

Division I

106 pounds

1. Brakan Mead, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Gio DiSabato, Hilliard Davidson, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
3. Bryce Andonian, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)
4. Gabe Tagg, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
5. Zach Shupp, Fairfield, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jake Canitano, Solon, freshman (Mentor)
7. Sam Glassco, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Jack Gorman, Aurora, freshman (Mentor)
9. Lucas Byrd, LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Joe Pascale, Troy, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Matt Zuckerman, Elyria, freshman (Perrysburg)
12. Andy Graham, Louisville, junior (Mentor)
13. Johnny Cracker, Mayfield, senior (Mentor)
14. Michael Shaw, Olmsted Falls, sophomore (Perrysburg)
15. Lucas Seibert, Westerville North, sophomore (Hilliard Davidson)
16. Oscar Sanatana, Glen Este, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Mead, DiSabato, Seibert, Justin Rodriguez (Whetstone, junior); Zach Williams (Delaware Hayes, freshman)

KF – Shupp, Glassco, Byrd, Pascale; Santana

MEN – Tagg, Canitano, Gorman, Graham; Cracker

PBG – Andonian, Zuckerman, Shaw, Brock Swartzbaugh (Wadsworth, senior); Kyle Ryan (Perrysburg, junior)

Though many view the opening weight class as a bastion for freshmen, just one has won the big-school state title in this weight class (be it 103 or 106) in the ten years prior to this one. That being Dean Heil of St. Edward back in 2010 on his way to becoming a four-time state champion. Though the top two ranked wrestlers are non-freshmen, there are just three total wrestlers in this weight class with state tournament experience, so the climate is rife for a freshman winner; duly noted is the presence of freshmen in six of the seven ranking spots behind the top two.

There are a couple of narratives that have run its course over the last few years about Central District wrestling in the big-school division (Hilliard Darby the host site). One of those is about it being the weak link within Division I statewide. That was the case five years ago to be sure, but it is clearly not the case today; for evidence look at the statistics showing year-to-year improvement from the Hilliard Darby district at the state tournament (minimizing two-and-outs, overall and championship only record). From another camp is the theory that the potential for five-plus state champs shows that it is a/the strong district; however, a counter-argument points to the number of weights where there is a paucity of ranked wrestlers (conversely a couple of weights have an abundance of ranked wrestlers, i.e. five-plus).

This weight class has it all encapsulated. The top two ranked wrestlers in this state weight class, returning state placers Mead and DiSabato, exit the district. However, they are joined by just one other ranked wrestler at the district tournament (Seibert in 15th). Mead, an unexpected runner-up last year in this state tournament weight class, is this year's favorite. He is undefeated in matches at this weight

class, winning titles at Olentangy Liberty, Brecksville, and Wadsworth; the lone loss came in an early round at the Bill Dies, while competing at 113 pounds, but was avenged in the third place bout.

DiSabato placed sixth at state last year, and has spent much of the year up a weight class, but won the title in this weight class at the West Jefferson Invitational between Christmas and New Year's. The sophomore Seibert was champion at the Tilted Kilt Classic and Licking Heights, while finishing sixth at Medina.

The two deepest district tournaments in this weight class are at Kettering Fairmont and Mentor, each has five ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Shupp, who has won three tournaments this season (SWOWCA, Kenston, and Fairfield) without a documented loss is the anchor at Kettering Fairmont. He is joined by the freshman Glassco, champion at Mason; another freshman in Byrd, champion at Top Gun; returning district placer Pascale, champion at Trenton Edgewood; and the senior Santana, runner-up at Mason in this weight after competing at 113 for much of the early season.

The freshman Tagg, a Cadet freestyle All-American and champion at the Bill Dies, anchors the field at Mentor; also on the season, he placed eighth at the Ironman and fifth at Brecksville. Next in line is fellow freshman Canitano, champion at Solon, North Coast Classic, and Maumee Bay. Another freshman Gorman is next with a title at Hudson, runner-up finish at Top Gun, and third place at Wadsworth. Upper classmen in Graham and Cracker, both of whom placed at the Top Gun and in at least one other major tournament this season, round it out.

Last on the board is our other shallow district, the one at Perrysburg, which is anchored by the freshman Andonian. He was one match from placing at the Ironman, including first day wins over Tagg and returning state champion Josh Venia, and beat Division II title contender Jordan Crace in a January dual meet. The other two ranked wrestlers at this site are outside the top nine statewide that have created slight separation on the field, and fit closer with the honorable mention wrestlers; therefore, the three state spots behind Andonian are very open for the taking.

113 pounds

1. Davione Edwards, Lorain, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Brandon Fenton, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
3. Coleton Chase, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Caleb Yates, Anthony Wayne, junior (Perrysburg)
5. Jarod Bronstrup, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
6. Jackson Lakso, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Matt Kazimir, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Jordan Ward, Moeller, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Logan Heil, Brunswick, freshman (Perrysburg)
10. Spencer Dusi, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
11. Matt Fields, Walsh Jesuit, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Chad Craft, Nortmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Cory Baird, Harrison, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jamien Hood, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Parker Brunkala, Mentor, junior (Mentor)
16. Noah Georgian, Kenston, senior (Mentor)
17. Gannon Petrullo, Dover, junior (Mentor)

HD – Chase, Lakso, Jakaria Hossan (Dublin Coffman, junior), William Harris (Tri-Valley, sophomore); Vu Nguyen (Pickerington Central, senior)

KF – Ward, Craft, Baird, Hood; Jabari Thomas (Fairfield, freshman)

MEN – Bronstrup, Dusi, Fields, Brunkala; Georgian, Petrullo

PBG – Edwards, Fenton, Yates, Kazimir; Heil, Matt McMillen (Wadsworth, junior)

A couple of things can be said about this weight class. First, there is a quantity of talent here, with twelve returning/previous state qualifiers plus two freshmen with high-level junior high resumes. The second, this is a wide open weight class. It's the residual of last year's 106 pound landscape in Division I once Zack Donathan failed to make weight at the state tournament (Donathan is at 126 this year).

The most talented wrestler in this weight class, and one with the most robust credentials, is the senior Edwards. Having placed third at state as a sophomore, he was seconds from a state finals appearance before a third caution during the ultimate tiebreaker condemned him to a semifinal loss to eventual state champion Yates. On the season, he has a title at the Maumee Bay Classic to go with a runner-up finish at Medina. Edwards anchors a very strong district tournament at Perrysburg that has four other top nine wrestlers, which means a potential state placer won't even get to Columbus.

Ranked second in this weight class is the sophomore Fenton, who placed seventh in this weight class last year. He went 1-2 at the Ironman in this weight class before moving up to 120 where he has been for subsequent competitions, including a fourth place finish at Brecksville and a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies; however, a return to this weight class is pending for the state series. State champion Yates has just won one tournament this season, that being at the J.C. Gorman; he went 3-2 at the Ironman, placed sixth at Brecksville, and fourth at the Maumee Bay Classic. The sophomore Kazimir is a returning state qualifier, who sustained an injury while extending nationally ranked Blair freshman Chris Cannon to overtime at the Ironman; he has not returned since, though a February return has been suggested. Rounding it out is the freshman Heil, who was champion at Solon with runner-up finishes at the Bill Dies and Central Crossing tournaments.

Showing the wide open nature of this weight class is the senior Chase, who placed seventh at state last year. Despite a head-on win over projected champion Edwards in the final at Medina, he is predicted to finish third at state in this weight class. Chase also anchors a Hilliard Darby district that has just one other ranked wrestler, that being fellow senior Lakso, a returning state qualifier last year; this season he placed third at North Canton and the Maumee Bay Classic, fifth at Medina, and won a title at Central Crossing.

The deepest district tournament in this weight class is at Mentor, one that features six ranked wrestlers, led by returning state third place finisher Bronstrup, who has been in and out of the lineup this year due to injury. Next on the ladder is fellow senior Dusi, also a returning state qualifier, who was runner-up at Solon and the Hephner, champion at the North Coast Classic, and fifth at Brecksville. The sophomore Fields was a state alternate last year competing at Brunswick, and upon eligibility at Walsh Jesuit finished as runner-up at the Top Gun. Other ranked wrestlers include state qualifiers Georgian, champion at Kenston, and Top Gun third place finisher Petrullo.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which is anchored by the freshman Ward, who was champion at SWOWCA and third at the CIT. Next on the ladder is 2014 state qualifier Craft, who was runner-up at the GMVWA before winning titles at Troy and Valley View. Fellow junior Baird, a

state qualifier last season, placed fifth at SWOWCA; while it's another junior Hood who rounds out the ranked lot, placing fourth at the Dvorak in Illinois and first at Mason.

120 pounds

1. Noah Baughman, Wadsworth, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Nick Henneman, Oregon Clay, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Colin Schuster, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Ronnie Rowan, Firestone, sophomore (Perrysburg)
5. Harry Feuer, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
6. Andy Garr, Aurora, freshman (Mentor)
7. Josh Breeding, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Jordin James, Bedford, junior (Mentor)
9. Chase Craft, Northmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Lamonte Chapman, Fremont Ross, sophomore (Perrysburg)
11. Jordan Rosselli, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
12. Seth Transue, Dublin Jerome, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Ray Porter, Strongsville, senior (Perrysburg)
14. A.J. Warner, Fairborn, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Derek Sharp, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Jared Thiemann, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Rosselli, Transue, Sharp, Zach Collins (Central Crossing, junior); James White IV (Delaware Hayes, sophomore)

KF – Schuster, Craft, Warner, Thiemann; Brandon Hertel (Glen Este, senior)

MEN – Feuer, Garr, James, Tyson Long (Shaker Hts, junior); Josh Nelly (Garfield Hts, senior), Dietrich Boysel (Hudson, sophomore)

PBG – Baughman, Henneman, Rowan, Breeding; Chapman, Porter

Ever since last year's 9-5 setback in the state semifinal against then freshman Jaden Mattox, 2014 state champion Baughman has been on a mission of redemption. It started by bouncing back to place third on Saturday morning, and then continued with a Junior National freestyle All-American finish this summer in Fargo. The Cornell commit then earned a third place finish at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman to open the season, a finals appearance at North Canton, and a championship at Wadsworth. Baughman is favored to finish off the mission with his second state title.

He leads a district at Perrysburg that features three of the top four, along with three other state ranked wrestlers; meaning that at least two ranked wrestlers won't be making the trip to the Schott. For those pondering a move to 126, three returning state placers at that weight class in this district makes it risky.

Ranked second in this weight class is the junior Henneman, who placed sixth at state last year and joins Baughman at the same district tournament. On this season, he won a titles at Solon and the Maumee Bay Classic, while placing eighth at the Ironman and fifth at Brecksville. The sophomore Rowan, runner-up at Solon in the 126 pound weight class before dropping to this weight class and winning titles at North Coast and the Bill Dies (where he beat two state placers), is next in the rankings from this district. Also here is Breeding, who made state as a freshman last year, and has spent the bulk of the season at 126 where he was fourth at Brecksville and the Bill Dies; he made this weight class for the regional quarterfinal round of state duals. Rounding out the ranked lot is the sophomore Chapman, who won a

title at the Gorman while placing at Brecksville and Maumee Bay, along with returning state qualifier Porter.

Three other returning state placers, for a total of five, populate this weight class among its eleven returning state tournament participants. Two of those state placers reside in the Kettering Fairmont district in the juniors Schuster and Craft, both of whom finished eighth last year. Schuster spend the first month of the season up in weight class, including an eighth place finish at 138 in the Dvorak; before dropping to this weight class to win a title at Mason. Craft has runner-up finishes to Justin Stickley at both the GMVVA and Valley, while winning a title at Troy. Returning state qualifier Warner has titles at Bellbrook and Hamilton Township, the junior Thiemann was runner-up at SWOWCA and placed in two other tournaments, while the senior Hertel is a returning state alternate.

Last among the returning podium finishers is two-time placer Feuer, who has had an uneven senior season after transferring from Mayfield to Brecksville. He won a combined six matches at the nation's two toughest tournaments to start the season, placed eighth at Brecksville, and was third at the Bill Dies taking a loss to Rowan. Feuer is joined by two other projected state placers in the freshman Garr and returning state qualifier James at the Mentor district, though they are the only ranked wrestlers at that district. Garr has a head-on win over James in finishing runner-up at Aurora, has another runner-up finish at Hudson, was third at Top Gun, and seventh at Brecksville.

The remaining district is at Hilliard Darby, which has just three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifiers Rosselli and Transue. The sophomore Rosselli was champion at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at Wadsworth, while the senior Transue has placed in four different tournaments this season. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the junior Sharp who placed seventh at Top Gun.

126 pounds

1. Alex Mackall, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
2. Mario Guillen, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Allan Hart, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
4. Zack Donathan, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Garrett Lambert, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Kris Volpe, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jake Donahue, Massillon, senior (Mentor)
8. Austin Murphy, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Marco Regalbuto, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
10. Cameron Latham, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Michael North, Wadsworth, freshman (Perrysburg)
12. Elijah Perkins, Miamisburg, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Andrew Lieb, Watkins Memorial, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Andrew Murphy, Dover, junior (Mentor)
15. Josh Grant, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Ryan Wissell, Medina Highland, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Volpe, Latham, Lieb, Grant; J.D. Woods (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Donathan, Au. Murphy, Perkins; Drew Saunier (Springboro, junior)

MEN – Mackall, Donahue, Regalbuto, An. Murphy; Evan Hornyak (Chardon, senior)

PBG – Guillen, Hart, Lambert, North; Wissell

Over the last eight state tournaments (2008-2015), there has been at least one weight class with two past state champions present on six occasions. Should the present composition remain in this weight class, it would be seven in nine. Among the anchors in this weight class are 2014 state champion Mackall and returning state champion Hart. Furthering the stacked nature of this weight class is four other wrestlers that have placed in the top six previously at the state tournament, seven other returning state qualifiers, and two freshmen who were junior high state finalists last year.

Let's start with projected state champion Mackall, a two-time state finalist and returning Junior National freestyle All-American who signed with Rutgers in the early period. On the season he placed sixth at the Ironman, though he was less than 20 seconds away from the championship match, won a title at Solon, and was runner-up to three-time state champion Tyler Warner at the Top Gun. He anchors the district at Mentor that also features returning state placer and three-time state qualifier Donahue, who was champion at Maumee Bay this season. The season of the freshman Regalbuto embodies the perplexing nature of ranking this weight class; finalist at Brecksville and champion at the Bill Dies, but losing to two fellow freshmen in dual meets. Rounding out the ranked group at Mentor is the junior Murphy, who placed fourth at the Top Gun, and won a state tournament match in Division II last year.

Three of the other top five wrestlers in this weight class exit the district at Perrysburg, which is led by three-time state placer Guillen. The Ohio University signee was fourth at the Ironman, including a split of matches with returning state champion Mitch Moore, before winning titles at Brecksville and Perrysburg. Returning state champion Hart lost to Baughman at the district last year, but upset Mattox in the state final; he was one match from placing at the Ironman, losing 4-2 to tournament runner-up Cole Matthews and 1-0 to third place finisher Mitch Moore. Two-time state placer Lambert placed fifth in this weight class at the Ironman (including a win over Mackall) and the Bill Dies, while at 132 was second at Medina and third at Solon.

There are two other state ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, the freshman North and returning district placer Wissell. The freshman North was fourth at North Canton and had the huge 5-2 dual meet victory over Regalbuto. Returning state alternate Brandon Bartlome (Lorain) has also competed here this year, but is more likely to be seen at 132.

The last of the top five wrestlers in this weight class is 2014 state placer Donathan, who failed to make weight at last year's state tournament; he was a very strong favorite to take home gold at 106 pounds. On the season, his three losses are by a combined five points, all of them to nationally ranked wrestlers; 4-2 to Mitch Moore and 5-4 in the tiebreaker to Tyler Warner at the Ironman, and then 4-3 in the semifinals to Austin Gomez from Illinois at the Dvorak. Donathan was champion at Mason in January, and is joined by two other ranked wrestlers in the Kettering Fairmont district, both of whom were state qualifiers last year. The sophomore Murphy was champion at SWOWCA, third at Brecksville, and a consolation finalist at the CIT; while the junior Perkins was champion at Fairfield, runner-up at Miamisburg, and third at the GMVWA.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Hilliard Darby, which features four ranked wrestlers; led by returning state qualifier Volpe, champion at Wadsworth and 1-2 in this state tournament weight class last year. 2014 state placer Latham was champion at Olentangy Liberty and Miamisburg, with a sixth place finish at Brecksville coming from a semifinal appearance. Returning state qualifier Lieb has titles at Olentangy Orange and Marion County on the season. Returning state qualifier Osborn falls outside the top sixteen in this weight class.

132 pounds

1. Jaden Mattox, Central Crossing, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
2. Corey Shie, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Connor Brady, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
4. Sam Dover, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)
5. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
6. Andre Stowers, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)
7. Gary Define, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
8. Jeremy Rezabek, Strongsville, senior (Perrysburg)
9. Dylan Buis, Oak Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Austin Sper, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Jason Bronstrup, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
12. Isaac Hendershot, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
13. Luke Hernandez, Tri-Valley, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Walker Heard, Marysville, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
15. Chris Donathan, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Brady Wilson, Stebbins, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
17. Jalil Barnes, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Mattox, Brady, Hernandez, Heard; Barnes

KF – Shie, Buis, Sper, Donathan; Wilson

MEN – Brezovec, Stowers, Define, Bronstrup; Hendershot, Andrew Fairbanks (Austintown Fitch, junior)

PBG – Dover, Rezabek, Luke Baughman (Wadsworth, freshman), Tyler Grimes (Copley, senior); Brandon Barlome (Lorain, senior)

The top four ranked wrestlers in this weight class have separated from the rest of the field, two of them are underclass veterans while the other two are immediate impact freshmen. Ranked first in this weight class is returning state runner-up Mattox, who beat defending state champion Baughman in the semifinal before losing to Hart in the final; Baughman beat Hart in the district final the previous Saturday night, proving yet again the transitive property tends not to hold, even though it would make ranking and analysis much easier.

On the season, Mattox finished third at the Walsh Ironman, losing just 9-5 to the tournament champion, and has then won four straight tournaments: North Canton, Medina, Maumee Bay, and (at 138) Central Crossing. He leads the way at a Hilliard Darby district weight that features two freshmen among the other four ranked wrestlers. The first of those freshmen is Brady, a multi-time junior high state champion, who has been in the final of four tournaments this year; champion at Olentangy Liberty and the Bill Dies, while losing in the tiebreaker at both Brecksville and Wadsworth. The other freshman is Heard, also a junior high state champion last year, and a semifinalist at both the SWOWCA and Top Gun tournaments already this season. The other two ranked wrestlers are the junior Hernandez and the senior Barnes; Hernandez made a late drop into this weight class to win the Cruiser Invitational, while the senior Barnes was first at Olentangy Orange.

The other veteran among the top four in this weight class is the junior Shie, who placed fifth at state as a freshman before going a disappointing 1-2 last year in this state tournament weight class despite entering as a district champion. On the season, he has titles at SWOWCA, Top Gun, and Wadsworth (beating Brady) to go with a third place finish at Brecksville. Anchoring the Kettering Fairmont district he is joined by four other ranked wrestlers: returning state qualifiers in Buis and Sper, the freshman

Donathan, and the sophomore Wilson. Buis was fourth at Medina this season, Sper was a late dropper into this weight class placing at SWOWCA and Kenston at 138, the freshman Donathan was champion at Mason and placed at the Dvorak, while Wilson has won three different tournaments. Also here is returning state qualifier Keyon Huntley (Cincinnati Northwest).

The other “big four” wrestler is the freshman Dover, who has been excellent in his high school debut season. He was one match away from placing at the Walsh Ironman, including a pair of wins over multi-time Ohio state placers, and at the Clash National Duals he had three wins over multi-time state placers from Illinois and Oklahoma. Dover anchors the weakest of the four districts, as he is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at Perrysburg. That would be returning state alternate Rezabek, who was champion at Solon, runner-up at Kenston, and seventh at the Top Gun. The other two district spots are wide open among many wrestlers.

Last among the districts is the one at Mentor, which has a lot of depth if not possessing a top end contender. Rumored to making a late drop is the junior Brezovec, a 2014 state placer, who has titles at Hudson and Wadsworth to go with a fourth place at Brecksville up in the 138 weight class. He’ll be joined by state placer Stowers, who was runner-up at Hudson and champion at Kenston. Also here is the junior Define, whose first two years were lost in the shuffle while being closed out by excellent Massillon Perry light-weights; this season he has placed third at Medina and fourth at Top Gun. The other two wrestlers ranked here were go-to-state match losers last season, as is Fairbanks.

138 pounds

1. Hunter Ladnier, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Moises Guillen, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
3. James Wimer, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Jake Marsh, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
5. Joseph Koontz, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
6. Carson Kharchlava, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
8. Eric Beck, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Nathan Langston, Solon, senior (Mentor)
10. Jake Thompson, Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Seth Whitehead, Massillon Jackson, senior (Mentor)
12. Andrew Ormiston, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Jake Meredieth, Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Austin Victor, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
15. Adam Kirresh, Avon, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Charles Bartz, Dover, senior (Mentor)
17. Josh Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Wimer, Marsh, Kharchlava, Ormiston; Gore

KF – Beck, Thompson, Meredieth, Chase Haehnle (Oak Hills, sophomore); Evan Pulaski (Centerville, senior)

MEN – Koontz, Brezovec, Langston, Whitehead; Victor, Bartz

PBG – Ladnier, Guillen, Kirresh, Jaeckin; Calixtro Mondragon (Oregon Clay, senior)

Over the years, much has been talked about the dynasty that is St. Edward wrestling. Two years ago the Eagles went without a state champion for the first time since 1990. Then, if not for Hart’s upset win in

the state final, they would have done the ever rare win a state championship without a state champion. This year, the senior Ladnier is the lone St. Edward wrestler favored to win a state title.

The returning state runner-up started the season on fire winning the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, and then continued the form at the Clash National Duals as he went undefeated. Ladnier's lone loss on the season came by 11-3 major decision against returning state champion Brent Moore, a wrestler he out-placed at the Ironman. The second ranked wrestler also exits his district at Perrysburg, the junior Guillen, who already is a two-time state placer; on this season he was champion at Brecksville, runner-up at Maumee Bay, and one match from placing at the Ironman.

Behind those two, this district is thin when it comes to state level talent with Kirresh and Jaeckin as the other two ranked wrestlers, but very low in the rankings. Kirresh was champion at Avon Lake, runner-up at Perry, and third at the Bill Dies; while Jaeckin was eighth at Medina, fifth at the Bill Dies, and third at Central Crossing. These two, the other kid listed, and a couple of others will be battle it out for state spots behind Ladnier and Guillen.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings exit the Hilliard Darby district, which has five in the rankings at this weight class. The senior Wimer is a returning state placer, and has titles at North Canton and Medina this season, along with a third place finish at Maumee Bay. Marsh went 1-2 in the state tournament last year as a freshman, and has a title at Top Gun to go with a runner-up finish at SWOWCA for the season to date. The third ranked wrestler from the district is the freshman Kharchlava, a Cadet freestyle All-American, who has competed on a limited basis this season.

Rounding out the ranked group at Hilliard Darby is the senior Ormiston, a returning state alternate, and the sophomore Gore Hernandez. Ormiston was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and seventh at Brecksville, while Gore is a returning state qualifier. Also here is 2014 state qualifier Ben Tate (Mt. Vernon).

The fourth, and final, returning state placer is the junior Koontz, who transferred from SVSM to compete for Massillon Perry this season. Upon eligibility, he placed third at the Top Gun, losing by major decision to Marsh during the tournament. Koontz anchors a Mentor district that features four other ranked wrestlers, along with the possibility of 2014 state placer Brezovec not moving down to 132.

The senior Langston was champion at Solon and the North Coast Classic, as well as runner-up at Oregon Clay. The junior Whitehead is a returning state alternate, and has runner-up finishes at Medina and the Bill Dies this season. Next is the senior Victor, who was runner-up at Solon; while rounding out things is the senior Bartz, who was champion up a weight class at Beaver Local. Also in this district weight class is returning state qualifier Noah McCumbers (Massillon).

Three state qualifiers anchor the district at Kettering Fairmont, though they are the only ranked wrestlers present. Leading the way is the junior Beck, who has made state in both of his previous seasons, and was champion at SWOWCA, second at Wadsworth, and third at Brecksville. Next is the sophomore Thompson, who was champion at CIT; while the junior Meredieth placed third at the CIT.

145 pounds

1. David Carr, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
2. Dominick Demas, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Josh Heil, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)

4. Justin Demicco, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
5. Trey Grenier, Olentnagy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Antwon Pugh, Copley, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Connor Craig, Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Ryley Regan, Miamisburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Isaac Collier, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Chris Motter, Hudson, senior (Mentor)
11. Andrew Acuna, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Brock Jones, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
13. Tristan Brady, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
14. Jack Stein, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Cameron Jenkins, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Sam Meddings, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Demas, Grenier, Jenkins, Will Green (Westerville Central, senior); Derek Wurzauf (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Craig, Regan, Acuna, Stein; Meddings

MEN – Carr, Demicco, Motter, Kyle Henning (Mentor, senior); Morgan Peterson (Solon, senior)

PBG – Heil, Pugh, Collier, Jones; Brady

Should Carr and Demas both remain in this weight class, the likely state finals match between the two returning state champions would be the most anticipated of the Saturday night session at The Schott (barring a scenario where Tyler Warner remained at 126 in DII, instead of dropping to 120). There is some conversation that Demas may move either up or down, but the most likely scenario is that he stays in this weight class. Should Demas drop down, he is a joint favorite with projected state champion Ladnier; while up at 152 pounds, he becomes the projected state champion.

On the season, the junior Demas is undefeated with tournament titles in this weight class at North Canton, the GMVWA, and Mason. Outside of the Top Gun finals loss to two-time state champion Logan Lacure, which was tightly contested and controversial, it could be argued that Carr has had the most productive folkstyle season in the United States. Prior to the season, he won the Super 32 Challenge; and then during the season he has titles at the Ironman, Beast of the East, and Medina. Between those tournaments, Carr has wins over five of the top eleven wrestlers in the country at his weight class.

Neither district that Demas or Carr anchors is particularly strong in this weight class, as only two ranked wrestlers join them at their respective sites. Joining Demas at Hilliard Darby is a pair of juniors in two-time state qualifier Grenier and Jenkins; while Carr is joined by a pair of seniors in two-time state placer Demicco and returning state alternate Motter.

On the season, Grenier has tournament titles at Olentangy Liberty and Wadsworth, while Jenkins was champion at Licking Heights and fourth at Medina. One could see movement from weights below or above at the Hillard Darby district. Demicco was a match from placing at both the Beast and Ironman, third at Brecksville, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Motter dropped mid-year into this weight class after a tournament title at Hudson and a seventh at the GMVWA in the 152 class. Though not ranked Henning is a returning state qualifier, and there are a couple of wrestlers outside those listed that could steal that last qualification spot at Mentor.

The strongest district in this weight class is the one at Perrysburg, which features five ranked wrestlers, including a pair of returning state placers. Three-time state placer Heil earned seventh at the Ironman and runner-up at Solon in addition to titles at three different tournaments (beating Demicco in the Bill Dies final); while the junior Pugh was a semifinalist at Medina and champion at the Hephner. Next here is the senior Collier, who has lost go-to-state matches each of the last two years. Fellow senior Jones has third place finishes at both Perrysburg and Top Gun to his credit, while the junior Brady was fourth at the Bill Dies.

Rounding out the district sites is Kettering Fairmont, which also has five state ranked wrestlers, led by a pair with state tournament experience. The junior Craig went two-and-out in this weight class last year at state, while this season has finished runner-up at SWOWCA and fifth at Brecksville. The senior Regan placed eighth at state last year, placed fourth at the GMVWA, and has won two tournament titles in January. Returning state alternate Acuna is next, having a runner-up at SWOWCA and third place finish at the GMVWA while competing at 152; in this weight class, he was runner-up at Mason. Rounding it out are a pair of juniors in Stein and Meddings.

152 pounds

1. Nick Kiussis, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Austin Hiles, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
3. Greg Brusco, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Nico O'Dor, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Jacoby Ward, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jack Conway, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
7. Andrew Sams, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Lane Hinkle, Mt. Vernon, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Emil Soehnen, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Farouq Muhammed, Shaker Hts, freshman (Mentor)
11. Cody Surratt, Wadsworth, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Brady Chrisman, Medina, sophomore (Perrysburg)
13. Adam Green, Austintown Fitch, senior (Mentor)
14. Tyler Grine, Fremont Ross, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Logan Broskie, Olentangy Orange, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Willy Plaisir, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Brusco, Hinkle, Broskie, Plaisir; Ethan Leapley (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Ward, Sams, Hunter Bryant (Piqua, senior), Jacob Ottaway (Springboro, senior); Samuel Williams (Elder, senior)

MEN – Hiles, Soehnen, Muhammed, Green; Spencer Haught (Walsh Jesuit, senior)

PBG – Kiussis, O'Dor, Conway, Surratt; Chrisman, Grine

This is the epitome of a sandwich weight class both in terms of context and evolution. Defending state champions Carr and Demas are in the weight below, two-time defending state champion Kyle Lawson is in the weight above. That inherently means a bunch of wrestlers will find that “sweet spot” in between. Furthermore, four other high end wrestlers have joined, or will join, this weight class after competing in other weight classes over the course of the season.

With fourteen wrestlers in this weight class – at present – having state tournament experience, most of any weight class in Division I, this is one to keep an eye on throughout the post-season. It is an example of why the big-school division is going to be a very enjoyable watch and follow during the state series.

Seven returning state placers are present, including four that carry top three “protected” status; which means that if they win a district title, they will have separation criteria in the state draw from each other. Two-time runner-up Kiussis and returning third Conway exit Perrysburg, returning third Hiles exits Mentor, while returning third Hinkle exits Hilliard Darby. Three-time state placer Ward is the anchor at Kettering Fairmont, while state fourth Brusco joins Hinkle and Hilliard Darby, and state fourth O’Dor is at Perrysburg.

Along with the three returning placers, three other ranked wrestlers are present at an absolutely loaded Perrysburg district in this weight class. Projected champion Kiussis was champion at Solon and Medina, third at the Bill Dies, and seventh at the Ironman up at 160; O’Dor placed at both the Ironman and Beast, fourth at Brecksville, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Conway has been in and out of the lineup this season, including missing placement by one match at the Ironman (loss to O’Dor). The junior Surratt has titles at North Canton and Wadsworth to go with a runner-up finish at Medina; Chrisman was a district placer last year as a freshman, and placed third at the Hephner this season; while the junior Grine is also a returning district placer and has a runner-up at the Gorman to go with a third place finish at Maumee Bay.

Brusco and Hinkle are joined by a pair of ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district. The senior Brusco is undefeated while competing in this weight class with titles at the GMVWA and Top Gun, after placing fourth at the Ironman. Fellow senior Hinkle was fifth at SWOWCA in the 160 pound class before a fifth place finish at Brecksville in this weight class to go with runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Central Crossing. The junior Broskie was champion at Olentangy Orange and fourth at the GMVWA; while the senior Plaisir has a title at Mason to go with a runner-up at North Canton, and sixth at GMVWA.

Hiles joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. On the season, Hiles placed at both the Ironman (eighth, loss to Kiussis) and Beast before taking third at Brecksville, all at 160 pounds. Soehnlén qualified for state last year as a freshman, and this year has placed eighth at the Beast to go with a third at Medina and fourth at Top Gun. The freshman Muhammed, a junior high state champ last year, has titles at Kenston and the Hephner (where he beat three state qualifiers) on the resume. Rounding it out is the senior Green, a returning state qualifier who was fourth at Medina and the Hephner, along with sixth at Top Gun.

Rounding it out is the Kettering Fairmont district, which has just two ranked wrestlers though there are five wrestlers with state tournament experience. Three-time state placer Ward placed third at Powerade and won a title at the CIT, while 2014 state placer Sams was champion at SWOWCA and (at 160) Kenston with a runner-up finish at Fairfield. Seniors Ottaway and Bryant are returning state qualifiers, while fellow senior Williams made state as a freshman and was an alternate last year.

160 pounds

1. Kyle Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Jared Ball, Hilliard Darby, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
3. Joey Baughman, Wadsworth, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Brice Locklear, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)

5. Mikah Price, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Max Wright, Delaware Hayes, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Josh Herhold, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
8. Mike Carpenter, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Dylan Roth, Oak Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Mario Graziani/Carlo Deniro, Boardman, senior/junior (Mentor)
11. Jared Torch, Dover, senior (Mentor)
12. Drew Hobbs, Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Nick D'Agostino, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Simon Shirley, Harrison, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Jake Little, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
16. Luke Reicosky, North Canton Hoover, sophomore (Mentor)

HD – Lawson, Ball, Wright, Scott Allen (Dublin Coffman, senior); Stephen Deluse (Lancaster, junior)

KF – Roth, Hobbs, D'Agostino, Shirley; Blake Wilson (LaSalle, sophomore)

MEN – Graziani/Deniro, Torch, Little, Reicosky; Cal Miller (St. Ignatius, junior)

PBG – Baughman, Locklear, Price, Herhold; Carpenter

The junior Lawson won a pair of state titles in Division II while competing for St. Paris Graham before making the move to Olentangy Liberty. He is one of three key newcomers to the Patriots' lineup (along with freshmen Brady and Kharchlava) as they seek to make a dent into the perceived two horse race for the Division I state title between St. Edward and Elyria, who finished first and second at state last year. On the season, Lawson was third at Brecksville and champion at the Bill Dies; his Brecksville loss came 9-7 in overtime, a match in which he led 5-0 early. Between those two tournaments, he is 11-1 with ten wins coming by fall, with three of those falls coming against returning state qualifiers (two against top four placers last year).

His presence here has somewhat cleared out the weight class, but even so the field includes eight returning state qualifiers, four who were on the podium last year (2014 placer Graziani would make a ninth and fifth if he ends up competing here for Boardman). Recall that this state tournament weight class last year had zero returning state placers and something like four combined state tournament wins in previous seasons.

Nowhere is this existence of quality more present than at the Perrysburg district, which features five of the top eight wrestlers, meaning that a projected state placer won't even get to Columbus. An Elyria and St. Edward wrestler are in this scramble, which could pose a hidden impact on the state race the following week at The Schott. The senior Locklear is the highest returning placer, finishing fourth last year at 152 pounds; this year he was champion at Central Crossing, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and fourth at Medina. Baughman placed fifth at state last year as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at Wadsworth and Medina to go with a third place finish at North Canton. Price placed eighth at state as a sophomore, which was disappointing as he had a significant lead midway through his state quarterfinal bout; he has placement finishes at both Brecksville and the Bill Dies this season. The junior Herhold made state last year, missed the first half of the season due to injury; since returning he was runner-up at Perrysburg and third at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is fellow junior Carpenter, who was a state alternate last year.

Lawson anchors the Hilliard Darby district, which features the other two projected state placers in the sophomore Ball and the junior Wright. However, there is no other ranked wrestler present, so the last

spot is going to be rather open for the taking. Ball qualified for state last year down at 138 pounds, and has shown a profound leap this season in earning a title at Wadsworth (over Baughman) and third at Medina (over Locklear, narrow 7-6 loss to Kiussis in the semi). Wright was a state alternate last year at 145, and has earned titles at both Olentangy Orange and Top Gun to go with a third at the GMVWA.

Two of the three others with state experience exit the Mentor district, in seniors Graziani and Torch. Graziani placed at state in 2014 before losing two tight matches on Saturday at the district last year; he did not compete this year until the Hephner, where he placed third (while absent, the junior Deniro was third at Kenston and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun). Torch qualified for Dover last year when they were in Division II, and this season has a title at Beaver Local to go with a fifth place finish at Top Gun. Rounding it out are the senior Little and the sophomore Reicosky, who placed seventh and eighth at Top Gun respectively.

Rounding it out are the four ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district, whom are led by the senior Roth, champion at SWOWCA and Western Brown to go with his fifth place finish at Medina. The junior Hobbs was a state alternate two years ago before missing last season due to injury. D'Agostino qualified for state last year as a junior, and won a tournament title at Mason this season; while the freshman Shirley was third at SWOWCA and runner-up at Fairfield.

170 pounds

1. Andrew McNally, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)
2. Victor Marcelli, Massillon Jackson, sophomore (Mentor)
3. Ti'Ric Evans, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Josiah Harrell, Licking Heights, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Joseph Terry, Pickerington Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Brandon Goldsmith, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Tony Caraffi, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
8. Brett Bryant, Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Colton Carroll, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Trevor Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Brendan Price, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Mark Kimbrell, Kettering Fairmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Joey Andrassy, Stow, junior (Mentor)
14. Michael Baker, LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Josh Weaver, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Tyler Dempsey, Boardman, senior (Mentor)

HD – Harrell, Terry, Goldsmith, Carroll; Lawson

KF – Evans, Braynt, Kimbrell, Baker; Weaver

MEN – McNally, Marcelli, Andrassy, Dempsey; Isaiah Jackson (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Caraffi, Price, Zach Defraime (Medina, senior), Jared Leidich (St. Edward, senior); Alex Jones (Wadsworth, junior)

McNally is the defending champion in this weight class, was one match away from All-American honors in Junior National freestyle this summer, and placed at the Super 32 Challenge in the fall. Normally that formula would yield a clear, bereft of doubt, favorite. However, when the sophomore Marcelli upended McNally 4-3 in the North Canton final the doubt was cast. However, McNally is still the favorite as he has

two wins over Marcelli this regular season (1-0 in the dual meet before North Canton, and 4-2 at the Hephner); in addition, he has titles at Brecksville and the Top Gun to go with that title at the Hephner.

Marcelli qualified for state last year as a freshman and was a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer. He has a title at the Bill Dies to go with the championship at North Canton; the other loss on the season for Marcelli came in the quarterfinal round at Medina (to Harrell), and would be avenged in third place match. McNally and Marcelli could meet in the sectional, district, and state final. The other two qualifying spots from Mentor are wide open for the taking between a plethora of wrestlers, two of whom are ranked. The junior Andrassy was a star on Stow's state semifinal football team this fall, and since returning placed fourth at the Bill Dies; while the senior Dempsey was champion at Kenston before placing fourth at Top Gun and the Hephner. State qualifier Jackson is also at this district.

The deepest of the district tournaments is the one at Hilliard Darby, where five of the top ten wrestlers reside, along with a couple other non-ranked wrestlers that would be fringe state qualification contenders at a different district site. Leading the way is the senior Harrell, who was a district champion last year at 160 pounds; on the season he has sandwiched a title at Licking Heights around fourth place finishes at Medina and Central Crossing. Fellow senior Terry was a state alternate last year four weight classes below at 138 pounds; he was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and third at GMVWA before winning titles at Miamisburg and Central Crossing.

Yet another senior Goldsmith was a state alternate last year at 152 pounds, and on this season finished seventh at Medina and runner-up at Licking Heights after an opening weekend dual meet over state placer Bryant. Returning state qualifier Carroll is next on the ladder, and his season highlights are finishing third at Brecksville and runner-up at Miamisburg. Last among the ranked wrestlers is the sophomore Lawson, who has titles at Olentangy Liberty and Wadsworth to go with a fifth place finish at Brecksville.

The other two projected state placers exit the district at Kettering Fairmont, which also has five wrestlers ranked in this weight class. The sophomore Evans has titles at SWOWCA and the CIT sandwiched around a fourth place finish at Brecksville; while Bryant, who placed sixth at state as a sophomore last year, placed at Powerade before finishing third at the CIT (6-5 loss to Evans in the semifinal). The junior Kimbrell was a district placer last year, and this season placed sixth at Brecksville before winning a title at Mason. Just a freshman, Baker has placement finishes at five tournaments this year, highlighted by third place medals at SWOWCA and Top Gun. Rounding it out is the senior Weaver, who was fourth at SWOWCA.

Finally, it's the Perrysburg district, which features just two ranked wrestlers. The last two spots are open for the taking among those listed and maybe another one or two. The senior Caraffi was a state alternate last year, and this season was fifth at Medina, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and third at Central Crossing; while junior Price missed placement at the Beast and Brecksville by a match, before placing sixth at the Bill Dies.

182 pounds

1. J.T. Brown, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Anthony Perrine, Nordonia, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Eric Deluse, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Luke Strnad, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
5. Tyler Stepic, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)

6. Kaden Russell, St. Ignatius, junior (Mentor)
7. Avery Jones, Glen Este, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Aaron Huff, Lorain, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Zach Blackiston, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Doland Martin, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Joseph Cochran, Springfield, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Alex Sadowsky, Medina, junior (Perrysburg)
13. Antonio McCloud, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Bria, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Bubba Arslanian, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
16. Patrick Yeo, Hilliard Bradley, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Deluse, Martin, Yeo, Brady Garren (Logan, sophomore); Cole Fitzpatrick (Olentangy Liberty, junior)

KF – Jones, Cochran, McCloud, Bria; Hunter Shepherd (Oak Hills, senior)

MEN – Strnad, Russell, Blackiston, Arslanian; Jimmy Leonard (Louisville, junior)

PBG – Brown, Perrine, Stepic, Huff; Sadowsky

This is just a weird weight class. Here are some facts. Only four wrestlers return with state tournament experience, which is the least of any weight class other than 106 (with three total). Only four seniors hold a ranking position. All this is somewhat a surprise given the presence of nationally elite wrestler, and defending state champion, Darmstadt up in the next weight class. However, that is somewhat countered with the fact that in last year's state tournament, only four underclassmen were present in each of the 160 through 182 pound weight classes (Jacob Paul was a fifth at 170, but he's not competing this year).

The top four wrestlers in this weight class are the ones with state experience, and the projected state champion is the junior Brown, the highest returning state placer after finishing fourth last year at 170 pounds. This season he placed seventh at the Ironman and Beast, before finishing second at Brecksville and first at the Bill Dies. Brown anchors a Perrysburg district that features five of the top eleven ranked wrestlers.

Second in the rankings is fellow junior Perrine, who was fifth in this weight class last year at state, and joins Brown at the Perrysburg district. Perrine was fourth at Brecksville up at 195 before dropping to 182 and winning a title at the Top Gun. Ironman placer Stepic is next at the Perrysburg district, followed by fellow juniors Huff and Sadowsky. Huff has a title at Lorain to go with third place finishes at North Canton and Medina, along with a runner-up at Maumee Bay; while Sadowsky was champion at the Hephner after a seventh at Medina and sixth at Maumee Bay.

The other returning state placer is the senior Deluse, who was champion at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at Medina this season. He anchors just three ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Returning state alternate Martin is next, having spent December up at 195 before dropping in January. Rounding it out is the senior, who Yeo placed sixth at the GMVWA after winning two matches at district last year.

Returning state qualifier Strnad leads four ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. The junior has yet to wrestle this season after sustaining an injury during football, but is expected to return by the sectional tournament. Fellow junior Russell has titles at Solon and CIT to go with a fourth place finish at Brecksville. The sophomore Blackiston played both ways on Massillon Perry's state runner-up football team, and took a bit of time to get going in wrestling; once he did, he placed sixth at Medina and was

runner-up at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is Arslanian, who was a district placer two years ago as a freshman; this season he was seventh at Top Gun and runner-up at Wadsworth.

The Kettering Fairmont district features four ranked wrestlers led by the junior Jones, who as third at SWOWCA and GMVWA before winning a title at Mason. Next in line is the sophomore Cochran, who was runner-up at GMVWA and champion at Fairfield. The sophomore McCloud placed seventh at Brecksville and runner-up at the CIT, while the senior Bria was runner-up at SWOWCA and third at Kenston.

195 pounds

1. Ben Darmstadt, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Aaron Naples, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Gary Traub, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. A.J. Jones, Thomas Worthington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Grant Martin, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)
6. Chris Martinez, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Cody Howard, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Logan Kemp, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Kyle Vilsack, St. Ignatius, senior (Mentor)
10. Devin Amburgy, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Jake Kendzierski, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Mason Brunner, Harrison, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Noah Satterfield, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Devin Johnson, Chardon, senior (Mentor)
15. Nate Rogers, Green, junior (Mentor)
16. Chase Newton, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Jones, Martinez, Kendzierski, Satterfeild; Jimmy Craig (Dublin Coffman, senior)

KF – Traub, Kemp, Amburgy, Brunner; Sam Wyche (Moeller, sophomore)

MEN – Martin, Vilsack, Johnson, Rogers; Chris Droege (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Darmstadt, Naples, Howard, Newton; Madison Prokop (Copley, senior)

The second of Elyria's three projected state champions is the senior Darmstadt, a returning state champion, and one of the best overall seniors in the county. His resume of major event productivity could fill the whole commentary for this weight class. The Cornell bound wrestler was third at the Ironman, avenged that loss in winning a title at the Beast, and won subsequent titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies.

He anchors five ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, including projected runner-up Naples, who qualified for state last year as a sophomore. On the season, he has already lost by 13-0 major decision in consolation at the Ironman, and by 18-2 technical fall in the Bill Dies final; on the more positive side, he has titles at Solon, Medina, and Central Crossing on the resume. Next on the ladder at this district is the sophomore Howard, who was one match from placing at the Ironman, where one of his wins was an upset over a Junior double All-American from Utah. The last spot is absolutely open for the taking, with returning state alternate Newton the pick at the minute.

Three returning state qualifiers lead the way from four ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district, including returning state placer Jones; coming off a sixth from state last year, he's been excellent this season, including a title at Marion Harding. Martinez won a match at state last year as a junior, and this

year was third at both GMVWA and the Top Gun. Fellow senior Kendzierski qualified for state three weights lower at 160, and this year finished fourth at the Bill Dies before taking third at Wadsworth. The last state spot is projected for Satterfield, who has fifth place finishes at both SWOWCA and Top Gun on the season to date.

The second highest returning placer in this weight class is the senior Traub, who placed fourth at state last year after entering the tournament undefeated. This season, he was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman before placing in three different tournaments; runner-up at SWOWCA, third at Brecksville, and champion at Sycamore. Traub is joined by three other ranked wrestlers in the Kettering Fairmont district. Fellow senior Kemp upended Traub in the SWOWCA; subsequently he finished fifth at GMVWA, runner-up at Perrysburg, and champion at Mason. Two other seniors are also projected for state qualification and ranked top 16. Amburgy was third at SWOWCA before winning titles at Fairfield and Western Brown, while Brunner was fourth at SWOWCA and second at Fairfield.

Rounding it out is the district tournament at Mentor, which has four ranked wrestlers anchored by returning state placer Martin. On the season, he sandwiched second place finishes at North Canton and Top Gun around a sixth at Brecksville, before most recently earning first at the Hephner. Fellow senior Vilsack was third at Solon and runner-up at the CIT, while returning state alternate Johnson had a championship at Kenston sandwiched by a runner-up finish at Solon and seventh place at the Top Gun. Rogers won two matches at district last year as a sophomore, missed a good chunk of this season before coming back to place fifth at the Bill Dies.

220 pounds

1. Matt Stencel, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Jared Campbell, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Noel Caraballo, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Jack Meyer, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Floyd Rogers, Green, senior (Mentor)
6. Ben Frye, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Cody Smith, Xenia, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Leo Crosby, Zanesville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Eddie Sternad, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
10. Todd Hastings, Amherst, senior (Perrysburg)
11. Nate Stone, Glen Este, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Quinton Mincy, Walnut Hills, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Cole Sutton, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ras Lumpkins, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Michael Carter, Cincinnati Northwest, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Spencer Berthold, Midview, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Frye, Crosby, Lumpkins, Ben Roshon (Marysville, senior); Chase Fickell (Worthington Kilbourne, senior)

KF – Meyer, Smith, Stone, Mincy; Sutton, Carter

MEN – Rogers, Sternad, Matt Klingbergs (Chardon, junior), Danny Baka (Hudson, senior); Mark Gordon (Mentor, junior)

PBG – Stencel, Campbell, Caraballo, Hastings; Berthold

The opening section of this report addressed the superlatives of Stencel's season to date. None the less, here's another one, in 31 matches to date, Stencel has wrestled into the second period in a grand total of three bouts. He's the favorite to repeat as state champion. There are two returning state runners-up in this weight class, and both exit the same district as Stencel.

The junior Campbell lost in the final last year to Stencel by major decision, but lost by fall to Stencel in the semifinal round of the Walsh Ironman at the 1:56 mark for his only loss of the season so far. He placed third at the Ironman, and went undefeated at the Clash. Meanwhile, Caraballo was runner-up in this weight class as a junior, and is undefeated for the season with titles at Medina, the Bill Dies, and Central Crossing. It should be noted that Stencel dropped to 195 for the regional quarterfinal match of the state duals, and earned a 5-2 decision over that weight's projected state runner-up. Any decision on post-season weight class for Caraballo will be driven by which climate is easier for his teammate (Michael Iler) to make the state tournament; be it 195 or 220.

The other two ranked wrestlers in this weight class are returning state qualifier Hastings and the junior Berthold. Hastings earned titles at Avon Lake and Bellevue before finishing third at Perry and fourth at Maumee Bay; while Berthold was runner-up at Solon and seventh at the Bill Dies. Should Caraballo be at 195, both would be projected to make state; otherwise, they're battling for one spot.

There are two more returning state placers in this weight class, seniors Meyer and Smith, both exiting the district at Kettering Fairmont. Meyer was fifth at state, losing a 3-2 decision to Caraballo in the state semifinal round. This season, he has titles at SWOCA and the CIT to go with a seventh at Ironman and third at Powerade. Smith placed seventh at state last year, and this season sandwiched titles at Xenia and Beavercreek around a third place finish at the GMVWA.

Four wrestlers in the rankings, and another couple outside the rankings, seek the other two state spots from this district tournament. Returning state qualifier Stone was at 195 for the month of December where he placed seventh at SWOWCA and GMVWA, before moving up to this weight class and placing second at Mason. The junior Mincy was runner-up at Madeira and champion at Sycamore; while returning district placer Sutton has runner-up finishes at both SWOWCA and Sycamore this season, along with a title at Fairfield. Rounding it is another returning district placer in Carter, who has a title at Edgewood along with a sixth at SWOWCA and third at Fairfield.

The Mentor district features two returning state qualifiers, and to be quite frank very little behind them. Rogers won a match at state last year, and this season has titles at Solon and North Canton to go with a fifth place finish at the Bill Dies; while Sternad went 0-2 at state, and has placed fourth at Brecksville and sixth at the Bill Dies this season.

Lastly the Hilliard Darby has three ranked wrestlers, and quite frankly it's open season on that fourth spot. Leading the group here is the junior Frye who has just one loss on the season and has dominated everything else; titles at GMVWA and Mason along with that third place finish at North Canton. Returning state qualifier Crosby also qualified for the track state tournament in both weight throws along with a sprint relay, which is freaky athleticism. The senior Lumpkins was champion at Dublin Scioto and Marion Harding before taking second at Marion County.

285 pounds

1. Kevin Vough, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Kameron Teacher, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)

3. Jonathan Floyd, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Arman Samouk, Copley, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Nik Urban, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
6. Joseph Hensley, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Josh Burger, Aurora, senior (Mentor)
8. Jon Spaulding, Lakota East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tim Tanner-Blair, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Doug Mullen, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Sterling Roseberry, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Izak Wunderlich, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Michael O'Malley, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
14. Sadi Santana, Lorain, senior (Perrysburg)
15. Patrick Simon, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Adam Gregoire, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)

HD – Teacher, Roseberry, Wunderlich, Winston Spiker (Tri-Valley, senior); Connor Hubschman (Dublin Scioto, senior)

KF – Floyd, Hensley, Spaulding, Tanner-Blair; Mullen

MEN – Urban, Burger, Gregoire, Kyle Claridy (Kent Roosevelt, senior); Matt Rood (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Vough, Samouk, O'Malley, Santana; Simon

Headed into the state tournament there was the much anticipated semifinal showdown between the undefeated Class of 2016 wrestlers Vough and Teacher. However, that was derailed when Teacher lost in the first round; Vough would go onto win a state title, while Teacher fell one match short of the podium. Again, they are on a collision course, with each undefeated for their seasons.

Vough's season has not been a full one, as he did not make his debut until the Bill Dies tournament after a football injury. He won that tournament obviously. During the off-season, Vough was a Junior double All-American, third in Greco-Roman and runner-up in freestyle. He is joined by another returning state qualifier, a state alternate from last year, and two other ranked wrestlers at Perrysburg.

The returning state qualifier, Samouk, was third at North Coast and Medina, runner-up at the Bill Dies (3-1 to Vough), and champion at the Hephner (avenging a semifinal loss to Urban from the North Coast Classic). Returning state alternate O'Malley was busy during the fall season earning state defensive player of the year honors for the Eagles' state championship football team; he didn't return to the mat until the Clash at the end of December. The senior Santana has titles in two events, while placing in two others; while fellow senior Simon was sixth at Medina, seventh at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at Central Crossing.

Teacher is undefeated on his season as well with titles at the Ironman, Medina, Maumee Bay, and Central Crossing tournaments to his credit. Two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Hilliard Darby district, while it's open season for the fourth qualifying spot. Returning state alternate Roseberry was a finalist at Mt. Vernon before finishing third at both the GMVWA and Mason. Fellow senior Wunderlich was runner-up at Medina with two victories over state tournament participants along the way.

The district at Kettering Fairmont is the deepest in this weight class with five ranked wrestlers, two of whom made the state tournament last year, seniors Floyd and Hensley. Floyd placed fourth at state last

year despite taking fourth at district; this season he was eighth at the Ironman, runner-up at the GMVWA, and first at Beaver Creek. Hensley has titles at SWOWCA and the CIT to go with a fourth place finish at Powerade. The junior Spaulding was runner-up at SWOWCA and fourth at Brecksville; the senior Mullen upset Hensley in a January dual meet, while placing sixth at the Dvorak and runner-up at Mason to go with his Olentangy Liberty title; fellow senior Tanner-Blair was champion at Mason to go with three other tournament placements this year.

Rounding things out there are two previous state tournament placers at the Mentor district, but it's going to be open season for the other two state tournament spots; in line with 220, the heavier weights are thin here. Urban placed sixth in 2014, but went 0-2 at state last year despite winning a district title. The Northwestern football recruit has a title at Solon followed up by runner-up finishes at North Coast, Brecksville, and the Hephner this season. Burger was eighth in the 2014 state tournament before losing two matches on Saturday afternoon of district last year to fall short of the state tournament. This season, he was champion at Hudson, runner-up at Top Gun, and third at Brecksville and Wadsworth. The last ranked wrestler is fellow senior Gregoire, who placed fourth at Top Gun and was part of the state runner-up Panthers' offensive line this fall.

Team Board

1. St. Edward (Perrysburg)
2. Elyria (Perrysburg)
3. Olentangy Liberty (Hilliard Darby)
4. Brecksville (Mentor)
5. Brunswick (Perrysburg)
6. Central Crossing (Hilliard Darby)
7. Moeller (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Massillon Perry (Mentor)
10. Aurora (Mentor)