

1921: Babe Ruth achieves 139 home runs and becomes the all-time home run leader in Major League Baseball, taking the title from Roger Connor.
1927: Ty Cobb of the Philadelphia Athletics doubles off the glove of Harry Heilmann for his 4,000th hit.

2024 IHSA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Top games to watch, week-by-week

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With the release of the IHSA 2024 statewide football schedule, here are the top games week by week to watch in the Suburban Life coverage area.

Week 1

Batavia at Glenbard West, 1:30 p.m., Aug. 31:

Two of the biggest powerhouses in the western suburbs meet up in a dandy of a new season opener at Duchon Field. For Glenbard West, it's the start of a brutal three-game stretch to start the season, followed by a home game with Loyola in Week 2 and a West Suburban Silver opener at Downers Grove North. Teylon Oriental, the 2023 West Suburban Silver Offensive Player of the Year, and Iowa State recruit Mason Ellens lead the Hilltoppers. Batavia is coming off an 11-2 season and Class 7A semifinal appearance.

Week 2

Lemont at Geneva, 7 p.m., Sept. 6: Lemont, before entering South Suburban Blue play, faces a tough nonconference road game at 2023 Class 6A quarterfinalist Geneva. Geneva features Georgia recruit Talyn Taylor, a senior wide receiver and one of the top senior prospects in the state.

Week 3

Glenbard West at Downers Grove North, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 13: The West Suburban Silver opener pits two teams that figure to contend for the title. Downers Grove North is coming off a run to the Class 7A state championship game in 2023. Its win over Glenbard West at Duchon Field in Week 3 last season was its first in the series since 2006 and set the stage for a big year. The Trojans return junior quarterback Owen Lansu, a Division I prospect. The Hilltoppers counter with a power running game led up front by Northwestern-bound lineman Michael O'Connell.

Week 4

Willowbrook at Downers Grove South, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 20: Downers Grove South has won the last two West Suburban Gold titles after Willowbrook ruled the roost in the league for the better part of a decade. Chances are,



Nazareth's Samuel Stec celebrates as time ticks away in November 2023 in their IHSA Class 5A state championship win over Joliet Catholic Hancock Stadium at Illinois State University in Normal.

then, this game will decide supremacy in the Gold in 2025.

Week 5

Joliet Catholic at Nazareth, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27: Rematch of last year's Class 5A state championship that Nazareth won in a stunning comeback, 31 unanswered points, in a 38-20 victory. The two-time defending champion Roadrunners are led by senior quarterback Logan Malachuk and senior edge Gabe Kaminski, a Stanford recruit. Jake Jakochich anchors an experienced Joliet Catholic offensive line with four starters returning.

Week 6

St. Francis at IC Catholic Prep, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 4: Two rivals, now part of the CCL/ESCC Green division, meet up in a matchup that has been one to circle on



York's Joe Reiff (right) tries to block Nazareth Academy's Jake Pinckney during the first quarter in Elmhurst in 2023.

David Toney

the calendar for several years. Both graduated significant talent from last year, with former St. Francis quarterback Alessio Milivojevic and former IC Catholic receiver/defensive back KJ Parker both now in the Big Ten. But the cupboard doesn't figure to be

bare. St. Francis 6-foot-6 junior tight end Gavin Mueller, with 11 scholarship offers, and Notre Dame recruit Dominik Hulak for IC Catholic are ones to watch.

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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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