

THURSDAY

Section C

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Looking for a game to take in this weekend? Here are the five best in our opinion:

MOONEY VS.

AKRON ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY

1 In week 8 the Irish had a 17-0 lead and the ball inside the Mooney 1-yard line late in the first half. The Cardinals held and went on to a 21-17 victory, their closest game of the regular season. The rematch takes place Saturday night at West Branch. The two programs have combined for 10 state championships, and this season, 20 victories in 22 games (SVSM also lost to Ursuline in week 10). This is the first postseason meeting between the schools since 1988, a 17-0 win by SVSM in the Division III regional final.

CANFIELD

VS. COLUMBUS DESALES

2 The Cardinals play top-ranked and three-time state champion DeSales at Fawcett Stadium in Canton. The site has been the subject of much consternation for the DeSales coaches and fans. That could become a distraction that can work in Canfield's favor (especially if the first close call of the night goes the Cardinals' way). Area fans will remember DeSales defeated Chaney 17-14 in the Division III state final in 1997.

SOUTH RANGE VS. GILMOUR

3 This Division V game at Warren's Mollenkopf Stadium could prove to be a shootout — the Raiders are averaging a shade under 42 points per game and Gilmour is just under 38. The difference could be how South Range fares against Gilmour's big lineman, Matt Mihalik, who's committed to Virginia. Including last week's win over Mathews, the Lancers are 2-1 all-time against area schools in the playoffs.

WARREN JFK VS.

NORWALK ST. PAUL

4 This Division VI game Saturday night — wait, Saturday afternoon — upon further review, it's Saturday night — in Medina could be a pretty good matchup, no matter when they finally kick it off. No one has been able to slow JFK's all-purpose back Jared Province, who has 35 touchdowns and over 1,600 yards rushing. St. Paul, which has played in — and lost — three state finals, is no slouch with the ball, either, averaging over 43 points per game.

BOARDMAN VS. GLENVILLE

5 We don't want to spread any vicious rumors, but it's been whispered that a certain media outlet along Lake Erie predicted Glenville would beat the Spartans by 45 points. That kind of slight, real or perceived, worked to Boardman's advantage last week against Euclid, but the Spartans have it strapped up Saturday night in Twinsburg — Glenville will bring more speed than any opponent the Spartans have faced this season. Still, anyone else get the feeling this Boardman squad is a team of destiny?