

Division Three – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Matthew Kolodzik, Miami Valley School, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Zon Fields, Marion Pleasant, senior (Heath)
3. Jared Gagner, Troy Christian, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Evan Ullinski, Woodmore, sophomore (Owens College)
5. Ryan Behringer, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Owens College)
6. Kyle Keller, Delta, sophomore (Owens College)
7. Alex Smith, Sandusky SMCC, freshman (Owens College)
8. Damien Short/Drew Coffey, Archbold, freshman/sophomore (Owens College)
9. Dakota Mays, Nelsonville York, freshman (Heath)
10. Jared Bowman, Arcadia, freshman (Owens College)
11. Kolten Martin, DeGraff Riverdale, sophomore (Owens College)
12. Mason Gallagher, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Caleb Ohl, Newark Catholic, sophomore (Heath)
14. Tim Meckleburg, Lutheran West, freshman (Garfield Hts)
15. Bobby Bowen, Manchester, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Alex Tscheigg, Orrville, junior (Garfield Hts)

Garfield Hts – Mecklenburg, Bowen, Tscheigg, Nick Orr (Cuyahoga Hts, sophomore), Sebastian Vidika (Black River, sophomore)

Heath – Fields, Mays, Ohl, Jaden Border (Caldwell, freshman), Rodney Richter (Monroe Central, freshman)

Kettering Fairmont – Kolodzik, Gagner, Gallagher, Tregg Keysor (Columbus Grove, junior), Gunnar Lucius (Delphos St. John's, freshman)

Owens College – Ullinski, Behringer, Keller, Smith, Coffey, Bowman, Martin

How much does size matter? That's one of the great questions asked in the sport of wrestling. A possible insight could be given in the potential final between freshman sensation Kolodzik and the senior Fields. Kolodzik is one of the nation's best freshmen regardless of weight and has been dominant this year in winning titles at Olentangy, GMVWA, Perrysburg, and the Bill Dies. His only loss came in the finals of the Walsh Ironman to the number one wrestler in the weight class, and the nation's top overall freshman, Zahid Valencia from California. Fields, on the other hand, is a senior who has twiced placed at 103 pounds. On the season, he has titles at the Marion County and Marion Pleasant tournaments. My pick here is the freshman phenom Kolodzik to start off his career in the same fashion older brother Daniel did a few years back.

The other story here is how loaded the district tournament at Owens College is. Given the thin nature of the 113 weight, one may see some further movement of wrestlers up into that weight – instead of being part of the log jam here. Seven wrestlers from this site are in the top 16 of the rankings. Leading the way is the sophomore Ullinski, who disappointingly went two-and-out at state last year, but has had an excellent bounce back with titles at Bellevue and Woodmore to go with a runner-up at Tiffin Columbian. State alternate Behringer was champion at Lima CC this past weekend. Returning state qualifier Keller was seventh at the GMVWA losing to Kolodzik and Division II challenger Cameron Kelly (both junior high state champs last year), second at Perrysburg also losing to Koldzik, and third at Oregon Clay. The freshman Smith has been impressive with a title at Toledo St. John's, second place at the J.C. Gorman,

third place at Marion County where he beat Coffey and Division II state qualifier Crabtree, and undefeated at the SMCC Duals.

Don't want to bore you readers, but three more wrestlers are ranked at Owens College – Coffey who was fifth at Marion County losing to Smith (or it could be Short for Archbold, who was undefeated at the SMCC Duals), the freshman Bowman who won at Van Buren (including a 3-2 semifinal victory over Martin), and Martin – who went 2-2 at district last year – has been third in three tournaments with a win at Arcadia.

Going back to the district at Kettering Fairmont, which is anchored by Kolodzik; you also have another freshman sensation present here in Gagner, who has titles at Delaware Hayes and Milan Edison to go with a runner-up finish to Kolodzik at the GMVWA. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Gallagher, who just placed second at Lima CC this past weekend. Gallagher and others seek the two spots to state behind Kolodzik and Gagner.

Fields is at the head of the field in the Heath district, which also features junior high state placer Mays – unfortunately he's been injured much of the year, but there is hope that he'll return this year. Also in the rankings is Caleb Ohl, who was third at Lima CC after a title at Licking County and a fifth place finish at the CIT. Other wrestlers, including those mentioned above, will be seeking state spots behind Fields.

Lastly the Garfield Hts district brings little to the table in this weight class, with only three wrestlers ranked here, and they are in the last three spots of the top 16. Hopefully the bracket gods place Owens College on Garfield Hts in the first round to help balance out the front side of the draw.

113 pounds

1. Austin Reese, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Sammy Gross, Beachwood, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
3. Christian Clary, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Garrett Hancock, Troy Christian, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Zach Durbin, Mapleton, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Alan Seagraves, Miami East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Zach Alvarado, CHCA, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Damon Outward, Martins Ferry, junior (Heath)
9. Mike Hozan, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Chandler Minnard, Bloom Carroll, freshman (Heath)
11. Caleb Baum, Emmanuel Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nate Frye, Cuyahoga Hts, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Robert Carter, Dayton Northridge, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. T.J. Malkus, Berkshire, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
15. Derek Thomas, Westfall, junior (Heath)
16. Billy Shannon, Amanda Clearcreek, sophomore (Heath)

Garfield Hts – Gross, Durbin, Hozan, Frye, Malkus

Heath – Outward, Minnard, Thomas, Shannon, Dominic Devito (Newark Catholic, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Reese, Clary, Hancock, Seagraves, Alvarado, Baum, Carter

Owens College – James Dailey (Delta, junior), Jacob Morgan (Bucyrus, senior), Garrett Cunningham (New London, junior), Jacob McCoy (Swanton, junior), Zac Tupps (Galion, sophomore)

Three sophomores who placed in the top four at state as freshmen are featured in this weight class. Each had sensational junior high careers, and brings sensational high school resumes to the table. Reese, who placed third in a rather tough 103 pound weight class last year, is the favorite in this weight. He has wrestled much of the year at 120, but has made 113 and will be back down come the postseason. In fact, he has wrestled the top two rated 120 pounders during the season – losing in overtime to Zack Nelson at the state duals and losing 7-3 this past weekend in the finals at Lima CC (a tournament in which he had two pins and two technical falls otherwise).

He is the top rated wrestler in a district tournament at Kettering Fairmont that features six – yes, count them, six – wrestlers with state tournament experience; and that doesn't even include freshman sensation Hancock, who none the less is a good bet to make it out of the site. This year, the freshman won at Edison, failed to place at the Ironman though he beat returning Division I state placer Ziegler, and was third at the GMVWA and Delaware Hayes tournaments. Ranked third in the state after placing fourth last year, losing to Reese in the medal match, the sophomore Clary has championships at Pickerington North, Marion County, and Lima CC to his credit this year. Two-time state qualifier Seagraves was champion at Tipp City, second at Troy, and runner-up at Lima CC after losing in overtime to Clary. Yet another state qualifier is the sophomore Alvarado who won the December Lima CC tournament, and also got titles at Madeira and Reading this month. The junior Baum went two-and-out at state while competing for Division II Urbana. Last but not least is two-time state qualifier Carter who was second at Tipp City and third at Lima CC.

If it's not going to be a wrestler from the Kettering Fairmont district that wins state, then it probably will be the sophomore Gross, who placed third at state and is undefeated this year with titles most notably at Hudson and Kenston to his credit. He anchors things at the Garfield Hts. district, which also includes four other ranked wrestlers. State qualifier Durbin was undefeated headed into last year's district, took second losing to Tomasello in the final, and went 1-2 at state; this year, he was runner-up at Marion Harding to Fields, but beat state placer Hozan along the way. Speaking of Hozan, he placed eighth at state last year, was third at Marion Harding this year, and first at the J.C. Gorman. Additionally at this site, sophomores Frye and Malkus will be battling for a state tournament spot – both were at 112 last year. Frye was a district placer, and this year was runner-up to Gross at Beachwood, champion at Columbia, and fourth at the Bill Dies. Malkus was third at Solon and placed fifth at Kenston.

The Heath district features the four remaining ranked wrestlers, led by the junior Outward who went 1-2 at state last year, and finished fifth at the OVAC this year. Next in line is the freshman Minnard, who was runner-up at the Bill Dies. Also ranked are state alternate Thomas and district placer Shannon.

Finally, it is the Owens College district, which for as loaded it is at 106 is just that horrendous at 113. There are no top 16 ranked wrestlers at this site.

120 pounds

1. Cade Mansfield, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Owens College)
2. Zack Nelson, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Cody Steiner, Waynesville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Kyle Ferguson, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Dexter Lee, Elmwood, senior (Owens College)
6. Casey Johns, Cardinal, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Andrew Hoskins, Greenview, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Damien Showman, Seneca East, senior (Owens College)

9. Dalton Scott, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
10. Sean Regoli, Bloom Carroll, senior (Heath)
11. Aaron Wilbanks, Brookville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nate Ohl, Newark Catholic, senior (Heath)
13. Cole Zeigler, Ridgewood, sophomore (Heath)
14. Aaron Friedman, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Andrew Slonosky, Versailles, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Ben Eggers, Archbold, junior (Owens College)

Garfield Hts – Zack Nelson, Ferguson, Johns, Friedman, Dylan Stiner (Keystone, junior)

Heath – Scott, Regoli, N. Ohl, Zeigler, Mark Lepley (Coshocton, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Steiner, Hoskins, Wilbanks, Slonosky, Tyler Baker (Allen East, junior)

Owens College – Mansfield, Lee, Showman, Eggers, Tivo Ysasi (Fremont SJCC, senior)

For the top two wrestlers in this weight class, the 2010-11 season was one to be quickly forgotten. Mansfield was a state runner-up in March 2010, and had legitimate aspirations of a state title heading into district Saturday of last year. However, on that day, he lost in the semifinal and consolation semifinal, ending the state dream. Zack Nelson made state as a freshman for Tuslaw at 119 pounds, transferred to Waynedale for his sophomore year, and was doing pretty darn well. Then came the OHSAA and the high drama associated with the transfer situation. When it all ended, he and his twin brother Zane were ineligible to compete. So it went for both of them, and it's now 2012.

These two wrestlers met at the Cardington Lincoln Duals with Mansfield coming out on top, and against common opponent Reese – the favorite at 113 pounds – Mansfield won 7-3, while Nelson won 7-5 in overtime. There's the rationale for the pick, but should the two meet in Columbus it would be a great match.

Joining Mansfield as a wrestler to stand on the second step of the podium at the state tournament while competing in the 112 weight class is the senior Steiner, who has placed twice at state in three tournaments. This year, he was fourth at GMVWA and first at Madeira. At the Kettering Fairmont district from which Steiner exits, there are three other ranked wrestlers (amazingly at all four districts, there are four ranked wrestlers). The first is the freshman Hoskins, who placed third at junior high state last year, and this year was champion at Clinton Massie, seventh at the GMVWA, and third at Lima CC. Both Wilbanks and Slonosky were state alternates last year.

Three of the top six, including second in the state Nelson, exit from the Garfield Hts district. Ferguson was seventh at state but a district runner-up, while Johns was fourth at state but third in the district. This year, Ferguson was first at the Gorman and fourth at the Bill Dies. Nelson had wrestled well this year, including a title at the Marion County tournament. Quite frankly, there is one open spot here – the wrestler presently ranked for it, no lock to get it, is the senior Friedman who was second at Hudson and third at Kenston.

Mansfield leads the contingent at Owens College, where he is joined by the last of the top six ranked wrestlers to be mentioned – the senior Lee, who placed seventh at state two years ago in the 103 weight class. This year, Lee was runner-up at Medina and fifth at Oregon Clay. They are joined by state placer Showman, champion at Van Buren, and state qualifier Eggers in this district weight class.

Lastly is the district tournament at Heath, which has no wrestlers ranked in the top eight, but four of the next eight. The group is led by state alternate Scott, who this year has wrestled up in weight before dropping here at the CIT when he placed fourth. Next is two-time state qualifier Regoli, who failed to place at the Bill Dies. The senior Ohi was a district placer last year, and placed fourth at Lima CC this past weekend. Finally, it is the sophomore Zeigler, who went 2-2 at district last year, and has two wins over state alternate Lepley this year.

126 pounds

1. William Spangler, Keystone, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Bobby Smith, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
3. Jason Sandlin, Carlisle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Thomas McLaughlin, Nelsonville York, senior (Heath)
5. Dalton Hiltibran, Mechanicsburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Gennar Feucht, West Jefferson, junior (Heath)
7. Josh Vonbehren, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Brandon McCormick, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Cody Laney, Hicksville, senior (Owens College)
10. Dusty Ferguson, Elmwood, junior (Owens College)
11. Dion Perez, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Hayden Cantrell, Coshocton, junior (Heath)
13. Joseph Brodman, Tiffin Calvert, senior (Owens College)
14. Max Reeder, Genoa, sophomore (Owens College)
15. Jesse Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, sophomore (Owens College)
16. Nick Herrmann, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)

Garfield Hts – W. Spangler, Perez, Herrmann, Tyler Knepper (Garrettsville Garfield, senior), Dave McNatt (Girard, junior)

Heath – Smith, McLaughlin, Feucht, Cantrell, Clay Crosier (Barnesville, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Jason Sandlin, Hiltibran, Vonbehren, McCormick, Alex Becker (Dayton Christian, sophomore)

Owens College – Laney, Ferguson, Brodman, Reeder, Gross

This looks to be one of the deeper weights in Division III with fourteen wrestlers bringing state tournament experience to the table (13 returning state qualifiers). The landscape, on the surface, seems to be a two-person race between returning fourth place finisher William Spangler, a two-time state placer; and sophomore Bobby Smith, who place fifth at state last year down at 103.

Spangler, the tabbed favorite, has wrestled in both the 126 and 132 weight classes this year; most notably while at 126, he placed sixth at the Brecksville tournament, and went 4-3 against high level competition to earn that honor. He anchors the Garfield Hts district, which has two other ranked wrestlers in this weight class. The first is returning state qualifier Perez, who was second at Milan Edison and sixth at Medina. Those two should be solid bets to make the state tournament. Two open spots remain for Herrmann, champion at Cuyahoga Hts., and others including those mentioned above.

Smith narrowly missed out on a state finals spot as a freshman, when he lost 2-1 in the tiebreaker during the semifinals against Aaron Assad (who was at Chanel last year, now at Brecksville). This year, he was champion at Olentangy Liberty, runner-up at North Canton, and runner-up at the CIT. He leads a solid contingent at the Heath district. Next rated at that site is three-time state qualifier McLaughlin, who

placed as a freshman in 2009, but has fallen just short the last two years. This year, he was eighth at Brecksville while competing at 132, before dropping down to win the tournament at Nelsonville York. Two-time state qualifier Feucht is seeking his first podium appearance in Columbus, and is coming off a championship at Marion Pleasant after placing third at Nelsonville York. Finally among the ranked is returning state qualifier Cantrell.

A strong contingent comes out of the Kettering Fairmont district, where their four ranked wrestlers all reside in the top eight. The group is led by Jason Sandlin, who was a junior high state champion last year. This year, Sandlin was at 132 in the early part of the year where he won two tournaments and was a runner-up at the GMVWA. He made the drop to 126 last week and won over a very tough field at Lima CC. Returning state placer Hiltibran was runner-up to Sandlin at Lima CC, losing by a tight 10-8 margin in the championship match. Vonbehren qualified for state in 2010, but went 2-2 at the district last year while competing at 125, and finished third at the recent Lima CC event. Finally, it's returning state qualifier McCormick who was fourth at Lima CC.

Even though the Owens College district does not have a top eight ranked wrestler, it will be a tough tournament site with five of the other eight ranked wrestlers present – all of whom made the state tournament last year. That group is led by returning state placer Laney, who placed fifth at this past weekend's Lima CC tournament. In addition, there is Ferguson placed seventh at Medina and fourth at Oregon Clay; Brodman, who was second at Tiffin Columbian, sixth at the CIT, and champion at Van Buren; Reeder, who went 0-2 at state last year as a freshman; and fellow sophomore Gross, who has a Lorain third and Gorman runner-up finish to his credit this year. In addition, three other wrestlers in this weight class finished as district sixth place finishers last year. If you wonder about movement to 132, that weight's not easy at this district either.

132 pounds

1. Jacob Danishek, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Jeremy Border, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
3. Zach Niner, Liberty Center, junior (Owens College)
4. Jared Van Vleet, Edgerton, junior (Owens College)
5. Drew Webster, Trimble, senior (Heath)
6. Zavier Meeks, Lima Bath, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Brian Spangler, Keystone, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Devin Talbott, Hannibal River, junior (Heath)
9. Austin Laney, Hicksville, junior (Owens College)
10. Kenny Price, Archbold, sophomore (Owens College)
11. Connor Lewis, Arcadia, senior (Owes College)
12. Dustin Grier, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Ben Timmons, Lakota, senior (Owens College)
14. Logan Reichert/Alex Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, senior/junioir (Owens College)
15. Zachary Campbell, Pymatuning Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Jared Dilley, Amanda Clearcreek, junior (Heath)

Garfield Hts – B. Spangler, Grier, Campbell, Chuha (Cuyahoga Hts, junior), Brad Wardell (Waynedale, sophomore)

Heath – Border, Webster, Talbott, Dilley, Josh Alexander (Marion Pleasant, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Danishek, Meeks, Jeremy Post (Coldwater, senior), Chance Manzler (Madeira, senior), Joseph Ziegler (Mechanicsburg, freshman)

Owens College – Niner, Van Vleet, A. Laney, Price, Lewis, Timmons, Reichert/Guerra

Jumping up three-plus weight classes has been an interesting experience for Danishek, who was a decisive state champion last year as a freshman at 112 pounds. Danishek has also spent some time up at 138, including last week when he won the Lima CC tournament. His time at 132 pounds includes a third place finish at Brecksville and a championship at Marion Elgin.

However, there are two very legitimate candidates to derail Danishek's potential journey to four state titles. The first is the senior Border, who is now a three-time state placer after finishing as state runner-up last year; and this year he won the OVAC title. The second is the junior Niner, who qualified for state as a freshman at 145 before placing fifth last year at 135 pounds. This year he placed fifth at Medina up at 138 pounds before dropping down to place second at Oregon Clay and first at Marion Pleasant.

Niner anchors an absolutely loaded group of wrestlers at the Owens College district, which includes seven ranked wrestlers in all. Another fact is that five of these wrestlers have made the state tournament, while three others lost go-to-state matches last year, with another five winning two matches at the district tournament. There could easily be some movement up to the 138 pound weight class, which has just one state returning state qualifier present.

Ranked fourth in the weight class, and second in the district, is the junior Van Vleet, a two-time state qualifier who placed fourth at state last year. This year, he won the recently completed Lima CC tournament. Runner-up at that tournament, Austin Laney (4-2 loser to Van Vleet), had a quality win over state placer Timmons in the semifinals of that event. Price was a state qualifier as a freshman and placed fifth at the Marion County tournament. Lewis placed sixth at the district tournament last year, was second at Arcadia and Lima CC in December, before winning a title at Van Buren with victories over McCormick and Timmons. Timmons placed fifth at state last year, but that hasn't meant much this year as he was second at Van Buren and third at Lima CC this past weekend. Finally, Sandusky SMCC has two wrestlers with state tournament experience that have occupied this weight class – Reichert and Alex Guerra. There are others not ranked that have legitimate state tournament aspirations – either here or in a different weight class.

On the other hand, the Kettering Fairmont district tournament anchored by Danishek is lacking in quantity, with just the senior Meeks among those ranked. Meeks was much bantered about coming into high school, has yet to achieve up to that, and has this last opportunity to do so – he recently dropped into this weight class and was runner-up at Eaton this past weekend. Two qualifying spots to state are wide open here.

Border is the anchor wrestler at the Heath district, which features three other ranked wrestlers. Both Webster and Talbott won matches at the state tournament. This year, Webster was champion at Gallia, while Talbott was third at the OVAC. The other ranked wrestler is Dilley, who was a state alternate last year.

Finally, it is the Garfield Hts district, which has just three ranked wrestlers in this weight class. Brian Spangler is a three-time state qualifier, who placed as a freshman and sophomore but failed to win a match at state last year. He has spent time in both the 132 and 138 weight classes this year. The senior Grier was a state qualifier two years ago, but lost a go-to-match in last year's loaded 125 pound weight class at this district; this year he has runner-up finishes at Smithville and the Bill Dies. Last among the ranked wrestlers is state qualifier Campbell, who could not compete at state, and has placed second at

Perry this year. The fourth spot (or third and fourth spots if Spangler defects to 138) remain open for the taking.

138 pounds

1. Zane Nelson, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Luke Kern, Delta, senior (Owens College)
3. Ryan Harris, Beachwood, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
4. Carl Moody, Nelsonville York, senior (Heath)
5. Colt Lovejoy, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Kyler Deeter, Covington, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Jacob Carpenter, Girard, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. J.J. Diven Waterloo, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Angelo Eufrazio, Fostoria, senior (Owens College)
10. Jamie Baldrige, Galion Northmor, sophomore (Heath)
11. Kameran Clemens, Wayne Trace, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Thomas Williams, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Heath)
13. Tristan Bender, Loudonville, freshman (Garfield Hts)
14. Ian Baker, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
15. Adam Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Owens College)
16. Zac Cline, Caldwell, senior (Heath)

Garfield Hts – Zane Nelson, Harris, Carpenter, Diven, Bender

Heath – Moody, Baker, Baldrige, Williams, Cline

Kettering Fairmont – Lovejoy, Deeter, Clemens, James Tecco (Mariemont, senior), Josh Lyttle (Dayton Northridge, junior)

Owens College – Kern, Eufrazio, Adam Guerra, Drew Keenan (Genoa, junior), Ryan Widmer (Gibsonburg, senior)

Two wrestlers that have their highest place finish being eight top this weight class. Four other place finishers are among the competition here, as are five additional state qualifiers. Leading the pack is the junior Zane Nelson, who placed eighth at 140 as a freshman in 2010. This year, he was second at Marion County losing 3-0 to Jake Ryan. Ranked second is three-time state qualifier Kern, who has placed eighth in each of the last two years. This year, he has been impressive with titles at the GMVWA and Oregon Clay tournaments; at Oregon Clay, he came back from an 8-4 deficit late in the match with a five-point move to beat Angelo Amenta. Should those two meet in the final, it would be a good match, but four other state placers want a piece of them.

Nelson anchors a Garfield Hts district that also features Harris, who placed seventh last year as a freshman at 125 pounds after winning the district tournament. This year, Harris took third at Olentangy Liberty losing to Ryan 1-0, third at Hudson, and first at Kenston. Additionally at this district are state qualifiers Carpenter and Diven – Carpenter was second at Riverside, while Diven was second at Cuyahoga Hts. Those four represent the favorites to make state. Also ranked is the freshman Bender, who was fourth at the J.C. Gorman.

The highest returning state placer in this weight is the junior Deeter, who took fourth last year at 130 pounds. This year, he was sixth at the GMVWA, champion at Troy, and third at Lima CC last week. Ranked one spot above him is Lovejoy, who was seventh in that same weight, but beat Deeter 12-11 in the semis at Lima CC before falling to 132 pound state favorite Danishek in the final in overtime. Lovejoy

also has a win at Van Buren this year. Both wrestlers exit the Kettering Fairmont district, where they are joined by Clemens, who won a match in Columbus last year. This year he was first at Arcadia, second at Van Buren, and sixth at Lima CC. The battle for the last spot is pretty open, and it's a spot for the taking with just Lovejoy, Deeter, and Clemens ranked.

Like the Garfield Hts district, the one at Heath also features five ranked wrestlers, led by two-time state placer Moody – who placed sixth last year, but almost made the final losing 6-5 in the semifinals at 135 pounds. This year, Moody was fifth at Olentangy Liberty and first at Nelsonville York. Two other state qualifiers reside in this district – Baker, who was second at the OVAC; and Baldrige who was second at the Gorman, fourth at Marion County, and third at Marion Pleasant. Also ranked in this weight are state alternate Williams, who just upended Baker this past weekend at New Lexington, and OVAC champion Cline.

Finally, it is the Owens College district, which has Kern and just two other ranked wrestlers at present – though one should expect some to move up from the 132 class. Also ranked here is Eufrazio, who has spent much of the year up at 145 pounds; and Guerra, a district placer last year, who was fifth at Toledo St. John's and the J.C. Gorman

145 pounds

1. Jordan Marhsall, Troy Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Zach Wilson, Bluffton, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Wyatt Music, Ashland Crestview, junior (Owens College)
4. Tyler Fahrer, Delta, sophomore (Owens College)
5. Mason Gulash, Shadyside, senior (Heath)
6. Jimmy Sandlin, Carlisle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Mitchell Emmitt, Elmwood, senior (Owens College)
8. Ricky Ratcliff, West Jefferson, sophomore (Heath)
9. Dakota Stanley, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Dakota Hook, Nelsonville York, senior (Heath)
11. Josh Davis, Bellaire, senior (Heath)
12. Cory Larrick, Carey, senior (Owens College)
13. Caleb Barnett, South Central, junior (Owens College)
14. Kurt Moore, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Casey Bishop, Brooklyn, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Nick Reeves, Mt. Gilead, junior (Heath)

Garfield Hts – D. Stanley, Kurt Moore, Bishop, Seth King (Hawken, sophomore), Ross Torgerson (Cuyahoga Hts, junior)

Heath – Gulash, Ratcliff, Hook, Davis, Reeves

Kettering Fairmont – Marshall, Wilson, Jimmy Sandlin, Austin Lloyd (Allen East, junior), Zach Cotterman (Wayne Trace, senior)

Owens College – Music, Fahrer, Emmitt, Larrick, Barnett

Five wrestlers that have stood on the state tournament podium are featured in this weight class. However, there is a quick drop off in terms of quality, as only three other wrestlers have state tournament experience – and none of them won a match in that appearance. Seven other wrestlers were go-to-match losers last year. The quick survey of this weight suggests there are three wrestlers that can exit with a state title.

Looking at the first and second positions in the rankings, it's Troy Christian first and Bluffton second – kind of a Zach Toal vs. Josh Falk redux, but at a lower ability level. Both wrestlers obviously exit the Kettering Fairmont district, which has just one other ranked wrestler in Sandlin, who made state last year as a freshman. The junior Marshall was third at state last year, losing just to Hunter Stieber. He missed the first part of the season, making his return at the GMVWA where he made the quarterfinals, but failed to make weight the second day; since then, he has championships at Wapakoneta and Delaware Hayes at 145. Fellow junior Wilson placed fourth last year at 140 pounds, and is undefeated this year with titles at Allen County, Van Buren, and Lima CC. The sophomore Sandlin was sixth at the GMVWA, first at Madeira and Valley View, then runner-up to Wilson at Lima CC this past weekend.

Revisiting the Toal v Falk situation from a few years back, some of the factors that seemed to help Toal were the intangibles such as schedule, high school program, and practice/open mat situation. Those remain in play here, favoring Marshall, and I think they'll pull him to the top step of the podium.

The third wrestler I could see winning state is Music, a junior who was seventh at state as a freshman, and was having an excellent sophomore season (including a runner-up finish at Medina), before being injured prior to the district tournament. This year, his losses are to only national caliber opposition – two-time National Prep placer Cohl Fulk and National Prep runner-up Jack Clark at the Ironman, three-time state champion from Michigan Alec Mooradian in the Medina final, and state runner-up Zane Zeman in the Marion County final. He anchors the Owens College district, which features four other ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Fahrer – who placed seventh at 140 as a freshman last year. This year, Fahrer was second at the GMVWA, third at Perrysburg, and champion at Oregon Clay. State alternate Emmitt was a qualifier in 2010, was one match short of placing at Medina, and sixth at Oregon Clay. Larrick and Barnett each went 2-2 at the district tournament last year.

Returning state placer Gulash, who was sixth last year at this weight and an OVAC runner-up this year, leads the group of five ranked wrestlers in the Heath district tournament. Ratcliff was a state alternate last year, and has championships at Nelsonville York and Marion Pleasant on the resume this year. Two-time state qualifier Hook has struggled this year to the tune of sixth at Olentangy Liberty, failing to place at Brecksville, runner-up at Nelsonville York, and fourth at Marion County. State qualifier Davis was fifth at the OVAC meet, while Reeves was a district placer last year.

Finally it is the Garfield Hts district, which returns no state qualifiers, and has just three ranked wrestlers all of whom were sixth at the district level last year. The best of them is the sophomore Stanley, who has transitioned impressively from the 125 pound weight class, and was third at Marion County. Moore was runner-up at Smithville and fifth at the Bill Dies; while Bishop was second at New London and Chippewa.

152 pounds

1. Max Erwin, Mechanicsburg, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Alex Quinn, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
3. Jordan Cowell, Archbold, senior (Owens College)
4. Grant Blumenthal, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Brett Fortune, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jared Mattin, Delta, junior (Owens College)
7. Damen Escobedo, Gibsonburg, senior (Owens College)
8. Matt Buxton, Dixie, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Seth Heldenbrand, Hillsdale, senior (Garfield Hts)

10. David Williams, Brookville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Zach Gibson, Bloom Carroll, sophomore (Heath)
12. Cody Hodge, Tusky Valley, senior (Heath)
13. Sean Szitas, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. D.J. Blair, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
15. Brad McConnell, Seneca East, senior (Owens College)
16. Nick Miller, Ontario, junior (Owens College)

Garfield Hts – Blumenthal, Fortune, Heldenbrand, Szitas, Blair

Heath – Quinn, Gibson, Hodge, Skylar Caldwell (Cardington Lincoln, senior), Caleb Horn (Amanda Clearcreek, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Erwin, Buxton, Williams, Sawyer Temple (Wayne Trace, junior), Cole Vencill (Dayton Northridge, junior)

Owens College – Cowell, Mattin, Escobedo, McConnell, Miller

Despite the credential-based resumes in this field not being that strong, there is a robust group of four that could end up winning the state title. Only two state placers (both with a fifth place finish on their resume) and a third wrestler with a state tournament win are among those in the talent pool, which also includes five wrestlers that went two and out last year (plus a sixth that did so in 2010) and five additional go-to-match losers.

Leading the way is the junior Erwin, who was fifth in the state at this same weight class last year, and does not have a loss according to my records this year. He also just won the recently completed Lima CC tournament. However, that is not to say he won't be challenged along the state tournament journey. Ranked second is a fellow junior Quinn, who came into high school with strong credentials but injury derailed his chances to compete the first two years. This year, finally back on the mats, he has proven to be excellent with a runner-up finish at Brecksville losing just to defending state champ Kyle Burns 4-3 on a late reversal, and earning a championship at the OVAC meet.

Third in the rankings is three-time state qualifier Cowell, who has either surpassed the 200 win mark, or will do so shortly. The enduring questions are what have those wins gotten him, and has the schedule been robust enough for him to show well during the state tournament. He finished fifth last year, and we'll see if he can get onto the raised platform of Saturday night this year. In his biggest test season to date, he faced Burns twice (state duals and Marion County final), and fell short both times losing 9-3 and 7-2. Fourth in the rankings is the senior Blumenthal, who was a go-to-match loser last year in Division I at Twinsburg before transferring to Beachwood. This year, he has titles at Olentangy Liberty, Hudson, and Kenston to his credit.

Each of those four wrestlers is from a separate district tournament. The two northern districts happen to be stronger with five ranked wrestlers each. We'll start with the Owens College district, which is headed by Cowell. Returning state qualifier Mattin is next ranked here, and is a junior who had a late start to his season, but has finished third at Perrysburg and was runner-up at Oregon Clay since his return. Next is 2010 state qualifier Escobedo, who was an alternate last year in a loaded district weight at 140 pounds; who on the season has titles at Toledo St. John's, Woodmore, and Van Buren. Then, on paper, it's a bunch of wrestlers for one spot, including the two mentioned in the rankings – district placer McConnell and Miller, a runner-up at the Gorman and champion at Marion Pleasant. Not mentioned in the rankings is returning state alternate Isaac Valle (Sherwood Fairview).

Blumenthal anchors the Garfield Hts district, which also features two other wrestlers with state tournament experience, both of whom are seniors. Fortune finally made the state tournament last year, after falling short the first two years, and this season has a title at New London and a sixth place finish at Medina. Heldenbrand was the third wrestler with a state tournament win last year, after the placers Erwin and Cowell. A pair of juniors in district placer Szitas and Blair is the primary candidates for that last state tournament spot.

Projected champ Erwin is the leader of the pack at Kettering Fairmont, which features two other ranked wrestlers in Buxton, a runner-up at Edgewood and Lima CC, and returning state qualifier Williams, who was seventh at the GMVWA. Three of the medalists at the Lima CC invitational this past weekend lead the group gunning for those last spots – two mentioned here along with Will Buettner (Delphos St. John's).

Finally, Quinn is joined by two other ranked wrestlers in the Heath district, both of who were state qualifiers – Gibson and Hodge – but went 0-2 in their debut Columbus appearance.

160 pounds

1. Aaron Yonker, Garrettsville Garfield, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
2. J.R. Conyers, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Brenden Stanley, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. David Shapiro, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Grant Price, Mohawk, junior (Owens College)
6. Nick Hughes, Seneca East, senior (Owens College)
7. Steven Elliott, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Wyatt Dye, Sandusky SMCC, sophomore (Owens College)
9. Austin Ripke, Archbold, senior (Owens College)
10. Jake Ziegler, Ridgewood, senior (Heath)
11. Dalton Nolte, St. Clairsville, junior (Heath)
12. Jake Finley, Hillsdale, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Logan Looser, Delphos St. John's, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Max Brooke, North Lima South Range, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Tyler Arnett, Wayne Trace, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Rob Mickley, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Heath)

Garfield Hts – Yonker, B. Stanley, Shapiro, Elliott, Finley, Brooke

Heath – J. Ziegler, Nolte, Mickley, Caleb Van Meter (Caldwell, junior), Levi Spencer (Shadyside, junior)
Kettering Fairmont – Conyers, Looser, Arnett, Dustin Shiverdecker (Arcanum, senior), Ben Miller (Covington, freshman)

Owens College – Price, Hughes, Dye, Ripke, Sam Morrison (Monroeville, junior)

Sometimes there's a weight class where there are a very limited number of wrestlers with state tournament credentials. This is one of those. There is only one wrestler in this weight that has a state tournament win in his career, and that young man is our favorite. The sophomore Yonker placed eighth in the state as a freshman, and has been impressive this year in finishing as runner-up at Brecksville and the Bill Dies. Those losses were to wrestlers ranked fifth and second in Division I, and he was in both of those matches throughout.

Looking at the rest of the weight class, three other wrestlers went two-and-out at state last year, four others were state alternates, and yet another was a district placer. There is some depth here, but not much in comparison to other weight classes across the 42 this year. Next in line is the returning state qualifier Conyers, a senior who has titles at Allen County, Van Buren, and Lima CC to his credit this year.

Behind those top two, the next pair of wrestlers joins Yonker in residing at the Garfield Hts district, where there are six ranked wrestlers in all. The junior Stanley was a state alternate last year, and has a third place finish at Marion County to his credit this year, where his lone loss was 3-2 to Daniels, who is ranked fifth in Division I. The senior Shapiro was a sectional champion at 171 last year, with a win over state qualifier Tyler Porter from Chanel, but he went just 2-2 at the district. This year he was champion at Beachwood and Olentangy Liberty, with a third at Hudson, and a second at Kenston. Also here are state alternate Elliott, who made a late drop down from 170; Finley, who was third at Lima CC; and Brooke, who went 2-2 at the district last year.

After the first four in the rankings, four of the next five exit the Owens College district, led by a pair of returning state qualifiers in Price and Ripke (both who went two and out at state). Price has runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and Marion Pleasant, while Ripke was fourth at Marion County. State alternate Hughes was second at Van Buren, while the sophomore Dye was 2-2 in this weight at district last year and just made his debut on the mats in mid-to-late January.

Conyers leads the pack at Kettering Fairmont, which features just two other ranked wrestlers. The senior Looser was 2-2 at the district last year, and this year has placed in four tournaments – first at Lincolnville, second at Allen County, third at Van Buren, and fourth at Lima CC. District placer Arnett is also a senior, placing second at Lima CC and fifth at Van Buren.

Finally, it is the Heath district, which has just three ranked wrestlers, none projected in a placing position with state alternate Ziegler leading the way. Also ranked here are Nolte – champion at Nelsonville York, and fourth at the OVAC – along with Mickleby, who was runner-up at Licking County.

170 pounds

1. Felipe Martinez, Genoa, senior (Owens College)
2. Zeb Beam, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Zach Mays, Nelsonville York, junior (Heath)
4. Garrick Montgomery, Ashland Crestview, senior (Owens College)
5. Jarrod Zang, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
6. Kale Rayner, Caldwell, junior (Heath)
7. J.J. Tipton, Amanda Clearcreek, junior (Heath)
8. Tate Ankney, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Owens College)
9. Travis Linton, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Josh Peters, Galion Northmor, junior (Heath)
11. Kaleb Matchett, Versailles, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nathan Smith, Coshocton, junior (Heath)
13. Trevor White, Orrville, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Cody Kovensky, Archbold, senior (Owens College)
15. Armani Robinson, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Trevor Colman, Arcadia, senior (Owens College)

Garfield Hts – Beam, T. Linton, White, Mark Hilty (Smithville, senior), Cody Alspach (Wellington, senior)

Heath – Mays, Zang, Kale Rayner, Tipton, Peters, Smith
Kettering Fairmont – Matchett, Robinson, Aaron King (Dixie, senior), Max McAdoo (Allen East, junior),
Luke Wrasman (Delphos St. John's, junior)
Owens College – Martinez, Montgomery, Ankney, Kovensky, Colman

In the great history of wrestling in the Buckeye State, there have been 22 four-time state champions, though these days it seems like it's a "dime a dozen" event. There has been at least one four-time state champion crowned in four consecutive years, and nine of the last eleven years. In fact, thirteen of those to win four were seniors since 2000. This year, there is one senior that has the chance to join this illustrious group – Felipe Martinez.

Much has been said about him over the last two seasons since he left St. Paris Graham and moved on to Genoa. His performance at the state tournament last year was not one commensurate with the traditional four-timer; however, he did get the job done with a narrow 3-2 semifinal victory over Beam and an overtime victory over Dominic Prezgia in the final. This year, he has competed a lot up in weight, but was down here for the Medina Invitational Tournament, where he struggled in the second round winning just 5-4 to Peters, before losing an early 4-1 lead in falling to David Gray 11-5 in the quarterfinal, and then defaulting out of the tournament. This past weekend, he went 10-0 at the SMCC Duals with seven pins.

Though I am picking him to get the job done in Columbus, it is not without a healthy dose of skepticism. If you told me that to be the case three years ago at this time, you might have sent me to the nearest psychiatrist.

The most likely candidate to "make history" would be the senior Beam, who as mentioned above lost to Martinez 3-2 in the semifinal last year before coming back to place third. This year Beam has but one loss, 9-5 to Mancuso in the finals at Marion County; and he just knocked off the previously undefeated Chris Moore at the Elmwood Duals this past weekend. If each exits as district champion, they will be separated at state.

Breaking down district tournaments, Martinez exits a deep district at Owens College with five ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Montgomery, who was one match short of placing at the Ironman, before placing fourth at Medina, fifth at Marion County, and first at Willard. Others ranked here include district place Ankney, who was champion at Lima CC; district placer Kovensky; and the senior Colman, who has titles at Arcadia, the December Lima CC event, and Van Buren this year. One to watch at this site, though not listed is the freshman Chance Sonnenberg (Van Buren).

The loaded district in this weight is the one at Heath, where six wrestles are ranked, including three with state tournament experience and an additional district placer. Leading that group is the junior Mays, a returning state qualifier who has placed top three at four tournaments this year – second at Olentangy Liberty and Nelsonville York, third at Brecksville and Marion County. All four of his losses are by 3-2 scores against opposition ranked in the top seven of either Division I or Division II. Next in line is 2010 Division II state qualifier Zang, who was a state alternate last year – also in Division II – and was runner-up at the CIT and Marion Pleasant in January. Returning state qualifier Rayner was third in the OVAC meet, while district placer Tipton was third at Miami Trace. Others mentioned here are Smith, who was champion at Smithville, and Peters, who placed fourth at Marion County and third at Marion Pleasant.

Beam is joined by two other ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district – the sophomore Linton, champion at Eastlake North this past weekend; and district placer White, who was second at Smithville and eighth at the Top Gun.

Finally, it is the Kettering Fairmont district, which features just two ranked wrestlers, both outside the top ten – each went 2-2 at the district tournament last year. The senior Matchett was fourth at the GMVWA, while the sophomore Robinson was seventh at the GMVWA, with second place finishes at Clinton Massie and Lima CC.

182 pounds

1. B.J. Toal, Troy Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Kevin Stock, Garrettsville Garfield, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Jacob Bresciani, Coshocton, senior (Heath)
4. David Gremling, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Jake Sheehy, Genoa, senior (Owens College)
6. Sam Groff, Sandy Valley, junior (Heath)
7. Jimmy Speith, Liberty Center, junior (Owens College)
8. Steve Farrow, Garaway, senior (Heath)
9. Cody McGuire, Fredricktown, senior (Heath)
10. Jonathan McClenathan, Cardington Lincoln, senior (Coshocton)
11. Daniel Kwiat, Tiffin Calvert, junior (Owens College)
12. Tyler Rufenacht, Archbold, senior (Owens College)
13. Jacob Schlater, Tri-County North, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Brian Olson, Covington, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Christian Peters, Cardinal Stritch, senior (Owens College)
16. Brad Minnard, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Heath)

Garfield Hts – Stock, Brandon Heidinger (Columbia, senior), Even Brettrager (Kirtland, junior), Nick Sutherland (Wellington, senior), Dylan Eberly (Hillsdale, sophomore)
Heath – Bresciani, Groff, Farrow, McGuire, McClenathan, Minnard
Kettering Fairmont – Toal, Gremling, Schlater, Olson, Tyler Shumate (Spencerville, senior)
Owens College – Speith, Sheehy, Kwiat, Rufenacht, Peters

With the additional upper-weight that was added, the talent was expected to have been stretched out across the weights. However, it seems that there is a massive assemblage in this weight class making it one of the tougher in all of Division III. There are three returning placers and five other state qualifiers, plus seven go-to-match losers (four alternates). Keep in mind that this does not include 2010 state placer Jeff Oberdick (Martins Ferry, senior) who was forced to default out of the OVAC tournament with an injury that is likely to keep him out for the duration of the season. If healthy, he is clearly a top six wrestler.

None the less, two of the top underclassmen within the division anchor this weight class, with juniors Toal and Stock at the top. These two wrestlers met in an excellent semifinal last year at the state tournament, Toal came out on top 8-7 and was the runner-up to Chris Phillips at 171 pounds. This year, Toal has been excellent with titles at Mila Edison, GMVWA, and Delaware Hayes to go with a third place finish at the Ironman behind Division II and Division I favorites Evans and Abounader (yes, I know Gresham injury defaulted in the quarters, but it's still darn good!).

Stock has come back with an excellent year of his own with a third place finish at Brecksville and a second place finish at the Bill Dies before winning at Wadsworth this past weekend. He is the clear lynchpin at the Garfield Hts district, where there are no other wrestlers in the top sixteen. Among those mentioned seeking the other three spots is district placer Sutherland, who took sixth at Medina. Heidinger was 1-2 at the district last year, Eberly was 0-2 at the district, while Brettrager did not even make the district (and was a late dropper from a loaded 195 weight at the Garfield Hts site). The only three in this district with a district tournament win last year were Stock, Sutherland, and Heidinger.

On the other hand, even without Oberdick life is so loaded at the Heath district that returning state placer Tyler Beck, who had made a mid-season drop to this weight, saw it fit to move right back up to 195 pounds. There are six ranked wrestlers in all – four state qualifiers (one placer), a state alternate, and a district sixth among them. Leading the way is returning state placer Bresciani, a two-time state qualifier, who was second at Smithville and first at Marion County this year. Other state qualifiers are Groff, who won a match at state last year in his second state tournament appearance, along with Farrow and McGuire who each went 0-2. State alternate McClenathan was third at Marion County, while district sixth Minnard was second at Miami Trace.

The Owens College district is also a deep site with five of the ranked wrestlers, led by state alterate Sheehy, who was undefeated at the SMCC Duals with a win over two-time state qualifier Groff, and was fifth at Medina. Also present here is Speith, the lone returning state qualifier. Fellow state alternates are Rufenacht and Kwiat; this year, Kwiat was second at the CIT and was runner-up at Van Buren with a 4-3 loss to Gremling. Rounding out the quintet is the senior Peters, champion at Northwood and sixth at Oregon Clay.

Three other ranked wrestlers join projected champion Toal in the Kettering Fairmont district. Gremling was a state qualifier last year, going 1-2 in Columbus; this year he was champion at Allen County, Lima CC in December, Van Buren, and Lima CC this past weekend, with a fifth place finish at the CIT thrown in. District placer Schlater was champion at Tipp City and runner-up at Lima CC with a 3-2 loss to Gremling. Finally, the junior Olson was fifth at the GMVWA and Troy, and third at Lima CC.

195 pounds

1. Garrett Linton, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Dalton Ishmael, North Baltimore, junior (Owens College)
3. Lucas Dies, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Dan Barrett, Chanel, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Kaleb Campbell, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Diante Jackson, VASJ, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Connor Shook, Newark Catholic, senior (Heath)
8. Jay Nino, Genoa, freshman (Owens College)
9. Logan Heiing, Delphos St. John's, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Ryan Weber, Loudonville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Tyler Beck, Galion Northmor, junior (Heath)
12. Joey Dismuke, Johnstown Monroe, senior (Heath)
13. Damien Marshall, Defiance Tinora, senior (Owens College)
14. Napoleon Bell, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
15. Zach Coole, Martins Ferry, junior (Heath)
16. Gavin Windau, Columbus Grove, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Garfield Hts – G. Linton, Dies, Barrett, Jackson, Weber

Heath – Shook, Beck, Dismuke, Bell, Coole

Kettering Fairmont – Campbell, Heiing, Windau, Colin McConnahea (Delphos Jefferson, junior), Connor Domsitz (Brookville, senior)

Owens College – Ishmael, Nino, Marshall, Alec Goodrich (DeGraff Riverdale, senior), R.J. Sanchez (Arcadia, sophomore)

After such a deep weight at 182 pounds, this is anything but that. Three state placers (one fifth, two eighth), two other state qualifiers, and no other district placers populate this weight class. When surveying the landscape, I see a two person battle for the title between the senior Linton and the junior Ishmael. Linton was eighth at state last year in the tough 171 pound weight class, spent much of the off-season and early season at 215/220, and made the late drop seeing the writing on the wall with state runner-up Kennedy Smith and others at 220. During his stint at 215/220, he was a gold medalist in the district division at the Disney Duals, a Super32 third place finisher, and eighth at the Iroman.

Ranked second here is the highest returning placer from last year, Ishmael, who took fifth at 189 pounds. He is undefeated on the year with titles at Gibsonburg, Arcadia, Woodmore, and Van Buren. We shall see if his schedule has prepared him for the postseason – he's more or less dominated all wrestlers put in front of him so far. The district that he anchors at Owens College has just two other ranked wrestlers in the freshman Nino, who placed seventh at Medina including a win over returning state placer Beck, and the senior Marshall who was 2-2 at district last year. It's wide open for the last one (or two) spots out of here.

On the other hand, Linton has to navigate a tough district tournament that features four wrestlers ranked inside the top six of this weight class (and a fifth who is ranked tenth). Leading the challenge pack is the senior Dies, who is vastly improved coming in off a very positive freestyle/Greco-Roman offseason, and has placed third at the Gorman and fourth at the Bill Dies this season. Next on the list is another senior, Barrett, who was at 285 pounds last year. This year he dropped underneath teammate Smith instead of above him (Jon Schafer was at 189 last year for the Firebirds), and has performed well with a seventh at Brecksville, third at the CIT, and a title at this past weekend's Lima CC event. Returning state qualifier Jackson won a match in last year's state tournament at 215 pounds, and placed fourth at the CIT this year. Finally, it is the sophomore Weber who won two district tournament matches at 215 last year, and was champion at Mount Vernon before taking fourth at the Gorman and Top Gun.

There is also solid depth present in the Heath district, though not as talented as the excellent depth in the weight before. The top ranked wrestler here is the senior Shook, who was second at Licking County, one match away from top six at the CIT, and second at Lima CC. Returning state eighth placer Beck has had a mixed junior season, failing to place at Medina, taking second at the Gorman (down at 182), a runner-up finish at the Marion County tournament, and third place at Marion Pleasant. Seniors Bell and Dismuke were 2-2 at the district last year, as was the junior Coole.

Finally, it is the Kettering Fairmont district with three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Campbell – champion at Edgewood, third at Lima CC, and 0-2 at the state tournament last year. Seniors Heiing and Windau are the other two ranked wrestlers here despite going 0-2 in the district tournament last year. Heiing has placed first in four tournaments, fifth at the CIT, and fourth at Lima CC; while Windau was second at Arcadia and fifth at Lima CC. It's wide open for spot number four to state.

220 pounds

1. Kennedy Smith, Chanel, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Curtis Miller, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Jake Baker, Elmwood, senior (Owens College)
4. Kody Bellamy, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Owens College)
5. Jacob Coon, Nelsonville York, senior (Heath)
6. Wyatt Karhoff, Ottawa Glandorf, junior (Owens College)
7. Bryan Hefflinger, Liberty Center, senior (Owens College)
8. Travis Boyd, Blanchester, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Justin Post, Coldwater, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Austin Cary, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Matthew Parker, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Isaiah Blevins, North Union, junior (Heath)
13. Trevor Badertscher, Hillsdale, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Brandon Fausnaugh, Carey, senior (Owens College)
15. Tyler Keathley, New London, senior (Owens College)
16. Nick Firestone, Arcanum, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Garfield Hts – Smith, Cary, Badertscher, Adam Kuchta (Elyria Catholic, sophomore), Terry Sas (Black River, senior)

Heath – Coon, Blevins, Jordan Kirkman (Sandy Valley, senior), Jake Genders (Amanda Clearcreek, senior), Jamie Barrett (Belpre, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Miller, Boyd, Post, Parker, Firestone

Owens College – Baker, Bellamy, Karhoff, Hefflinger, Fausnaugh, Keathley

Like the weight before, this is a weight that has the double whammy of the lack of depth in Division III this year and the additional upper-weight. There are five quality wrestlers in this weight, after that there is a significant drop off. Quite frankly, for spots six on down, throwing darts would be a more effective method of ranking than any deliberative process. The five quality wrestlers are the ones with state experience. Behind them only five wrestlers even won two district tournament matches last year – a pair that were district placers, and three that went 2-2.

Leading the way here is returning state runner-up Smith, who sustained an injury in last year's state final and did not return to the mats until mid-January when he made the semifinals at the CIT and defaulted back to sixth place. Two weeks later, he competed at Lima CC and was a decisive champion. However, he will be tested by the other members of the top five in this weight class, all of whom are seniors – most notable among them is Miller. He was a state finals caliber kid last year heading into the state tournament week, having won a match at state in 2010, but had to scratch from the state tournament. This year, he was dominant at Lincolnview and Allen County in the opening month.

Behind those two are a pair of returning state placers that exit the Owens College district. Baker, who placed sixth last year, has finished third at both Medina and Oregon Clay; while Bellamy, who placed seventh, has just one loss to Ward (ranked second in Division II), and has won titles at Toledo St. John's, the J.C. Gorman, and Marion County. There are four wrestlers ranked here seeking the two additional state spots from this district tournament, including district placers Karhoff and Hefflinger.

Last in that group of five is Coon, who was 1-2 at the state tournament last year, and has placed top three in four tournaments this year – champion at Olentangy Liberty, second at Nelsonville York, and third at Brecksville and Marion County. The lone other ranked wrestler at the Heath district is Blevins,

who went 2-2 at the district tournament last year. Only three other wrestlers in this district won a match here last year. Look for some possible movement out of 195 into this weight class.

The Kettering Fairmont district that Miller anchors has four other ranked wrestlers that seek the three remaining state qualification spots. The junior Boyd was champion at Madeira and Reading before the runner-up finish to Smith at Lima CC. Post, only a sophomore, was second at Troy and third at Lima CC. Parker was second at Dixie and one match away from placing at Lima CC losing to both Boyd and Post, while Firestone was first at Tipp City, third at Troy, and fifth at Eaton.

Finally, the Garfield Hts district that Smith anchors has just two other ranked wrestlers in the junior Cary, who was second at the J.C. Gorman losing 4-3 to Bellamy and a match away from placing at the Top Gun; along with district placer Badertscher, who was second at New London and failed to place at Lima CC. It's wide open for that other state qualification spot.

285 pounds

1. Mimmo Lytle, Swanton, senior (Owens College)
2. Nino Majoy, Huron, senior (Owens College)
3. Zach Srock, Chippewa, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Sam Rodgers, Wellington, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Justin Gillen, Liberty Center, senior (Owens College)
6. Paul Kelbly, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Alex Damschorder, Carey, senior (Owens College)
8. Tim Schenkel, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
9. Eric Zuberer, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Patrick Garren, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
11. Terry Harper, Columbus Harvest Prep, senior (Heath)
12. Richard McFarland, Chesapeake, senior (Heath)
13. Shawn Kissel, Buckeye Central, sophomore (Owens College)
14. Ty Newton, National Trail, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Geoff Ketcham/Quinton Wessel, Delphos Jefferson, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Mitch Karhoff, Cory Rawson, junior (Owens College)

Garfield Hts – Srock, Rodgers, Kelby, Zuberer, Jacob Hanzel (Manchester, sophomore)

Heath – Schenkel, Garren, Harper, McFarland, Cory Ernest (St. Clairsville, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Newton, Ketcham/Wessel, Kody Koronich (Bluffton, senior), Tyler Kirbabas (CHCA, senior), Kody Bray (Reading, junior)

Owens College – Lytle, Majoy, Gillen, Damschorder, Kissel, Karhoff

Seeking a repeat championship, and a fourth state placement at heavyweight, Lytle could arguably go down as one of the best wrestlers to ever complete their career in Division III at heavyweight (the best ever is locked up by Dean Taylor from Delta, who was a two-time state champion and four-time state finalist from 1996-1999; while Koel Davia from Union Local was a three-time champion from 2002-2004). This season, Lytle has won by a fall in every single match that was not at the Ironman, where he placed third. Championships for Lytle were at Northwood, Toledo St. John's, Woodmore, Van Buren, and Lima CC. The question isn't if he'll win at this point, but instead how dominant he'll be.

The primary challenger for Lytle comes from his own district at Owens College, which features six other ranked wrestlers, including Majoy – a two-time state qualifier who was third at state last year. This year,

Majoy was sixth at the Ironman, and champion at Marion County. Gillen went 1-2 at the state tournament, was eighth at Medina, second at Oregon Clay, and first at Marion Pleasant. Like Lytle, Damschorder – who went 0-2 at state last year – has an obscene amount of pins. In fact, he has a pin in every match this year but for the Lima CC final when he was pinned by Lytle. Two others are ranked here, but they'll need upsets to make the state tournament.

The other two wrestlers with state experience exit the Garfield Hts district, in Srock – a returning state placer – and Rodgers, who went 0-2 at state. This year, Srock was champion at Chippewa, beating Rodgers, and beat fellow returning state qualifier Connor Sharp to win the Bill Dies. Rodgers was second at Chippewa, first at New London, and sixth at Medina. Two other ranked wrestlers exit this district in Kelby, who was runner-up at Smithville, and state alternate Zuberer, champion at Lorain.

The Heath district features four ranked wrestlers, led by state alternate Schenkel, who was third at the OVAC meet. Next in line is the sophomore Garren, who was 0-2 at the district tournament in the 189 pound weight class; this year he was third at Olentangy Liberty, sixth at North Canton, and runner-up at the CIT. Fellow state alternate Harper is also in this weight class, as is district placer McFarland, who has finished third at Gallia and second at Nelsonville York.

Finally, it is the Kettering Fairmont district, which has just two ranked wrestlers here, and quite frankly, it's wide open in terms of all four qualifying spots. Impact at the state tournament from whom ever gets out here will be limited.

Team Standing

To be posted when the calculations are done