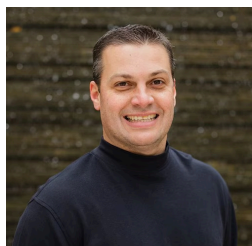




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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEST MICHIGAN AREA TOP TEN: Week #8



BRET BAKITA

1. Muskegon Mona Shores - (7-0) and rolling with at least a piece of the OK-Green division crown! Defense is physical and tremendous by answering the call all season long.

2. Unity Christian - (7-0) along with Northview the biggest surprises this year in high school football in West Michigan! Already 4 wins and counting better than they were a year ago!!

3. Byron Center - (6-1) and can't wait to take on the Big Reds of Muskegon at home this Friday night....don't forget that is our Lakeshore Game of the Week on 107 MUS - The Moose!

4. Zeeland West - (6-1) the Dux probably won't win a piece of the OK-Gold division, but are they the team to beat on this side of the state in Div. 3?

5. Hudsonville - (6-1) the Eagles will try to make it official this Friday night as the outright OK-Red champions if they can get a victory over Caledonia!

6. Northview - (7-0) Coach Oshnock and the Wildcats shocked the world last Friday night by handing GR Catholic Central only its second home conference loss in 9 seasons! Northview will go for the outright OK-Black division title this Friday night at home against Holland Christian in our 96.1-The Game - LMCU Game of the Week!!!

7. Rockford - (5-2) the Rams are working to polish things up for the playoffs, and I know they are looking forward to a possible rematch with Hudsonville in the Div. 1 Districts.

8. GR Catholic Central - (5-2) the Cougars got beat at home by a really good Northview squad last Friday night...now how do they respond. Remember, they have Carson Vis and South Christian in Week 9 before the playoffs start.

9. Forest Hills Central - (5-2) their 2 losses are to #2 Unity Christian & #4 Zeeland West. Will they get another rematch with the Dux in the MHSAA playoffs?? Great semifinal game a year ago that catapulted the Rangers to the Div. 3 state championship!

10. West Catholic - (5-2) the Falcons won a big game on the road last Friday night (24-23) at Forest Hills Eastern to earn at least a piece of the OK-White division crown! But they finish with (5-2) Hamilton and (6-1) Zeeland West before they even get to the playoffs!! Talk about battle-tested during the regular season!!



JASON HUTTON

1 - Mona Shores (7-0): The Sailors got to take a breath last week for the first time this season and now gear up for Reeths-Puffer and a chance to win the OK Black title outright.

2 - Byron Center (6-1): Eli Farrow returned 2 interceptions for a touchdown last week against FHN on the road. BC gets set for a big showdown Friday night against Muskegon at Waddell Field.

3 - Hudsonville (6-1): I cannot believe the disrespect that the Eagles are getting from my fellow “experts,” I don’t think I’m giving them enough credit at 3. Hudsonville has already won at least a share of the OK Red with 2 chances to win it outright.

4 - Unity Christian (7-0): The Sadlers are loaded with weapons and their defense is good too. UC has at least a share of the OK Gold and can win it outright Friday at Zeeland East

5 - Zeeland West (6-1): The Dux are gearing up for a D3 playoff run where they will be a tough out. ZW finishes the regular season with South Christian and at West Catholic.

6 - Rockford (5-2): Special teams came up big for the Rams in a win at West Ottawa as they blocked a punt to set up a score and returned another one for a TD both in the first half.

7 - Muskegon (3-3): The Big Reds dominated Reeths-Puffer as Shane Fairfield became the school’s all-time winningest head coach with his 157th win.

8 - Northview (7-0): For the first time in 54 years the Cats are conference champions, clinching no worse than a share of the OK Black with a monumental win at CC last week. They can win it outright Friday at home against Holland Christian.

9 - Forest Hills Central (5-2): Very quietly the defending D3 state champions are putting together a very nice season, perhaps there is a rematch with Zeeland West looming in the playoffs.

10 - West Catholic (5-2): The Falcons earned a quality win last week, clipping FHE (5-2) by a point to win at least a share of the OK White. West can win it outright this week against Hamilton.



TOM KENDRA

1. Mona Shores (7-0) - The Sailors have a rivalry game at Reeths-Puffer this week, then a showdown against a loaded Toledo Central Catholic team in Week 9 - which will show us if Shores has what it takes to win a third state championship.

2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (7-0) - Nolan Vis rushes for 138 yards and gets the better of his cousin, South Christian star QB Carson Vis. How good were the Crusaders last week? 7 possessions, 7 touchdowns.

3. Hudsonville (6-1) - Coach Brent Sandee's crew is getting better, and gaining more confidence every week - and the Eagles are flying high atop the O-K Red.

4. Byron Center (6-1) - Landon Tungate & Co. went on the road last week and put up 51 at Forest Hills Northern. Now, the Bulldogs have a chance for a statement win at home this week against Muskegon.

5. Zeeland West (6-1) - John Shillito's teams are known for putting up points with the wing-T, but defense is what could carry the Dux on a playoff run this fall.

6. Rockford (5-2) - Rockford appears to be back to being Rockford with back-to-back dominant wins. Now the question is this: will the Rams be a better playoff team with some losses than they were at 9-0?.

7. Northview (7-0) - Northview was a cute little story until last week, when the Wildcats got the attention of everybody - especially potential Division 2 playoff opponents - with a huge win at GR Catholic Central.

8. Forest Hills Central (5-2) - What a game for junior Adam Piotrowski, with a blocked punt and two interceptions as the Rangers' trademark defense shut down Zeeland East.

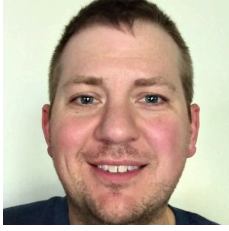
9. West Catholic (5-2) - I'm not sure how many NFL kickers could make the kind of pressure-packed, 38-yarder with 1 second remaining, on the road, like Landon Smith did Friday night to deliver a thrilling win for the Falcons over FH Eastern.

10. GR Catholic Central (5-2) - The Cougars are a young team, which will learn from its losses. But with Odin Spencer and Jami Williams, they are also an extremely dangerous team.

Honorable Mention

Muskegon (3-3)

East Kentwood (4-3)



BUCK GENO

#1. Muskegon Mona Shores (7-0) – a businesslike 48-0 triumph over Grand Rapids Union for the Sailors keeps them at the top of the polls. The only thing standing in their way of an outright OK-Green title is a date with Reeths-Puffer this Friday, which leads into a titanic Week 9 matchup with Toledo (OH) Central Catholic.

#2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (7-0) – the Crusaders dispatched the South Christian Sailors with a 50-21 decision and now set their sights on an outright OK-Gold crown as they take on a Zeeland East team who needs one win in their next two games against tough opponents to cement their playoff position.

#3. Byron Center (6-1) – Marc Cisco's charges flexed their offensive muscle in a 51-24 victory over Forest Hills Northern. Up next is a showdown with a Muskegon squad who needs to win their last 2 games in order to have any hope of qualifying for the playoffs.

#4. Hudsonville (6-1) – the Eagles battled rival Grandville and came out on top 35-16 last Friday. They now look to clinch their first OK-Red title since 2017 with a win over suddenly struggling Caledonia, who needs to win out for any chance to qualify for the playoffs in Division 2.

#5. Zeeland West (6-1) – the Dux outpaced Wyoming 38-7 in their latest victory and now head into a matchup with South Christian who desperately needs to turn the tide from a current 3-game losing streak in order to stop the bleeding and ensure a playoff berth.

#6. Rockford (5-2) – Brayden Daniels & Company have righted the ship after losing back-to-back games for the first time since 2018 and now look to finish strong for a playoff seeding push to solidify at least one home playoff game in a district field which projects to be all rematches of OK-Red conference games.

#7. West Catholic (5-2) – the Falcons won a 24-23 thriller at Forest Hills Eastern that went down to the final :01 as Landon Smith booted a 37-yard field goal to propel West Catholic into pole position of a hotly contested OK-White division. Next up, the Hamilton Hawkeyes – who are looking to nab a share of the title with an upset win this Friday.

#8. Northview (7-0) – the surprise of 2024 has to be the Wildcats who, after a defensive clinic against Catholic Central (12-3 win) are looking to start 8-0 for the 1st time in 54 years and win their first outright conference title since that magical 1970 campaign where they went 9-0. Holland Christian looks to play spoiler and force a split crown in the OK-Black on our 96.1 Game Of The Week.

#9. Forest Hills Central (5-2) – special teams ruled the day in a 21-6 victory over Zeeland East as the Rangers blocked 2 punts and a PAT on the way to a critical OK-White win. It's all about playoff seeding from here on out as Wyoming is up next before a rivalry non-conference game with East Grand Rapids concludes the regular season.

#10. Forest Hills Eastern (5-2) – the Hawks suffered that aforementioned heartbreaking loss to West Catholic and now are faced with getting back to their winning ways in time for the playoffs as a date with Wayland looms. The Wildcats had their highest offensive output of the 2024 campaign in a 55-34 win over Grand Rapids Christian.

Honorable Mention: Belding (6-1) - some wrote off the Black Knights after a season-opening loss to Ionia. Monte Price's team was undeterred and ripped off 6 straight wins from that point, the latest being a dominating 30-3 win over Muskegon Oakridge last Friday. The OK-Silver championship is still in their sights as they meet Godwin Heights this week before a showdown with Hopkins in Week 9 that will determine an outright winner of the division title.