NORTH COAST LEAGUE GRIDIRON WEEKLY

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NCL BLUE DIVISION FOOTBALL

Week 10—October 27, 2017

HOBAN CLOSES IN ON OUTRIGHT DIVISION TITLE

We have reached the 10th and final week of the OHSAA football regular season as teams close out their regular season schedule. While some teams are looking forward to the playoffs, many seniors will be playing their final high school game this evening.

Here is where the six members of the North Coast League Blue Division sit going into the final week of the regular season:

Archbishop Hoban, Padua Franciscan and Benedictine have all clinched playoff berths. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin and Lake Catholic, meanwhile, are on the bubble and Walsh Jesuit has been eliminated.

The Archbishop Hoban Knights secured a share of the Blue Division title with a 42-0 win over Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin and can win the division outright with a win Saturday at Benedictine. The Knights have now out-scored four division opponents by an aggregate score of 207-30. They sit in the #1 spot in Division II, Region 5 and will host a first-round game.



Archbishop Hoban can win the division title outright with a win at Benedictine

NDCL Football photo

Padua has not clinched a home playoff game, but is #2 in Division III, Region 10 and would likely secure a host spot with a win at NDCL on Friday night. The Lions need the win more than the Bruins as they are clinging to the eighth and final playoff spot in Division III, Region 9.

The Bruins defeated Lake Catholic in a wild one last week, 49-42. The Cougars are on the playoff fence and played like a team fighting to extend their season. The two teams accounted for 1,099 yards of total offense in the game with Padua gaining over 600 yards. Each team scored on a 90-yard kickoff return. Padua also scored on a 76-yard passing play on the third play from scrimmage in the game.

Lake Catholic finishes up Friday night at home against 2-7 Walsh, but the Cougars will need a win and some help to get into the playoff field as the Warriors do not provide enough computer points for a "win and in" scenario.

Benedictine's 49-7 win over Walsh Jesuit last week clinched a playoff spot for the Bengals, but they will not be laying down for Hoban this week as a win over the Knights could propel them to a home playoff game.

NORTH COAST LEAGUE—BLUE DIVISION STANDINGS

TEAM	NCL	OVERALL	PF	PA
Archbishop Hoban	4-0	8-1	342	67
Padua Franciscan	3-1	8-1	332	217
Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	2-2	7-2	273	128
Benedictine	2-2	6-3	260	215
Lake Catholic	1-3	4-5	240	218
Walsh Jesuit	0-4	2-7	103	303

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27:
Walsh Jesuit @ Lake Catholic, 7pm
Padua @ Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin 7pm
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28:
Archbishop Hoban @ Benedictine, 7pm

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NORTH COAST LEAGUE—TEAM NOTES

BENEDICTINE BENGALS (6-3 overall, 2-2 North Coast League)



Division II Region 5

HEAD COACH: Carter Welo (2nd season, 9-10)

Benedictine has the security of a playoff spot in their back pocket as they prepare to test themselves against one of the top Division II teams in the state in Archbishop Hoban. Benedictine had defeated the Knights three straight times before last year's 28-0 loss...Last week, RB Patrick Fleming scored three touchdowns in the first 13 minutes of the game to help the Bengals to a 49-7 win over Walsh Jesuit. He scored three times on his first seven touches (five carries and two receptions) and had two running TD's and one receiving score. Then, on the Bengals first possession of the second half, he took a screen pass, evaded the first wave of defenders, and weaved his way down the field for the Bengals last touchdown of the game. Like many other Bengals starters, he did not return, resting up for this week's match-up with Hoban. He finished with 141 all-purpose yards in the game.

ARCHBISHOP HOBAN KNIGHTS (8-1 overall, 4-0 North Coast League)



Division II Region 5

HEAD COACH: Tim Tyrrell (5th season, 47-12)

Archbishop Hoban continued to run roughshod over the rest of the North Coast League with a 42-0 win over Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin last Friday in which they held the Lions to minus-23 yards rushing and just a pair of first downs...The Knights have secured a home playoff game and go into the final week of the regular season as the #1 ranked team in Division II, Region 5 based on the OHSAA's computer points system. Hoban has won eight straight games since their season-opening 17-3 loss to Saint Ignatius, currently the top-ranked Division I team in the entire state...It is possible that a Hoban win over Benedictine knocks the Bengals down from #6 to #8 and creates a re-match between the Knights and Bengals in the first round of the playoffs...In 10 playoff games over the past two years—all wins—the Knights did not face an NCL team in the post-season.

LAKE CATHOLIC COUGARS (4-5 overall, 1-3 North Coast League)



Division II Region 5

HEAD COACH: Scott O'Donnell (4th season, 17-23)

Lake Catholic needs some help—a win and some help to be precise—if the Cougars are going to move up from #10 and grab the eighth and final playoff spot in Region 5. All they can do is win their game Friday against Walsh Jesuit and watch the scoreboard...The Cougars had not one, but two backs go over 100 yards in their shootout with Padua last Friday. Senior RB D. J. Griffus busted out for 143 yards and two touchdowns while senior RB Kevin Conley put up 126 yards and a score. The two Lake Catholic seniors are ranked 3-4 in the league in rushing yards...Junior S Sean Fitzgerald was Lake's top tackler against Padua, making three solo tackles and assisting on 13. He is second on the team for the season with 52 tackles for the season, behind senior LB Tanner Armao (53.5)...Lake Catholic is going for their first playoff berth since 2011 when they were in Division III.

NCL BLUE DIVISION PLAYER OF THE WEEK—RB/LB CRISHAWN LONG



Padua Franciscan played a wide-open back-and-forth game with Lake Catholic last week and Bruins' RB/LB Crishawn Long was right in the middle of the action, scoring touchdowns via rush, catch and kick return and also making plays on defense to help Padua to a 49-42 win.

Long returned a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter and scored a 41-yard touchdown after catching a pass in the final minute of the first half to give Padua a 28-21 lead at halftime. In the fourth quarter, with the game tied 35-35, Long took a handoff and ran 31 yards to the end zone to give the Bruins their fourth lead of the game.

"He is such a natural defensive player—his vision and pursuit are simply amazing," Padua head coach Mike Polevacik said about Long. "Offensively he is threat to score when he touches the ball, he is very strong and he is a strider when he runs.

Long has 63 tackles, 47 assists and 10 tackles for a loss this season to go along with two sacks and Interception. He has also forced four fumbles and recovered four.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

WEEK 1: Trent Cramer, sr. RB, Padua Franciscan
WEEK 2: Tyris Dickerson, sr. RB, Archbishop Hoban
WEEK 3: Charles Forbes, sr. QB, NDCL
WEEK 4: Dominic Frisone, sr. RB, Walsh Jesuit
WEEK 5: Michael Lacey, sr. WR/DB, Benedictine
WEEK 6: Devon Fox, jr. WR/DB, Benedictine
WEEK 7: Nick Gattozzi, jr. QB, NDCL
WEEK 8: Shane Hamm, fr. QB, Archbishop Hoban

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NORTH COAST LEAGUE—TEAM NOTES

NOTRE DAME-CATHERDRAL LATIN LIONS (7-2 overall, 2-2 North Coast League)



Division III
Region 9

HEAD COACH: Andrew Mooney (3rd season, 23-10)

A Week 10 win over Padua Franciscan put Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin in the playoffs last season in Division IV and they are hoping to repeat that accomplishment this season but, even with a win, the Lions are not assured of a playoff spot. How tight is the playoff race in Region 9? Woodridge and Alliance are both 8-1 and do not have playoff spots secured going into the final game of the regular season. There is not a lot separating the #6 from #11, either, creating a lot of must-win games and scoreboard-watching across the region. Following their 42-0 loss to Hoban, NDCL dropped to #8 and doesn't control their own destiny going into their final game despite a 7-2 record. The only blemishes on the Lions' resume this season are an overtime loss to Benedictine in Week 6 and last week's loss to Hoban—the top team in Division II.

PADUA FRANCISCAN BRUINS (8-1 overall, 3-1 North Coast League)



Division III
Region 10

HEAD COACH: Mike Polevacik (2nd season, 13-6)

Senior QB Kevin Peterson's return to the Padua Franciscan lineup last Friday was triumphant indeed. The senior signal-caller, who was not in the lineup for the Bruins' 31-17 win over Benedictine in Week 9, completed 15 of 22 passes for 359 yards and three touchdowns as Padua and Lake Catholic punched and counter-punched their way through a 49-42 Bruins win. Peterson hooked up with junior WR Jordan Walker on a 78-yard touchdown on the game's third play from scrimmage to set the tone for the game. Walker hauled in five passes for 188 yards two touchdowns in the game...Junior RB Crishawn Long returned a punt 90 yards for a score and senior RB Trent Cramer increased his league-leading totals to 1,375 yards and 15 touchdowns...Padua's last home playoff game was a 51-27 regional quarterfinal win over University School in 2010.

WALSH JESUIT WARRIORS (2-7 overall, 0-4 North Coast League)



Division II
Region 5

HEAD COACH: Scott Beigie (3rd season, 6-23)

Sophomore RB Adam Salek made his first varsity start against Benedictine last week and carried the ball 15 times for 54 yards. He scored the Warriors' lone touchdown on a one-yard run in the second quarter. With Walsh out of the playoff hunt, they can get a good look at underclassmen like Salek and sophomore QB Cameron Mayes in these late-season games to get their feet wet for next season. Mayes took over as the starting quarterback earlier in the season and has already gained valuable experience, completing 43 of 102 passes for 652 yards and five touchdown passes...Junior WR Tommy Cummings has been a bright spot for Walsh Jesuit all season and had another strong game last week against Benedictine, catching five passes for 87 yards...Walsh will go on the road this week to close out their 2017 season against a very motivated Lake Catholic team. The Warriors have played the Cougars in Week 10 in each of the last three seasons, winning in 2014 & 2015.

NORTH COAST LEAGUE ALUMNI BIO—MIKE VRABEL, WALSH JESUIT '93



Super Bowl champion Mike Vrabel graduated from Walsh Jesuit in 1993 and moved on to play at Ohio State where he earned back-to-back All-American honors and was twice named Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year (1995 & 1996). He was the first player to win that award twice.

The Akron, Ohio, native then embarked on what would become a distinguished 14-year NFL career that saw him be a part of the New England Patriots' dynamic run of three Super Bowls in four years (2001, 2003, 2004). In 2007, he was named to the Pro Bowl and All-Pro. Selected in the third round (91st overall) of the 1997 NFL Draft by Pittsburgh, he played in a total of 206 games in the NFL with Pittsburgh (1997-2000), New England (2001-08) and Kansas City (2009-10). He registered career totals of 57 sacks, 11 interceptions (one returned for a touchdown), nine fumble recoveries and 12 touchdowns receiving (as a tight end), including two in Super Bowls.

Vrabel became the defensive coordinator for the Houston Texans in 2017 after spending three seasons as the team's linebackers coach. The Texans finished last season with the NFL's top-ranked defense for the first time in franchise history.

In 2014, the Texans saw their linebackers make significant improvements after Vrabel came to Houston from Ohio State, where he served as defensive line coach and linebackers coach from 2011-2013. In 2012, Vrabel coached four Ohio State defensive linemen who were either drafted into the NFL or signed free agent contracts. That year, Vrabel was also named the ESPN.com Big Ten Recruiter of the Year.

2017 NCL PASSING LEADERS (by QB rating)

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL	COMP	ATT	PCT	YARDS	TD	INT	RATING
Shane Hamm	FR	Archbishop Hoban	84	117	71.8%	1551	20	3	**234.4**
Kevin Peterson	SR	Padua Franciscan	93	139	66.9%	1418	16	3	**186.3**
Charles Forbes	SR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	29	53	54.7%	351	8	1	**156.4**
Nick Demchuk	JR	Benedictine	134	220	60.9%	1810	19	11	**148.5**
Nick Gattozzi	JR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	48	98	49.0%	774	8	5	**132.1**
Cameron Mayes	SO	Walsh Jesuit	43	102	42.2%	652	5	8	**96.3**
Jack Gibbons	SR	Lake Catholic	57	128	44.5%	530	5	8	**79.7**

2017 NCL RUSHING LEADERS (by yardage)

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD
Trent Cramer	SR	Padua Franciscan	225	**1,375**	6.1	15
Tyris Dickerson	JR	Archbishop Hoban	148	**1,039**	7.0	10
Kevin Conley	SR	Lake Catholic	101	**744**	7.4	5
D. J. Griffus	SR	Lake Catholic	51	**551**	10.8	7
Manni Malone	SR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	85	**546**	6.4	5
Kyle Medves	JR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	88	**345**	3.9	3
Robert Morgan	JR	Lake Catholic	53	**330**	6.2	4
Keith Williams	SR	Benedictine	98	**325**	3.3	4
Jack Gibbons	SR	Lake Catholic	76	**317**	4.2	4
Dominic Frisone	SR	Walsh Jesuit	62	**295**	4.8	3
Nick Gattozzi	JR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	46	**290**	6.3	3
Shane Hamm	FR	Archbishop Hoban	59	**270**	4.6	1
Patrick Fleming	SR	Benedictine	78	**255**	3.3	5

2017 NCL RECEIVING LEADERS (by receptions)

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Williams	SR	Benedictine	**41**	330	8.0	1
Jordan Walker	JR	Padua Franciscan	**37**	524	14.2	6
Devon Fox	JR	Benedictine	**33**	544	16.5	6
Garrett Houser	SR	Archbishop Hoban	**30**	820	27.3	11
Nicholas Simcak	SR	Lake Catholic	**29**	522	18.0	5
Cameron Drum	SR	Padua Franciscan	**27**	233	8.6	3
Colin Pavlus	SR	Padua Franciscan	**19**	245	12.9	6
Jake Saus	SR	Archbishop Hoban	**18**	249	13.8	0
Jimmy Mitchell	SO	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	**18**	204	11.3	2
Brian Carney	SR	Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	**17**	316	18.6	5
Chris Jefferson	SR	Benedictine	**16**	311	19.4	2

KICKING LEADERS (by points)

PLAYER	SCHOOL	FGM	PAT	PTS
Buttazzoni	Padua	10	38	**68**
Brkic	NDCL	9	34	**61**
Branham	Hoban	5	45	**60**
Zurak	Lake	7	28	**49**
Dosen	Benedictine	3	31	**40**

PUNTING LEADERS (by average)

PLAYER	SCHOOL	PUNTS	YARDS	AVG
Cummings	Walsh	10	439	**43.9**
Boehlke	Benedictine	42	1681	**40.0**
Smith	Walsh	8	320	**40.0**
Brkic	NDCL	33	1251	**37.9**
Zurak	Lake	27	1020	**37.8**

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