

High school football | Akron-area Week 8 breakdowns, predictions

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Akron Beacon Journal

Published 6:10 a.m. ET Oct. 9, 2024 | Updated 11:55 a.m. ET Oct. 9, 2024

Week 8 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association football season gets off to an early start for Summit County-area teams with three games set for 7 p.m. Thursday. There then is a full slate of games at 7 p.m. Friday, plus two more Saturday afternoon.

Here's our look at those games, including a breakdown of each matchup and who we predict will win.

Thursday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

Revere (5-2, 2-2) at Highland (7-0, 4-0)

What to watch: This Suburban League American Conference showdown features one of four undefeated teams left in Greater Akron vs. a team having its best season in years. ... Highland has been a juggernaut on offense all season, scoring 45.1 points a game. The Hornets had their biggest offensive output of the season in a 56-7 rout of Kent Roosevelt in Week 7. ... RB Casey Myser continues to be the heart of the Hornets offense. Against Kent Roosevelt, he put up 156 rushing yards and three TDs on just 15 carries, along with a receiving touchdown. ... Although Highland is a run-first offense, QB Dylan Borla has shown he can be a force in the passing game. In Week 7, Borla completed 12 of 15 passes for 275 yards and three TDs. He also has been a threat in the read-option game. ... Highland's defense has become stronger as the season progresses. The Hornets have not given up more than a touchdown since Week 2. ... Revere is a team based on defense, as the Minutemen allowed less than five points a game in their five victories. ... QB Luke Farris is a dual threat. He completed 8 of 15 passes for 117 yards and ran for 60 yards on nine carries in Revere's Week 7 win over Barberton. ... RB Johlil Blanchard ran for 179

yards and a TD vs. Barberton.

Who will win: Highland 42-21

Copley (3-4, 2-2) at Barberton (1-6, 1-3)

What to watch: Copley is coming off back-to-back wins over Kent Roosevelt and Cuyahoga Falls. ... Jason Baines had a four-touchdown day and Gabriel Manziel threw three TDs against the Black Tigers. ... The Magics gave Revere fits before falling 26-21 when Ayden Tritt and Sean Wright hooked up twice for touchdowns. ... Barberton has won the last seven meetings. ... Copley is 12th in Division III, Region 10. Barberton is 23rd in Division II, Region 6.

Who will win: Copley 21-17

Twinsburg (3-4, 1-3) at North Royalton (2-5, 2-2)

What to watch: Twinsburg looks to keep rolling after a hard-fought win over Solon in Week 7. The Tigers are getting healthy, beginning with QB Joseph Pollock, who finished with three rushing TDs and 82 yards, along with 230 passing yards and a TD vs. Solon. ... North Royalton is coming off its biggest win of the season in Week 7, blanking Stow 35-0.

Who will win: Twinsburg 21-17

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

Friday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

North (0-7, 0-2) at Ellet (0-7, 0-2)

What to watch: North and Ellet each enter Week 8 searching for its first win. ... North's Jaydein Echols ran for a touchdown in a 45-6 loss to East last Friday. North's Nate Ruffin contributed a 75-yard reception and an interception last week. The Vikings also feature Marvin Causey Jr., Dev Cargill, Tyreon Jones and Jair Bell. ... Terrance Parker Jr. became the fourth player to take snaps at quarterback this season for Ellet in a 35-12 loss to Buchtel on Saturday. Parker ran for a touchdown and threw a TD pass to Terrel Karim Jr. Braxton Dente was Ellet's quarterback for five weeks and is out due to an OHSAA transfer rule. Isaac McCoy and Brandon Knowles have also played QB. Sean Thompson and Syncere Hill are also impact players for Ellet. ... North is 28th in Division II, Region 5.

Ellet is tied for 26th in Division III, Region 9.

Who will win: Ellet 28-21

Glenville (5-2) at Hoban (5-2)

What to watch: This is a matchup of the two-time reigning Division IV state champion Tarblooders and the Knights, who have played in nine of the last 10 state finals in Division II or III. Hoban has finished as the Division II state runner-up three seasons in a row. ... Glenville's losses have come to undefeated Avon and five-win Olentangy Liberty. Hoban's losses have come to Walsh Jesuit, which is ranked No. 1 in the USA Today's Super 25 in Ohio, and Severn Spalding, Md., which is ranked 12th in the USA Today's national Super 25. Junior Cincere Johnson is the player to watch when it comes to the Tarblooders. The four-star recruit is the eighth-ranked linebacker in the country and fourth-best player in Ohio in the 2026 class by recruiting websites. He has offers from Ohio State, Notre Dame, Oregon, Michigan, Penn State and Texas A&M among the 22 colleges vying for his services. Nickelback C.J. Newell and safety Aaron Scales shore up a defense that knocked off three-time defending Division I state champion St. Edward on the road two weeks ago. ... Elbert Hill's interception with 5:36 left lifted Hoban to a 28-16 win over Glenville last season. ... The Knights are no strangers to solid defense with Ohio State commit Eli Lee and four-star cornerback Hill headlining a group that includes Eastern Michigan commit Tylan Boykin, Beacon Journal Midseason Defensive Player of the Year Nick Crawford, Tanner Mintz, Ace Brown, Jaiden Daniels and John Johnson. ... Brayton Feister (93 carries, 703 yards, 10 TDs) has been a truck for the Knights this season. Ethan Roksandich (52 carries, 386 yards, five TDs) has become more of a running quarterback for Hoban with Trent Hayden (22-of-33 passing, 412 yards, five TDs) as the passing threat. Hill (11 catches, 289 yards, three TDs) leads the team in all three receiving categories. ... Glenville is third in Division IV, Region 13. Hoban is sixth in Division II, Region 5.

Who will win: Glenville 20-17

Harvest Prep (5-1) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (1-6)

What to watch: STVM will play its 2024 home finale in Week 8. Its last two games of the season will be on the road against Villa Angela-St. Joseph (5-1) and Benedictine (5-2). ... The Fighting Irish started the season with a win but have lost each of their past six games. ... Harvest Prep should be well rested because it didn't play last week. ... STVM lost 20-13 at Harvest Prep in Week 8 of last season.

Who will win: Harvest Prep 42-13

Walsh Jesuit (7-0) at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin (5-2)

What to watch: ... Lions coach Andre Griffin is the son of Ohio State great and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin. ... The Warriors have to make sure there's no let up after back-to-back wins over Benedictine and Hoban. ... This will be the third straight week they've played a team with five wins. It's also the fifth time in seven weeks Walsh has played a team with at least five wins. ... Keller Moten (59-of-106 passing, 886 yards, 11 TDs, 82 carries, 742 yards, 10 TDs) helped the Warriors snap an 11-game losing streak to Hoban when he scored from nine yards out with 39.1 seconds left to lift Walsh to a 19-14 win. ... Lucas Weaver (26 carries, 246 yards, two TDs in five games) returned to action against the Knights. Marty Tobin, while used sparingly last week, is a weapon out of the backfield with 576 yards and five scores on 80 carries. ... Milan Parris (13 catches, 357 yards, six TDs) is Moten's main target. Aiden Henry, who also returns punts and kicks and is a shutdown safety, has 311 yards and two touchdowns on 25 catches. ... The Lions have a dual-threat QB of their own in senior Ryan Lipowski, who is 75-of-199 passing for 927 yards and 14 touchdowns and has 430 yards and four scores rushing on 50 carries. His main receivers are Connor Herman (19 catches, 263 yards, five TDs) and Brendan Sawitke (16, 283, five). ... Angelo Tamburrino (82 carries, 522 yards, nine TDs) is the leading rusher, but Dylan Hoenigman (33, 214, TD) and Brayden Buell (20, 2373, five) can carry the load as well. ... The Warriors hold a three-game winning streak over the Lions and have won by a combined 80-0 the last two seasons. ... One more win will give ND-CL its first winning season since 2018 (7-3). ... Walsh is first in Division II, Region 5. NDCL is 10th in Division IV, Region 13.

Who will win: Walsh 35-21

Hudson (4-3, 3-1) at Nordonia (6-1, 3-1)

What to watch: This is one of the most interesting games of Week 8 and could go a long way for playoff points. Nordonia is third in Division II, Region 5. Hudson is 10th in Division II, Region 5. ... The Knights are coming off a 37-36 overtime loss at Wadsworth. Ben Chesser (75-of-199 passing, 896 yards, nine TDs; 83 carries, 522 yards, 12 TDs) might be one of the most overlooked quarterbacks in the area. Rocco DeLorenzo (98 carries, 548 yards, seven TDs) carries the load on the ground. Danny Ours (19 catches, 271 yards, two TDs) and Owen Smotek (21, 217, three) are Chesser's main targets. ... The Explorers are coming off a 35-0 win over Brecksville. ... Nathan Judy (61-of-96 passing, 822 yards, eight

TDs; 62 carries, 173 yards, TD) gives Hudson a solid look. Reno Ferri (98 carries, 576 yards, 10 TDs) is Hudson's main threat, but sit on the run too much and Louie Castellarin (24 catches, 388 yards, four TDs) will light up defenses.

Who will win: Nordonia 21-14

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Cuyahoga Falls (2-5, 0-4) at Tallmadge (4-3, 2-2)

What to watch: Tallmadge returns home looking to forget a tough loss to undefeated Aurora in Week 7. Quarterback Ryan Loveless had some success against the Greenmen, throwing for two second-half touchdowns. ... Falls needs to rediscover its defense, as the Black Tigers have surrendered 130 points in their last two games.

Who will win: Tallmadge 35-7

Aurora (7-0, 4-0) at Kent Roosevelt (2-5, 1-3)

What to watch: The Battle of Route 43 features two Suburban League American Conference teams heading in opposite directions. ... Undefeated Aurora hasn't played a close game all season, including last week's 45-14 win over Tallmadge ... Roosevelt has had a rough ride the last three weeks, culminating with a 56-7 loss to Highland in Week 7.

Who will win: Aurora 45-7

Wadsworth (7-0, 4-0) at Stow (2-5, 1-3)

What to watch: The Grizzlies are gamers. Hudson and Nordonia took them into overtime in back-to-back weeks and they won 21-14 and 37-36, respectively. Wadsworth has to be weary of a letdown after two highly competitive games in which a touchdown by Calix Lemp beat Hudson and a blocked extra point by Jacob Earnest and subsequent TD by Lemp lifted the Grizzlies over Nordonia. ... All-Ohio two-way standout Gavin Madigan will be a game-time decision after exiting the Nordonia game with an injured ankle. ... If he can't go, Cooper Gray (93 carries, 642 yards, nine TDs) will get the nod. ... Brysen Hall (81-of-125 passing, 1,221 yards, 14 TDs) and Lemp (23 catches, 455 yards, nine TDs) are the leaders in the passing game. ... Stow is coming off 33-13 and 35-0 losses to Brecksville and North Royalton, respectively. ... Quarterback Jake Harrington, who had 257 yards of total offense and two TDs in a win over Solon, motors the Bulldogs. ... Wadsworth is third in Division II, Region 6. Stow is 22nd in Division II, Region 5.

Who will win: Wadsworth 49-7

Green (5-2) at Louisville (3-4)

What to watch: Green seeks its second win over Louisville in as many seasons. The Bulldogs prevailed 42-7 at home in last year's matchup. The Leopards are 3-2 in the all-time series. ... Green has won five of its past six games. The Bulldogs rebounded from a 26-17 loss to Canton McKinley in Week 6 by routing GlenOak 35-0 in Week 7. At GlenOak, Green had four interceptions, including one senior Anthony Fortunato returned for a touchdown. Junior Evan Reed rushed for 97 yards and two TDs on 13 carries as Green bounced back in Federal League action.

Who will win: Green 38-17

Coventry (0-7, 0-4) at Springfield (1-6, 0-4)

What to watch: Coventry has scored 18 points this season, including six last week in a 42-6 loss to Field. The Comets are tied for 25th in Division IV, Region 13 with Cleveland Lincoln West and Warrensville Heights. ... Springfield has scored 30 points this season and lost 24-0 to Ravenna last week. ... The Spartans are 22nd in Division IV, Region 13.

Who will win: Springfield 14-7

Norton (4-3, 3-1) at Woodridge (2-5, 2-2)

What to watch: Norton topped Cloverleaf 54-6 last week after losing 55-0 to Streetsboro the week before. Woodridge played Streetsboro last week and lost 42-0. The Rockets are running away with the Metro Athletic Conference title, but the Panthers and the Bulldogs are focused on making the playoffs. In Division IV, Region 13, the Panthers are eighth and the Bulldogs are 20th. ... Norton features Buddy Willig, Jeffrey Becker and Jason Beverly.

Who will win: Norton 28-14

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

CVCA (5-2) at Northwest (6-1)

What to watch: The Royals are on a five-game winning streak, but face a test when they travel to Canal Fulton. ... CVCA's streak has been fueled by its running game. While Joey Kopec has led the charge, QB Charley Levak and runners Ryan Wiehe and Zac Anderson all have contributed. ... High-scoring Northwest's lone loss came in Week 4 in overtime vs. Manchester, and it has scored 46 points in each of the last two games.

Who will win: CVCA 35-31

Triway (6-1, 3-0) at Manchester (7-0, 4-0)

What to watch: A Panthers win would ensure a Principals Athletic Conference title for the first time since 2017. ... The Titans shared a title with Fairless in 2021. ... Manchester's Phil Partin went over the 1,000-yard mark last week. The sophomore has 1,098 yards rushing on 140 carries with 19 TDs. Yadin Sharp is 32-of-59 passing for 490 yards and four TDs and is the second-leading rusher with 284 yards and five scores on 52 carries. Jake Livingston (15 catches, 236 yards, two TDs) is his primary receiver. ... Luke Starr (134-of-217 passing, 1,581 yards, 15 TDs; 58 carries, 273 yards, five TDs) gives opponents fits in the spread offense. Alex Shearer (32 catches, 455 yards, four TDs), Olley Knupp (31, 344, three), Brody Snyder (33, 336, three) and Bruin Flinner (23, 309, three) are his main targets. Wyatt Posten (84 carries, 371 yards, four TDs) leads the rushing attack. ...

Manchester is second in Division V, Region 17. Triway is fourth in Division V, Region 18.

Who will win: Manchester 28-24

Collinwood (0-5) at Mogadore (2-5)

What to watch: Mogadore, No. 22 in Division VI, Region 21, is trying to stack wins and keep its playoff streak intact. The Wildcats have made the playoffs every year since 1999. ... The Cats have victories over two winless teams — Newark Catholic and Ellet — already this season. Canton Central Catholic topped Mogadore 23-14 last week. ... The Railroaders have scored 22 points in five games, including last week's 18-14 loss to Cleveland JFK.

Who will win: Mogadore 28-7

Canton McKinley (5-2, 4-0) at Lake (5-2, 1-2)

What to watch: The Bulldogs can clinch at least a share of their third straight Federal League championship with a win. They had to go to overtime to beat Hoover 28-21 last week. ... By the end of last week's 24-14 loss at Jackson, Lake had lost three of its best athletes — sophomore QB Ty DeGeorge, junior WR/DB Alex Quior and senior WR/DB Ethan Hunt — to injury. Hunt, the team's top receiver with 26 catches for 354 yards and four touchdowns, will play against McKinley. DeGeorge and Quior both are expected to miss the game, which means Lake will be down its top two quarterbacks. Junior Luke Whitaker played some at QB against Jackson. ... The Bulldogs have won nine straight against Lake, including 29-22 last year in Canton, and lead the all-time series 16-4.

Who will win: McKinley 28-14.

Saturday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns

Firestone (2-5, 1-1) vs. East (4-3, 2-0), at Ellet, noon

What to watch: East is 19th in Division III, Region 9 after beating North 45-6 last Friday. Dragons quarterback Marlin Engram Jr. completed 11 of 18 passes for 205 yards and five touchdowns. Darshaun Sales caught two TD passes and Donte Swain Jr., Braylon Bush and Terrell Wharton Jr. each caught one TD pass. ... Purdue recruit Ziaire Stevens is always a threat to score and ran for 136 yards and two TDs on eight carries last week. Marquan Davis, Jon Jeffries, Latrelle Allen and Tarrell Robinson are four of the top defenders for the Dragons. ... Firestone is 21st in Division II, Region 5 after losing 12-0 to Garfield last Saturday. The Falcons lost the momentum gained from a 31-26 win over Buchtel in Week 6. Daniel Peterson, Dionte Younger Jr. and Daylyn Taylor are three of Firestone's top players.

Who will win: East 35-14

Garfield (3-4, 2-0) at Buchtel (2-5, 1-1), noon

What to watch: Garfield is 19th in Division II, Region 5 and Buchtel is 17th in Division IV, Region 13. A win is huge for either team's playoff hopes. ... Garfield topped Firestone 12-0 last Saturday with Isaiah Mathews rushing for a touchdown and Kevin Strickling throwing a TD pass to Martino Mitchell. Mathews had 68 yards on 12 carries and Thomas Walker added 76 yards on 11 carries. Mitchell and Walker each had an interception. ... "Martino Mitchell, Jamir Jenkins, Santura Foreman, William Lockett, Corey Williams and James Thompson played great defensively against Firestone," Garfield coach Kemp Boyd said. "They each had between five and eight tackles." Garfield outgained Firestone 248-42. ... Daurean Johnson had four interceptions, caught two TD passes and blocked an extra point to lead Buchtel to a 35-12 win over Ellet last Saturday. "He also had a 102-yard pick six against Ellet that was called back [because of a penalty]," Buchtel coach Bryan Williams said of Johnson. "... I don't recall hearing about four interceptions for a high school player in one game." ... Stevie Diamond threw both TD passes to Johnson and also ran for a TD. Arman Gable and Kyler Wilson added one rushing TD apiece. Dwight Shade and Deandre Copeland both had a two-point conversion run and Xavier Wilson kicked a PAT.

Who will win: Garfield 28-21

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