

Akron Beacon Journal

Week 9 Greater Akron high school football power rankings show rankings getting tighter

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It's Week 9 and, man, are the Greater Akron High School Football Power rankings getting tight.

With a Hudson's upset of Nordononia and a growing resume by Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, the top eight are getting tougher to predict.

Here's how things look heading into the penultimate regular-season game:

1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (8-0)

Previous ranking: 1

The Warriors beat their sixth five-win team last week when they bounced Notre Dame Cathedral Latin 63-21. They've already clinched a home game in the playoffs and are heavily favored to finish the regular season 10-0.

This week: at Brunswick (3-5), 7 p.m. Friday

2. Wadsworth Grizzlies (8-0, 5-0)

Previous ranking: 2

The Grizzlies played without Gavin Madigan but it didn't matter. Cooper Gray ran for 195 yards and four touchdowns on 14 carries in a 49-23 win over Stow. They can clinch a second straight Suburban League National Conference title this week with a win over Solon.

Wadsworth has already clinched a postseason spot.

This week: Solon (2-6, 0-5), 7 p.m. Friday

3. Highland Hornets (8-0, 5-0)

Previous ranking: 3

Fresh off a 41-0 win over Revere in which Casey Myser set school records in rushing yards in a game (324) and rushing touchdowns in a season (22), Highland faces a Cuyahoga Falls team being outscored 283-14 in Suburban League American Conference play. The Hornets have clinched a playoff spot.

This week: at Cuyahoga Falls (2-6, 0-5), 7 p.m. Friday

4. Hoban Knights (6-2)

Previous ranking: 4

The Knights certainly made a case to be bumped up with a 20-0 win over two-time reigning Division IV state champion Glenville. This week it's another tough task against a 7-1 team out of the Keystone State. Hoban has already clinched a playoff spot.

This week: at Central York, Pa., 6 p.m. Friday

5. Hudson Explorers (5-3, 4-1)

Previous ranking: 7

Nathan Judy scored with 54 seconds left to lift the Explorers to a 23-22 win over Nordonia. The win gave the Explorers sole possession of second place in the Suburban League National Conference. Hudson has already clinched a playoff spot.

This week: North Royalton (3-5, 3-1)

6. Nordonia Knights (6-2, 3-2)

Previous ranking: 5

The Knights are arguably just two plays away from being undefeated after back-to-back one-point losses to Wadsworth and Hudson. Look for Nordonia to bounce back and take an eight-

win regular season into the playoffs. The Knights will clinch a postseason spot with a win this week.

This week: at Stow (2-6, 1-4), 7 p.m. Friday

7. Manchester Panthers (8-0, 5-0)

Previous ranking: 6

The Panthers played in the best game of their new stadium last week and outlasted Triway 34-27 in triple overtime to clinch at least a share of their first Principals Athletic title since 2017. They can win the title outright this week with a win. Manchester has already clinched a playoff spot.

This week: Fairless (3-5, 0-4), 7 p.m. Friday

8. Green Bulldogs (6-2, 4-1)

Previous ranking: 8

The Bulldogs are coming off back-to-back shutout wins over Canton GlenOak and five-win Louisville. They've already clinched a playoff spot and look to be well on their way to an eight-win season.

This week: Perry (3-6, 1-4), 7 p.m. Friday

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