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Akron-area Week 6 breakdowns, predictions

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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Week 6 of the Ohio High School Athletic Association football season includes a full slate of games Friday plus two more Saturday afternoon for Summit County-area teams. All games start at 7 p.m., unless noted. Here's our look at those games, including a breakdown of each matchup and who we predict will win.

Friday's Summit County high school football predictions,

breakdowns Walsh Jesuit (5-0) at Cleveland Benedictine (4-1), at John Carroll, 8 p.m.

What to watch: Arguably the best Greater Akron game of the week gets a later start. ... Walsh Jesuit holds a 17-14 advantage in the series and has beaten the Bengals in each of the last three seasons, although three of the last five meetings have gone to overtime, including a 32-28 double-overtime thriller two seasons ago. ... Matthew Furst (53-of-94 passing, 713 yards, nine TDs) makes the offense go for Benedictine with primary receivers in JJ Baldwin (18 catches, 308 yards, two TDs) and Joey Pomnean (22, 273, four). Jamere Church (93 carries, 449 yards, seven TDs) shores up the ground game. ... Benedictine excels on defense, having not given up more than 17 points to in-state rivals – Buffalo St. Francis beat the Bengals 23-17 in Week 3. ... James Yane (34 tackles) and Jonathan Spikes (18) lead a defense that has forced nine turnovers. The unit gives up just 166.8 yards per game. ... The Warriors average 471.8 yards offense. ... Keller Moten (40-of-66 passing, 637 yards, nine TDs, 52 carries, 493 yards, six TDs) leads the team in both rushing and passing. Marty Tobin (49, 375, five), Carlos Smith (32, 305, five) and Lucas Weaver (31, 237, two in four games) are the meat of the running game. ... Milan Parris (nine catches, 260 yards, five TDs) and Aiden Henry (14, 180, one) are his primary targets. ... Walsh Jesuit ranks first in Division II, Region 5. Benedictine is second in Division III, Region 10.

Who will win: Walsh Jesuit 35-14 Hudson (3-2, 1-1) at Wadsworth (5-0, 2-0)

- What to watch: Undefeated Wadsworth is rolling with Gavin Madigan, Cooper Gray, Calix Lemp and freshman quarterback Brysen Hall. ... Madigan ran for 156 yards and four TDs on 15 carries last week in a 56-14 win over Brecksville. Gray contributed 124 yards and two TDs on 14 carries, and Hall completed 16 of 22 passes for 208 yards and a TD to Jack McNeill. ... Wadsworth coach Justin Todd said he is pleased with the play of offensive linemen Jordan Jones, Gabe Ludtke, Merit Fortner, Brady O'Connor and Eli Kaufman ... Madigan, Jake Earnest, Bryce Polczak, Troy Myers, Zach Wise, Shawn Kincaid and Boden Ballinger lead the Grizzlies defense. ... Reno Ferri is a consistent playmaker at running back for Hudson. He ran for 136 yards and three TDs on 15 carries last week in a 35-0 win over Twinsburg. Nathan Judy and Brennan Funyak added one TD apiece last week for Hudson, and Louie Castellarin made two interceptions.

• Who will win: Wadsworth 35-28 Streetsboro (5-0, 2-0) at Norton (3-2, 2-0)

- What to watch: Streetsboro coach Pete Thompson won his 100th game on the sidelines last week in a 49-0 victory over Springfield. ... The Rockets are undefeated and rolled the Spartans with Cohen Klimak scoring four TDs, Marcus Council scoring two TDs and Logan Finchum adding one TD. ... Norton is on a three-game winning streak that includes last week's 28-7 win over Field. ... Norton's Buddy Willig ran for two TDs and Markus Brown and Jason Beverly had one TD run apiece against Field.

• Who will win: Streetsboro 28-21 Manchester (5-0, 2-0) at Canton South (2-3, 1-1)

- What to watch: The Panthers have lost to the Wildcats the last two seasons by a combined 57 points, but that was when Poochie Snyder was under center for South. ... Phil Partin comes in with 99 carries for 710 yards and 13 TDs for Manchester. ... The Panthers defense has seven interceptions, three fumble recoveries and has only allowed 31 points this season. It's a unit that allows 146.6 yards per game, with just 35.8 yards on the ground. ... Two-way starter Trevor Kusmits was injured late last week and will be a game-time decision. ... Canton South is led by cornerback Jzanon Hill, who had three interceptions and two pick-sixes in a 42-28 win over Orrville two weeks ago. Landen Karovic leads the linebacking crop and Deangelo Spear helps when South doesn't have the ball. ... Xion Culver is the main running back. Torez Conley leads the team in receiving but can drop behind center for Brodee Beegle to give the Wildcats a different look. ... Manchester is second in Division V, Region 17. South is ninth in Division IV, Region 15.

• Who will win: Manchester 28-14 Twinsburg (2-3, 0-2) at Nordonia (5-0, 2-0)

- What to watch: The Knights offense has been sizzling this year, led by QB Ben Chesser and RB Rocco DeLorenzo. Chesser has been a big dual threat all season, including a four-TD performance in Week 4 vs. Solon. Nordonia coach Jeff Fox continues to be pleased with the play of offensive linemen DK Liverpool, Gabe Hart, Grant Lefeld, Luke Williams and Gavin Kanar. ... While Nordonia has averaged 40 points, don't sleep on the Knights defense, which has allowed just 10.5 points per game and forced 11 turnovers in the first half of the season. Lefeld, Jordan Jackson, Ben Bollas, Caleb Aiken, Blake Allen, Vince Natali, Danny Ours and RJ Jefferson lead the defense. ... Twinsburg has been hit hard by injuries this season, although QB Joey Pollock returned in the Tigers' Week 5 loss to Wadsworth.

• Who will win: Nordonia 35-14 Canton McKinley (3-2, 2-0) at Green (4-1, 2-0)

- What to watch: Green has never beaten McKinley and is 0-8 since joining the Federal League in 2015. ... If you've paid attention to Green, you'll know the game could come down to the wire as the largest margin of victory or defeat is eight points this season. ... Mc-Kinley won 28-27 last season by overcoming a 20-point deficit. Buffalo commit Nino Hill, who rushed for 111 yards and two scores last season against Green, leads the team with 422 yards and four scores rushing. Running mate Jamar Johnson has 305 yards and a TD. ... Watch for Bowling Green commit Dior Garner on the line and Missouri pledge Dante McLellan at linebacker for the Pups. ... Green is led by Evan Reed (53 carries, 258 yards, TD), who has five total TDs this season, and Tyson Hunka (62-of-105 passing, 876 yards, three TDs). ... Dario Lombardi (four sacks) heads the defense. ... Green is third in Division II, Region 5. ... Canton McKinley is fifth in Division I, Region 1.

• Who will win: McKinley 21-17 Mount Vernon Twp. (Ill.) (2-2) at Archbishop Hoban (4-1)

- What to watch: Hoban has won four in a row, including a 45-14 win last week against St. Ignatius. The speed of Elbert Hill IV and the strength of Brayton Feister and Ethan Roksandich made Hoban's offense go last week. Feister ran for 160 yards and three TDs on 16 carries. Roksandich ran for 109 yards and a TD on 14 carries and completed 4 of 6 passes for 183 yards and two TDs, both to Hill (three catches for 169 yards). ... Hoban's defense is solid with playmakers Tylan Boykin, Nick Crawford, Tanner Mintz and Eli Lee. ... Mount Vernon beat Collinsville (Illinois) 45-21 last week. The Rams are led by QB Malakai Haywood Mays, WR-RB Jashawn Staples, WR-CB Marlin Price and TE-DE David Barnes.

• Who will win: Hoban 35-14 Highland (5-0, 2-0) Barberton (1-4, 1-1)

- What to watch: Casey Myser (87 carries, 707 yards, 17 total TDs) leads the Hornets on offense. Don't discount Highland on defense, where Ryan Zyweic and Carson Noonan excel. Noonan is committed to Miami (Ohio) and is getting major recruiting attention. ... Barberton put one in the win column last week with a 17-3 Suburban League American Conference victory over Kent Roosevelt. Sean Wright had TD runs of 7 and 15 yards in victory. ... Highland is ranked third in Division II, Region 6. Barberton is 21st in Division II, Region 6.
- Who will win: Highland 49-0 **Revere (4-1, 1-1) at Tallmadge (3-2, 1-1)**
- What to watch: Revere bounced back from its first loss with a dominant Week 4 win over Cuyahoga Falls, while Tallmadge suffered its worst loss of the season vs. Highland. ... This is a clash of offensive styles, with Revere's runbased attack led by Rowan Klein, while Tallmadge's passing attack has looked dangerous led by QB Ryan Loveless.
- Who will win: Revere 21-14 **Buchtel (1-4) vs. Firestone (1-4)**
- What to watch: The Griffins and the Falcons each bring a four-game losing streak into Week 6. Undefeated Walsh Jesuit defeated Firestone 49-0 last Friday and undefeated Austintown Fitch beat Buchtel 44-7 last Saturday. ... Buchtel's win came over 3-2 Hoover, and its losses are to winning teams Warren Harding, Hoban, Bedford and Fitch. The Griffins are led by Dre Copeland, Lenox Roberts, Karter Dawson, Durean Johnson and Meech Coates. ... Firestone's win came over 2-3 Cuyahoga Falls, and the losses are to Copley and winning teams Norton, Lorain and WJ. The Falcons feature Dionte Younger, Daniel Peterson, Isaiah Ramer, Mario Jones and Daylyn Taylor.
- Who will win: Buchtel 28-21 **Elyria Catholic (0-5) at St. Vincent-St. Mary (1-4)**
- What to watch: At least on paper, this is St. Vincent-St. Mary's best chance to pick up another win this season because Ursuline (4-1), Harvest Prep (4-1), Villa Angela-St. Joseph (5-0) and Benedictine (4-1) await in Weeks 7-10. ... STVM began the Doran Grant head coaching era with a season-opening 21-14 win at Mansfield but has since gone on a four-game losing streak. ... Grant worked as Elyria Catholic's defensive coordinator last season under coach Chase Farris. Grant and Farris were Ohio State teammates who won a national title together with the 2014 Buckeyes. ... STVM halted its stretch of three consecutive shutout losses last week in a 52-14 defeat to Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. ... STVM has been outscored 161-35. Elyria Catholic has been outscored 153-63. • Who will win: STVM 14-13 **Copley (1-4, 0-2) at Kent Roosevelt (2-3, 1-1)**
- What to watch: Copley faced both undefeated teams in the Suburban League American Conference (Highland and Aurora) and lost by a combined score of 93-19. That's not to say it can't move the ball behind QB Gabe Mansel and RB Tony Cox. ... The Rough Riders have lost three of the last four to Copley and are coming off a 17-3 loss to Barberton. ... Kent Roosevelt is tied for 18th in Division III, Region 9. Copley is 20th in Division III, Region 10.
- Who will win: Copley 28-10 **Cuyahoga Falls (2-3, 0-2) at Aurora (5-0, 2-0)**
- What to watch: After a loss to Revere in Week 5, the schedule doesn't get any easier for the Black Tigers, who have been shut out in both Suburban League American Conference games. ... By contrast, Aurora has been a juggernaut, scoring 43.6 points and allowing 5.6 points per game. The Greenmen are led by Lucas Manderbach, who has been an impact player on both sides of the ball.
- Who will win: Aurora 42-7 **Brecksville (0-5, 0-2) at Stow (2-3, 1-1)**
- What to watch: It's time for the "Poder Bowl," as Stow coach Martin Poder faces the Bees, who he coached for four years before returning to the Bulldogs in 2022. Brecksville beat Stow in each of the last two seasons. ... By beating Solon in Week 5, Stow equaled its win total from last year. The Bulldogs have won both games in which they have scored 20 or more points this year.
- Who will win: Stow 21-14 **Springfield (1-4, 0-2) at Field (4-1, 1-1)**
- What to watch: The Spartans have stumbled out of the gate in the Metro Athletic Conference with a 34-3 loss to Cloverleaf and 49-0 loss to Streetsboro. Springfield scores a little more than four points a game and has been shut out twice. ... The Falcons are reeling after a 28-7 loss to reigning champion Norton. They score 17.2 points per game. ... Field is led by Drexal McAmis and is ranked eighth in Division IV, Region 13. Springfield is tied for 21st in Division IV, Region 13.
- Who will win: Field 35-0 **Woodridge (1-4, 1-1) at Coventry (0-5, 0-2)**
- What to watch: The team that finds its offense will win this game, as both Metro Athletic Conference foes have struggled on that side of the ball. ... Woodridge has improved from earlier this season, beating Ravenna in Week 5. Gavin Lynch is a key playmaker for the Bulldogs on offense. ... Coventry has managed 12 points this season.
- Who will win: Woodridge 21-6 **CVCA (3-2) at Triway (5-0)**
- What to watch: CVCA's ground game has paved the way to a threegame win streak. That included last week's 21-10 win over Canton South, despite the absence of starting QB Charley Levak. ... Triway's undefeated record is based on defense, as the Trojans have given up seven points in four of their five games. ... Luke Starr tossed five touchdown passes last week in a 42-7 win over Tuslaw. Starr was 34-of-48 passing for 355 yards with no interceptions. Alex Shearer caught eight passes for 110 yards and a touchdown.
- Who will win: CVCA 21-17 **Warren JFK (4-1) at Mogadore (2-3)**
- What to watch: The Wildcats have won all three of their matchups with the Eagles since the latter joined the PTC. ... That said, JFK is in the midst of a renaissance. After graduating an impressive Class of 2023 (and losing several additional stars to other schools), JFK suffered an unusual 2-7 season last year that included a 41-7 loss to Mogadore. This year, the Eagles' numbers are back up and they're 4-1, including wins over two teams they lost to a year ago (Garrettsville, Garfield and Marlington). ... Watch for an intriguing game between an electric JFK backfield featuring QB Freddy Bolchalk, RB Jaylen Murray and WRs Noah Elser and Marcus Komora and Mogadore defense yielding 18.8 points per game. ... And on the other end, the Wildcats, after scoring just 12 points over the season's first three weeks, have scored 34-plus points in back-to-back weeks, sparked by the return from injury of QB Karson Jaber.
- Who will win: Mogadore 28-24 **Saturday's Summit County high school football predictions, breakdowns East (2-3) at Ellet (0-5), noon** • What to watch: East topped University School 37-9 last week with Donte Swain scoring two TDs, one on a pass from Marlin Ingram and the other on an interception return. Ingram, Zi-Velle Thomas and Ziaire Stevens each added a rushing TD. ... Ellet is seeking its first win and looking to rebound from a 34-18 loss to Mogadore. Braxton Dente threw TD passes to Sean Thompson, Isaac McCoy and Brandon Knowles.
- Who will win: East 35-7 **North (0-5) vs. Garfield (1-4), noon**

- What to watch: Garfield is trying to snap a four-game losing streak and North is seeking its first win. ... North lost 34-6 to Rootstown last Friday. The Vikings are led by Tyreon “TY” Jones, Ben Sullivan, Marvin Causey Jr., Devari Bennett and Jeremiah Fort. ... Garfield lost 10-7 to Carrollton last Saturday. The Golden Rams feature Isaiah Mathews, Kevin Strickling, Brima Barry, Roy Bell Jr., Jamir Jenkins and Ziyahn Blair.

- Who will win: Garfield 28-7

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