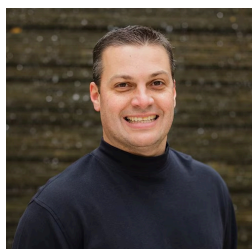




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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEST MICHIGAN AREA TOP TEN: Week #6



BRET BAKITA

1. Muskegon Mona Shores - (5-0): Does anyone have 5 better wins in West Michigan than Matt Koziak's Sailors.....Grand Blanc, River Rouge, Flint Hamady, Byron Center & Muskegon.....and 4 of the 5 came on the road!

2. Unity Christian - (5-0): Second only to Mona's 5 wins are the quality of wins that Craig Tibbe's bunch has put together so far this season.....Whitehall, Grayling, FHE, FHC & Zeeland West...WOW! Can anyone in Div. 4 stop the Crusaders??

3. Byron Center - (4-1): Nice and easy win for the Bulldogs on Homecoming, and remember, they are a play away against Mona Shores on the road of being (5-0)!

4. Zeeland West - (4-1): How good is the NEW LOOK OK-Gold with the gauntlet of teams coming at you back to back to back! The Dux don't have much time to lick their wounds from the loss to U.C. before they face an FHC team that just bounced back with a big victory over South Christian.

5. Hudsonville - (4-1): After back to back wins over Rockford and East Kentwood, the Eagles are looking like the team to beat this year in the OK-Red division!

6. GR Catholic Central - (4-1): The young Cougars had an easy win over Ottawa Hills on Friday night (35-0), but the next 4 weeks will really tell us about the identity of this year's GRCC team. Holland Christian, Northview, EGR & South Christian.

7. FH Central - (4-1): Tremendous bounce back win for the Rangers, and great job by Dave Fortino and his staff in the (34-13) win over South Christian! They played an A to A+ game against the Sailors to get the big win at home on FHC Community Night.

8. Rockford - (3-2): Back to back losses by the Rams in OK-Red play, what has happened to Rockford? Well, a trip to Caledonia is in store for them this Friday night, and we will bring it to you LIVE with our Game of the Week coverage on 96.1-The Game!!

9. South Christian - (4-1): Tough night for Carson Vis and the Sailors, as 3 INTs really did in S.C. on offense. Defensively, the Sailors broke down in the secondary and gave up 5 TDs through the air to Nick Williams and the Ranger offense.

10. Northview - (5-0): Had to move up the Wildcats ahead of West Catholic and into my Top Ten for this week because Coach Oshnock has Northview at (5-0) for the first time since 1977, and they have scored over 30 points in each one of their 5 games.....fun team to watch!!!



JASON HUTTON

1 - Mona Shores (5-0): There isn't much I feel confident about in this top 10, but number 1 is a lock. The Sailors have beaten 5 good teams in 5 weeks and play another one Friday in FHN.

2 - Byron Center (4-1): The Bulldogs have talent and experience and are just 2 extra points away from number 1.

3 - Hudsonville (4-1): The Eagles followed up their big win over Rockford with a dominant performance at EK. There is probably an argument for them to be higher.

4 - Unity Christian (5-0): The Crusaders own 4 quad 1 wins in 5 weeks. Isaac Stienstra has been on another level all season.

5 - Zeeland West (4-1): The Dux were knocked from the ranks of the unbeaten, but it was good to see QB Trey Sloothaak back in there. Zeeland West looks to bounce back Friday with a state semifinal rematch against FHC.

6 - Forest Hills Central (4-1): The Rangers become the first team this season to solve the South Christian passing attack intercepting 3 passes in a week 5 win.

7 - Northview (5-0): I can't deny the Cats anymore, they are off to their best start in 47 years.

8 - South Christian (4-1): For the first time this season the Sailors couldn't outscore their opponents in a loss at FHC. South has an interesting matchup this week against a solid Zeeland East squad.

9 - GR Catholic Central (4-1): The young Cougars appear to be getting better each week. CC hosts unbeaten Holland Christian in an OK Black showdown Friday night.

10 - Holland Christian (5-0): The Maroons grabbed their best win of the season last Friday sneaking past EGR 21-20. Desmond Meyaard is a threat running it and catching it.



TOM KENDRA

1. Mona Shores (5-0): - The Sailors had to go to the air on Friday at Muskegon, and the Jonathan Pittman-to-Micah Carafelle connection delivered.

2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (5-0) - Lots of talk about the Crusaders offense, but let's hear it for the "D" after holding Zeeland West to 8 points.

3. Byron Center (4-1) - The Bulldogs came within a whisker of knocking off Mona Shores on the road, now a likely playoff rematch looms.

4. Hudsonville - The Eagles showed their victory over Rockford was no fluke, shutting down a dangerous East Kentwood team last week.

5. Zeeland West (4-1) - The grinder of a schedule continues, as the Dux will try to get their offense back on track against stingy Forest Hills Central.

6. Forest Hills Central (4-1)- Junior QB Nick Williams throws five touchdown passes to upstage South Christian's Carson Vis in a convincing win.

7. GR Catholic Central (4-1) - The Cougars host unbeaten, O-K Black upstarts Holland Christian and Northview the next two weeks.

8. Caledonia (4-1) - Can Brody Better and the Scots hand visiting Rockford its third-straight loss?

9. GR South Christian (4-1) - FHC held the Sailors 29 points below their season average last week in a humbling defeat.

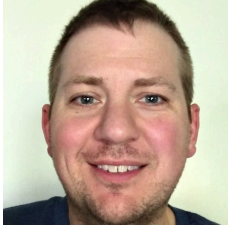
10. Rockford (3-2) - The first rough patch in Brent Cummings' tenure at Rockford. Can the Rams rise above the noise and right the ship at Caledonia?

Honorable Mention

Forest Hills Eastern (4-1)

Northview (5-0)

BUCK GENO



#1. Muskegon Mona Shores (5-0) – yet another A+ effort from the Sailors as they downed crosstown rival Muskegon in the annual battle for Lakeshore bragging rights. Next up are the Huskies of Forest Hills Northern who have been more than competitive in all 5 games on their schedule to date.

#2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (5-0) – the Crusaders battled their doppelganger in Zeeland West last Friday and came away with a hard-fought victory. Craig Tibbe's squad looks to continue their winning ways against Wyoming this week.

#3. Byron Center (4-1) – the Bulldogs cruised to a 48-6 decision over Grand Rapids Union for Homecoming, therefore righting the ship after a tough loss to Mona Shores a week earlier. They set their sights on Reeths-Puffer this week as the stretch run begins.

#4. Hudsonville (4-1) – Brent Sandee's crew had no letup after upsetting Rockford last week by dominating East Kentwood 35-6 to further prove their deserved ascent through the rankings. Grand Haven comes calling this week while licking their wounds from a decisive defeat at the hands of Grandville.

#5. – Forest Hills Central (4-1) – Dave Fortino's Rangers were notably absent from my rankings as I was waiting for their early OK-Gold test results to come in. A convincing 34-13 defeat of previously unbeaten South Christian tells me that FHC isn't quite ready to step into the limelight amongst the area power teams just yet.

#6. South Christian (4-1) – the aforementioned Sailors were taken aback and by surprise in last week's featured game as Carson Vis & the South Christian offense struggled mightily against a determined FHC defense. Danny Brown and his staff now attempt to get back on track against Zeeland East.

#7. Rockford (3-2) – the Rams have lost back-to-back games for the first time since 2018 and now must try to get off the canvas against a Caledonia team who still is in the running for a piece of the OK-Red title... but has only won 2 of the 11 meetings between these two teams.

#8. Zeeland West (4-1) – the Dux suffered their first defeat of the 2024 campaign against Unity Christian in a tense affair. Next up is a rematch of last year's Division 3 semifinal as Forest Hills Central visits Zeeland Stadium for the first time since 2012 when they engaged in a 59-58 offensive showcase won by FHC.

#9. Forest Hills Eastern (4-1) – the Hawks were tested by a game and resilient Hamilton squad but put the game away on the strength of Brendan Thompson's right arm and a suffocating defense. Next up for Joe Schwander's crew is a road test against a desperate Spring Lake team who needs to win out for any shot at a playoff berth.

#10. West Catholic (3-2) – Landon Grove's Falcons bested GR Christian 35-13 on Friday. They're slated to take on Wayland in a precursor to the marquee OK-White matchup in Week 7 against Forest Hills Eastern that should determine the conference title.

Honorable Mention: Holland Christian & Northview (5-0) - these two teams have taken the West Michigan football scene by surprise as they have their first 5-0 starts in many years (Holland Christian - 2009, Northview - 1977) courtesy of a 21-20 win over EGR and 72-24 over Thornapple-Kellogg respectively. Grand Rapids Catholic Central stands in both teams' dreams of an undefeated regular season in the next two weeks before they meet each other in a Week 8 spotlight game.