

## **Division One – Rankings and Analysis**

### 106 pounds

1. Noah Baughman, Wadsworth, sophomore (Cleveland State)
2. Anthony Jagel, Middletown, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Allan Hart, St. Edward, freshman (Cleveland State)
4. Thomas Genetin, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
5. Devione Edwards, Lorain, sophomore (Cleveland State)
6. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, freshman (Mentor)
7. Jarod Bronstrup, Brecksville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
8. Trent Gill, Hilliard Davidson, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Daniel Roth, Lakota East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Harry Feuer, Mayfield, sophomore (Mentor)
11. Jackson Lasko, Grove City Central Crossing, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
12. Zack Donathan, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Eric Beck, Cincinnati LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Nick Henneman, Oregon Clay, freshman (Cleveland State)
15. Noah Wakser, North Canton Hoover, sophomore (Mentor)
16. C.J. Campbell, Hilliard Bradley, junior (Hilliard Darby)

CSU – Baughman, Hart, Edwards, Bronstrup; Henneman

HD – Gill, Lasko, Campbell, Austin Oberly (Worthington Kilbourne, senior); Brackan Mead (Olentangy Liberty, freshman)

KF – Jagel, Roth, Donathan, Beck; Remigio Velasquez (Princeton, junior)

MEN – Genetin, Brezovec, Feuer, Wakser; Drew Fairbanks (Austintown Fitch, freshman)

Traditionally the opening weight has been thought of as a bastion of freshman, a place where emerging stars come to form in their debut season. However, in the eight prior state tournaments, only once has a freshman won the Division I state title at either 103 or 106 pounds. That was Dean Heil of St. Edward in 2010, who used that platform to catapult into becoming a four-time state champion.

This pattern of non-freshmen winning state at the opening weight should continue in 2014, as there are only two ninth graders ranked among the top ten at this weight class. The lead contender is the sophomore Baughman, who went 2-2 in a last year's loaded Cleveland State district, which saw L.J. Bentley not even make it to the state tournament. Baughman again anchors a rather deep district tournament, with four of the top seven ranked wrestlers present here – and a fifth within the overall top sixteen. This year, Baughman has shared time between 106 and 113. In this weight, he placed third at Medina and first at Wadsworth; while up at 113, he was runner-up at North Canton.

The freshman Hart is next in line at the Cleveland State district, as he made his name onto the scene with a fifth place finish at the Walsh Ironman, including a win over Genetin along the way. He additionally finished fifth at Medina, losing twice to Baughman. Returning district placer Edwards won this weight at North Canton, and was third at Oregon Clay, losing only 5-4 to the projected Division II state champion Lucas. The other projected state qualifier is the sophomore Bronstrup, a FILA Cadet freestyle All-American, who was behind state runner-up Assad last year; this year, he placed sixth at Brecksville and won the Bill Dies. Also ranked is Henneman, who was third at Solon and seventh at Oregon Clay.

Only two wrestlers in this weight class have state tournament experience, and both exit the Kettering Fairmont district. While neither won a match at state last year, Jagel has been much more impressive this season. He was champion at SWOWCA, beating Roth (the other state qualifier) 17-7 in the final; was third at the GMVWA; first at Fairfield; and fourth at Top Gun, splitting matches with Genetin and losing by one to the nationally ranked Mejia from California. The aforementioned Roth was second at SWOWCA, eighth at Brecksville, and runner-up at Fairfield where he again lost 9-3 to Jagel.

The other two ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont are a pair of freshman, Donathan and Beck. Donathan was third at SWOWCA, losing 12-6 to Roth, and champion at two tournaments this season. Beck was one match from placing at Brecksville, and placed seventh at the Top Gun.

Another group of four ranked wrestlers will exit the Mentor district, including Genetin, who is somewhat of a contender for a state title in his senior season. Genetin has been on the bench behind Bavery (second/first) and Rodriguez (first) the last three seasons. This season, he has shown steady progress. Genetin started 2-2 at the Ironman, one match from placing at the Beast, second at Medina, and third at Top Gun. The other top ten ranked freshman is Brezovec, who was champion at Aurora, Hudson, and Perry – with a fifth place finish at Brecksville. The sophomore Feuer has titles at Riverside and Kenston, along with a fourth place finish at Oregon Clay, which included two losses to Edwards; while fellow sophomore Wakser was fourth at North Canton and a match away from placing at Top Gun.

Rounding out the four districts is the one at Hilliard Darby, which only brings three ranked wrestlers to the table, all at eight or below. The senior Gill was a state alternate last year, and has a title at Pickerington North to go with a seventh at Brecksville. The sophomore Lasko was a district placer last year, losing to Gill in the alternate match, and this season lost in OT to Gill at Pickerington North and was fifth at Oregon Clay. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the junior Campbell, who was fifth at the GMVWA.

#### 113 pounds

1. Jose Rodriguez, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
2. L.J. Bentley, St. Edward, junior (Cleveland State)
3. Hayden Lee, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Mario Guillen, Perrysburg, sophomore (Cleveland State)
5. Shakur Laney, Groveport Madison, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Jake Donahue, Massillon, sophomore (Mentor)
7. Garrett Lambert, Strongsville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
8. Patrick Kearney, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Kyle Jenkins, Stow, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Daniel Clement, Solon, senior (Mentor)
11. Gage Branson, Glen Este, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Luke Nace, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Andrew Coghill, Nordon, senior (Cleveland State)
14. Chris Doyle, Green, senior (Mentor)
15. Troy Barklay, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Andre Herron, North Royalton, senior (Mentor)

CSU – Bentley, Guillen, Lambert, Coghill; Ethan Rivera (Brunswick, freshman)  
HD – Lee, Laney, Nace, James Wimer (Grove City Central Crossing, sophomore); James Transue (Dublin Jerome, senior)  
KF – Kearney, Branson, Barklay, Blake Biteman (Tecumseh, sophomore); Ryan Boulton (Springboro, junior)  
MEN – Rodriguez, Donahue, Jenkins, Clement; Doyle, Herron

An interesting note is that both of the Massillon Perry wrestlers who won the opening weight class in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – David Bavery (2012) and Sam White (2007) – failed to win state the next season; Bavery was third last year at 120, while White saw his state title win avenged by Jamie Clark in the 2008 state final. While Rodriguez is the pick here to repeat as champion, he did miss just over a month of competition after sustaining an injury at the Walsh Ironman. In addition, during his first competition back, he lost 3-0 to Hayden Lee in the Top Gun final.

However, Rodriguez is the wrestler in this weight class with the broadest base of productivity. To augment the state title, he is a two-time Super 32 Challenge place-winner, a FILA Cadet freestyle All-American, and a Cadet National freestyle All-American. In addition to the win over top ranked Rodriguez, two-time Indiana state placer Lee beat the second ranked Bentley in a mid-January dual meet. Also on the season, Lee was one match away from placing at the Walsh Ironman, third at Brecksville, and champion at SWOWCA.

The previously mentioned Bentley failed to make state last year, losing an absolute stunner in the consolation semifinal on a miracle broomstick by Mario Guillen late in the match. During the championship semifinal, Bentley had scored the only takedown of the bout against two-time state champion Assad, but could not get out from bottom during his choice period in regulation; then losing in the 30/30 tiebreaker. This season, Bentley placed fifth at the Ironman and beat three state placers on the way to a Medina Invitational title.

Guillen joins Bentley as two of the four ranked wrestlers from the Cleveland State district. This season, returning state fifth placer Guillen went 2-2 at the Ironman (losses to Warner and Stickley), was runner-up at Brecksville, and champion at Perrysburg with a 1-0 victory over DII state runner-up Beard. Also ranked at this site are Lambert and Coghill. The sophomore Lambert was champion at Solon and Kenston, while the senior Coghill was third at Solon, seventh at Brecksville, and sixth at the Top Gun.

Rodriguez heads the deepest of the four districts, as five other top 16 ranked wrestlers compete here. Donahue and Jenkins both went 1-2 at the state tournament last year in the 106 weight class. This year Donahue was runner-up at the Gorman and Oregon Clay, with a title at Smithville; while Jenkins has spent the bulk of the season up at 120 pounds before making the late drop. Two-time district placer Clement was runner-up at Solon, and sixth at Brecksville and the North Coast Classic. District placer Doyle was fifth at North Canton and fourth at the GMVWA, while Herron made a late drop to this weight class and won the Hephner at Austintown Fitch.

Both the Hilliard Darby and Kettering Fairmont district tournaments only have three ranked wrestlers. Lee leads the way at Hilliard Darby, and is joined by returning state fourth placer Laney (fourth at Medina this year); as well as returning state qualifier Nace, eighth at Brecksville and second to Laney at Pickerington North.

State alternate Kearney is the highest ranked wrestler at Kettering Fairmont, and this season he has runner-up finishes at Olentangy Liberty and SWOWCA to go with a title at Mason. District placer Branson was third at three tournaments, including SWOWCA where he lost to Kearney in the semis. Round it out is Barklay, who was fourth at SWOWCA (losing there to Branson for third), a match away from placing at Brecksville, and runner-up at Mason (with a win over Branson).

### 120 pounds

1. Austin Assad, Brecksville, junior (Cleveland State)
2. Corey Shie, Cincinnati LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Alex Mackall, Walsh Jesuit, sophomore (Mentor)
4. Armando Torres, Elyria, senior (Cleveland State)
5. Jonathan Furnas, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Jake Newhouse, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
7. Josh Heil, Brunswick, sophomore (Cleveland State)
8. Conner Ziegler, Cincinnati Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Santino DiSabato, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Antwon Pugh, Copley, freshman (Cleveland State)
11. Brandon Tucker, Loveland, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Mason Daugherty, St. Edward, sophomore (Cleveland State)
13. Moises Guillen, Perrysburg, freshman (Cleveland State)
14. Jeremy Rezabek, Strongsville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
15. Tristan Bean, Trenton Edgewood, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Noah Schaub, Green, junior (Mentor)

CSU – Assad, Torres, Heil, Pugh; Daugherty, Guillen, Rezabek

HD – Furnas, DiSabato, Cameron Latham (Teays Valley, sophomore), Rob McGrath (Hilliard Bradley, senior); Thomas Cooper (Upper Arlington, junior)

KF – Shie, Ziegler, Tucker, Bean; Dylan Sharp (Vandalia Butler, junior)

MEN – Mackall, Newhouse, Schaub, Andre Stowers (Maple Hts, sophomore); Hunter Deshon (North Canton Hoover, sophomore)

The junior Assad has finished second each of the last two years in the opening weight class. If he is to jump that extra step on the podium, it won't be an easy path as there are six other returning state placers in the weight class. In addition, there is a freshman sensation and a Cadet freestyle All-American that has sat behind state champions the last two years. For the season, Assad finished third at the nation's two toughest tournaments (Beast of the East and Ironman), before winning titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies.

Life in the district tournament at Cleveland State, which Assad leads, will not be easy. Furthermore, four of those ranked wrestlers exit the same sectional at Medina; those being Assad, Heil, Pugh, and Rezabek (Torres and Daugherty compete at Lorain, while the freshman Guillen is at Mansfield). Torres joins Assad as a returning state runner-up, having lost to the older Assad (Aaron) in last year's 113 pound state final. Those two wrestled five times last year, with Aaron winning every one narrowly. They've already wrestled once this season, Assad winning an extremely controversial match in the tiebreakers during the Brecksville semifinal. For the season, Torres was a match from placing at the Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, and fifth at the Bill Dies (losing to Heil in the semifinal in overtime despite leading 4-1 with ten seconds left in regulation).

Heil placed third at 106 last year, and this season was champion at North Coast Classic, lost to Newhouse in the Medina final, and lost 3-1 to Assad in the Bill Dies final. The freshman Pugh was champion at Lorain, third at the Bill Dies (got majored by Assad), and perplexingly finished fourth at the Hephner. Daugherty, backup last year to Bentley at 106, placed sixth at Medina. The younger Guillen went 2-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville before finishing runner-up at Perrysburg. To round out the ranked group at Cleveland State, Rezabek was third at Solon, first at Kenston, and seventh at the Top Gun.

Ranked second in this weight class at present is the freshman Shie, a Junior High state runner-up last year and Cadet freestyle All-American this summer. During this season, he was champion at SWOWCA, runner-up to Assad (3-2) at Brecksville, and champion at Top Gun with notable wins over Mackall and Dustin Warner. He leads a contingent of four ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district. Next on the ladder is returning state placer Ziegler, who went 2-2 at the Ironman (including a win over Newhouse), was fourth at SWOWCA, and champion at the CIT. Two-time state qualifier Tucker has been mostly out of the lineup this year, but is ready to go now. Last among the ranked group is returning district placer Bean, champion at Edgewood, runner-up at SWOWCA, and one match away from placing at GMVWA.

Two returning state seventh placers make up the ranked contingent at the Hilliard Darby district, which is the least challenging of the four (in this weight class). Furnas has shown vast improvement from last year, splitting matches with Torres in finishing third at Brecksville; while DiSabato was third at Medina.

Returning state seventh placer Mackall leads three ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. His in-season performance, as well as the Cadet freestyle All-American finish last year, show that state finish was lower than a reflection of his abilities. This year, he was champion at Solon, sixth in loaded weight classes at Ironman and Powerade, and a runner-up to Shie at Top Gun. Fellow Cadet freestyle All-American Newhouse has been excellent as well, beating Heil to win a title at Medina, beating DIII state champ Hancock to win at Delaware Hayes, and only losing to Mackall (2-1) in a third place finish at Top Gun. District placer Schaub is the other ranked wrestlers, and he was fourth at North Canton, sixth at the Bill Dies, and a match away from placement at the GMVWA.

#### 126 pounds

1. David Bavery, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. Josh Wimer, Grove City Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Giuseppe Penzone, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Jarrad Lasko, Madison, junior (Mentor)
5. Josh Parrett, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Connor Borton, Cincinnati Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Alec Cotton, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)
8. Jared Davis, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
9. Zac Tupps, Ashland, senior (Cleveland State)
10. Greg Brusco, Delaware Hayes, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Ryan Gordon, St. Xavier, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Justin Demicco, Brecksville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
13. David Erdelac, Strongsville, junior (Cleveland State)
14. Brett Thomas, Brunswick, senior (Cleveland State)
15. Tyler Workman, Parma, junior (Mentor)
16. Nico O'Dor, Elyria, sophomore (Cleveland State)

CSU – Davis, Tupps, Demicco, Erdelac; Thomas, O’Dor

HD – Wimer, Penzone, Brusco, Kyle Dooley (Teays Valley, junior); Tyler Hogue (Pickerington Central, senior)

KF – Parrett, Borton, Gordon, Andrew Sams (Cincinnati LaSalle, freshman); Deante Evans (Lakota East, junior)

MEN – Bavery, Lasko, Cotton, Workman; Micah Shorts (Shaker Hts, senior)

Remember that note two weight classes ago about Massillon Perry wrestlers to win the opening weight one year but not win state the next? Well, the other wrestler in that note (Sam White) went on to win a state title the next year, in his senior year at 125 pounds. Bavery is favored to accomplish a similar feat this year, and to end his career with a track of 2-1-3-1, which is darn impressive here in Ohio’s big-school division. This season, he placed at both Ironman and the Beast of the East before winning titles at Medina and the Top Gun. Bavery also impressed with a win over Kolodzik in a home dual meet.

While Bavery is a clear favorite, the two closes to him in the rankings exit the Hilliard Darby district. The senior Wimer placed fifth at state two years ago, before being precluded from competing in last year’s state tournament after qualifying. During this season, he was a match away from placing at the Ironman, a semifinalist at Medina before being forced to default out, and a champion at Oregon Clay. Fellow senior Penzone is also a two-time state qualifier, and was fifth in last year’s state tournament; for this season, he was third at Brecksville to go with titles at Olentangy Liberty and Wadsworth. Returning state placer Brusco missed the first half of the season due to injury before placing eighth at Top Gun in his return. A fourth state experienced wrestler in this weight class is the junior Dooley, who won a match at state last year, but has missed much of this season. While he beat Brusco in a regional final dual tonight, that result was not in time for the ranking process.

The deepest of the four districts is at Cleveland State, one featuring six ranked wrestlers. It is led by two-time state qualifier Davis, a state placer in 2012. This season, he was champion at Solon, fifth at Brecksville, and second at Oregon Clay. Tupps is next in line, placing fourth last year in this weight class in Division III; while this season he was sixth at Brecksville and runner-up at Marion County. Returning state qualifier Demicco has been up-and-down this season, failing to place at Brecksville. Between the Beast and Ironman, he went 5-4; while he also pinned two-time Michigan state placer Zdebski earlier this month. The junior Erdelac was runner-up to Davis at Solon, champion at Kenston, and third at the Top Gun. Returning state alternate Thomas was champion at North Coast, and fourth at Medina and the Bill Dies; while the sophomore O’Dor placed seventh at Brecksville.

Bavery leads a Mentor district with three other ranked wrestlers. Lasko joins Bavery as one of eight past state placers in this field, having placed fourth in this weight last year. During this season, he was one match away from placing in a loaded 132 bracket at Brecksville, and finished third in this weight at the Bill Dies. The senior Cotton also made state last year, winning a match, and this year was champion at the Hephner, second at North Canton, and third in the Top Gun. Rounding out the ranked group is state alternate Workman, who was fifth at the Bill Dies.

Returning state placer Parrett, a three-time state qualifier, leads three ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district. The senior Parrett missed the first half of the season, but has won a title at Mason since his return. The junior Borton, a returning state qualifier, went 3-2 at the Ironman, was champion at SWOWCA, and runner-up at the CIT; while the senior Gordon was a state alternate last year, runner-up to Borton at SWOWCA, champion at Troy, and third at the CIT.

### 132 pounds

1. Nick Boggs, Painesville Riverside, senior (Mentor)
2. Nolan Whitely, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
3. Bobby Smith, Hilliard Davidson, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Richie Screptock, Oregon Clay, junior (Cleveland State)
5. Hunter Ladnier, St. Edward, sophomore (Cleveland State)
6. Jacoby Ward, Cincinnati Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Austin Hiles, Brecksville, sophomore (Cleveland State)
8. Brandon Selmon, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Jason Spencer, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
10. Justyn Bostic, Massillon Jackson, junior (Mentor)
11. John Shirkey, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Alec Benedetti, North Royalton, senior (Mentor)
13. Nick Kiussis, Brunswick, freshman (Cleveland State)
14. Chris Wymer, Solon, senior (Mentor)
15. Jared Ferguson, Pickerington North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Nick Broyles, Northmont, senior (Fairfield)

CSU – Screptock, Ladnier, Hiles, Kiussis; Jesse Orantek (Elyria, senior)

HD – Smith, Ferguson, Nick Durieux (Westerville North, senior), Andrew Lieb (Watkins Memorial, junior); Matteo Lybarger (Mt. Vernon, junior)

KF – Ward, Selmon, Shirkey, Broyles; Kyle Ramsey (Lebanon, senior)

MEN – Boggs, Whitely, Spencer, Bostic; Benedetti, Wymer

Like the Brecksville Holiday Tournament field in this weight class, and many other tournaments in Ohio this season, the big-school division here is a maze of balance. Picking someone to win the title is an inexact process. However, my choice is the senior Boggs, who placed fifth in this weight last year after winning his district and losing in the semifinals of state. This season, Boggs was runner-up at Solon and Medina in the 138 weight classes, while winning the title in this weight class at the Top Gun.

He leads the deepest of the four district tournaments in this weight class, one that features five other wrestlers ranked in the top 16 (as we all know, only four can make the state tournament). Next in line is returning state placer Whitely, who was fourth in Division II in this weight last year. This season, he was a semifinalist at Solon, fifth in the Powerade, and third at the Top Gun (losing 3-1 to Boggs). The junior Spencer went 2-2 last year at district three weight classes below, but has been much improved this season. He went 2-2 at both Ironman and the Beast of the East, finished a disappointing seventh at Medina; but has responded with a fifth at Top Gun, second at Delaware Hayes, and two dual meet wins over the MIT runner-up (Bostic). Bostic, who made state down three weight classes, has been effective this year with titles at North Canton and the Hephner to his credit, along with a runner-up at Medina and being a match away from placing at Top Gun.

The senior Benedetti was a state alternate last year, and also had the option to drop to 126. However, he's been at 132 all year; winning the North Coast Classic, second at Perrysburg, fourth at the Hephner, and a match away from placing at Brecksville. Fellow senior Wymer was third at Solon splitting matches with Screptock, and sixth at North Coast splitting matches with Lasko.

The highest returning state placer here is returning runner-up Smith, who leads the weakest of the four districts at Hilliard Darby; one that features only one other ranked wrestler. For the season, Smith was champion at Delaware Hayes, runner-up at Pickerington North losing to Fausz from Kentucky, and fourth at Brecksville. The other ranked wrestler here is the senior Ferguson, who was champ at Mason, third at Pickerington North, and fifth at Medina with two wins over Spencer.

Three projected state placers feature among the four ranked wrestlers at Cleveland State. Said group is led by two-time state placer Sreptock, who was seventh at the Ironman, sixth at Brecksville, fourth at Solon, and champion at both Oregon Clay and Wadsworth. Next in line here is the sophomore Ladnier, who last year was a backup to state placer Driscoll and four-time state champion Heil. This season, he went 2-2 at the Ironman, including a 7-2 win over state placer Ward; finished third at Medina; and has dual meet wins over state placers Moore and Hagan. Returning state qualifier Hiles upset Burcher up a weight class in the season opening dual meet, but then failed to have a winning record at the Ironman or Beast of the East. However, his response has been a runner-up finish at Brecksville with two wins over two-time state placers and a title won at the Bill Dies. The other ranked wrestler here is the freshman Kiussis, a Junior High state champ, who this season placed third at North Coast (split with Lasko) and fourth at Medina.

The Kettering Fairmont district features a quartet of ranked wrestlers, including three with state tournament experience. The group is led by the sophomore Ward, who was eighth at state last year. Despite going 1-2 at the Ironman, the win came over a two-time Delaware state finalist; and he also responded with a title at SWOWCA. Next in line is returning state qualifier Selmon, who was fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at SWOWCA. The junior Shirkey was third in Kentucky last season, and has placed in three major Ohio tournaments this season; third at SWOWCA (losing 10-9 to Selmon), eighth at Brecksville, and fourth at the Top Gun (splitting with Spencer). Rounding out the ranked list is the senior Broyles, a state alternate last year. He has spent the bulk of his time at 126 this season, but may end up here.

#### 138 pounds

1. Michael Kostandaras, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
2. Dominick Demas, Dublin Coffman, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
3. Nick Steed, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
4. Tim Rooney, Columbus St. Charles, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. David Sparks, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Sonny Lucas, Brecksville, junior (Cleveland State)
7. Shawn Williams, Bedford, senior (Mentor)
8. Evan Morgan, Cincinnati Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Matt Sicurella, Glen Este, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Gavin Nelson, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
11. Lane Hinkle, Mt. Vernon, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
12. Drew Hobbs, Cincinnati Moeller, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Ben Heyob, St. Xavier, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Yassir Abdel-Salem, Lakewood, senior (Cleveland State)
15. Cody Notestine, Pickerington North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. D.J. Campos, Trenton Edgwood, senior (Kettering Fairmont)



CSU – Lucas, Nelson, Abdel-Salem, Joey Ciacchi/Jack Conway (St. Edward, senior/sophomore); Adam Salti (Olmsted Falls, senior)

HD – Demas, Rooney, Sparks, Hinkle; Notestine

KF – Morgan, Sicurella, Hobbs, Heyob; Campos

MEN – Kostandaras, Steed, Williams, Ryan Montgomery (Madison, junior); Maverick Meeks (New Philadelphia, senior)

As is the case from the previous weight, there is kind of a muddle here. However, the muddle is playing out with a few less kids. This season's revelation has been the freshman Demas, who shocked the landscape with a 17-2 technical fall in mid-December over returning state placer (and three-time state qualifier) Sparks. The system shock continued with a 22-4 technical fall over Fausz in the GMVWA quarterfinal. He finished runner-up in the tournament, beating state runner-up Bowshier 6-2 in overtime before losing 4-3 to state runner-up Hoskins in the final.

Older brother Josh, who is redshirting this year at Ohio State, burst onto the scene at the state tournament as a freshman. He was runner-up in 2007, while competing for Division III Marion Pleasant at the 130 pound weight class. In the case of Dominick, it will be interesting to see if he can use big moves to carry the day; or if the tigher matches of the post-season favor the more experienced contenders.

The projected state champion here, Kostandaras, certainly qualifies as experienced. He placed as a freshman and sophomore at state, before falling victim to an absolutely loaded Alliance DII district last year at 126 pounds (the four qualifiers finished top six). This year, he was champion at Solon, third at the Top Gun, and a match away from placing at both Ironman and Powerade. He leads what is a relatively thin district with only two other ranked wrestlers.

One of them is third ranked in this weight (Kostandaras first, Demas second), the junior Steed, who was runner-up at the Top Gun in his first major tournament of the season; transferring from Glen Oak, where he made state last year, Steed had to sit out the month of December. Wrestling up a weight this evening, Steed lost 2-1 in the tiebreaker to the third ranked 145 Carson. The other ranked wrestler here is returning state qualifier Williams, who placed at Medina.

Demas leads one of the two districts to have five ranked wrestlers, and two of those at Hilliard Darby are returning state placers, a pair of seniors in Rooney and Sparks. Rooney placed fourth at state last year and is a two-time state qualifier, who this season was champion at Marion Harding and fourth at the CIT; while Sparks was runner-up to Hinkle at SWOWCA, fourth at Brecksville, and fifth at Top Gun (beating Kostandaras in the quarters). The sophomore Hinkle won a match at state last year, was champion at SWOWCA, eighth at Brecksville, and champion at Oregon Clay. Rounding out that ranked group is the junior Notestine, who was sixth at Medina and third at Mason.

The other district to have five ranked wrestlers is at Kettering Fairmont, though only returning state qualifier Morgan is in a projected placement position. This season Morgan competed at 145 until mid-January, placing second at SWOWCA and eighth at Brecksville; while in this weight class, he was fifth at the CIT. A pair of junior wrestlers won a match at state last year, and is among the field in this weight class: Sicurella and Heyob. Sicurella was eighth at the GMVWA and second at Mason, while Heyob was fifth at SWOWCA. The freshman Hobbs has impressed this season, winning two matches at the Ironman, finishing fourth at SWOWCA, and sixth at the CIT (including a 3-1 win over Heyob). Rounding out the ranked group is returning district placer Campos, a senior who was champion at Edgewood and third at SWOWCA.

Clearly the weakest of the four districts is at Cleveland State, which only has one returning state qualifier among the three ranked wrestlers. The junior Lucas somehow placed fourth at state last year. Showing his inconsistency he won three matches up at 145 at the Ironman, but went 1-2 at the Beast in this weight classes. Subsequent to that are a title at the Bill Dies and a runner-up finish at Brecksville. State alternate Nelson was fifth at Solon, 3-2 at the Ironman, third at Brecksville, second at Oregon Clay, and champion at Wadsworth. Rounding out the ranked contingent is the senior Abdel-Salem, who has titles at Avon Lake, Willoughby South, and Berea-Midpark to his credit. A footnote to this report should be made for the sophomore Mikah Price, who pinned Hinkle in the regional semi of state duals, but did not make the ranking structure. Given the nature of qualifying spots at Cleveland State beyond the first two, he has as good a chance as anyone of making state.

#### 145 pounds

1. Kade Kowalski, Tri-Valley, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Trey Grine, Fremont Ross, senior (Cleveland State)
3. Zac Carson, Uniontown Lake, junior (Mentor)
4. Taleb Rahmani, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Mike Decesare, Nordonia, senior (Cleveland State)
6. Tanner Miller, Lancaster, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Bo Ransom, Madison, senior (Mentor)
8. Grayson Davis, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
9. Austin Phillips, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
10. Jacob Keller, Beaver creek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Mario Graziani, Boardman, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Ray Barr, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
13. Kyle Workman, Parma, senior (Mentor)
14. Dejon Moss, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)
15. Dillon Leneave, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Garrett McIlvain, Hilliard Davidson, senior (Hilliard Darby)

CSU – Grine, Decesare, Davis, Barr; Jake Paul (Westlake, junior)

HD – Kowalski, Rahmani, Miller, McIlvain, Ben Hoof (Thomas Worthington, junior); Logan Broskie (Olentangy Orange, freshman)

KF – Keller, Leneave, Cameron Earley (Springboro, senior), Campbell Morton (Cincinnati Moeller, senior); Dakota Stephens (St. Xavier, senior)

MEN – Carson, Ransom, Phillips, Graziani; Workman, Moss

Massive graduation of core talent from last year's big-school state tournament has yielded a slew of pretty open weight classes, and this is another one. Arguments could be made for any of the first three ranked wrestlers to be ranked first. However, it will be Kowalski who takes the catbird seat. The junior placed third at state last year in Division II, and was champion at Brecksville this year. While Kowalski only went 1-2 at the Ironman, the two losses were by a single point to wrestlers that have appeared in the national rankings at various points of the season.

He exits a Hilliard Darby district, which features two other returning state qualifiers. The first of which is two-time state placer Rahmani, only a junior. This season, he was sixth at Brecksville, runner-up at the Top Gun, and champion at SWOWCA. The other is fellow junior Miller, who was champion at Mt. Vernon and runner-up at Medina and the Hephner. Rounding out the ranked contingent is the senior McIlvain, who was champion at Pickerington North and seventh at Brecksville.

Returning state runner-up Carson ranks third in this weight class, and he exits the deepest district in this weight class at Mentor. Interestingly for Carson, he has finished fourth at the district level in both his freshman and sophomore years before winning his first round bout at state anyway. Five other ranked wrestlers join him in the district weight class. The group is led by the senior Ransom, who qualified for state in 2012, and has appeared in three weight classes this season. To open the season, Ransom won the North Coast Classic at 160; while at 152, Ransom was seventh at Brecksville and first at Perry; and in this weight, he beat Davis 1-0 to win the Bill Dies (a third victory over Davis on the season). Returning state qualifier Phillips, a junior, is next in line; he placed third at Medina this year. The sophomore Graziani follows with a title at Kenston, a third place finish at the Hephner, and a fifth at Top Gun to his credit this season. State qualifier Workman and state placer Moss are ranked, but fall outside the projected state qualification ladder.

Last year's state fourth placer in this weight class, Grine leads the four ranked wrestlers in the Cleveland State district. This year's projected state runner-up has titles at Tiffin Columbian and Oregon Clay to his credit. Next in line is returning state qualifier Decesare, who was second at Solon and fourth at the Top Gun, though he did lose to Davis in the regional semifinal tonight (Decesare did beat Davis in a go-to-state match last year). Davis follows in the rankings, and was a state alternate last year. He started the season up at 152 pounds, where he placed eighth at Brecksville, and dropped into this weight with a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies (including a technical fall over Workman). Rounding out the ranked group is the senior Barr.

### 152 pounds

1. Casey Sparkman, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. J.P. Newton, Perrysburg, senior (Cleveland State)
3. Jairod James, Bedford, senior (Mentor)
4. Andrew McNally, Uniontown Lake, junior (Mentor)
5. Ben Darmstadt, Elyria, sophomore (Cleveland State)
6. Aaron Yarger, Pickerington Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Kevin Leonhardt, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Lucas Staten, Mt. Vernon, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Jordan Paul, Loveland, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Robbie Bosley, Wadsworth, senior (Cleveland State)
11. Heath Phillibert, Nordonia, senior (Cleveland State)
12. Jimmy Thompson, Lancaster, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
13. Luke Strnad, Brecksville, freshman (Cleveland State)
14. Hunter Bryant, Piqua, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Joseph Miller, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. David Celinski, Garfield Hts, senior (Mentor)

CSU – Newton, Darmstadt, Bosley, Phillibert; Strnad

HD – Yarger, Staten, Thompson, Colton Carroll (Teays Valley, sophomore); Caleb Llana (Westerville South, senior)

KF – Leonhardt, Paul, Bryant, Miller; Nick King (Trenton Edgewood, senior)

MEN – Sparkman, James, McNally, Celinski; David Docherty (Parma, senior)

For the opening ten weights, if you took Blair Academy out of the equation, one could easily argue that Massillon Perry has the country's best lineup. A lynchpin in that group is the senior Sparkman, a returning state placer, who has been excellent this year. He finished seventh at the Ironman, as well as third at both the Beast of the East and Medina, before winning titles at the Top Gun and Delaware Hayes. Sparkman's leg attack offense is an impressive sight, and one that overwhelms most opposition.

Two of those top contenders exit the Mentor district along with him. The senior James is a returning state placer, who was champion at North Canton and fourth at Medina (losing 6-2 to Sparkman). The junior McNally is a returning state qualifier, who won a North Canton title up at 160, was champion at the Hephner in this weight, and finished third in the Top Gun (losing by fall to Sparkman while getting blown out). The other ranked wrestler at this district is the senior Celinski, a district placer last year, who was champion at Kenston in the 160 weight class and third at the Bill Dies in this weight class.

The projected runner-up in this weight class is the senior Newton, who was third in this weight class last year. In the consolation semifinal at state, Newton upended Sparkman's teammate Tony Dailey; and at FILA Cadet freestyle this spring, Newton did beat Sparkman, so it's not like Sparkman has a free ride to state gold. While Sparkman was placing at the Ironman, Newton went 2-2, losing to a pair of wrestlers from Illinois that do not register on the national landscape. Since then, Newton took Danishek to overtime in finishing second at Brecksville, and won a title at his home tournament.

Newton is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Cleveland State district, including a pair of returning state qualifiers in Darmstadt and Phillibert. Darmstadt qualified for state (and won a match) in the 120 pound weight class last year as a freshman. This season, he went 2-2 at the Ironman and finished fifth at Brecksville, including a 13-10 quarterfinal loss to Newton. The senior Phillibert went two-and-out at 132 pounds, and this year was runner-up at Solon before failing to place at either Brecksville or the Top Gun. Fellow senior Bosley was a district placer last year, has a dual meet victory over Phillibert to his credit and has placed in four tournaments this season. Rounding out the ranked group is the freshman Strnad, who was champion at Riverside and was runner-up at the Bill Dies.

The remaining returning state placer in this weight class, Yarger, exits the weakest of the four districts in this weight class. There are only two other top 16 ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. For the season, Yarger was champion at Dublin Scioto and third at the GMVWA. Next in line is the junior Staten – a state qualifier two years ago as a freshman – who was runner-up at Mt. Vernon, fourth at SWOWCA, a match from placing at Brecksville, and a champion at Oregon Clay. Rounding out the ranked group at Hilliard Darby is the freshman Thompson, who was champion at Mt. Vernon, splitting matches with Staten, before placing seventh at Medina and second at the Hephner.

Returning state qualifier Leonhardt leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont. This season, he was runner-up at SWOWCA. Next in line is the sophomore Paul, a district placer last year, who was seventh at SWOWCA and champion at Troy. The sophomore Bryant was champion at Edgewood with a 2-1 semifinal victory over Miller, a returning state qualifier who also was sixth at the GMVWA and second at Troy.

#### 160 pounds

1. Tony Dailey, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. A.J. Kowal, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Michael Coleman, Hudson, senior (Mentor)
4. Austin Strnad, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
5. Nick Stencel, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
6. Sean Black, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Cody Pollitt, Olentangy, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Alex Bair, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Scott Deluse, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Mike Wearsch, Amherst, senior (Cleveland State)
11. Taylor Workman, Elyria, senior (Cleveland State)
12. Jordan Collins, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Peyton Geary, Fremont Ross, senior (Cleveland State)
14. Russell Porter, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
15. Jake Conners, Cincinnati Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Raymond Simpson, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)

CSU – Strnad, Stencel, Wearsch, Workman; Geary

HD – Black, Pollitt, Deluse, Simpson; Keith Neely (Upper Arlington, junior)

KF – Kowal, Bair, Collins, Conners; Austin Bohenek (Cincinnati Moeller, senior)

MEN – Dailey, Coleman, Porter, Hunter Massey (Stow, senior); Jacob Bostic (Green, senior)

Even though the final two days of last year's state tournament were a (relative) disappointment for Dailey, it has not led to a deterioration of form. In fact, one could led it has created an opposite effect. One month later, he was champion over an excellent field at the NHSCA Junior Nationals in the 160 pound weight class (up one from the in-season). Things have continued this season, as Dailey placed fourth at the Ironman, and has titles at Medina, Top Gun, and Delaware Hayes to his credit.

Even though he'll exit the softest of the four districts in this weight class at Mentor, there is one other prime contender in that district weight. Coleman placed fourth at state in this weight class last year, and was runner-up at Medina to Dailey (5-2 loss). He also was champion at Riverside and a runner-up at Hudson (losing 6-4 to projected DII/152 champion Whisler). Those two will be joined by fellow senior Porter, a very late (and smart) dropper into this weight. He was champion at Solon and Willoughby South up at 170, along with a third at the Hephner and fifth at Marion County.

Sandwiched between Dailey and Coleman in the rankings, is two-time state qualifier Kowal. Even though he's never placed at state, the senior did place seventh in the Super 32 this fall and has been excellent between the 160 and 170 weights this season. Kowal was runner-up to the nationally ranked Garcia, losing 8-6, in the Holt (Mich.) invite and champion at the GMVWA while at 170; and was champion at SWOWCA in this weight class. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Kettering Fairmont district.

The senior Bair is a returning state qualifier, who went 0-2 at state despite winning district last year. This year, he was champion at Mason, second at SWOWCA, and seventh at Brecksville. The junior Collins was champion at Olentangy Liberty, second at Mason, and third at SWOWCA. Rounding out that ranked group is the senior Connors, who was fifth at SWOWCA and third at the CIT.

Two of the other returning state placers exit the Cleveland State district. Both Strnad and Stencel placed fifth at state last year, with Strnad winning in overtime when the two met in this year's Brecksville final. Outside of that tournament, Strnad won six matches across the Ironman and Beast despite not placing, and was third at the Bill Dies; while Stencel was third at Solon, 2-2 at the Ironman (like Strnad), second at Oregon Clay, and first at Wadsworth. They are joined by three other ranked wrestlers in this district tournament weight class. Wearsch and Geary are returning state qualifiers, while Workman was a district placer. On the season, Wearsch placed eighth at Brecksville and third at Oregon Clay; Geary was runner-up at Tiffin Columbian and sixth at Oregon Clay; while Workman was sixth at Brecksville, while failing to place at the Bill Dies.

Rounding out the field is the Hilliard Darby contingent, which features four ranked wrestlers, including two with state experience. In terms of the rankings, the senior Black leads the way. A returning state qualifier, Black was a quarterfinalist at Medina before having to default and he was runner-up at Wadsworth. Next in line is returning state alternate Pollitt, a fellow senior, who was third at North Canton and Medina before taking second at Top Gun. Another senior, Deluse, placed seventh at state last year; this season he has a runner-up at the Hephner as well as fourth at Medina (losing twice to Pollitt) to his credit. Rounding out the ranked group is the senior Simpson, who was third at Mt. Vernon and fifth at the Top Gun.

### 170 pounds

1. Joe Heyob, St. Xavier, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
  2. Quinton Rosser, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
  3. Isaac Bast, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
  4. Tim Knipl, Wadsworth, junior (Cleveland State)
  5. Tyler Maloy, North Canton Hoover, senior (Mentor)
  6. James Caniglia, Loveland, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
  7. Troy Lang, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
  8. Craig Sloan, Garfield Hts, senior (Mentor)
  9. Jesse Palser, Mansfield, junior (Cleveland State)
  10. Mark Barrow, New Philadelphia, senior (Mentor)
  11. Cameron Rezapurian, Austintown Fitch, senior (Mentor)
  12. Jake Stratton, Hilliard Bradley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
  13. Kevin Khoma, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
  14. Jacob Hinz, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
  15. Clayton Ray, Hamilton Township, junior (Hilliard Darby)
  16. Ronnie Williams, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
- \*Blake Reid, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby) is reportedly out for the year with injury. If he comes back, slot him in the 8<sup>th</sup> position, slide others accordingly.

CSU – Knipl, Lang, Palser, Khoma; Michael Bekeny (Brunswick, junior)

HD – Stratton, Hinz, Ray, Chris Martinez (Delaware Hayes, sophomore); Eric Deluse (Lancaster, sophomore)

KF – Heyob, Rosser, Caniglia, Williams; Julian Daniels (Cincinnati Northwest, junior)

MEN – Bast, Maloy, Sloan, Barrow; Rezapourian

Sometimes it can be a highly unfortunate circumstance that catapults one to success going forward. One could say that failing to make the state tournament as a junior, after placing sixth at state the year before and being viewed as a legitimate state championship contender, fits the bill. For the senior Heyob, he sat in a semifinal bout on district Saturday with two chances to make the state tournament. However, his first chance went by the wayside in an 8-6 loss to Detuan Smith, who would go on to place third at state (and beat the state champion at both section and district). The second chance would be a consolation semifinal bout against Jacob Globke, a wrestler in consolation due to an overtime loss to the eventual state champion; that bout was lost 3-2.

Moving forward from that, Heyob was a silver medalist at the Disney Duals, losing only one match from about ten against national competition during the summer; and then placed sixth at the Super 32 Challenge this fall. Furthermore, he's undefeated on the season with titles at SWOWCA, Troy, and the CIT to his credit. He'll exit a district at Kettering Fairmont with three other ranked wrestlers, including two with state experience.

Returning state finalist Rosser missed the first month due to football and lingering injuries. In his first major event of the season, Rosser was 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CIT losing 4-3 to Heyob. However, this week he was upended 12-11 by Cangilia in the regional semifinal of state duals. Caniglia is a returning state qualifier, who has lost twice to Heyob (major decision in SWOWCA final and 5-1 in Troy final) and placed third at Brecksville. Rounding out that ranked group is the senior Williams, who was fourth at SWOWCA and third at Fairfield.

Two-time state placer Bast is also a contender in this weight class, as he has placed in five tournament this season. It includes a fourth at the Ironman with two wins over Ohio state champions, an eighth at the Beast, a runner-up at Medina, and titles at Top Gun and Delaware Hayes. He'll exit a deep Mentor district that features four other ranked wrestlers, two who were state qualifiers last year and another two that were state alternates. State alternate Maloy leads that "trail group", and on the second was third at Medina and Top Gun before a runner-up finish at Wadsworth. Next in line is returning state placer Sloan, who was runner-up at Kenston and fourth at the Bill Dies. Barrow, a state qualifier last year in Division II, follows with a title at Hudson and runner-up finish at Perrysburg to his credit. Finishing it off is state alternate Rezapourian, runner-up at the Hephner and sixth at Top Gun.

Another four ranked wrestlers exit the Cleveland State district, one which is anchored by returning state qualifier Knipl. The junior has competed at both 170 and 182 on the season, and in this weight class placed fifth at Medina and first at Wadsworth. Fellow returning state qualifier Lang beat Caniglia at the Ironman, though Caniglia was a week off of winning a state football title; was a semifinalist at Brecksville; and finished third at the Bill Dies. The junior Palser has been mostly excellent this year in winning titles at North Canton, Pickerington North, the Gorman, and Marion County. Rounding out the group is the senior Khoma, who placed eighth at Medina, and also has a dual meet win over returning state qualifier Hinz.

Last here are the three ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district, two of whom are returning state qualifiers. The senior Stratton placed fourth at the GMVWA, while the junior Hinz went 2-2 at the Medina Invitational. Also ranked here is Ray, a Division II state alternate last year. Missing from the list is returning state qualifier Reid, a senior who placed fourth at Medina and third at Dublin Sicoto; but is most likely out for the year due to injury.

#### 182 pounds

1. Rocco Caywood, Perrysburg, senior (Cleveland State)
2. Anthony McLaughlin, St. Ignatius, senior (Mentor)
3. Dakota Sizemore, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Matt Stencil, Oregon Clay, sophomore (Cleveland State)
5. Michael Weber, Loveland, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Gabe Dzuro, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Kyle Schmidt, Miamisburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Nate Hall, Olentangy, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Traevon Dickerson, Mansfield, senior (Cleveland State)
10. Trevor Parker, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Mike Lewis, Parma, junior (Mentor)
12. Gary Traub, Sycamore, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Adam Tonkin, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Shawn Johnson, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Kevin McGraw, Troy, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Drew Fenton, Lakota West, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)



CSU – Caywood, Stencel, Dzuro, Dickerson; Eric Claren (Nordia, senior)

HD – Hall, Parker, Johnson, George Dial (Pickerington North, senior); Lucky Shaut (Worthington Kilbourne, senior)

KF – Sizemore, Weber, Schmidt, Traub; Tonkin, McGraw, Fenton

MEN – McLaughlin, Lewis, Connor Rigsby (Painesville Riverside, senior), Drew Schiemann (Madison, senior); Mike Mauser (Willoughby South, senior)

Despite picking Caywood to win last year's muddle at 170 pounds, and seeing him go 0-2 in the state tournament after placing fourth at district, my faith will not waver. It'll either prove to be golden, or I'll look like an idiot yet again (no comments from the peanut gallery please). Yet again, he's had a highly impressive regular season, finishing runner-up at the Ironman with two wins over nationally ranked wrestlers. He also was third at Brecksville (lost 2-1 to McLaughlin on a late reversal, but out-placing him anyway) and first at Perrysburg.

His district tournament at Cleveland State features three other wrestlers within the top nine of this weight class. The sophomore Stencel was a go-to-state match loser last year, and has competed with aplomb this year. He was second at Solon (1-0 loss to McLaughlin), 3-2 at the Ironman, second at Brecksville, and champion at both Oregon Clay and Wadsworth. The senior Dzuro is a returning state qualifier, who was one match away from placing at the Ironman, losing both matches by a point, and was third at Medina. Fellow senior Dickerson finished as an alternate last year, but won a match at the state tournament anyway, and this season was champion at North Canton, second at the Gorman, and third at Pickerington North.

Defending state champion Sizemore is ranked third, and leads an absolutely loaded Kettering Fairmont district. The prior two years have seen Sizemore have uneven regular seasons, then thrive in the state series (third as a sophomore, champ last year). Hopefully for him, it's more of the same this year. He missed the first month-plus recovering from football and an injury, which still lingers. While on the mat, he was runner-up at the CIT losing 3-1 to McLaughlin in the final.

Two-time state placer Weber is next in line at that district, and on the season, won SWOWCA as well as defaulting back to sixth after a semifinal loss to Stencel. Fellow senior and state placer Schmidt is also ranked to place in the weight class. Positioned as the fourth state qualifier is the sophomore Traub, was third at SWOWCA and first at Sycamore. Returning state qualifier Tonkin was fourth at SWOWCA, two losses to Traub, and seventh at Brecksville; and he has been testing the waters some at 195. Fellow state qualifier and senior McGraw was fifth at Pickerington North, sixth at the GMVWA, and second at Troy. Finally in this loaded district weight class is the sophomore Fenton, seventh at the GMVWA and first at Mason.

The fourth, and last, returning state placer in this weight class is McLaughlin, who was first at Solon and the CIT. He also placed fifth at Brecksville and seventh at Ironman, and leads a rather shallow Mentor district in this weight class. It's one where the only other ranked wrestler is the junior Lewis, who was runner-up to Linton at both Aurora and the Bill Dies, and has a title at Kenston to his credit.

Finally among the districts is the one at Hilliard Darby, which carries three returning state qualifiers as the ranked wrestlers. The junior Hall was the only one to actually win a match at state, and on the season was runner-up at North Canton, Medina, and Top Gun. Both seniors, Parker and Johnson, went two-and-out in their junior year state tournament campaign. This year, Parker placed seventh at Medina and third at Wadsworth; while Johnson placed sixth at Top Gun.

### 195 pounds

1. Kyle Conel, Ashtabula Lakeside, senior (Mentor)
2. Tegray Scales, Colerain, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Josh Murphy, Brecksville, senior (Cleveland State)
4. Gunner Gambill, Loveland, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Jerry Thornberry, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Ross Lonsway, Holland Springfield, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Matthew Lybarger, Mt. Vernon, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Lenn's Kamba, Olentangy Orange, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Kadin Llewelyn, Perrysburg, senior (Cleveland State)
10. Cole Jones, St. Xavier, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Matt Sannella, Kings, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Adam Kuchta, Lorain, senior (Cleveland State)
13. Dennis Breeding, Amherst, senior (Cleveland State)
14. Mike O'Malley, St. Edward, sophomore (Cleveland State)
15. Clayton Brandenburg, Wadsworth, senior (Cleveland State)
16. Chris Meffert, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)

CSU – Murphy, Lonsway, Llewelyn, Kuchta; Breeding, O'Malley, Brandenburg

HD – Lybarger, Kamba, Nick Kramer (Westerville North, junior), Colton Richard (Delaware Hayes, senior);  
Robbie Fusner (Grove City Central Crossing, sophomore)

KF – Scales, Gambill, Thornberry, Jones; Sannella

MEN – Conel, Meffert, Chad Ely (Painesville Riverside, senior), Monterol Johnson (Maple Hts, senior);  
Michael Delsanter (Hudson, junior)

The value of scheduling is a conversation that seems to come up on a yearly basis, especially around state time. Is a rigorous schedule an absolute must in order to thrive at the state tournament? Different people have different answers. The dynamic of this weight class might yield insight, though be on “small sample size” alert. Returning state runner-up Conel was undefeated up to the state final on a relatively invisible schedule (Kenston was his toughest tournament, and a district finals win over Joe Tayse the quality win). This year, it's more of the same, and he was pushed to a 3-2 finals win by DII state qualifier Jackson of Crestwood.

Four state placers sit behind Conel in the rankings, all of whom competed at the Ironman along with other higher end tournaments. Three of those wrestlers (all two-time state placers), and two others in the rankings, exit the Kettering Fairmont district. By virtue of that, one top 11 wrestler will not be in the state tournament (at least). Two-time state placer Scales is more known for his football exploits, where he was Defensive Player of the Year statewide in Division I as a linebacker. The Ironman runner-up, and champion at SWOWCA, Breckville, and Fairfield will be playing on Saturday's at Indiana University starting next fall. Next in line is Gambill, a two-time state placer who is an excellent football player in his own right. He was a fullback for a state championship football team and stepped right back on the mat to place eighth at the Ironman and second at SWOWCA. Fellow senior Thornberry competed in the Ironman at 220, where he placed third, but was champion at the CIT in this weight class.

Rounding out the ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont in this weight class are returning state alternate Jones, who was third at SWOWCA and second at the CIT; and district placer Sannella, runner-up at 182 at SWOWCA and champion in this weight at Sycamore.

The other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Murphy, who also placed at the NHSCA Junior Nationals and in Junior freestyle during the past offseason. This regular season, he was fifth at Ironman and the Beast of the East before finishing second at Brecksville and first at the Bill Dies. Murphy exits a Cleveland State district tournament with six other ranked wrestlers, which means some quality kids will be going home (though only one other holds a top eight position). The top eight wrestler would be the senior Lonsway, who has four tournament titles this season.

Next in line at Cleveland State is returning district placer Llewelyn, who was third at Brecksville and first at Perrysburg. Kuchta, a state qualifier in Division III last year, has a title at Avon Lake (3-1 over Breeding), a runner-up at North Canton (7-4 loss to Lonsway), and fifth place finish at Oregon Clay to his credit. District placer Breeding was runner-up at Avon Lake, seventh at Brecksville, and a match away from placing at Oregon Clay. The sophomore O'Malley placed sixth at Medina, while the senior Brandneburg was seventh in that tournament and has two other titles to his credit this season.

The other two projected placers, both seniors, are returning state qualifiers from the Hilliard Darby district. Lybarger was at 220 for the first half of the season where he was fifth at SWOWCA and fourth at Brecksville, before dropping to this weight class in a third place finish at Oregon Clay. Kamba was first at Pickerington North and sixth at Brecksville. The other two qualification spots from this district will be earned by non-ranked wrestlers.

Rounding it out is the Mentor district, which beyond Conel is the Meh-ntor district. Only the senior Meffert is ranked, and he's 16<sup>th</sup>. For the season, Meffert was third at North Canton and fourth at the Hephner.

### 220 pounds

1. Chalmer Frueauf, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Austin Pfarr, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Alex Woichevovich, Nordon, senior (Cleveland State)
4. Devin Nye, Springfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Tinashe Bere, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Parker Knapp, St. Edward, junior (Cleveland State)
7. Seth Brennock, Loveland, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Andrew Sierawski, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Andy Struttman, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Marquise Copeland, Bedford, junior (Mentor)
11. Garrett Snyder, North Royalton, senior (Mentor)
12. Stefano Millin, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
13. Matt Kuhlmann, St. Xavier, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Alonzo Jewell, Hamilton Township, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Rudy Ware, Cuyahoga Falls, senior (Cleveland State)
16. Mark Dellas, Perrysburg, senior (Cleveland State)

CSU – Woichevovich, Knapp, Ware, Dellas; Connor Kamczyc (Elyria, senior)

HD – Pfarr, Sierawski, Struttman, Jewell; Chandler Evanichko (Grove City, senior)

KF – Frueauf, Nye, Bere, Brennock; Kuhlmann

MEN – Copeland, Snyder, Millin, Anthony Kastelic (Garfield Hts, junior); Grant Martin (Uniontown Lake, sophomore)

Sport can be a very humbling experience. One move, one sequence can turn a champion into not such. Conversely one move can turn an underdog into a star. However, the analysis for ranking has to be done on a larger scale. One is trying to predict what is likely to happen. In the case of defending state champion Frueauf, I am choosing to view his loss by fall in the regional semifinal of the state duals as a "one off".

While the result demonstrates that he isn't "untouchable", the overall resume for Frueauf dominates this field. Twice fourth at state, and a state champion last year, all at 215/220 is impressive. Keep in mind that Frueauf is going to be playing football at an FBS school next year, after being an impact defensive lineman for back-to-back state title teams in football.

Moving on with things, he is the anchor wrestler in an excellent field at the Kettering Fairmont district. It is one that features four other ranked wrestlers. Fellow senior Nye placed fifth in this weight class last year, but should seriously consider moving up to 285, where he would have a much greater chance of winning. Next in line is another senior in returning state qualifier Bere, who will be playing linebacker for Duke next year. This season, Bere was runner-up at SWOWCA, losing to Pfarr after beating Brennock and Lybarger. Brennock, the giant killer of Frueauf, is obviously a big move guy and one to watch for. This season he placed fourth at Ironman, third at SWOWCA and Brecksville, and first at Troy. Finally it's another senior in Kuhlmann, a district placer last year, who was fourth at SWOWCA, third at Troy, and second in the CIT.

Beyond Frueauf, the wrestler with the highest probability of winning this weight class is returning state placer Pfarr, a runner-up at the Ironman and champion at SWOWCA, Brecksville, and the Top Gun this season. Titles at Brecksville and the Top Gun came with victories over Woichevich. Pfarr anchors a district at Hilliard Darby featuring three other ranked wrestlers. Next in line is fellow senior Sierawski, who placed first at Mt. Vernon, seventh at Top Gun, first at Delaware Hayes with a pin over Millin, and pinned Struttman in the state dual meet regional semifinal round. Returning state qualifier Struttman was runner-up at Medina, but also lost by fall to Knapp in a dual meet the next week; while Division II state qualifier Jewell was champion at Marion Harding up at 285 before dropping here.

The just mentioned Woichevich leads four ranked wrestlers at the Cleveland State district. This season, he has runner-up finishes at Brecksville and Top Gun on the resume. Next in the rankings is returning state qualifier Knapp, a junior who was a Junior freestyle All-American in Fargo over the summer. This season, he placed eighth at the Ironman and third at Medina, but lost to Pfarr in dual meet competition. Go-to-match losers Ware and Dellas round out the ranked group in this weight class, with Ware finishing second at Hudson and third at the Bill Dies (losing to projected DII champ Rutherford in both tournaments).

Rounding it out is a shallow group at Mentor with only three ranked wrestlers, none at present in a projected placement position. North Canton champion Copeland, who was fourth at Medina, leads the group. He is followed by state alternate Snyder, who was champion at North Coast and the Hephner, second at Perrysburg, and fifth at Medina. Finishing it off is two-time state qualifier Millin, who placed at Ironman, Beast of the East and Medina; but failed to place at Top Gun and lost to Sierawski in the Delaware Hayes final.

### 285 pounds

1. Cale Bonner, Perrysburg, junior (Cleveland State)
2. Geno Rollo, Pickerington North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Andrew Alten, Loveland, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Chris Crumb, Olentangy, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
5. Kevin Vough, Elyria, freshman (Cleveland State)
6. Antonio Zapata, Oregon Clay, senior (Cleveland State)
7. Mickey Crum, Hamilton Township, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Conan Jennings, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Ralph Nichols, St. Edward, senior (Cleveland State)
10. John-Morgan Cunningham, Bedford, senior (Mentor)
11. Alex Dalton, Troy, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nick Nader, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. C.J. Kinzer, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Tristan Roberts, Glen Oak, junior (Mentor)
15. Jordan Lee, Olmsted Falls, senior (Cleveland State)
16. Josh Burger, Aurora, junior (Mentor)

CSU – Bonner, Vough, Zapata, Nichols; Lee

HD – Rollo, Crumb, Crum, Nader; Kinzer

KF – Alten, Jennings, Dalton, Joe Hensley (Cincinnati Moeller, sophomore); Tristan Taylor (Tecumseh, junior)

MEN – Cunningham, Roberts, Burger, Antonio Weatherspoon (Maple Hts, senior); Seth Maylor (Massillon Perry, senior)

Go back ten years to the big-school division at 215 pounds. Remember how there were multiple matches over the three week state series between Dave Noga, Paul Burger, Lenny Trusnik, and Luke Busson. Every time they met it seemingly went to the tiebreaker, with some vagary of luck deciding the winner (Noga won the state title). It feels that this 285 pound weight class could come down to a total crap shoot. It won't matter who the best wrestler is, just the one that strings together four consecutive wins against the wrestlers laid out in front of them.

Even with the ultimate tiebreaker loss in the regional semifinal round of the state duals, I'm still going to rate Bonner as the most likely wrestler to win the state title. This season, he was runner-up at Ironman and Oregon Clay, losing both finals to nationally ranked wrestlers, and champion at Perrysburg.

Tonight's loss was to Zapata, a wrestler he beat in the tiebreaker in the Oregon Clay semifinals. Zapata will join Bonner in a loaded Cleveland State district. In this season, he beat second-ranked Rollo to win Solon, went 2-2 at the Ironman, was eighth at Brecksville, third at Oregon Clay, and eighth at Wadsworth. Additionally, he has two dual meet losses to the freshman Vough, who also exits this district. On the season, the freshman was one match from placing at the Ironman, was fifth at Brecksville, and second at the Bill Dies. He also beat Alten 5-3 in a January dual meet, after losing twice in December. Rounding out the five ranked wrestlers here are a pair of seniors in Nichols and Lee. Nichols was a district placer last year, and this year placed fourth at Medina; while Lee was champion at Willoughby South, runner-up at Medina, and fifth at the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the Hilliard Darby district, including three projected state placers. The group is led by Rollo, who was second at Solon and champion at Medina and Pickerington North. Returning state alternate Crumb, only a sophomore, was third at North Canton, Medina, and the Top Gun this season. 2012 state qualifier in Division II Crum is next on the list, but he's been in-and-out of the lineup this season after missing last year with injury. Rounding out the ranked group are seniors Nader and Kinzer. Nader was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Marion County, while Kinzer was fourth at Pickerington North and seventh at Brecksville.

Three ranked wrestlers are featured in the Kettering Fairmont and Mentor districts. The one at Kettering Fairmont has two projected placers in Alten and Jennings, who are 2-2 against one another on the season. Alten was seventh at the Ironman, champion at SWOWCA and Troy, and third at Brecksville; while Jennings was third at SWOWCA and fourth at Brecksville. The other ranked wrestler at Kettering Fairmont is fellow senior Dalton, a returning state alternate, who was fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at Troy and Pickerington North.

The Mentor district is led by returning state qualifier Morgan-Cunningham, who was second at North Canton and seventh at Medina. Next in line is Roberts, the champion at North Canton, who then finished seventh at the Bill Dies; while fellow junior Burger rounds it out working off a championship at Hudson and runner-up finish at Aurora.

#### Team Standings

1. Massillon Perry (Mentor)
2. Moeller (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Brecksville (Cleveland State)
4. St. Edward (Cleveland State)
5. Perrysburg (Cleveland State)
6. Loveland (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Marysville (Hilliard Darby)
8. Oregon Clay (Cleveland State)
9. Walsh Jesuit (Mentor)
10. Wadsworth (Cleveland State)
11. Elyria (Cleveland State)
12. Uniontown Lake (Mentor)