

Week 10 Greater Akron high school football power rankings add new team, shift others

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We'll have one more after this, but for now here are the penultimate Greater Akron high school football power rankings.

As you would expect after another thrilling week of games, there's been movement and quite a bit of it.

Here's where things stand heading into Week 10:

1. Walsh Jesuit Warriors (9-0)

Previous ranking: 1

A win Friday would give the Warriors their first undefeated regular season in 26 years. Walsh has wins over 8-1 Ursuline, 7-2 Hoban and Benedictine and 6-3 McDowell, Pa. They've already locked up the No. 1 spot in Division II, Region 5, and one look at the playoff brackets tells you that's a big deal.

This week: Padua (5-4), 7 p.m. Friday

2. Highland Hornets (9-0, 6-0)

Previous ranking: 3

The Hornets have won 17 of their last 18 regular-season games. Who is the last team to beat them? The team they face this week in a winner-take-all Suburban League American Conference game on the road — Aurora, which won 9-7 last year with some last-minute

magic.

This week: at Aurora (9-0, 6-0), 7 p.m. Friday

3. Wadsworth Grizzlies (9-0, 6-0)

Previous ranking: 2

A seven-turnover performance in a 28-27 win over Solon bumps the Grizzlies back to third. That said, Wadsworth can finish the regular season undefeated for the first time since 2018. They've won three games by a touchdown or less in the last four weeks. There's no doubt they'll be ready to close out Week 10 on a high note.

This week: North Royalton (4-5, 4-1), 7 p.m. Friday

4. Hoban Knights (7-2)

Previous ranking: 4

The difference between No. 2 and No. 4 is razor thin if we're being completely honest about this. Hoban's only losses have come to Walsh Jesuit, which is No. 1 in USA Today state poll and Bishop Spalding, Md., which is ninth in the USA Today national poll. The Knights deserve top-four consideration every week.

This week: at St. Edward (5-4), 2 p.m. Saturday

5. Nordonia Knights (7-2, 4-2)

Previous ranking: 6

How close were the Knights from an undefeated season? Two points. They lost by a point each to Wadsworth and Hudson. Otherwise, we might be talking about Nordonia in the No. 1 spot in Division II, Region 5. That shows the depth of Greater Akron football when it comes to ranking a top eight.

This week: Brecksville (3-6, 3-3), 7 p.m. Friday

6. Manchester Panthers (9-0, 6-0)

Previous ranking: 7

The Panthers can finish undefeated in the regular season for the first time since 2010. All that stands in their way is a team that has beaten them by an average of 30½ points the last two seasons. That said, this Manchester squad is nothing like the last two so a possible date with destiny awaits.

This week: at No. 7 Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (7-2), 7 p.m. Friday

7. CVCA Royals (7-2)

Previous ranking: Not ranked

The Royals' only two losses came to undefeated Streetsboro and unbeaten Lake Catholic. Since then, CVCA has victories over six-win Triway and seven-win Northwest. They've given up 14 points or less six times during their seven-game winning streak and are zoning in on a potential first-round home game in the playoffs.

This week: No. 6 Manchester (9-0), 7 p.m. Friday

8. Green Bulldogs (6-3, 4-2)

Previous ranking: 8

Strength of schedule means something. The Bulldogs are third in Division II, Region 5, which is one of the toughest regions in the state. Yes, they lost to Perry last week. Yes, they have wins over three six-wins teams and battled seven-win Dover and six-win Canton McKinley to the end. Green certainly has the resume.

This week: at Lake (4-5, 2-4), 7 p.m. Friday

Out: Hudson

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