rushing attack. The Warriors go to either Aiden Henry (39 catches, 558 yards, 3 TDs) or Milan Parris (25, 552, 8) in the passing game. ... Their defense is led by Declan Norton (95 tackles, 1 sack) and Caden Carter (92, 2.5). Grant Blascak has three of Walsh's 10

interceptions. ... Hudson loves to line up behind Army commit Jake Clapper and run through defenses. Reno Ferri (131 carries, 814 yards, 11 TDs), Brennan Funyak (80, 532, 11) and Nathan Judy (112, 426, 6) lead a rushing attack that averages 181.2 yards per game and 5.2 yards per carry. Dare the Explorers to throw and Judy (112-of-175, 1,428 yards, 7 TDs) can get it done. His main target is Louie Castellarin, who has 43 catches for 592 yards and five scores. ... Joe Cavalcanti (134 tackles, 4 sacks) and Funyak (87, 3) lead the defense. ... The winner plays either No. 4 Austintown Fitch (8-3) or No. 5 Warren Harding (8-3) next week at a site to be determined.

Who will win: Walsh Jesuit 28-21

No. 7 Lake (7-4) at No. 2 Hoban (9-2)

What to watch: Lake 12th-year coach Dan DeGeorge, a 1992 Hoban graduate, returns to Dowed Field to coach against his alma mater. DeGeorge was a standout football and baseball player at Hoban. His son, sophomore Ty DeGeorge, is Lake's quarterback. ... Ty DeGeorge has 99 carries for 584 yards and eight touchdowns and has completed 39 of 54 passes for 446 yards and six TDs. ... DeGeorge is Lake's primary QB and Davis Matson will take snaps in wildcat formations. Alex Quior (38 of 68, 549 yards, three TDs) also played quarterback, wide receiver and safety for Lake, but has missed the last four games because of a knee injury. ... Lake's top senior is Ohio University recruit Charlie Christopher, a running back and linebacker. Christopher has 154 carries for 855 yards and 11 TDs rushing. Defensively, he has 101 tackles (73 solo), 23 tackles for loss, eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception. He also returned a kickoff for a TD this season and blocked a punt. ... Matson has 115 carries for 691 yards and six TDs. Ethan Hunt has 40 receptions for 471 yards and five TDs and 12 carries for 109 yards and two TDs. ... Ty DeGeorge and Hunt each have three interceptions and Braeden Shrock has two interceptions on defense. Lake's Ryan Lippe and Kyle Hammer have 14 TFLs apiece. Lippe has forced two fumbles and Hammer has recovered two fumbles. ... Lake's Aaron Mitchell has 11 TFLs and four sacks. Hunter Patterson has 10 TFLs and four sacks. ... Lake beat Hoover 28-0 last Friday and Hoban topped Firestone 45-6. ... Hoban features LB Eli Lee (Ohio State recruit), TE Tayte Crable (Toledo), DB-WR-PR-KR Tylan Boykin (Eastern Michigan) and LB Tanner Mintz (Robert Morris). ... OL Sam Greer, DB-WR-PR-KR Elbert Hill IV and RB Brayton Feister are among other Knights with Division I college scholarship offers. ... Feister has 182 carries for 1,203 yards and 16 TDs and one receiving TD. Ethan Roksandich has 57 carries for 399 yards and five TDs and one receiving TD. La'Near Folk has 53 carries for 402 yards and seven TDs and Hill has 18 carries for 203

yards and two TDs. ... Hoban QB Trent Hayden has one rushing TD and is 53 of 85 passing for 737 yards and seven TDs. ... Hoban's leading receivers are Crable (15 catches, 171 yards, one TD), John Johnson (13 catches, 144 yards, one TD), Hill (12 catches, 288 yards, three TDs) and Jackson Callaway (12 catches, 162 yards, two TDs).

Who will win: Hoban 42-28

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No. 6 Green (7-4) at No. 3 Nordonia (9-2)

What to watch: One of two all-Summit County showdowns in Region 5, Nordonia and Green have enjoyed recent success in Division II. ... The Knights beat Solon for the second time this season to open playoffs with a 38-6 win. ... Nordonia's offense has been dangerous both ways, thanks in large part to QB Ben Chesser. Chesser has gone 118-of-182 for 1,386 yards, 14 TDs and 5 picks, while being Nordonia's second leading rusher with 729 yards and 12 TDs. ... Rocco DeLorenzo leads the Knights on the ground with 829 yards and 11 TDs, while Khylan Osbey had put up 513 yards and nine TDs ... Kicker Riley Edgehouse is one of the best in Northeast Ohio, hitting 10 of 12 field goals. ... Green's win over Painesville Riverside snapped a two-game losing streak heading into the playoffs. ... Green's passing attack has been solid, led by QB Tyson Hunka. He has gone 144-of-247 this season for 1,927 yards and 16 TDs, though he has been intercepted 10 times. ... Green's most dangerous weapon is Antonio Martin, who is averaging 17.2 yards a catch and has nine TDs on offense, as well as five interceptions on defense. Martin also is threat in the return game. ... Fellow WR Kaden Gregory is averaging 15.5 yards a catch. ... RB Evan Reed has scored 13 TDs this fall.

Who will win: Nordonia 35-14

Division II, Region 6

No. 10 Toledo St. Francis DeSales (8-3) at No. 2 Highland (11-0)

What to watch: The Hornets are looking to reach a regional semifinal for the fourth season in a row and are making their 14th playoff appearance. They beat No. 15 Fremont Ross 52-7 last week in their 14th trip to the playoffs. The Knights are hoping to reach a regional semifinal for the first time since 2020 and are making their 18th postseason appearance. They are coming off a 34-31 win over No. 7 Avon Lake. ... Casey Myser is coming off a five-TD performance and has shattered the school's single-season total

touchdowns record (38). He has rushed for 1,685 yards and 32 TDs on 179 carries this season. Dylan Borla has been magnificent at quarterback and is 80-of-111 for 1,787 yards. He has a 146.3 quarterback rating. Evan Foust (21 catches, 460 yards, 4 TDs) is his main target. ... Defense gets it done for Highland, which has allowed 28 points since Week 2. All-Ohioan Carson Noonan and Ryan Zyweic lead the defensive line. ... DeSales is led by Corey Swartz (93-of-133, 1,331 yards), who has a main target in Raheem Brown (31 catches, 556 yards, 5 TDs). The Knights like to run with Eli Beal (209 carries, 1,460 yards, 20 TDs). ... The winner will play either No. 3 Whitehouse Anthony Wayne or No. 11 Sandusky next week at a site to be determined.

Who will win: Highland 42-14

No. 5 Wadsworth (10-1) at No. 4 North Ridgeville (9-2)

What to watch: The Grizzlies are looking to reach a regional semifinal for the first time since 2019 and have lost in this round three years in a row. They are making their 16th playoff appearance and are coming off a 38-7 win over No. 12 North Royalton. ... The Rangers have never reached the regional semifinals and are making their fifth appearance in the postseason. They are coming off a 24-6 win over No. 13 Toledo Start. ... The Grizzlies inch closer to having all-state sensation Gavin Madigan back on both sides of the ball. He has started the last two weeks at safety after sustaining a high ankle sprain. Cooper Gray is coming off a four-TD game where he rushed for 186 yards and caught a pass for 47 yards. He's carried the ball 180 times for 1,512 yards and scored 20 TDs. Brysen Hall (124-of-202, 1,995 yards, 20 TDs) has a main target in Calix Lemp (36 catches, 705 yards, 11 TDs). ... North Ridgeville's Cole Miller has thrown for over 1,000 yards and has a main target in Charlie Steinmetz (35 catches, 467 yards). Steinmetz is the school's all-time leader in receptions and yards. He has rushed for 536 yards on 66 carries and has 12 total TDs. North Ridgeville is paced by Zach Barnhart, who has over 1,800 yards rushing and 20 TDs. ... The winner plays either No. 1 Avon (11-0) or No. 8 Olmsted Falls (8-3) next week at a site to be determined.

Who will win: North Ridgeville 28-14

OHSAA football playoffs: Complete OHSAA Round 2 schedule

Division III, Region 9

No. 6 Chardon (8-2) at No. 3 CVCA (9-2)

What to watch: CVCA won its second playoff game in school history when it beat University School 45-14. Now it faces one of the most experienced playoff teams in Northeast Ohio, as Chardon won the Division III state title in 2021 and reached the state final four last year. ... CVCA's win over US was typical, as the Royals ran the ball for 46 times for 290 yards. ... The Royals' three-headed rushing monster was led by Ryan Wiehe vs. US. He ran for 103 yards and a TD, while Joey Kopec ran for 77 yards and a TD. Kopec also had a pick-six in the win. ... QB Charley Levak had one of his best passing games of the season, going 7-of-9 for 102 yards and a TD. ... With a running offense based in wing-T formation, Chardon got three TDs from FB Vinny Columbi in its playoff win over Tallmadge. ... RB Caleb Hewitt, the son of Hilltoppers coach Mitch Hewitt, is another threat out of the backfield.

Who will win: CVCA 21-20

No. 5 Geneva (10-1) at No. 4 Aurora (10-1)

What to watch: Safe to say the Greenmen suffered no lingering effects from the their Week 10 loss to Highland, as Aurora bulldozed Bedford 42-6 to open the playoffs. ... With Lucas Manderbach out due to injury, Xavier Board picked up the bulk of the running duties vs. the Bearcats. Board responded with 166 yards and two TDs. ... Aurora may lean more on QB Ryan Dwyer this week. Dwyer went 8-of-16 for 110 yards with a TD and an interception vs. Bedford. ... Aurora's defense bounced back from a tough go in Week 10, picking off Bedford three times and limiting the Bearcats to 163 total yards ... Geneva comes in after a 35-11 win over backyard-rival Madison. The Eagles' lone loss this season came vs. state power Lake County Perry in Week 5. ... Geneva uses a ball-control offense. Its backfield quartet of Bryce Peet, Hayden Diemer, Caden Proy and Luke Barbo ran for 3,300 yards and 45 TDs during the regular season with no fumbles.

Who will win: Aurora 28-21.

Division III, Region 10

No. 9 Revere (7-4) at No. 1 Toledo Central Catholic (10-1)

What to watch: Revere makes the long drive to Toledo after a short drive last Friday to top rival Copley 34-28 in the first football playoff game between the two schools. Revere senior Luke Farris threw two TD passes, junior James Perry ran for two TDs and

sophomore Johlil Blanchard added a rushing TD to power visiting Revere past Copley last week, two weeks after Copley won 47-35. ... Farris finished 15-of-19 passing for 191 yards and ran for 32 yards on 11 carries last week. Revere junior Chase Clifford and senior Aaron French each caught a TD pass. French had seven catches for 105 yards and Blanchard ran for 139 yards on 26 carries. ... TCC has won five state championships since 2005, including titles in 2023 and 2022. ... TCC's regular-season schedule featured five games apiece against Ohio and Michigan opponents. The Irish lost to undefeated Detroit Catholic Central in Week 3 before compiling their current eight-game win streak. ... TCC beat 9-1 Muskegon Mona Shores (Michigan) 14-13 in Week 10 and 2-9 Lutheran West 49-14 last Friday. ... RB Anthony Sylvester ran for 104 yards and one TD on 21 carries against Mona Shores and QB Isaiah Fox added a rushing TD. ... Fox ran for a TD and went 5-of-8 passing for 141 yards and three TDs against Lutheran West. Levelle Stokes III, Sharard Vaughn III and Preston Fryzel caught TD passes from Fox. ... Tyler Morgan, Jacob Spears, Jeremiah Fuller, Jerome Davis V and Victor Singleton are also impact players for TCC.

Who will win: TCC 42-21

Division IV, Region 13

No. 6 Northwest (9-2) at No. 3 Streetsboro (11-0)

What to watch: Northwest will bus 45 miles to Portage County, needing to take its "A" game. RB Parker Kraft was on his game last Friday when he ran for 426 yards and five touchdowns on 27 carries in a 36-30 playoff win over Orange. ... Coming off a broken ankle suffered in the season opener, Kraft adds a dimension to an offense led by prolific QB Chase Badger working with a strong receiving corps. ... This is the first time since 2007 Northwest has won as many as nine games; the '07 team finished 12-1. ...

Streetsboro head coach Pete Thompson, like Northwest's John DeMarco, is a long-timer in the profession. Thompson spent 16 years on staff at Kenston before a five-year run as head coach at Crestwood. He is in his eighth season at Streetsboro. Last year's Rockets were 11-1 before falling 31-28 at West Branch in the second round. ... Streetsboro lost 49-21 at Northwest in a 2022 playoff opener. Cohen Klimak was a sophomore then and is the senior quarterback for the Rockets now, playing QB on a team that opened with a 29-21 win over CVCA and hasn't scored less than 42 points in any game since. ...

Northwest faced CVCA in Week 8 and lost 55-21. Another common foe is Norton, a team that lost 29-14 to Northwest in Week 1 and 55-0 to Streetsboro in Week 6. ... Klimak is a

running threat and, on defense, had a 53-yard pick-six in a 49-0 win at Field Oct. 18. Field is 9-2 and alive in the playoffs. Streetsboro might have a big running threat, Marcus Council, back from an injury this week. He is a transfer from Hoban. ... Klimak ran for 221 yards and four TDs in Streetsboro's 42-21 win over Youngstown Mooney last Friday.

Who will win: Streetsboro 34-27

Division V, Region 17

No. 7 Berkshire (8-3) at No. 2 Manchester (10-1)

What to watch: The Panthers are looking to reach a regional semifinal for the first time in five years and have made the postseason 28 times. They are coming off a 49-14 win over No. 15 Youngstown Liberty. ... The Badgers won their first playoff game since 1975 last week. That season they reached the state semifinal. They are making their ninth appearance in the postseason. Berkshire beat No. 10 Chagrin Falls 24-16 last week. ... Manchester is led by Phil Partin (221 carries, 1,667 yards, 27 TDs), Jake Livingston (20 catches, 299 yards, 3 TDs) and Yadin Sharp (60-of-112, 804 yards, 7 TDs, 73 carries, 493 yards, 8 TDs). ... The Panthers have given up 14 points or fewer eight times. ... Berkshire goes through Justin Phillips (171 carries, 934 yards, 14 TDs), Oliver Miller (120, 519, four) and Sam Barcikoski (68-of-139, 1,051 yards, 8 TDs). ... The Badgers are ballhawks with 13 interceptions. ... Luke Stute and Miller each have five picks. Brady Wadsworth (84 tackles), Miller (73) and Sam Bable (51) lead the team in tackles. ... The winner will play either No. 3 Poland (9-2) or No. 11 Martins Ferry (10-1) next week at a site to be determined.

Who will win: Manchester 20-7

Ex-NFL players coaching HS football: Browns legend Phil Dawson has advice for high school coaches who used to play in the league, like STVM's Doran Grant

Division VI, Region 21

No. 12 Mogadore (6-5) at No. 4 Columbia (9-2)

What to watch: Aaron Rumschlag and Connor Lehner combined for 192 yards in the first half last Friday as the Wildcats scored the first 21 points en route to a 27-13 win over host Hanoverton United (9-2), which had won its previous seven games. ... Rumschlag scored on TD runs of 17, 2 and 12 yards. Karson Jabar threw a 23-yard TD pass to Nick

Stephenson for the other Mogadore score. ... Columbia beat Rittman 49-7 last week with 438 rushing yards. Jose Rivera, Jimmy Stofey and Xavier Henden each ran for two TDs for the Raiders. Rivera ran for 180 yards, Stofey finished with 125 yards and Henden totaled 72 yards. Logan Menge, Christian DuBiel and Brayden Louk are also key playmakers for Columbia.

Who will win: Columbia 28-21

High school football: 2024 USA Today Network Preseason All-Ohio Football Team

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