

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read the *State Tournament Predictions Report*. As I sit here in my tenth year, for which I have record, of doing this in some way, shape, or form – it would be negligent on my part not to discuss the current landscape of high school wrestling in Ohio.

An obvious part of that landscape for just over 40 years prior to this one was the presence of Brian Brakeman, and his annual *Brakeman Report*, a forecast of the upcoming state tournaments. However, this year, he has decided to call it a career and not write his annual report. There are not words that can appropriately describe his impact in creating interest in the state tournament series, and educating the Ohio fan-base about the landscape of each weight class. In addition to his report was his passion and involvement in placing the sport of wrestling on television, starting with broadcasts on WVIZ in the 1980s and 1990s, through today with his involvement in Cable Nine telecasts that sometimes get picked up by Sports Time Ohio. It is my hope that this service is continued.

Keep in mind, that when Brian started over 40 years ago, there was no internet (heck, the average computer was as big as the home office space in which I write this report today). Further complicating things was the fact most high school programs schedules involved a collection of dual meets and maybe a couple tournaments, certainly none providing the cross-section of teams that we see in today's wrestling landscape. It was an amazing work, a true labor of love. Not just the ordinal ranking process, but the tying it together with stories, history, and analysis.

When I started my journey as a fan of high school wrestling, the Brakeman Report was required reading. Even around 15 years ago, we were in the extreme infancy of the internet, and just starting to see events featuring a cross-section of teams throughout the state. As my journey into this sport deepened, I started reading the report with a more critical eye, even taking to predicting who Mr. Brakeman would pick as projected state champions.

It is with that background I started writing my year-to-year work. I figured that if I was to view the Brakeman Report with a critical eye, it would be only fair to engage in a similar process, and have my viewpoints face scrutiny. The process of my report is rather similar to the Brakeman Report, but somewhat different. As with the last couple of years, the ordinal ranking portion of the report goes 16 deep, which is how many wrestlers compete in the state tournament (8 placing per weight class).

Following the ordinal ranking is a list of the top five (or more) wrestlers within each district, as one of the key interest points heading into the post-season is who will qualify for the state tournament (four wrestlers in each of the four districts earn the distinction). Then, finally is the commentary, which provides an analysis of the weight class as a whole, the top wrestlers in the weight class, as well as some relevant and/or tangential commentary. After each weight class is presented in the division, a team ranking is presented based on a formula that is intended to replicate scoring at the state tournament.

As always, the mission of this report is three-fold: (1) an attempt to accurately predict the state champion and those towards the top of each weight class (2) an attempt to accurately gauge the composition of each district tournament weight class (3) to provide fans an informative, yet entertaining, read on what to expect in the state series over the next month.

Accuracy Stats through the years

With one of the obvious missions being to accurately assess and predict stuff, I keep track of how the predictions end up playing out, and present that to you here.

The accuracy of predicting champions:

2004- DI 8/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10/14 (TOTAL = 28)
2005- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 3(or4)/14 (TOTAL = 21 or 22)
2006- DI 10/14, DII 9/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 26 or 27)
2007- DI 10/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)
2008- DI 9/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 26)
2009- DI 12/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 30)
2010- DI 9/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10(or11)/14 (TOTAL = 29 or 30)
2011- DI 8(or9)/14, DII 8/14, DIII 11/14 (TOTAL = 27 or 28)
2012- DI 11/14, DII 10/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 28 or 29)

Where were the other champs ranked? (note this may not be perfect):

2nd- 65, 3rd- 31, 4th- 12, 5th- 9, 6th- 2, 7th- 3, 8th- 2, 9th- 1, >10- 3

Please note that this report is a reflection of the information acquired based on wrestling through the weekend ending January 19th updating done after the weekend of wrestling ending January 26th (in particular for Division III). There are two more weekends of wrestling left in this regular season, one of them being state dual meet championship Saturday. Also, remember that come the state series, it is a new season. The rankings and summaries carry the value of understanding where one person sees things at this point in time, and also an entertainment factor. However, as the writer of this report, I feel it is important to state: (1) there are matches to be wrestled for a reason (2) it is the upsets, the unexpected, and the thrillers that define state series wrestling (3) if I was somewhat perfect, there would be a different line of employment for me (i.e. psychic or bookie).

These are two predictions that I guarantee to be correct:

*The state tournament will be staged at Value City Arena on the campus of Ohio State University February 28th through 2nd.

*42 wrestlers will be crowned as champions, 14 weight classes across 3 divisions.

All others ... there are no guarantees. As the TMQ column on Page2 of ESPN.com states, "All predictions guaranteed to be wrong or your money back!" (just kidding)

Best of luck on the remainder of the season, hope you all achieve the levels of success you wish for, and enjoy the reading!

District Tournament Site Analysis

The compositions of last year are more or less the same, with the exception of Division II. Within Division II, the distribution of teams to two of the southwest district sectionals has changed. The 24 northern-most teams have the option to pick the sectional feeding to the district hosted in the Northwest (10 teams) or the sectional feeding to the district hosted in the Southwest (14 teams).

The catalyst to this change is the extreme inequity between the three other sectionals in the Bowling Green District (northwest/northeast) and Goshen District (southwest/southeast). Last year's composition, which involved perennial Division II state champion St. Paris Graham – along with some other solid teams - going up to the Bowling Green district led to extreme statistical disparity as shown below between the two district tournaments in state production.

Goshen: 76-112, 40.4% (overall); 28-53, 34.6% (championship only); 22 (two-and-out)
Bowling Green (formerly Marion): 134-89, 60.0%; 87-48, 64.4%; 9

In state tournaments prior to 2012, the northwest district in Division II had enough teams to justify three sectionals, which meant that combined with a northeast sectional, it formed a district tournament. On the other hand, the southeast district had only one Division II sectional, instead of the two it had last year and this year, which combined with the three southwest Division II sectionals (as opposed to one being sent to the northwest, as was the case last year). 2011 stats are below, and show much more balance.

Goshen: 95-94, 50.3% (overall); 57-47, 54.8% (championship only); 19 (two-and-out)
Marion: 120-103, 53.8%; 54-55, 49.5%; 9

From an expected value standpoint, each site should have a 105-105 overall record, with a 52.5-52.5 mark in championship bracket matches, and 14 wrestlers going two-and-out. Below are four years of records for each district at the state tournament.

DIVISION ONE

All Northeast (Mentor)

2012: 120-96, 55.6% (overall); 71-49, 59.2% (championship only); 10 (two-and-out)
2011: 137-102, 57.3%; 72-51, 58.5%; 7
2010: 103-110, 48.4%; 48-53, 47.5%; 13
2009: 141-99, 58.8%; 75-51, 59.5%; 7

Combined Northeast (2)/Northwest (2) <now Cleveland State University>

2012: 122-94, 56.5% (overall); 65-51, 56.0% (championship only); 13 (two-and-out)
2011: 127-96, 57.0%; 76-51, 59.8%; 7
2010: 130-93, 58.3%; 86-48, 64.2%; 8
2009: 113-102, 52.6%; 48-52, 48%; 11

Note – The 2012 configuration for the combined Northeast/Northwest is the same as it was the last three years, but different than it was in the previous three years. As was the case in 2006, the Medina sectional is joining the Lorain Southview sectional in going to the combined district - instead of either

the Willoughby South (was at Maple Hts and Garfield Hts in this stretch as well) or North Royalton (was also at Midpark in this stretch) sectional.

All Southwest (Fairfield)

Note: This used to be only four of the five sectionals, this year and last year all schools consolidated into four sectionals

2012: 99-117, (overall); 42-55, (championship only); 9 (two-and-out)

2011: 86-108, 44.3%; 30-55, 35.3%; 21

All Central (Hilliard Darby)

Note: This used to be three central sectionals with one southwest sectional, this year and last year what had been three sectionals is stretched into four sectionals

2012: 79-113, 41.1% (overall); 32-55, 36.8% (championship only); 24 (two-and-out)

2011: 70-114, 38.0%; 32-53, 37.6%; 21

DIV II - All Northeast (Alliance)

2012: 122-107, 53.3% (overall); 54-53, 50.5% (championship only); 9 (two-and-out)

2011: 110-105, 51.2%; 62-52, 54.4%; 12

2010: 118-99, 54.4%; 50-52, 49.0%; 11

2009: 110-103, 51.6%; 63-53, 54.6%; 14

DIV II - Combined Central (2)/East (2) <now Heath>

2012: 88-112, 44.0% (overall); 41-56, 42.3% (championship only); 16 (two-and-out)

2011: 95-118, 44.6%; 37-56, 39.8%; 16

2010: 73-116, 38.6%; 32-56, 36.4%; 23

2009: 95-107, 47.0%; 45-54, 45.5%; 17

See previous section for 2012 and 2011 summaries from the Bowling Green and Goshen districts.

DIV III - All Northeast (Garfield Hts)

2012: 128-104, 55.2% (overall); 57-53, 51.8% (championship only); 8 (two-and-out)

2011: 132-102, 56.4%; 66-52, 55.9%; 9

2010: 117-98, 54.4%; 68-52, 56.7%; 9

2009: 144-102, 58.5%; 61-55, 52.6%; 9

DIV III - Combined Central (2)/East (1)/Southeast (1) <now Philo>

2012: 84-110, 43.3% (overall); 40-54, 42.6% (championship only); 18 (two-and-out)

2011: 77-113, 40.5%; 39-55, 41.5%; 19

2010: 96-113, 45.9%; 35-56, 38.5%; 16

2009: 80-113, 41.5%; 40-56, 41.7%; 19

DIV III - Combined Southwest (3)/Northwest (1) <Kettering Fairmont>

Note: for 2010 and 2011, it was a 2+2; 2009 and 2012 it has the present composition. In 2010 and 2011, there were two southwest sectionals, last year and this year those same teams are in three sectionals (as in 2009)

2012: 99-99, 50.0% (overall); 58-51, 53.2% (championship only); 15 (two-and-out)

2011: 103-104, 49.8%; 46-53, 46.5%; 14

2010: 112-102, 52.3%; 55-51, 51.9%; 12

2009: 106-102, 51.0%; 56-49, 53.3%; 10

DIV III - All Northwest (now Bowling Green)

Note: For 2010 and 2011, it was four of the six northwest sectionals at this site; while this year (and last year), as was the case in 2009, it was four of the five northwest sectionals present here

2012: 109-107, 50.5% (overall); 55-52, 51.4% (championship only); 15 (two-and-out)

2011: 108-101, 51.7%; 59-50, 54.1%; 14

2010: 94-106, 47.0%; 52-51, 50.5%; 19

2009: 90-103, 46.6%; 53-50, 51.5%; 18

2013: State of the Wrestling State

Twenty-four years ago, Mark Zimmer from Columbus DeSales became the first wrestler in Ohio high school history to win four state titles. Now, here in 2013, we sit ready to see three more wrestlers likely to become four-timers. Should Dean Heil (St. Edward), Nathan Tomasello (CVCA), and Bo Jordan (St. Paris Graham) accomplish what is expected of them come Saturday, March 2nd, that total will be up to twenty-five.

Interestingly it was thirty years ago that Bo Jordan's father, Jeff Jordan, won his fourth state title. Jeff, the third wrestler to accomplish the feat, is now the head coach at St. Paris Graham, which has a dynastic program that is favored to win its 13th consecutive state title.

In addition to the three wrestlers seeking fourth state titles, three seniors in Division I seek to become three-time state champions, while a single wrestler in Division II and Division III are juniors and on pace to win their fourth state titles next year. Those Division I seniors are Solon teammates Brandon Thompson and Anthony Collica, along with Domenic Abounader (St. Edward). The elite juniors seeking third state titles, and a fourth next year, would be Micah Jordan (St. Paris Graham) – who is Bo Jordan's younger brother – and Jacob Danishek (Dayton Christian). The lone sophomore that won state last year as a freshman is Cameron Kelly (Bellbrook).

The three seniors seeking fourth state titles, along with three seeking a third state title, mean that this is a banner group of seniors in the Buckeye State. The most recent InterMat grade-level rankings show six Ohio natives in the top 24 overall for the Class of 2013: Bo Jordan, who is ranked first; Dean Heil; two-time state finalist Edgar Bright (St. Edward); Domenic Abounader; Nathan Tomasello; and Anthony Collica. State runner-up Markus Scheidel (St. Edward) and state champion B.J. Toal (Troy Christian) are also within the top 100. Additional seniors returning as state champions include Brandon Thompson, Joe Tayse (Massillon Perry), Chris Moore (Clyde), Josh Lehner (Lexington), Jordan Marshall (Troy Christian), Zach Mays (Nelsonville-York), and 2011 state champion Michael Rix (SVSM).

In addition to the obvious – Heil, Tomasello, and Bo Jordan – the following other seniors seek a fourth state placement medal: Aaron Assad (Brecksville), Edgar Bright, Noah Forrider (Marysville), and Michael Rix. It will be a tough good bye when we bid adieu to the Class of 2013 on March 2nd.

This year marks the initiation of the new team wrestling championship, whose final eight in each division will take place at St. John Arena on February 9th. This dual meet tournament will be an interesting event to eye over the next week-plus. It will also be interesting to see what differences in terms of champions, and top teams, one sees between the dual meet and individual bracket tournaments. In my opinion, this is an excellent complement to the individual championships and should be embraced.

Division One – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Austin Assad, Brecksville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
2. Jose Rodriguez, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
3. L.J. Bentley, St. Edward, sophomore (Cleveland State)
4. Luke Nace, Teays Valley, junior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Josh Heidkamp, Vandalia Butler, senior (Fairfield)
6. Peyton Gutierrez, Pickerington North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Tony DeCesare, Nordon, freshman (Cleveland State)
8. Josh Heil, Brunswick, freshman (Cleveland State)
9. Noah Baughman, Wadsworth, freshman (Cleveland State)
10. Patrick Kearney, Mason, sophomore (Fairfield)
11. Garrett Lambert, Strongsville, freshman (Cleveland State)
12. Kenny Hoberney, Eastlake North, sophomore (Mentor)
13. Andre Lowery, Shaker Hts., sophomore (Mentor)
14. Anthony Jagel, Middletown, sophomore (Fairfield)
15. Jake Donahue, Massillon, freshman (Mentor)
16. Jonathan Furnas, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)

Cleveland State – Assad, Bentley, DeCesare, Heil; Baughman, Lambert

Fairfield – Heidkamp, Kearney, Jagel, Peter Vuyk (Loveland, junior); Ray Gatica (Fairfield, junior)

Hilliard Darby – Nace, Gutierrez, Furnas, Jackson Lasko (Grove City Central Crossing, freshman); Shakur Laney (Groveport Madison, sophomore)

Mentor – Rodriguez, Hoberney, Lowery, Donahue; Kyle Jenkins (Stow, freshman)

Right out the chute, we already have a prognosticator's nightmare. Two wrestlers at the top of the weight class are ranked in the top five nationally, both were state runners-up last year, and have already wrestled this season. That match contested seven weeks ago featured one of the competitors winning; however, the overall tenor of the match would seem to favor the other one winning a rematch.

In this scenario, this report is going to predict that the victorious wrestler, Assad, will win the state title. Despite losing that Beast of the East semifinal 5-4, Rodriguez scored takedowns in each of the first two periods before choosing down in the third with a 4-2 lead, a period in which Assad rode out Rodriguez and scored a three-point near fall for the winning points. On the season, Assad was third at the Ironman, second at the Beast, and champion at Brecksville and the Bill Dies; while Rodriguez was second at Ironman, third at Beast, and champion at Medina.

A third wrestler, returning state qualifier Bentley, who was a NHSCA Freshman national champion, is a peripheral player in the title hunt. He placed seventh at Ironman and third at Medina, suffering losses to Rodriguez in both events; in other competition, he was champion of the Dvorak in Illinois, and bumped up a weight class to beat an Illinois state champion during January dual meet competition. Bentley failed to place at state last year, despite losing an OT match in the district final to Assad, they both exit the district at Cleveland State this year.

Joining Assad and Bentley at a brutally deep Cleveland State district are four other top 11 wrestlers. Unfortunately, five of these six figures – Assad, DeCesare, Heil, Baughman, and Lambert – all exit the

same sectional, so one will be eliminated prior to district. The depth here is such that Ironman and Medina placer Mario Guillen (Perrysburg) in this weight class has moved up to 113 for the month of January, and might as well stay there, given the relative thin nature of that weight at Cleveland State. Among the four wrestlers at the Medina sectional other than Assad, DeCesare beat Heil in the North Coast Classic final, beat Lambert at Solon, and has split matches with Baughman.

Rodriguez, a state runner-up for Wantagh in New York last year at 99 pounds, should have a much more manageable path through the Mentor district. He is the strong favorite. State alternate Hoberney, who placed fourth at Solon and second at Kenston (splitting matches with Lambert along the way); Kenston champion Lowery; and the freshman Donahue, a junior high state champ, project to the other qualification spots.

Ranked fourth in this weight is Brecksville runner-up Nace, who was a state alternate last year. He heads the competition at the Hilliard Darby district, having a win over two-time state placer Gutierrez in the championship match at Pickerington North. Gutierrez also placed fifth at Solon, fifth at Medina, and was champ at Mason with a win over fellow state alternate Kearney. The lone other ranked wrestler here is the freshman Lasko, who was sixth at Medina and champion at Olentangy. The other spot is projected to a wrestler outside the top 16.

State qualifier Heidkamp leads the way at the Fairfield district. Last year at state, it was he who upended Bentley in the first round. This year, he was second at the GMVWA, losing by major decision to the projected DII state champ Eli Stickley, and has spent most other competitions up at 113. State alternate Kearney is viewed as second best here, having finished third at Olentangy Liberty, winning SWOWCA, fourth at Medina, and runner-up at Mason. The other ranked wrestler here is Jagel, who placed at Franklin, SWOWCA, and GMVWA before winning at Fairfield.

113 pounds

1. Aaron Assad, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
2. Armando Torres, Elyria, junior (Cleveland State)
3. Dakota Riley, Mt. Vernon, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Conner Ziegler, Moeller, sophomore (Fairfield)
5. Anthony Milano, LaSalle, senior (Fairfield)
6. Nick Mancini, Boardman, senior (Mentor)
7. Jimmy Ferrito, St. Ignatius, senior (Mentor)
8. Jared Davis, Oregon Clay, junior (Cleveland State)
9. Jason Spencer, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Andy Fausnight, North Canton Hoover, senior (Mentor)
11. Colin Kramer, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
12. Brandon Tucker, Loveland, sophomore (Fairfield)
13. Justyn Bostic, Massillon Jackson, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Mario Guillen, Perrysburg, freshman (Cleveland State)
15. Demarco Davis, Fairfield, junior (Fairfield)
16. Alec Logsdon, Lebanon, sophomore (Fairfield)

Cleveland State – Assad, Torres, J. Davis, Guillen; Sal Corrao (St. Edward, senior)

Fairfield – Ziegler, Milano, Tucker, D. Davis; Logsdon

Hilliard Darby – Riley, Kyle Dooley (Teays Valley, sophomore), Santino DiSabato (Westerville North, junior), Michael Hines (Olentangy Orange, junior); Rob McGrath (Hilliard Bradley, junior)

Mentor – Mancini, Ferrito, Spencer, Fausnight; Kramer, Bostic

Two excellent wrestlers missing some vital bits to their overall wrestling resume top this weight class. Leading the way is three-time state placer Assad, who has finished third, second, and third at the state tournament. He is favored to this year get the elusive state title after a fifth place finish at the Ironman, runner-up at the Beast, and Outstanding Wrestler awards in winning titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies. Second in this weight is the junior Torres, who has faced hard luck at the end of the last two seasons; enduring a knee injury that forced him to compete at much less than 100 percent his freshman year in the district tournament, and failing skin check prior to last year's district event.

This year, Torres and Assad have wrestled three times, with Assad coming on top by one point each time, 3-2 matches at both the second round of Ironman and the Brecksville semis, along with a late takedown as part of a 5-4 Bill Dies finals decision. The two could meet three more times, starting this week in the state dual meet event. They also exit the same district at Cleveland State, one that is shallow beyond those two. Returning state placer Davis is also here – having placed eighth at Brecksville, first at Clyde, and a semifinals appearance at Oregon Clay. For the fourth spot, it looks like Guillen (explained above) has as good a chance as anyone else, including Medina fifth place finisher Corrao.

Given the tendency for Assad and Torres to wrestle low-scoring bouts, someone can knock them off, and that group is led by returning state third placer Riley, a senior who has titles at Mt. Vernon, SWOWCA, and Oregon Clay this year to go with a fifth place finish at Brecksville. He headlines a Hilliard Darby district that has no other wrestler ranked in the top 16 of this weight class.

The other two members of this weight's top five come from the Fairfield district. The sophomore Ziegler, a returning state qualifier, placed second at SWOWCA, fifth at Powerade, and first at the CIT. He already has two wins over returning state eighth placer Milano, who placed third at both SWOWCA and the CIT. The Fairfield district has solid depth featuring three other ranked wrestlers. State qualifier Tucker was fourth at SWOWCA but failed to place at Brecksville, district placer Davis was fourth at Kenston and won the title at Fairfield, while Division III state qualifier Logsdon was fifth at SWOWCA, third at Fairfield, and fifth at Western Brown.

Last but not least is an extremely balanced Mentor district that features six wrestlers ranked between sixth and 13th, four of whom have state experience. State qualifier Mancini won the Kenston tournament with a major decision over D. Davis and beat Division II state placer Zemaitis 4-0 in the final, and also placed third in the Top Gun at 120. State lacer Ferrito had a disappointing fourth place finish at Solon, but has since wrestled well in a seventh place finish at Brecksville and second place finish at the CIT. Fausnight finished third at North Canton, lost 5-4 to Spencer early at Medina before pulling out due to injury, and failed to place at the Top Gun, including a 2-1 consolation loss to Bostic. Also here are excellent sophomores in Spencer and Bostic, who wrestled in the consolation final the Top Gun (Spencer winning that match 1-0); Spencer was fourth at Medina, while Bostic competed at 120 early in the season with placements at North Canton and Medina.

120 pounds

1. Brandon Thompson, Solon, senior (Mentor)
2. David Bavery, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
3. Artem Timchenko, Olentangy Orange, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Taleb Rahmani, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
5. Richie Screptock, Oregon Clay, sophomore (Cleveland State)

6. Brenden Watson, Centerville, senior (Fairfield)
7. Josh Wimer, Grove City Central Crossing, junior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Ben Darmstadt, Elyria, freshman (Cleveland State)
9. Austin Daly, Lakota East, senior (Fairfield)
10. Dan Bartinelli, North Royalton, senior (Mentor)
11. Giuseppe Penzone, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Greysun Bearden, Fairfield, senior (Fairfield)
13. Alec Cotton, Uniontown Lake, junior (Mentor)
14. Brad Kakos, Franklin Hts., senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Drew Dickson, North Ridgeville, senior (Cleveland State)
16. Sam Valenti, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)

Cleveland State – Sreptock, Darmstadt, Dickson, Connor Gray (Wadsworth, sophomore); Austin Hiles (St. Edward, freshman)

Fairfield – Watson, Daly, Bearden, Matt Sicurella (Glen Este, sophomore); Jacoby Ward (Moeller, freshman)

Hilliard Darby – Timchenko, Rahmani, Wimer, Penzone; Kakos, Valenti

Mentor – Thompson, Bavery, Bartinelli, Cotton; Ryan Montgomery (Madison, sophomore)

Any time two state champions are together in the same weight it's a great thing for our fans. This one also has some interesting cache, as the senior Thompson is after a third state title, while the junior Bavery has made the final at state in each of his first two years – this includes a 2-0 loss in the final to Thompson at 103 pounds in 2011. The two wrestlers exit the same district at Mentor, and with no “protection principles” in effect, could end up in the same half-bracket there (boy would that suck for quarterfinal losers from the other half).

For this season, Thompson was champion at Solon and the North Coast Classic, and finished fourth at Powerade, losing to a pair of nationally ranked opponents. Bavery has yet to win a tournament (Ironman 7th, Beast 6th, Medina 2nd, and Top Gun 2nd), and has seven losses; however, six of them are to nationally ranked opposition, including three to three-time state champion Nathan Tomasello. Also at the Mentor district are state qualifier Bartinelli, state alternate Cotton, and district placer Montgomery. Bartinelli was one match from placing at Brecksville, and had an 8-2 win over Montgomery in that event; Cotton placed third at North Canton and fourth at the Top Gun; while Montgomery has spent much of the season up a weight class other than at Brecksville, so he could end up there too and is similarly a “bubble” kid in that weight.

If someone is going to derail the Thompson/Bavery collision course, it would be Timchenko, the Lehigh commit who placed at state as a freshman and sophomore but was ineligible last year due to having two transfers in his high school career. However, as he exits the Hilliard Darby district, he'll have to most likely beat both to win the state title. This season, he was a finalist at Brecksville, and has also competed at 126 during the season (would be a clear number two there to McClay). Also at this district is Rahmani, who placed fourth at 106 as a freshman, but had a regular season win over Bavery; however, he has missed most of the season, having come back just in the last two weeks.

This is probably the deepest weight in central Ohio with four other ranked wrestlers present as well – and quite frankly a couple may find it better to bump to 126, which has only two ranked wrestlers present. Wimer placed fifth last year at 106, and this season was runner-up at Olentangy and North Canton, third at Medina, and champion at Oregon Clay; Penzone was a district champ last year in this

weight, but then went 0-2 at the state tournament, and this year was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and failed to place at Brecksville; Kakos was a state alternate in this weight last year, was champion at Franklin Hts in this weight, but has also spent time at 126; while returning state qualifier Valenti was champion at Pickerington North and sixth at Medina.

The fifth returning state placer in this weight, Screenshot, leads the way at the Cleveland State district. This season, Screenshot has a dual meet win over Watson, was third at Brecksville losing a competitive match to Timchenko, won the title at Clyde, and was third at Oregon Clay. Behind him, this is a shallow district with only two other wrestlers ranked, the freshman Darmstadt and the senior Dickson. Darmstadt placed fourth at Brecksville, second at the Bill Dies, and has two wins over Division III state champion Sammy Gross. The senior Dickson was undefeated last year against a rather invisible schedule during the regular season at 106, before losing to Bentley in the sectional final and then going 1-2 at the district. This year has been rather similar, with titles at Avon Lake, Bellevue, and Perry. It will be interesting to see if he can build this into a state qualification spot.

Last among the districts here is the one at Fairfield with three state qualifiers; however, those are the only ranked kids present. Leading the way is Watson, who was first at Olentangy, lost to Screenshot in a dual meet, failed to place at Brecksville, and won titles at Fairfield and Mason. Next is Daly, who was second at SWOWCA, sixth at Brecksville, and second at Fairfield. Finally is Bearden, who was at 126 for December, and dropped to 120 for Fairfield in January where he took third losing 4-3 to Daly in the semi. District placer Sicurella is a possible for the fourth qualification spot.

126 pounds

1. Ivan McClay, Massillon, senior (Mentor)
2. Tommy Zeigler, St. Ignatius, senior (Mentor)
3. Josh Parrett, Kettering Fairmont, junior (Fairfield)
4. Tim Rooney, St. Charles, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
5. David Sparks, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Chance Driscoll, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Austin Phillips, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
8. Chase DuPratt, Olmsted Falls, senior (Cleveland State)
9. Alec Benedetti, North Royalton, junior (Mentor)
10. Patrick Allen, Colerain, senior (Fairfield)
11. Bryan DeRuchie, Amherst, senior (Cleveland State)
12. A.J. Donigian, Beaver Creek, senior (Fairfield)
13. Brandon Selmon, Princeton, junior (Fairfield)
14. Peter Ryan, Boardman, senior (Mentor)
15. Jake Demio, Strongsville, senior (Cleveland State)
16. Connor Borton, Moeller, sophomore (Fairfield)

Cleveland State – Driscoll, DuPratt, DeRuchie, Demio; Greg Marietta (Mansfield, junior)

Fairfield – Parrett, Allen, Donigian, Selmon; Borton

Hilliard Darby – Rooney, Sparks, Jared Ferguson (Pickerington North, junior), Austin King (Teays Valley, junior); Chris Bankes (Watkins Memorial, senior)

Mentor – McClay, Zeigler, Phillips, Benedetti; Ryan

Don't know why, might be just how the cookie crumbles, but this weight feels extremely shallow. Only six wrestlers here with state tournament experience (only 106, 152, and 182 in their present

constructions) have less. Leading the way here is two-time state placer McClay, a very talented wrestler, though one that isn't exactly going to light up a scoreboard. For the season, he has titles at Ashland, the J.C. Gorman, and Oregon Clay to go with a fourth place finish at the Ironman that included a win over 2x Super 32 finalist Michael Kemerer (Franklin Regional, Pa.). He exits the Mentor district, which is best of the four here with five ranked wrestlers.

Second in this weight, also from the Mentor district, is two-time state placer Zeigler, who was runner-up at Solon and Brecksville, both times losing to returning state finalist Anthony Tutolo. Others ranked here are state alternate Phillips, who placed fifth at Medina but failed to place at Top Gun; Benedetti, who placed eighth at Brecksville; and Ryan, who was second at Kenston and seventh at Top Gun with two wins over state placers in that tournament.

Just a junior, but already a two-time state qualifier, Parrett is ranked third in this weight class. For the season, he was runner-up at SWOWCA and champion at Mason. He is the lead figure at a Fairfield district that also features five ranked wrestlers; however, the other four all come in at tenth or below. Allen was third at SWOWCA and Mason, second at Fairfield, and a match away from placing at Brecksville; Donigian finished fifth at SWOWCA, sixth at Medina, and second at Mason; Selmon was seventh at SWOWCA and fifth at GMVWA; while Borton was a state alternate last year while competing for Olentangy Orange, and this season has fourth place finishes at both SWOWCA and the CIT.

The other two top five ranked wrestlers exit the Hilliard Darby district, which is has no ranked wrestlers beyond those two, and this is a weight class that is rife for wrestlers to move into it and take qualification spots. The junior Sparks placed fifth at Brecksville and third at Top Gun, while the sophomore Rooney was champion at Marion Harding.

Finally, it is the Cleveland State district, which is led by senior Driscoll, who is in his first year as a starter and placed third at Medina. The three other ranked wrestlers are 2011 state placer DuPratt, who has been more out than in the lineup this year navigating injury; the senior DeRuchie, who was a match away from placement at Brecksville; and the senior Demio, who was fourth at Solon and third at Kenston. However, beyond Driscoll and (if somewhat healthy) DuPratt, the district weight is a total crapshoot, and quite frankly one other districts want to see paired with them first round at state.

132 pounds

1. Dean Heil, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
2. Matt Denlinger, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Fairfield)
3. Sonny Shump, Barberton, senior (Mentor)
4. Kendall Newell, Vandalia Butler, senior (Fairfield)
5. Brandon Egnor, Elyria, senior (Cleveland State)
6. Kasee McDougle, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Zac Carson, Uniontown Lake, sophomore (Mentor)
8. T.J. Levistky, Parma, senior (Mentor)
9. Lee Wilson, Hilliard Davidson, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Andrew Mendel, Moeller, senior (Fairfield)
11. Nick Boggs, Painesville Riverside, junior (Mentor)
12. Jake Donatelli, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Sean Williams, Bedford, senior (Mentor)
14. Jamie Norris, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
15. Mark Heiderman, Cloverleaf, junior (Cleveland State)

16. Gavin Nelson, Oregon Clay, junior (Cleveland State)

Cleveland State – Heil, Egnor, Nelson, Heiderman; Yassir Abdel-Salem (Lakewood, junior)

Fairfield – Denlinger, Newell, Mendel, Josh Scanlon (Centerville, senior); Max Meddings (Fairfield, junior)

Hilliard Darby – McDougle, Wilson, Donatelli, Noah Messerrall (Thomas Worthington, junior); Lane Hinkle (Mt. Vernon, freshman)

Mentor – Shump, Carson, Levitsky, Boggs; Williams, Norris

The drive for 25! No, we're not talking about St. Edward state championships, the Eagles won their 27th last year. Instead, it's about the number of four-time state champions that Ohio could enjoy come the evening of March 2nd. One of those three after their fourth title this year is in this weight, and is prohibitively favored to do so – Dean Heil. The only thing stopping him would be if Ohio all of the sudden adopted a single-class state tournament and implemented it immediately.

Heil won the Super 32 Challenge before the season started, was third at the Ironman losing on a late takedown in the semi against Micah Jordan, won the Dvorak, and then lost about ten days ago lost to Jordan again on a takedown late in the match.

Best among the rest would probably be Denlinger, a three-time state qualifier, who placed eighth as a sophomore in 2011. This season he has titles at SWOWCA, Brecksville, and Mason. Also in his Fairfield district is a pair of returning state alternates that reside in the top ten of the rankings here. Newell, was up a weight class last year at 138 pounds, but this year has titles at North Canton and Fairfield to go with a third place finish at the GMVWA (losing to Jordan by fall in the semis) to his credit. Mendel, now twice an alternate to state, was a match away from placing at Ironman and Powerade, but was second at SWOWCA and a champion at the CIT. The fourth spot is relatively open for the taking.

The deepest of the four districts is the one at Mentor, led by returning state placer Shump and returning qualifiers in Carson and Levitsky. Shump was fifth last year at state in the 120 pound weight class, and a Bill Dies champion this year. The sophomore Carson made state last year as a freshman, and this year was second at North Canton and third at the Top Gun; while Levitsky has titles at Hudson and Kenston to his credit. The junior Boggs has had a positive season with a runner-up finish at Solon, championship at Medina, and sixth place finish at the Top Gun. Williams, a state alternate last year competing for Solon, finished second at Medina, losing the final 6-1 to Boggs. Last among the six ranked wrestlers here is the senior Norris, who was third at Medina and lost a pair of one point matches (to Boggs and Andy Dobben) in failing to place at the Top Gun.

Last among the top five members is Egnor, a returning state qualifier, who was a match away from placing at the Ironman and placed fourth at Brecksville. He is second-best to Heil in the Cleveland State district. This field has two other ranked wrestlers in the juniors Nelson and Heiderman. Nelson has a dual meet win over Egnor, but lost to Scanlon in dual meet competition as well; he finished seventh at Brecksville, first at Clyde, and fourth at Oregon Clay. Heiderman is finally finding his groove as a junior, winning at Midpark in mid-January, and was a match away from placing at Medina (losses to Williams and 10-8 to Donatelli).

Finally, it is the Hilliard Darby district, which is shallowest among the four districts here, with just three ranked wrestlers. That group is led by state qualifier McDougle, who has titles at Olentangy, Olentangy Liberty, and Pickerington North, and followed that up with runner-up finishes at Brecksville and Marion County. Fellow state qualifier Wilson, who like McDougle went two-and-out at state last year, was

runner-up to McDougle at Pickerington North and fifth at Brecksville. The third ranked wrestler is Donatelli, who was a state alternate last year, and this season was seventh at Medina. Underclassmen, in junior Messerall and freshman Hinkle, are primary among contenders for the last state qualification spot.

138 pounds

1. Colin Heffernan, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
2. Noah Forrider, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Isaac Bast, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
4. Anthony Alexander, Columbus Northland, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Eli Garcia, Lorain, senior (Cleveland State)
6. Nick Montgomery, Madison, senior (Mentor)
7. Matthew Zollinger, Wadsworth, senior (Cleveland State)
8. Jordan Branham, Miamisburg, senior (Fairfield)
9. Drew McDougle, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Mason Calvert, Sidney, senior (Fairfield)
11. Tanner Miller, Lancaster, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
12. Mike DeCesare, Nordononia, junior (Cleveland State)
13. Sonny Lucas, Brecksville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
14. Nick Steed, Glen Oak, sophomore (Mentor)
15. Emilio DeBenedetto, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Kevin Leonhardt, Lakota West, junior (Fairfield)

Cleveland State – Heffernan, Garcia, Zollinger, DeCesare; Lucas
Fairfield – Branham, Calvert, Leonhardt, Taylor Bryant (Fairfield, senior); Evan Morgan (Elder, junior)
Hilliard Darby – Forrider, Alexander, McDougle, Miller; DeBenedetto
Mentor – Bast, Montgomery, Steed, Dejon Moss (Maple Hts, junior); David Masch (Uniontown Lake, sophomore)

With superstars in Heil below and Bright above, both ranked top 20 among all seniors as prospects nationally, this weight class is the proverbial collection pit for all those others after state titles. Based on past history and results to this point, one can reduce it down to a two-person race. Interestingly it is likely those two will see each other this coming Saturday in a dual meet.

Ranked number one, and exiting the deepest district, is the senior Heffernan who is finally in the varsity lineup AND at right weight class. This season, he placed fifth at Ironman with titles at the Dvorak and Medina, and already has two wins over third-ranked Bast. Therefore, it is essentially four wrestlers for three slots. That group is led by 2011 state qualifier Garcia, who this season has been at both 145 and 138; while in this weight he was champion at Fairfield and Oregon Clay. Returning state qualifier Zollinger was champion at Olentangy Liberty and North Canton, but failed to place at Brecksville. However, he avenged one of those two losses at Brecksville (to DeCesare) in a dual meet a week or so ago. The aforementioned DeCesare, along with Lucas seek that last spot. DeCesare was fourth at Solon, first at the North Coast Classic, and sixth at Brecksville with wins over McDougle and Zollinger (though losses to Kaminski and Forrider baffle the other way). Lucas, who placed at district last year as a freshman after beating DeCesare in the consolation quarterfinal, is off a Bill Dies title ten days ago that included a 4-2 victory over state alternate Steed in the semis.

Second in this weight, and many would argue the actual favorite is three-time state placer Forrider, who quite frankly has dominated his way through a solid schedule season to date. That includes titles at Brecksville and Top Gun, where every match was somewhere between controlling and non-competitive, and against good opposition (including an 11-5 Top Gun final victory over Bast). Though not impacted by the rest of the Hilliard Darby district, four other wrestlers are ranked here, including two with state tournament experience.

McDougle placed fourth last year in the weight below Forrider, and this season has won titles at Olentangy and Pickerington North to go with a runner-up finish at Olentangy Liberty. He sustained an injury in losing to DeCesare at Brecksville, and should be back before the season is over, though he missed the tournament at Marion County. Alexander is a returning state qualifier in this weight, is rather talented, but went 0-2 at state last year and faces a light schedule (he has also spent time at 145); however, this past weekend, he did upend Bast 14-11 in a shootout in the Delaware Hayes final. For the last spot, it looks like state alternate Miller and district placer DeBenedetto are the prime contenders; Miller was fourth at Medina, while DeBenedetto missed placement by one match.

145 pounds

1. Edgar Bright, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
2. Jake Ryan, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Wyatt Music, Ashland, senior (Cleveland State)
4. Ryan Roth, Perrysburg, senior (Cleveland State)
5. Lucas Marcelli, Massillon Jackson, senior (Mentor)
6. Tyrone McGuinea, Twinsburg, senior (Mentor)
7. Casey Sparkman, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
8. Bobby Smith, Hilliard Davidson, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. A.J. Kowal, Princeton, junior (Fairfield)
10. Adam Sams, Fairfield, senior (Fairfield)
11. Bo Ransom, Madison, junior (Mentor)
12. Dillon Ashton, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
13. Matt DeGross, Uniontown Lake, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Trey Grine, Fremont Ross, junior (Cleveland State)
15. Lucas Staten, Mt. Vernon, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
16. Damen Dominique, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
- 16A. Sean Black, Hilliard Darby, junior (Hilliard Darby)

Cleveland State – Bright, Music, Roth, Grine; Dominique, Bryce Williams (Amherst, junior)

Fairfield – Kowal, Sams, Brad Huber (Sycamore, senior), Andy Cress (Lakota West, sophomore); Logan Calvert (Sidney, junior)

Hilliard Darby – Ryan, Smith, Staten, Black; Caleb Llaneza (Westerville South, junior)

Mentor – Marcelli, McGuinea, Sparkman, Ransom; Ashton, DeGross

Heil has three titles, Bright has no titles. However, some would argue that Bright has more talent than Heil; personally, I'll say they're on a similar plane. In Bright's case, it's been three close calls at the state tournament. As a freshman, he took sixth, however, he was literally inches away from the final, losing a semifinal match in overtime to Newhouse in which he had a match winning takedown waved off for being out of bounds. During his sophomore year, he lost an overtime bout in the state final against George DiCamillo (now top 20 in the country at Virginia as a true freshman). Last year, he lost a tiebreaker decision against Joey Ward (now top 20 at North Carolina as a true freshman) in the state

final, despite having beaten Ward earlier in the season. This season, Bright has titles at the Ironman and Medina; but was runner-up at the Dvorak to Bryce Brill, losing a 2-0 decision to the nation's No. 2 wrestler in the weight class.

Playing potential spoiler to Bright this year is Ryan. That last name might sound familiar to wrestling fans, especially Ohio State Buckeye fans. Yes, Jake Ryan is the son of Ohio State head coach Tom Ryan. This season, Jake has a pair of what one could say are quality losses, which set the tone for a Bright upset. In the Brecksville final, he scored the first two takedowns against two-time state champion Jacob Danishek, before Danishek answered back with counter-attack takedowns late in the second and third period to win the match 6-4. Then, the next weekend, Ryan bumped up a weight class against two-time state champion Collica, and lost a 4-3 tiebreaker decision at the Mentor Duals.

The other two top four wrestlers – returning state placers Music and Roth – exit the Cleveland State district with Bright. Music was a two-time state placer in Division III at Ashland Crestview, including a third place finish last year, before transferring to Ashland. This season, he's been at 152 for the bulk of the time, winning titles at Ashland and Kenston with a runner-up finish at Marion County and a third place finish at North Canton. Roth got to the state tournament last year keyed by an early win over Garcia, and then placed eighth keyed by a first round win over 2011 state placer Sams. This season, Roth was a match away from placing at the Ironman, with some positive results in that tournament; and has followed that up with a fourth at Medina and a title at Oregon Clay. At present, state alternate Grine is the clear pick for the fourth qualification spot, and has titles at Tiffin Columbian and Oregon Clay to his credit this year. However, fellow state alternate Dominique (last year at 152) could also be here – assuming he's healthy for the post-season.

Beyond the first four, the bulk of the rest of the key players come from the Mentor district, with six wrestlers ranked between 5th and 13th. Returning state placer Marcelli leads that group, and was champion at North Canton and runner-up at Medina during his time at 152. However, his first week down at 145 was a struggle in placing eighth at Top Gun. I sense, he'll find the rhythm and make a strong run during the post-season. Three others at this district bring state experience: McGuinea, Ransom, and Ashton. McGuinea, like Marcelli, was at 152 for the first half of the year, including a second place finish at Solon and title at Lorain; he dropped to this weight at the Bill Dies, and won the title. Ransom won a match at state last year as a sophomore, and this year has titles at North Coast and Perry to go with a fourth at Brecksville. Ashton, state qualifier in 2011, missed his junior season due to injury, and this year placed fifth at Brecksville and had a pair of one point losses in failing to place at Top Gun.

Also significantly in the hunt for state qualification from Mentor – and subsequent state placement – are the junior Sparkman and sophomore DeGross. Sparkman has risen from obscurity to a great season, one match away from placing at the Beast (including wins over a 2x Virginia state champ and a PA state placer) and Medina (losses were 9-3 to Bright and 3-0 to Roth), followed up by a third place finish at Top Gun (wins over Ashton, DeGross, and Marcelli). DeGross was a district placer last year as a freshman, and this season placed second at North Canton, keyed by a win over state placer Kyle Harris, but failed to place at Top Gun though the losses were to state placement caliber kids.

The Fairfield district is extremely shallow at this weight class, with only Kowal and Sams bringing state experience among the present field. The senior Sams placed at state two years ago, but went two-and-out in his other two appearances. This year, he has runner-up finishes at SWOWCA, Kenston, and Fairfield. Kowal has been at 152 until ten days ago, when he won the Holt Invitational in Michigan; at

152, he placed fifth at SWOWCA and the GMVWA in tough fields. The unranked Huber, who was third at SWOWCA and fourth at Fairfield, looks good for one of the other two remaining slots.

Back to the Hilliard Darby district headed by Ryan: three others are ranked in this weight class, two of them having state tournament experience. The junior Smith qualified for state as a freshman and sophomore while competing for Division III Bishop Ready, placing at state in 2011 but an unexpected DNP last year at the Schott. This season, he was champion at Pickerington North, with an 8-3 win over Black, and finished third at Brecksville. The sophomore Staten made state last year as a frosh at 152, and was that weight for the first half of the year, placing at both SWOWCA and Brecksville; while in this weight, he was third at Oregon Clay, losing to Grine in the semi. The junior Black is positioned for the other qualifying spot, and this year was second at Pickerington North and seventh at Medina.

152 pounds

1. Anthony Collica, Solon, senior (Mentor)
2. Markus Scheidel, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
3. Tony Dailey, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
4. Latrell Davis, Middletown, senior (Fairfield)
5. J.P. Newton, Perrysburg, junior (Cleveland State)
6. Wyatt Wilson, Moeller, senior (Fairfield)
7. Robert Kersey, Miamisburg, senior (Fairfield)
8. Aaron Yarger, Pickerington Central, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Dylan Lauffer, Fairfield, senior (Fairfield)
10. Andrew McNally, Uniontown Lake, freshman (Mentor)
11. Aaron Sweeney, Madison, senior (Mentor)
12. Austin Strnad, Brecksville, junior (Cleveland State)
13. Scott Deluse, Lancaster, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. David Celinski, Garfield Hts, junior (Mentor)
15. Nick Lancia, Watkins Memorial, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Melvin Johnson, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)

Cleveland State – Scheidel, Newton, Strnad, Austin Williams (Amherst, junior); Robbie Bosley (Wadsworth, junior)

Fairfield – Davis, Wilson, Kersey, Lauffer; Alex Bair (Centerville, junior)

Hilliard Darby – Yarger, Deluse, Lancia, Zane Chappalear (Grove City, senior); Anthony Trocchio (Dublin Scioto, senior)

Mentor – Collica, Dailey, McNally, Sweeney; Celinski, Johnson

Like his teammate Brandon Thompson, Collica is after a third state title. Like Thompson, Collica could also face a rematch of a past state final for his third title. Last year in the final, it was a 3-1 decision for Collica over Scheidel. In this season, Collica was the Outstanding Wrestler in winning the Solon Comet Classic, won the North Coast Classic, and was runner-up at Powerade losing in the ultimate tiebreaker to Beast and Ironman champion Russ Parsons (Blair Academy). He is the lead figure at the Mentor district, which is the deepest of the sites with five other ranked wrestlers, though none have state experience.

That group is led by the junior Dailey, who is among the state's most improved wrestlers this season. A go-to-match loser as a freshman, he went 2-2 at the district last year, while older brother Zach closed out his career with two state titles. This season, Tony placed sixth at Ironman, seventh at the Beast, third at Medina – losing only 5-4 to Scheidel in the semi, and then winning at Top Gun and Delaware Hayes

(where he beat Division III state champ Jordan Marshall 9-4). The last two slots should be between the remaining four wrestlers.

The freshman McNally was a junior high state champ last year, and this season placed fifth at North Canton and seventh at the Top Gun. The senior Sweeney was fourth at Brecksville, second at Perry, but failed to place at the Top Gun. The junior Celinski went 2-2 in this weight at the district last year, and was runner-up at the Bill Dies. Finally, the senior Johnson was second at Hudson, losing 6-3 to returning state placer Gabe Stark in the final.

Scheidel – seventh at Ironman, second at the Dvorak (losing a tight match to Brian Murphy from Illinois, who ranks No. 2 nationally), and champion at Medina – is brimming right now with confidence after his 9-7 win over Ironman runner-up Alex Marinelli ten days ago. He is the headline figure at a rather shallow Cleveland State district in this weight. The other two ranked wrestlers in this weight – Newton and Strnad – were both sixth at district last year. This season, Newton was 2-2 at the Ironman with both wins coming over Ohio state qualifiers, fifth at Medina, champion at Perrysburg, and third at Oregon Clay; while Strnad placed fifth at Brecksville after failing to make day two at either the Ironman or Beast.

Another four of the top nine ranked wrestlers all exit the Fairfield district, including the only two other than Collica and Scheidel with state tournament experience in this weight class. Davis went two-and-out last year at 138 pounds, but has performed well this year in runner-up finishes at SWOWCA and Fairfield, where he had a pair of 2-1 losses to excellent Kentucky competition (Kevin Cooper and Stephen Myers). Kersey also went two-and-out at 145 pounds, and has a pair of lower placements in major events this year – sixth at North Canton and seventh at the GMVWA. Fellow senior Wilson placed fourth at SWOWCA and second at the CIT, while another senior Lauffer was runner-up at Kenston in his lone appearance at 152 (has been at 160 for other events this year, but would be dumb not to drop for state series).

Finally, it is the shallowest of the four districts, the one at Hilliard Darby with only three ranked wrestlers, none higher than eighth. The junior Yarger placed sixth at district last year, but was third at Mt. Vernon (loss to Staten) and Olentangy Liberty (loss to Michael Snyder) before missing placement by one match at the GMVWA. Fellow junior Deluse was a match away from placement at Medina, while the senior Lancia placed third at Marion County, losing only 4-3 to Music in the semifinal round. This is the district to draw into first round at state.

160 pounds

1. Jacob Globke, Middletown, senior (Fairfield)
2. Joe Heyob, St. Xavier, junior (Fairfield)
3. Chase Boyd, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Dean Meyer, Moeller, junior (Fairfield)
5. Bruno Millin, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
6. Detuan Smith, Colerain, junior (Fairfield)
7. Markell Wooden, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. James Caniglia, Loveland, junior (Fairfield)
9. Michael Coleman, Hudson, junior (Mentor)
10. Robbie Rogers, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
11. Tyler Maloy, North Canton Hoover, junior (Mentor)
12. Jake Denman, Painesville Riverside, senior (Mentor)
13. Mike Wearsch, Amherst, junior (Cleveland State)

14. Nick Stencel, Oregon Clay, junior (Cleveland State)
15. Ethan Bond, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Tom Gabyak, Medina Highland, senior (Cleveland State)

Cleveland State – Rogers, Wearsch, Stencel, Gabyak; Jesse Palser (Mansfield, sophomore)

Fairfield – Globke, Heyob, Meyer, Smith; Caniglia

Hilliard Darby – Boyd, Wooden, Bond, A.J. Bondurant (Pickerington Central, senior); Jacob Hinz (Westerville North, sophomore)

Mentor – Millin, Coleman, Maloy, Denman; Deshon Johnson (Maple Hts, senior)

For Bright and Collica being anchor figures in the weight classes immediately preceding, it is surprising at how the collection nature in this weight isn't more robust. However, that dynamic could change with some late season movements. If either one of the two 170 pound contenders certified to drop down (most notably Richard Robertson from Maple Hts, which would mean the whole group of Mustang middleweights drops down a class), they become the favorites to win.

In the present construct, and even with movement, the Fairfield district dominates the proceedings with five of the top eight wrestlers. By virtue of that, we'll be seeing a projected state placer not competing at the Schott. That group is led by Globke, who placed eighth at state last year, and this year was runner-up at Fairfield and the GMVWA (to Stephen Myers and Bo Jordan respectively) and champion at SWOWCA and Fairfield (notable wins over Heyob and Smith). Fellow returning placer Heyob, who was sixth at state last year, has the big win over Robertson – a 7-0 decision at the Wheeling Park Duals (however, I still view the returning state runner-up from Maple Hts. the end-game favorite), and also was runner-up at SWOWCA and champion at Troy beating Brecksville champion Jimmy Sandlin.

Third on this list is two-time state qualifier Meyer, who placed at state as a freshman in 2011. This season, he was fourth at SWOWCA splitting matches with Caniglia and losing in overtime to Heyob, third at Powerade, and champion of the CIT. Smith is also a returning state qualifier, who was fifth at SWOWCA splitting matches with Lauffer and losing 3-2 to Meyer in consolation, fourth at Brecksville, runner-up at Fairfield, and champion at Mason. District placer Caniglia split matches with Meyer in placing third at SWOWCA, but was a match away from placing at Brecksville (including 7-0 loss to state placer Boyd).

The other returning state placer in this weight class is Boyd, who is ranked third and heads the Hilliard Darby district field. For the season, Boyd finished third at Brecksville and won the title at Top Gun. His district features only two other ranked wrestlers in state alternate Wooden and state qualifier Bond. Wooden was champion at Mt. Vernon and runner-up at Mason losing 5-4 to Smith, while Bond placed eighth at Medina.

With four ranked wrestlers between 5th and 12th is the Mentor district, led by senior Millin, who was 3-2 at the Ironman, took fourth at Medina, and is finally in the lineup and at the right weight after two years of that not being the case. The junior Coleman was champion at Riverside, second at Hudson, and fifth at Medina; fellow junior Maloy was champion at North Canton, one match away from placement at Medina, and seventh at the Top Gun; while the senior Denman was third at Solon and fourth at Top Gun. The lone wrestler, at present, with state experience is the senior Johnson, who placed fifth at Hudson; however, if Robertson drops here, he goes down to 145 or 152.

Finally it is a rather thin Cleveland State district, which does have four ranked wrestlers, but all are tenth or below. Leading the way is the senior Rogers, who was a match away from placement at Medina, but had wins over Denman and Division III placer D.J. Blair in that event. The junior Wearsch was champion at Avon Lake and Bellevue before taking fifth at Brecksville; fellow junior Stencel finished sixth at Brecksville and was runner-up at both Clyde and Oregon Clay; while the senior Gabyak placed third at North Canton and seventh at Medina, including two pins over state qualifier Bond.

170 pounds

1. Rocco Caywood, Perrysburg, junior (Cleveland State)
2. Richard Robertson, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)
3. Nick Corba, Beavercreek, senior (Fairfield)
4. Dakota Sizemore, Moeller, junior (Fairfield)
5. Quentin Hiles, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
6. Tyler Hughes, Brunswick, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Michael Weber, Loveland, junior (Fairfield)
8. Kyle Schmidt, Miamisburg, junior (Fairfield)
9. Matt Walker, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Logan Paul, Westlake, senior (Cleveland State)
11. Ason Sunkle, Pickerington Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Tim Knipl, Wadsworth, sophomore (Cleveland State)
13. Joe Howard, North Canton Hoover, senior (Mentor)
14. R.J. Funk, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Taylor Workman, Elyria, junior (Cleveland State)
16. Anthony McLaughlin, St. Ignatius, junior (Mentor)

Cleveland State – Caywood, Hiles, Hughes, Paul; Knipl, Workman

Fairfield – Corba, Sizemore, Weber, Schmidt; Alec Gilchrist (Centerville, senior)

Hilliard Darby – Walker, Sunkle, Funk, Alex Roberts (Marysville, senior); Nick Johnston (Reynoldsburg, senior)

Mentor – Robertson, Howard, McLaughlin, Tevin Harvey (Barberton, senior); Craig Sloan (Garfield Hts, junior)

This weight eerily feels like the Division I 160 pound weight class last year, which I abjectly butchered – the fifth ranked kid won, the first ranked kid took fourth, the third and fourth rated kids did not place, sixth was third, seventh was fifth, and tenth took sixth. At least I predicted the runner-up correctly! It has a dynamic where, depending on the weekend, at least four kids could win and I don't have a real good pulse on it. As of this reading, the evidence points in one direction, towards Caywood – a junior who went 1-2 in this weight class at state last year.

After dropping to 170 for Medina, Caywood placed third there and won titles at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay. Along the way, he has four wins against state placers (two against 2011 placer Corba at Medina, and results against Jake Cramer and Tony Reynolds at Perrysburg). He also beat 2011 qualifier Jimmy Speith at Oregon Clay, state alternate Tyler McClellan at Medina, and district placer Ryan Sill at Oregon Clay. The lone loss in that stretch is 1-0 to Michigan state champion Andrew Garcia. He heads a robust district weight class along with three seniors having state experience – Hiles, Hughes, and Paul.

Hiles placed sixth at state last year, placed sixth at the Ironman, second at the Beast, third at the Bill Dies, and was champion at Brecksville with two victories over state champions (Zach Mays and Chris

Moore). Hughes also went 1-2 at state in this weight class last year, and this season was champion at North Coast, runner-up at Hudson losing 7-2 to Robertson, and beat Hiles 6-4 in overtime during the semis at the Bill Dies before losing 6-5 to Division III favorite Travis Linton in the final. Paul went two-and-out at state last year, and was champion at Lorain; he is most susceptible to the depth present from Knipl and Workman.

Knipl, who won two district tournament matches last year as a freshman, dropped to 170 in January, and already has a dual meet victory over Division II state qualifier Nick Rumble in this weight class. While at 182, he placed first at Olentangy Liberty, second at North Canton, and fifth at Brecksville – and with a high quality body of work. The junior Workman was eighth at Brecksville and a match away from placing at the Bill Dies.

The Fairfield district has four wrestlers with state tournament experience, and those seem to be the ones likely to make the trip to the Schott. That group is led by Corba, who placed fourth at 152 as a sophomore, but failed to place last year losing 5-2 to eventual champion Roy Daniels in the quarterfinal and in the tiebreaker during that same session's consolation round. This season, he was champion at SWOWCA (beating Sizemore) and Mason, while placing fourth at Medina.

Next on the line is the junior Sizemore, a two-time state qualifier, who placed third last year at 152. This year, Sizemore was (in my opinion) imprudent in wrestling the Ironman the week after playing linebacker and special teams for the Moeller state title football team. That first week back, he was pinned by Hiles; then he took second at SWOWCA, was third at Powerade including a win over National Prep champion Patrick Coover, and won the CIT. This past weekend, he lost to Michigan state champ Garcia 5-1.

Rounding out the quartet are two more juniors, state placer Weber and state qualifier Schmidt. Weber placed seventh in this weight class last year, and this season was fourth at SWOWCA and third at Brecksville (loss to Hiles); while Schmidt went 1-2 at state last year, was champion at Edgewood, North Canton, and GMVWA.

Last among the key players is the senior Robertson, who as mentioned in the 160 discussion may end up there. In this weight class, he was champion at Hudson with a 7-2 win in the final over Hughes. He headlines a shallow weight at Mentor, only three total ranked wrestlers, and that's something common among the upper-weights at this site. The two other ranked wrestlers are Howard and McLaughlin: Howard placing sixth at North Canton, seventh at both Medina and Top Gun; while McLaughlin was champion at Solon, one match from placing at the Ironman and Brecksville, but failed to place at the CIT. Not ranked are a pair of wrestlers that won two matches at district last year – Harvey and Sloan – and they lead the group after the last qualification spot.

The Hilliard Darby also features only three ranked wrestlers in this weight class, all seniors whom qualified for state last year. Walker was champion at North Canton and fifth at Medina, with also a 10-8 dual meet loss to Division III runner-up Brendan Stanley and a 11-3 major decision in the final of the Wadsworth tournament this past weekend. Sunkle was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at GMVWA, losing only 5-4 to Schmidt. Funk was one match away from placement at Medina with losses to Walker and Howard. It's underwhelming and wide open for the last spot.

182 pounds

1. Domenic Abounader, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)

2. Gunner Lay, Loveland, junior (Fairfield)
3. Garrett Conner, Centerville, senior (Fairfield)
4. Quentin Rosser, Moeller, junior (Fairfield)
5. Thomas Danis, Mason, senior (Fairfield)
6. Alex Belaia, North Olmsted, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Eric Claren, Nordonia, junior (Cleveland State)
8. Andrew Shackelford, Thomas Worthington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Nate Hall, Olentangy, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
10. Ross Lonsway, Holland Springfield, junior (Cleveland State)
11. Andrew Sierawski, Delaware Hayes, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Hamza Kirresh, Avon, senior (Cleveland State)
13. Chris Mattress, Elder, senior (Fairfield)
14. Joe Cordova, Boardman, senior (Mentor)
15. Josh Zeck, Parma, senior (Mentor)
16. Matt Stencel, Oregon Clay, freshman (Cleveland State)

Cleveland State – Abounader, Belaia, Claren, Lonsway; Kirresh, Stencel

Fairfield – Lay, Conner, Rosser, Danis; Mattress

Hilliard Darby – Shackelford, Hall, Sierawski, Shane Coulter (Westerville North, senior); Ben Heilman (Olentangy Orange, senior)

Mentor – Cordova, Zeck, Hunter Thornton (Barberton, senior), Gage Finegan (Stow, senior); Danny Tiley (Hudson, junior)

Heil goes for his fourth title, Thompson and Collica go for their third as does Abounader. This is a superlative Class of 2013 group within the big-school division and statewide in Ohio this year. Abounader is ranked second in the nation, and after missing the Ironman, has dominated all competition this year in titles at the Dvorak and Medina. It would be an extreme shock if he did not win a third state title in what is one of the shallowest weights in all of Division I (I don't blame people for finding alternative paths either).

Abounader heads the Cleveland State district, which features five other ranked wrestlers seeking three qualification spots. That group is led by Belaia, who placed at the Super 32 this fall after going 2-2 at the district last year; and during this regular season, was runner-up at Solon with titles at Kenston and Perry to follow that. Claren, who was a district placer last year as a sophomore, has spent much of the year at 195, where was runner-up at Solon and the North Coast Classic, but dropped to 182 in January. Fellow junior Lonsway was a state alternate last year, and also made the drop in January and he finished third at Oregon Clay in this weight class. The senior Kirresh was champion at Avon Lake and runner-up at Perry losing 3-2 to Belaia; while the freshman Stencel has been hot and cold this year, failing to place at Brecksville with questionable losses, before finishing third at Clyde (only losing to Jacob Kasper) and winning at Oregon Clay.

If Abounader is to be challenged, it'll be from someone exiting the Fairfield district, where kids occupy spots two through five. Leading that group is Lay, who placed seventh at 189 as a freshman in 2011 before defaulting out of the district tournament last year. This season, he was champion at SWOWCA and Brecksville, and upset Super 32 and Ironman runner-up B.J. Toal in winning the Delaware Hayes title this past weekend. Next is returning state placer Conner, who was eighth at Ironman, third at Brecksville, and a finalist at Fairfield. State qualifier Rosser lost to Conner in overtime at the Ironman, lost 3-2 to Lay in taking second at SWOWCA, missed placement at Powerade by a match, and won a title

at the CIT. Last in this quartet is state alternate Danis, who was third at Olentangy Liberty and SWOWCA, fourth at Medina, and champion at Mason. Also ranked from the Fairfield district, but a relative afterthought is the senior Mattress, who was fifth at SWOWCA, seventh at Brecksville, and fourth at the CIT.

Three wrestlers – ranked 8th, 9th, and 11th – exit the Hilliard Darby district. That trio is led by state alternate Shackelford, who was runner-up at Marion Harding. Next is another state alternate in sophomore Hall, who was fifth at North Canton, seventh at Medina, and champion at the Top Gun. Finally, it's the junior Sierawski, who was champion at Mt. Vernon and third at Marion Harding.

Last and least is the Mentor district with only two ranked wrestlers, seniors Cordova and Zeck. Cordova was fourth at Kenston, with an 8-2 win over Zeck, and runner-up at the Top Gun; while Zeck, a district placer last year, was runner-up at Aurora, champion at Hudson, and failed to place at Kenston with losses to Belaia and Cordova. Looking at the weight above, I find it hard to believe that someone doesn't drop to increase their qualification hopes.

195 pounds

1. Joe Tayse, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. Adam Kluk, Medina Highland, senior (Cleveland State)
3. Matt Lybarber, Mt. Vernon, junior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Aaron Tschantz, Barberton, senior (Mentor)
5. Tegray Scales, Colerain, junior (Fairfield)
6. Kyle Conel, Lakeside, junior (Mentor)
7. Josh Murphy, Brecksville, junior (Cleveland State)
8. Eddie Silva, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
9. Gabe Dzuro, St. Edward, junior (Cleveland State)
10. Jarrod Hardrick, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Fairfield)
11. Justin Halaska, Parma, senior (Mentor)
12. Austin Pfarr, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Jerry Thornberry, Moeller, junior (Fairfield)
14. Connor Kamczyc, Elyria, junior (Cleveland State)
15. Joe Repasky, Cuyahoga Falls, senior (Mentor)
16. Eduardo Chavez, Fremont Ross, senior (Cleveland State)
- 16A. Charlie Dear, Massillon Jackson, senior (Mentor)

Cleveland State – Kluk, Murphy, Silva, Dzuro; Kamczyc, Chavez

Fairfield – Scales, Hardrick, Thornberry, Stephen Ludwig (Fairfield, senior); Tinashe Bere (Sycamore, junior)

Hilliard Darby – Lybarber, Pfarr, Lenn's Kamba (Olentangy Orange, junior), Jarred Rake (Upper Arlington, junior); Jordan Reed (Reynoldsburg, senior)

Mentor – Tayse, Tschantz, Conel, Halaska; Repasky, Dear

At 189 pounds or above, the senior Tayse made the state tournament his first three years of high school. His freshman year, he was district champion but then was a shock 0-2 in Columbus, placed fifth as a sophomore, and had the 6-4 upset state finals win over James Suvak despite an 0-5 record against Suvak in a two seasons pan. This season has been a little uneven – fifth at Ironman up at 220, back down to 195 finishing sixth at the Beast, runner-up at Medina (absolutely no shame in losing to fellow state

champ Josh Lehner), and a title at Top Gun. It just hasn't felt like a defending state champion type of season; however, things seem back in order for a repeat state title.

Tayse does exit a challenging district with five other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Tschantz, who was runner-up at both Brecksville and the Bill Dies. Conel was a district placer, losing 1-0 in the quarterfinal to Rosborough and losing a go-to-state match 11-9 in overtime against Tschantz. This season has been positive with titles at Ashland and Kenston, one in which he dominated state placer Halaska by 11-4 decision. The aforementioned Halaska placed eighth at state last year, and was also a champion at Hudson with a 5-2 win over state qualifier Repasky. Speaking of Repasky, he would benefit from dropping down to 182, and for the season was runner-up at Hudson and fourth at the Bill Dies. Finally here is district placer Dear, who was second at North Canton, seventh at Medina, but failed to place at the Top Gun.

Ranked second to Tayse is another senior that has placed twice at state in Kluk, who was champion at North Canton and the Bill Dies, third at Medina and fifth at the Ironman. He also had a perplexing 13-10 dual meet loss to Suglio, though that is more than superseded by his career resume and history. He leads a Cleveland State district that is nasty loaded with five other ranked wrestlers. The junior Murphy qualified for state last year, and this year was seventh at Ironman, a match away from placing at the Beast, and then third at Brecksville and the Bill Dies (both of those losses to Tschantz). The other four do not have state tournament experience, but are very good none the less.

Silva was a state alternate last year, and this year has split matches with Pfarr, was fourth at Brecksville, and runner-up at Clyde (6-2 loss to Josh Lehner) and Oregon Clay. Dzuro, a junior first-year starter at St. Edward, was runner-up at the Ironman and fourth at Medina. District placer Kamczyc was an all-state first-team linebacker this fall in football, and spent the first month of the wrestling season recovering from injury. In his major tournament since returning, he was losing a quarterfinal at the Bill Dies against Murphy when he defaulted out of the tournament. Last here is state alternate Chavez, who had a bad semifinal loss at the Tiffin Columbian tournament before defaulting there with an injury.

Two excellent wrestlers with state tournament experience are ranked out of the Hilliard Darby district, the pair of juniors Lybarger and Pfarr. Lybarger was champion at Mt. Vernon, Brecksville, Troy, and Oregon Clay – with the only loss coming in the Brecksville final to Scales. Pfarr was one match away from placing at Brecksville, losing matches to Tschantz and Scales, before a runner-up finish at Top Gun (3-2 loss to Tayse in the final).

Finally, it's a Fairfield district featuring a trio of ranked wrestlers. Scales placed fourth at state as a sophomore, and this year was champion at SWOWCA and Mason, runner-up at Fairfield, and sixth at Brecksville. District placer Hardrick has been excellent this year in winning the GMVWA and a runner-up finish at Troy, including two wins over returning Division II state fourth placer Sam Harris. Thornberry, state alternate last year after placing at state in 2011 as a freshman, finished fourth at SWOWCA, sixth at Powerade, and third at the CIT. Also here but not ranked are talented wrestlers in state alternate Ludwig and Sycamore's Bere.

220 pounds

1. Chalmer Frueauf, Cincinnati Moeller, junior (Fairfield)
2. Evan Rosborough, Painesville Riverside, senior (Mentor)
3. Vernon Rowe, Barberton, senior (Mentor)
4. Devin Revels, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)

5. Devin Nye, Springfield, junior (Fairfield)
6. Brett Mowery, Dublin Jerome, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Parker Knapp, St. Edward, sophomore (Cleveland State)
8. Alex Woichevich, Nordononia, junior (Cleveland State)
9. Nick Isaacs, Withrow, senior (Fairfield)
10. Conan Jennings, Centerville, junior (Fairfield)
11. Seth Brennock, Loveland, junior (Fairfield)
12. Nathan Martin, Vandalia Butler, senior (Fairfield)
13. Morgan Miller, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Max Lacey, Canal Winchester, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Austin Linden, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
16. C.J. Kinzer, Teays Valley, junior (Hilliard Darby)

Cleveland State – Knapp, Woichevich, Linden, Jared Gray (Oregon Clay, senior); Nick Grzegorzewski (Maumee, senior)

Fairfield – Frueauf, Nye, Isaacs, Jennings; Brennock, Martin

Hilliard Darby – Mowery, Miller, Lacey, Kinzer; Alex Meehan (Worthington Kilbourne, junior)

Mentor – Rosborogh, Rowe, Revels, Christian Hunter (Bedford, senior); Roy Ware (Cuyahoga Falls, junior)

Only a junior, already fourth at state twice, already led his state championship football team in tackles for loss. What more can one expect? How about a state wrestling title?! Quite frankly, I think that is in the cards for Mr. Frueauf on March 2nd. Admittedly, it will not be easy with some excellent competition standing in his way, but he is the favorite. Already, Frueauf has steamrolled his way through fields at SWOWCA and the CIT for titles, was third at the Powerade with four pins and an 8-6 decision over Ironman runner-up Alex Campbell (Canon-McMillan, Pa.). The only loss this season for Frueauf was to Kyle Snyder, who arguably the best wrestler in the country regardless of grade (or darn close to it).

Even though one wouldn't expect Frueauf to be challenged at the Fairfield district, the battle for three other spots will be extremely contested. Nye won a match at state last year as a sophomore, and this year was runner-up at the GMVWA. The senior Isaacs was a state alternate last year in this same weight, which was also loaded at the district level. The junior Jennings has wrestled well this season, third at Brecksville and Fairfield, champion at Mason, and a dual meet pin over stat equalifier Gray. Fellow junior Brennock placed fourth at SWOWCA, fifth at Brecksville, and pinned Division III title contender Travis Boyd to win the title at Reading. Martin, state qualifier in 2011, was third at North Canton and GMVWA, and fourth at Fairfield.

The true chunk of title challengers comes from the Mentor district, where wrestlers ranked second through fourth will exit. Ranked second is Rosborogh, who was fourth at state last year, and this season was fourth at Ironman with titles at Solon, Medina, and Top Gun. Third ranked is fellow state placer Rowe, who finished second at Brecksville and first at the Bill Dies. Ranked fourth is Revels, who made state two years ago but lost in overtime to Tschantz and 4-2 to Rosborogh at district in failing to make state last year; this season he was champion at Hudson. Two very solid wrestlers lead those after the fourth spot, but neither is ranked in the top sixteen.

The Hilliard Darby district features four ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Mowery, who was champion at Marion Harding. Miller qualified for state in 2011 winning his district as a sophomore, but missed all of last year due to injury; this year has been transitional for him, and he was fourth at Top

Gun, including splitting matches against Garrett Harding. Lacey was champion at Pickerington North and Marion County, while district placer Kinzer lost 11-5 to Lacey in the final at Pickerington North before falling a match short of placement at Brecksville (though he majored the eventual fourth place finisher).

Last is the Cleveland State district, which has just three ranked wrestlers. It is led by the junior Woicehovich, who made state last year and this year won the North Coast Classic, was second at Solon, and sixth at Brecksville. The sophomore Knapp was second at the Dvorak with two wins over Illinois state placers and third at Medina splitting matches with Harding. The senior Linden qualified for state last year, but it's been an uneven year for him against a tough schedule, one match away from placing at Ironman, failing to make the second day at the Beast, seventh at Brecksville, and fourth at the Dies. None the less, he should make state for a second straight year.

285 pounds

1. Travis Gusan, Hilliard Davidson, senior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Truman Gutapfel, Harrison, senior (Fairfield)
3. Ameer Daniels, Cincinnati Northwest, senior (Fairfield)
4. Stefano Millin, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
5. Jacob Burton, Lakota East, senior (Fairfield)
6. Chuck Morgan, Ashtabula Lakeside, senior (Mentor)
7. Andrew Alten, Loveland, junior (Fairfield)
8. Aaron Cosby, Springfield, senior (Fairfield)
9. Yoshi Akatsu, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Ralph Nichols, St. Edward, junior (Cleveland State)
11. Corey Siegfried, Glen Oak, senior (Mentor)
12. Marquise Moore, Toledo Whitmer, senior (Cleveland State)
13. Robbie Parker, Hamilton, senior (Fairfield)
14. Sam Bruns, Toledo St. Francis, senior (Cleveland State)
15. Cale Bonner, Perrysburg, sophomore (Cleveland State)
16. Nate Lewis, Kenston, senior (Mentor)

Cleveland State – Nichols, Moore, Bruns, Bonner; Jalil Dolton (Fremont Ross, senior)

Fairfield – Gutapfel, Daniels, Burton, Alten; Cosby, Parker

Hilliard Darby – Gusan, Akatsu, Chandler Evanichko (Grove City, junior), Darius Walker (Marysville, junior); Brandon Sheppard (Olentangy, senior)

Mentor – Millin, Morgan, Siegfried, Lewis; Dominic Giunta (Willoughby South, senior)

Last year Gusan came out of relative obscurity at Division II Walnut Ridge to make the state tournament with an undefeated 39-0 record, and a ridiculous amount of pins (don't have an exact number, but it had to be north of 80 percent). The extreme success continued with three pins at the Schott, before losing by fall in the final to defending state champion Riley Shaw. His success continued with a NHSCA Junior National title. Having transferred to Hilliard Davidson for his senior season, Gusan has been an excellent performer; though against a more robust schedule, he has faced some close matches along the way.

In result I have seen, he won the Brecksville final 5-4 over projected Division II champion Billy Miller, was champion at Pickerington North with a 3-1 victory in the finals over Akatsu, and champion at Delaware Hayes with a 3-1 overtime win over Millin along the way. It is still state title favorite form none the less. Akatsu is the lone other ranked wrestler at his Hilliard Darby district, and the senior – who was a state

alternate last year – also won a title at Olentangy and was third at Bishop Ready. The other two spots are pretty open for the taking.

Since it's an upper-weight, many prime contenders exist in the Fairfield district. The depth here in the back one-third to one-half of weight classes is sensational, and will make it a fun (though sadistic) district to follow. Five wrestlers here are ranked inside the top eight, so yet again a projected state placer will be staying home. Leading the way is the senior Gutapfel, who was a district placer last year in that loaded 220 weight class. This year, he was champion at SWOWCA and Fairfield.

Two wrestlers that placed eighth are among that Fairfield group – Daniels and Burton. Daniels was runner-up SWOWCA, losing 3-2 to Gutapfel; while Burton was third at SWOWCA (7-1 loss to Gutapfel), third at Brecksville (6-1 loss to Miller), and second at Fairfield (3-1 loss to Gutapfel). The junior Alten had the perplexing sectional four/district one combo last year, and this year lost 2-0 to Gutapfel early at SWOWCA but then had to injury default out; he did miss a few tournaments, but has recently returned. The other with state experience, who like Alten went 1-2 at state, is the senior Cosby, who was runner-up at GMVWA. Also ranked from this district is Parker, who was seventh at SWOWCA, fourth at Fairfield, third at Perrysburg, and second at Western Brown.

The Mentor district has four ranked wrestlers, two of whom are projected state placers and have state tournament experience. The junior Millin was seventh at the Ironman, sixth at the Beast, and third at Medina; while the senior Morgan was champion at Ashland and Kenston. Also ranked here are seniors Siegfried and Lewis. Siegfried was champion at Wadsworth, third at Solon and fourth at the Dies, and also lost 6-1 to Millin in dual meet competition; while Lewis was second at Solon, third at Marion County, and (at 220) won Kenston.

The Cleveland State district also features four ranked wrestlers, but no projected placers. Leading the way is the junior Nichols, who failed to place at the Ironman but had a pair of quality wins (8-6 over a third placer at Reno, and 2-1 over two-time Illinois state qualifier Fritz), and was champion at Medina (though his semifinal win over Coe was avenged in a dual meet). Next up is the senior Moore, champion at Perrysburg. State alternate Bruns has been uneven this year, champion at Tiffin Columbian and fifth at CIT with two losses to unranked wrestlers. The sophomore Bonner was eighth at Medina, second at Perrysburg, and third at Oregon Clay.

Team Projection

1. St. Edward/Cleveland State district
2. Massillon Perry/Mentor district
3. Moeller/Fairfield district
4. Brecksville/Cleveland State district
5. Marysville/Hilliard Darby district
6. Barberton/Mentor district
7. Solon/Mentor district
8. Loveland/Fairfield district
9. Elyria/Cleveland State district
10. Oregon Clay/Cleveland State district

Division Two – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Eli Stickley, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)
2. Alex Mackall, Walsh Jesuit, freshman (Alliance)
3. Michael May, Eaton, sophomore (Goshen)
4. Evan Cheek, Milan Edison, sophomore (Bowling Green)
5. John Martin, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Seth Beard, Napoleon, freshman (Bowling Green)
7. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, freshman (Heath)
8. Tyler Warner, Claymont, freshman (Heath)
9. Alex Merrell, Mansfield Madison, sophomore (Bowling Green)
10. Corey Simpson, Field, freshman (Alliance)
11. Hunter Lucas, Lima Shawnee, freshman (Bowling Green)
12. Josh Portillo, Toledo Central Catholic, freshman (Bowling Green)
13. Paul Petras, Padua, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Brandon Carter, Hillsboro, senior (Goshen)
15. Noah Jay, Whitehall, junior (Heath)
16. Josiah Hrusch, Minerva, junior (Heath)

Alliance – Mackall, Simpson, Dakota Oliver (Louisville, senior), Alec Schopfer (West Branch, sophomore)

Bowling Green – Cheek, Martin, Beard, Merrell; Lucas, Portillo, Petras

Goshen – Stickley, May, Carter, Levi Congelton (Vincent Warren, sophomore); Skyler St. Peter (Athens, junior)

Heath – Wilson, Warner, Jay, Hrusch; Alex Potts (East Liverpool)

This opening weight of Division II has kind of a caste system between the “newbies” and the “returnees”. Normally in this opening weight, the newbies are totally dominant; however, as is the case in Division I, the opening weight does not have the least kids with state experience among the division’s fourteen classifications. Leading the way here is a returnee who placed fifth at state last season, placed at the Super 32 in October, and is undefeated for the season. The sophomore Stickley was champion at the Ironman, GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments, and rallied for a crucial 5-4 victory over L.J. Bentley in St. Paris Graham’s upset dual meet victory over St. Edward two weekends ago.

Ranked second in this weight is a freshman, Mackall from Walsh Jesuit, who was a junior high state champion last year. This season, he has a title at Solon to go with third place finishes at Powerade and Top Gun, along with a fourth place finish at the Ironman. He is the lead figure in an extremely shallow Alliance district at this weight class, which is the exception to the rule within the first half to two-thirds of the weight classes in this district. The lone other ranked wrestler is fellow freshman Simpson, who placed third at Wadsworth and fifth at Top Gun.

Two other wrestlers with state experience join Stickley at the Goshen district, but those three are the lone ranked wrestlers at this weight class in the district. The sophomore May placed sixth at state last year, and just returned the mats when he won his home tournament at Eaton this past weekend. Joining them is the senior Carter, who has won titles the last two weekends at Western Brown and Milford after third place finishes at Fairfield and Bellbrook earlier this season.

The bulk of the rankings in this weight class come from the Bowling Green district, which has absurd depth here with seven ranked wrestlers, including three of the ranked freshmen. Leading the way here is the sophomore Cheek, who was stuck up at 120 pounds last post-season, and he still won a sectional title before going 1-2 at the district. This past summer he earned Cadet freestyle All-American honors at 100 pounds, and during the season he was third at Brecksville and won titles at Milan Edison and Marion County. The senior Martin is a two-time state qualifier, but yet to place at state, and this season was fourth at Brecksville before winning the Top Gun where he collected a 5-4 victory over Mackall in the quarterfinal round. Finally among the projected placers is the freshman Beard, whose only loss this season comes off a 113 weigh-in when he wrestled up at 120 pounds; he has a quality 5-3 win over Cheek's teammate Jude Michel up at 113, and was champion at Perrysburg in the 106 weight class.

Four ranked wrestlers at Bowling Green seek that last qualifying spot. The sophomore Merrell was champion at Tiffin Columbian, third at the J.C. Gorman and Oregon Clay, and was fourth at North Canton; Lucas was a junior high state champion last year, and this season won at Allen County, was third at Marion Harding, and fourth at Oregon Clay; fellow freshman Portillo beat Cheek 1-0 in a December dual meet, but then finished eighth at Brecksville, though he followed it up with a CIT title; while Petras was seventh at Brecksville, and then saw his medal match win over Portillo flipped in a 5-4 CIT finals loss.

The Heath district has four ranked wrestlers, and befitting the lede, two are freshman and two are juniors. The freshman Wilson was runner-up at North Canton, champion at the OVAC, and beat Warner 6-5 in a dual this past weekend; while fellow freshman Warner has runner-up finishes at Medina and Top Gun to go with a Barnesville title. The lone returning state qualifier here is the junior Jay, who has a title at Bishop Ready to his credit; while state alternate Hrusch was sixth at the GMVWA and seventh at Top Gun.

113 pounds

1. Cameron Kelly, Bellbrook, sophomore (Goshen)
2. Eli Seipel, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)
3. Dustin Warner, Claymont, junior (Heath)
4. Ryan Bennett, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Jake Zemaitis, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
6. Trent Duffy, Miami Trace, junior (Goshen)
7. Brad Taton, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
8. Jude Michel, Milan Edison, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Matt Pool, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Korey Frost, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
11. Collin Dees, Perry, junior (Alliance)
12. Josh Henderson, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
13. Shawn Murphy, Washington C.H., sophomore (Goshen)
14. Cory Parsons, Vincent Warren, senior (Goshen)
15. Forrest Brewer, Franklin, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Zach Bussard, Valley View, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Bennett, Zemaitis, Taton, Frost; Dees

Bowling Green – Michel, Pool, Brewer, Bussard; Ben Tepper (Bay, senior)

Goshen – Kelly, Seipel, Duffy, Murphy; Parsons

Heath – Warner, Henderson, Raymond Raimo (River Valley, junior), Slade Tyson (Tri-Valley, junior); Mike Stewart (Sparta Highland, sophomore)

Depth is abundant in this weight class with thirteen wrestlers having state tournament experience, including eight that have appeared on the podium before at the Schott. Defending state champion Kelly became the first to win state from his school last year when he upset returning finalist Cody Burcher 7-2 in the 106 pound championship match. This season the sophomore failed to place at the Ironman, but has bounced back with titles at the GMVWA, Bellbrook, and Eaton. He is the lead figure in a deep Goshen district with four other ranked wrestlers.

Next in the rankings is fellow sophomore Seipel, who was fourth at this weight class, and placed sixth at the Ironman. However, he lost 5-0 to Kelly in the GMVWA final. Since then, he was champion at Valley View and New Lexington, and sandwiched those two titles with a match-sealing major decision in the upset over St. Edward. The junior Duffy was sixth in this same weight class last year, and this season lost a pair of one-point decisions in falling a match short of placement at the Top Gun, and was champion at Miami Trace with wins over the two other ranked wrestlers in this district.

The sophomore Murphy went 2-2 in this weight class at last year's district tournament, and this season placed eighth at the GMVWA, seventh at Top Gun, and third at Miami Trace with a 2-0 loss to Duffy in the semifinal. The senior Parsons qualified for state last year, but went two-and-out at 106 pounds, and placed second with an 8-3 loss to Duffy in this past weekend's Miami Trace tournament.

Ranked third in this weight is the junior Warner. He has been stuck at sub-optimal weight classes the last two years as Burcher has finished second at the opening weight class, while Class of 2012 wrestler Luke Langdon placed at the second weight. None the less, he managed to make state last year at 120. Now in an optimal weight class, he has been excellent this year with an upset win over projected DI state champ Aaron Assad in the opening weekend, followed by titles at Barnesville and Top Gun, and a third place finish at Medina. He heads a Heath district with only one other ranked wrestler, and that is returning state qualifier Henderson, who was champion at Lorain and runner-up at the OVAC tournament.

Ranked fourth in this weight is the sophomore Bennett, who was fourth at state last year in the 106 class as a freshman. He heads a deep district at Alliance with five ranked wrestlers, including two others that placed at 106 last year. Zemaitis placed seventh last year, and this year has titles at Solon and Hudson to go with a runner-up finish at Kenston; while Taton placed eighth, and this year was runner-up at Solon, fourth at the CIT, and one match away from placing at Brecksville. Also with state experience are two more juniors in Dees and Frost. Dees was runner-up at the North Coast Classic and one match away from placing at Brecksville up at 120, before dropping to 113 where he has a title at Perry and runner-up finish at Oregon Clay. Frost made state last year at 113, has yet to compete this year, though his return is expected before sectionals.

Last is the Bowling Green district, which features a pair of senior wrestlers who placed in 2011, but fell short of state placement last season. Michel has a dual meet victory over Pool, was runner-up at Milan Edison to projected Division III champion Jared Ganger, and was one match short of placement at Brecksville. Like Michel, Pool was also one match short of placement at Brecksville. Joining them as ranked wrestlers from this district is a pair that placed sixth at the Goshen district last year. The senior Brewer won at Franklin, was runner-up at Marion County and Western Brown, fifth at Olentangy Liberty, and a match short of placement at the GMVWA; while the sophomore Bussard has runner-up finishes at

three tournaments (including one to Brewer at Franklin, where he lost by tech fall), and third place finishes at two more.

120 pounds

1. Nathan Tomasello, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Anthony Tutolo, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
3. Brent Moore, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Goshen)
4. Kole Trigg, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
5. Joey Miller, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
6. Nathan Smith, Minerva, senior (Heath)
7. Lyle Plummer, Dayton CJ, junior (Goshen)
8. Connor Nemeč, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
9. Dalton Howard, Milan Edison, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Josh Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Tony Becker, Padua, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Garrett Carter, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Zach Morrow, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Major Moore, Willard, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Jared Patterson, Meadowbrook, senior (Heath)
16. Cole Tawney, Gallia Academy, sophomore (Goshen)

Alliance – Tomasello, Tutolo, Nemeč, Carter; Walker Chieffe (University School, junior)

Bowling Green – Howard, Mossing, Becker, Morrow; M. Moore

Goshen – B. Moore, Trigg, Plummer, Tawney; Aric Peters (Bethel-Tate, sophomore)

Heath – Miller, Smith, Patterson, Ben Crabtree (River Valley, senior); Kollin Clark (Claymont, junior)

Number one in America at this weight class, three times a state champion, and twice a Junior National freestyle champion ... one wonders why anyone would take their chances against Tomasello. If not for a late drop from returning runner-up Tutolo, who lost 8-5 to Tomasello in the final last year, there would be no returning state placer in this weight class. Validating that number one ranking, Tomasello won his third Ironman title, and also earned titles at the Beast of the East, Medina, and Top Gun tournaments.

Tutolo joins Tomasello in this weight class at the Alliance district. In December – while competing at 126 – Tutolo won titles at Solon and Brecksville, also finishing eighth at the Ironman. He dropped for the CIT, where he emerged as champion with a 6-2 finals victory over two-time state qualifier Plummer. This duo is joined by two other ranked wrestlers in this district. Nemeč qualified for state as a freshman in 2011 before falling short last year, but this year won Kenston up at 126, was third at Solon in this weight and champ at Hudson. The sophomore Carter was fifth at Solon and the CIT, and seventh at Brecksville. State alternate Chieffe is just outside the rankings, but could poach a qualification spot from Nemeč or Carter; in fact, he beat Nemeč in last year's state alternate medal match.

Coming into high school as a junior high state champ, it has been an interesting season for Moore from St. Paris Graham. Starting at the Ironman with a draw of two state champions from power states in three matches is certainly an unpleasant welcome to high school wrestling. However, things have stabilized, as he took second at the GMVWA with a pair of quality wins, was first at Valley View and New Lexington, and sandwiched that with a major decision up a weight over his St. Edward opponent. Moore is ranked third statewide, and leads a Goshen district that features three other ranked wrestlers.

The senior Trigg is a two-time state qualifier, who this season placed sixth in the GMVWA, including a loss by fall to Moore in the semifinal round; then he bumped up to 126 and fell a match short of placement at the Top Gun, before dropping back to this weight and taking second at Miami Trace. Fellow two-time state qualifier Plummer is a junior, who placed fourth at the GMVWA, but lost to Trigg 3-1 in the quarterfinal, and was runner-up at the CIT. Rounding out the ranked group is the sophomore Tawney, who has won three tournaments this year and was runner-up at Western Brown. Returning state alternate Peters beat Tawney at district last year, but right now is positioned just outside the rankings.

Two multi-time state qualifiers who finished on the podium in years prior to last year, but not last year, head the district at Heath. The senior Miller is seeking a fourth state tournament appearance, placed at state in 2010 and 2011, and finished fifth at the Top Gun this year. Fellow senior Smith placed in 2011, and this year finished fifth at the Top Gun (including a 6-5 win over Trigg) and sixth at the Top Gun (losing 1-0 to Miller). The lone other ranked wrestler at this district is the senior Patterson, who was champion at Barnesville and the OVAC in this weight class.

Though no projected placers are present at the Bowling Green district, five of the wrestlers in the back half of the rankings are here. That group is led by returning state qualifier Howard, who has dual meet wins over state qualifier Bryson Laytart, as well as Mossing. Up at 126, he was second at Milan Edison at Marion County; while in this weight class, he was one match away from placement at Brecksville, going 1-2 against wrestlers with state qualifiers. The sophomore Mossing placed fifth at Brecksville with three wins over state qualifiers. Next in the rankings is the junior Becker, who earned a win over Morrow at the Ironman, but failed to place at Brecksville, and did place third at the CIT with a 5-4 win over Brecksville placer Carter along the way. The senior Morrow was a state alternate in this weight class last year, placed eighth at Brecksville, and fourth at Perrysburg. Finally, the junior Moore was a district placer last year, and this year finished fourth at Medina before beating two-time Division III placer Mike Hozan to win the title at Willard.

126 pounds

1. Cody Burcher, Claymont, junior (Heath)
2. Michael Kostandaras, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Alliance)
3. Michael Rix, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Josh Decatur, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
5. Wade Hodges, Wauseon, sophomore (Bowling Green)
6. Payton Ott, Eaton, senior (Goshen)
7. Nate Hagan, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. D.J. Schoeppner, Canton South, senior (Alliance)
9. Anthony Craig, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
10. Brian Carter, Bethel-Tate, senior (Goshen)
11. Tyler Knul, Circleville, junior (Goshen)
12. Trace Plaughter, Lima Shawnee, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Elijah Cochran, Kenton Ridge, junior (Goshen)
14. Kyle Moffitt, Indian Creek, senior (Heath)
15. Joey Baitt, Jefferson, junior (Alliance)
16. Jamie Balboa, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Kostandaras, Rix, Decatur, Schoeppner; Baitt

Bowling Green – Hodges, Hagan, Plaughter, Balboa; Matt Middleton (Franklin, senior)

Goshen – Ott, Carter, Knul, Cochran; Bryson Laytart (Miami Trace, sophomore)
Heath – Burcher, Craig, Moffitt, Bret Yutzy (Jonathan Alder, junior); Christian Price (Granville, soph)

Well gang, we hit a “sandwich” weight class, and we have a deep sandwich filled with thirteen wrestlers having state experience (joint-most in Division II), nine of those having a podium appearance. Above this weight is two-time state champion Micah Jordan, and below this is three-time state champion Tomasello. It’s always tough to pick a champion in this type of weight class; however, two-time state runner-up Burcher sits as the slight favorite at the moment. During the course of this season, he was champion at Barnesville up a weight class, champion at the Top Gun, runner-up at Medina, and came up with a crucial pin against Craig in this past weekend’s dual meet against Steubenville.

The next three wrestlers in the rankings all exit the Alliance district. In fact, this district has four projected state placers, and all are have multiple podium trips to date. The junior Kostandaras spent the first month of the season up at 132 pounds, where he lost a pair of overtime matches in failing to place at the Ironman, won a title at Solon, and was fourth at the Powerade. However, seeking an elusive state title, he dropped to 126 for the Top Gun, where he placed eighth. It was an uncharacteristic poor performance for him, one that I think he recovers from and proves to be the lead challenger in this weight.

Three-time state placer Rix beat Burcher in 2011 to win a state title. During this season, he was third at Brecksville, champion at the CIT and Hephner, and has four wins against three of the projected placers in this weight. Fellow senior Decatur, already twice a state placer – including eighth last year at 132, also made the move down here for the Top Gun; where he finished second, losing 6-2 to Burcher in the final. Up at 132, he was fourth at the King of the Mountain and went 2-2 at the Ironman. Two-time state placer Schoeppner was champion at North Canton and the Bill Dies, before losing 3-0 to Rix in the Hephner final. Also ranked here is Bill Dies runner-up Baitt, who was champion at Riverside and Lorain; while state alternate Alex Cornicelli (Warren Howland, senior) falls outside the rankings.

Two other projected state placers, both sophomores that finished seventh in Columbus last year, head a group of four wrestlers at the Bowling Green district. Hodges failed to place at the Ironman, but did have a win there over projected 132 pound placer Nolan Whitely; finished fourth at Brecksville; and was second at Oregon Clay. Fellow projected placer Hagan was sixth at Brecksville, and lost to Rix 1-0 in the CIT final. The senior Plaughner was a state qualifier in 2011, and this year has a title at Allen County, was runner-up at Marion Harding, and fourth at Oregon Clay; while fellow senior Balboa placed eighth at Medina and fourth at Perrysburg.

Rounding out the projected placers is returning state qualifier Ott, who heads the Goshen district contingent, having finished third at the GMVWA, fourth at the Top Gun (including a 5-0 win over Kostandaras), and first at Eaton. Three other ranked wrestlers exit this district, including Knul, who placed eighth in this weight last year. However, he lost to Carter 7-6 in the Miami Trace final this past weekend. Earlier in the season up at 132, Carter was first at Edgewood, but failed to place at SWOWCA. The junior Cochran placed sixth at the GMVWA, but failed to place at the Top Gun. Returning state qualifier Laytart is not ranked at present, coming off a fourth place finish at Miami Trace.

The Heath district headed by Burcher has just two other ranked wrestlers in Craig and Moffitt. Craig, a two-time state qualifier placing sixth at the opening weight in 2011, finished third at North Canton and won the OVAC tournament; while the senior Moffitt placed third at the OVAC, his only loss being 3-2 to Craig.

132 pounds

1. Micah Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (Goshen)
2. Preston Bowshier, Kenton Ridge, junior (Goshen)
3. Aaran Gessic, Perry, junior (Alliance)
4. Nolan Whitely, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Alliance)
5. Andy Dobben, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Josh Hillier, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
7. Jimmy Kubitza, Field, junior (Alliance)
8. Walter Gibson, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
9. Anthony Parada, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
10. Drew Dillon, Claymont, senior (Heath)
11. Derik Kopp, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Jacob Whitcomb, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Chip Ratcliff, Bethel-Tate, senior (Goshen)
14. Kane Plaughner, Lima Shawnee, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Nick Wrobel, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Nathan Kirk, Buckeye Local, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Gessic, Whitely, Dobben, Hillier; Kubitza, Gibson, Wrobel

Bowling Green – Kopp, Whitcomb, Plaughner, Alec Bowlick (Oak Harbor, senior); Nick Pauff (Elida, senior)

Goshen – Jordan, Bowshier, Ratcliff, Dillon Hunick (Hillsboro, junior); Stewart Oehlers (Fairfield Union, senior)

Heath – Parada, Dillon, Kirk, Isaac Hammonds (Dover, senior); Ron Foster (Beaver Local, senior)

Bo Jordan is considered by many to be the best senior in the nation this year, and arguably the best wrestler pound-for-pound overall as well. His younger brother by one grade, Micah, is pretty good in his own right. Only a junior, he has already won two state titles, and is on track for two more. He dominates virtually all opposition, and has two statement wins this year over Dean Heil, using late takedowns to win both matches. Those two wins avenged four losses to Heil during his first two years of high school.

While there is little doubt to who will win the state title in this weight, probably the most interesting dynamic here will be the competition at the Alliance district, which has seven ranked wrestlers. This includes six that are projected to place. Leading this group is the lone state placer, the junior Gessic. However, he has not competed since mid-December when he lost to Rix in a dual meet, and before that was champion of the North Coast Classic; so, fair to say, his status is unknown. Next in line is the junior Whitely, who was down at 126 in December, where he placed third at Solon, seventh at the Powerade, and went 2-2 at the Ironman with a pair of narrow losses. In his time at this weight class, he has a win over returning Division I state qualifier Brandon Egnor, and placed fourth at the Top Gun.

The sophomore Dobben was a state alternate last year, and this year placed fifth at both Medina and the Top Gun. The senior Hillier qualified for state last year, and spent the first month of the season at 145 pounds (teammate Dylan Kager is at 138), where he finished runner-up at Solon and Hudson before placing sixth at Kenston. The junior Kubitza placed sixth at Brecksville (including a 6-2 win over Gibson), was first at Wadsworth this past weekend, but has a recent dual meet loss to Hillier. Fellow junior Gibson was a state qualifier in 2011, was third at Solon, eighth at Brecksville, champion at the Gorman, fourth at the CIT (including a loss to Wrobel), and just beat Division I state qualifier Zac Carson to win the Hephner. Last in the ranked group is Wrobel, a district placer in this weight last year as a freshman,

who this season failed to place at Solon and Brecksville, was third at Olentangy Liberty, and second at the CIT.

However, ranked second in this weight is fellow junior Bowshier, a two-time state placer who joins Jordan at the Goshen district. This season Bowshier was runner-up to Jordan at the GMVWA and runner-up at Top Gun. State alternate Ratcliff is the other ranked wrestler at this district tournament, having won titles at Miami Trace and Madeira at this weight class, while placing second at Edgewood and seventh at SWOWCA up one weight. State qualifiers Hunick and Oehlers, both of whom went two-and-out last year in Columbus, fall outside the rankings at the moment and seek that last state spot from this district.

Featuring three ranked wrestlers, including those in the ninth and tenth positions, is the Heath district. Leading the way is the senior Parada, who won a match last year at the state tournament, and this year was third at North Canton and the OVAC tournaments. State alternate Dillon finished one match short of placement at the Top Gun losing 4-1 to Bowshier and 5-2 to Dobben, and lost 13-9 to Parada in this past weekend's dual meet. Joining them as a ranked wrestler in this weight from the district is the senior Kirk, a state alternate last year who placed fifth at the North Coast Classic, fourth at the OVAC (splitting matches with Parada), and third at Wadsworth. State qualifier Hammonds and 2011 state qualifier Foster fall outside the rankings and seek the last state spot.

Finally, it is the Bowling Green district, which is rather shallow here with three ranked wrestlers positioned outside of placement. The lone kid with state experience is the senior Kopp, who made state in 2011 at the opening weight class, and this year was second at Clyde and third at Oregon Clay in this weight class; while at the weight above, he was champion at Tiffin Columbian. Fellow senior Whitcomb was runner-up in December at Lima Central Catholic, third at Perrysburg, and champion at Oregon Clay. Yet another senior Plaughner has titles at Marion Harding and Lima Senior to his credit this season.

138 pounds

1. Alex Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
2. Dylan Kager, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
3. Ryan Skonieczny, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
4. Kade Kowalski, Tri-Valley, sophomore (Heath)
5. Justin Smith, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
6. Kyle Kaminski, Padua, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Cordell Byrd, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
8. Braycen Shelton, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
9. Drew Avery, Claymont, senior (Heath)
10. Heath Lange, Indian Lake, junior (Goshen)
11. Ricky Simonelli, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
12. Ashden Gibson, Whitehall, senior (Heath)
13. Nathan Henkle, St. Paris Graham, junior (Goshen)
14. Kendrick Maple, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
15. Nathan Salmon, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Austin Yarnell, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Kager, Skonieczny, Smith, Shelton; Simonelli, Maple

Bowling Green – Mossing, Kaminski, Salmon, Yarnell; Dakota Flores (Clyde, senior)

Goshen – Byrd, Lange, Henkle, Cory Abdella (Athens, senior); Drew Stebelton (Sheridan, senior)

Heath – Kowalski, Avery, Gibson, Jake McKittrick (Steubenville, senior); Dylan Napier (Hamilton Township, junior)

Three wrestlers, all who placed last year at 132 pounds, have slightly separated from the field in this weight class. Leading the way is the junior Mossing, who placed third at state, is a past Fargo All-American, and was runner-up at the Preseason Nationals this fall. He was runner-up at Brecksville and champion at the CIT, and has a pair of close wins over Skonieczny (3-1 in overtime and 4-3) season to date. Nipping on his heels is the senior Kager, who placed sixth at state, including a loss by fall to Mossing in the consolation semifinals. This season Kager beat Skonieczny 5-1 to win at title at Solon, and followed it up with titles at Hudson and Kenston. Skonieczny, already a two-time state placer heading into his junior state series run, had had a positive season taking third at Solon, eighth at Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, and second at the CIT.

Kager and Skonieczny lead the delegation from the Alliance district, which is clearly the deepest with six ranked wrestlers in this weight class, including four projected to place. The senior Smith was a state alternate last year, and this season has third place finishes at North Canton and the Top Gun on his resume. Fellow senior Shelton was sixth at the Gun, and up a weight class placed second at Riverside and third at Kenston (which included a win over Hillier). Returning state placer Simonelli is also here, having placed seventh at Medina and eighth at Top Gun season to date; while the senior Maple is an excellent wrestler with runner-up finishes at Riverside and the Dies sandwiching a title at Lorain, but unfortunately exits the wrong district.

Projected champ Mossing exits the next deepest district at Bowling Green with three other ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Kaminski, who was champion of the CIT up at 145 pounds and third at Brecksville in this weight class. The senior Salmon, a state qualifier in 2011, placed third at Olentangy Liberty, sixth at Medina, and fourth at Marion County; while fellow senior Yarnell was a match away from placement at Brecksville before winning at Perrysburg and taking third at Oregon Clay.

Ranked fourth in this weight class is sophomore sensation Kowalski, who entered high school as a junior high state champ and finished as a NHSCA freshman national champion this past April. He won his maiden state tournament match last year before hitting Micah Jordan in the quarterfinal and cross-bracketing into Kostandaras to end up short of placement. This season, he went 2-2 at the Ironman, including an 8-5 win over Kaminski. He is joined by two other ranked wrestlers at the Heath district, state alternate Avery and state qualifier Gibson.

The senior Avery beat district placer McKittrick in the crucial penultimate match of the Claymont vs. Steubenville dual meet this past weekend, finished fifth at Medina, and was champion at Barnesville up at 145 pounds. Gibson, just a junior, has earned titles at Bishop Ready and Licking Heights this season.

Last is a Goshen district that features just three ranked wrestlers, two of whom do have state experience in Byrd and Lange. The senior Byrd was unsure about wrestling this season, coming to the fray late, but his body of work does include a third at Fairfield and a title at Eaton. The other ranked wrestler is the junior Henkle, who was a state alternate last year, and this year won a title at Valley View with third place finishes at the GMVWA and New Lexington also on the docket.

145 pounds

1. Max Rohskopf, West Holmes, senior (Heath)
2. Jeff Hojnacki, CVCA, junior (Alliance)

3. Gabe Stark, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
4. Sheldon Struble, Bryan, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Joseph Jones, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
6. Kyle Harris, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
7. Zach Ladich, Field, junior (Alliance)
8. Dominic Monaco, University School, senior (Alliance)
9. Nate Valentine, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Beau Minnick, Clyde, junior (Bowling Green)
11. Michael Belknap, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
12. John Gershom, Hebron Lakewood, senior (Heath)
13. Dalton Hartshorn, Minerva, sophomore (Heath)
14. Tyler Sowards, Kenton Ridge, sophomore (Goshen)
15. Tye Smith, Washington C.H., sophomore (Goshen)
16. Hunter Gresh, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Hojnacki, Stark, Harris, Ladich; Monaco, Belknap

Bowling Green – Struble, Valentine, Minnick, Gresh; Byron Logan (Sandusky Perkins, senior)

Goshen – Jones, Sowards, Smith, Dallas Lazear (Athens, junior); Clay Loadman (New Richmond, senior)

Heath – Rohskopf, Gershom, Hartshorn, Cade Herron (Claymont, junior); Charles Parkham (Marion Franklin, seniorr)

Deprived a state finals appearance last year by the bracket, as he was the second best wrestler in the weight but drew Nate Skonieczny in the semifinal, the N.C. State bound Rohskopf is in excellent position to make his third state placement a state championship. In the preseason he won a title at the Grappler Fall Classic, and during the season has titles at Smithville and Top Gun to go with a runner-up finish at Medina.

Despite this weight class featuring a joint-most for Division II 13 state qualifiers, the challenge group to Roshkopf seems kind of blah. Five of the other projected placers, and six overall ranked wrestlers, exit the Alliance district. With the shallow nature of the 152 pound weight class above, and the crop of six ranked wrestlers at 138 not being as high a quality, one might see some defections from this weight class. The junior Hojnacki, who placed eighth in this weight last year, leads the rankings for this contingent. This year, he went 2-2 at the Ironman, but earned a pair of quality wins in that event, and placed fifth at Medina.

The senior Stark is the highest returning placer in this weight class other than Roshkopf, finishing fifth at 138 last year. This year, he was first at Hudson up a weight class, was pinned by DeGroff in a dual meet, and finished second at Wadsworth keyed by a 4-1 victory over Ladich in pool competition. Fellow returning placer Harris was third at North Canton, and defaulted out of the Top Gun after an early unexpected loss due to injury. The junior Ladich did not compete in the first half of the season, but finished as runner-up at Top Gun in his debut competition, with a pin over DeGroff and 4-1 victory over returning state placer Marcelli before falling 8-2 to Roshkopf despite having the match's first takedown. Monaco, a state qualifier in 2011 before missing last year due to injury, was runner-up at Ashland in the 152 weight class, with a fifth at North Canton, title at Kenston, and third at Wadsworth in this weight. Finally, it's the senior Belknap, who qualified for state last year and this year has titles at Hudson and Chippewa before placing fourth at the Dies.

Last among the returning state placers is Struble, the anchor figure at Bowling Green coming off a seventh place finish in Columbus. This season, he was first at the Gorman up at 152, before losing 9-2 to Danishek in the championship final at Marion County in this weight class. Three other ranked wrestlers join him in this district, led by state alternate Valentine, who placed eighth at Brecksville and fourth at the Top Gun. Two-time state qualifier Minnick was champion at Clyde, while the senior Gresh was sixth at Medina. Not ranked at present but with state tournament experience are seniors Logan and Kyle Lang (Norwalk).

The other projected placer in this weight class is the senior Jones, who went 1-2 at state last year, and anchors the Goshen district grouping. This season Jones has titles at SWOWCA, Fairfield, and Eaton to go with a runner-up finish to Danishek at Franklin. Sophomores Sowards, who placed seventh at the Top Gun and GMVWA, and Smith join Jones as ranked wrestlers in this district. Last year a state alternate, this year Smith failed to place at the GMVWA and Top Gun, before earning a 1-0 victory over returning state qualifier Lazear in the Miami Trace final.

Rohskopf heads an extremely shallow district at Heath with just two other ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Gershom was second at the Dies and champion at New Lexington, while the sophomore Harsthorn placed third at the GMVWA and was one match away from placing at Top Gun. Present at this district, but not ranked top sixteen overall in this weight, is returning state qualifier Herron.

152 pounds

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Goshen)
2. Seth Williams, Tiffin Columbian, junior (Bowling Green)
3. Kordell Ford, Hillsboro, junior (Goshen)
4. David Brian Whisler, Warren Howland, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Michael Snyder, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Benjamin Schram, Bellbrook, sophomore (Goshen)
7. Sawyer Leppla, Cambridge, senior (Heath)
8. Tom McNulty, Padua, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Blake Miller, Clyde, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Brad Ward, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
11. Nick Weininger, Dover, senior (Heath)
12. Jared Chambers, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Matt Dobben, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
14. Dain Steffeny, Granville, junior (Heath)
15. Russell Miller, Miami Trace, sophomore (Goshen)
16. Jimmy Van Dyke, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
- 16A. Seth Brock, Tri-Valley, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Whisler, Ward, Dobben, Garrett Gerardi (Crestwood, senior); Tyler Shephard (Fairless, senior)
Bowling Green – Williams, Snyder/INJ, McNulty, Miller; Chambers, Alex Doughty (Norwalk, senior)
Goshen – Marinelli, Ford, Schram, Miller; Van Dyke
Heath – Leppla, Weininger, Steffeny, Brock; Alec Mills (Mifflin, senior)

Every couple of years it seems that some extremely superlative middle-to-upper-weight freshman wrestler comes to the forefront, and it is certainly one of those years when discussing Marinelli in this weight class. Twice a junior high state champion, Marinelli made his dent onto the high school scene finishing as runner-up at the Walsh Ironman, which was his initial high school competition. Since then,

he has titles at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments – only losing a narrow 9-7 decision to returning Division I runner-up Markus Scheidel in the mid-January dual meet. He is the obvious favorite to win this weight class.

His primary challenge will come from the junior Williams, who has already placed sixth and third at the state tournament. At the Ironman, he was one match away from placement, losing tight matches against the champion and fourth place finisher. Since then, Williams has titles at Tiffin Columbian, Clyde, and Oregon Clay. Four other ranked wrestlers join Williams at the Bowling Green district, though only three will actually be able to compete. Though ranked fifth due to an excellent senior season, Snyder is almost assured to miss the post-season due to an unfortunate injury that occurred in mid-January; while healthy he was second at Olentangy Liberty, fourth at Medina, and won a title at Marion County.

In position to capitalize on that for the other three qualification spots are ranked wrestlers McNulty, Miller, and Chambers. The senior McNulty has yet to make the state tournament but is now a two-time Brecksville runner-up, and added a CIT title in January to that resume. The junior Miller was a state alternate last year at 126, and qualified for state at 112 in 2011, but has transitioned well to the higher weight class – placing third at Brecksville, losing just 7-4 to Division III state champ Jordan Marshall, and then was runner-up at Clyde losing 4-1 to Williams. The senior Chambers also brings state tournament experience to the table, he made state last year at 160 pounds, and this year placed fifth at Medina and second at Perrysburg.

Joining Marinelli at the Goshen district are four ranked wrestlers, including returning state fourth placer Ford, who this season has titles at Franklin, Bellbrook, and Milford with a runner-up finish at Western Brown also on the resume. The sophomore Schram qualified for state last year as a freshman, won a match, and earned a NHSCA freshman nationals title in Virginia Beach. This season, he placed fourth at the GMVWA, second at Bellbrook, and first at Eaton. Fellow sophomore Miller placed sixth at Top Gun, and won the Miami Trace tournament with a 13-4 major decision over Van Dyke in the final. The just mentioned Van Dyke qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season also missed placement by a match at the GMVWA and went 2-2 at the Top Gun.

The third returning state placer and the remaining two others with state experience are three of the four ranked wrestlers from the Heath district. The senior Leppla, who placed fifth last year at 145 pounds, has a title at Marion Harding and a runner-up finish at the OVAC in this weight class to complement his third place finish at Riverside up at 160. Returning state qualifiers Weininger and Steffeny both won matches last year at the Schott. During this season Weininger was third at Clyde, losing a 4-3 match to Miller along the way, and was one match away from placement in the Top Gun at 160 losing both matches by a single point as well; while Steffeny was champion at Licking Heights. District placer Brock is fourth among the ranked wrestlers, and this season placed seventh at Brecksville, with a notable win over Division I state qualifier Lucas Staten.

Last among the districts is the one at Alliance, which has just three ranked wrestlers present, led by sophomore Whisler, who also won a NHSCA freshman nationals title last spring. This season, he won Hudson up at 160, and just this past weekend earned a title at Wadsworth in this weight class. The senior Ward placed third at the Top Gun in this weight class, including a 4-2 win over Dobben, and won at Solon in the opening weekend up at 160. Dobben, a senior who placed at state in 2011, has placed seventh at Medina and fifth at the Top Gun this season.

160 pounds

1. Bo Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Goshen)
2. Chris Wilson, Lemon Monroe, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Jerald Spohn, New Lexington, senior (Goshen)
4. Aaron Schuette, Wauseon, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Alec Schenk, Perry, junior (Alliance)
6. Logan Reaser, Ravenna, senior (Alliance)
7. Tony Didion, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
8. Casey Flores, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Jacob Wright, Franklin, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Alonzo Turner, Painesville Harvey, junior (Alliance)
11. Connor Johnston, Hillsboro, senior (Goshen)
12. Kevin Deal, Clear Fork, senior (Bowling Green)
13. L.J. Henderson, Indian Lake, junior (Goshen)
14. Ian Brown, Dayton Carroll, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Travis Grooms, Miami Trace, sophomore (Goshen)
16. Andrew Odell, Steubenville, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Schenk, Reaser, Turner, Ricky Kollman (Crestwood, sophomore); Michael Meadows, CVCA, junior)

Bowling Green – Wilson, Schuette, Didion, Flores; Wright, Deal, Brown

Goshen – Jordan, Spohn, Johnston, Henderson; Grooms

Heath – Odell, Will Navin (Granville, junior), Noah Young (Whitehall, senior), John Lutes (Minerva, senior)

Thirty years ago St. Paris Graham head coach Jeff Jordan won his fourth state title, and would then go on to twice finish fourth at the NCAA tournament while competing for Wisconsin. His oldest son Bo is prohibitively favored to join him as a four-time state champion during this year's state tournament, and will likely become the 25th such wrestler in Ohio history to earn four titles. Ranked number one nationally at this weight class, and overall in the Class of 2013, Bo Jordan won a third Ironman title with a 4-2 victory over Isaiah Martinez from California – the nation's number two wrestler in this weight. Subsequent to that, Jordan has titles at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments in absolutely dominant fashion.

In fact this past weekend, Jordan earned a 22-7 technical fall victory over the number three ranked wrestler in this weight class at New Lexington. That wrestler, returning state qualifier Spohn was champion at Medina and runner-up at Western Brown earlier this season. Jordan and Spohn are the key figures in a Goshen district that features three other wrestlers ranked 11th through 15th hunting after the remaining pair of qualification spots. The senior Johnston went two-and-out at state last year, and this year was champion at Bellbrook, fourth at Western Brown, and second at Milford. The junior Henderson was a district placer last year, while the sophomore Grooms was champion at Miami Trace this past weekend.

Ranked second in this weight is the lone returning state placer other than Bo Jordan present in this weight class – and I mean who can blame them for staying away from this weight class – in the senior Wilson, who placed seventh in this weight last year at state. For the season, he was second at Fairfield up at 170 before dropping here and finishing first at Middletown. Wilson heads a Bowling Green district that features six other ranked wrestlers. Leading that cast is Brecksville runner-up Schuette, who was a

district placer last year as a sophomore. During that Brecksville run, Schuette pinned Division I state placer Chase Boyd in the semifinal round; and since Brecksville, he was first at Perrysburg and fourth at Oregon Clay. Fellow junior Didion has been solid placing fifth at Olentangy Liberty, third at Medina, and second at Marion County. Flores, state alternate last year as a junior at 145, lost 9-6 to Didion at the SBC Duals in mid-January, was a match away from placing at Brecksville, and avenged that consolation loss in an 8-2 Clyde finals victory.

Fellow senior Wright qualified for state last year at 145 in the Goshen district, but went two-and-out, so we'll have a "test case" of sorts for the district composition question within Division II here (and in other places as well). This season, he was fifth at the GMVWA, and third at Marion County losing by fall to Didion in the semifinal round. Yet another senior is Deal, who was third at the Gorman and sixth at the Top Gun; while another senior Brown was state alternate in this weight at the Goshen district last year, took third at Franklin and won a title at Eaton.

The remaining state qualifier Turner, who went two-and-out after making state as a sophomore 145, exits the Alliance district. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers, both of whom were state alternates last year. Fellow junior Schenk lost to Turner in the go-to-state last match after multiple previous victories, and has also avenged that loss this season in a 4-3 victory at the Perry tournament final; while the senior Reaser has runner-up finishes at Kenston and the Top Gun to his credit season to date. Additional credential on Turner's resume is a fourth place finish at Riverside, while for Schenk one can add a runner-up finish at the North Coast Classic (3-1 finals loss to Powerade runner-up Zach Voytek from PA), a seventh at Brecksville, and a third place finish at Oregon Clay. The other spot is wide open in what is an extremely shallow weight at the district level.

Finally, the Heath district in this weight class takes the word shallow to a new level. Only one wrestler is ranked here, and that is the senior Odell, who is positioned in the sixteenth slot. Season to date, he placed sixth at North Canton and seventh at the OVAC. No wrestler in the present district composition won more than one district tournament match last year.

170 pounds

1. Luke Cramer, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Chris Moore, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Wyatt Running, Clinton Massie, senior (Goshen)
4. Brandon James, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
5. Mark Barrow, New Philadelphia, junior (Heath)
6. John Poullas, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
7. Tyler McClellan, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
8. Ian Ferguson, Columbus DeSales, senior (Heath)
9. Matt Dennis, Claymont, junior (Heath)
10. Holden Hengstler, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Mike Audi, Poland, junior (Alliance)
12. Ryan Sill, Perry, senior (Alliance)
13. Drew Kasper, Lexington, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Daniel Lattanzio, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
15. Owen Shoemaker, London, junior (Heath)
16. Nick Rumble, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)

Alliance – James, Poullas, McClellan, Audi; Sill, Rumble
Bowling Green – Cramer, Moore, Hengstler, Kasper; Randy Caris (Eastwood, senior)
Goshen – Running, Lane Thomas (St. Paris Graham, junior), Kevin Reid (New Richmond, senior), Adrien Henderson (Trotwood Madison, senior); Tyler Claybaker (Eaton, senior)
Heath – Barrow, Ferguson, Dennis, Lattanzio; Shoemaker

The top two wrestlers in this weight are both seniors and from rival schools in Northwest Ohio. Interestingly Cramer is up four weight classes from last year's fourth place finish at 138 pounds, while Moore was state champion in this same weight class. Already this season, Cramer has a 3-0 victory over Moore at the SBC Duals. The wrestlers will likely meet again this weekend in their league tournament, thankfully are in different sectionals, before exiting the same Bowling Green district tournament.

Season to date, Cramer placed eighth at the Ironman, second at Medina, and third at Perrysburg; while Moore was second at Brecksville and first at Clyde. One cautionary tale with Moore is that previous history means little to him in the state final, as he had multiple earlier losses to Brandon O'Neil last season before upending him 4-2 on that Saturday night at the Schott.

Two other wrestles join them in the rankings from this district. The senior Hengstler placed fifth at Brecksville, but failed to place at the Top Gun; while the sophomore Kasper competed down at 160 in December, where he placed sixth at Medina, before sensing the district climates and sliding up to this weight where he was first at the Gorman and second at Clyde.

One of the other returning state placers, the senior James who was eighth at 152 last year – and this season finished third at the Top Gun before earning Outstanding Wrestler honors at the Hephner, exits a deep Alliance district that features six ranked wrestlers in all. Next on the list is the senior Poullas, who has been impressive in winning a title at Perry and finishing fifth at the Dies. McClellan, state alternate last year as a sophomore, placed sixth at Medina and fifth at the Top Gun. Fellow junior Audi went 2-2 at the district level last year, and this season was third at Kenston and runner-up at the Top Gun, including a 7-6 upset over James in the semifinal. Also ranked here is district placer Sill, who was runner-up at Perry and Oregon Clay but failed to place at Brecksville; and returning state qualifier Rumble, runner-up at Solon, but failed to place at Top Gun.

The fourth returning state placer in this weight is the senior Running, sixth at state last year and played a key role on his Division IV state championship winning football team. He carries a big-move style that creates a lot of wins, and a few isolated losses, for him. Season to date, he won a title at Fairfield with a tech fall over returning state placer Wilson, was champion at Western Brown, and had a seemingly out of the blue loss by major decision in the final at Eaton last weekend. Running is also the lone ranked wrestler in the Goshen district field at this weight class.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Heath, which is led by Barrow, who won a match at state last year as a sophomore. He was champion at Willard in this weight class, and while up at 182 won a title at Smithville, with a runner-up finish coming at Hudson. Four other wrestlers present themselves behind Barrow in the rankings after the other three qualifying spots. The senior Ferguson was a district placer in this weight class last year, placed sixth at Brecksville up at 182, and was runner-up at CIT – including a win over Division III state placer Sunderhaus - after dropping to this weight. Top Gun champion Dennis is only a junior, and also on the season he beat returning Division III state placer Rayner to win a title at Barnesville, with also missing placement at Medina by one match and losing by fall in this past weekend's dual meet to Mark Cole (Steubenville, senior). OVAC champion Lattanzio is a senior, but also

placed fourth at Lorain earlier this season; while the junior Shoemaker was champion at Bishop Ready winning all his matches by fall.

182 pounds

1. Jacob Kasper, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Brad Smith, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Stephen Suglio, Revere, senior (Alliance)
4. Aaron Adkins, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
5. Jack Harris, Urbana, freshman (Goshen)
6. Dylan Hermes, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Brandon Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Goshen)
8. Austin Jones, Tri-Valley, senior (Heath)
9. Nate McCown, Licking Valley, senior (Heath)
10. R.J. Waugh, Sheridan, senior (Goshen)
11. Kyle Patterson, Eastwood, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Colt Crall, Claymont, junior (Heath)
13. Josh Teasley, Miami Trace, senior (Goshen)
14. Gabe Archer, Batavia, senior (Goshen)
15. Jason Huelskamp, Geneva, junior (Alliance)
16. Josh Couchman, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)

Alliance – Suglio, Adkins, Huelskamp, Kenny Jackson (Crestwood, junior)

Bowling Green – Kasper, Smith, Hermes, Patterson; Tyler Smith (Elida, junior)

Goshen – Harris, Rogers, Waugh, Teasley; Archer, Couchman

Heath – Jones, McCown, Crall, J.R. King (Hebron Lakewood, senior); Mitchell Wells (Richmond Edison, sophomore)

For consecutive weights a Clyde Flyer is positioned second in the rankings to a fellow northwest district senior based on a head-to-head result from this season, despite having placed higher than them at last year's state tournament. Yet again, the wrestlers do exit a different sectional tournament before converging at the Bowling Green district. Kasper, bound for Duke next year placed fourth at state in the 170 weight class last year, and season to date was third at Medina with titles at the Gorman and Clyde. Smith, an all-state tailback in football, placed third at state in this weight last year, and during this season has runner-up finishes at both Brecksville and Clyde (that loss coming 4-2 to Kasper).

Two other wrestlers join them in the rankings at the district tournament. The junior Hermes was a state alternate last year at this weight class, but this season placed second at Medina, fifth at Medina, and was champion at Marion County. Returning state placer Patterson, who was eighth in this weight as a junior, lost in overtime to Hermes earlier this season during the Marion County championship match.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings, third and fourth respectively, both won a match at state last year and exit the Alliance district. The senior Suglio has an upset victory to his credit over two-time Division I state placer Adam Kluk in a mid-season dual meet up one weight class, was a match away from placement at the Ironman, and won a title at the Dies. Adkins, a junior, was an excellent defensive player on the Division III state champions in football this fall; since his return to the mat placed fourth at Brecksville, while finishing second at the Gorman and CIT. This is an extremely shallow district behind those two, with just fellow junior Huelskamp – third at Kenston this year – appearing in the rankings.

Three returning state qualifiers exit a deep Goshen district, which features an additional three wrestlers also in the rankings. However, the leader of the pack in this district is a freshman. Harris, now undefeated with more than 30 wins – including titles at the GMVWA, Troy, and Eaton – comes as no surprise to those who follow the youth scene. He entered high school as a junior high state champion, and was always competing against the nation’s best in major events (i.e. Ohio TOC, Super 32 MS). His most notable win on the season was a 5-2 victory over Division III state runner-up Armani Robinson in the GMVWA final.

Next on the ladder is the senior Rogers, who went 2-2 at this weight while competing at the northwest district tournament last year (another one of our district composition “test cases”). During this season, he was third at North Canton and champion at Marion Harding. Fellow senior Waugh placed fifth at state last year up in the 195 pound weight class, while this season he placed third at the GMVWA and first at Miami Trace with a 7-3 win over state qualifier Teasley in the final. Just mentioned before, Teasley went two-and-out at state last year in this weight class exiting the Goshen district, and also placed fifth in the Top Gun this season. Fellow senior Archer also made state out of the Goshen district last year in this weight class, and also went two-and-out; he placed third just this past weekend at Eaton. Finally, in the ranked group it’s the sophomore Couchman, who was fourth at the GMVWA with narrow losses to Harris and Waugh before winning at New Lexington.

Finally it’s the Heath district, which has three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier McCown who carries a head-on win over Waugh from December. Jones, a 2011 state placer, missed the first month of the season recovering from a late season football injury; while the junior Crall was first at Barnesville, one match away from placement at Medina, and fourth at the Top Gun (including a 5-0 win over Teasley). Returning state alternate King falls just outside the rankings, but projected to qualify from this district, after losing 9-3 to Couchman in the New Lexington final just this past weekend.

195 pounds

1. Josh Lehner, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Jimmy Szep, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
3. Charlie Keenan, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
4. Sam Harris, Urbana, senior (Goshen)
5. Tyler Bridwell, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
6. Evan Nichols, Perry, senior (Alliance)
7. Harrison Hoppel, Minerva, junior (Heath)
8. Nick Havener, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
9. Alec Brown, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Cameron Shaw, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
11. Austin Miller, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
12. Jerek Cropper, Coventry, freshman (Alliance)
13. John Workman, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
14. Darren Scott, Sheridan, senior (Goshen)
15. Alexander Presley, Maysville, senior (Heath)
16. Michael Crockett, Franklin, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Szep, Nichols, Havener, Cropper; Matt Hettick (Field, senior)

Bowling Green – Lehner, Brown, Workman, Crockett; Nickoli Sackinger (Elida, senior)

Goshen – Harris, Bridwell, Shaw, Scott; Zack Weekly (Springfield Northwestern, senior)

Heath – Keenan, Hoppel, Miller, Presley; Blake Owens (Licking Valley, junior)

Four matches at the state tournament last year, all four ended with technical fall victories, as the future North Carolina Tar Heel gave Lexington their second state champion of that evening. Lehner was also the second state champion in program history, after Jake Faust got the Minutemen off the state championship schneid earlier that evening. This season, that dominance has continued with a title at Medina that included a 9-3 victory and pin over the top two ranked Division I wrestlers in this weight class. It also included victories at the Gorman and Clyde for this Junior National Greco-Roman All-American.

Lehner exits the Bowling Green district, which features three other ranked wrestlers – and in a rare symmetry, each of the four districts has four ranked wrestlers. Second to Lehner at the district is the senior Brown, who placed seventh at both Brecksville and the Top Gun. The junior Workman was a state alternate last year in this weight class, and this season was second at Olentangy Liberty, eighth at Medina, and fifth at Marion County. Fellow state alternate Crockett, who earned his in the Goshen district last year as a freshman, finished fourth at Olentangy Liberty and Marion County, was one match away from placement at the GMVWA, and third at Western Brown.

In another symmetry, each district is also represented by a top four wrestler, who also reflect the wrestlers that finished first through fourth in this state tournament bracket last year as juniors (though the order differs slightly). Ranked second here, but third at state last year after a semifinal loss to Lehner, is Szep who won at Solon and the CIT, was third at the Ironman, and fifth at Brecksville. Fellow senior Nichols, who won a match at state last year, is next from the Alliance district. This season, he took eighth at Brecksville, second at Perry, and third at Oregon Clay. Havener, yet another senior, was a state alternate last year, and in this season placed fifth at Medina and the Top Gun. Last among the ranked here is the freshman Cropper, a junior high state placer, who finished fourth at North Canton in this weight and lost a pair of overtime matches at the Dies while falling one match short of placement at 182 pounds.

Returning state runner-up Keenan is Kent State bound, ranked third in this weight, and heads the Heath district field. For the season, he was third at North Canton and an OVAC champion. The other wrestler with state experience in this district is the senior Miller, who was 1-2 at state last year. Joining them in the rankings are the junior Hoppel, who placed fourth at both the GMVWA and Top Gun, along with returning state alternate Presley.

Fourth at state last year, and fourth ranked in this weight, is Harris. He leads the Goshen district having placed third at the GMVWA and Troy tournaments, both losses coming to Hardrick from Huber Hts. Wayne, before winning a title at Eaton. That title came by major decision over fellow state qualifier Bridwell, a senior that went two-and-out in Columbus. However, the rest of this season has been positive for him; a pair of wins over 2011 Division I state placer Thornberry in taking third at SWOWCA, beating Division I state placer Scales to win the title at Fairfield, and an additional tournament title at Franklin.

Joining these two is a third state experience wrestler at the Goshen district in fellow senior Shaw, who placed seventh at state last year. This season has brought about a runner-up finish at the GMVWA, finishing one match short of placement at the Top Gun, and a perplexing 7-6 loss to Scott in the Miami Trace final. The just mentioned Scott is the other ranked wrestler here, also bringing a 3-2 record at the GMVWA to the table.

220 pounds

1. Zane Krall, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Greg Moray, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
3. Frank Hiemkreiter, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
4. Sean Rutherford, Norton, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Mickey Crum, Hamilton Township, junior (Heath)
6. Garrett Harding, Claymont, junior (Heath)
7. Bailey Faust, Lexington, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Dustin Baker, Sparta Highland, sophomore (Heath)
9. Chaz Price, Mansfield Madison, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Chris Overfield, Port Clinton, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Logan Sharp, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
12. Sam Oakes, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Goshen)
13. Austin Bentley, Carrollton, junior (Heath)
14. Lane Breyer, Kettering Alter, junior (Goshen)
15. Wes Yoder, Fairless, senior (Alliance)
16. Anthony Welty, St. Paris Graham, senior (Goshen)

Alliance – Rutherford, Sharp, Yoder, Billy Post (Conneaut, senior); Mason Hilling (Woodridge, junior)

Bowling Green – Krall, Faust, Price, Overfield, Beau Swank (Benjamin Logan, junior)

Goshen – Hiemkreiter, Oakes, Breyer, Welty; Nathan Dixon (New Richmond, senior)

Heath – Moray, Crum, Harding, Baker; Bentley

With just four wrestlers having made a state tournament appearance, this weight class is inherently shallow. However, three of the four state experienced wrestlers placed last year, while the other won a match. Leading the way here is returning state runner-up Krall, a senior who seeks to become the third state champion in Wauseon program history after losing 6-1 in last year's championship match. This season he placed sixth at the Ironman before winning titles at Brecksville, Perrysburg, and Oregon Clay.

His prime challenge will come from fellow senior Moray, who placed fourth at state after losing by 15-0 technical fall to the eventual state champion in the semifinal round. An impressive physical talent, he has been absolutely dominant in winning titles at North Canton and the OVAC tournament. Moray does exit the deepest district at Heath, which has four other ranked wrestlers, including another returning state qualifier in the junior Crum. Crum has been in-and-out of the lineup this year; however, when he did compete, it was in a dominant title at Licking Heights. Fellow junior Harding is next on the ranking ladder, and this season he was first at Barnesville, fourth at Medina, and third at the Top Gun. Baker placed sixth at the district tournament last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Heath and New Lexington, with a 3-2 loss to Division I state qualifier Mowery in the Marion Harding final. Last in the ranked group is the junior Bentley, who was fifth at North Canton and eighth at the Top Gun.

The other state experienced wrestler is Rutherford, who was seventh at 182 pounds last year as a freshman. This season, he was second at both Hudson and the Dies to top four wrestlers in the Division I rankings. He is the lead figure at an Alliance district that features just two other ranked wrestlers. The junior Sharp, whose older brother placed third at 285 pounds last year, had to drop a hefty sum of weight to fit into this weight class. In his first major competition here, he placed sixth at the Top Gun, including a semifinal victory over the district's other ranked wrestler. The senior Yoder placed first at Perry before the seventh place finish at the Top Gun.

Back to Krall, he exits a Bowling Green district including three other ranked wrestlers. That group is led by the sophomore Faust, who is bound to get better being tortured on a daily basis in practice by his teammate Lehner. This season, he was runner-up at Medina and champion at the Gorman and Clyde, so that torment has borne fruit in positive match results. State alternate Price placed second at the Gorman, losing by fall to Faust in the final, but failed to place at Oregon Clay. Rounding out the ranked group here is the senior Overfield, who was champion at Avon Lake and Tiffin Columbian.

Last among the districts is the one at Goshen, which is led by the senior Hiemkreiter, a district placer last year. He has been impressive this year in runner-up finishes at Franklin, SWOWCA, and Fairfield (the first and third of which had 3-2 losses in the finals to the much hyped Austin Myers); and he finally won a title at Eaton this past weekend. Fellow senior Oakes was runner-up at North Canton and sixth at Marion Harding; the junior Breyer was a state alternate last year; while the senior Welty was sixth at the GMVWA, second at Valley View and New Lexington, and registered the big injury default victory over Parker Knapp in the St. Edward dual.

285 pounds

1. Billy Miller, Perry, junior (Alliance)
2. Connor Sharp, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
3. Beau Harmon, Benjamin Logan, senior (Bowling Green)
4. J.R. Forsee, New Richmond, senior (Goshen)
5. Drek Brumley, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Mark Castillo, New Philadelphia, senior (Heath)
7. Alex Farrow, Whitehall, senior (Heath)
8. Travis Gosnell, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
9. Dustin Kuhlwein, Jonathan Alder, senior (Heath)
10. Chase Henderson, Franklin, junior (Bowling Green)
11. Gavin Peacock, Hamilton Ross, junior (Goshen)
12. Alonzo Jewell, Hamilton Township, junior (Heath)
13. Kostas Parrish, University School, junior (Alliance)
14. Cody Hawkins, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
15. Hayden Bottorff, Miami Trace, junior (Goshen)
16. Ravyn Workman, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Miller, Sharp, Brumley, Gosnell; Parrish, Hawkins

Bowling Green – Harmon, Henderson, Workman, Tevin Contreras (Van Wert, senior); Jervaughn Eppse (Sandusky Perkins, senior)

Goshen – Forsee, Peacock, Bottorff, Ryan Lewis (New Lexington, senior); Kevin Phelps (Wilmington, senior)

Heath – Castillo, Farrow, Kuhlwein, Jewell; Ryan Wood (Steubenville, senior)

26 placers, 7 state runners-up, yet zero champions. That is the lineage of the Perry Pirates wrestling program up in Lake County. Those placer and runner-up numbers are state highs. However, this weight class with the junior Miller may finally get that program its missing state champion. Last year a sophomore he placed fourth at state, and this year he has to have pins in over 90 percent of his matches. That body of work includes titles at the North Coast Classic, Perry, and Oregon Clay, while finishing second at Brecksville in a 5-4 loss to projected Division I state champ Travis Gusan.

The prime contender to derail that Perry Pirate state title also exits the Alliance district in the senior Sharp, yet another in the line of excellent Sharp family members that have occupied the heavyweight class for West Branch. This one placed third at state last year, beating Miller in the consolation final, but Miller did beat him in the district semifinal. Sharp won at Riverside, placed second at Kenston, and had an extremely baffling semifinal loss during his third place finish at Top Gun. It is an excellent district behind these two, with another four wrestlers populating the rankings.

That group is led by the sophomore Brumley, who won a match in Columbus at this weight class last year as a freshman. Season to date, he was a champion at Solon, one match away from placing at the Ironman, and semifinalist at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT and Hephner tournaments. The senior Gosnell finished third at North Canton and second at the Dies. Parrish, just a junior, placed third at Ashland and Kenston, along with fourth at North Canton and Wadsworth. Finally, it is fellow junior Hawkins who was fifth at Kenston (losing 7-3 to Parrish in consolation), fourth at the Top Gun, but winning the Hephner in an upset over Brumley.

The Bowling Green district features a trio of wrestlers with state experience, including eighth at state last year Harmon, who is ranked third this year after titles at GMVWA, Madeira, and Franklin. The 3-1 victory over Forsee at Madeira reversed the seventh place match result of last season. Meanwhile, the junior Henderson placed second at Franklin and Olentangy Liberty before taking third at GMVWA (8-2 loss to Harmon), Marion County, and Western Brown. The other wrestler with state experience is the senior Contreras, who falls outside the top sixteen after failing to place at the GMVWA, but is projected to qualify from this district. Third on the district ladder is the senior Workman, who was a district placer in Division III last year for Collins Western Reserve, and this season has a title at Clyde to his credit.

The aforementioned Forsee is one of two state qualifiers at the Goshen district. This season, he placed sixth at SWOWCA, second at Madeira, and has titles at Western Brown and Milford. The other returning qualifier is the junior Bottorff, who was eighth at Top Gun and first at Miami Trace. The other ranked wrestler – only three total are ranked – at the Goshen district is Peacock, who placed at district last year as a sophomore, and this year was third at Franklin and Fairfield, fourth at SWOWCA, and champion at Eaton.

Rounding out the districts is the group at Heath, where four wrestlers are ranked, three having state tournament experience. That group is led by the senior Castillo, who won a match last year at state, and this year was champion at Hudson. Fellow senior Farrow went two-and-out at 220 last year, but this year finished second at Bishop Ready losing 5-3 to projected Division III champ Garren and first at Licking Heights. Third in that group is fellow senior Kuhlwein, who was second at Nelsonville York and won the Marion County tournament with a 4-3 victory over Henderson. The fourth ranked wrestler is the junior Jewell, who was fifth at Brecksville and second at both Licking Heights and Wadsworth.

Team Projection

1. St. Paris Graham/Goshen District
2. CVCA/Alliance District
3. Claymont/Heath District
4. Akron SVSM/Alliance District
5. Clyde/Bowling Green District
6. Lexington/Bowling Green District
7. Perry/Alliance District; 8. Walsh Jesuit/Alliance District; 9. Crestwood/Alliance District
10. Hamilton Ross/Goshen District

Division Three – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Jacob Speiss, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
2. Alex Smith, Sandusky SMCC, sophomore (Bowling Green)
3. Sebastian Vidika, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Evan Ullinski, Woodmore, junior (Bowling Green)
5. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Hunter Bray, Dayton Christain, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Garrett Hall, Chippewa, freshman (Garfield Hts)
8. Devon Dunbar, Northwood, sophomore (Bowling Green)
9. Damon Keisler, Milbury Lake, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Shane Johnston, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Jake Adkins, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Philo)
12. Louis DeMarco, Hawken, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Justin Arce, Archbold, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Gabe Santa-Rita, Edgerton, sophomore (Bowling Green)
15. Joey Bowen, Manchester, freshman (Garfield Hts)
16. Nick Orr, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Speiss, Smith, Ullinski, Dunbar; Kesiler, Arce, Santa-Rita

Garfield Hts – Vidika, Hall, Johnston, DeMarco; Bowen, Orr

Kettering Fairmont – Clemens, Bray, Jay Uhlenake (Coldwater, freshman), Tregg Keysor (Columbus Grove, senior); Dominik Butler (Mariemont, sophomore)

Philo – Adkins, Collin Wilson (Barnesville), Theodore Zompoulidis (Martins Ferry, sophomore), T.J. Asbury (North Union, sophomore)

This weight class has a whopping three wrestlers with state tournament experience present, which is the least among the 42 weight classes across all three divisions. The other way to get ourselves an interesting weight class field would be to have a batch of young/emerging starts. Quite frankly, that's not the case here either, so we're going to be shallow in this weight class. Which will become an emerging theme within the Division III competition this year, though it's more competitive than last year, which doesn't say that much.

Leading the way here is the freshman Speiss, who has performed well after starting off with a 1-2 record at the Ironman. He bounced back to finish third at the GMVWA, only losing 7-5 to projected Division II champion Eli Stickley, was runner-up in the 113 weight at Perrysburg to Ironman placer Guillen, and won the 106 weight class at Oregon Clay. He leads a loaded district tournament at Bowling Green that features three of the top four wrestlers and seven ranked in all. Ranked second here is Smith, who was 2-2 last year as an undersized freshman in this weight class. Season to date, he was champion at Toledo St John's up a weight class, champion at the Gorman beating Vidika 11-4 in the final, runner-up at Marion County, and undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend.

Ullinski is the lone returning placer in this weight class, having placed fourth last year as a sophomore in his second state tournament appearance. He has two tournament titles up at 113, won Bellevue in this weight, and this past weekend was runner-up at Willard – losing 8-7 to Vidika. That leaves four wrestlers to battle for one state tournament spot at Bowling Green: Dunbar, Keister, Arce, and Santa-rita.

Vidika won a match at the Schott in this weight class last year as a sophomore, and this season has that title at Willard, another title at Marion Harding, and was runner-up at the Gorman. He is the lead figure at a Garfield Hts district that features five other ranked wrestlers to cover the remaining three qualification spots. The freshman Hall has been excellent this year, winning a title at Smithville to go with third place finishes at Chippewa, the Dies, and New Lexington. The other four ranked wrestlers reflect a diverse group in sophomores Johnston and DeMarco, a junior Orr, and the freshman Bowen.

The other returning state qualifier is the sophomore Adkins, who went two-and-out at state last year. This season, he was champion at Mt. Vernon and runner-up at New Lexington. He is the lone ranked wrestler at the Philo district, which is extremely shallow in this weight class.

Last among the districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which features two freshmen as its ranked wrestlers. Clemens has been excellent this season in winning titles at Arcadia, Lima CC over the holidays, Van Buren, and Lima CC this past weekend; while Bray was first at Franklin, including a pin of Division II state qualifier Carter, missed placement at Brecksville by a single match, and took third at Marion County.

113 pounds

1. Jarred Ganger, Troy Christian, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Christian Clary, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Zack Durbin, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Caleb Ohl, Newark Catholic, junior (Philo)
5. Derek Thomas, Westfall, senior (Philo)
6. Spencer White, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Tyler Sarreshteh, Liberty Benton, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Mason Gallagher, Greenview, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tyler Rogers, Margaretta, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Jarrod Bowman, Arcadia, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Jacob McCoy, Swanton, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Colton Ullman, Loudonville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Jett Heldebrand, Hillsdale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
14. Austin Singleton, Barnesville, junior (Philo)
15. Kyle Behringer, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Jake Macke, Deer Park, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Sarreshteh, Rogers, Bowman, McCoy; Behringer

Garfield Hts – Durbin, White, Ullman, Heldebrand; Jake Johnson (Tuslaw, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Ganger, Clary, Gallagher, Macke; Colin Ingram (Lima Bath, junior)

Philo – Ohl, Thomas, Singleton, Jordan Burkholder (Crooksville, junior); Carson Mills (Fredericktown, sophomore)

Per OHSAA state tournament bracketing procedure, if multiple district champions were top three finishers in last year's state tournament, they are seeded to assure separation in the bracket. This weight class features three such wrestlers; however two exit the Kettering Fairmont district. That means the match between Ganger and Clary at the district tournament, whenever it is, becomes crucial.

Presuming that Durbin wins the Garfield Hts district, and that's a pretty reasonable assumption to make, the Ganger/Clary loser will have to get past Durbin in order to get a rematch on Saturday night in the state final. Quite frankly, it is those three wrestlers whom are the authentic contenders for a state title in this weight class.

Two other ranked wrestlers join Ganger and Clary in the Kettering Fairmont district field, state alternate Gallagher and Macke. This season, Ganger placed seventh at the Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, first at Milan Edison and Delaware Hayes. Clary started his season up at 120 pounds, where he won a title at Franklin and was a match away from placement at Ironman; in this weight class, he was sixth at Brecksville and first at Marion County. Gallagher has a fourth place finish at the GMVWA and runner-up finish at Lima CC to his credit, while Macke was third at Milford this past weekend.

During the season, Durbin earned a championship at Marion Harding. His district at Garfield Hts. features three other ranked wrestlers in White, runner-up at Marion Harding (8-1 loss to Durbin) and champion at the Gorman; returning state qualifier Ullman, who has missed the bulk of the season due to injury; and the sophomore Heldebrand who placed third at the Gorman and fifth at Lima CC this past weekend.

The deepest of the districts is the one at Bowling Green featuring five ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Sarreshteh, who was a match away from placing at Medina before finishing fourth at Marion Harding, first at Van Buren, and third at Lima CC. Returning state qualifier Rogers is second among wrestlers in this field, followed by returning state alternates Bowman (runner-up at Van Buren) and McCoy (fourth at Lima CC), and lastly the sophomore Behringer (sixth at Lima CC).

Two wrestlers with state experience anchor the Philo district in this weight class, led by Lima CC champ Ohl, who also finished fifth at the CIT. Fellow state qualifier Thomas was champion at Trimble and Greenon before taking fourth at Miami Trace this past weekend. Returning state alternate Singleton, who took seventh in the OVAC is the third and last ranked wrestler in this district weight class. District placer Burkholder is projected for the fourth qualification spot, but falls outside the rankings.

120 pounds

1. Sammy Gross, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Garrett Hancock, Troy Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Dion Perez, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Kyle Keller, Delta, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Chandler Minnard, Bloom Carroll, sophomore (Philo)
6. Allen Seagraves, Miami East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Logan Lacure, Greenview, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Billy Shannon, Amanda Clearcreek, junior (Philo)
9. Mike Hozan, Black River, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Damian Short, Archbold, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Frankie Alvarado, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Adam Reed, Cardington Lincoln, senior (Philo)
13. T.J. Malkus, Berkshire, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Zac Tupps, Galion, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Tyler Baker, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. D.J. DeVito, Newark Catholic, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Keller, Short, Alvarado, Tupps; Mitchel Matheney (Riverdale, sophomore)
Garfield Hts – Gross, Perez, Hozan, Malkus; Bobby Bowen (Manchester, junior)
Kettering Fairmont – Hancock, Seagraves, Lacure, Baker; Colin Ingram (Middletown Madison, junior)
Philo – Minnard, Shannon, Reed, DeVito; T.J. Wrigley (Madison Plains, junior)

Some might be skeptical about the title won by Beachwood's Gross last year because of the nature of the field that was in front of him. However, if he is to win a title this year, there will be no questions asked. This weight class at present includes 15 wrestlers with state tournament experience, which is the most among the 42 weights to be contested in Columbus February 28th through March 2nd. Other than matches against a single opponent, the freshman Darmstadt from Elyria, he has more or less dominated his competition. That begs the question, is that an isolated matchup thing, or a looming red flag. This report chooses to view it as an isolated event, and sees Gross as the favorite to repeat.

Challenges will come from all fronts, including his own district, which features five other wrestlers with state tournament experience, which means a couple pretty good wrestlers will be going to the Schott with a ticket as opposed to a participant pass. That group is led by two-time state qualifier Perez, who competed most of the year at 126 pounds (Milan Edison title and fourth at Medina) before making the drop and going undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals. Two-time state placer Hozan finished fourth at Marion Harding and won the Gorman. Next in line is returning state qualifier Malkus, who was unable to compete at state due to injury, and this season placed sixth at Solon. Returning state qualifiers Bowen and Tim Mecklenburg (Lutheran West, sophomore) fall outside the rankings.

Hancock, who placed fifth at state as a freshman after losing 4-2 to Gross in the state semis, is ranked second in this weight,. His season to date includes titles at Milan Edison, Brecksville, and Western Brown along with a runner-up finish at Delaware Hayes in which he lost by 12-3 major decision to defending Division I champ David Bavery. He is the anchor figure at the Kettering Fairmont district featuring one other returning qualifier in the senior Seagraves, who was champion at Lima CC this past weekend. Also ranked in this district is the freshman Lacure, who was runner-up at Lima CC after taking third at the GMVWA, along with the senior Baker (Van Buren champion, fourth at Lima CC).

Another state fifth place-finisher, the junior Keller (champion at the GMVWA and Perrysburg, runner-up at Oregon Clay), leads the group from the Bowling Green district, which features two other returning state qualifiers. The second-best wrestler here is neither of those, but instead is the sophomore Short, who was champion at Marion County and third at Lima CC this past weekend. Returning state eighth place finisher Alvarado was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend, while state qualifier Tupps won at Ashland in the opening weekend, was second at the Gorman (overtime loss to Hozan), and sixth at Marion County.

The remaining state placer Minnard, seventh at state last year as a freshman, heads the Philo district that features three other wrestlers with state experience. Already this season, Minnard was champion at the Dies and third at Delaware Hayes. The junior Shannon won a match at state last year, and was champion at the Miami Trace tournament this past weekend with a 6-1 victory over two-time Division II state qualifier Trigg in the final. Reed also won a match at state last year, and this season finished fourth at the Gorman and Marion County tournaments; while fellow senior DeVito went two-and-out at state last year, and this season has placed fourth at the CIT.

126 pounds

1. Zack Nelson, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)

2. Andrew Hoskins, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Cole Ziegler, Ridgewood, junior (Philo)
4. Josh Weber, Loudonville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Dustin Marteney, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
6. Ryan Ford, Covington, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Chase Griffith, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Damon Outward, Martins Ferry, senior (Philo)
9. Nate Frye, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Trevor Anderson, West Liberty Salem, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Zach Alvarado, CHCA, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Jordan McKnight, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Taylor Deatruck, Paulding, junior (Bowling Green)
14. Stephen Morrow, Miami East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Alvi Ibarra, Madeira, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Wes Fritz, Norwalk St. Paul, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Bowling Green – Marteney, Griffith, Deatruck, Fritz; Zach Smith (Cory-Rawson, senior)

Garfield Hts – Nelson, Weber, Frye, Lewis Roginsky (Brooklyn, junior); Evan Francis (Kirtland, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Hoskins, Ford, Anderson, Alvarado; McKnight, Morrow, Ibarra

Philo – Ziegler, Outward, Joe Newman (Sandy Valley, junior), Mason Gruber (North Union, senior); Aaron Huffman (Westfall, senior)

It is a very interesting thing how these different weight classes profile. The weight below has six returning placers, while the weight above features five, but this weight has just two returning placers. Those are the senior Nelson and the sophomore Hoskins, ranked first and second here, after finishing fourth and fifth at state last year. They did wrestle in the consolation semifinal round last year, with Nelson earning a 6-2 victory.

Nelson won the Marion County tournament in this weight class after spending an earlier chunk of the season up at 132 pounds. He is the anchor figure in an extremely shallow Garfield Hts. district at this weight class. The other two ranked wrestlers being the sophomore Weber, who went two-and-out in this weight last year, and the junior Frye, who went two-and-out after making the state tournament via the Malkus injury. This season, Weber was fifth at the Gorman up a weight class before finishing fifth at the Top Gun in this weight; while Frye won the December Lima CC event in this weight, and took fifth at the Dies down in the 120 weight class.

On the other hand, Hoskins exits the deepest of the districts at Kettering Fairmont with six other ranked wrestlers, two of whom like Hoskins (who was runner-up at both the GMVWA and Lima CC tournaments) have state experience. However, it is a pair of freshmen that rank immediately behind Hoskins in this district field. Ford placed seventh at the GMVWA, first at Troy, and third at Lima CC (losing 5-3 to Hoskins); while Anderson did not finish top four at Troy, but upset Hoskins 7-5 in the Lima CC final this past weekend.

The junior Alvarado qualified for state as a freshman, but lost in the go-to-state round last year at district, and this season includes titles at Madeira (7-3 over Ibarra in the final) and Reading in his weight class to go with a fourth place finish at Lima CC. He was first at Deer Park and third at Barnesville down at 120 before making the move up to this weight. Fellow junior McKnight was second at Valley View and

fifth at Lima CC; while the senior Morrow was sixth at Lima CC; and returning state qualifier Ibarra, who was eighth at SWOWCA, second at Madeira, and a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC. Falling outside the rankings in this weight is returning state qualifier Logan Hartman Mechanicsburg, sophomore).

Ranked third in this weight class is returning state qualifier Ziegler, a junior who won a match at state last year, and has titles at Smithville and Heath to his credit this season. He is the anchor figure in an extremely shallow district at Philo that only has 2011 state qualifier Outward – an OVAC runner-up - joining him in the rankings. Returning state alternate Newman has spent time at both 120 and 126, but it would behoove him to end up here; though not ranked top sixteen, he is projected third in the district.

Finally, the district at Bowling Green features four ranked wrestlers, none of whom possess state tournament experience. The freshman Marteney is ranked fifth based on his third place finish at Oregon Clay, and additional tournament placements up at 132 (5th at GMVWA, 2nd at Perrysburg. The other projected placer from this district is the senior Griffith, who was undefeated at the Ohio D3 duals this weekend, after an earlier third place finish at Milan Edison and title at Bellevue. The junior Deatrick and sophomore Fritz round out the projected state qualifiers here.

132 pounds

1. Jared Van Vleet, Edgerton, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Jason Sandlin, Carlisle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Austin Laney, Hicksville, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Gennar Feucht, West Jefferson, senior (Philo)
5. Joe Ziegler, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Dylan Marthey, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Dakota Mays, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Philo)
8. Brad Wardell, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Keali Cummings, CHCA, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Matt Mangan, Versailles, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Max Reeder, Genoa, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Brayden Leist, Carey, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Zach Campbell, Pymantuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Austin Rush, Miami East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Mason Robson, Collins Western Reserve, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Alex Becker, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Van Vleet, Laney, Reeder, Leist; Robson

Garfield Hts – Marthey, Wardell, Campbell, Michael Hollingsworth (Clearview, senior); Justin Chew (Mogadore, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Sandlin, Ziegler, Cummings, Mangan; Rush, Becker

Philo – Feucht, Mays, Grant Rathburn (Bishop Hartley, junior), Zac Sowers (Union Local, junior); Jesse Blake (Garaway, junior)

Five wrestlers with a podium finish in their past, and ten with a state tournament appearance, make this an interesting weight that can end up with multiple possible champions. The top two in the rankings met in the final at Lima CC this past weekend, with Van Vleet earning the 5-2 decision victory over Sandlin. Van Vleet finished fifth at state in this weight last year, after placing fourth at 125 as a sophomore in 2011; while comes off a third place finish at 126 as a freshman last year.

Projected champion Van Vleet exits a deep district at Bowling Green with five ranked wrestlers, though there is a clear tier structure. On the plane with Van Vleet is returning state qualifier Laney, who won a match at state in this weight class last year, and earned a title at Perrysburg before finishing fourth at Lima CC this past weekend. The other tier includes three wrestlers after the last two qualification slots: Reeder was a go-to-match loser last season at the district tournament; Leist was a state alternate, who this season won titles at the Lima CC holiday and Van Buren tournaments, but failed to place at Lima CC this past weekend; while Robson was also a go-to-match loser last year, and this year was third at Milan Edison and champion at Bellevue.

Sandlin also exits an extremely deep Kettering Fairmont district that features five other ranked wrestlers, though only one of them is in the upper-half of the rankings. That being the sophomore Ziegler, who was runner-up at Western Brown and third at Lima CC this past weekend, with an additional dual meet victory over returning Division II state placer Tyler Knul. The junior Cummings was fifth at Lima CC after earning a title at Deer Park and runner-up finishes at Barnesville and Madeira. Fellow junior Mangen was a state alternate last year, and placed fourth at the GMVWA tournament; while another junior Rush was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this year won at Tipp City, was third at Troy, and sixth at Lima CC; and lastly it's another junior Becker, who has the upset victory over Sandlin earlier this month but failed to place at Brecksville, and was third at Marion County.

Two returning state placers, Feucht and Mays, exit a shallow Philo district in which they are the only ranked wrestlers. Feucht placed fourth at state last year in the 126 pound weight class, while Mays placed fifth at 106, and has a title at Marion County when he earned a 9-4 decision over Division I state qualifier McDougle to avenge two earlier losses. Returning state qualifier Rathburn is not among the top 16 in this weight class at present.

Finally, it's the Garfield Hts district that includes returning state placer Wardell and two others with state experience. Wardell, seventh at state last year in this weight class, placed fourth at Marion County. The two others with state experience – both seniors – are Campbell, who has been in and out of the lineup this season, and Marthey. Note that fellow senior Casey Johns (Cardinal) is a two-time state qualifier, and placed at state in 2011, but he has not been in the lineup during the second half of the season, so he is not ranked here. There is one open state spot for the taking for a non-ranked wrestler.

138 pounds

1. Austin Reese, Mechanicsburg, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Zane Nelson, Wayendale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Zach Niner, Liberty Center, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Logan Day, Archbold, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Brandon McCormick, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Evan Hansel, Newark Catholic, junior (Philo)
7. Cade Mickley, Danville, senior (Philo)
8. Corey Hawk, Dixie, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Jared Dilley, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Philo)
10. Alex Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Nick Chuha, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Tyler Showalter, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Kameron Rayner, Caldwell, junior (Philo)
14. Dalton Scott, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)

15. Sammy Santa-rita, Edgerton, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Jesse Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Bowling Green)
- 16A. Chance Marthey, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Niner, Day, Guerra, Santa-rita; Gross
Garfield Hts – Nelson, Chuha, Marthey, Derek Gregan (West Salem Northwestern, junior); Clayton Davidson (Kirtland, sophomore), Graham Montague (Independence, senior)
Kettering Fairmont – Reese, McCormick, Hawk, Showalter, Matt Subler (Versailles, senior)
Philo – Hansel, Mickley, Dilley, Rayner; Scott

Depth is also abound here with an estimated 12 wrestlers having state tournament experience, including a pair of returning state finalists, both of whom are two-time state placers. The junior Reese placed third at 103 in 2011 before finishing second at 120 last year; while the senior Nelson placed eighth at 140 in 2010 before finishing second in this weight, losing 10-6 to Luke Kern (now the starter at Kent State) in a back-and-forth full of action championship match.

Reese is ranked first in this weight, carrying a 5-0 December victory over Nelson to his credit. However, he has lost twice this year, once to McCormick in early January and 6-2 to Richards, third in Michigan's big-school division in the Western Brown final. Two-time state qualifier McCormick joins Reese at the Kettering Fairmont district, and this season he has won both Lima CC tournaments, but was fourth at the CIT with a pair of losses to Hansel. Two other wrestlers – Hawk and Showalter – are ranked, while returning state alternate falls outside the rankings among those at this district tournament. The junior Hawk was runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend to McCormick, while the sophomore Showalter was champion at Van Buren and fifth at Lima CC.

Nelson exits a rather shallow Garfield Hts district in this weight class, which seems to be a pattern as we journey through the middle-weights. Two-time state alternate Chuha, whose state appearance came in 2011 due to a scratch, has been out since mid-December due to injury, and his return is questionable. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Marthey, who was undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend. Returning state qualifier Gregan went two-and-out at 120 last year, and falls outside the rankings, though he is projected to make state for a second time here.

Two-time state placer Niner, fifth in 2011 and fourth last year, leads the way in a rather deep district at Bowling Green. It features five ranked wrestlers, though it's in two clear tiers. The first tier includes the senior Niner and junior Day, while a second tier includes seniors Guerra and Santa-rita along with the junior Gross. Niner was champion at Marion Harding and runner-up at Oregon Clay season to date, while Day is one of the state's most improved wrestlers. Coming off a sophomore season in which he won just a single district match, he has made major noise this season, including a title at Marion County in this weight and one at Lima CC this past weekend up at 145. Day also has a 2-1 dual meet victory over returning Division II state placer Struble.

Guerra, a state qualifier back in 2010, has an 8-4 dual meet victory over Gross this season and went undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend. The senior Santa-rita beat Guerra in the final at Toledo St. John's when both were up at 145 pounds, and in this weight class finished third at Lima CC this past weekend. The junior Gross is a two-time state qualifier, was runner-up at Lorain in late December, and won the Gorman in early January.

Lastly the Philo district is a deep one in this weight with five ranked wrestlers (four with state experience), and a fifth returning state qualifier that falls outside the top sixteen. Leading the way is the junior Hansel, who won the CIT but was a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC this past weekend. Next in line is returning state qualifier Mickley, who was runner-up at Heath but had a narrow loss to Nelson at the Cardington-Lincoln Duals in late December. The senior Dilley, who won a state tournament match last year, was third at Miami Trace this past weekend.

Rayner, only a junior, was runner-up at Barnesville and fifth at the OVAC; while rounding out the ranked group is a fellow junior Scott, who made state last year, and this season was second at Bishop Ready but missed out on placement at North Canton and the CIT. Yet another junior Fulton is also in this district, made the state tournament last year, but falls outside the top sixteen. It will be a battle to make state out of the Philo district.

145 pounds

1. Jacob Danishek, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Tyler Fahrer, Delta, junior (Bowling Green)
3. Ian Baker, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
4. Matt Buxton, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. J.J. Diven, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jamie Baldrige, Galion Northmor, junior (Philo)
7. Adam Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts)
9. Jake Tremoulis, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Patrick Stover, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)
11. Alex Angersola, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Drew Keenan, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Daniel Jennings, Covington, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Adam Tilley, Mechanicsburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Austin Martin, Delphos St. John's, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Zach Clark, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)

Bowling Green – Fahrer, Guerra, Keenan, Clark; Josh Summers (Collins Western Reserve, junior)
Garfield Hts – Diven, Stanley, Angersola, Kalil Evans (Chanel, senior)
Kettering Fairmont – Danishek, Buxton, Tremoulis, Jennings; Tilley, Martin
Philo – Baker, Baldrige, Stover, Devin Talbott (Hannibal River, senior); Andrew Mullen (Johnstown Northridge, senior)

Winning state titles as a freshman and sophomore normally creates a certain aura of stardom. Last year's somewhat uneven regular season, and a state tournament in which there were significant challenges along the way, put a layer of skepticism around Danishek. However, those doubts were quickly eliminated at the Walsh Ironman in early December, where he earned runner-up honors. Along the way, he tore apart one of the nation's top overall juniors in Dylan Milonas from Blair Academy before losing just 3-2 to Edgar Bright in the final. He has followed that up with titles Brecksville and Marion County, and leapt into the 20th position for the Class of 2014 nationally.

Though a strong favorite, three other placers – including a returning state runner-up – join Danishek in this weight class. This group of four anchors each of the district tournaments. In Danishek's case, he leads the Kettering Fairmont district that features one of the other two wrestlers with state experience,

and six ranked wrestlers in all. The senior Buxton, who went 1-2 at state up at 152 pounds, is second best in this district; season-to-date, he was champion at Edgewood and runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend. Fellow senior Tremoulis was a district placer in this weight last season, this season he's placed fourth at the CIT and third at Lima CC. The other projected qualification spots goes to the junior Jennings, who was third at Troy and fourth at Lima CC. Also ranked here are the senior Tilley and the junior Martin (runner-up at Marion Harding at the CIT), both of whom did not finish top six at Lima CC this past weekend.

Returning state runner-up Fahrer is also a junior, and placed seventh at 140 as a freshman. In this season, he placed eighth at the Ironman, won the GMVWA, and was second at Perrysburg (he also took 2nd at Oregon Clay in the 152 weight class). Fahrer leads three other ranked wrestlers in the district field at Bowling Green. Returning state alternate Guerra was undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend, and was runner-up at the Gorman up at 152 pounds. Fellow senior Keenan was 9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals his only loss coming to Guerra; while rounding out the ranked group is the junior Clark, who was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend.

The senior Baker placed fifth last year at state, and this season was seventh at Brecksville and first at the OVAC. He is the anchor figure in a shallow Philo district that features just two other ranked wrestlers: 2011 state qualifier Baldrige, a junior who was first at Marion Harding, second at the Gorman, and third at Marion County; along with fellow junior Stover, who was fifth at the CIT after in the go-to-state round at district last year.

Finally, it's the senior Diven, who placed seventh at state last year, and is the lone returning state qualifier at the Garfield Hts. district. Yet again, it's a shallow weight class with just two other ranked wrestlers: the freshman Stanley and senior state alternate Angersola.

152 pounds

1. Jordan Marshall, Troy Christian, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Alex Quinn, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
3. Zach Wilson, Bluffton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Jared Mattin, Delta, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Thomas Williams, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Philo)
6. Austin Siemon, Deer Park, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Kollin Moore, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. Seth Batdorf, Ashland Crestview, junior (Bowling Green)
9. Caleb Barnett, South Central, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Tyler Williamson, Madeira, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Sean Szitas, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Charles Kenner, Upper Sandusky, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Jake Sowers, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Fejes, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Jake Staggs, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts)
16. Cole Vencill, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
- 16A. Josh Lyttle, Dayton Northridge, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Mattin, Batdorf, Barnett, Kenner; Fejes, Cody Ramage (Western Reserve, senior)
Garfield Hts – Moore, Szitas, Staggs, Jeff Powell (Tuslaw, senior); Derek Foster (Clearview, junior)
Kettering Fairmont – Marshall, Wilson, Siemon, Williamson; Sowers, Vencill, Lyttle

Philo – Quinn, Williams, Zac Potts (Monroe Central, senior), Colin Visconti (Galion Northmor, senior); Caleb Horn (Amanda Clearcreek, junior)

Teams seeking the Division III state title tend to come from two different “profile trees”. One centers around having a core few “ace” wrestlers that all place extremely high at state; the other is the death by a thousand cuts approach, which involves five-to-eight wrestlers all doing their part and getting to the 90-to-100 point mark by volume. Waynedale’s run last year followed the latter model, though they did have a couple of aces. If Troy Christian is to win state this year, it will use the first of the models.

One of their core four wrestlers is defending state champion Marshall, a senior who is bound for Old Dominion. Season to date, he was 3-2 at the Ironman (losing 8-3 to projected Division II champion Marinelli, and 1-0 to PA state champion Garrett Hammond), was champion at Milan Edison and Brecksville, before finishing as runner-up at Delaware Hayes. However, a repeat state title will not be easy with a couple authentic challengers right on his heels.

The first of those is the senior Quinn, who placed third in this weight last year, only losing an 8-7 semifinal match to eventual state champion Jordan Cowell. He missed the Brecksville tournament due to injury, but upon his return was champion at the OVAC meet. Second among those is the senior Wilson, who has twice finished fourth in the state meet, is undefeated on the season while more or less dominating through his schedule, and has over 150 career wins.

Marshall and Wilson do exit the same district at Kettering Fairmont. If Marshall can beat Wilson at district, which he did last year, it would place Wilson and Quinn in the same half of the draw (presuming Quinn wins his district as well). After those two wrestlers, it is a group of five ranked wrestlers after the last two qualification spots. At present, the sophomore Siemon and senior Williamson are positioned with them. Siemon made state last year as a freshman, and this season was first at Deer Park and Madeira, second at Reading, and third at SWOWCA and Milford; while Williamson was sixth at SWOWCA, with runner-up finishes coming at Madeira and Lima CC.

That leaves state alternate Sowers (second at Troy, third at Lima CC), the senior Vencill (second at Edgewood up at 160 with a 6-5 win over Division I state qualifier Kersey along the way, and fourth at Lima CC), along with returning state placer Lyttle (fifth at Lima CC) outside of state qualification. Christian, a go-to-match loser last year as a sophomore, is not among the top 16 in this weight. The district tournament in this weight is just brutal at Kettering Fairmont.

Quinn exits a Philo district with just one other ranked wrestler, that being the senior Williams – fourth last year at 138 pounds. This year, he was champion at Mount Vernon and third at New Lexington. Though not ranked in the top sixteen, returning state placer Potts and returning state qualifier Visconti are also here, holding the third and fourth projected state qualification slots.

Last among the state placers is the senior Mattin, fifth last year at state, and he leads the group at the Bowling Green district. Next on the list is Batdorf, who made state in 2011 as a freshman, and this year has placed second at Marion Harding; however, there are recurring questions about his competition status. Returning state qualifier Barnett won a match at the Schott last year as a junior, while the other ranked wrestler is fellow senior Fejes, who went 10-0 at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend.

Lastly, it’s another shallow district weight at Garfield Hts, which is led by Moore – state alternate last year as a freshman at 138 pounds. This season, he was champion at Smithville and the Dies, while also

going 9-0 at the Ohio D3 Duals last weekend. The lone state experience wrestler is the senior Szitas, who was fourth at Perry, while the freshman Staggs is also ranked after placing at Marion County. The senior Powell, who was a go-to-state match loser as a freshman, holds the other projected state qualification spot.

160 pounds

1. Ryan Harris, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Jimmy Sandlin, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Max Erwin, Mechanicsburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Kurt Moore, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Sawyer Temple, Wayne Trace, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Chance Sonnenberg, Van Buren, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Kyler Deeter, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Dakota Stanley, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. D.J. Blair, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Ricky Ratcliff, West Jefferson, junior (Philo)
11. Max McAdoo, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Chase Kinemond, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
13. Nick Miller, Ontario, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Ray Day, Reading, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Aaron Urivez, Defiance Tinora, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Dalton Nolte, St. Clairsville, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Sonnenberg, Miller, Urivez, Cory Fry (Upper Sandusky, senior); Jordan Hendrix (Otsego, junior)

Garfield Hts – Harris, Moore, Stanley, Blair; Seth King (Hawken, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Sandlin, Erwin, Temple, Deeter; McAdoo, Day

Philo – Ratcliff, Kinemond, Nolte, Leon Herrmann (Steubenville Catholic Central, junior)

Nine wrestlers with past podium appearances at the state tournament are featured in this weight class, while an additional three bring about state qualification credentials. Leading the way here is two-time state placer Harris, a junior who is undefeated on the season with titles at Beachwood, Olentangy Liberty, Kenston, and the Dies. Outside a 6-5 final victory over Moore in the Dies final, all his matches have been reflected domination in the outcome. If Harris is to win a state title, he will have to exorcise one last demon, that being the need to avoid a baffling early loss at the state tournament.

In the Garfield Hts district, Harris is joined by three other returning state placers, all ranked inside the top nine overall in this weight class. The previously mentioned Moore placed fifth at state last year as a junior, and has a title at Smithville and a 9-0 run through the Ohio D3 Duals to augment the runner-up finish at the Dies. Stanley placed eighth at 145 last year as a sophomore, and this season won a title at Marion County; while the senior Blair placed sixth at 152 last year, and this season was first at Milan Edison before going 1-2 at Medina.

Four of the other primary challengers to Harris, all in the top seven of the rankings, exit the Kettering Fairmont district along with another pair of ranked wrestlers. That group is led by Sandlin, already a two-time state qualifier as a junior. Though yet to earn a state placement, he did win the Brecksville tournament this year, and augmented that with titles at Edgewood and Lima CC. The senior Erwin was fifth in the 152 weight class two years ago, but was precluded from competing in last year's state series,

as a car accident derailed his state title aspirations. This season, he was third at Western Brown, and lost 10-7 to Temple in the semifinals at Lima CC before defaulting back to sixth place. Temple finished seventh at state last year, and this season won titles at Arcadia and the Lima CC holiday, before finishing third at Van Buren and second at Van Buren (6-1 loss to Sandlin). The fourth placer here is the senior Deeter, who finished third at the GMVWA and Troy before taking fifth at Lima CC.

The other ranked wrestlers from the Kettering Fairmont district area McAdoo and Day. The senior McAdoo was runner-up at 170 pounds in two December tournaments before dropping to this weight class where he won the title at Van Buren (9-6 over Temple in the semis) and finished fourth at Lima CC. Day went two-and-out at state last year as a sophomore.

The two other past state placers exit the Philo district, Ratcliff and Kinemond. Ratcliff placed seventh at 145 last year as a sophomore, and this season lost in the consolation quarterfinals at North Canton. Kinemond placed as a freshman in 2010, but missed the last two seasons due to injury, and season to date was an OVAC champion after finishing one round short of placement at Brecksville. The other ranked wrestler here is the senior Nolte, who won titles at Barnesville and Nelsonville York before losing to Kinemond in overtime of the OVAC final.

The remaining wrestler with state experience is the senior Miller, who won a match last year at state in the 152 weight class, and he exits the Bowling Green district. This season, he placed fourth at the Gorman. However, it's the sophomore Sonnenberg is the highest ranked wrestler competing at this district, working off a resume that includes a runner-up finish at Van Buren and third place at Lima CC in this weight class. The other ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Urivez, who was second at the Lima CC holiday and first at Lima Senior.

170 pounds

1. Travis Linton, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Brenden Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Zach Mays, Nelsonville York, senior (Philo)
4. Tony Reynolds, Fostoria, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Grant Price, Mohawk, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Tate Ankney, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Kale Rayner, Caldwell, senior (Philo)
8. Zach Gibson, Bloom Carroll, junior (Philo)
9. Jimmy Speith, Liberty Center, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Will Buettner, Delphos St. John's, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Bobby Sunderhaus, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Wyatt Dye, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Zach Sullivan, National Trail, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ryan Patchin, Evergreen, sophomore (Bowling Green)
15. Nick Svarda, Carlisle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
16. J.J. Tipton, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Reynolds, Price, Ankney, Speith; Dye, Patchin

Garfield Hts – Linton, Stanley, Joey Meek (West Salem Northwestern, junior), Logan Studer (Norwayne, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Buettner, Sunderhaus, Sullivan, Svarda; Alex Vencill (Dixie, senior)

Philo – Mays, Rayner, Gibson, Tipton; Brad Tomolonis (Bridgeport, junior)

Even with a returning state finalist almost assuredly out of the picture due to injury, Garrettsville Garfield junior Aaron Yonker suffered a shoulder injury at Brecksville and has not returned since, this is a rather deep weight class. It features wrestlers that finished first, second, third, sixth, seventh, and eighth in the state tournament last year – plus five others with state qualifications on their resume.

Despite losing a tight 4-3 semifinal match to eventual state champion Mays, it's the junior Linton who is the favorite in this weight class at present. After placing third at state he went on to win a title at the NHSCA Sophomore Nationals and earn a silver medal at the AAU Scholastic Duals this summer in Orlando. During the course of this season, Linton placed seventh at the Ironman and second at Medina while competing in the 182 weight class. Since dropping to 170, he was champion at the Dies.

Joining Linton at the Garfield Hts. district is 152 pound state runner-up Stanley, who carries a first period pin over Mays in the Marion County final earlier this season. However, it is an extremely lean district behind these two.

Defending champion Mays was runner-up at Marion County, fourth at Brecksville, but also has titles at Olentangy Liberty, Nelsonville York, and New Lexington to his credit this season. He is the lead figure in a Philo district that features three other ranked wrestlers. Fellow senior Rayner placed eighth at state last year, and this year was runner-up at Barnesville and the OVAC tournament. The junior Gibson made state as a freshman in 2011, was just a state alternate this year, and he placed fourth at the Dies with losses coming to Linton and returning Division I state placer Quentin Hiles. Rounding out the ranked group in this district is the senior Tipton, who also was a state alternate last year, and was champion this past weekend at Miami Trace.

Another state placer Reynolds, sixth in this weight last year, exits the Bowling Green district, where he is joined by four other wrestlers having state tournament experience and another who was a state alternate. All six of these wrestlers are ranked, which means it'll be an entertaining (though somewhat sadistic) district weight class. During this season, Reynolds was second at the Lima CC holiday and Perrysburg tournaments before winning a title at Van Buren. Fellow senior Price, a two-time state qualifier, was champion at Tiffin Columbian and third at Perrysburg. Next in line is returning state alternate Ankney, who is last among the projected state placers from this district. This past weekend, he was champion at Lima CC with a pin over Sunderhaus in the final.

Occupying the last projected state qualifier position is 2011 state qualifier Speith, who was champion at Marion Harding and finished fourth at Oregon Clay. The junior Dye, a returning state qualifier, was fourth at Toledo St. John's and third at Marion County; while fellow returning state qualifier Patchin, who went two-and-out last year as a freshman, placed second at Toledo St. John's.

Last among the returning state placers is the senior Sunderhaus, who was seventh at state last year, and exits the Kettering Fairmont district. During this season, he won the Lima CC holiday, finished sixth at the CIT, and was second at Lima CC this past weekend. Three other ranked wrestlers join Sunderhaus in exiting this district tournament. Fellow senior Buettner was a state alternate last year, and this season finished first at Lincolnview, second at Marion Harding, third at Allen County and Lima CC, and fourth in the CIT. The sophomore Sullivan won titles at Tipp City and Eaton with victories over returning state placers in each championship bout, while the freshman Svarda was seventh at Brecksville and second at Valley View.

182 pounds

1. B.J. Toal, Troy Christian, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Sam Groff, Sandy Valley, senior (Philo)
3. Armani Robinson, Greenview, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Lincoln Stansberry, Carey, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Brandon Brenes, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Rickey Bruce, Triad, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Kile Schaefer, West Salem Northwestern, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. Jacob Worthington, Keystone, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Logan Horn, Plymouth, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Jared Leasure, Caldwell, senior (Philo)
11. K.C. Hale, New London, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Cody Ellis, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Jacob Campbell, Dixie, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Reisinger, Swanton, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Josiah Conley, Bluffton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Nathan Smith, Coshocton, senior (Philo)
- 16A. Grant Criblez, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Stansberry, Horn, Hale, Reisinger; Nick Metcalf (Gibsonburg, senior)

Garfield Hts – Brenes, Schaefer, Worthington, Ellis; Brad Simon (Berkshire, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Toal, Robinson, Bruce, Campbell; Conley, Criblez

Philo – Groff, Leasure, Smith, Mitchell Meeks (Newcomerstown, junior); Jordan Leasure (Amanda-Clearcreek, freshman), Ty Barlow (Marion Pleasant, senior)

The fourth member of Troy Christian's core group is the favorite to repeat as champion in this weight class. Prior to the start of the season, he was runner-up at the Super 32 Challenge, while during the season he was runner-up at the Ironman (losing to Eric Morris, who is ranked No. 1 nationally) and Delaware Hayes (upset by Gunner Lay in a 3-2 match). The younger brother of three-time state champion Zach Toal, B.J. will join Zach as a Missouri Tiger in the fall.

Toal exits the toughest of the four districts with five other ranked wrestlers, though none is a true threat to him. That challenge group is led by the junior Robinson, a returning state runner-up, who was second at the GMVWA and first at Lima CC season to date. Fellow junior Bruce was a state alternate last year, yet another junior Campbell was third at Edgewood, while the second Conley was third at Lima CC (also fourth at Allen County and sixth at Van Buren), and fellow senior Criblez finished sixth at Lima CC (also second at Milan Edison to Toal, third at Allen County, and fourth at Marion Harding).

Ranked second at this weight class is the senior Groff, who is seeking a fourth state tournament appearance this year, though last year's third place finish was his maiden podium appearance. Groff has competed at both 182 and 195, and has seemed to settle in on this weight class. During last year's state tournament, he lost a 3-2 semifinal match to Toal, so he feels that the state title can be had. Groff leads a shallow district at Philo with just two other ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Leasure went two-and-out at 152 pounds last year as a junior, and this year finished runner-up at both the Barnesville and OVAC tournaments; while the senior Smith was a go-to-match loser last year, but has been injured for the bulk of this season.

There is only a single wrestler with state experience in each of the Garfield Hts and Bowling Green district tournaments, though each site has four in the rankings. Leading the way at Garfield Hts is the senior Brenes, who went 1-2 last year at 220 pounds at the Scott. Two sophomores in Schaefer (district placer) and Worthington (state alternate), along with the senior Ellis (State alternate) join Brenes as ranked.

The senior Horn, 1-2 last year in the 170 pound weight class is the lone wrestler with state experience at Bowling Green. It's been a mixed season for Horn, placing fourth at Lima CC this past weekend, after spending earlier parts of the season down at 170, where he was second at Arcadia and fifth at Marion Harding. The top ranked wrestler at Bowling Green is returning state alternate Stansberry, who was champion at the Lima CC holiday and Van Buren, and runner-up at Bellevue and Lima CC. Also ranked here are the senior Hale, who was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend, and the senior Reisinger who has a title at Toledo St. John's and was a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC. Not in the rankings is returning district placer Metcalf.

195 pounds

1. Dalton Ishmael, North Baltimore, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Daniel Kwiat, Tiffin Calvert, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Tyler Beck, Galion Northmor, senior (Philo)
4. Ryan Weber, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Evan Brettrager, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Travis Jaramillo, Archbold, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Gunner Loughman, Heath, senior (Philo)
8. Brian Olson, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Marcus Smith, Carlisle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Colin McConnahea, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Kyle Dieringer, Versailles, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Glenn Zaller, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Phil Eisenhauer, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Carter Harris, West Jefferson, junior (Philo)
15. Adrian Harding, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Joe Dilbert, Reading, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Ishmael, Kwiat, Jaramillo, Drake Reed (Margaretta, sophomore); Jacob Widman (Fremont SJCC, junior)

Garfield Hts – Weber, Brettrager, Zaller, Eisenhauer; Austin Kuchta (Elyria Catholic, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Olson, Smith, McConnahea, Dieringer; Harding, Dilbert

Philo – Beck, Laughman, Harris, Mack White (Amanda Clearcreek, junior); Dan Jones (Columbus Academy, sophomore)

The ultimate goal in the sport of wrestling is to pin the opponent. Though most matches end up being decided by points, the objective is still to earn the fall, and no one has done that more often in the history of Ohio high school wrestling than Dalton Ishmael. This young man already has 150-plus pins in his career, an amount that is absurd on its face. Though one can be skeptical about the level of competition he has faced, still to pin 150-plus over a four year career is sheer madness.

Ishmael placed third at state last year, and is favored to earn the state title this year. Already on the season, he has titles at Arcadia and Perrysburg. His primary challenge will come in the form of fellow

senior Kwiat, who placed fifth at state last year, and joins Ishmael in exiting the Bowling Green district. The lone other ranked wrestler in this district is returning state qualifier Jaramillo, who is a junior and was runner-up at Marion County. Unfortunately, he had to default out of the Lima CC tournament last weekend in the quarterfinal round, and we hope he is able to compete during the state series.

Ranked third in this weight class is two-time state qualifier Beck, who was eighth at state as a sophomore in 2011. This season, he was second at the Gorman (overtime win over Weber along the way) and champion at Marion County (8-1 over Jaramillo in the final). He leads a shallow Philo district, which features just two other ranked wrestlers, none with state experience. Fellow senior Laughman was third at Marion County, and also has a dual meet win over Division II state alternate Presley; while the junior Harris was a district placer last year.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings both exit the Garfield Hts district, which features four total in the rankings. Ranked fourth is the junior Weber, who was third at both the Gorman and Top Gun tournaments; while in fifth is returning state placer Brettrager, a senior who was champion this season at Lorain and Perry. Returning state qualifier went two-and-out at the Schott last year as a sophomore, and this season finished third at Perry; while the other ranked wrestler is the senior Eisenhauer, champion at Smithville, Chippewa, and New Lexington along with a fifth place finish at the Dies.

Deepest of the four districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which features six ranked wrestlers, though none is positioned above eighth. Leading that group is returning state placer Olson, sixth last year as a junior at 182 pounds. This season, he was fifth at the GMVWA and Troy before winning a title at Lima CC. Next on the ladder is the senior Smith, a state alternate last year who was one match away from placing at Brecksville, fourth at Troy, champion at Valley View, and second at Lima CC. Fellow senior, and returning state alternate, McConnahea is next with titles at four tournaments this season to his credit.

Rounding out that group at Kettering Fairmont is the sophomore Dieringer, a district placer who finished seventh at the GMVWA; the sophomore Harding, who took third at Lima CC; and the senior Dilbert, who went 8-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals and was runner-up at Reading and Madeira earlier this season.

220 pounds

1. Jake Moore, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Travis Boyd, Blanchester, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Corey Ginn, West Jefferson, senior (Philo)
4. Justin Post, Coldwater, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Corey Durbin, Fremont SJCC, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Jay Nino, Genoa, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Brady Gump, Garaway, senior (Philo)
8. Quinton Wessell, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tyler Ash, Paulding, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Seth Bloor, Wellsville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Adam Kuchta, Elyria Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Caleb Fry, Cardinal, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Cody Carr, Brookville, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Joseph Dotson, Hannibal River, senior (Philo)
15. Darren Milligan, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Tyler Shank, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Durbin, Nino, Ash, Griffin Friesner (Defiance Ayersville, senior); Ryan Wilfer (Buckeye Central, senior)

Garfield Hts – Moore, Bloor, Kuchta, Fry; Shank

Kettering Fairmont – Boyd, Post, Wessell, Carr; Milligan

Philo – Ginn, Gump, Dotson, Zach Coole (Martins Ferry, senior); Drake Colbree (Marion Pleasant, senior)

It's a whopping four wrestlers with state experience in this weight class, only two with state placements on the resume. Those two wrestlers, both of whom are seniors, are the top two ranked here. The key determinant of the top ranking was the consolation semifinal result from last year's state tournament, where Moore upended Boyd 3-2. Moore would go onto place fourth at state, and has spent much of this season up at 285 pounds where he placed fifth at Ironman and second at Medina; however, he made the drop to 220 in early January. Boyd would take fifth at state, and this season has a title at Madeira along with second place finishes at Reading and Western Brown.

Both wrestlers also exit district tournaments with five ranked wrestlers. For Moore it's at Garfield Hts, while Boyd exits the Kettering Fairmont district. The Garfield Hts district features the sophomore Bloor, who finished third at the OVAC meet; the junior Kuchta, a go-to-match loser last year, and was undefeated this season prior to his fourth place finish at the CIT; returning state alternate Fry, who was second at Aurora; and fellow senior Shank, who was first at Bucyrus and third at Marion Harding.

State alternate Post, only a junior, is the primary challenger to Boyd at Kettering Fairmont, and has titles at Lima CC holiday (pinning Ash in the final) and Lima CC this past weekend (8-5 over Durbin in the final) on the season. The senior Wessell was champion at Allen County and Lima Senior (7-4 over Ash in the final); while juniors Carr (9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend) and Milligan (third at Lima CC) round out the ranked group.

One of the other two returning state qualifiers is the junior Ginn, who went 1-2 in this weight class last year. He leads a trio of ranked wrestlers in the Philo district. State alternate Gump is a senior, and was champion at Aurora, while the senior Dotson was second at Barnesville and fifth at the OVAC.

The other returning state qualifier is the senior Ash, who exits the Bowling Green district. For the season, he was second at both the Lima CC holiday and Lima Senior tournaments. Three other ranked wrestlers exit this district: the junior Durbin, a state alternate last year, who was champion at Van Buren, third at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend; the sophomore Nino, who was 9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals; and the senior Friesner, a district placer last year, who was fourth at Lima CC.

285 pounds

1. Patrick Garren, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)
2. Zack Srock, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Joe Newsome, Tuscarawas Valley, senior (Philo)
4. Austin Cary, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Corey Ernest, St. Clairsville, senior (Philo)
6. Geoff Ketcham, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Jacob Hanzel, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts)
8. Anthony Verhovec, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Philo)
9. Chance Vellor, Swanton, freshman (Bowling Green)
10. Kody Bray, Reading, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

11. Ryan Fessler, Bishop Fenwick, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Jeremiah Koah, Westfall, junior (Philo)
13. Isaac Sexton, Van Buren, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Andrew Smith, Versailles, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Hunter Overholtz, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Ben Sexton, Garaway, junior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Veller, I. Sexton, Alex Fry (Defiance Ayersville, junior), Ian Ramos (Collins Western Reserve, senior); Colton Hossler (Hopewell Loudon, senior)
Garfield Hts – Srock, Cary, Hanzel, Deion Arnold (Clearview, senior)
Kettering Fairmont – Ketcham, Bray, Fessler, Smith; Overholtz
Philo – Garren, Newsome, Ernest, Verhovec; Koah, B. Sexton

Last of the 42 weight classes to be written is yet another shallow weight here in Division III with just two returning state placers, and two additional returning state qualifiers among the present field composition. Those returning state placers occupy the top two positions, and again these wrestlers met in the consolation semifinals at state last year. In that match, it was Garren upending Srock 7-5, and each wrestler would then win their subsequent medal match (Garren for third, Srock for fifth).

After that third place finish, Garren would go onto earn a runner-up finish at the NHSCA sophomore nationals, and in the preseason finish fifth at the Super 32 Challenge. He is undefeated for this season with titles at North Canton, Bishop Ready, and the CIT. Likewise, the senior Srock is undefeated this season with titles at Smithville, Chippewa, the Dies, and New Lexington on the record. These two wrestlers are on a collision course for a great semifinal or final bout at the Schott.

Garren exits the deepest of the four districts at Philo, where he is joined by the other two returning state qualifiers in seniors Newsome and Verhovec. Newsome won a match last year at state, and this year was champion at Barnesville; while Verhovec went two-and-out, and this year has a title at Mount Vernon and fourth place finish at New Lexington on the resume. Fellow senior Ernest, a state alternate last year, is the other projected state qualifier – and this season has titles at Nelsonville York and the OVAC to his credit. Rounding out the ranked group is a pair of juniors – district placer Koah, who won a title at Greenon to go with second place finishes at Trimble and Miami Trace, along with Sexton who was second at Aurora.

Srock exits the Garfield Hts. district, which has two other projected state placers, but behind those three is a total vacuum. The senior Cary was champion at both the Gorman (overtime victory over Hanzel) and the Top Gun, where he had the 5-3 upset special over returning Division II state placer Connor Sharp in the semifinal. Hanzel, winner of two district tournament matches in this weight class as a sophomore last year, was runner-up at the Gorman and third at the Dies.

The Kettering Fairmont district in this weight class features five ranked wrestlers in this weight class, though only the senior Ketcham is projected to place. Ketcham finished third in his opening tournament at Lincolnview, but has followed that up with titles at Allen County, Lima CC holiday, Lima Senior, and Van Buren with an obscene pin rate. Next in the rankings is state alternate Bray, who had a late start to his season, and district placer Fessler. While the senior Smith went 3-2 at the GMVWA and fellow senior Overholtz was runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend.

Finally, it's an extremely shallow Bowling Green district in this weight class, featuring just two ranked wrestlers. For the prior four years, it was Mimmo Lytle manning this weight class for Swanton. He won two state titles, was third as a sophomore, and eighth as a freshman. This season, another freshman is occupying the weight class for Swanton, and at present Vellor is ranked ninth here, after his title at Lima CC this past weekend. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Isaac Sexton, who was second at Van Buren and third at Arcadia and Lima CC.

Team Projection

1. Waynedale/Garfield Hts. District
2. Troy Christian/Kettering Fairmont District
3. Delta/Bowling Green District
4. Greenvew/Kettering Fairmont District
5. Dayton Christian/Kettering Fairmont District
6. Mechanicsburg/Kettering Fairmont District
7. Beachwood/Garfield Hts. District
8. Loudonville/Garfield Hts. District
9. Rootstown/Garfield Hts. District
10. Tuslaw/Garfield Hts. District