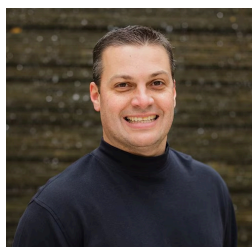




WESTMICHIGANOKSPORTS.COM & 96.1
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEST MICHIGAN AREA TOP TEN: Week #4



BRET BAKITA

- 1. ROCKFORD (3-0):** Just solid and deep with a lot of weapons!! They didn't play their "A" game in this one, but the Rams had a big 3rd quarter to put away Grandville (37-20).
- 2. ZEELAND WEST (3-0):** The Dux are 3-0, and they have won all of their games on the road this season, the latest coming at Whitehall (60-43). This Friday night is definitely at home because it is the annual "Bird Bowl" against sister school, Zeeland East to open up OK GREEN play!
- 3. MONA SHORES (3-0):** 3 straight road wins to improve to 3-0 on the season for the Sailors, but this week they get 3-0 Byron Center for the "Sailor Salute" home opener Friday night! This will be our Week #4 - LMCU Game of the Week on 96.1 the Game , and Buck Geno and I cannot wait!
- 4. BYRON CENTER (3-0):** Moved up two spots in my rankings from last week because of the losses by GR Catholic Central & Grandville, but the Bulldogs have also earned it with the points they have been putting up and their margins of victory as well!!
- 5. SOUTH CHRISTIAN (3-0):** The Sailors moved up three spots this week after going on the road and knocking off West Catholic last Friday night (41-38)! Now, Carson Vis & company can get ready for OK GOLD play against maybe the deepest OK Conference football-only division with the likes of Zeeland West, FH Central, Unity Christian and others in the weeks ahead.
- 6. CATHOLIC CENTRAL (2-1):** I know that this is a young Cougars' team, but how good is Pontiac Notre Dame Prep this year to shut out GRCC, 42-0!
- 7. MUSKEGON (0-2):** The Big Reds stay in the same spot as last week for me. They were off this past Friday night with an OPEN WEEK in their schedule, but now they will get ready to open up OK GREEN division play against FH Northern.
- 8. UNITY CHRISTIAN (3-0):** Craig Tibbe and his coaching staff really have this team playing old school Crusaders' football!! UC is playing solid, tough defense, and their offense is getting it done with a combination of big plays on the ground and through the air... led by Jackson DeHoop, Nolan Vis, and Isaac Stienstra.
- 9. FH CENTRAL (3-0):** Coach Fortino has the Rangers off to a 3-0 start with a big win over rival FHN...spoiling the Huskies Homecoming. Things get tougher this week when they square off with Unity Christian!!
- 10. WEST CATHOLIC (1-2):** Tough loss for the Falcons at home to South Christian (41-38), but the Falcons will definitely benefit as the season goes on from their difficult non-conference schedule.



JASON HUTTON

1 - ROCKFORD (3-0)

The Rams have survived a very difficult early portion of the schedule and carry a 35-game regular season winning streak into Hudsonville on Friday.

2 - MONA SHORES (3-0): The Sailors have been super impressive through 3 long road trips, and now they come home to play a really good Byron Center team for their Sailor Salute game.

3 - BYRON CENTER (3-0)

The Bulldogs come back from Indiana still perfect and get ready for a huge showdown at Mona Shores this Friday night.

4 - ZEELAND WEST: (3-0)

The Dux put up 60 at Whitehall and get ready for the annual Bird Bowl against rival Zeeland East.

5 - GRANDVILLE: (0-3)

Couldn't hold a halftime lead at Rockford. Now the Dawgs need to get hot and I expect they will.

6 - MUSKEGON: (0-2)

The Big Reds will hope that a week off gets them back on track as they open OK GREEN play, hosting FH Northern.

7 - SOUTH CHRISTIAN: (3-0)

Carson Vis has put up silly numbers through 3 weeks and done so against really good opponents.

8 - UNITY CHRISTIAN: (3-0)

The Sadlers were impressive again with a 24-point win against FH Eastern. Another big one this week coming up against FH Central (3-0_

9 - EAST KENTWOOD: (2-1)

The Falcons raised some eyebrows with a win over Caledonia in the OK RED opener. EK is at West Ottawa (0-3) this Friday.

10 - WEST CATHOLIC: (1-2)

The Falcons couldn't hold off South Christian in week #3 and now open OK WHITE plays with Spring Lake (1-2) coming to Falcon Stadium on Friday.



TOM KENDRA

1. ROCKFORD (3-0) - The Rams continue to show off their talent, and poise, ripping off 3 impressive wins to start the season. Not a good time to relax with this week's trip to Hudsonville coming up.

2. ZEELAND WEST (3-0) - Like Rockford, the Dux have proven they can win against three very different, very good teams. Now, are they the best of a loaded OK GOLD?

3. MONA SHORES (3-0) - This starts a run of three straight OK Green teams in the Top 10. Not enough that the Sailor Salute tribute takes a back seat to the football game, but that is the case this week with Byron Center coming to town.

4. BYRON CENTER (3-0)- How good is that lopsided win over East Kentwood in Week #2 looking right now? The Bulldogs are looking to make an even bigger statement this week at Mona Shores.

5. MUSKEGON (0-2) - I don't see a whole lot of difference between the three teams at the top of the OK GREEN. The Big Reds need to be focused this week against much-improved FH Northern.

6. SOUTH CHRISTIAN (3-0)- Carson Vis might be the toughest player in the state to stop. Is he going to run? Is he going to pass? Defenders are never quite certain.

7. UNITY CHRISTIAN (3-0)- Let's get some new blood into the Top 10. The Crusaders have earned it after topping Forest Hills Eastern 44-20 last Friday night.

8. FOREST HILLS CENTRAL (3-0) - The last of four OK GOLD teams in the Top 10. Even with a new coach in Dave Fortino and a bunch of new starters, the Rangers still know how to win.

9. EAST KENTWOOD (2-1) - How many others did a double-take when EK took a 27-0 halftime lead @ Caledonia? Tyrone Spencer has the athletes to beat anybody in the OK RED (yes, I'm talking to you, Rockford), led by Senior RB, Elijah Jones.

10. CATHOLIC CENTRAL (2-1) - What the heck happened Friday night over in Pontiac? Was it an aberration? Look for the Cougars to get it rolling again.

Honorable mention

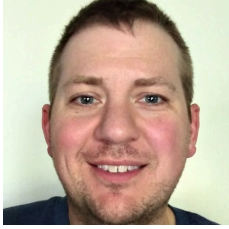
CALEDONIA (2-1)

GRANDVILLE (0-3)

WEST CATHOLIC (1-2)

FH EASTERN (2-1)

BUCK GENO



#1. Rockford (3-0) – Brent Cummings' Rams found themselves in an unfamiliar position when Grandville came calling Friday night-trailing at halftime. They quickly rectified that in a 20-pt. 3rd quarter that saw three different players score TD's as Rockford pulled away in front of another big crowd at Carlson-Munger Stadium. The Rams first road game of the year awaits this Friday @ Hudsonville.

#2. Byron Center (3-0) – BC logged some frequent bus miles as they traveled to Hammond Morton (IN) where they overcame some early hiccups to put the hammer down for another big win. The Bulldogs stay road warriors this week as they prepare to visit Mona Shores in what will be the Sailors' first home contest as well as the conference opener.

#3. Mona Shores (3-0) – Matt Koziak's crew mopped the deck with perennial D5 contender, Flint Hamady and finally set a course for home as they prepare to host Byron Center on their Sailor Salute night where our 96.1 Game of the Week coverage will take residence for the evening.

#4. Zeeland West (3-0) – The Dux continue to increase their offensive output on a weekly basis as they scored 60 points against a good Whitehall team. The annual Bird Bowl is up next on the docket with Zeeland East. This series has been lopsided as of late with Zeeland East looking for their first win against their adjacent rivals since 2018.

#5. – South Christian (3-0) – The Sailors continue to amaze as they staged a second straight comeback win against a highly regarded opponent on the road. Carson Vis led the resurgence in Falcon Country as South erased a 10 pt. first half deficit v. West Catholic and then held on by their fingernails to come away with a 41-38 victory. Danny Brown's charges now settle in for a game with new conference foe, Wyoming.

#6. Unity Christian (3-0) – The Crusaders were impressive again in a convincing 44-20 win over Forest Hills Eastern and are making their 1st appearance in my personal Top 10 via 3 strong performances. Their schedule gets no easier as they kick off OK GREEN play against reigning Division 3 state champion, Forest Hills Central.

#7. East Grand Rapids (2-1) – The Pioneers struck back after a loss to South Christian by romping over crosstown rival, GR Christian. EGR's ground attack produced 5 rushing TD's and their defense silenced a relatively potent GR Christian offense. OK WHITE play opens for EGR with a game this Friday against long time rival, Northview.

#8. Forest Hills Eastern (2-1) – The Hawks suffered their first loss of 2024 Friday night against a very tough Unity Christian team. Brendan Thompson left the game in the 1st half and could not continue. His status will play a large part in how the rest of the season goes for Joe Schwander's crew. The Hawks take on GR Christian on Friday as they hope to right the ship with conference play beginning.

#9. Caledonia (2-1) -The Fighting Scots fell down early and often to East Kentwood before embarking on a massive comeback that came up just short in a 41-35 loss last Friday night to the Falcons. This week's game against an upstart Grand Haven team will show the mettle of Derek Pennington's team as Caledonia tries to climb out of an early 0-1 hole in conference play.

#10. West Catholic (1-2) - Sometimes records can be deceiving, and I am convinced this is the case with Landon Grove's Falcons. They became the latest team to fall victim to Carson Vis' sorcery as they dropped a narrow decision to South Christian at home. West Catholic opens conference play against Spring Lake on Friday, hoping to continue the current trend of winning following a loss.

Honorable Mention: Muskegon (0-2) - I am leaving the Big Reds right here because they didn't have a chance to prove or disprove my theory that they'll win some games in 2024. Shane Fairfield will have his group worked up into a lather for their conference opener against FH Northern this Friday. Muskegon has one week to get in tune for their yearly match against neighborhood rival, Mona Shores.