

DIVISION III

106 pounds

1. Max Hermes, Milan Edison, freshman (Napoleon)
2. Gavin Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, sophomore (Troy)
3. Cooper Shore, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
4. Caleb Schroer, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
5. Patrick Reineke, Hawken, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Logan Attisano, Legacy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
7. Anwar Alli, Marion Pleasant, freshman (Heath)
8. Landen Duncan, Southington Chalker, freshman (Garfield Hts)
9. Michael Judge, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Napoleon)
10. Mason Amodio, Ravenna Southeast, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Wesley Wydick, Utica, sophomore (Heath)
12. Gabe Sutton, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)
13. Will Davidson, Kirtland, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
14. James Klingman, Berkshire, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Alex Overly, Shenandoah, junior (Heath)
16. Andrew Huck, Bidwell River Valley, freshman (Heath)

GH – Reineke, Duncan, Amodio, Davidson; Klingman

HEA – Alli, Wydick, Overly, Huck; Brandon Boggs (Sandy Valley, freshman)

NAP – Hermes, Judge, Nick Roberts (Plymouth, sophomore), Jeff Camp (Patrick Henry, freshman); Riley Hanefeld (Delta, sophomore)

TROY – Caprella, Shore, Schroer, Attisano; Sutton

In what projects to be a rather tightly contested three-team battle for the state title at the Schott here in Division III, it is very fitting that the opening weight class has all a wrestler from all three contesting teams as a key component of the landscape. It is further fitting that this weight class is pretty wide open as things stand with a multitude of wrestlers that could be on top of the podium come Sunday, March 15th. The current occupant of the top position is the freshman Hermes, who is the son of Milan Edison head coach.

In the current season, Hermes has placed seventh at Brecksville, with both losses coming by narrow margins to wrestlers from the state of Michigan; while he earned titles at Milan Edison and Maumee Bay. At the Napoleon district, only one of the other contenders holds a ranking, and that is the returning state qualifier Judge. His season includes missing placement at Medina by one match, going 2-2 at Maumee Bay, and finishing third at Perrysburg.

Four of the five wrestlers immediately ranked behind Hermes exit district competition at Troy, as does another ranked contender. The sophomore Caprella has been most excellent this season after missing state with a pair of one-point losses at the district tournament last season. His season includes five tournament titles, most notably beating Cooper Shore in overtime in the semis of the Lima CC Invitational; Caprella lost 2-1 to Cooper's sister Olivia in the consolation semifinal round at district.

Shore's freshman season includes three tournament titles, a runner-up finish at Medina, and the third-place finish at Lima CC. Returning state medalist Schroer has competed at both this weight and 113

pounds on the season. At this weight he finished fourth at Maumee Bay and missed placing at Brecksville by one match, while he won Licking Valley at 113 with a pin over returning state medalist Sheppard in the final. The sophomore Attisano was a state alternate last year at 113, and this season has a title at Nelsonville-York to go with third place at Delaware Hayes and runner-up at the GMVWA. Rounding out the ranked group is the junior Sutton, who was runner-up to Caprella at Lima CC in this weight class.

The other congested district in this weight class is the one at Garfield Hts, which features five ranked wrestlers led by returning state placer Reineke. The sophomore has three tournament titles, including at Top Gun where he beat Cuerdo 2-1 in the semifinal; the lone blemish is an 8-7 upset loss to Zach Belissimo (Perry-Lake County) in the CVC final. The freshman Duncan, a Junior High state runner-up last year at 90 pounds is next; season highlights include two tournament titles and missing placemen at Brecksville by one match.

Another sophomore in Amodio was a district placer last year in this weight class at the Division II Alliance district, while his present season includes placements at Top Gun and Hephner, along with a runner-up at Smithville and a title at Kenston. Fellow sophomore Davidson was runner-up at Willoughby South and Kenston, along with a third-place finish at the CVC Tournament. Klingman was state alternate last year as a freshman, and this season includes a runner-up finish to Duncan at Howland, third at Defiance, and fourth at CVC; however, he does have a dual meet win over Amodio.

Closing the loop is a quartet of ranked wrestlers at Heath led by the freshman Alli, who has five tournament titles to his credit this season – most notably at the Gorman. The sophomore Wydick is next, and he has tournament titles at Licking Valley and Utica (over Klingman) on the season. Overly was district runner-up in this weight last year as a freshman, though the four state qualifiers here combined for an 0-8 record the next week at state; his current season includes runner-up finishes at Barnesville and the OVAC. Rounding it out is the freshman Huck, who was seventh at the GMVWA and third at Nelsonville York in this weight class.

113 pounds

1. Zack Mattin, Delta, junior (Napoleon)
2. Matt Ellis, Legacy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
3. Jason Shaffer, Troy Christian, freshman (Troy)
4. Nolan Frye, Cuyahoga Hts., sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Jarrett Hornish, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Troy)
6. Hayden Kuhn, Ashland Crestview, freshman (Napoleon)
7. Tyler Davis, Oak Harbor, junior (Napoleon)
8. Trey Allen, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
9. Griffin Stephen, Barnesville, sophomore (Heath)
10. Griffin Chmiel, Alexander, senior (Heath)
11. Bryce Maynard, Eastwood, junior (Napoleon)
12. Jayden Strickland, South Central, junior (Napoleon)
13. Jared Fantauzzi, Milan Edison, junior (Napoleon)
14. Chase Dickerson, Woodmore, senior (Napoleon)
15. Hunter Frederick, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Zach Lyons, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

GH – Frye, Frederick, Lyons, Justice Fraley (Loudonville, junior); Joey Bond (Newbury, junior)

HEA – Stephen, Chmiel, Kyle Miller (Garaway, sophomore), Trevor Herbert (Buckeye Local, sophomore); Caden Canning (Newark Catholic, sophomore)

NAP – Mattin, Kuhn, Davis, Maynard; Strickland, Fantauzzi, Dickerson

TROY – Ellis, Shaffer, Hornish, Allen; Ramakrishna Gandhi (Madeira, sophomore)

Thirty years after Mike Mattin won his state title at 103 pounds for Delta, last year Zack became the third of Mike's sons to earn state gold for Delta. Drew earned three for the Panthers from 2015-2017, while Cole won state gold in 2018 catalyzed by a semifinal victory over three-time state champion Tommy Hoskins. Drew is a two-time NCAA qualifier for the University of Michigan, but is red-shirting this year, while Cole is starting as a true freshman at 141 for the Wolverines. Zack will be next on that chain, as the Class of 2021 wrestler has verbally committed to the Maize and Blue.

Zack's junior season has been most excellent, including titles at Olentangy Liberty, Medina, Perrysburg, and Maumee Bay; he beat title contenders from the other divisions in the Medina (Crosby) and Maumee Bay (Moon) finals bouts. Six other ranked wrestlers are essentially seeking three state spots at the Napoleon district behind Mattin. For those wondering about moving up a weight class, three returning state placers sit at 120 in this district.

The freshman Kuhn has a title at Kettering Fairmont to go with third's at Kenston and Lima CC, as well as a runner-up finish at the Gorman. The junior Davis has won a state match each of the previous two years without reaching the podium, while his current season includes medals at Medina and Perrysburg. Like Davis, fellow junior Maynard won a state bout in this weight class last year; he has two tournament titles to go with a third at Waterloo and a fourth at Lima CC.

The senior Strickland has missed state by a single match the previous two years. The junior Fantauzzi has been closed out of the Chargers' lineup the last two years; his current season includes a title at Milan Edison and missing out on placement at Brecksville by one match. Last among the ranked at Napoleon is the senior Dickerson, who has two tournament titles to go with runner-up finishes at Van Buren and Lima CC.

Looking at the direct challengers to Mattin, the next two in the rankings are featured at the Troy district, led by returning state medalist Ellis; his season includes a runner-up finish at the GMVWA, titles at Nelsonville-York and Delaware Hayes, along with missing placement at Escape the Rock by one match. The freshman Shaffer is a key cog for Troy Christian's team title hopes; he placed fourth at Brecksville in this weight class, upset Crosby in his lone win at Ironman, and was runner-up at Licking Valley at 120.

Two additional ranked wrestlers populate the Troy district, sophomores Hornish and Allen. Hornish has tournament titles at Defiance and Lima CC in this weigh class, along with a pair of tournament titles at 120 (including a 4-2 win over returning state runner-up Owens at Van Buren). Allen has tournament titles at Lima Senior and Southeastern on the season.

Joining Mattin and Ellis as a returning state medalist in this weight class is the sophomore Frye, who was third at 106 last year. His season includes three tournament titles, and a fifth-place finish at Top Gun. Just two ranked wrestlers join Frye at Garfield Hts, the senior Frederick and sophomore Lyons, each a district placer last year. Frederick has two tournament titles along with a fourth at the Gorman, while Lyons was 2-2 at Brecksville and missed placing at Top Gun by one match.

The remaining district at Heath has just two ranked wrestlers, returning state qualifiers Stephen and Chmiel, also here is returning state qualifier Miller. The sophomore Stephen beat Chmiel on the way to a runner-up finish at New Lexington, while winning two other tournaments on the season; Chmiel's senior campaign includes runner-up finishes at Waterloo (Frye) and Nelsonville-York (Ellis), along with third-place finishes at Athens and New Lexington.

120 pounds

1. Lucian Brink, Coshocton, senior (Heath)
2. Jake Manley, Otsego, senior (Napoleon)
3. Max Shore, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)
4. Caleb Edwards, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Cael Vanderhorst, Covington, junior (Troy)
6. Boede Campbell, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
7. Christian Lecki, Milbury Lake, sophomore (Napoleon)
8. Gavin Owens, Eastwood, sophomore (Napoleon)
9. Alec Homan, Milan Edison, sophomore (Napoleon)
10. Troy Kennedy, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
11. Seth Unkefer, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Michael Markulin, South Range, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Tyler Banta, Malvern, senior (Heath)
14. Adam Samad, Fairview, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Jarrison Moore, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Jace Margraf, Mohawk, freshman (Napoleon)

GH – Edwards, Unkefer, Markulin, Samad; Moore

HEA – Brink, Banta, Drake Kanyuch (Shenandoah, freshman), Carter Wells (Barnesville, sophomore); Jesse Maple (Ridgewood, freshman)

NAP – Manley, Lecki, Owens, Homan; Margraf

TROY – Shore, Vanderhorst, Campbell, T. Kennedy; Jordan Kennedy (Allen East, senior)

Twenty-five years after Brian Baughman won a 15-13 barn-burner to earn Division II gold at 112 pounds, Lucian Brink doubled his school's individual state title count with a 6-3 victory over Max Shore in the 113-pound final. The Northern Illinois signee is seeking his third consecutive state final, which would boost his schools' total to five all time. His senior season includes four tournament titles, most notably beating returning state runner-up Owens at Waterloo.

In what probably is a historic milestone, there are five returning top three finishers in this weight class, including at least one from each of the four district tournaments. Any upsets at the district tournament could yield a scenario where the randomized bracket needs to be revised to satisfy separation criteria. The "upset" probably won't come out of the Heath district, where only one other ranked wrestler joins Brink. That would be the senior Banta, who went two-and-out last year at 126 pounds; his current season includes a title at Mapleton.

Two of the other returning top three finishers exit the Napoleon district, which features five ranked wrestlers in total. The senior Manley placed third in Division II last year at 113, with his current season including tournament titles at Medina, Perrysburg, and Lima CC. Owens was runner-up at 106 last year as a freshman, and also exits the same sectional as Manley at Oak Harbor; his season includes runner-up finishes at Waterloo and Van Buren to go with a title at West Jefferson and third at Lima CC.

Lecki went 2-2 last year at district in the 113 weight class as a freshman, while this season has been superlative with three tournament titles and a third at Perrysburg (loss by fall to Manley in the semifinal). Homan placed sixth at 106 as a freshman; current season highlights include an eighth at Maumee Bay, a dual meet win over Lewarchick, and a 2-1 dual meet loss to projected champ Brink. Rounding out the group at Napoleon is the freshman Margraf, who was third at Tiffin Cavlert, consolation finalist at the Gorman, and fifth at Van Buren.

Shore joined Owens as a freshman to finish runner-up at state, doing so in the 113-pound weight class. His season includes a finals win over Vanderhorst at Troy, along with third place finishes at Medina and Mason. Three other ranked wrestlers also exit the Troy district. Two-time state placer Vanderhorst was runner-up at Troy and Lima CC (8-3 loss to Manley) after placing fourth at the GMVWA up in the 126-pound weight class. The freshman Campbell won Junior High state last year, and this season includes 2-2 performances at the Ironman and Escape the Rock tournaments, placing third at the GMVWA, along with title at Nelsonville-York and Delaware Hayes. The sophomore Kennedy is a returning state placer, who was sixth at Maumee Bay, fourth at Wadsworth, and missed placing at Brecksville by one match.

Concluding this weight class is five ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district, led by the junior Edwards, who has placed third twice at 113 pounds. His current season includes three tournament titles and a fifth at the Bill Dies. The senior Unkefer placed eighth in this weight class last year, and his current season includes a fifth at Lima CC. Markulin won a state match in this weight last year as a freshman, and was fourth at the Hephner in this weight class after finishing third at Waterloo up at 126. The senior Samad was a district placer in this weight last year at the Division II Norwalk district, while his current season includes placing at Solon and Hudson before going 2-2 at Maumee Bay. Finally, the junior Moore won a state match last year at 106, and this season has two tournament titles to go with missing placement by one match at Medina and the Bill Dies.

126 pounds

1. Cameron Lacure, Legacy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
2. Brandon Hahn, Eastwood, junior (Napoleon)
3. Drake Carmean, Allen East, junior (Troy)
4. Hunter Long, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Troy)
5. Jackson Reineke, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Kellan Anderson, Covington, junior (Troy)
7. Brett Szuhay, Crestwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Chanston Moll, Westfall, senior (Heath)
9. Garrett Kowalak, Miami East, junior (Troy)
10. Randall Mills, Antwerp, senior (Napoleon)
11. Hunter Vogus, Milan Edison, freshman (Napoleon)
12. Brayden Rittenhouse, West Muskingum, senior (Heath)
13. Michael Prikryl, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Andrew Francis, Archbold, junior (Napoleon)
15. Jake Edelman, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Jeremiah McKee, Wellington, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

GH – Reineke, Szuhay, Prikryl, Edelman; McKee

HEA – Moll, Rittenhouse, Brody Marks (Sandy Valley, sophomore), Wes Radford (Alexander, senior); Pierce Jordan (Utica, senior)

NAP – Hahn, Mills, Vogus, Francis; Reece Mulholland (Carey, senior)
TROY – Lacure, Carmean, Long, Anderson; Kowalak

The first seven weight classes feature wrestlers ranked from Legacy Christian, with all but one of those wrestlers projected to earn a state medal. Further asserting their position as a future state title winning team is the fact that all seven of those wrestlers are freshman or sophomores, including Lacure, the projected state champion in this weight class.

Coming off a freshman season where he placed third at state, Lacure was third at the GMVWA and bookended titles at Nelsonville-York and Delaware Hayes with missing placement by one match at the Escape the Rock. Four other ranked wrestlers join him at the Troy district, led by returning state medalist Carmean, who has five tournament finals appearances this season. He is 3-2 in those bouts, including splitting matches against Hahn (3-1 loss at Van Buren, 7-2 win at Lima CC).

The sophomore Long went two-and-out at state last year, but this year has four tournament titles (three of those coming up at 132) to go with a third-place finish at Lima CC (OT loss to Hahn in the semis). The junior Anderson is a two-time state participant at 106 pounds, while this season he was runner-up at the GMVWA down one weight class before beating Kowalak for Troy gold and finishing fourth at Lima CC in his weight class. Fellow junior Kowalak was champion at Tipp at 132 before finishing runner-up at Troy along with placing fifth at Mason and Lima CC in his weight class.

Five ranked wrestlers also reside in the Garfield Hts district, two of whom are returning state placers. The senior Reineke won the Hawken tournament to open this season before finishing runner-up at the North Coast Classic and missing placement at Top Gun by one match; while fellow senior Szuhay has runner-up finishes at Solon and Waterloo on the resume.

Prikryl qualified for state in 2018 as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at Kenston and the Bill Dies before taking sixth at the Hephner. The senior Edelman has a 1-6 mark at the state tournament in his career; his season includes runner-up finishes at Hawken and Riverside before a semifinal loss to Prikryl at Kenston where he subsequently defaulted down to sixth. Closing out the group is the sophomore McKee, who has spent most of the season at 132 where he won a title at Waterloo and was runner-up at West Salem Northwestern.

The final person among five returning state medalists at this weight class is Hahn, who lost to Lacure in the consolation final last year as a sophomore. His current season includes titles at Waterloo, West Jefferson, and Van Buren before finishing runner-up at Lima CC. Three ranked wrestlers join him at the Napoleon district. The senior Mills has four tournament titles on the season; the freshman Vogus was runner-up at Milan Edison, and missed placing at Brecksville by one match; while the junior Francis was fourth at Defiance.

Rounding out the districts is Heath, which features just two ranked wrestlers. The senior Moll won a state tournament match last year in Division II, and has a pair of tournament titles on the season; while fellow senior Rittenhouse has been runner-up in three tournaments on the season, and beat Moll 6-1 in the regional dual meet tournament.

132 pounds

1. Ethan Turner, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
2. Gavin Weaver, Newcomerstown, senior (Heath)

3. Matt Kaufmann, Fairview, senior senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Pierce Taylor, Cincinnati McNicholas, sophomore (Troy)
5. Chase Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
6. Dylan Matthews, Liberty Center, junior (Napoleon)
7. Caden Crawford, Hopewell Loudon, junior (Napoleon)
8. Storm Stanley, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. David Davis, Miami Trace, sophomore (Troy)
10. Ethan Cooper, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
11. Gavin Ramos, Galion Northmor, senior (Heath)
12. Adam Ryder, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Jakey Neer, Milan Edison, senior (Napoleon)
14. Arlie Benson, Greenon, sophomore (Troy)
15. Aiden Aiello, Bishop Ready, junior (Heath)
16. Michael Harris, Smithville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

GH – Kaufmann, Stanley, Ryder, Harris; Blake Rising (Mapleton, senior)

HEA – Weaver, Ramos, Aiello, Todd Fouts (Trimble, junior); Devon Watkins (Sandy Valley, junior)

NAP – Matthews, Crawford, Neer, Dru Baker (Liberty Benton, junior); Xavier Escobedo (Eastwood, sophomore)

TROY – Turner, Taylor, Caprella, Davis; Cooper, Benson

In what is expected to be a very tight three-team race for the title at state, this is the only weight class in which Troy Christian has a projected state champion. All but one of his seven state tournament wins the last two years have come by bonus point margins, including five of them by fall. The three wins for Turner leading into last year's state final defeat were among the pins, including one over Weaver in the quarterfinal round.

On the current season, Turner was 1-2 at the Ironman before placing seventh at Brecksville (pinning Weaver in the medal match), and then earning a title at Licking Valley up one weight class. He missed Wadsworth before returning for regional duals. Five other ranked wrestlers join Turner at a loaded Troy district tournament.

Taylor qualified for state last year in Division II as a freshman, and this season includes five different tournament titles; most notable are those at SWOWCA and beating three-time state qualifier Caprella to win CIT. Caprella has four tournament titles and a runner-up finish at Defiance to augment that CIT runner-up finish. Davis was state alternate last year as a freshman, and this season was seventh at Medina before finishing second at Troy, fourth at Mason, and third at Lima CC. The freshman Cooper placed fifth at GMVWA, won the title at Nelsonville-York, and was third at Delaware Hayes; while the sophomore Benson has tournament titles at Xenia, McClain, and Miami Trace on the resume.

The senior Weaver has twice placed fifth at state. His current season includes a title at Smithville up one weight class before placing eighth at Brecksville and fourth at Top Gun in this class. Only two other ranked wrestlers join him in this weight class at the Heath district. The senior Ramos placed at state in 2018 before finishing as state alternate last year; while his current season includes winning Big Walnut, finishing runner-up at Marion Pleasant, and fourth at the Gorman. Aiello made state last year as a sophomore, and this season as a tournament title at Hamilton Township to go with runner-up finishes at three other tournaments.

Four ranked wrestlers headline the Garfield Hts district, led by the senior Kaufmann, who has won a bout at each of the previous two state tournaments in Division II. His current season includes titles at Solon, Hudson, and Kenston before placing seventh at Maumee Bay. Stanley qualified for state in 2018 as a freshman before missing by one match last year, while this year he was champion at Cuyahoga Hts and runner-up at Lima CC. Ryder qualified for state last year as a freshman down at 113, while at the regional duals he beat Stanley and lost to Kaufmann. The sophomore Harris was runner-up at Berkshire and champion at West Salem Northwestern.

Rounding out this weight class is three ranked wrestlers from the Napoleon district, led by returning state medalist Matthews, whose season includes tournament titles at Marion Harding and Marion Pleasant along with a fourth-place finish at Perrysburg. Fellow junior Crawford was third at the Gorman, a finalist at Van Buren, and champion at Tiffin Calvert; while returning state alternate Neer was champion at Milan Edison.

138 pounds

1. Gavin Brown, Legacy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
2. Logan Hursey, Newcomerstown, junior (Heath)
3. B.J. Palmer, Buckeye Local, junior (Heath)
4. Antonio Lecki, Milbury Lake, senior (Napoleon)
5. Casey Barnett, Milan Edison, junior (Napoleon)
6. Austin Shepherd, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Austin Awan, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
8. Carter Chase, Marion Pleasant, sophomore (Heath)
9. Matthew Dewitz, Oak Harbor, senior (Napoleon)
10. Nathan Cadle, Bidwell River Valley, sophomore (Heath)
11. Colin Wiley, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
12. Westyn Moyer, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
13. Carson Bey, Versailles, sophomore (Troy)
14. Donnell Marshall, Centerburg, junior (Heath)
15. Austin Flick, Covington, senior (Troy)
16. Kaden Blair, Sherwood Fairview, junior (Napoleon)

GH – Shepherd, Gabe Mathias (Waynedale, junior), Jacob McHood (Mogadore, sophomore), Joe Viront (Tuslaw, junior); Naseem Maali (South Range, junior)

HEA – Hursey, Palmer, Chase, Cadle; Wiley, Marshall

NAP – Lecki, Barnett, Dewitz, Blair; Andrew Helmke (Defiance Tinora, junior)

TROY – Brown, Awan, Moyer, Bey; Flick

In the course of 82 previous state tournaments, there have been thousands of state champions crowned. Out of those, under 50 have been freshmen. From that subset, to beat a defending state champion to earn that state title has to be very rare. The first case that came to my mind came back in 2002 when Dustin Schlatter earned a major decision victory over Jordan LaFollette to take the Division II crown at 112 pounds.

That is exactly what Gavin Brown did last year to win his state title at 126 pounds. Brown upended Ethan Turner 2-1 in the state final, after beating him the previous week in the district final. Should there be a more recent example than the above, my apologies in advance. His sophomore season features three losses; however, all are to nationally ranked opposition (Tal-Shahar and Henson at the Ironman, and

Herrmann at Escape the Rock); along with that are tournament titles at GMVWA (win over Nick Moore), Nelsonville-York, and Delaware Hayes. The challenge pack presently features six additional returning state medalists.

Most notable is the pair at the Heath district, which reflect the next highest place-finishers from last year. Two-time state placer Hursey took fourth in this weight class, while fellow two-time state placer Palmer placed third at 132 after losing to eventual state champion Julian Sanchez in the quarterfinal.

Hursey placed fifth at Brecksville, along with tournament titles at Smithville, Top Gun, and New Lexington; while Palmer was champion at Union Local, Barnesville, and Buckeye Local along with fourth at the OVAC. Three others at Heath made state last year: sophomores Chase and Cadle, along with the senior Wiley. That means at least one with state experience will get displaced at the district – yes you heard that right, substantive depth in a weight class at Heath (for now)!

Chase has titles at the Gorman and North Union to go with a runner-up at Marion Pleasant; Cadle placed fourth at GMVWA and New Lexington, while taking second to Brown at Nelsonville-York; and Wiley was fourth at Barnesville, runner-up at Coshocton and Buckeye Local, and seventh at the OVAC. The junior Marshall is the additional ranked wrestler, and he has three tournament titles on the season to go with a runner-up finish at Watkins Memorial.

Brown is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at Troy, including the junior Awan, who was sixth in this weight class last year. Awan has been at 145 for the vast majority of this season where he was runner-up at Licking Valley and missed placement at Brecksville by one match. Moyer was a state alternate last year as a freshman, while this season he was champion at Lima Senior; Bey also was a state alternate last year as a freshman, and this season has three tournament titles to go with a sixth at the GMVWA; while the senior Flick also was a state alternate last year, and this year has finished seventh at both GMVWA and (at 145) at Lima CC along with winning the Troy tournament.

The junior Barnett won state as a freshman in 2018 at 106 pounds before losing 12-6 to Max Shore in last year's 113-pound state semifinal then dropping down to finish fifth. He opened this season with a title at Milan Edison before missing placement by a match at Brecksville and taking sixth at Maumee Bay. Three additional ranked wrestlers feature at the Napoleon district, a group led by fellow returning state medalist Lecki, who has tournament titles in this weight class at Northwood, Perrysburg, and Marion Pleasant. Fellow senior Dewitz qualified for state last year, and this year has a pair of tournament titles at 145 to go with a fourth at Medina and second at Perrysburg; while the junior Blair was runner-up at Findlay and a conference champion.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Garfield Hts that features just one ranked wrestler, the junior Shepherd, a returning state medalist. His current season has been more at 145 than here, where he was second at Smithville and champion at Xenia.

145 pounds

1. Dustin Morgillo, Genoa, senior (Napoleon)
2. Peyton Lane, National Trail, senior (Troy)
3. Brier Marthey, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Nicolas Alvarez, Legacy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
5. Jake White, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jesse Wright, Otsego, senior (Napoleon)

7. C.J. Smith, Marion Pleasant, sophomore (Heath)
8. Brennan Short, Archbold, senior (Napoleon)
9. Carter Winegarner, West Muskingum, senior (Heath)
10. Joel Abbott, Benjamin Logan, senior (Troy)
11. Devon Myers, Brookville, senior (Troy)
12. Dylan Millhoan, Southern Local, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Tate Geiser, Dalton, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
14. Griffin Soviak, Milan Edison, senior (Napoleon)
15. Hayden Johnson, Richmond Edison, senior (Heath)
16. Will Stieber, Norwalk St. Paul, sophomore (Napoleon)

GH – Marthey, White, Millhoan, Geiser; Khalid Morales (Lutheran West, senior)

HEA – Smith, Winegarner, Johnson, Jacob Boulet (Barnesville, junior); Trenton Ramos (Galion Northmor, sophomore)

NAP – Morgillo, Wright, B. Short, Soviak; Stieber

TROY – Lane, Alvarez, Abbott, Myers; Evan Davis (Greenon, junior)

Last year's Division III state tournament champion Genoa set a point record for the small-school classification with 172. The Comets earned six weight class champions, including five in consecutive weight classes (Julian Sanchez, Dylan D'Emilio, Morgillo, Contos, and James Limongi from 132-160). The five consecutive champions broke the record, which was set by Cleveland West in 1951; among those champions was long-time state rules interpreter Vince Matteucci, whose artwork is also found all over the state wrestling tournament.

Morgillo and Contos return for Genoa this year, while the other three have moved onto college. Each happens to return in the same weight class that they won last year. Morgillo had four decision victories on the way to his title, including 5-1 in the final over defending state champion Nick Burgard. Look for much more decisive wins during this tournament run. Highlights of his senior season so far include missing placement at the Ironman by one match, a title at Medina, and runner-up at Perrysburg.

Four additional ranked wrestlers join Morgillo at the Napoleon district, a group led by returning state tournament participant Wright, who was champion at Lima CC after taking fourth at Medina and sixth at Perrysburg. Fellow returning state qualifier Short had a disappointing seventh-place finish at Defiance, but does have an overtime victory over Wright from December. The sophomore Stieber was champion at Waterloo, along with placing fourth at the Gorman and New Lexington, while the senior Soviak has an in-season win over Stieber.

The primary challenger for Morgillo is fellow senior Lane, who was runner-up to four-time state champ D'Emilio last year. His senior season includes three tournament titles, most notably at the GMVWA where he upset defending state champion Alek Martin 2-1 in the final. Three additional ranked wrestlers join Lane at Troy, led by the sophomore Alvarez; whose finishes this season include a fourth at the GMVWA, winning at Nelsonville-York, and a runner-up at Delaware Hayes. The senior Abbott went two-and-out in Division II at this weight class. Most of his season has been at 152 where he was champion at Benjamin Logan and placed in four other tournaments. Fellow senior Myers went two-and-out in this weight class at state last year, while this season includes a third-place finish at Trenton Edgewood on the resume.

Three-time state qualifier Marthey joins Morgillo and Lane as returning state medalists in this weight class, finishing fourth last year including a 10-4 semifinal loss to Morgillo; his current season includes a seventh-place finish at Brecksville. Three additional ranked wrestlers join him at Garfield Hts.

2018 state placer White qualified for state last year, but was scratched prior to the tournament. Fellow senior Milhoan was a state alternate in this weight class last year, and his current season includes runner-up finishes at Barnesville and Beaver Local up in the 152 class before dropping here to finish fifth place at OVAC. Finally, the sophomore Geiser was a district placer last year, and this year finished third place at Smithville before winning a title at West Salem Northwestern.

Rounding out the four districts is the one at Heath, which features just three ranked wrestlers. Leading that group is the sophomore Smith, who was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty before championships at East Knox and Marion Pleasant sandwich a third place at the Gorman. Two-time state qualifier Winegarner placed eighth at state in 2018, while this season he was champion at Athens and runner-up at New Lexington. Fellow senior Johnson qualified for state in 2018 before missing by one match last year, and this year includes titles at Union Local and Buckeye Local along with seventh place finishes at Beaver Local and the OVAC.

152 pounds

1. Kevin Contos, Genoa, senior (Napoleon)
2. Andrew Shaffer, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Shadrick Slone, Milan Edison, sophomore (Napoleon)
4. Jake Hurst, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
5. Nick Skye, Mogadore, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jeremy Tracy, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Andrew Knaup, West Muskingum, senior (Heath)
8. Morgan Price, Mohawk, senior (Napoleon)
9. Niko Christo, Galion Northmor, junior (Heath)
10. Chase Miller, Allen East, sophomore (Troy)
11. Jimmy Recknagel, Eastwood, junior (Napoleon)
12. Justin Sarge, Wellsville, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Levi Kibler, Ashland Crestview, senior (Napoleon)
14. Will Hash, Bidwell River Valley, sophomore (Heath)
15. Jake Mumper, Roger Bacon, senior (Troy)
16. Cameron Woods, Barnesville, junior (Heath)

GH – Skye, Tracy, Sarge, Cameron White (Rootstown, junior); Greg Eberhardt (Tuslaw, senior), Cory Stiffler (Orrville, junior)

HEA – Knaup, Christo, Hash, Woods; Hayden Offenberger (Waterford, junior)

NAP – Contos, Slone, Price, Recknagel; Kibler

TROY – Shaffer, Hurst, Miller, Mumper; Mason Vonderwell (Delphos St. John, sophomore)

The senior Contos is one of 20 state champions from the 2019 state tournament that return to compete in this year's event. His season to date includes three losses, all coming against nationally ranked opposition, only one to an opponent from Ohio. Contos was 2-2 at the Ironman, placed third at Medina losing 8-3 to Fields in the semifinal, and was champion at Perrysburg. Just two wrestlers who have medaled previously at state, along with six other returning state participants, join him in this weight class.

Though likely to go unchallenged at the district level, Contos does exit the deepest district, as four additional ranked wrestlers join him at Napoleon. Said group is led by a pair of returning state qualifiers in Slone and Price. The sophomore Slone was champion at Milan Edison, went 2-2 at Brecksville, and placed fourth at Maumee Bay; while the senior Price was runner-up at the Gorman, third at Perrysburg, and champion at Van Buren before losing a dual meet match 2-0 to Slone. The junior Recknagel was champion at Waterloo, while finishing second at West Jefferson and Lima CC; while the senior Kibler was third at Kettering Fairmont and Kenston before advancing to the consolation final at the Gorman.

One of the two previous state placers is Shaffer, who placed seventh two years ago in the 182-pound weight class when competing at St. Paris Graham. He has competed both here and up at 160, so it would not surprise me to see him pursue a much more likely state title at 160. Up at 160, he was fifth at Brecksville and third at Maumee Bay; while in this weight, he was champion at Licking Valley and fifth at Wadsworth only losing a narrow 5-4 decision to Fields in the pool stage. Three additional ranked wrestlers, one with state experience join him at Troy for district.

Hurst won a state tournament bout in consolation last year as a freshman at 132 pounds. Up three weight classes, he was one match from placing at Brecksville before winning title at Lima Senior and Southeastern. Fellow sophomore Miller was champion at Allen County and Lima CC, runner-up at Van Buren and (at 160) Sidney, and third at Defiance; while the senior Mumper has four tournament titles on the season.

The other returning state medalist is the junior Skye, who is seeking a third state tournament appearance in this weight class. His season includes finishing third at the Bill Dies and runner-up at the Hephner. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him in the field at Garfield Hts. The senior Tracy won a state tournament match last year at 145, while his current season includes finals appearances in four tournaments with titles coming at the Gorman (over Price) and West Salem Northwestern. Fellow senior Sarge missed state by one match last year at 145, and this year was runner-up at Waterloo before taking fifth at both the OVAC and EOWL meets.

Rounding things out is a group of four ranked wrestlers at Heath, led by returning state qualifiers Knaup and Christo. The senior Knaup has three tournament titles along with taking second at Athens and fifth at New Lexington, while the junior Christo has two tournament titles and a runner-up finish at Medina on the resume. The sophomore Hash has two tournament titles to go with missing placement by one match at the GMVWA and finishing third at New Lexington; while the junior Woods is a returning state alternate most notably placing sixth at OVAC and fourth at New Lexington.

160 pounds

1. T.J. Rhamy, Patrick Henry, senior (Napoleon)
2. Gunner Endicott, Elmwood, sophomore (Napoleon)
3. Peyton Lemon, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
4. Donovan Palmer, Lutheran West, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. D.J. Slone, Willard, senior (Napoleon)
6. Coltin Meek, Newcomerstown, junior (Heath)
7. Bryce Keckley, West Jefferson, sophomore (Heath)
8. Deontae Davis, Cory Rawson, senior (Troy)
9. Conner Havill, Troy Christian, freshman (Troy)
10. Eli Moore, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)

11. Blake Hershberger, Allen East, junior (Troy)
12. Cael Bey, Versailles, senior (Troy)
13. Tim Meyer, Defiance Tinora, senior (Napoleon)
14. Owen Oliver, Barnesville, senior (Heath)
15. Dalton Metzger, Adena, senior (Heath)
16. Jerry Rose, Cardinal, junior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Lemon, Palmer, Rose, Hal Huber (West Salem Northwestern, junior); Ian McClintock (Fairview, senior)

HEA – Meek, Keckley, Oliver, Metzger; Cody Albaugh (Bellaire, senior)

NAP – Rhamy, Endicott, Slone, Meyer; Jon Auld (Gibsonburg, senior)

TROY – Davis, Havill, Moore, Hershberger; Bey

Positioned between two weight classes that feature returning state champions (Contos at 152 and Becker at 170), one would think that this field would be extremely deep. However, it isn't. Only seven wrestlers in this weight have state tournament experience, with just two-time state placer Rhamy and fellow senior Davis even having a win in the state brackets. Given that scenario, it would not surprise me to see some late movement into this weight class (hint: Shaffer at Troy Christian).

At present the projected state champion is Rhamy, who was up at 170 until the Lima CC tournament in which he won his first match and then pulled out of the event. Up at 170, he was a consolation finalist at Defiance, runner-up at Perrysburg, and sixth at Maumee Bay. Three other ranked wrestlers join Rhamy at the Napoleon district, two are returning state alternates.

The sophomore Endicott went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing third at Perrysburg and champion at Van Buren, while the senior Clone has four tournament titles on the season along with a runner-up finish at Loudonville. Also ranked at the Napoleon district is fellow senior Meyer, who also has been at 170 for the bulk of the season.

Exiting the Troy district are five ranked wrestlers, including the only member of the field other than Rhamy to have a state tournament win in the senior Davis. His season at this weight class includes a runner-up finish at Van Buren, third place at Lima CC, and fourth at Tiffin Calvert. The freshman Havill was a junior high state runner-up last year, while his current season at this weight class includes placing fifth at Licking Valley and third at Wadsworth; down at 152, he missed placement at Brecksville by a single match. The junior Moore has titles in three tournaments along with placing fifth at Defiance, fourth at Van Buren, and second at Lima CC. Fellow junior Hershberger was runner-up in the 170 class at Sidney before winning at Allen County then taking third at Van Buren and fourth at Lima CC. Finally, returning state qualifier Bey has two tournament titles to go with a runner-up at Central Crossing and placing sixth at GMVWA; in addition, he has dual meet losses to Hershberger and Meyer.

Two of the three ranked wrestlers at Garfield Hts are among the top contenders in this weight class. Lemon was a state alternate last year as a freshman, and this year has been dominant on the way to titles at Cuyahoga Hts and Lima CC; while the junior Palmer was third at Medina, runner-up at the North Coast Classic and Perry, while winning titles at Loudonville (over Slone) and the CVC. Fellow junior Rose missed state by one match last year, while the current season includes titles at Hawken and Jackson Milton along with runner-up finishes at Berkshire and the CVC.

Four ranked wrestlers, two of whom are returning state qualifiers, are among the field at Heath. The junior Meek was 2-2 at Brecksville before taking seventh at the Top Gun, while the sophomore Keckley has runner-up finishes in two tournaments along with a title at West Jefferson. The senior Oliver has placed in five tournaments this year, most notably third at the OVAC; while fellow senior Metzger has been a finalist at four tournaments across three weight classes on the season. Also here is returning state qualifier Albaugh, who was two-and-out in this weight class as a junior last year.

170 pounds

1. Conor Becker, Galion Northmor, senior (Heath)
2. Sevi Garza, Rittman, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Trevor Franks, Lakota, senior (Napoleon)
4. Hayden Pummel, Indian Lake, junior (Troy)
5. Devin Olige, Middletown Madison, junior (Troy)
6. Micah Hershberger, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Caden Brown, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Napoleon)
8. Steele Boysel, Benjamin Logan, senior (Troy)
9. Tyler Ramage, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Napoleon)
10. Logan Lloyd, Milan Edison, sophomore (Napoleon)
11. Chase Dyer, Brookville, senior (Troy)
12. Chase Martin, Delphos St. John's, junior (Troy)
13. Gavin Davis, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Kameron Hughes, Martins Ferry, junior (Heath)
15. Andy Williamson, Mount Gilead, junior (Heath)
16. Chase Keener, Smithville, junior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Garza, Hershberger, Davis, Keener; Dalton Duvall (Rootstown, junior), Connor Hrubik (Garrettsville Garfield, senior)

HEA – Becker, Hughes, Williamson, Tabor Lackey (Trimble, sophomore); Jonathan Rickenbacker (West Jefferson, sophomore)

NAP – Franks, Brown, Ramage, Lloyd; Cade Whitticar (Van Buren, senior)

TROY – Pummel, Olige, Boysel, Dyer; Martin

For there being a returning state champion in the field, this is a rather deep weight class, especially when looking at the group at 160 pounds. Five additional state medalist and four others that made state last year join the senior Becker in this weight class's present composition. The returning state champion has titles at Big Walnut and Marion Pleasant so far in his senior season.

While there are clear challenges for Becker to repeat as state champ, they won't come at the Heath district, where just two ranked wrestlers join him in the field. Hughes went two-and-out in this state tournament weight last year as a sophomore, with his current season including runner-up finishes at Barnesville and Beaver Local before taking fifth at the OVAC and Buckeye Local. Fellow junior Williamson is a returning state alternate, and has titles in three tournaments to go with a runner-up finish at Marion Harding and third place at Marion Pleasant.

Most direct among the challengers to Becker is the junior Garza, who has placed seventh and fourth in two state tournaments to date. Should Garza win state this year, he would be the first wrestler from Rittman to earn state gold. Last year, Garza lost by fall to Becker in the state quarterfinal round; while this year includes titles at Smithville and Loudonville before taking second at the Gorman.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Garza at Garfield Hts, with all four coming from the same sectional at West Salem Northwestern. Returning state qualifier Hershberger was runner-up at Lima CC; fellow senior Davis was runner-up to Garza at Loudonville, fifth at the Gorman, and champion at West Salem Northwestern; while the junior Keener is a returning state alternate.

Four returning state tournament participants are among the five ranked wrestlers at Troy. It's a group led by the junior Pummel who has titles at Washington C.H., Defiance, and Olentangy Orange along with a placement finish at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Oligee placed third at Edgewood before picking up four tournament titles. The senior Dyer picked up a state tournament win in the 182 weight class last year, and was there for the first two-thirds of this season where he was third at Edgewood and fourth at the GMVWA; while the junior Martin has four tournament titles on the season to go with a runner-up finish at Troy and fifth at the CIT.

Wrapping up this weight class is four ranked wrestlers at Napoleon, including a pair that placed eighth at state last year in seniors Franks and Brown. Franks has titles this season at Northwood, Perrysburg, Van Buren, and Lima CC; while Brown missed placement by one match up at 182 at Defiance before taking third at Lima CC and second in his conference meet. Fellow senior Ramage has titles at Milan Edison, Black River, and Mapleton on the resume; while the sophomore Lloyd was runner-up at Milan Edison before missing out on placement at Brecksville and Maumee Bay, but did pick up dual meet wins over state qualifiers Dyer and Corapi.

182 pounds

1. Ethan Ducca, Ashtabula St. John, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Wyatt Miller, Oak Harbor, junior (Napoleon)
3. Tanner May, Carey, senior (Napoleon)
4. Gavin Baisden, Marion Pleasant, senior (Heath)
5. Tyler Knight, Mogadore, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Jarret Winner, Miami East, junior (Troy)
7. Craig Montgomery, Troy Christian senior (Troy)
8. Noah Love, Tuscarawas Valley, senior (Heath)
9. Camden Caizzo, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Napoleon)
10. Jaron Patterson, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
11. Ryan Gear, Cincinnati McNicholas, senior (Troy)
12. Lucas Stoddard, Berkshire, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Luke Williams, Brookville, senior (Troy)
14. Carson Meyer, Archbold, junior (Napoleon)
15. Hunter Morris, Southern Local, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Josey Kelly, Westfall, junior (Heath)

GH – Ducca, Knight, Stoddard, Morris; Eric Miller (Dalton, junior)

HEA – Baisden, Love, Kelly, Charles Smith (Buckeye Local, senior); Kobe Barnett (Liberty Union, senior)

NAP – Miller, May, Caizzo, Meyer; Ian Saunders (Swonton, junior)

TROY – Winner, Montgomery, Patterson, Gear; Williams

Two years ago when Ashtabula St. John finished as runners-up in Division III on the strength of three state finalists, including sophomores Lagoa and Cumberledge, nobody envisioned that the 2020 team anchor would have been a wrestler not on the Herald's roster at that time. However, that is where

things stand as the senior Ducca, who attended Chardon for his first two years, finished runner-up last year down at 160 pounds for Ashtabula St. John.

The Edinboro signee finished fifth at the Ironman and was champion at Perry, though he has missed out on a couple of key competitive opportunities this season. This weight class features a second returning state runner-up May, who is a three-time state placer. His season to date includes a runner-up finish at Bellevue before winning titles at Olentangy Orange, Van Buren, and Lima CC.

Ducca exits from Garfield Hts, a district that features three additional ranked wrestlers including Knight, who won a state tournament bout in this weight class last year as a freshman. Knight's season includes a runner-up finish at Waterloo, a title at Coshocton, and placing fourth at the Bill Dies. Fellow sophomore Stoddard finished as state alternate last year, and this season includes titles in three tournaments, while the junior Morris has been in the finals of four tournaments this season.

May is joined by three additional ranked wrestlers at Napoleon, including the junior Miller who beat May 3-2 at Bellevue. Subsequently, Miller finished third at Medina before runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay. Caizzo finished eighth in this weight class last year as a junior, placing this year third at Waterloo, winning titles at Kenston and New Lexington, along with fifth at the Gorman. The junior Meyer was a district placer down at 152 last season.

Troy is the most congested district with five ranked wrestlers, three of whom are returning state qualifiers. Returning state alternate Winner leads the group, as the junior was champion at Tippecanoe in this weight before placing at Medina and advancing to the semis at Lima CC; he also beat Montgomery at the regional duals. Two-time state qualifier Montgomery placed eighth at Brecksville before finishing first and Licking Valley.

Fellow returning state qualifier Patterson was 2-2 at Brecksville before winning titles at Lima Senior and Southeastern. Another senior and returning state qualifier is Gear, who was champion at Madeira and fourth at Eaton but sandwiched a DNP at CIT in between those two events. Finally, it's another senior in Williams, who has been at 195 most of the season where he picked up a title at Edgewood and placed fifth at GMVWA.

Lastly, a group of three ranked wrestlers – none of whom have state tournament experience – exit from Heath. The senior Baisden has runner-up finishes at two tournaments to go with titles at East Knox (at 195), North Union, and Marion Pleasant; fellow senior Love was champion at Malvern and Waterloo, while finishing third at Cuyahoga Hts; while the junior Kelly was runner-up at Barnesville and Logan Elm, along with placing first and Vinton County and third at Fairfield.

195 pounds

1. Jacob Brewer, Milan Edison, senior (Napoleon)
2. Garrett Neth, Allen East, senior (Troy)
3. Kaden Kidd, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Nathaniel Dire, Liberty-Benton, junior (Napoleon)
5. Mitch Sanders, Newbury, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jordan Sanders, Newcomerstown, junior (Heath)
7. Isaac Grilliot, Versailles, senior (Troy)
8. Noah Clark, Benjamin Logan, senior (Troy)
9. Cam Jordan, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)

10. Quinton Brown, Middletown Madison, senior (Troy)
11. Colton Snyder, Nelsonville-York, junior (Heath)
12. Casey Fleahman, Liberty Union, junior (Heath)
13. Richard McFarland, Martins Ferry, senior (Heath)
14. Kenny Crouch, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Spencer Mesaros, Ravenna Southeast, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Nathan Mansor, Oak Harbor, senior (Napoleon)

GH – Kidd, M. Sanders, Jordan, Crouch; Mesaros

HEA – J. Sanders, Snyder, Fleahman, McFarland; Gavyn Mendenhall (Columbus Academy, sophomore)

NAP – Brewer, Dire, Mansor, Cade Limes (Otsego, junior); Spencer Franks (Lakota, sophomore)

TROY – Neth, Grilliot, Clark, Brown; Timothy Smith (North College Hill, junior)

When looking at why Milan Edison is undefeated in dual meets on the season, one can point to a balanced lineup with strength in all of the weight areas. For the upper-weights, that anchor is Brewer, who placed fourth in this weight class last year as a junior. The current season includes a title at Milan Edison, fourth place at Brecksville, and a runner-up finish at Maumee Bay.

Just two ranked wrestlers will join Brewer at Napoleon for district competition, returning state qualifier Dire and the senior Mansor. Dire won a state tournament match last year at 182 as a sophomore; his current season includes runner-up finishes at Defiance and Van Buren sandwiched around a title at Lima Senior. Mansor missed placement at Medina and Maumee Bay by one match, with a runner-up finish at Perrysburg coming between those two events.

Fellow senior Neth lost 12-9 to Brewer in the consolation semifinal last year at state on the way to a sixth-place finish. After an opening week third place finish up at 220 at Sidney, he has tournament titles at Allen County, Defiance, Van Buren, and Lima CC in this weight class. Three ranked wrestlers join Neth at Troy for district competition. Fellow senior Grilliot qualified for state in this weight last year, but scratched prior to the tournament; the current season includes titles in two tournaments to go with a runner-up at Valley View and fourth at the GMVWA. Another senior in Clark has three tournament titles to go with missing GMVWA placement by one match, as well as placing third at Sidney and second at Xenia; while a fourth senior in Brown was third at Trenton Edgewood and second at Bellbrook before winning titles at Miami Trace and Carlisle.

Most congested among the four districts is Garfield Hts, where five ranked wrestlers reside. Kidd is a returning state placer, while Sanders won a state tournament bout. The junior Kidd was fifth at Smithville, second at Medina, and fourth at the Bill Dies; while the senior Sanders was champion at Hawken, runner-up at Waterloo and Kenston, and fourth at EOWL. Jordan was state alternate in this weight last year as a sophomore, and this season was champion at Cuyahoga Hts before taking second at Lima CC. The senior Crouch was runner-up at Hawken and Riverside before taking first at Jackson-Milton and third at the EOWL; while the sophomore Mesaros was third at Smithville, fifth at Kenston, and fourth at the Hephner.

Rounding out this weight is four ranked wrestlers at Heath, each of whom brings a state tournament appearance to the table. The junior Sanders was second at Smithville before missing out on placement at Brecksville and Top Gun by one match; fellow junior Flehman was runner-up at East Knox and champion at Marion Franklin; the senior McFarland is a two-time state qualifier who has placed fourth in three tournaments, along with taking third at Buckeye Local; while 2018 state qualifier Snyder did not

wrestle last season but has returned to the mat with top three finishes in six events, including finals berths in four.

220 pounds

1. Will Morrow, Patrick Henry, senior (Napoleon)
2. Will Bechstein, Elmwood, senior (Napoleon)
3. Noah Eikenbary, Kenton, senior (Troy)
4. Austin Kohlhofer, Delta, sophomore (Napoleon)
5. Hunter Smith, Gibsonburg, senior (Napoleon)
6. Austin Cole, Northwood, senior (Napoleon)
7. James Clouse, Mohawk, junior (Napoleon)
8. Anthony Czap, South Range, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Ian Jocye, Trimble, senior (Heath)
10. Braden Sears, Independence, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Wyatt Moyer, Sandy Valley, sophomore (Heath)
12. Zac Cesario, Buckeye Local, senior (Heath)
13. Dakota Sargent, Columbus Grove, senior (Troy)
14. Landen Luginbuhl, Bluffton, senior (Napoleon)
15. Austin Ryder, Dalton, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Nolan Tobe, Coldwater, junior (Troy)
17. Caden Weekley, Wellsville, junior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Czap, Sears, Ryder, Weekley; Noah Hoffmann (Garrettsville Garfield, senior)

HEA – Joyce, Moyer, Cesario, Zakary Dobson (Martins Ferry, sophomore); Travis Reed (Madison Plains, junior)

NAP – Morrow, Bechstein, Kohlhofer, Smith; Cole, Clouse, Luginbuhl

TROY – Eikenbary, Sargent, Tobe, Brandon Dues (Spencerville, junior); Caden Coleman (Mechanicsburg, junior), Matt Hamm (Brookville, senior)

What's an upper-weight class in Division III (or for that matter Division II) without congestion in the northwest district. There are seven ranked wrestlers at Napoleon, including six of the top seven. One might wonder if there's going to be movement to 195 or 285 by any. From a state qualification perspective, 285 is going to be much easier at the district level; however, winning state gold is going to be a challenge in either weight class.

The senior Morrow seeks to become just the second individual state champion for Patrick Henry, whose lone other title came from Mike Hartman at 105 pounds in the 1981 Class A state tournament. Morrow qualified and placed seventh at 182 his first two years before winning district and losing in the semifinal by technical fall to eventual state Hudson Jump on the way to a third-place finish. The current season includes finals appearances at Defiance, Maumee Bay, and Lima CC.

Ranked second in the state is the senior Bechstein, who was fourth at state last year losing in the tiebreaker in the opposite semi and then 7-1 to Morrow for bronze. His current season includes placing eighth at Brecksville then winning titles at Perrysburg and Van Buren. Kohlhofer was state alternate last year in this district weight class as a freshman, while it's been more excellence as a sophomore – third at Olentangy liberty, second at Perrysburg, and seventh at Maumee Bay. The senior Smith made state last year but has been in-and-out of the lineup this season.

Fellow senior Cole qualified for state last year at 182, so he could be a candidate to explore a drop to 195. The current season includes a title at Northwood, placing third at Perrysburg, then going 3-2 in failing to place at Maumee Bay. The senior Clouse was runner-up at the Gorman, placed at Perrysburg, and was third at Van Buren; while another senior in Luginbuhl was fourth at Van Buren and third at Lima CC.

Two of the three ranked wrestlers at the Troy district won a state tournament bout last year as juniors. Eikanbery did so in Division II at this weight class, and his senior season includes two tournament titles at 285 along with a championship at Marion Pleasant and runner-up finish at Van Buren in this weight class; while Sargent was champion at Arcadia and seventh at Defiance. Also ranked is the junior Tobe, who was sixth at Findlay and Lima CC along with earning a title at Milton Union.

The third returning state placer in this field is Czap, who placed sixth in this weight class last year as a junior. His current season includes titles at Waterloo and Jackson-Milton along with a third-place at the Hephner. Three additional ranked wrestlers populate the Garfield Hts district. The senior Sears finished fifth at district up at 285, but participated at the state tournament due to an ejection in the district final; while his current season includes titles at the North Coast Classic and CVC sandwiched around missing placement at Brecksville by one match. The sophomore Ryder has titles at Smithville and West Salem Northwestern to his credit, while the junior Weekley was third at Malvern, sixth at the OVAC, and second at Wellsville.

Rounding it out is a group of three ranked wrestlers, returning state qualifier Joyce along with state alternates Moyer and Cesario. The senior Joyce has five tournament titles on the season along with fourth place at New Lexington; the sophomore Moyer was runner-up at Barnesville and Waterloo before missing placement at Brecksville by one match; while the senior Cesario was runner-up at Union Local and fifth at Barnesville.

285 pounds

1. Caden Hill, Ashland Crestview, senior (Napoleon)
2. Kaleb Snodgrass, Van Buren, senior (Napoleon)
3. Jeff Meyer, Columbus Grove, junior (Troy)
4. Ryan Elrod, Ashtabula St. John, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Brennan Davies, Allen East, senior (Troy)
6. Ty Stevenson, Preble Shawnee, senior (Troy)
7. William Lindsey, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Brodie Stevens, Swanton, junior (Napoleon)
9. Jayden Heltsley, Arcanum, senior (Troy)
10. Easton Hitchens, Shenandoah, senior (Heath)
11. Zach Kuneff, Bridgeport, senior (Heath)
12. Donte Lewis, Martins Ferry, senior (Heath)
13. Jeff Kusar, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Ross Boyd, Centerburg, junior (Heath)
15. Camden Roose, Benjamin Logan, junior (Troy)
16. Billy Reed-Bodey, Fairbanks, junior (Heath)

GH – Elrod, Lindsey, Kusar, Coddie Phillips (Orrville, senior); Simi Moananu (Youngstown Liberty, senior)
HEA – Hitchens, Kuneff, Lewis, Boyd; Reed-Bodey

NAP – Hill, Snodgrass, Stevens, Tayven Halibsen (Gibsonburg, senior); Tyler Martin (Sherwood Fairview, senior)

TROY – Meyer, Davies, Stevenson, Heltsley; Roose

Three returning state placers, three others with a state tournament win, and three others that have participated at the state tournament. However, it's a wrestler whose high-water mark is going 2-2 at the district tournament last year as the favorite. Two clear mitigating factors: (1) the four graduating seniors at his district that made state finished first, third, fourth, and fifth at 285 (2) he is a two-time Walsh Jesuit Ironman placer.

The senior Hill placed third at the Ironman, with his lone loss coming to eventual champion Colt Deery of Malvern Prep (Pa.). He augmented that Ironman performance with four tournament titles, including wins over direct contenders Meyer and Davies on the way to the title at Lima CC. Two additional ranked wrestlers join Hill at Napoleon, returning state runner-up Snodgrass and the junior Stevens.

Snodgrass was runner-up last year at state in the 220-pound weight class, winning in overtime over Czap in the quarterfinal and then in the tiebreaker against Bechstein in the semi. His senior season includes finishing third at Defiance and Perrysburg, along with a runner-up finish at Van Buren. Stevens was runner-up at Northwood and fifth at Lima CC, along with missing placement by one match at Defiance when he lost to Snodgrass and Meyer.

Meyer reached the state semifinal in this weight last year as a sophomore before doing the triple-dip down to sixth place. His season features three tournament titles (including Van Buren where he beat Snodgrass and Davies), along with placing fourth at Defiance and Lima CC. Four additional wrestlers join him in the rankings at Troy, three with state tournament experience.

The senior Davies won a state tournament in consolation last year, while this season includes a pair of tournament titles, along with finishing fifth at Defiance, third at Van Buren, and second at Lima CC. Fellow senior Stevenson is a returning state placer, whose season includes taking third at Lima CC and winning the title at Carlisle. Heltsley went two-and-out at state last year as a junior, and this year was third at Troy before taking second at Eaton; while the junior Roose has titles at North Union and Utica, a fourth at GMVWA, along with three other tournament medals.

The other pair of wrestlers in this weight class with a state tournament win exit the Garfield Hts district. The sophomore Elrod was a double All-American at the 16U Nationals this past summer in Fargo, while his current season includes placing seventh at Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, and first at Perry. The senior Lindsey has titles at Hawken, Waterloo, and the CVC to go with placing third at the North Coast Classic and Top Gun. Fellow senior Kusar has a pair of tournament titles to go with runner-up finishes at Kenston and Perry. Also here is returning state qualifier Phillips.

Lastly, it's a Heath district that features five ranked wrestlers, though none is in a projected state placement position. Returning state qualifier Hitchens leads the lot, as he was champion at Union Local and the OVAC sandwiched around a third at Barnesville. Next in line is another senior in Kuneff, who has three runner-up and two third place finishes on the season (two losses to Hitchens and a win over Lewis along the way). Fellow senior Lewis is a returning state alternate, and has a title at Barnesville before taking third at Beaver Local and fourth at the OVAC. The junior Boyd has two tournament titles to go with a second at Benjamin Logan and third at Marion Harding; while fellow junior Reed-Boley was champion at Mount Vernon and Madison Plains before taking third at Xenia and second at Triad.f

Team

1. Legacy Christian (Troy)
2. Troy Christian (Troy)
3. Milan Edison (Napoleon)
4. Newcomerstown (Heath)
5. Allen East (Troy)
6. Miami East (Troy)
7. Patrick Henry (Napoleon)
8. Genoa (Napoleon)
9. Waynedale (Garfield Hts)
10. Elmwood (Napoleon)
11. Delta (Napoleon)
12. Ashtabula St. John (Garfield Hts)