

## Division II

### *106 pounds*

1. Justin Stickley, St. Paris Graham, junior (C. Southeastern)
2. Josh Venia, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Mansfield)
3. Matthew Cardello, Canfield, freshman (Alliance)
4. Bruce Hrynciw, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Mansfield)
5. Terrell Grant, Tallmadge, senior (Alliance)
6. Brandon Lucas, Western Brown, freshman (C. Southeastern)
7. Alex Potts, East Liverpool, senior (Heath)
8. Jashon Hubbard, Steubenville, freshman (Heath)
9. Eric Bartos, Buckeye, sophomore (Mansfield)
10. Lucas Stricker, Hoban, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Hunter Ryan, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
12. Alec Schopfer, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
13. Addison Fogle, Licking Valley, freshman (Heath)
14. Nate Keaton, Circleville, freshman (C. Southeastern)
15. Jared Stevens, Gallia Academy, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
16. Gannon Petrullo, Dover, sophomore (Heath)
17. Carson Speelman, Mansfield Madison, sophomore (Mansfield)

ALL – Cardello, Grant, Stricker, Ryan; Schopfer

CSE – Stickley, Lucas, Keaton, Stevens; Noah Barnett (Sheridan, freshman)

HEA – Potts, Hubbard, Fogle, Petrullo; Briar Cadle (Claymont, freshman)

MAN – Venia, Hrynciw, Bartos, Speelman; Danny Assaf (Defiance, sophomore)

Let's throw it back to March of 1979 for a moment, a time where no one knew that there was a St. Paris, Ohio. It was that year when Jim Jordan won the Class AA title at 98 pounds by a 5-4 decision over Scott Keil as a freshman. Three seasons later, he would win a fourth state title, younger brother Jeff won what was his third title, and teammate Scott Owens finished runner-up in the weight between them. With just those three place-winners, St. Paris Graham won a state title under head coach Ron McCunn.

Over 35 years later, much has changed, but there are a few things remaining the same. First, there is a St. Paris Graham wrestler favored to win the opening weight class. Second, the Falcons will win the state title. The head coach now is Jeff Jordan, who was in eighth grade in 1979, and took over as the head coach after McCunn won the Falcons a third state title in 2001 (1998 was the second). From that first state title, the program now has 74 individual state champions in all. Along with St. Edward, they are the standard bearers of high school wrestling in Ohio.

The junior Stickley placed sixth at this weight class last year, after it was his older brother Eli finishing third in the opening weight the year before. This season, he placed fifth at the Ironman and won tournament titles at the GMVWA, Wadsworth, and New Lexington. While he is not the highest returning place-winner in this weight class, Stickley did beat that wrestler (Josh Venia) in consolation at the Walsh Ironman by 7-5 decision.

Stickley heads a district at Chillicothe Southeastern that features three other ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Stevens, and a pair of freshmen in Lucas and Keaton. Lucas won a title at Western Brown and finished third at Franklin (113) and GMVWA; while Keaton beat Stevens to win the

title at Miami Trace, along with placing third at Olentangy Liberty and Western Brown. Stevens has lost twice to Keaton this season, and does have a head-on loss to another freshman in this district, Barnett by 12-8 score in late January.

Fellow junior Venia is the highest returning placer, finishing third last year at state, including a 4-3 ultimate tiebreaker victory over Stickley in the quarterfinal. He went 3-2 at the Ironman and finished runner-up at the CIT while competing at 106; up at 113, Venia was champion at Solon, runner-up at the TRAC, and fell a match short of placing at Brecksville. His district has three other ranked wrestlers, all sophomore, including a pair that were one match away from making state last year – Hrynciw and Bartos. The sophomore Hrynciw was champion at Medina in this weight class, while winning titles at Bellevue and Perrysburg up at 113; fellow sophomore Bartos placed seventh at Medina and fourth at the Bill Dies in this weight, while winning at Beachwood and his league tournament up at 113.

The freshman star in this weight is Cardello, a junior high state champion last year at 102 pounds. He exits the Alliance district, and this season was runner-up at Brecksville to the nationally ranked Mattin before winning titles at the Bill Dies and EOWL tournaments. At the district level, he is joined by four other ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Grant, who placed at the Ironman and the Beast of the East (also finishing third at the Bill Dies). Returning state alternate Stricker was champion at Hudson and the NCL (where he beat the freshman Ryan), and runner-up to Cardello at the Bill Dies. Schopfer is a senior, and was a go-to-state match loser two years ago in this weight class; he has placed in three major tournaments this season (North Canton, GMVWA, and Top Gun).

Rounding out the districts is the one at Heath, which is led by returning state qualifier Potts, who won the OVAC title up at 113 before dropping here in winning a title at Wellsville. In that Wellsville tournament, he beat the freshman Hubbard, a fellow OVAC champion; he also was fourth at North Canton, and has an upset pin over Cardello in late January. Those two are joined by the freshman Fogle, a placer at Brecksville earlier this season, and the sophomore Petrullo.

#### *113 pounds*

1. Mitch Moore, St. Paris Graham, freshman (C. Southeastern)
2. Ana Abduljelil, Whitehall, junior (Heath)
3. Hunter Kosco, Canal Fulton Northwest, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Tony Decesare, Padua, junior (Alliance)
5. Blaine Hunter, Elida, junior (Mansfield)
6. Maxx Peters, Claymont, freshman (Heath)
7. Gunner Carpenter, Licking Valley, freshman (Heath)
8. Aaron Kelly, Rocky River, junior (Mansfield)
9. Nathaniel Kehn, Sheridan, senior (C. Southeastern)
10. Cole Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, freshman (Alliance)
11. Charlie Nash, Norwalk, junior (Mansfield)
12. Dante Ginnetti, Poland, junior (Alliance)
13. Mauricio Barajas, Wauseon, freshman (Mansfield)
14. Brady Toth, Perry, junior (Alliance)
15. Jack Dawson, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
16. Jake Ondash, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Kosco, Decesare, Bailey, Ginnetti; Toth, Ondash

CSE – Moore, Kehn, T.J. Newsome (New Lexington, junior), Jaylin Cameron (Urbana, junior); Max Neiling (Bellbrook, freshman)

HEA – Abduljelil, Peters, Carpenter, Dawson; Jordan Anthony (Buckeye Valley, junior)

MAN – Hunter, Kelly, Nash, Barajas; Mike Baumberger (Mansfield Madison, sophomore)

Continuing our narrative in the Graham Invitational, one of the major themes has been standout freshmen through the years. Jim and Jeff Jordan were the second and third four-time state champions in Ohio high school wrestling. Since then, three other wrestlers have won all four of their state titles in the Black, Grey, and White – David Taylor (one of the best wrestler this state has ever seen), Bo Jordan, and Micah Jordan. Additional wrestlers to win state as freshmen while competing for the Falcons include Ty Morgan, Dustin Schlatter, Ben Jordan, Alex Marinelli, and Kyle Lawson.

Another should be added to the rolls this year, as the phenom Mitch Moore is a strong favorite in this weight class. In the pre-season, the two-time junior high state champion placed fifth at the prestigious Super 32 Challenge. He then made a massive breakthrough at the Walsh Ironman, where he emerged as champion with wins over a pair of top ten wrestlers in the country. Despite suffering a pair of in-season losses, 4-2 against Zach Sherman in the Blair Academy dual and 2-1 on a late takedown to state champion Noah Baughman in the Wadsworth final, Moore is still clearly above his peers in Division II.

Among those peers are a pair of two-time state placers in Abduljelil and Decesare. Decesare exits the deepest district at Alliance with five other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Decesare went 3-2 at the Ironman losing to Sherman and returning DI state placer Hart, took third at Brecksville, and second at the CIT. The favorite at the Alliance district is the sophomore Kosco, who placed fifth at state last year and has titles at Brecksville and Top Gun to his credit; his two losses on the season (North Canton and Delaware Hayes finals) are to Division I state title contender Mattox.

The other four ranked wrestlers at Alliance are in the hunt for two state tournament spots. The freshman Bailey placed seventh at Top Gun and fourth at the Hephner; Ginnetti qualified for state two years ago as a freshman, with tournament placements including eighth at Top Gun and third at the Hephner; the junior Toth qualified for state last year, and has runner-up finishes at the North Coast and CVC tournaments this year; while fellow junior Ondash was fourth at Solon and sixth at Kenston.

Abduljelil is in his third year at this weight class, placing fifth two years ago and seventh last year. In his major tournament this season, he was fifth at Medina losing 12-10 in the tiebreaker to Mattox and 3-0 to another returning state placer. He is joined by three other ranked wrestlers, including a pair of freshmen in Peters and Carpenter, who both placed at junior high state last year; Peters was seventh at Medina and third at the Top Gun. The other ranked wrestler is the senior Dawson, a state alternate last year in this weight class who placed third at the EOWL meet.

Moore is joined by just one other ranked wrestler in his district at Chillicothe Southeastern, returning state qualifier Kehn. The senior went two-and-out in this weight class last year at state, and his season placed fourth at Medina and seventh at the Bill Dies.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Mansfield that features four ranked wrestlers, including a pair of returning state placers in Hunter and Nash; Hunter was champion at Tiffin Columbian, while Nash was fifth at Oregon Clay. Another pair of wrestlers in this district weight are returning state qualifiers, Kelly

and Baumberger; while the other mentioned wrestler is the freshman Barajas, who placed sixth at Oregon Clay, including a head-on win over Baumberger.

*120 pounds*

1. Tyler Warner, Claymont, junior (Heath)
2. Eli Stickley, St. Paris Graham, senior (C. Southeastern)
3. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
4. Seth Beard, Napoleon, junior (Mansfield)
5. Alize Merrell, Mansfield Madison, senior (Mansfield)
6. Mike Stewart, Sparta Highland, senior (Heath)
7. Kevon Freeman, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
8. Nick Berry, Dayton Carroll, junior (C. Southeastern)
9. Juwan Minnefield, Perkins, junior (Mansfield)
10. Luke Wymer, Akron SVSM, freshman (Alliance)
11. Casey Ragle, Norwood, freshman (C. Southeastern)
12. Dylan Mansor, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Mansfield)
13. Taylor Steele, Wilmington, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
14. Hunter Deshon, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
15. Corey Pastiva, Ravenna Southeast, junior (Alliance)
16. Ryan Lantow, Defiance, senior (Mansfield)

ALL – Freeman, Wymer, Deshon, Pastiva; Eric Gerback (Marlington, sophomore)

CHSE – Stickley, Berry, Ragle, Steele; Andrew Spicer (New Lexington, junior)

HEA – Warner, Wilson, Stewart, Justin Shaw (Carrollton, freshman); Mitchell Giffen (Indian Valley, junior)

MAN – Beard, Merrell, Minnefield, Mansor; Lantow

We interrupt the Graham Invitational to discuss the journey of a potential four-time state champion in Tyler Warner. As a freshman his state title run was not easy, 3-2 in the quarters, 9-7 in the semifinal, and an ultimate tiebreaker victory in the final. Last year's state title run was easier. However, life will not be easy this year with another defending state champion in his weight class – the senior Eli Stickley of St. Paris Graham. It should be noted that over the previous seven state tournaments (2008-2014), five of those years saw a weight class where two past state champions were present.

Both wrestlers placed in the Super 32 Challenge in the pre-season and the Walsh Ironman, with Stickley placing higher in both events (4<sup>th</sup> vs. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Super 32, 2<sup>nd</sup> vs. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ironman). A pair of St. Paris Graham wrestlers have seen their four-timer track derailed in the junior campaign, Ty Morgan in 1998 with an opening round loss, and Ben Jordan with a state finals loss in 2007 to Jeff Pelton. The reverse could very easily happen this year, where Stickley derails Warner of a third title in his junior season.

The pick in this weight class, based on season-long excellence, is going to be Warner. Even before the state tournament, he'll be challenged in the district at Heath, where returning state runner-up Wilson (lost to Stickley in the final last year) will join Warner. The other ranked wrestler there is returning state qualifier Stewart. For the season, Warner was also champion at Medina (3-0 over Beard in a rematch of his freshman year state final) and the Top Gun (ultimate tiebreaker over fellow state champion Mackall). On the season Wilson was champion at North Canton, OVAC, and Wellsville; while Stewart placed fifth at Medina and finished runner-up at New Lexington.

Stickley will go unchallenged at the district level. Though there are three other ranked wrestlers, none having state experience. After finishing second at the Ironman, Stickley had a couple of bad losses around the New Year; 8-6 to Branson in the GMVWA semifinal, and then losing to van der Merwe in the Blair Academy dual meet. He has since bounced back with titles at Wadsworth and New Lexington, though both were quite frankly expected. Among the trio of ranked challengers at Chillicothe Southeastern, Bery placed sixth at Medina and second at the CIT; the freshman Ragle was fourth at SWOWCA; while Steele was champion at Bellbrook, Western Brown, and Miami Trace.

The third district with a wrestler possessing separation criteria is the one at Mansfield, as it's two-time state placer Beard (runner-up as a freshman two years ago and third last year). On the season, he was runner-up to Warner at Medina, with titles at Perrysburg and the NLL. His district features four other ranked wrestlers, including a pair that have made previous state tournament appearances in Merrell and Minnefield. Merrell qualified for state two years ago before not wrestling much (if at all) last season. This has been a positive season for him, fourth at Medina, sixth at Oregon Clay, with titles at the Gorman and OCC tournaments. The junior Minnefield made state last year, and placed third at the Gorman after not placing at Medina (including a 3-2 early round loss to Merrell). Mansor and Lantow both lost go-to-state matches last year.

Rounding out the quartet of districts is the one at Alliance, which features zero wrestlers that have even appeared in a go-to-match. It is a pair of freshmen leading the ladder here with Freeman and Wymer. Freeman was runner-up at Solon in this weight class, and runner-up at the CIT up at 126; while Wymer won a title at Lorain, placed seventh at Medina, and was fifth at the Top Gun.

#### *126 pounds*

1. Eli Seipel, St. Paris Graham, senior (C. Southeastern)
2. Georgio Poullas, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Devin Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Mansfield)
4. Cole Tawney, Gallia Academy, senior (C. Southeastern)
5. Sandro Ramirez, Wauseon, freshman (Mansfield)
6. Cole Woods, West Holmes, junior (Heath)
7. Lane Peters, Claymont, junior (Heath)
8. Cory Simpson, Field, junior (Alliance)
9. Paul Petras, Padua, senior (Alliance)
10. Levi Congleton, Vincent Warren, senior (C. Southeastern)
11. Dominic Vagnier, Logan Elm, senior (C. Southeastern)
12. Rosendo Beltran, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Mansfield)
13. John Chell, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
14. Nick Bergman, Oak Harbor, senior (Mansfield)
15. Kyle Bussard, Valley View, senior (C. Southeastern)
16. Brian Persinger, Triway, sophomore (Alliance)

ALL – Poullas, Simpson, Petras, Chell; Persinger

CHSE – Seipel, Tawney, Congleton, Vagnier; Bussard

HEA – Woods, Peters, Eli Ayoub (Jonathan Alder, junior), Cody Oiler (East Liverpool, senior); Dustin Martsof (Beaver Local, junior)

MAN – Rogers, Ramirez, Beltran, Bergman; Thurston Dyer (Upper Sandusky, junior)

Given that there is no question about St. Paris Graham winning the state title, there have to be some questions for them to answer. One would be how many individuals win their weight class. The record for state champions and points scored at the state tournament was accomplished by Graham in 2009 (seven champs and 282 points). If the Falcons are to reach those heights this year, it would help them if 2013 state champion Seipel returned to the top step of the podium after finishing third last year. Should this year's Ironman champ achieve the feat, it would cap off a 4-1-3-1 career for him.

Though Seipel is the favorite, he suffered a head-on loss to the second-ranked wrestler in this weight class the weekend after the Ironman. Since then, he added titles at the GMVWA (3-1 finals victory over two-time state champ Hancock), Wadsworth, and New Lexington; however, there was a 6-5 blemish to future college teammate L.J. Bentley in a mid-January dual meet. He also exits the deepest district with four other ranked wrestlers at Chillicothe Southeastern.

The senior Tawney is already a two-time state placer, fifth two years ago and eighth last year. This season, he has titles at Gallia, Western Brown, and (at 132) Vinton County. In winning the Western Brown title, he beat returning state placer Rogers 6-3; his lone blemish is a major decision loss up at 132 to the freshman Yinger. Also here is 2013 state qualifier Congleton, who was runner-up at Miami Trace to Tawney after beating returning state placer Vagnier by 6-4 decision, and has won two other tournaments in higher weight classes. Vagnier placed fourth at state last year, but that was in one of the weakest Division II weight classes ever; while the senior Bussard qualified for state two years ago, and has titles at Franklin and Valley View this season.

Poullas, the second ranked wrestler in this weight, exits the other district tournament with five ranked wrestlers in all. This season, he lost 6-2 to Division I favorite Assad in the Bill Dies final; while up at 132 pounds, he was third at Brecksville with titles at Perry and EOWL to his credit. Two other returning state placers are in the field at Alliance: two-time placer Simpson, who was third at Wadsworth after failing to place in the Top Gun; and the senior Petras, who was eighth at Brecksville and third at the CIT. Returning state qualifier Persinger was runner-up at Smithville to Woods before failing to place at the Top Gun, while Chell placed eighth at Top Gun with titles at Lorain and the Hephner to his credit. There is an additional returning state qualifier, Isaiah Ngrairingas (Conneaut), who is not ranked.

The remaining two top five ranked wrestlers exit the district at Mansfield, along with another pair of wrestlers possessing state experience. The senior Rogers placed fourth at state last year, splitting matches with Seipel along the way. This season, he won a title at North Canton up at 132 before finishing runner-up at Western Brown in his debut at this weight class. The freshman Ramirez was a junior high state champ last year, placing fifth at Brecksville and third at Oregon Clay this season. The junior Beltran qualified for state last year, and has tournament titles at Solon, CIT, and TRAC to his credit; while fellow junior Dyer has made state in each year of high school, and has titles at Tiffin Columbian (at 132) and Marion Pleasant. Dyer is in danger of not making state this year with the senior Bergman, a returning state alternate, ranked ahead of him.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Heath, which features just two ranked wrestlers, though each is a returning state placer. The junior Woods was runner-up in that hideous 120 pound weight class last year; this year he was champion at Smithville and the OCC, while taking fifth at Top Gun. Fellow junior Peters placed at 113 last year, and this year was sixth at Medina and seventh at the Top Gun.

### *132 pounds*

1. Cameron Kelly, Bellbrook, senior (C. Southeastern)
2. Rocky Jordan, St. Paris Graham, freshman (C. Southeastern)
3. Garrett Carter, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Brandon Leynaud, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
5. Gage Grunden, Defiance, freshman (Mansfield)
6. Shawn Murphy, Washington C.H., senior (C. Southeastern)
7. Tyler Copeland, Wapakoneta, sophomore (Mansfield)
8. Brennan Joseph, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
9. Dakotah Goff, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
10. C.J. Frost, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
11. Chandler Golec, Claymont, sophomore (Heath)
12. Jason Keyes, Beaver Local, junior (Heath)
13. Vince Zitiello, Bay, junior (Mansfield)
14. Hunter Yackee, Wauseon, freshman (Mansfield)
15. Anthony Vetturini, West Geauga, senior (Alliance)
16. Trevor Scherf, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Mansfield)

ALL – Carter, Joseph, Frost, Vetturini; Luke McKeon (Lake Catholic, freshman)

CSE – Kelly, Jordan, Murphy, Cayne Bennett (Sheridan, senior); Adam Wilhelm (Dayton Carroll, senior)

HEA – Goff, Golec, Keyes, Gabe Gibson (Bloom Carroll, junior); Ben Van Wey (John Glenn, senior)

MAN – Leynaud, Grunden, Copeland, Zitiello; Yackee, Scherf

The last link on the Jordan legacy starts his state tournament career in this weight class. Jim was a four-time state champion, with both of his sons being three-time state champions (Ben losing in the state final to Pelton in 2007 as a junior, and Isaac losing in the state semifinals to Ty Mitch in 2009 as a freshman; despite me projecting them to win state in each year). Jeff was a four-time state champion, with Bo and Micah already winning four state titles, and Rocky is a freshman.

Rocky has finished runner-up twice already to a wrestler in this state tournament weight class this season, losing the Ironman and GMVWA finals to the senior Kelly (3-1 and 4-1). He also had a major blip of form in mid-January, losing decisively to the top two ranked wrestlers in Division I (Ladnier 9-1 in a dual meet and Furnas 15-8 in the Wadsworth semifinal). However blips in form and skepticism mean nothing to the Jordan family heading into the state tournament.

Just look back to Ben's freshman year state title, when he failed to win the GMVWA and narrowly escaped a 3-2 opening round match against district four Eric Morrow of West Branch. He would win the 119 pound weight class with an 11-10 semifinal victory over returning state runner-up Quentin Keyes of Walsh Jesuit, before knocking off defending state champion Adam Kriwinsky of University School 8-4.

The senior Kelly won state as a freshman in 2012 before finishing runner-up each of the last two years (2013 to Seipel, 2014 to Tutolo), and is undefeated this season. He won the Ironman and GMVWA tournaments, with semifinal wins over two-time state champion Ganger on each occasion; and has added titles at Bellbrook and (at 138) Eaton since. It is highly likely Kelly will become a four-time state finalist, which is an accomplishment in and of itself. Kelly and Jordan exit the district at Chillicothe Southeastern, where there is just one other ranked wrestler, the senior Murphy, a returning state alternate.

The only other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Carter, twice seventh in the state, and this season has placed third at both Medina and the Hephner. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Alliance district, including returning state qualifiers Joseph and Frost. Joseph was sixth at the Top Gun and runner-up at the Hephner; while Frost competed much of the year at 138 (8<sup>th</sup> Brecksville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Perry, champion EOWL), but will be here in the post-season. Given the climate at 138, there is the possibility of another dropper.

The deepest district is the one at Mansfield with six ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Leynaud and the freshman Grunden. Leynaud was champion at the Gorman and OCC tournaments, third at Oregon Clay, and has head-on victory over Grunden from December; the freshman Grunden won junior high state last year, was fourth at the GMVWA, and runner-up at Perrysburg. Two others at this site are also returning state qualifiers, Zitiello and the not mentioned Luke Leonard (Fostoria).

Last among the districts in this weight class is the one at Heath with three ranked wrestlers. The junior Goff is a returning state alternate, who this season beat Keyes to win the OVAC, also won a title at Wellsville, and has an 8-4 victory over Frost from late January. Returning state qualifier Golec placed eighth at Medina and the Top Gun; while 2013 state qualifier Keyes was runner-up at the OVAC and third at the EOWL.

#### *138 pounds*

1. Nate Hagan, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
2. Ryan Thomas, St. Paris Graham, freshman (C. Southeastern)
3. Nick Wrobel, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
4. Joe Koontz, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Drew Kinzel, Clear Fork, senior (Mansfield)
6. Ryan Bennett, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
7. Jake Martinez, Licking Valley, sophomore (Heath)
8. Bryson Laytart, Miami Trace, senior (C. Southeastern)
9. Chuck Mikelait, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
10. Matt Steer, West Branch, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Jeremy Balboa, Oak Harbor, senior (Mansfield)
12. Tyler Jenkins, Meadowbrook, senior (Heath)
13. Matt Salmon, Perkins, senior (Mansfield)
14. Ashton Eyler, West Holmes, freshman (Heath)
15. Brett Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, junior (Alliance)
16. Alex Kowal, Bishop Fenwick, sophomore (C. Southeastern)

ALL – Wrobel, Koontz, Bennett, Steer; Bailey

CHSE – Thomas, Laytart, Kowal, Kevin Beal (Fairfield Union, junior); D.J. White (Logan Elm, senior)

HEA – Martinez, Jenkins, Eyler, Jesse Hubbard (Steubenville, sophomore); Joey Knipp (Carrollton, junior)

MAN – Hagan, Kinzel, Mikelait, Balboa; Salmon

The third elite freshman on the St. Paris Graham team this year is ranked second in this weight class, two-time junior high state champion Thomas. Despite failing to make the second day at the Ironman, he has a bright future; the losses on that Friday were by fall to National Prep runner-up Verallis and 3-2 to Division III favorite Carr. In his next major event, Thomas beat projected state runners-up Demas (7-3) and Ford (6-3) to win the GMVWA; while he placed third at Wadsworth, losing 5-0 to defending state champ Screptock in the semifinal.



The returning state champion in this weight class, and projected to repeat, is the senior Hagan. The Edinboro-bound grappler beat Brent Moore of St. Paris Graham 3-1 in overtime to win the 132 state title. This season, he placed eighth at the Ironman, third at Brecksville, has titles in three tournaments, and beat Thomas 5-3 in the state dual meet final. The rivalry with fellow state champion Screenshot has continued; Hagan won the Solon final in the tiebreaker, lost the Brecksville semifinal in overtime, and lost in the tiebreaker in a January dual meet.

Four other ranked wrestlers join Hagan at the Mansfield district, two of them have state experience. 2013 qualifier Kinzel was champion at North Canton and the OCC, while taking second at the Gorman; fellow senior Balboa won a title at Bellevue, while earning fifth at Medina, along with a fourth at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay. Mikelait is 2-1 against Balboa this season, and was runner-up to Kinzel at the OCC; though he lost in the consolation semifinal at the Gorman to Salmon (who took fourth at both Medina and the Gorman).

The other district featuring five ranked wrestlers, at present, is at Alliance. Returning state placer Wrobel is the sole state experienced wrestler in that lot. He spent much of this season at 145, where he is undefeated with titles at Solon, Kenston, and the Bill Dies. It is entirely possible that Wrobel ends up on the raised mat Saturday night at the Schott getting his hand raised. Fellow senior Bennett placed at state as a freshman and sophomore before blowing weight last year at the district tournament, and has continued mixed form this year; semifinalist down to sixth at North Canton, failing to place at Brecksville, and runner-up at North Canton. The sophomore Koontz was a state alternate last year, champion at Medina, third at the Top Gun (losing 9-1 to Bennett along the way), and champion at the Hephner. Rounding out the lot are fellow go-to-state match losers Steer and Bailey.

At Chillicothe Southeastern, Thomas is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers, returning state qualifier Laytart and the sophomore Kowal. This season, Laytart was runner-up at Beavercreek and champion at Miami Trace, after failing to place at Brecksville; while Kowal was champion at Fenwick.

The Heath district features three ranked wrestlers, including a pair of returning state qualifiers in Martinez and Jenkins (the OVAC champion). The other ranked wrestler is the freshman Eyler, who placed sixth at the Top Gun and third at the OCC after losing to Mikelait in the semifinal.

#### *145 pounds*

1. Wade Hodges, Wauseon, senior (Mansfield)
2. Brent Moore, St. Paris Graham, junior (C. Southeastern)
3. Andy Dobben, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
4. Kyle Kaminski, Padua, senior (Alliance)
5. Spencer Nagy, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
6. Dallas Ambos, Wapakoneta, senior (Mansfield)
7. Rhett Petersen, Oak Harbor, junior (Mansfield)
8. Jon Watkins, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
9. Wade Smiddy, Springfield Shawnee, junior (C. Southeastern)
10. Zach Carpenter, Sheridan, senior (C. Southeastern)
11. Daniel Hasson, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
12. Bailey Jenkins, Meadowbrook, junior (Heath)
13. Jack Peura, Tippecanoe, junior (Mansfield)
14. Chris Harris, Bellevue, senior (Mansfield)

15. Adam Kirsh, Orange, senior (Alliance)
16. Malachi Marlow, Western Brown, junior (C. Southeastern)

ALL – Dobben, Kaminski, Nagy, Kirsh; Nick Farmer (Norton, sophomore)

CHSE – Moore, Smiddy, Carpenter, Marlow; Blake Stitloh (Eaton, senior)

HEA – Hasson, Jenkins, Devin Hessler (River Valley, junior), Brenton Miller (Carrollton, sophomore); Nick Fisher (Richmond Edison, senior)

MAN – Hodges, Ambos, Petersen, Watkins; Peura, Harris

Three different wrestlers in this weight have plausible reason to believe they will be atop the podium come Saturday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Schott. However, the pick here is the senior Hodges, a three-time state placer headed to the University of Maryland. During this season, he has narrow victories over his two direct challengers; beat returning state runner-up Moore 3-1 on a late takedown in the semifinals at the Walsh Ironman, beat two-time state placer Dobben 7-4 on a near fall from top in the ultimate tiebreaker during the Brecksville final. Additionally, Hodges has titles at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay to go with the Brecksville title and runner-up finish at the Ironman.

Hodges exits the deepest district with five other state ranked wrestlers; though none is a true threat to win the title at Mansfield, so it's a battle for the last three spots. Three of these five qualified for state last year; the senior Ambos was champion at the GMVWA and eighth at Top Gun, the junior Petersen was fourth at Medina and second at Perrysburg, while the senior Watkins was runner-up at the Gorman and fourth at Oregon Clay. The senior Harris was a go-to-state match loser last year, placing third at the Gorman; while the junior Peura has titles at Lima Senior and Western Brown to go with a runner-up finish at Eaton.

Ranked second in this state weight class is returning state runner-up Moore, who beat Hodges 2-1 in the ultimate tiebreaker in the state semi before falling 3-1 to Hagan in overtime. This season, he placed fourth at the Ironman before winning tournaments at Wadsworth and New Lexington. Moore leads a district at Chillicothe Southeastern that features three other ranked wrestlers. The junior Smiddy qualified for state as a freshman, and this season has titles at Big Walnut, Miami Trace (over Carpenter), and Eaton (over Peura). Next is the senior Carpenter, who was fifth at Medina, fourth at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at Miami Trace; while rounding out the ranked lot is the junior Marlow, who was fourth at the GMVWA and third at Western Brown.

The next three ranked wrestlers – all seniors – in this weight class all exit the district tournament at Alliance. Two-time state placer Dobben was champion at North Canton up at 152 pounds before a runner-up finish at Brecksville and Top Gun title in this weight class; his season includes a head-on win over two-time state placer Kaminski, two wins against Division I state favorite Carson, and a win over returning Division I state runner-up Steed. The previously mentioned Kaminski was fourth at Brecksville losing in the quarters to Kaminski and the consolation final to Carson, and won a title at the CIT. Ranked fifth in this weight is Nagy, a returning state alternate, seeking his first state tournament appearance; on the season, he was fifth at Top Gun and first at the EOWL.

Rounding out the four districts is the one at Heath that features just a pair of ranked wrestlers, both of whom made the state tournament last year. The senior Hasson placed sixth at Medina, won the OVAC (beating Jenkins 6-0 in the semifinal), and was runner-up at the EOWL (losing 5-2 to Nagy); while the junior Jenkins was fourth at the OVAC, runner-up at New Lexington, and champion at the ECOL meet.

*152 pounds*

1. Kyle Lawson, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
2. Tyler Wiederholt, Bellbrook, junior (C. Southeastern)
3. Josh Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
4. Ben Petersen, Oak Harbor, senior (Mansfield)
5. Ben Knaus, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
6. Kristian Jackson, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
7. Tyler Sowards, Kenton Ridge, senior (C. Southeastern)
8. Caleb Price, Chillicothe, senior (C. Southeastern)
9. Justice Avery, Claymont, junior (Heath)
10. Zack Lake, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
11. David Crawford, Canfield, freshman (Alliance)
12. Seth Boggs, Perkins, junior (Mansfield)
13. Aidan Pasiuk, Carrollton, sophomore (Heath)
14. Nico Moray, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
15. Christian Price, Granville, senior (Heath)
16. Derek Kuhlman, Lima Shawnee, senior (Mansfield)

ALL – Knaus, Jackson, Lake, Crawford; Hunter McPeak (Ravenna Southeast, junior)

CSE – Lawson, Wiederholt, Sowards, Caleb Price; Tyler Young (Hamilton Ross, junior)

HEA – Avery, Pasiuk, Moray, Christian Price; Louis Hetras (Dover, senior)

MAN – Mossing, Petersen, Boggs, Kuhlman; Roman Williams (Tiffin Columbian, senior)

When looking at the opening ten weight classes, ones where there is a St. Paris Graham wrestler ranked in the top three within each of them, the scary thought is only two of those wrestlers are seniors (Stickley at 120 and Seipel at 126). It includes here at 152 where returning state champion Lawson is just a sophomore. The strong favorite to repeat as state champion, this season he was seventh at the Ironman before winning titles at the GMVWA, Wadsworth, and New Lexington.

Within the district tournament at Chillicothe Southeastern, he will be joined by three other ranked wrestlers, all ranked within the top eight of this state weight class. Returning state placer Wiederholt is ranked second here, going 2-2 at the Ironman with a pair of quality wins, then following that up with a runner-up finish at the GMVWA (4-1 loss to Lawson) and titles at Bellbrook and Eaton. Returning state qualifier Sowards was third at the GMVWA (3-1 semifinal loss to Lawson), fifth at Oregon Clay, and champion at Delaware Hayes; while returning state placer Caleb Price was fourth at Olentangy Liberty and first at Miami Trace.

The other two top five ranked wrestlers in this weight class, both returning state placers, exit the district tournament at Mansfield. Mossing, state runner-up to Lawson last year at 138, has had a mixed bag of results season to date; champion at Solon, CIT and TRAC, but failing to place at Brecksville and suffering a dual meet loss to Boggs earlier this month. Fellow senior Petersen placed eight at 145 last year, and on the season won titles at Bellevue and Oregon Clay, finished sixth at Medina, and second at Perrysburg; also losing 11-2 during the opening weekend to Wiederholt. Two other ranked wrestlers exit that district tournament: returning state alternate Kuhlman, who was seventh at Brecksville and sixth at Oregon Clay, and the junior Boggs who won the Gorman.

The Alliance district features four ranked wrestlers, three of whom won matches at the state tournament last year. The junior Knaus was third at Top Gun and fifth at the Hephner; the senior

Jackson placed eighth in this weight last year at state, and has missed much of the season due to injury, but returned recently during a 5-4 dual meet loss to Avery; while fellow senior Lake was champion at the North Coast and a semifinalist at the Bill Dies. Also ranked here is the freshman Crawford, who was sixth at Brecksville, runner-up at Perry, seventh at the Bill Dies, and third at the EOWL.

Rounding out the districts, also with four ranked wrestlers is the one at Heath. It features just one returning state qualifier, the senior Price, who was runner-up at New Lexington. The junior Avery is a returning state alternate in this weight class, who placed eighth at Medina and fourth at the Top Gun; the sophomore Pasiuk was a district placer last year down four weight classes at 126, and this season placed sixth at both North Canton and the Top Gun (but gave three-time state placer Rahmani his closest match of the season outside of the Ironman or the dual meet against Lawson in the Top Gun quarter). The junior Moray placed fourth at North Canton, with a head-on win over Pasiuk, and also fourth at the OVAC.

### *160 pounds*

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, junior (C. Southeastern)
2. Ben Schram, Bellbrook, senior (C. Southeastern)
3. Dalton Hartshorn, Minerva, senior (Heath)
4. Tony Rupert, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
5. Mason Hughes, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
6. Dimitri Williams, New Lexington, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
7. Richard Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Mansfield)
8. Austin Baker, Clyde, senior (Mansfield)
9. Christian Collins, Chillicothe, senior (C. Southeastern)
10. Ethan Fout, Licking Valley, junior (Heath)
11. Anthony Audi, Poland, junior (Alliance)
12. Eric Fasnacht, Padua, junior (Alliance)
13. Austin Brooks, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
14. Evan Schenk, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Shawn Livingston, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
16. Robbie Bowers, Defiance, sophomore (Mansfield)
17. Isaiah Davis, Indian Lake, junior (C. Southeastern)

ALL – Rupert, Hughes, Audi, Fasnacht; Schenk

CHSE – Marinelli, Schram, Williams, Collins; Davis, Travis Grooms (Miami Trace, senior)

HEA – Hartshorn, Fout, Brooks, Livingston; Josh Sokolowski (Buckeye Local, senior)

MAN – Jackson, Baker, Bowers, Colin Wilson (Lemon Monroe, senior); Cole Smith (Tippecanoe, senior)

The Buckeye State's best wrestler this season is the junior Marinelli, ranked first nationally in this weight class, and will enter the state tournament favored to win his third state title in as many seasons. For the season, Marinelli is undefeated (obviously) with titles at the Ironman, GMVWA, Wadsworth, and New Lexington. His primary rival is the senior Schram, twice third at state, an opponent Marinelli has beaten twice this season (5-3 in the Ironman quarterfinal and 9-4 in the GMVWA final). The possibility of Schram bumping to 170 should be noted, though the favorite there (Junior freestyle All-American Whisler) is no slouch, owning a freestyle win over Schram this past spring. On the season, Schram was fourth at Ironman and runner-up at the GMVWA in this weight; with titles at Bellbrook and Eaton up one weight class.

Three other wrestlers join Marinelli and Schram at Chillicothe Southeastern among the top 17. The sophomore Williams placed fourth at Medina and third at New Lexington; the senior Collins, last year a state alternate in this weight class, was champion at Miami Trace; while the junior Davis was eighth at the GMVWA and first at Dublin Scioto (beating returning DI state qualifier Hammond), before failing to place at Oregon Clay.

The other deep district in this weight class is the one at Alliance featuring five ranked wrestlers, including a pair of seniors that made the state tournament last year in this weight class. Rupert was runner-up at the Top Gun and champion at the Hephner, but has an in-season 8-6 dual meet loss to Hartshorn, whom is ranked right above him; Hughes spent most of his season up at 170 pounds where he placed at North Canton, GMVWA, and Top Gun before dropping to this weight class at the EOWL when he finished second. The junior Audi beat Hughes 11-5 to win the EOWL title, but prior to that failed to place at the Top Gun and was eighth at the Hephner. Fellow junior Fasnacht was a state alternate last year, and on the season placed eighth at Brecksville and fifth at the CIT. The fifth ranked wrestler is the sophomore Schenk, who was runner-up at Perry and CVC in this weight (also the North Coast Classic up at 170, along with a seventh at Oregon Clay and third at Wadsworth.

The district at Heath features four ranked wrestlers, including three state qualifiers. The senior Hartshorn seeks a third state appearance, and on the season was champion at North Canton and third at the Top Gun; the junior Fout was seventh at Brecksville; while fellow junior Livingston was fifth at North Canton, sixth at the OVAC, and runner-up at Wellsville. The senior Brooks is the other ranked wrestler, placing fourth at North Canton and sixth at the Top Gun.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Mansfield, which features just one returning state qualifier and three ranked wrestlers. The junior Jackson made state last year down at 145, but went 0-2; this season he was champion at Perrysburg (down at 152) and the TRAC, while taking third at the CIT and sixth at Brecksville. Also ranked here is the senior Baker, who was fifth at Brecksville with a 1-0 win over Jackson in the medal match.

#### *170 pounds*

1. David-Brian Whisler, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
2. Russell Miller, Miami Trace, senior (C. Southeastern)
3. Garrett Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (C. Southeastern)
4. Brendan Scherer, River View, senior (Heath)
5. Brendon Winning, Ravenna, senior (Alliance)
6. Heath Newman, Wapakoneta, senior (Mansfield)
7. Austin Robbins, Tippecanoe, senior (Mansfield)
8. Troy Stalder, Athens, senior (C. Southeastern)
9. Kyle Myers, Canal Fulton Northwest, junior (Alliance)
10. Tye Smith, Washington C.H., senior (C. Southeastern)
11. Anthony Arroyo, Maumee, senior (Mansfield)
12. Dalton Jones, Hamilton Ross, senior (C. Southeastern)
13. Colin Kaucher, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
14. Kian Thompson, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Mansfield)
15. Stone Day, Valley View, freshman (C. Southeastern)
16. Chris Cook, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
17. Jaret Lester, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)

ALL – Whisler, Winning, Myers, Cook; Lester  
CHSE – Miller, Jordan, Stalder, Smith; Jones, Day  
HEA – Scherer, Anthony Moran (Licking Valley, junior), Jimmy Galbraith (Carrollton, junior), Austin Deffenbaugh (Steubenville, sophomore); Ben Kidwell (Buckeye Valley, junior)  
MAN – Newman, Robbins, Arroyo, Kaucher; Thompson

Whisler was my pick to win state last year down at 152 pounds, where he made a late drop to get away from Marinelli. However, he finished a disappointing seventh losing 9-8 in the quarterfinal and 6-4 in the consolation quarterfinal. During the off-season he bounced back; placing third at the NHSCA Junior Nationals in the 160 pound weight class, going undefeated at the Disney Duals, and earning All-American honors in Junior freestyle at 170. This season, he was fourth at Ironman (losing to a pair of top ten wrestlers in the country); with titles at Lorain, Wadsworth, and the EOWL.

The two wrestlers directly behind Whisler in the rankings exit the deepest district in this weight class, which would only be exacerbated if Schram bumped here. Four other ranked wrestlers join those two at Chillicothe Southeastern. The senior Miller is the highest returning state placer, finishing fourth in this weight last year; this season he is undefeated with titles at Brecksville, Beavercreek, and Miami Trace. The sophomore Jordan is ranked third – placing sixth at the Ironman, third at the GMVWA and Wadsworth (losing 8-5 to Whisler in the semifinal), and winning at New Lexington.

The seniors Stalder and Smith are also returning state qualifiers: Stalder finishing fifth at the GMVWA, third at Beavercreek, and runner-up at New Lexington; while Smith does not have a documented result yet this season. The senior Jones could end up trying his luck at 182, though that's pretty deep as well at the district level, and the freshman Day is a wrestler to keep in mind for future seasons.

The district tournament that Whisler anchors at Alliance is one of two district to have five ranked wrestlers. Returning state placer Winning was runner-up at Kenston, Top Gun, and the Hephner this season, along with a 5-2 dual meet loss to Whisler. The junior Myers was a state alternate last year in this weight class; this season he was a semifinalist at North Canton, fourth at Top Gun and Delaware Hayes, but missed out on placement at the Top Gun. Fellow underclassmen Cook and Lester seek the last state spot.

Though having just one state qualifier, the Mansfield district also has five ranked wrestlers. That lone returning qualifier is the senior Robbins, who was fourth at the GMVWA, runner-up at Troy, champion at Lima Senior and Western Brown, and third at Eaton. Two wrestlers in this district weight class were state alternates last year as juniors: Newman was runner-up at the GMVWA and sixth at Top Gun, while Arroyo was champion at Oregon Clay and second at the NLL. Fellow senior Kaucher was the state defensive player of the year for state champions Toledo Central Catholic (though if you watched the state final, one wouldn't think either team knew what defense was); during this wrestling season he was seventh at Brecksville before winning titles at the CIT and TRAC. The sophomore Thompson placed at both Medina and Perrysburg, with the tournament at Perrysburg including a 5-1 head-on win over Kaucher.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Heath, which is to be kind weak in this weight class. The lone wrestler is the senior Scherer, who was undefeated last year prior to placing seventh at state. It's likely he'll again be undefeated headed to the state tournament; given the local "talent", it's small wonder.

*182 pounds*

1. Jack Harris, Urbana, junior (C. Southeastern)
2. Drew Kasper, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
3. Zeck Lehman, Revere, senior (Alliance)
4. Lucas Beauch, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
5. Tre Campbell, Wauseon, junior (Mansfield)
6. Connor Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Mansfield)
7. Landon Hall, Wapakoneta, sophomore (Mansfield)
8. Brandon Jones, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
9. Jordan Radich, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
10. Jesse Slocum, Salem, senior (Alliance)
11. Hayden Bronne, St. Paris Graham, senior (C. Southeastern)
12. John Szep, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
13. Luke Matthews, Springfield Shawnee, senior (C. Southeastern)
14. Garrett Davis, Marietta, senior (C. Southeastern)
15. Mason McCane, Washington C.H., junior (C. Southeastern)
16. Ricky Kollman, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)

ALL – Lehman, Radich, Slocum, Szep; Kollman

CHSE – Harris, Bronne, Matthews, Davis; McCane

HEA – Jones, Jud Ramage (Meadowbrook, freshman), Mitchell Wells (Richmond Edison, senior), Tristan Jones (Buckeye Local, junior); TBD

MAN – Kasper, Beauch, Campbell, Rogers; Hall

Though there is no St. Paris Graham wrestler in the title conversation at this weight class – I mean we're at 182, and it's the first time in Division II that can be said, truly amazing – the favorite is from next door neighbor Urbana. The junior Harris was a state runner-up last year after losing in the semifinals as a freshman. He has titles at the GMVWA, Troy, and Valley View this season, while his only losses were to a pair of nationally ranked kids at the Walsh Ironman (quarterfinal and consolation-12). Last year Harris became the first state finalist ever from his school, and now seeks to become their first state champion.

The Chillicothe Southeastern district that he anchors has four other ranked wrestlers to battle for the three remaining state qualification spots. The senior Bronne is a returning state qualifier but went 0-2 at the Walsh Ironman; and since then was sixth at the GMVWA, runner-up at Valley View and Wadsworth, before winning the title at New Lexington. Fellow seniors Davis and Matthews were district placers last year; state alternate Davis was champion at Gallia and ECOL, while district sixth Matthews has titles at Big Walnut, Miami Trace, and Eaton to his credit. The junior McCane was champion at Franklin (beating Jones, who is now down at 170, 6-5 in the final) and Nelsonville York.

Also with five ranked wrestlers is the district at Mansfield, though it should be noted that this one is loaded, all five ranked within the top seven here. Campbell is a returning state fourth, Kasper and Beauch each won a state match last year, Hall went 0-2 at the Schott, while Rogers was a state alternate down three weight classes. This season Kasper has titles at the Gorman and OCC to his credit; Beauch was third at Brecksville, champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at the CIT; Campbell was fifth at Brecksville, runner-up to Beauch at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Oregon Clay; Rogers was runner-up at North Canton and fourth at Western Brown; while Hall was fourth at GMVWA and runner-up at Top Gun.

Also with five ranked wrestlers is the district at Alliance, led by returning state third Lehman, who was 3-2 at the Ironman (losses to a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers) before placing sixth at the Bill Dies. The other wrestler with state tournament experience is fellow senior Radich, a state alternate last year after making state in 2013; this season he was runner-up at Lorain and third at Hudson, before winning titles at Wadsworth and EOWL. Fellow senior Slocum is also a returning state alternate, and was runner-up at the EOWL, falling to Radich by a 3-1 score. Solon Comet Classic finalists Szep and Kollman are likely to battle for the last state tournament spot, Szep won that match 4-3 in December; since then Szep was seventh at Brecksville and fifth at the CIT, while Kolman was a semifinalist at Kenston and seventh at the Bill Dies.

Again the dreadful district in this weight class is the one at Heath, which is bereft of even a district placer in this weight class. The lone ranked wrestler is the senior Jones, who was third at North Canton before winning titles at the OVAC and Wellsville.

### *195 pounds*

1. Kyle Kremiller, Perry, senior (Alliance)
2. Bailey Faust, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
3. Jordan Leasure, Amanda Clearcreek, junior (Heath)
4. Michael Gregory, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
5. Tyler Rowland, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
6. Joe Fornaro, West Geauga, junior (Alliance)
7. Jeremiah Jones, Miami Trace, senior (C. Southeastern)
8. John Mercer, Cambridge, senior (Heath)
9. Kanan Sarver, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
10. Nick Jackson, Norwood, senior (C. Southeastern)
11. Steven Major, Indian Lake, junior (C. Southeastern)
12. Dylan Whyde, Norton, junior (Alliance)
13. Wyatt Hilliard, Franklin, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
14. Jarrod Elrod, Ashtabula Edgewood, senior (Alliance)
15. Josh Barber, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
16. Ian Blackwood, Napoleon, senior (Mansfield)

ALL – Kremiller, Rowland, Fornaro, Whyde; Elrod

CHSE – Jones, Sarver, Jackson, Major; Hilliard

HEA – Leasure, Mercer, Barber, Zach Baker (Sparta Highland, sophomore); John Dunlap (Carrollton, senior)

MAN – Faust, Gregory, Blackwood, Cahle Puhl (Maumee, senior); Shane Dodd (Tippecanoe, senior)

To put things simply, this is a two person weight class. Whenever the two wrestlers meet, be it the semifinal or final (since the wrestlers placed fourth and fifth last year there is no “protection”), that is your de facto state final. Last year in the consolation semifinal, Kremiller beat Faust by an 8-2 score. Though Faust has more national wrestling productivity, Flo Nationals runner-up and Disney Duals gold medalist, the pick from this corner is still Kremiller.

The Rutgers bound Kremiller has two losses this season, those coming in the semifinal at Oregon Clay (5-4 to Division III contender Dieringer) and final at Wadsworth (6-4 to Stencel). He has titles at the North Coast Classic (7-1 over Naples for his best win of the season), Perry, and the CVC this season. The district in which he exits at Alliance has four other ranked wrestlers to battle for three state spots. The senior



Rowland was a state alternate last year in this weight, and spent much of the season up at 220 before making the late drop; while up a weight, he was champion at Hudson and Kenston before finishing second at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Fornaro was runner-up at Kenston and CVC, along with a fifth place finish at Top Gun; fellow junior Whyde was first at Smithville and Hudson before injury defaulting after a quarterfinal loss at the Bill Dies; while the senior Elrod was third at Perry (13-4 loss to Kremiller) and champion at the EOWL.

The West Virginia bound Faust placed fourth at the Ironman, losing 3-2 to eventual champion Reynolds from PA in the semifinal and in overtime to 2013 state runner-up Margheim in the consolation final. He was champion at the Gorman, and his other contested match loss came by 11-0 major decision to Stencil in the semifinal at Oregon Clay. Just two other ranked wrestlers exit a Mansfield district that is shallow in this weight class. The more notable of the pair is the senior Gregory – who has titles at the CIT and Perrysburg in this weight class, titles at Solon and TRAC up at 220, and was sixth at Brecksville in this weight class.

The other deep district is the one at Chillicothe Southeastern, which features five ranked wrestlers, including a pair of that went two-and-out in last year's state tournament: the senior Jones and the sophomore Hilliard. Jones was runner-up at Brecksville and Miami Trace, with a tournament title at Beavercreek; while Hilliard was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Western Brown, along with failing to place at the GMVWA. The sophomore Sarver went 4-2 at the GMVWA, was third at Wadsworth, and champion at New Lexington; the senior Jackson was third at SWOWCA; while the junior Major was fifth at the GMVWA, champion at Dublin Scioto, and fourth at Oregon Clay.

Yet again the Heath district is in the caboose, with just three ranked wrestlers, only the junior Leasure a returning state qualifier. Also ranked here is the senior Mercer, who was third at the Gorman and runner-up at the OVAC, along with titles at Miami Trace (pinning Jones) and Groveport Madison; as well the sophomore Baker, a returning district placer, who was champion at Heath and runner-up at New Lexington.

#### *220 pounds*

1. Tyler Dodd, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
2. Kordell Chaney, Perkins, junior (Mansfield)
3. Drek Brumley, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Josh Couchman, St. Paris Graham, senior (C. Southeastern)
5. Jacob Esarco, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
6. Garit Witt, Clyde, junior (Mansfield)
7. Michael Crockett, Franklin, senior (C. Southeastern)
8. Reece Human, Carlisle, sophomore (C. Southeastern)
9. Cole Genders, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Heath)
10. Nate Gray, Claymont, senior (Heath)
11. Dustin Baker, Sparta Highland, senior (Heath)
12. Daylen Neece, Meigs, senior (C. Southeastern)
13. Ben Higgins, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
14. Jalen Gowdy, Sandusky, junior (Mansfield)
15. Trey Ellis, Poland, junior (Alliance)
16. Kyle Lhamon, Lima Bath, junior (Mansfield)

ALL – Brumley, Esarco, Higgins, Ellis; Josh Mason (Padua, senior)  
CHSE – Couchman, Crockett, Human, Neece; Danny Foley (Batavia, senior)  
HEA – Dodd, Genders, Gray, Baker; Cody Howard (Bloom Carroll, junior)  
MAN – Chaney, Witt, Gowdy, Lhamon; Matt Beinard (Bay, senior)

Though this weight class features three returning state placers, it is the returning state qualifier Dodd projected to win state in this weight. Should he do so, it would be the maiden state champion for Carrollton; which currently is tied for the most state placers without a state champion (24, also Madison) and second in most runners-up without a champion (6, Madison with 8). This season, Dodd is without a documented loss, having won titles at North Canton and the Top Gun.

The three returning state placers exit each of the other district tournaments; Couchman (6<sup>th</sup>/195) is at Chillicothe Southeastern, Chaney (7<sup>th</sup>/220) is at Mansfield, while Brumley (8<sup>th</sup>/220) is at Alliance. Each district tournament has four ranked wrestlers.

The Heath district, anchored by Dodd, features two other state qualifiers and a returning state alternate. Seniors Gray and Genders both made state last year. Gray was seventh at Medina, failed to place at the Top Gun, and was an ECOL champion; while Genders was runner-up at Central Crossing. Fellow senior Baker returns as a state alternate from this weight class last year, and was runner-up at New Lexington (8-4 loss to Couchman) after failing to place at Medina.

The highest returning placer is Couchman, who missed the month of December recovering from a football injury. In his season debut at Blair, he lost to a bumped up 195 pound wrestler, National Prep placer Putnam. Since then, it's been positive – losing just by one to returning state placer Knapp, while winning titles at Wadsworth and New Lexington. Also ranked in the Chillicothe Southeastern district in this weight class are returning state qualifiers Crockett, Human, and Neece. The senior Crockett has runner-up finishes in four tournaments this year, three of those coming to the nationally ranked Austin Myers from Kentucky; the sophomore Human was sixth at the GMVWA (losing in OT to Crockett) and runner-up at Eaton; while the senior Neece was champion at Vinton County and Gallia.

Two-time state placer Chaney leads the way at Mansfield, and on this season placed eighth at the Ironman before finishing runner-up at Medina (beating Brumley 2-1 in the semifinal) and the Gorman. He is the lone returning state qualifier in this district. Also ranked here is the junior Witt, who was champion at Brecksville; fellow junior Gowdy, champion at Tiffin Columbian and seventh at Oregon Clay, before an upset 7-1 victory over Chaney in late January; and another junior Lhamon, who was eighth at GMVWA and fifth at Oregon Clay.

Two-time state placer Brumley is the anchor at Alliance, where he is also the lone wrestler with previous state experience. On the season, he was fourth at Medina, third at Top Gun, and champion at the Hephner. The junior Esarco is a returning state alternate from this weight class, and on the season was third at the Bill Dies, champion at the EOWL, and has a 7-3 dual meet victory over Gray. Two other juniors round out the ranked lot: Higgins was fifth at Top Gun and second at the Hephner; Ellis was runner-up at Kenston, sixth at Top Gun, fifth at the EOWL, and seventh at the Hephner.

### *285 pounds*

1. Troy Caldwell, Jonathan Alder, senior (Heath)
2. Evan Loughman, Sheridan, senior (C. Southeastern)
3. Deaken McCoy, Galion, senior (Mansfield)

4. Brandon Pahl, Vincent Warren, senior (C. Southeastern)
5. J'Quan Fisher, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Mansfield)
6. Nate Temple, Lexington, senior (Mansfield)
7. Brandon Truhn, Perry, senior (Alliance)
8. Mitch Bischoff, Norton, junior (Alliance)
9. Mike Bell, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
10. Ian Sharp, West Branch, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Jacqui Vanmeter, Licking Valley, junior (Heath)
12. Colin Mange, Clyde, senior (Mansfield)
13. Logan Ferrell, Tippecanoe, junior (Mansfield)
14. John Seibert, Defiance, senior (Mansfield)
15. Micah Campbell, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
16. Jamez Young, Sandusky, sophomore (Mansfield)

ALL – Truhn, Bischoff, Bell, Sharp; Shawn Barnes (Alliance, junior)

CHSE – Loughman, Pahl, Ryan Fessler (Bishop Fenwick, senior), Andrew Smith (Franklin, senior); TBD

HEA – Caldwell, Vanmeter, Campbell, Jacob Packwood (Bloom Carroll, senior); Richard Cox (Tusky Valley, senior)

MAN – McCoy, Fisher, Temple, Mange; Ferrell, Seibert, Young

With five returning state placers, and eight having state experience, this is pretty veteran by heavyweight standards. Leading the way is last year's 220 pound champion Caldwell. He entered last year's state tournament unheralded, despite being a district champion, and is still a relative unknown. This season he has titles at Nelsonville York, Marion County (beating McCoy), and Marion Pleasant to his credit.

Two other ranked wrestlers join Caldwell in the Heath district, those being returning state qualifier Vanmeter and returning state alternate Campbell. The junior Vanmeter placed fifth at Brecksville this season, while the senior Campbell was fifth at the Top Gun.

The deepest district here is the one at Mansfield that features four returning state qualifiers, including a pair of state placers, and seven ranked wrestlers in all. Fisher and Temple were district finalists last year in this weight class, Fisher winning that title, while they placed sixth and seventh respectively at the Schott. This season, Fisher was fourth at Brecksville and Perrysburg, runner-up at the CIT, and champion at the TRC; while Fisher was seventh at the Ironman, runner-up at the Gorman (losing 4-3 TB to McCoy), and sixth at Oregon Clay.

The favorite at Mansfield is two-time state qualifier McCoy, a FloNationals placer and Disney Duals gold medalist; who on the season was champion at four tournaments (including wins over Cary and Temple at the Gorman), and runner-up to Caldwell at Marion County. Fellow senior Mange is also a returning state qualifier, though he failed to place at Brecksville. Among the other ranked wrestlers are district placer Ferrell, who was fifth at the GMVWA with titles at Lima Senior and Western Brown; state alternate Seibert, who failed to place at the GMVWA, was third at Perrysburg, and eighth at Oregon Clay.

The other two returning state placers are Loughman and Pahl, the only two ranked wrestlers at the Chillicothe Southeastern district in this weight class. Loughman won this district title last year, while Pahl was fourth, but when the two met at state in the consolation semifinal, it was Pahl winning a 10-4

decision. This season, Pahl was champion at Gallia and Miami Trace (injury default over Loughman); while Lough was third at Medina and runner-up at the Bill Dies (those losses coming to the top two ranked wrestlers in Division I).

Rounding out the districts is the one at Alliance with four ranked wrestlers, though none have state tournament experience. Leading the way is the senior Truhn, a district placer last year at 220 pounds; this season he was fourth at the North Coast and Oregon Clay, champion at Perry and Wadsworth, and runner-up at the CVC. The junior Bishcoff was champion at Smithville, third at Hudson, and fourth at the Bill Dies; the senior Bell was champion at Lorain and the EOWL, and fourth at Hudson; while the junior Barnes placed third at Top Gun and was runner-up (6-5 to Bell) at the EOWL.

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