

Division III

106 pounds

1. Drew Mattin, Delta, sophomore (Fostoria)
2. Caleb Brooks, Bishop Ready, freshman (Coshocton)
3. Alex Rhine, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
4. Shane Johnston, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Ronnie Pietro, Dayton Christian, freshman (Troy)
6. Gavin Stika, Norwayne, freshman (Garfield Hts)
7. Graham Shore, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
8. Christian Wellman, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Alec Bailey, Manchester, freshman (Garfield Hts)
10. Connor Ryan, Covington, junior (Troy)
11. Matt Seifert, Utica, sophomore (Coshocton)
12. Colton Bethel, Ridgewood, sophomore (Coshocton)
13. David Staten, West Jefferson, sophomore (Coshocton)
14. Evan Guilford, Ayersville, sophomore (Fostoria)
15. Nate Vasquez, Fremont SJCC, sophomore (Fostoria)
16. Jevyn Pratt, Carey, sophomore (Fostoria)

COSH – Brooks, Seifert, Bethel, Staten; Jake Neer (Northmor, sophomore)

FOS – Mattin, Guilford, Vasquez, Pratt; Cameron Gessner (Sandusky SMCC, junior)

GH – Jonston, Stika, Wellman, Bailey; Brendan Williamson (Kirtland, junior)

TROY – Rhine, Pietro, Shore, Ryan; Jacob Edwards (Troy Christian, freshman)

Last year's Division III team race between Delta and Dayton Christian was somewhat tight, though it was decided in favor of Delta during Saturday morning's consolation semifinals and medal matches.

However, that is going to be just a prelude to the potential narrow nature of this year's team race. The major moment in time when things got tight last year came on Friday night during the early portion of the state semifinals; Dayton Christian won semifinals at 106 and 113, Delta lost in both weight classes.

The Delta loss at 106 came from Mattin, who is the projected favorite to win this state tournament weight class. In last year's state semifinal, Mattin lost a 2-0 ultimate tiebreak decision to Hunter Bray. This year, Mattin is undefeated when facing wrestlers not ranked first in the country (Walsh Ironman final); with titles coming at Brecksville, Perrysburg, and Oregon Clay; as well as earning a 5-0 dual meet victory over Division I favorite Donathan.

Mattin exits a Fostoria district featuring three other ranked wrestlers, all sophomores, though they are the ones ranked 14th through 16th. Guilford was fourth in January at Lima CC; Vasquez was fifth at Perrysburg and Lima CC (January), runner-up at Van Buren, and champion (113) at Northwood; while Pratt was champion at Bellevue, Lima CC (December), and Van Buren before taking sixth in January at Lima CC.

Ranked second in this weight is the freshman Brooks, who was third at junior high state in the 102 pound weight class. This season, he was third at Medina before winning titles at the CIT and Groveport Madison. His district at Coshocton includes three other ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Bethel, who was champion at Heath (pin Staten); while the sophomore Seifert has a 6-4 dual meet victory over Bethel last month.

The only returning state placer other than Mattin is the senior Johnston, who has placed sixth and fifth at state the last two years. This season, he was sixth at North Canton and Medina, but is still the anchor at a Garfield Hts district that includes three other ranked wrestlers. Freshman Stika (fifth at junior high state last year) is the next in line; followed by the junior Wellman, a returning state alternate; and another freshman Bailey, who was champion at the Gorman and eighth at the Bill Dies.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Troy, which is led by returning state qualifier Rhine, and features three other ranked wrestlers. The sophomore pinned Johnston in an early January dual meet, placed sixth at the Ironman, and won the January Lima CC tournament. Two freshmen, Pietro and Shore, are next in the rankings ladder here. Pietro was champion at Franklin, 3-2 at the Ironman, and fifth at Brecksville; while Shore has a head-on pin in overtime over Rhine, finished runner-up at Troy and Valley View, and was third at Lima CC (January). Finally, it's the junior Ryan – a returning state alternate – who was fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up to Rhine in the January Lima CC tournament.

113 pounds

1. Tommy Hoskins, Dayton Christian, freshman (Troy)
2. Kristopher Hill, Bishop Hartley, senior (Coshocton)
3. Hunter Lucas, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Troy)
4. Jake Adkins, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Coshocton)
5. Joey Bowen, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Greg Quinn, Shadyside, sophomore (Coshocton)
7. Brandon White, Harrison Central, junior (Coshocton)
8. Mitch Tikkanen, Jackson Milton, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Alex Isbrandt, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
10. Brysen Mansor, Huron, senior (Fostoria)
11. Tyler Wetzel, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
12. Kyle Denier, Blanchester, sophomore (Troy)
13. Jared Ford, Covington, freshman (Troy)
14. Dominic Rosin, Sandusky SMCC, sophomore (Fostoria)
15. Chet Swartzmiller, Hopewell Loudon, senior (Fostoria)
16. Dakota McCloskey, Girard, senior (Garfield Hts)
17. Gavin Grime, Archbold, freshman (Fostoria)

COSH – Hill, Adkins, Quinn, White; Blake Evans (Paint Valley, sophomore)

FOS – Mansor, Rosin, Swartzmiller, Grime; Kage Seals (Paulding, junior), Martin Steinberger (Defiance Tinora, senior)

GH – Bowen, Tikkanen, McCloskey, Brad Trescott (Rootstown, sophomore); Trent Mast (Cardinal, sophomore)

TROY – Hoskins, Lucas, Isbrandt, Wetzel; Denier, Ford

If Dayton Christian is going to derail Delta at the Schott, it's going to take strong performances from all their core wrestlers, including the impact freshmen. One of those impact freshmen is the favorite to win state in this weight class. Hoskins was one match away from placement at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge, and finished seventh at the Walsh Ironman (including a win over defending state champion Baughman to clinch the placement). In addition, he was champion at Franklin and has a dual meet win over returning state placer Hart.

The district that Hoskins anchors at Troy is loaded with five other ranked wrestlers. Among them is returning state placer Lucas, who was fourth at 106 in Division II at Lima Shawnee last year. After returning from transfer suspension, he was third at the CIT before winning the January Lima CC tournament. The freshman Isbrandt is next in line, finishing second at Troy, winning at Valley View, and taking third in January at Lima CC (8-4 semifinal loss to Lucas). The sophomore Wetzel follows, having placed fourth at Lima CC (January), and with dual meet wins this season over those directly behind him in this district.

Those directly behind him are returning state qualifier Denier and the freshman Ford. Denier was runner-up at Western Brown and Lima CC (January); while Ford placed fourth at junior high state, and this season was fourth at Troy and fifth at Lima CC (January).

Four of the other top seven wrestlers exit the district at Coshocton, including three returning state placers. The senior Hill is a two-time placer with runner-up finishes at the GMVWA and Groveport Madison to go with a CIT title, where he beat Lucas (3-1 semifinal) and Decesare (9-6 final). Fellow two-time placer Adkins was champion at Mt. Vernon and runner-up at Oregon Clay and New Lexington, with each of those losses coming to super frosh Mattox and Moore. The third state placer is the sophomore Quinn, who was third at the OVAC (5-2 over White in the consolation final) though he failed to place at Brecksville. Also here is returning state qualifier White, the junior finished fourth at the OVAC.

The other two top eight wrestlers exit the Garfield Hts district, though there are just three ranked wrestlers in all from that site. Two-time state seventh Bowen placed fourth at Brecksville, first at the Gorman, and runner-up at the Bill Dies. Returning state qualifier Tikkanen placed seventh at Solon, was champion at Hudson, along with runner-up finishes at the Hephner and EOWL. Also ranked here is the senior McCloskey, a returning state qualifier who was fifth at the Hephner and EOWL.

Lastly among the districts is the one at Heath that features just three ranked wrestlers, all between 10th and 16th. Most notable from that list is returning state qualifier Rosin, who still needs a scratch make at 113, while he does have titles at Bellevue and Toledo St. John's at 120.

120 pounds

1. Jake Spiess, Delta, junior (Fostoria)
2. Michael May, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Tanner Smith, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
4. Alex Smith, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Fostoria)
5. Damian Short, Archbold, senior (Fostoria)
6. Michael Sergent, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
7. Stan Bleich, Elyria Catholic, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. Rodney Richter, Monroe Central, senior (Coshocton)
9. Louis DeMarco, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Damian D'Emilio, Genoa, junior (Fostoria)
11. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)
12. Tony Paolucci, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Riley Smucker, Smithville, freshman (Garfield Hts)
14. Mitch Skleres, Pymantuning Valley, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
15. Zane Strubler, Miami Trace, freshman (Troy)
16. Preston Smith, Marion Pleasant, sophomore (Coshocton)

COSH – Richter, Smith, Conan Becker (Northmor, freshman), Gavin Stalnaker (Belpre, junior); Quinton Bishop (West Muskingum, junior)

FOS – Spiess, Smith, Short, D’Emilio; Chase Moore (Swanton, freshman)

GH – Bleich, DeMarco, Paolucci, Smucker; Skleres

TROY – May, Smith, Sergeant, Clemens; Strubler

Spiess, a state champion at 106 in 2013, suffered an absolute shock of a loss last year in the state semifinal at 113. Leading 3-1 inside of thirty seconds left in the match, he was tossed on his back for two-and-two to lose 5-3. He would come back to finish third. While he certified this weight class in a mid-December dual meet, his major competitions have come up at 126; fourth at Brecksville (losses to Assad and Bray), runner-up at Perrysburg (loss to Mario Guillen), and champion at Oregon Clay.

Though favored, he will not be without challengers, starting at the district level where three other top ten wrestlers are present. The senior Alex Smith has twice finished fifth at state, and has spent much of this season up at 126; where he was runner-up at Bellevue and champion at Toledo St. John’s; 2013 state qualifier Short was runner-up at Oregon Clay in this weight class, while he has been at 126 for other competitions (finishing seventh at Medina, and winning the January Lima CC title); while returning state qualifier D’Emilio was fourth at Perrysburg and first in his conference meet.

The other three top six ranked wrestlers all exit the district at Troy. Those include two-time state placer May, a Super 32 placer that signed with N.C. State; the sophomore Tanner Smith, who placed at the Ironman last year while competing for St. Paris Graham; and the sophomore Sergeant, who was fourth at state last year. May upset now two-time state champion Hancock last year in the district final, but finished sixth at state; this year he was a match away from placing at the Ironman (losses to Newhouse and Mackall) and runner-up at Brecksville. Tanner Smith returned from the half-season transfer suspension to win the January Lima CC event; while Sergeant went 0-2 at the Ironman this year, but was champion at Sidney and runner-up at the GMVWA.

Two other ranked wrestlers are in this district, so they seek that last spot. The junior Clemens is already a two-time state qualifier, but is after his first state placement; this year he was first and Lincolnview, Lima CC (December), and Van Buren, before finishing runner-up to Tanner Smith at Lima CC (January). The freshman Isbrandt, the third notable Class of 2018 wrestler for Miami East, was third at Sidney and Lima CC (January), champion at Troy, and runner-up at Valley View.

The Garfield Hts district features five ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer DeMarco and three other state qualifiers. The senior DeMarco was eighth at state last year, and was undefeated this season until losing the CVC final 9-1 to Brezovec. The sophomore Bleich won the district title over DeMarco, but went 1-2 at the state tournament; this season he was champion at Avon Lake and Hudson up at 126, and CIT champion in this weight class.

The junior Paolucci and sophomore Skleres also made state last year. Paolucci was runner-up to Brezovec at Aurora in the 126 weight class, before coming down to win the Bill Dies title in this weight class; while Skleres was fourth at Kenston and runner-up at the EOWL. The other ranked wrestler in this district is the freshman Smucker, a junior high state placer, who was third in the 126 weight class at Smithville.

Just two ranked wrestlers will exit the Coshocton district, with the senior Richter the lone returning state qualifier. This season Richter was runner-up at the OVAC; while the other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Preston Smith, last year a district placer, and this year champion at Marion Pleasant.

126 pounds

1. Evan Cheek, Milan Edison, senior (Fostoria)
2. Garrett Hancock, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Hunter Bray, Dayton Christian, junior (Troy)
4. Aric Peters, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)
5. Carson Mills, Fredericktown, senior (Coshocton)
6. Ethan Ice, Marion Pleasant, senior (Coshocton)
7. Jett Heldenbrand, Hillsdale, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. J.D. Reisinger, Swanton, junior (Fostoria)
9. Tanner Bey, Versailles, sophomore (Troy)
10. Ruger Goeltzenleuchter, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Troy)
11. Sawyer Caprella, Allen East, sophomore (Troy)
12. Seth Hayes, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Logan Kissel, Garrettsville Garfield, freshman (Garfield Hts)
14. Ian Mast, Cardinal, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Johnny Wheeler, Northwood, junior (Fostoria)
16. Josh Kahl, Shadyside, sophomore (Coshocton)
17. Jay Uhlenake, Coldwater, junior (Troy)

COSH – Mills, Ice, Kahl, Donnie Starkey (Toronto, junior); Dylan Little (Newcomerstown, junior)

FOS – Cheek, Reisinger, Wheeler, Conor Emch (Woodmore, sophomore); Jacob Supina (Sandusky SMCC, senior)

GH – Heldenbrand, Hayes, Kissel, Mast; Charles Davis (Fairless, senior)

TROY – Cheek, Bray, Peters, Bey; Goeltzenleuchter, Caprella, Uhlenake

Picking against two time state champions, even ones that have split current-season matches against their direct competition is a rare – but not unheard of – concept for me. The last time I went against a two-time state champion (a few years back), it fell in my face badly. However, that's not going to stop me this go around. The pick here is for Cheek (previous fourth and third) to get over two-time state champion Hancock – and others – to earn an elusive state title.

The two have split matches this season, Hancock winning the final at Marion County in mid-January, while Cheek won 7-3 two weeks later at the SMCC Duals. Last season Cheek won the regular season meeting at Marion County, but it was Hancock earning a 3-1 state quarterfinal victory on the way to his second title. Both wrestlers went 3-2 at the Ironman, with one of their losses coming to Townsell (Hancock lost 5-2, Cheek lost 4-3); while their additional loss came to a tournament placer.

Additional notable results for Cheek include a runner-up finish at Brecksville with a 3-0 semifinal victory over Bray on the count of a third period cradle, then losing 3-1 to Assad in the final; another 3-0 victory over Bray at the SMCC Duals, and then a 10-0 major decision victory over projected 120 pound state champ Spiess in the state duals semifinal. He is the clear anchor at Fostoria, where just two other ranked wrestlers will compete. One of those is returning state qualifier Reisinger, who was third at Toledo St. John's, runner-up at Northwood (132) and Van Buren, along with a fifth place finish at Lima CC (January).

With all the noise about a potential Cheek vs. Hancock showdown, one should not forget about returning state runner-up Bray, who is up three weights this year. He placed third at Brecksville, including a 4-2 consolation final win over Spiess; with subsequent dual meet victories over Division I title contender Bentley (11-10) and Spiess (3-2) in February. Remember that last year Hancock lost the district final to Dayton Christian teammate May. Additional resume points for Hancock are a title at Sidney and a runner-up finish (losing 3-1 to Seipel) at the GMVWA.

Hancock and Bray exit a Troy district with five other possible ranked wrestlers. Do note that it is likely returning state placer Peters finds a different weight class, probably 132, to compete. The senior has been in this weight much of the season though, including a third place finish at SWOWCA. The other two returning state qualifiers at this district weight class, Uhlenake and Kamron Paulus (Milton Union) are seventh and eighth on the ladder. Sophomores Bey (state alternate) and Goeltzenleuchter were go-to-state match losers last season. This season Goeltzenleuchter has tournament titles at Lincolnview, Lima CC (December), and Van Buren – including head-on wins over Uhlenake and Reisinger. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Caprella, who was runner-up at Milan Edison and Lima CC (January), third at Van Buren, with titles at Allen County and the NWC.

The remaining returning state placer is the senior Mills, who anchors the happenings at Coshocton. On the season he was first at Mt. Vernon, fourth at Medina, and second (at 132) at the Gorman. He'll be joined by just two other ranked wrestlers – both state alternates – at the district tournament in Ice and Kahl. The senior Ice was champion at Marion Harding and runner-up at Marion Pleasant, while the sophomore Kahl was sixth at the OVAC.

Closing it out is the district at Garfield Hts, which features four ranked wrestlers, two of whom are returning state qualifiers. The senior Heldebrand is after a third state berth, and was third at Lima CC in January; while the senior Mast was runner-up at the CVC in this weight and fourth in the season opening Aurora tournament down at 120. An addition state qualifier, Davis, is not listed in the top 16. Remaining ranked wrestlers are the junior Hayes, who was fourth at the Bill Dies and champion (at 132) at Aurora; along with the freshman Kissel, a junior high state placer, who was eighth at the Bill Dies.

132 pounds

1. Jarred Ganger, Covington, senior (Troy)
2. Tyler Sarreshteh, Liberty Benton, senior (Fostoria)
3. Brednan Fitzgerald, Grandview Hts, junior (Coshocton)
4. Colt Yinger, Nelsonville York, freshman (Coshocton)
5. Brady Barnett, Milan Edison, sophomore (Fostoria)
6. Josh Clary, Dayton Christian, junior (Troy)
7. Tim Mecklenburg, Lutheran West, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Joe Tromba, VASJ, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. John Smith, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Jake Gutierrez, Springfield Catholic Central, junior (Troy)
11. Nick Miller, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
12. Gabe Santa-rita, Edgerton, senior (Fostoria)
13. Spencer Seibert, Coldwater, junior (Troy)
14. Buddy Limes, Otsego, senior (Fostoria)
15. Collin Hennon, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Troy)
16. Eric Owens, Liberty Union, senior (Coschocton)

COSH – Fitzgerald, Yinger, Owens, Steele Strout (Johnstown Northridge, sophomore); James Eppich (Centerburg, junior)

FOS – Sarreshteh, Barnett, Santa-rita, Limes; Trevor Reed (New London, junior)

GH – Mecklenburg, Tromba, Smith, Cody Rhoads (Grand Valley, sophomore); Garrett Hall (Chippewa, junior)

TROY – Ganger, Clary, Gutierrez, Miller; Seibert, Hennon

Though there will be no four-time state champion crowned this year, there are a pair of wrestlers after a fourth state finals appearance. The first being Cameron Kelly in Division II at this weight class, while the other is two-time state champion Ganger in this weight class. The Kent State bound grappler placed fifth at the Ironman and was runner-up at the GMVWA before winning titles at Troy and Lima CC (January).

While none of the other five ranked wrestlers at the Troy district can truly compete with Ganger, they will only have three state spots to battle for (and Peters could come in from 126 to muck things up further). Three of them – Clary, Miller, and Seibert – bring state experience from last season, though each went two-and-out as sophomores. Clary was third at Franklin and seventh at Brecksville, Miller was third at Lima CC (January), while Seibert was runner-up at Troy and fourth at Lima CC (January).

Fellow junior Gutierrez was a state alternate last season, placing third at the CIT this season, and possessing a head-on dual meet victory over Miller. The last ranked wrestler here is the junior Hennon, who was fifth at Lima CC (January), including a head-on win over returning state qualifier Reed. An addition wrestler to watch here, though not ranked, is returning state alternate McKinley Screetch (Dayton CJ).

The other semi-deep district in this weight class is the one at Fostoria, which features four ranked wrestlers, two of whom are state qualifiers. Leading the way is two-time state placer Sarreshteh, who has tournament crowns at Northwood and Van Buren, runner-up finishes at Medina (11-2 loss to Ladnier) and Lima CC – January (7-3 loss to Ganger), and a third at Perrysburg. The sophomore Barnett placed at state down three weights last year, and this season has a title at Milan Edison to go with 2-2 finishes at Ironman and Brecksville, as well as dual meet wins over Miller and Clary.

Also ranked at Fostoria is returning state alternate Santa-rita and the senior Limes. This season Limes was sixth at Perrysburg, runner-up at Van Buren, and champion at the NBC and (at 138) Northwood. Not ranked in the weight class, and holding the fifth position in this district is returning state qualifier Reed. It should be noted that the sophomore Mattin, a returning state qualifier has been pulled from the rankings due to injury that caused him to miss multiple competitions before and after his fifth place finish at Perrysburg; should he be able to return, tab him as a low state placement candidate.

Two of the top four ranked wrestlers, the junior Fitzgerald and the freshman Yinger, are among the three ranked wrestlers to exit the Coshocton district. Two-time state qualifier Fitzgerald was fourth at Medina and first at Marion Pleasant; while Yinger was champion at Olentangy Liberty and Nelsonville York (14-4 over returning DII placer Tawney), runner-up at New Lexington, and eighth at Brecksville. Also ranked here is returning district placer Owens.

To wrap it up is the Garfield Hts district with just three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Mecklenburg, who was runner-up at Perry. Also ranked here are a pair of juniors, returning state alternate Tromba and 2013 state qualifier Smith. Tromba was fifth at the North Coast, fourth at Perry, and runner-up at CIT (4-3 over Gutierrez in the semifinal) and Groveport Madison; while Smith, who

failed to make weight in last year's sectional tournament, has a runner-up finish at Marion Harding and a Firelands Conference title (beating Reed) to his credit this season.

138 pounds

1. David Carr, Dayton Christian, freshman (Troy)
2. Ryan Ford, Covington, junior (Troy)
3. Dustin Marteney, Delta, junior (Fostoria)
4. Cody Ohnmeiss, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
5. Colton Ullman, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Devon Dunbar, Genoa, senior (Fostoria)
7. Trent Soto, Otsego, senior (Fostoria)
8. Wes Fritz, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Fostoria)
9. Hunter Pizzino, Harrison Central, senior (Coshocton)
10. Jason Sadler, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Bobby Stewart, Union Local, junior (Coshocton)
12. Evan Francis, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Jake Farley, Northmor, junior (Coshocton)
14. Chase Mayhabb, Milton Union, junior (Troy)
15. Kolby Rayner, Caldwell, junior (Coshocton)
16. Alex Neuberger, Milan Edison, sophomore (Fostoria)

COSH – Pizzino, Stewart, Farley, Rayner; Austin Parmer (Utica, senior)

FOS – Marteney, Dunbar, Soto, Fritz; Neuberger

GH – Ullman, Sadler, Francis, Kyle Waddell (Tuslaw, senior); Logan Stanley (Waynedale, freshman)

TROY – Carr, Ford, Ohnmeiss, Mayhabb; Justin Hixson (Bethel Tate, junior)

I recall a time more than ten years ago when Southwest DIII was mostly a “punching bag” at the state tournament. My goodness things have changed. They're the ones punching tickets to state titles these days. That pattern continues in this weight class, where the top two wrestlers and three of the top four all exit the Troy district. The joint favorites are a pair of Walsh Ironman placers in the freshman Carr and the junior Ford.

Carr won a high school state title while competing for Woodford County, Ky. last year with an upset victory over 2013 Ironman placer Trae Blackwell (now at Oklahoma) in the final. This season, he was fifth at the Ironman, with titles at Franklin and Brecksville (beating Marteney 8-1 in the semi and Division I state champion Screptock 4-3 TB in the final). Ford placed third at state last year, and this season finished sixth at the Ironman and second at the GMVWA before winning titles at Troy and Lima CC (January). The third top four ranked wrestler at Troy is the senior Ohnmeiss, a returning state qualifier - fourth at the GMVWA, third at Sidney (at 145), and with a 6-4 dual meet victory over Dunbar. Rounding out the ranked group at this site is the junior Mayhabb, a 2013 state qualifier – eighth at GMVWA, fourth at Troy, and runner-up at Eaton.

Four members of the top eight will exit the Fostoria district, led by the junior Marteney, who is already a two-time state placer. This season he went 3-2 at the Walsh Ironman, finished fourth at Brecksville, was champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Oregon Clay. Returning state third Dunbar missed the first half on a transfer suspension, but since return was runner-up at Perrysburg and first at NBC (5-4 over Soto). Returning state sixth Soto was third at Perrysburg, champion at Van Buren, and runner-up at NBC;

while two-time state placer Fritz was third at the Gorman and second at Lima CC (January) after failing to place at Brecksville.

The other projected state placer is Ullman, seventh last year as a junior down two weight classes. This year he was champion at the Gorman and fourth at the Top Gun. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers in the Garfield Hts district, returning state qualifiers Sadler and Francis. The junior Sadler was fourth at the Bill Dies after finishing runner-up at Aurora up a weight class, while the senior Francis seeks a third state appearance. Returning state alternate Waddell is not ranked in the top 16, but does hold the fourth state qualification spot here.

Lastly it's a Coshocton district that also features four ranked wrestlers, led by the senior Pizzino, a returning state qualifier who was runner-up at the OVAC. Behind him on the ladder are three juniors: third at the OVAC Stewart (losing 3-2 TB to Pizzino, beating Rayner 5-1); returning state alternate Farley, runner-up at Big Walnut and champion at Marion Harding and Marion Pleasant; along with returning state qualifier Rayner, who was sixth at the OVAC and champion at Gallia.

145 pounds

1. Logan Lacure/Nick Vestal, Dayton Christian, junior (Troy)
2. Derek Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, sophomore (Fostoria)
3. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Joe Ziegler, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
5. Trevor Anderson, West Liberty Salem, junior (Troy)
6. Chance Marthey, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Mitchell Davidson, Eastwood, junior (Fostoria)
8. Mitchell Matheny, Riverdale, senior (Fostoria)
9. Jacob Spino, Independence, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Austin Glosser, Otsego, senior (Fostoria)
11. Brandon Bates, Genoa, senior (Fostoria)
12. Josh Weber, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Bobby Kelley, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Fostoria)
14. Sam Neer, Northmor, senior (Coshocton)
15. Seth Bell, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
16. Manney Tullius, Belpre, senior (Coshocton)

COSH – Neer, Tullius, Logan Thompson (St. Clairsville, junior), Lane Waddell (Cardington-Lincoln, senior);
Brandon Cornell (Cheshire River Valley, sophomore)
FOS – Gross, Davidson, Matheny, Glosser; Bates, Kelley
GH – Stanley, Marthey, Spino, Weber; Josh Tompkins (Mogadore, junior)
TROY – Lacure, Ziegler, Anderson, Bell; Tyler Goodpaster (Deer Park, senior)

Last year as a sophomore, Lacure became Greeneview's first ever state champion; winning state at 145 pounds after finishing runner-up down four weight classes at 120 the year prior. Since returning from his half-season transfer suspension, Lacure has been yet another dominant wrestler in the Dayton Christian lineup. He is the extreme favorite to repeat as state champion.

Recent developments leading to him being unavailable for the state dual meet finals caused the Warriors to also certify fellow junior Vestal in this weight class. This young man placed seventh at state in this weight class last year after finishing as runner-up as a freshman in Florida competing for Lake

Highland Prep. In his debut appearance at 145, he beat returning state placer Ziegler by 2-1 decision. If Lacure can't compete, it's only logical that Vestal comes down here, given the presence of Romero in the weight above. Either way, this report will predict the Dayton Christian starter to win state at 145.

The district tournament at Troy will feature three other ranked wrestlers: returning state placer Ziegler, 2013 state alternate Anderson, and returning state alternate Bell. Ziegler was champion in January at Lima CC, though to give context he went 0-2 at the Walsh Ironman in mid-December. After missing his sophomore season, the junior Anderson was champion at Toledo St. John's, fourth at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Lima CC (January) with a 9-7 early round upset over returning state placer Gross. Last year Bell competed at Dayton Christian, this year he's at Troy Christian; since his return, he has three losses to ranked wrestlers and a fourth to the non-ranked Collin Mancuso (Milan Edison).

Ranked second in this weight class is Gross, who was fourth at state last year as a freshman. This season, he was sixth at Brecksville (all three losses by two or less to returning state placers), champion at the Gorman, and third at Lima CC (January). The district tournament at Fostoria, where Gross is the top wrestler, has five other ranked wrestlers – only four total can make the state tournament. Of those, only Matheny has a state tournament appearance, though he had to take it through the alternate position; this year he was runner-up at Van Buren (losing 4-3 to Davidson) and champion at Northwood.

Another go-to-state match loser in this district weight is the junior Davidson, who was champion at van Buren, runner-up in January at Lima CC, and runner-up at NBC (6-1 loss to Bates). The senior Glosser was runner-up (at 152) at Northwood, third at Van Buren and the NBC, and fifth at Perrysburg. Round out the ranked wrestlers is Bates, seventh at Perrysburg and NBC runner-up, along with Kelley – runner-up at Toledo St. John's and (at 152) Lincolnview.

The other two returning placers in this state weight class exit the Garfield Hts district, along with a returning state qualifier, and a 2013 state placer. Leading the way is the junior Stanley, who was fourth in this state tournament weight class last year; Marthey placed seventh at state last year and has competed in three different weight classes this year (sixth at North Canton at 160, 2-2 at Medina at 152); the senior Spino won the district tournament last year before going 1-2 at state, and this year failed to place at Medina before finishing second in the CVC meet; while fellow senior Weber was runner-up at Central Crossing in this weight class after taking fifth in the Gorman up at 152.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Coshocton, which is extraordinarily weak in this weight class with just two ranked wrestlers – those 14th and 16th. Neither was even a district placer last year; Neer was runner-up at Marion Harding and Marion Pleasant, while Tullius was champion at Vinton County and eighth at Medina.

152 pounds

1. Kaleb Romero, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Troy)
2. Nick Vestal, Dayton Christian, junior (Troy)
3. Deven Taylor, Margaretta, senior (Fostoria)
4. Zach Steiner, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Josh Kahl, Shadyside, junior (Coshocton)
6. Cody Dingess, West Jefferson, senior (Coshocton)
7. Davey Tunon, Clinton Massie, junior (Troy)
8. Lance Miller, Covington, sophomore (Troy)
9. Tyler Showalter, Wayne Trace, senior (Troy)

10. David Monturi, Wickliffe, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Jacob Smith, Utica, senior (Coshocton)
12. Brandon Soules, Allen East, junior (Troy)
13. Corey Kowatch, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Garrett Grime, Archbold, junior (Fostoria)
15. Hobie Howiler, Barnesville, junior (Coshocton)
16. Bryce Coleman, Martins Ferry, senior (Coshocton)
17. Hunter Sutton, Eastwood, junior (Fostoria)

COSH – Kahl, Dingess, Smith, Howiler; Coleman, Anthony Risley (Harrison Central, junior)

FOS – Taylor, Grime, Sutton, Jordan Birdsall (Montpelier, junior); Dylan Rogers (Delta, freshman)

GH – Steiner, Monturi, Kowatch, Jake Johnson/Damon Morosko (Tuslaw, senior); TBD

TROY – Romero, Vestal, Tunon, Miller; Showalter, Soules

For better or worse, extreme specialization has become the norm within prep sports these days. However, that is not the case for one of the state's prodigal young wrestling talents. The sophomore Romero is a two-year starter at quarterback in football and also played varsity baseball during his freshman season. His Indians' football squad made the state semifinal as a freshman, and this past year suffered a highly controversial 42-41 double OT loss to eventual state champions Minster in the opening round. As a freshman, Romero was 46-1 on the way to a state title; while he is "a lot" and two this year.

The two losses for Romero came at the Walsh Ironman, 3-2 and 4-2 to a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers; while in that tournament, he beat primary state tournament contender Vestal 3-1. In his other major competition of the season, Romero won scored four pins and a 24-7 technical fall to win the Lima CC tournament in January. The junior Vestal placed second at Lake Highland Prep in Florida as a freshman before finishing a seventh at state last year. This season he was champion at Franklin, 1-2 in the Ironman (beating two-time state placer Kaminski), and fifth at Brecksville. See the commentary in the previous weight class to explain why he may end up down at 145.

Four ranked wrestlers are in the hunt for the three (or two) state spots to join Romero (and possibly Vestal) competing at the Schott from the Troy district. The senior Showalter and junior Tunon are returning state qualifiers, while the sophomore Miller and junior Soules each went 1-2 at the district level last year. Showalter was champion at Lincolnview and the Green Meadows, runner-up at Lima CC (January), and fourth (at 145) at Van Buren this season; while Tunon was champion at Fairfield and Western Brown. Miller was sixth at the GMVWA and third at Lima CC (January), while Soules was runner-up at Allen County and fourth at Lima CC (January).

The other deep district is at Coshocton, where five ranked wrestlers, including three returning state qualifiers will be after the four state tournament berths. Leading the way is the junior Kahl who went 1-2 at last year's state tournament, went 3-2 at Brecksville, and was runner-up at the OVAC. Next in line are Dingess and Smith, who each went 0-2 at the Schott last year; this year Dingess has 3-2 victory over Ziegler down at 145, with a title at Heath in this weight class, while Smith does not have a recorded result season to date. Returning district placer Howiler was fourth at the OVAC up at 160 before dropping into this weight class, and yet another drop down to the shallow 145 weight at this district is possible; while the senior Coleman was sixth at the OVAC and third at New Lexington.

Joining Romero and Vestal as the third of three returning state placers in this weight class is the senior Taylor, who placed sixth at the Schott last year. On the season he was champion at Milan Edison and

runner-up Bellevue. Taylor is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers in the Fostoria district, juniors Grime and Birdsall. During this season, Grime was fourth at Oregon Clay, including a notable win over DII state qualifier Sowards.

Also with just three ranked wrestlers is the district at Garfield Hts, though two of those wrestlers went 1-2 at state last year: the sophomore Steiner and the senior Monturi. While Steiner failed to place at Medina, he did win the Bill Dies title with wins over a pair of fellow state qualifiers, and Monturi took third at the CVC tournament. Returning district placer Kowatch was fourth at Marion Harding.

160 pounds

1. Dakota Mays, Nelsonville York, senior (Coshocton)
2. Andrew Hoskins, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Jesse Beverly, Delta, junior (Fostoria)
4. Austin Siemon, Deer Park, senior (Troy)
5. Jake Staggs, Milan Edison, senior (Fostoria)
6. Caleb Stockmaster, Margaretta, senior (Fostoria)
7. Drew Brasiel, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Clayton Davdison, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Kyle Ice, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Jacob Thompson, Triad, junior (Troy)
11. Riley Tercha, Otsego, senior (Fostoria)
12. Luke Sorboro, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Damon Vitt, Hopewell Loudon, junior (Fostoria)
14. Zach Brodman, Carey, senior (Fostoria)
15. Seth Gaghen, Woodmore, senior (Fostoria)
16. Logan Hartman, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
17. Josh Doherty, West Jefferson, sophomore (Coshocton)

COSH – Mays, Doherty, Kyle Pritchard (Coshocton, senior), Austin McConville (Bellaire, senior); Drexel Weber (Garaway, senior)

FOS – Beverly, Staggs, Stockmaster, Tercha; Vitt, Brodman, Gaghen

GH – Brasiel, Davidson, Ice, Sorboro; Tucker Bender (Loudonville, senior)

TROY – Hoskins, Siemon, Thompson, Hartman; Canaan Berry (Troy Christian, senior)

The senior Mays is one of just eleven wrestlers in the Class of 2015 who can become four-time OHSAA state tournament placers (if one wishes to account for the runner-up finish from Rodriguez in New York to Nick Piccininni, that number is 12). That number is within the normal range, as there were 14 candidates headed into last year's state tournament, with just seven possibles in 2013. Having placed sixth, seventh, and fourth – Mays seeks a first state finals appearance. It's been an excellent senior with a title at Brecksville, and being undefeated other than a 13-8 loss to Marinelli (the nation's number one wrestler in this weight class).

Mays anchors what is a barren district at Coshocton in this weight class with just the sophomore Doherty, who was champion at Heath this season, among the top 17 here.

The true deep district here is the one at Fostoria, which has seven ranked wrestlers. That group is led by the sophomore Beverly, who beat Mays 2-1 in the consolation final at state. During this season, he was third at Brecksville down at 152 before moving up to 160, where he won a title at Oregon Clay but

suffered a 9-7 loss to McRill from Michigan – a wrestler that Mays beat 6-2 in the Brecksville final. Only the senior Stockmaster joins Beverly as a returning state qualifier; on the season he was champion at both Milan Edison and Bellevue.

The senior Staggs was champion at Milan Edison up a weight class before placing third at Brecksville; while fellow senior Tercha was champion at Northwood, Van Buren, and his conference along with a runner-up finish at Perrysburg. The junior Vitt was a district placer last year, and this year was champion at the Gorman before placing third at Van Buren. The senior Brodman was runner-up at Bellevue and Van Buren, won the title at Lima CC in December, and was a semifinalist at Lima CC in January; while fellow senior Gaghen was third at Northwood, Bellevue, and Lima CC (January) before a runner-up finish in his conference meet.

Third in this weight class, and last of the main contenders is the senior Hoskins, who placed at state as a freshman and sophomore before not competing during the second half of last season. He was also unavailable for the state duals, so his status going forward is unknown. Of note for him this season is an 8-2 win over Staggs at the SMCC Duals. Three other wrestlers join Hoskins in the rankings at the Troy district, including returning state placer and three-time state qualifier Siemon; who this season has titles at Centerville and Milford to go with a runner-up at SWOWCA and fourth at GMVWA.

Also ranked at Troy is the junior Thompson, the champion at Marion Harding and Lima CC, as well as third at Bellbrook; and the senior Hartman who qualified in the opening weight class as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at Lima CC (January), along with having a win over Sepeda on the opening Saturday of the season. Should Hoskins be unavailable that (obviously) opens up a state qualification spot, one that his teammate Jansen Love could be in the hunt for; dropping down from 170.

Rounding it out is a district at Garfield Hts that features four ranked wrestlers, including a returning state eighth, state qualifier, and two state alternates. That returning state placer is the senior Brasiel, who has been out since having to injury default early on at Brecksville, so his status is unknown. The state qualifier is fellow senior Davidson, who is undefeated on the season, including a title at the CVC. Returning state alternates are sophomores Ice and Soroboro; Soroboro was champion in the 170 weight class at Aurora before dropping to 160 to finish third at the Bill Dies. Should Brasiel remain out, it would open up state qualification for someone like Bender, who was runner-up at the Gorman but just went 1-2 at the Top Gun.

170 pounds

1. James Handwerk, Lutheran West, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
2. Ryan Patchin, Delta, senior (Fostoria)
3. Zach Sullivan, National Trial, senior (Troy)
4. Chance Sonnenberg, Van Buren, senior (Fostoria)
5. Kile Schaefer, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Hayden Miller, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Fostoria)
7. Austin Windle, Ada, senior (Troy)
8. Ryan Green, Margaretta, senior (Fostoria)
9. Teagan McFadden, Paint Valley, junior (Coshocton)
10. Jared Pack, Centerburg, senior (Coshocton)
11. Matt McFarland, Union Local, junior (Coshocton)
12. Kamran Alexander, Deer Park, senior (Troy)
13. Skylar Brown, Lehman Catholic, senior (Troy)

14. Adam Deatruck, Paulding, senior (Fostoria)
15. Chase Carpenter, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Fostoria)
16. Drew Lowery, Toronto, junior (Coshocton)

COSH – McFadden, Pack, McFarland, Lowery; Corbin Bunsold (North Union, junior)

FOS – Patchin, Sonnenberg, Miller, Green; Deatruck, Carpenter

GH – Handwerk, Schaefer, Drew Lowery (Loudonville, senior), Gaige Willis (Pymatuning Valley, freshman); Paul Dies (Manchester, junio)

TROY – Sullivan, Windle, Alexander, Brown; Josh Kirby (Middletown Madison, senior)

From a weight class that features eleven state qualifiers, including six that placed at state last year, it is instead a sophomore that was a scratch from the district tournament last year who has emerged as the favorite. However, it's not a name that is from total left field for wrestling fans, as Handwerk was a junior high state champion in 2013 and a Cadet All-American in Greco-Roman that summer. He was also a Cadet double All-American this past summer. Injury (and some inconsistency) seemed to dampen his freshman year performance, while this year both factors have been eliminated. He was seventh at the Ironman and champion at Medina to set an early tone.

Handwerk exits the weakest district at this weight class, as the one at Garfield Hts features just one other ranked wrestler, two-time state placer Schaefer. Interestingly, Schaefer has placed twice fifth at 182 pounds, before sliding down here this season. He lost 10-2 to Handwerk in the Medina semifinal before defaulting down to sixth.

Three other returning state placers, and a fourth state qualifier, are among the six ranked wrestlers at Fostoria. That group is led by the senior Patchin, who was sixth at 182 pounds last year. This season, he finished runner-up at Brecksville and Oregon Clay with a title at Perrysburg. Fellow senior Sonnenberg has twice placed fifth at 160 pounds, and this season went 3-2 at the Ironman (including a 5-2 front side loss to Sullivan) along with winning titles at Northwood, Van Buren, and Lima CC (January). The third returning state placer is Miller, who was sixth at Brecksville along with runner-up finishes at the Gorman and the January Lima CC event (losing 6-1 to Sonnenberg there). Returning state qualifier Green was runner-up at Milan Edison early in the season; while the senior Deatruck was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this year has finished second in two tournaments and third in another. Rounding it out is the junior Carpenter, who has been at both 170 and 182 this year, so it might behoove him to explore the 182 path.

The highest returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Sullivan, who placed third here last year, and this year went 2-2 at the Ironman; while his other loss was 7-5 to Schram in finishing runner-up at Eaton. The other three ranked wrestlers at the Troy district are a returning state placer, state qualifier, and state alternate. The senior Windle placed seventh at state last year, and this year was champion at Lincolnview (pin over Brown); the senior Alexander qualified for state last year; while fellow senior Brown was runner-up at Lincolnview, champion at Lima CC (December), and a semifinalist at the CIT.

Wrapping it up is a Coshocton district that features four state ranked wrestlers, three of whom are returning state qualifiers. That group is led by the junior McFadden, who has the lone state tournament win of that trio. The senior Pack went two-and-out in this weight class at the Schott last year, while this year he has titles at Marion Harding and Marion Pleasant to his credit; while the junior McFarland did

the same exact thing last year at state, and this year was runner-up at the OVAC meet. The other ranked wrestler here is the junior Lowery, who was third at the OVAC and champion at Wellsville.

182 pounds

1. Kollin Moore, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Ben Miller, Covington, senior (Troy)
3. Jack Huffman, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
4. Jack Staggs, Milan Edison, junior (Fostoria)
5. Mark Francis, Delta, senior (Fostoria)
6. Kyle Johnson, Northmor, senior (Coshocton)
7. Caleb Johnson, Paint Valley, junior (Coshocton)
8. John Kelbly, Smithville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Jeffrey Botts, Bethel Tate, junior (Troy)
10. Tyler Faust, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Troy)
11. Travis Pickering, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Christian Climer, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Anthony Italiano, Jackson Milton, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Peyton Hamrick, Parkway, junior (Troy)
15. Josh Bialosky, Beachwood, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Colton Lybarger, Fredericktown, senior (Coshocton)

COSH – K. Johnson, C. Johnson, Lybarger, Dalton Hoover (Martins Ferry, freshman); Ben Hostetler (Ridgewood, senior)

FOS – Staggs, Francis, Dan Henline (Gibsonburg, senior), Tyler Baird (Genoa, senior); Luke Bowman (Riverdale, senior)

GH – Moore, Kelbly, Pickering, Climer; Italiano, Bialosky

TROY – Miller, Huffman, Botts, Faust; Hamrick

In case you forgot what was written in the second paragraph of this whole report, or didn't read it in the first place, a discussion was had about Kollin Moore. The two-time state runner-up has seen a massive leap within his performance, and has become in all probability the best senior in the Buckeye State this year. Quite frankly, there was no sign of this coming based on his productivity in the spring/summer period (runner-up at NHSCA Juniors and Disney Duals bronze medal is solid stuff, not earth shattering).

What is staggering is finishing runner-up at the Super 32 Challenge less than two weeks after completing a high school soccer season, then scoring a tech-pin against projected Division I state champion Darmstadt in the Bill Dies final (i.e. if the pin doesn't occur, the match would have ended in a tech fall).

With that said, Tom Ryan and the Ohio State staff scored a coup to secure a verbal out of Moore during the summer, before this emergence. He's the overwhelming favorite in this weight class, one that happens just to feature two other returning state placers. Both those wrestlers – fellow seniors Miller and Huffman – exit the district tournament at Troy, which also includes three other ranked wrestlers.

Miller placed sixth down a weight class last year, and this year was fourth at the GMVWA (up at 195) before taking second at Troy (15-4 loss to projected Division II champ Harris) and winning the title at Lima CC in January (5-2 over Huffman). Huffman placed seventh up a weight class last year, and suffered a pair of losses in December to Buettner at 195 before making the drop. Since dropping to this weight class, he was third at the CIT and runner-up at Lima CC (January). Botts was a state alternate last year

down one weight class, and this year was fourth at SWOWCA as well as taking second at Miami Trace. The senior Faust was a go-to-state match loser in this weight last year, and has four tournament titles this season; while the junior Hamrick was runner-up to Faust at Lincolnview.

Circling back to Moore, he exits the deepest district in all at the weight class. The other five wrestlers ranked at Garfield Hts are in hunt for three state spots behind Moore. None are a threat to upend Moore, all are ranked eighth or lower. On top of that ladder is the sophomore Kelbly, who won a title at Smithville. Two returning state alternates are ranked here in this weight class, Pickering and Italiano; Pickering won the title at Marion Harding, while Italiano was fifth at Solon and seventh the Hephner. The senior Climer has dropped down into this weight class after placing fifth (at 195) at North Canton; while the sophomore Bialosky missed the bulk of the season after placing at this weight last year at district, though he was runner-up at CVC to a non-ranked wrestler since his return.

Ranked fourth and fifth in this weight class division are returning state qualifiers exiting the district at Fostoria. The junior Staggs was champion at Milan Edison, 0-2 at the Ironman, but has missed a significant portion since then; while the senior Francis started the season at 170 before flipping spots with Patchin. Since moving to 182, Francis was third at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay. Given that these are the lone ranked wrestlers at the district, and the status of Staggs is an open question, this could be a soft landing spot seeing the abundance of ranked wrestlers in the weight classes above and below.

Closing it out here is a district at Coshocton that features just three ranked wrestlers, led by a pair that went two-and-out at the Schott last year. The senior Kyle Johnson was runner-up at the Gorman and champion at Marion Pleasant in this weight class, after finishing fourth up at 195 at Marion Harding; while the junior Caleb Johnson has also spent time at both 182 and 195. No other wrestler won more than one match at district in this weight class last year. The third ranked wrestler here is the senior Lybarger, who was fourth at the Gorman.

195 pounds

1. Jacob Worthington, Milan Edison, senior (Fostoria)
2. Kyle Dieringer, Versailles, senior (Troy)
3. Tristan Anderson, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Wes Buettener, Delphos St. John's, senior (Troy)
5. Scott Wohlheter, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Dom Johns, Coshocton, senior (Coshocton)
7. Garrett Dudte, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Colton Booth, Tri-County North, senior (Troy)
9. Drake Reed, Margareta, senior (Fostoria)
10. Will Bolanz, Waterloo, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Gavin Saul, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Fostoria)
12. Kent Petersen, Patrick Henry, sophomore (Fostoria)
13. Ryan Slone, Black River, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Madison Jaso, Gibsonburg, sophomore (Fostoria)
15. Matt Rainey, Swanton, senior (Fostoria)
16. Lane Foster, Northmor, senior (Coshocton)

COSH – Johns, Foster, Mitchell Peck (Utica, senior), Corey Taylor (West Muskingum, junior); Caide Bunfill (Barnesville, sophomore)

FOS – Worthington, Reed, Saul, Petersen; Jaso, Rainey

GH – Anderson, Wohlheter, Dudte, Bolanz; Slone

TROY – Dieringer, Buettner, Booth, Tristan Devlin (Troy Christian, senior); Jarod Woodland (Ada, senior)

Two senior in this weight class have fractionally placed themselves ahead of the field in two-time state placer Worthington and returning state placer Dieringer. Worthington, who placed the last two years at 182 pounds while competing for Keystone (Division III in 2013, Division II in 2014) had to miss the first half of the season, but since returning has a pair of wins over returning state placer Anderson. He anchors the deepest district in this weight class, the one at Fostoria with six ranked wrestlers in all.

None of the other five are a true threat to Worthington, so they're seeking three other state spots. The senior Reed was a go-to-state match loser up a weight class last year at 220 pounds, won two tournaments in early December at that weight class, but has since made the drop. Next on the district ladder is the senior Saul, who won his conference tournament, and beat returning state qualifier Francis 10-9 in dual meet competition. The sophomore Petersen qualified for state last year, and this year was runner-up at Lima CC in December before taking fourth at Lima CC in January. Fellow sophomore Jaso was champion at Van Buren and his league meet; while the senior Rainey was champion at Northwood and runner-up in three other tournaments this season.

The other deep district in this weight class is at Garfield Hts, where five ranked wrestlers are competing, led by a state placer and two others that won a match last year at the Schott. The junior Anderson is the returning state placer, having finished fourth at state last year; this year he finished runner-up to Worthington at Marion County. The senior Wohlheter qualified for state in this weight class last year, and this year finished top eight at North Canton along with fifth at Medina; while fellow state qualifier Bolanz did so last year as a freshman down a weight class. Ranked between Wohlheter and Bolanz in this district's ladder is the senior Dudte, who was third at Marion Harding (quarterfinal loss in the tiebreak to Buettner, consolation final win over a returning state qualifier) and lost narrowly (2-0) to Anderson in late January. Rounding out the ranked group in this district is the senior Slone, who was a go-to-state match loser last year up at 220 pounds. This year he was seventh at Marion Harding, fifth at the Gorman, and first at Willard.

Three returning state qualifiers exit the Troy district, but they are the only three ranked wrestlers at present. Leading the way is returning state third place finisher Dieringer, who has titles at Sidney and the GMVWA, along with a runner-up finish at Oregon Clay (5-4 win over projected Division II champ Kremiller in the semifinal, 7-1 loss to projected Division I champ Stencil). Returning state qualifier Buettner is up two weight classes from last year, and has won titles at four different tournaments this season (including two victories over returning state placer Huffman). The third state experience wrestler is the senior Booth, who was third at Lima CC in January. State alternate Devlin and district placer Woodland are also in this weight class, but not among the sixteen ranked; while one could see Svarda drop down here and make life more unpleasant than it already is here.

Wrapping it up here is a rather barren district at Coshocton (seems like that's been typed many times in this report). At present there are just two ranked wrestlers here, the returning state placer Johns and the senior Foster. The senior Johns was seventh last year at 182 pounds, and has been deliberating between that weight class and this one; while Foster was up at 220 early in the season (runner-up at Big Walnut) before returning state qualifier Kyle Johnson dropped, which enabled him to slide in here. In competition at 195, Foster failed to place at the Gorman and was champion at Marion Pleasant. Third in the ladder at this district, though not ranked top 16, is returning state alternate Peck.

220 pounds

1. Jay Nino, Genoa, senior (Fostoria)
2. Ben Sullivan, National Trail, sophomore (Troy)
3. Cameron Conaway, South Central, junior (Fostoria)
4. Adrian Harding, Greeneview, senior (Troy)
5. Nick Svarda, Middletown Madison, junior (Troy)
6. Devin Richards, Delta, junior (Fostoria)
7. Jared Crowell, Bishop Hartley, junior (Coshocton)
8. Jerek Cropper, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Dan Jones, Columbus Academy, senior (Coshocton)
10. Collin Kelly, Mogadore, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Michael Furbee, St. Clairsville, junior (Coshocton)
12. Donald Moore, Waynesville, senior (Troy)
13. Charlie Smith, Hanoverton United, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Hunter Bodkin, Martins Ferry, freshman (Coshocton)
15. Kyle Gigandet, Versailles, junior (Troy)
16. Tanner Potts, Monroe Central, junior (Coshocton)
17. Devin Uzelac, Elmwood, senior (Fostoria)

COSH – Crowell, Jones, Furbee, Bodkin; Potts

FOS – Nino, Conaway, Richards, Uzelac; Marcus O’Flaherty (Carey, junior)

GH – Cropper, Kelly, Smith, Zach Hackett (Brookfield, junior); Sam Fuchs (Canton C.C., senior)

TROY – Sullivan, Harding, Svarda, Moore; Gigandet, Billy Cadaweller (Williamsburg, senior)

In any weight class, especially an upper weight, it is rare to see four of the top finishers from the previous year’s state tournament all back to compete again in the weight class. However, that is the case here; as both finalists, along with the fourth and fifth place finishers, return. Three of those placers, including the defending state champion exit the Fostoria district.

The senior Nino is the returning state champion in this weight class. He started the season at 285 pounds, where he fell a match short of placing at the Walsh Ironman; since then, he dropped to this weight class and won titles at Perrysburg (5-1 over Richards) and the NBC. The junior Conaway placed fourth at state, and actually won the district tournament last year; while this season, he won a title at Willard. Fellow junior Richards was actually fourth at the district before taking fifth at state. This year he was third at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg, and champion at Oregon Clay. The fourth spot here is an open competition, with the senior Uzelac tabbed as the pick for purposes of this publication.

By making the finals last year at 220 as a freshman, Sullivan earned the distinction of being the “biggest” freshman to ever make the state final. His state semifinal win came over Conaway by 3-2 decision, after pinning Richards in the opening round, and before losing by fall to Nino in the final. This year he was fourth at the Ironman and first at Eaton (5-2 over fellow state qualifier Human). Sullivan anchors the Troy district, which in present composition has four other ranked wrestlers.

Leading that challenge pack is the senior Harding, a returning state qualifier, who this season was fourth at the GMVWA before winning three different tournament titles. Next in line is the junior Svarda, who was 2-2 in district tournament competition while at Division II Carlisle last year; in addition, he could end up competing at 195 pounds. On the season, he was runner-up at Harding at Bellbrook (3-1 loss) before

winning a title at Reading. The senior Moore is a returning state alternate, and this season won a title at Centerville; while the junior Gigandet was first at Sidney and third at Oregon Clay.

Also with five ranked wrestlers is the district at Coshocton, which also features three returning state qualifiers. It's led by the junior Croswell, the only one of the three to actually win a match at the Schott last year; while this season he was champion at Olentangy Liberty before failing to place at the GMVWA, and subsequently placed third at the CIT and second at Groveport Madison. Next is the senior Jones, a two-time state qualifier, though he has yet to win a match at state; while the junior Potts was fifth at the OVAC with losses to two contestants in this district tournament (3-1 to Bodkin, 4-2 to Furbee). The junior Furbee was third at the OVAC with wins over Potts and Bodkin (1-0); while the freshman Bodkin was a junior high state runner-up last year, and this year placed fourth at the OVAC.

Last here is the Garfield Hts district, which features just three ranked wrestlers, led by the junior Cropper who did not wrestle last season due to injury. This season, he came back with a storm finishing runner-up at Brecksville and winning a title at the Gorman (pinning Chaney along the way), before taking fourth at the Dies. Fellow junior Kelly was eighth at the Bill Dies, but beat Cropper 5-3 in a late January dual meet; while the senior Smith was a state qualifier last year at 285 pounds, but failed to place at North Canton this season.

285 pounds

1. Chance Veller, Delta, junior (Fostoria)
2. Blake Cary, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Seth Bloor, Wellsville, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Jon Bodkin, Martins Ferry, senior (Coshocton)
5. Paul Deely, Independence, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Brandon Workman, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Fostoria)
7. Isaac Sexton, Van Buren, senior (Fostoria)
8. Mike Mollohan, Mt. Gilead, junior (Coshocton)
9. Ben Ferguson, Miami East, junior (Troy)
10. Kelly Barthalow, Ridgewood, senior (Coshocton)
11. Isaiah Harding, Greeneview, sophomore (Troy)
12. Brandon Bennett, Patrick Henry, junior (Fostoria)
13. Chance Rucker, Caldwell, junior (Coshocton)
14. Derek Smith, Defiance Tinora, sophomore (Fostoria)
15. Nick Gelhaus, Madeira, junior (Troy)
16. Justin Kilburn, Monroe Central, junior (Coshocton)

COSH – Bodkin, Mollohan, Barthalow, Rucker; Kilburn

FOS – Veller, Workman, Sexton, Bennett; Smith

GH – Cary, Bloor, Deely, Jacob Zimmerman (Orrville, junior); Charlie Draucker (Trinity, junior)

TROY – Ferguson, Harding, Gelhaus, Blake Sampson (Bluffton, junior); Reilly Lipinski (Tri-County North, senior)

Though eight wrestlers return in this weight class with state experience, just two placed at the state tournament previously. One of those two, the junior Veller, will enter the state series as the favorite. His emergence as a clear lead-dog in this weight class is one of the reasons that Delta should be able to repeat as champions in the individual state meet. Already this season, he placed third at the Ironman

and Oregon Clay, with titles at Brecksville and Perrysburg; he has six wins over returning Ohio state tournament placers.

The district that he exits at Fostoria has four other ranked wrestlers in the hunt for the remaining three state spots. The senior Workman is a returning state alternate, who was runner-up at Milan Edison and Bellevue this season; while the fellow senior Sexton as sixth at district last year, and this year has won tournaments at Northwood and Lima CC (January). The junior Bennett was first at Lima CC in December, before taking third in the January Lima CC event. Finally, Smith was state alternate last year as a freshman down at 220 pounds, and this year was fifth at Perrysburg and first in his conference tournament.

The other state placer is the senior Bodkin, who placed fifth at state last year, including a consolation quarterfinal win over Veller. This season, he was runner-up at the OVAC (losing in the tiebreaker to Bloor) and did win the title at New Lexington. Bodkin exits the other deep district at this weight class, as there are four other ranked wrestlers present at Coshocton, including two other returning state qualifiers in Mollohan and Barthalow. The junior Mollhoan was runner-up at both Marion Harding and Lima Senior this season, while the senior Barthalow joined Mollohan in winning a state tournament match last year. The junior Rucker was runner-up at Gallia and fifth at the OVAC meet with a pair of wins over Kilburn, the other ranked wrestler at this site; the fellow junior was state alternate in this weight class last year, and this season was sixth at the OVAC meet.

Two other state qualifiers, both of whom won a match, will exit the Garfield Hts district. However, the top-ranked wrestler here (2nd overall) is a senior that went two-and-out last year in the 182 pound weight class at the district tournament. On the season, Cary was fourth at the Gorman (losing 6-5 to McCoy in the semifinal), runner-up at the Top Gun and Central Crossing, along with winning the Hephner (including a 5-1 win over Urban in the semifinal). The senior Bloor qualified for state last year at 220 pounds, and this year was champion at both the OVAC and Wellsville; while fellow senior Deely placed fifth at the North Coast, sixth at Medina, and third at the CVC. The fourth projected qualification spot would be taken by a non-ranked wrestler.

Rounding it out is the district at Troy, which feature just three ranked wrestlers, two of whom are returning state qualifiers. The junior Ferguson leads the ladder here despite going two-and-out at last year's state tournament; this season he has finished runner-up in three different tournaments (twice to Cloud, the other time at Lima CC in January, losing 10-4 to Sexton). Also returning as a state qualifier is fellow junior Gelhaus, who failed to place at the Lima CC (January) event. The sophomore Harding is the other ranked wrestler; this season he placed sixth at the GMVWA, runner-up at Beaver creek, champion at Bellbrook, and fourth at Lima CC (January).

Team Board

1. Delta <Fostoria>; 2. Dayton Christian <Troy>
(If Lacure and A. Hoskins end up being available they win; if just one it's a dead heat)
3. Milan Edison <Fostoria>
4. Mechanicsburg <Troy>
5. Covington <Troy>
6. Norwayne <Garfield Hts>
7. Troy Christian <Troy>
8. Genoa <Fostoria>
9. Waynedale <Garfield Hts>; 10. Tuslaw <Garfield Hts>