



**WESTMICHIGANOKSPORTS.COM & 96.1**  
**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEST MICHIGAN AREA TOP TEN: Week #9**

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**BRET BAKITA**

- 1. Mona Shores - (8-0)** Outright OK-Green division champions, but can they pull off the perfect regular season at (9-0) and get ready for the playoffs with a win over Ohio power - Toledo Central Catholic!
- 2. Unity Christian - (8-0)** Outright champions of the deepest OK-Conference division this season - the OK-Gold! But what a match-up for the Crusaders here in the final week of the regular season....squaring off with unbeaten and #1 ranked in Div. 5 - Pontiac Notre Dame.
- 3. Byron Center - (7-1)** Big win for the Bulldogs at home over Muskegon (17-14)!
- 4. Zeeland West - (7-1)** The Dux just keep rolling with a (34-21) victory over South Christian last Friday night. They will host West Catholic in a rare Thursday night game this week!
- 5. Hudsonville - (7-1)** The Eagles keep getting better, and they are OK-Red champs again for the first time since 2016!
- 6. Northview - (8-0)** The Wildcats are for real, as I watched them with my own eyes last Friday night in a great win over Holland Christian! They are very balanced and physical.
- 7. Rockford - (6-2)** Instead of being the hunted, the Rams are now the hunters, and this could be interesting come playoff time! Rockford has East Kentwood this Friday night.
- 8. Forest Hills Central - (6-2)** The defending Div. 3 champs will be a tough out in the playoffs because their 2 losses are to Unity Christian and Zeeland West, who are a combined (15-1).
- 9. West Catholic - (6-2)** So much for a trap or letdown game for the Falcons, they rolled Hamilton (54-14) to win the outright OK-White title with authority!
- 10. Belding - (7-1)** The Black Knights have won 7 straight games after losing their opener to playoff-bound Ionia and their closest win was by 27 points! They will host Hopkins on Friday night for the outright OK-Silver crown.

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## **JASON HUTTON**

**1-Mona Shores (8-0):** Standing between the Sailors and a perfect regular season is in a very good Toledo Central Catholic (7-1) team - excellent matchup up Friday night at Sailor Stadium



**2-Byron Center (7-1):** Landon Tungate continues to play at a high level and the Bulldogs defense is outstanding. BC will be part of a loaded division 2 playoff field.

**3-Hudsonville (7-1):** The Eagles are outright OK Red champs for the first time in 20 years and have set themselves up to host playoff games in division 1.

**4-Unity Christian (8-0):** Feels like a slight to have the Sadlers at 4 because they have just been crushing everything that crosses their path. Huge matchup Friday at Notre Dame Prep (7-0).

**5-Zeeland West (7-1):** The best week 9 matchup might very well be happening on Thursday night this week as the Dux host West Catholic.

**6-Rockford (6-2):** The Rams have won 3 in a row again and have a nice matchup this week at East Kentwood (5-3).

**7-Northview (8-0):** The outright OK Black champions will look to wrap up a perfect regular season Friday night at FHN.

**8-Forest Hills Central (6-2):** The Rangers finished the regular season with a good ole fashion rivalry game against EGR who just knocked off CC, should be a good one.

**9-West Catholic (6-2):** The Falcons won the OK White outright and seem to be peaking at a good time.

**10-Grandville (4-4):** The Bulldogs appear to have recovered from an 0-3 start and had their best defensive performance last week.



## **TOM KENDRA**

**1. Mona Shores (8-0)** - Jonathan Pittman will need to have his 'A game' if the Sailors want to defeat loaded Ohio powerhouse Toledo Central Catholic, finish unbeaten and ensure two, possibly three, home playoff games.

**2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (8-0)** - Can anyone stop the Crusaders? They were 8-for-8 against Zeeland East (8 possessions, 8 TDs). Now time for a fun West vs. East showdown this Friday at undefeated Pontiac Notre Dame, which had last week off to prepare.

**3. Hudsonville (7-1)** - It's not very often that the O-K Red race is settled before the final week, but the Eagles have been that good this fall.

**4. Byron Center (7-1)** - Landon Tungate was his usual, dual-threat self in a huge win over Muskegon. But more impressive was how the Bulldogs stepped up to the physical challenge in the trenches.

**5. Zeeland West (7-1)** - I nominate Zeeland West for the toughest schedule in West Michigan. As if it's not bad enough playing in the loaded O-K Gold, the Dux threw in Muskegon, West Ottawa, Whitehall and, this week, West Catholic in non-league games.

**6. Rockford (6-2)** - With no O-K Red championship this year, the Rams turn their focus to the playoffs, but first face a major challenge from Tyrone Spencer and East Kentwood - who would love to pick up a signature win.

**7. Northview (8-0)** - The Wildcats' defense shut out Holland Christian in the second half, putting them in position for their first undefeated regular season since 1971.

**8. Forest Hills Central (6-2)** - Defense has been FHC's identity for years, but the steady improvement of junior QB Nick Williams has made the Rangers a legit offensive team as well.

**9. West Catholic (6-2)** - The Falcons' Grady Augustyn-to-Jack Zegunis connection is something special, with 3 TD hookups in a big win over Hamilton. They will need to get it going again this week in a Thursday night game at Zeeland West.

**10. East Kentwood (5-3)** - Junior QB Kayd Coffman is getting better and better leading the Falcons, but I'm just as impressed with the EK defense.

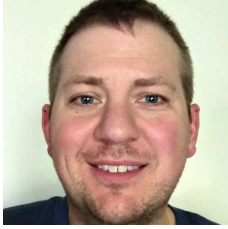
### **Honorable Mention**

**Forest Hills Eastern (6-2)**

**Whitehall (6-2)**

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## **BUCK GENO**



**#1. Muskegon Mona Shores (8-0)** – the Sailors continue to cruise the waters of the unbeaten after a decisive 40-0 win over fellow Muskegon County residents Reeths-Puffer. Now... a marquee matchup with Toledo (OH) Central Catholic to close out the regular season. The Fighting Irish are 3-1 against MHSAA teams this season.

**#2. Hudsonville Unity Christian (8-0)** – another week, another win for the Crusaders, who jumped to a 29-0 first quarter lead on the way to a 56-14 drubbing of Zeeland East. A date with similarly undefeated Pontiac Notre Dame Prep is on the docket for Wk 9, but a top playoff seed is most likely sewn up for the Crusaders regardless of outcome.

**#3. Byron Center (7-1)** – late game heroics by Landon Tungate pulled the Bulldogs to a 17-14 win over Muskegon & clinched 2nd in the OK-Green. A non-conference date with Morris (IL) is the regular season finale – Morris is coming off of a 42-0 loss to #1 Class 5A Sycamore (IL) & is 5-3 overall.

**#4. Hudsonville (7-1)** – the 2024 outright OK-Red champions cemented their crown with a 35-13 come-from-behind win over flagging Caledonia, which ended the Scots playoff hopes. The Eagles can secure at least 2 home playoff games with a win over West Ottawa this Friday.

**#5. Zeeland West (7-1)** – the Dux triumphed over South Christian 34-21 to stand alone in 2nd place in an ultra-competitive OK-Gold division. They have a tough inter-divisional battle w/ West Catholic to finish out the regular season, which will be played on Thursday night due to both Zeeland teams having Week 9 home contests.

**#6. Rockford (6-2)** – the Rams took out some frustrations on Grand Haven to the tune of a 49-14 score last Friday. They finish the regular season docket with East Kentwood which could be an instant rematch in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the playoffs regardless of the result this week.

**#7. West Catholic (6-2)** – rumors of a trap game with Hamilton seemed to motivate the Falcons as they routed the Hawkeyes 54-14 to clinch the OK-White title. A headliner game with Zeeland West awaits as well as a potential matchup with Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the Division 5 playoffs. A win here could vault West Catholic into a #1 seed.

**#8. Northview (8-0)** – the last time Northview was 8-0 and undisputed league champs, bell bottoms were the utmost in fashion (1970). An impressive 35-20 win over gritty Holland Christian sets the table for a potential undefeated regular season as the Wildcats travel to Forest Hills Northern to cap the regular season before heading into district play; a win gives them the ability to potentially host a playoff game for the first time in school history.

**#9. Forest Hills Central (6-2)** – a solid, under the radar 35-12 win over Wyoming sets the table for the Rangers as they meet rival East Grand Rapids in a non-conference season finale which portends to be a potential playoff rematch in Division 3.

**#10. Forest Hills Eastern (6-2)** – the team who has lost to 2 outright conference champions still makes the grade as they fended off a game Wayland squad 48-28. Projected to be in one of the most evenly matched districts in the playoffs, the Hawks need a win over Muskegon Reeths-Puffer to gain valuable bonus playoff points and potentially host at least 1 playoff game, if not more.

**Honorable Mention: Belding (6-1)** - another week just outside the Top 10 for the Black Knights, who pummeled Godwin Heights 68-26 to set up a winner-take-all match in Week 9 with Hopkins for the OK-Silver title belt. A win can help Belding potentially host multiple playoff games as Division 5 could be the most volatile in terms of potential seeding heading into the end of the regular season.