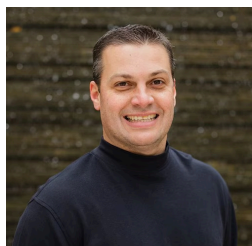




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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEST MICHIGAN AREA TOP TEN: Playoffs - Week #2



BRET BAKITA

1. **Unity Christian: - (10-0)** So impressed with what Craig Tibbe and the Sadlers have been able to do this year with the schedule that they played and coming off a (3-6) season a year ago! A 7-win and counting improvement from last year...WOW!!
2. **Mona Shores - (9-1)** The Sailors have been tremendous this year, but can they beat a Byron Ctr. team again that is right behind them in my poll!
3. **Byron Center - (9-1)** The Bulldogs are seeking revenge and have Luke Laska & Cam Payne back healthy again! This should be one heck of a game on Friday night, and you can listen to it LIVE as our Lakeshore Game of the Week on 107.9 - WMUS-The Moose.
4. **Zeeland West - (9-1)** The Dux take "Bird Bowl 2" over the Chix (32-6) and now have a tough matchup on the road at St. Joseph for the District title!
5. **Hudsonville - (9-1)** The Eagles are still alive...thanks to an Ian Jenkins 35 yard FG to beat East Kentwood last Friday night...(25-23)! Now they host another OK-Red rematch against Grandville this Friday night, which will be our 96.1-The Game - Game of the Week with pregame coverage beginning at 6:30pm.
6. **FH Central - (8-2)** The Rangers shut out the EGR offense again in back to back weeks, but this one was much closer for FHC fans...(7-0). FHC will host River Cities Alliance champ Coopersville on Friday night for a Div. 3 district championship!
7. **Northview - (9-1)** What an historic season for the Wildcats and Coach Oshnock, but they just ran into a better team last Friday night in B.C. against the Bulldogs!
8. **Belding - (9-1)** Monty Price and the Black Knights are riding a 9-game winning streak and rolling, now they have to face (10-0) Frankenmuth though at their place, who just put up 62 points on Howard City Tri-County!
9. **West Catholic - (7-3)** - The Falcons earned their rematch with crosstown rival GR Catholic Central on Friday night after disposing of Muskegon Oakridge in Week 1...(32-14).
10. **Grandville - (6-4)** The Dawgs advance to the OK-Red Div. 1 District final by getting their revenge on Rockford (24-14) last week! Can they do the same thing this week against Hudsonville, who they lost to in the regular season...(35-16).



JASON HUTTON

1-Unity Christian (10-0): The Sadlers scored 41 points in the 2nd quarter in the opening round win over Hamilton behind 3 Max VanKoeving TDs that included a pick 6. UC hosts South Christian in the district final.

2-Mona Shores (9-1): The Sailors used a bend but don't break defense to shut out Traverse City West in the playoff opener. Shores will have to play without linebacker Tyson Terpstra in the district final after he was ejected in the 4th quarter on Friday.

3-Hudsonville (9-1): The Eagles needed a field goal on the final play of the game from Ian Jenkins to escape with a win over East Kentwood 25-23 in the playoff opener. Next up is another OK Red rematch with Grandville in the district final.

4-Byron Center (9-1): The Bulldogs used a big 3rd quarter to hand Northview its only loss of the season in the first round. BC gets a chance to avenge its only loss of the season Friday night at Mona Shores in the district final.

5-Zeeland West (9-1): The Dux rolled past Zeeland East in the playoff opener. Zeeland West now hits the road to play St. Joseph in the district final. It'll be the 3rd postseason meeting in the last 4 seasons between the 2 schools.

6-Grandville (6-4): The Bulldogs defense delivered a great performance in a 24-14 win at Rockford snapping an 8-game losing streak to the Rams.

7-Forest Hills Central (8-2): Not only did the Rangers make it consecutive wins in consecutive weeks over EGR, but FHC shut out the Pioneers for the 2nd straight week; Impressive!! FH Central hosts Coopersville in the district final this Friday night.

8-West Catholic (7-3): West Catholic outscored Oakridge 13-0 in the 2nd half to advance. Now the Falcons host rival Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the district final. The Cougars beat them by 2 last year in the regional round.

9-Rockford (7-3): The Rams season came to an end Friday night with a loss to Grandville.

10-Northview (9-1): The Wildcats might have lost in the first round of the playoffs, but this season will be remembered at Northview for a long time to come.



TOM KENDRA

1. Hudsonville Unity Christian (10-0) - The Crusaders cranked up their scoring machine to open the playoffs, putting up 63 against Hamilton. Can a healthy Carson Vis keep up this week?

2. Mona Shores (9-1) - Shores won back-to-back state championships in 2019 and 2020 by outscoring people with Brady Rose. Now the Sailors have a lockdown defense to go with it.

3. Byron Center (9-1) - Landon Tungate and the Bulldogs have been hoping for a rematch with Mona Shores ever since a two-point, three-interception loss in Week 4. BC wants what MS has had, which is four Finals appearances and two titles in the past 10 years.

4. Hudsonville (9-1) - The Eagles escaped the first round of the "O-K Red Tournament," thanks to Ian Jenkins' dramatic, 35-yard field goal as time expired against East Kentwood. Now they get a surging Grandville team.

5. Zeeland West (9-1) - The weather looks favorable for Friday night, which is good for St. Joseph quarterback Davis Crossman, who threw four TD passes last week and will test the Dux through the air. ZW's rugged journey through the O-K Gold and equally-tough non-conference slate will be the difference.

6. Forest Hills Central (8-2) - Offense gets headlines, but the Rangers proved last year that defense wins championships. The beat goes on under first-year coach Dave Fortino, whose team accomplished a somewhat amazing task, shutting out East Grand Rapids in back-to-back games.

7. Grandville (6-4) - Grandville is proving one absolute truth of high school football - it's better to have heartbreak in September than in November. The 0-3 start is ancient history and the clash of the titans this week at Hudsonville is a pick 'em in my book.

8. Rockford (7-3) - The Rams were a solid team, but were unable to elevate their game as the season wore on. Don't fret, Rockford fans, Coach Brent Cummings and the Rams will be back with a vengeance next year.

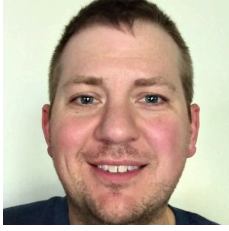
9. Belding (9-1) - Make it nine wins in a row for the Black Knights, who have made believers out of pretty much everybody in West Michigan. Now they have an opportunity to make a statewide statement at No. 1 Frankenmuth.

10. Northview (9-1) - What an incredible breakthrough season for Ryan Oshnock and the Wildcats, who won the O-K Black and completed their first unbeaten regular season since 1970.

Honorable Mention

Lowell (8-2)

West Catholic (7-3)



BUCK GENO

#1. Muskegon Mona Shores (9-1) – the Sailors got back on the winning track with a 28-0 blanking of Traverse City West in the opening round of the Division 2 playoffs. Now comes a long-awaited rematch with Byron Center for the district title.

#2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (10-0) – a convincing 63-20 opening round win over Hamilton puts the Crusaders into rematch mode as South Christian is up next in the district final.

#3. Byron Center (9-1) – the Bulldogs had their hands full with Northview in the 1st half of their district semifinal before finding their stride and pulling away 38-17. Their next game is the previously mentioned marquee game against Mona Shores.

#4. Hudsonville (9-1) – the Eagles escaped their district semifinal game against East Kentwood as Ian Jenkins booted a 40-yard field goal with :00 on the clock to pull out a 25-23 win. Grandville awaits on the other side of the bracket after an upset win over Rockford in the other district semifinal.

#5. Zeeland West (9-1) – the Dux bested Zeeland East 32-6 in Bird Bowl 2024, Part II to move on to the district final against a very good St. Joseph squad in what is shaping up to be a rugged Division 3 bracket.

#6. Forest Hills Central (8-2) – the Ranger defense pitched a 2nd straight shutout against East Grand Rapids as they came away with a hard-fought 7-0 win to advance to the district final against a Coopersville team coming off a 39-13 defeat of Kenowa Hills.

#7. Rockford (7-3) – the Rams met an early exit from the playoffs as they lost to Grandville at home 24-14. The 3 losses were the most in 1 season for Rockford since 2018.

#8. West Catholic (7-3) – the Falcons were tested but eventually pulled away from Muskegon Oakridge to advance to the district final to meet Catholic Central for another installment in their historic rivalry.

#9. Northview (9-1) – the Wildcats' dream season came to an end as they were downed by Byron Center. The outright OK-Black champion was the first local conference champion to exit the playoffs.

#10. Belding (9-1) – the OK-Silver champions was in high gear with a 56-30 win over Saginaw Swan Valley in their playoff opener. Undefeated Frankenmuth looms in the district final – the Eagles put up 62 points in their win last week, so this could turn into a shootout.

Honorable Mention: Lowell (8-2) – the Red Arrows hop into the rankings conversation this week as they bested Cedar Springs for the 2nd time this season to advance to the district final against undefeated DeWitt. Lowell hasn't lost since Week 3 in their Pink Arrow Game against Coopersville.

