

# Akron Beacon Journal

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## OHSAA football scores | Tallmadge vs Highland high school football recap



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First place in the Suburban League American Conference was on the line Friday when Highland travels to Tallmadge.

By the end of the first half, the Hornets had made a statement.

Highland (5-0, 2-0) scored seven touchdowns on seven first-half possessions, rolling to a 49-0 win over the Blue Devils (3-2, 1-1).

While Highland is known for its run game, quarterback Dylan Borla showed the Hornets have another dimension. Borla went 10-of-14 for 281 yards and three touchdowns, along with 1-yard TD run.

"He was taking what they were giving him and really throwing the ball well," said Highland coach Mike Gibbons. "He's just playing really, really smart."

"With our run game and our danger to run, they stack the box on us," Borla said. "With out play-action game, we can throw the ball whenever we want. With out play fakes, whenever I see the safeties looking at me, I know I can pass the ball."

As usual, running back Casey Myser keyed Highland's offense, albeit in a different way. Myser ran just eight times for 38 yards, but ran in touchdowns of 6 and 7 yards in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, however, Myser caught a screen pass and turned it into a 54-yard TD, followed by a wheel route for a 51-yard TD. Luke Berkmeier also hauled in a 65-yard TD pass from Borla.

Tallmadge found themselves down 14-0 early, after quarterback Ryan Loveless fumbled the ball and Highland recovered on the Tallmadge 4. Loveless went 8-of-19 for 108 yards with one interception and was three sacked times.

Highland's defense neutralized Tallmadge's run game, which finished with 45 yards rushing.

"It started off bad and got worse," said Tallmadge coach Mike Hay. "We started losing bodies from the first series. We didn't respond. Their kids came in here ready to play and ours weren't."

**Here's how it went down in live updates.**

## **Highland scores 49-0 win over Tallmadge to move to 5-0**

Highland made a statement Friday, dominating the game at Tallmadge 49-0. The Hornets move to 5-0, 2-0 in the American Conference, while Tallmadge drops to 3-2, 1-1 in conference.

## **Highland remains up 49-0 on Tallmadge after three quarters**

Running clock rules make for a fast third quarter. Highland opens the fourth quarter up 49-0, facing fourth and 3 from its own 40.

## **Halftime statistics for Highland-Tallmadge football**

The stats tell the story from the first half here at Tallmadge.

Highland - 100 yards rushing, 281 yards passing. Leaders: Dylan Borla 10-of-14 281 yards, 3 TDs; Casey Myser 8 rushes, 38 yards, 2 TDs; Myser 2 catches, 105 yards.

Tallmadge - Minus-25 yards rushing; 70 yards passing. Leaders: Ryan Loveless 6-of-14 70 yards passing; Ricky Maclean, 3 rushes, 3 yards; Caleb Reifsnyder, 2 catches, 46 yards.

## **Highland takes 49-0 lead on Tallmadge into the half.**

It's been total dominance on both sides of the ball by Highland, as the Hornets lead Tallmadge 49-0 at halftime. Tallmadge will receive the second half kickoff as we move into running clock rules.

## **Highland finds end zone again on Tallmadge before halftime**

Highland had seven first-half drives and came away with seven touchdowns.

Evan Foust capped the last drive for the Hornets, running in a 3-yard TD run. Jonah Kowza hits the PAT to make it 49-0 Highland with 24 seconds left in the first half.

## **Highland's Dylan Borla tosses third TD of second quarter vs. Tallmadge**

Dylan Borla just tossed his third touchdown of more than 50 yards in the second quarter.

This time, Borla hit Luke Berkmeier on a seam route. Berkmeier shook off a would-be tackler and ran in a 65-yard TD. Jonah Kowza's PAT makes 42-0 Highland with 5:50 left in the first half.

## **Highland hits another long pass on Tallmadge for a TD**

The Casey Myser show continues at Tallmadge.

This time, quarterback Dylan Borla hit Myser on a wheel route out of the backfield. A wide open Myser turned it into a 51-yard TD pass. Jonah Kowza with the PAT to make it 35-0 Highland with 8:48 left in the half.

Myser with 4 TDs (two rushing, two receiving) in the first half.

## **Highland screen pass turns into 54-yard TD on Tallmadge**

Highland strikes again, as Casey Myser turns a screen pass from Borla into a 54-yard TD. A Tallmadge player went down injured after the play and stayed down. He had to be taken off the field on a stretcher.

Kowza with his fourth PAT of the night to make it 28-0 Highland with 11:05 left in the second quarter.

## **Highland football up 21-0 on Tallmadge after one quarter**

Highland is in command early, leading 21-0 after one quarter. Tallmadge with their best

drive so far, facing 4th and 7 at the Highland 37 to start the second quarter. Pass goes incomplete, turnover on downs for the Highland.

## Highland hits deep ball on Tallmadge to set up third TD

Highland is known for the running back, but quarterback Dylan Borla can sling the ball as well.

Borla hit Lucas Gerding over middle with a deep ball and Gerding cut back and ran it all the way to the Tallmadge 7 for a 59-yard pass. On the next play, Casey Myser went untouched for a 7-yard TD run. Jonah Kowza's PAT makes it 21-0 Highland with 2:33 left in the first quarter.

## Tallmadge fumbles, Highland takes advantage with second TD

Highland's defense forced a turnover on Tallmadge's first drive, as Blue Devils quarterback Ryan Loveless was hit while throwing and fumbled. Highland's Kallen Whitling recovered the ball at the Tallmadge 4.

Four plays later, Highland quarterback Dylan Borla hit a 1-yard TD run on a quarterback sneak. Jonah Kowza hits the PAT to make it 14-0 Highland with 5:11 left in the first quarter.

## Highland football opens the game with TD drive on Tallmadge

Highland football with another solid start, scoring a touchdown on an 8-play opening drive.

Running back Casey Myser capped the drive by going 6 yards up the middle untouched for the TD. Jonah Kowza hits the PAT to make it 7-0 Highland with 8:40 left in the first quarter.

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## Tale of the tape between Tallmadge and Highland football

School	2023 record	2023 playoff result
Tallmadge	5-5	Did not qualify for Division III
Highland	11-3	Lost to Avon in Division III, Region 6 regional final

## High school football: Akron-area Week 5 breakdowns and predictions

## **A look at the coaches for Tallmadge and Highland football**

Tallmadge coach Mike Hay is in his sixth year in charge of his alma mater. The Blue Devils are 29-27 during his tenure.

Mike Gibbons has turned Highland in a perennial playoff team. He is 75-29 in his 10th year in charge of the Hornets.

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