

DIVISION I

106 pounds

1. Lucas Byrd, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Julian Tagg, Brecksville, freshman (North Canton)
3. Jake Canitano, Solon, sophomore (North Canton)
4. Mick Burnett, Elyria, freshman (Mentor)
5. Angelo Rini, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
6. Gavin Sampsel, Massillon Perry, freshman (North Canton)
7. Logan Agin, Lancaster, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
8. Blake Saito, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
9. Lucas Seibert, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Andy Graham, Louisville, senior (North Canton)
11. Nick Nastasi, Kenston, freshman (North Canton)
12. Pacey Nasdusak, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Michael Shaw, Olmsted Falls, junior (Mentor)
14. Ricardo Oviedo, Perrysburg, freshman (Mentor)
15. Cameron Baird, Harrison, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Kyle Petersen, Aurora, sophomore (North Canton)
17. Jared Dressler, Medina, junior (North Canton)

HD – Agin, Saito, Seibert, Doug Patterson (Mifflin, junior); Kyle Murray (Dublin Coffman, junior)

KF – Byrd, Nasdusak, Baird, Cole McGuire (Miamisburg, sophomore); William Doepker (Cincinnati Elder, freshman)

MEN – Burnett, Rini, Shaw, Oviedo; Nick Sabin (Mentor, freshman)

NC – Tagg, Canitano, Sampsel, Graham; Nastasi, Petersen, Dressler

Many thing of this opening weight class as the bastion of freshmen. However, that is not necessarily the case. Prior to the state title won by Bryce Andonian, when he beat fellow freshman Gabriel Tagg in the final, one has to go back to 2010 for the last time a freshman won the opening weight class in the big-school division. That champion was also from St. Edward, Dean Heil. This year, half of the top sixteen consists of freshmen, including two of the four (or five) core contenders for the state title.

Leading the way here is a sophomore in Lucas Byrd, who placed seventh in this weight class last year despite being extremely undersized. This year at full size, he has had a most excellent season only losing in overtime of the Ironman final to freshman Julian Tagg, a loss that was avenged by an 8-4 decision victory in the Brecksville final. Byrd also has titles to his credit at Franklin (at 113), SWOWCA Classic, Top Gun, and the Grizzly Invitational. Should he (or any teammate) win a state title, it would be the school's first since 1976, when Neal Nyer picked up their only state title in program history.

The previously mentioned Tagg entered high school as a Junior High state champ in eighth grade and a Cadet National freestyle champion during the summer. He won the Ironman final over Byrd in the final, also earning wins over projected Division II champ Jacob Decatur and fellow Division I contender Burnett in that tournament. Additional tournament results include a runner-up finish at the Beast of the East and titles in his conference and over Burnett in the Bill Dies final.

Tagg exits an absolutely loaded district at North Canton, one that includes four other wrestlers near the top ten statewide. The first of those challengers is the sophomore Canitano, who placed fifth last year in

this weight class; this season he was champion at Solon and a semifinal loser at Brecksville. However, Canitano has not competed since injury defaulting those consolation matches. Next on the ladder is the freshman Sampsel, who was one match from placing at both the Ironman and the Beast before winning titles at Medina and the Rieman Invitational, along with a runner-up finish at Delaware Hayes. The senior Graham is the fourth projected state qualifier, and was a state alternate last year in this weight class; this season he has runner-up finishes at North Canton and the Hephner, with placements at Medina and the Top Gun.

Additional contenders in this weight class include the freshman Nastasi, who was champion at Kenston and Perry, and has only lost to Canitano and Byrd on the season; the junior Petersen, who placed fourth at Top Gun; and returning state qualifier Dressler, who was runner-up at Maumee Bay.

The other two primary challengers to Byrd exit the Mentor district. The freshman Burnett placed sixth at the Ironman, and was less than ten seconds away from making the final (losing 4-3 to Tagg on a late takedown); in addition he was fifth at Brecksville losing to projected state champions Byrd and Decatur, along with runner-up at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Rini was the backup to state champion Andonian last year, and a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer; this season he went undefeated at the Clash, and has a dual meet victory over projected Division II runner-up Tanner Jordan. Other ranked wrestlers at this district are returning state alternate Shaw and the freshman Oviedo.

At the Kettering Fairmont district that Byrd anchors, there are just two other ranked wrestlers. The freshman Nasdusak was on match from placing at the Dvorak in Illinois, and was runner-up at Western Brown; while the sophomore Baird was champion at Fairfield and placed third up a weight class in the SWOWCA Classic.

Rounding it out is the Hilliard Darby district, which features three ranked wrestlers, led by the freshmen Agin and Saito; both were junior high state runners-up last year. Agin placed at the Super 32 Challenge in the pre-season, and has titles at Olentangy (at 113) and Olentangy Liberty, along with fifth place finishes at Medina and New Lexington (at 113). Saito was champion at Olentangy Liberty up a weight class, fourth at Brecksville in this weight class, and third at the Bill Dies and Grizzly Invitational. Returning district placer Seibert is the other ranked wrestler, and he placed fourth at Medina.

113 pounds

1. Gabriel Tagg, Brecksville, sophomore (North Canton)
2. Brakan Mead, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Dylan Shawver, Elyria, freshman (Mentor)
4. Zach Shupp, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Caleb Yates, Anthony Wayne, senior (Mentor)
6. Kyle Gruber, Massillon Perry, junior (North Canton)
7. Cory Baird, Harrison, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Bryce Hephner, St. Edward, freshman (Mentor)
9. Jimmy Carmany, Wadsworth, freshman (North Canton)
10. Gannon Petrullo, Dover, senior (North Canton)
11. Andrew Knick, Clayton Northmont, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Mason Kleinberg, Springboro, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Parker Brunkala, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
14. Micah Desseau, Hilliard Davidson, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Jacob Sherman, Olentangy, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)

16. Zach Collins, Grove City Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Mead, Desseau, Sherman, Collins; Alec Fulwider (Watkins Memorial, junior)

KF – Shupp, Baird, Knick, Kleinberg; Marcus Nasdusak (Mason, senior)

MEN – Shawver, Yates, Hepner, Brunkala; Tate Zeman (Avon, junior)

NC – Tagg, Gruber, Carmany, Petrullo; Caleb Graber (Green, sophomore)

The top two wrestlers in this weight class met last year in the state semifinal at 106 pounds. Now senior Mead, state runner-up as a sophomore, held a 3-0 lead on the now sophomore Tagg entering the third period; however, Tagg would score two takedowns in that period to force overtime, where Tagg would score another takedown to win. This season, the pair of wrestlers have not met, though they have split tournaments in terms of placing higher.

Tagg was on fire in the early season, making the finals at both the Ironman (where he won) and the Beast of the East, going 4-1 against nationally ranked wrestlers along the way. He would suffer a 9-7 defeat to the freshman Shawver in the Brecksville quarterfinals, placing third in that event; but would avenge that loss in the Bill Dies final with a 5-0 decision victory. Three other ranked wrestlers join Tagg at the North Canton district.

The junior Gruber went 5-4 at the nation's two toughest individual bracket tournaments, including a win over Shawver at the Ironman. He then was runner-up at Medina, fourth at Top Gun, and champion at the Rieman; while losing 8-3 to Mead in a dual meet. The freshman Carmany was a junior high state champ last year, and on the season placed third at North Canton and the Grizzly invitational, along with fifth at Medina. Rounding it out is two-time state qualifier Petrullo, runner-up at the Mike Lewis Invitational (at 120) and the Top Gun.

Mead placed sixth at the Ironman, but would win at Brecksville with victories over projected Division II state champion Cardello and Shawver along the way. He was also runner-up at the Grizzly Invitational, where he lost to Cardello. Three other ranked wrestlers join Mead at the Hilliard Darby district. The junior Desseau was champion at Hamilton Township and third at the Rieman. The sophomore Sherman has a title at Sparta Highland, a trio of tournament runner-up finishes, a third at Medina, and fifth place finishes at Top Gun and the Rieman. Last year a state qualifier at 120, the senior Collins has three tournament titles to go with a fourth at the Rieman and a fifth at North Canton. Returning state alternate Fulwider is also in this district.

The freshman Shawver bounced back from a two-and-out at the Ironman with a sixth place finish at the Ironman and a runner-up finish at Brecksville where he beat three returning state placers. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Mentor district, a group led by 2015 state champion Yates; he also went two-and-out at the Ironman, then missed a large chunk of the season before coming back to win his conference tournament. The freshman Hepner has been battling another freshman teammate (Scott Richter) for the starting position, but seems to have solidified a grip on the position. Last among the ranked group here is returning state alternate Brunkala, who made the late drop into this weight class when he finished runner-up to Shawver at the league tournament; he won three tournaments up at 120 earlier in the season. Also at the Mentor district is returning state qualifier Zeman.

Rounding it out is the Kettering Fairmont district, which features four ranked wrestlers led by returning state placer Shupp. On the season, Shupp has won three tournament titles and was fifth at Brecksville. Next in line is the senior Baird, a state placer in 2015; this season he was champion at the SWOWCA up

one weight class and runner-up at the Riemann in this weight class. Rounding out the ranked group is a pair of freshmen in Knick and Kleinberg; each has won two tournaments, was runner-up in another, and placed at the GMWVA. Also in this district is returning state qualifier Nasdusak.

120 pounds

1. Bryce Andonian, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
2. Colin Schuster, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Tyson Long, Shaker Hts., senior (North Canton)
4. Jordan Rosselli, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Gio DiSabato, Hilliard Davidson, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Logan Heil, Brunswick, sophomore (North Canton)
7. Andrew Perelka, Brecksville, junior (North Canton)
8. Ronnie Pietro, Vandalia Butler, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Chad Craft, Clayton Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Brandon Fenton, Elyria, junior (Mentor)
11. Cody Moosman, Anthony Wayne, senior (Mentor)
12. Jack Gorman, Aurora, sophomore (North Canton)
13. Jabari Thomas, Fairfield, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jovan Fuqua, Princeton, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Tyler Kaminski, Green, junior (North Canton)
16. Jack Collins, Cincinnati Elder, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Rosselli, DiSabato, Jakaria Hossan (Dublin Coffman, senior), Bailey Munday (Big Walnut, junior); Cameron Farmer (Mt. Vernon, senior)

KF – Schuster, Pietro, Craft, Thomas; Fuqua, Collins

MEN – Andonian, Fenton, Moosman, Deshea Pettiford (Fremont Ross, sophomore); Jeff Brichford (Madison, junior)

NC – Long, Heil, Perelka, Gorman; Kaminski

As mentioned earlier, Andonian won the 106 pound weight class last year as a freshman. This year he has done nothing to suggest that he won't move halfway to joining Dean Heil among the club of four-time state champions to wear the St. Edward singlet. While he does have three losses on the season, all are to nationally ranked wrestlers (two out of state, and one to projected Division II state champion Crace); in addition he placed third at the Ironman with a pair of wins over a Junior freestyle All-American from Blair Academy (Madara) along the way.

Joining Andonian in the Mentor district at this weight class is another state champion in the junior Fenton. This is a good time to mention a procedural change in district bracketing for this season. Like at the state tournament, if two sectional champions placed top three at the state tournament last year, they will be placed in opposite half-brackets; prior to this change, one could imagine a scenario where Andonian and Fenton were in the same half-bracket at the district tournament.

It has been an uneven season for Fenton so far, including a two-and-out at the Ironman and sustaining an injury prior to Brecksville. He did come back to a fifth place finish at the Bill Dies, but is still trying to find a full rhythm. That being said, Fenton was a nine loss district and state champion last year, so there's time for a peak to happen. The other ranked wrestler in this district is returning state placer Moosman, who was a match from placing at Brecksville before winning three tournaments in calendar year 2017 (including Maumee Bay).

The deepest of the district tournaments in this weight class is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which is anchored by two-time state placer Schuster. He placed third last year in this weight class, forcing eventual state champion Noah Baughman into a comeback victory in the opening round before winning five straight bouts. On the season, he has three tournament titles along with a fifth place finish at the Dvorak.

Leading the other five ranked wrestlers are a pair of returning state placers in Pietro and Craft. The junior Pietro placed twice at 106 while competing at Division III Dayton Christian; this season he went two-and-out at the Ironman before winning three tournaments, including a pair of finals victories over Craft. The senior Craft placed sixth last year in the 113 pound weight class, and has a title at Fairfield this season while losing to Pietro in the finals at the GMVWA and GWOC tournaments. The sophomore Thomas was a state alternate last season, and has runner-up finishes in three tournaments to go with the seventh place finish at Brecksville. The junior Fuqua qualified for state last year at 106, winning a consolation match; he has a pair of tournament runner-up finishes at 126 pounds, was fourth at the GMVWA at 126, and dropped to 120 when he lost in the GMC semifinals to Thomas. Rounding out the group is the freshman Collins, who was fourth at SWOWCA and third at the Rieman, along with missing placement at Brecksville by one match.

Another deep district is the one at North Canton, which features five ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Long. He had three tournament finals at 126 this season, including wins at the Hephner and Kenston, before dropping into this weight to win his conference tournament (beating Heil in the semis). The sophomore Heil is a returning state qualifier, who missed placement at the Ironman by one match, while also winning a title at Solon and finishing runner-up at the Bill Dies. The junior Perelka was closed out of the Brecksville lineup last year by Tagg and since graduated multi-time state placer Jarod Bronstrup; now the starter he missed placement at Ironman and the Beast by a single match before placing fourth at both Brecksville and the Bill Dies (where he beat Fenton twice). Rounding out the ranked wrestlers are returning state placer Gorman (champion at Top Gun) and the junior Kaminski (runner-up at North Canton).

Last of the districts is the one at Hilliard Darby, which features a pair of ranked juniors that have made the state tournament twice. Rosselli is 1-4 in his state tournament career, and this season has placed in four different tournaments including a runner-up finish at Brecksville and title at the Grizzly Invitational; while DiSabato has placed twice at 106 pounds, while this season he has won three tournaments but was third at Brecksville losing to Rosselli in the semis. Also in this district weight is returning state qualifier Hossan, state alternate Munday, and district placer Farmer.

126 pounds

1. Matt Kazimir, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
2. Matt Fields, Walsh Jesuit, junior (North Canton)
3. Elan Heard, Cincinnati LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Jordan Ward, Cincinnati Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Jamien Hood, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Ronnie Rowan, Akron Firestone, junior (North Canton)
7. Josh Breeding, Elyria, junior (Mentor)
8. Michael North, Wadsworth, sophomore (North Canton)
9. Chase Craft, Clayton Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Jordyn James, Bedford, senior (North Canton)

11. Derek Sharp, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Blake Wright, Westerville North, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
13. Ryan Wissell, Medina, junior (North Canton)
14. Alex Lieb, Watkins Memorial, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. William Rodriguez, Lakewood, senior (Mentor)
16. Nolan Wochna, Brecksville, senior (North Canton)
17. Kyle Green, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Sharp, Wright, Lieb, Zach Williams (Delaware Hayes, sophomore); Joey Hutschler (Lancaster, junior)

KF – Heard, Ward, Hood, Craft; Green

MEN – Kazimir, Breeding, Rodriguez, Jihad Salti (Olmsted Falls, junior); Chase Walczak (Perrysburg, junior)

NC – Fields, Rowan, North, James; Wissell, Wochna

Like at 113 pounds, the top two wrestlers in this weight class met in the state semifinal last year. On that occasion, Fields came through with a 3-0 victory on a near fall in the third period. However in 2016-17, Kazimir beat Fields in a pre-season exhibition on a second period near fall and out-performed him in the Ironman (sixth vs. DNP going 3-2). Kazimir picked up a win over nationally ranked Chris Cannon (Blair Academy) in that Ironman run, and also beat another nationally ranked wrestler at the Clash (Weston DiBlasi, a Super 32 placer from Park Hill in Missouri).

Returning state runner-up Fields, who lost to Fenton in the final after beating Kazimir in the semifinal, has two tournament titles on the season along with a fourth place finish at Brecksville and a third place finish at the Top Gun. Five other ranked wrestlers join him at the North Canton district, led by the junior Rowan, who missed out on the state tournament last year due to injury in the go-to-match (the beneficiary of that injury default would appear on the podium at state the following week). On the season, Rowan lost to Fields 3-2 in consolation at the Ironman, and had the opening takedown in the semifinal of the Bill Dies against Breeding before having to injury default; no result has appeared for him since then.

Next on the ladder is the sophomore North, a returning state alternate, who lost district tournament matches to multi-time state medalists Hart and Lambert. On the season, he was champion at North Canton and runner-up at the Grizzly Invitational. 2015 state qualifier James missed the state tournament last year due to an illegal slam in a go-to-match at the district tournament that he was winning; this season he has a title at Aurora and runner-up finish at Kenston. The junior Wissel was a district placer two years ago, and has placed in four tournaments this season; while the senior Wochna competed last year at 145 pounds, but on this season was seventh at Brecksville and fifth at the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the district at Kettering Fairmont, led by the freshman Heard, a junior high state champion last year. Prior to the season, he was one match from placing at the Super 32 Challenge; while his three losses in contested matches year-to-date are 10-8 to nationally ranked Hunter Kosco (Ironman), 5-4 to nationally ranked Jordan Decatur (Top Gun), and 3-1 to Fields (Top Gun). In the fourth place finish at the Top Gun, he picked up three wins with state tournament experience.

The sophomore Ward is next, having a title at the CIT to go with beating four state placers on the way to finishing third at the Powerade. Returning state qualifier Hood was a match from placing at the Ironman, before finishing third at the Dvorak and winning (up at 132) the Hammer & Anvil. 2015 state placer Craft

was runner-up at the GMVWA, and has three tournament titles in calendar year 2017; while 2015 district placer Green placed eighth at Brecksville before finishing runner-up at Sycamore and the GMC.

At the Mentor district, Kazimir is joined by a pair of wrestlers with state experience. 2015 state qualifier Breeding went 7-4 between the Ironman and the Beast of the East before placing fifth at Brecksville and picking up titles at the Bill Dies and his conference tournament; Breeding also had a 4-2 win earlier this month over North. The senior Rodriguez made state in this weight class last year, and has won multiple tournaments on the season.

Rounding it out is the Hilliard Darby district, which features a trio of ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Sharp was runner-up at Sparta Highland, placed at Brecksville and Top Gun, before winning a title at Watkins. The freshman Wright entered high school as a junior high state champion, placed third at Sparta Highland and second at Medina in 2016, before titles at Dublin Scioto and Licking Hts in 2017. 2015 state qualifier Lieb was a state alternate last year, and has placed in three tournaments up a weight class; however, he's going to end up here instead of at a loaded 132 weight at his district.

132 pounds

1. Zack Donathan, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Allan Hart, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
3. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, senior (North Canton)
4. Luke Hernandez, Tri-Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Marco Regalbuto, Brecksville, sophomore (North Canton)
6. Luke Baughman, Wadsworth, sophomore (North Canton)
7. Elijah Perkins, Miamisburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Lamonte Chapman, Fremont Ross, junior (Mentor)
9. Daniel Segura, Dublin Scioto, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
10. Josh Grant, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Tre Bogetich, Westerville Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Drew Saunier, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Demetrius Monroe, Hilliard Davidson, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. D.J. Huff, St. Ignatius, sophomore (North Canton)
15. Skyler Decatur, Akron Ellet, senior (North Canton)
16. Zach Furnas, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Hernandez, Segura, Grant, Bogetich; Monroe, Furnas

KF – Donathan, Perkins, Saunier, Nino Salamone (Cincinnati Elder, senior); Jimmy Murphy (Milford, senior)

MEN – Hart, Chapman, Lance Hansen (Willoughby South, senior), Joey Staschiak (Findlay, senior); Nick Schneider (Anthony Wayne, junior)

NC – Brezovec, Regalbuto, Baughman, Huff; Decatur

With a pair of wrestlers owning Saturday night appearances in this weight class, now is a good time to remind that the separation principles in effect from previous years remain in place this season. Should Donathan (second last year) and Hart (third last year – in addition to the title two years ago) both win their district tournaments, they will be in opposite half brackets. Neither wrestler in question is likely to be challenged at the district level, both also exit thinner districts.

Donathan was runner-up last year in this weight class, losing 4-3 to Mattox in the state final; while his other wins in the tournament were 5-4 (to Brezovec) in the semifinal, 7-5 in the quarter, and 2-1 in the semifinal. He's been on absolute fire this season, starting with Saturday at the Ironman when he beat a trio of nationally ranked wrestlers to win the title (Jason Renteria, Grant Willits, and in overtime Mitch Moore). It has continued with four additional tournament titles, along with an additional win over a nationally ranked wrestler (Breyden Bailey in the JVH final). He was the projected state champion at 106 as a sophomore, but failed to make weight at the state tournament.

Only two other ranked wrestlers join him at Kettering Fairmont. Fellow senior Perkins is a multi-time state qualifier, and has appeared in five tournament finals this season, three titles and two second's (including to Moore at the GMVWA). Also a returning state qualifier is the senior Saunier, who was sixth at the GMVWA down one weight class, with a 4-1 loss to Perkins in the GWOC final at this weight class. Returning state alternate Salamone is also in this district weight class.

Hart was state champion at 113 pounds in 2015, upsetting Mattox 8-5 in the state final. Last year it was a third place finish, after squandering a third period lead in getting pinned by Alex Mackall in the state semifinal. He placed fourth at the Ironman, losing to Joint and Sherman, while picking up a win over nationally ranked Willits in consolation. The only other ranked wrestler at the Mentor district is the junior Chapman, who was a Cinderella state runner-up last year, needing to pick up a win over Josh Breeding merely to qualify for the state tournament. This season he placed fourth at Brecksville, was champion at the Gorman, and was upset in the final at the TRAC (by Staschiak). Returning state qualifier Matt Zuckerman (Elyria) is also here, but is rather underzied, as he can't make the lineup in any weight below him.

Two-time state placer Brezovec is the anchor figure at a North Canton district that features five ranked wrestlers. After losing to Donathan in the semi, he would lose 4-3 and 3-2 to finish sixth. Those are his last losses, as Brezovec is undefeated in his senior season; among his titles are those at Brecksville, Top Gun, and the Grizzly Invitational. Returning state qualifier Regalbuto was one match from placing at both the Ironman and Beast, was fifth at Brecksville (including an OT loss to Brezovec), and picked up titles in the Bill Dies and conference tournaments. Fellow sophomore Baughman is also a returning state qualifier. He was third at North Canton, including a 6-5 win over returning state runner-up Pasiuk, and runner-up in three additional tournaments; he is also 0-2 against Regalbuto this season (dual meet and conference tournament).

Also ranked in this district is the sophomore Huff, who missed placement at Brecksville by one match before winning the CIT; as is returning district placer Decatur, third at the North Coast Classic and runner-up at Hudson and the Hephner. Also likely to be in this district weight is returning state qualifier Chase Sommers (Uniontown Lake).

Rounding things out is the absolutely stacked district at Hilliard Darby, which features six ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Hernandez. Having competed virtually all the season up at 138, he was champion at Medina (and three other tournaments) along with placing third at North Canton and the Grizzly Invitational. Next on the ladder is the freshman Segura, who was champion at Dublin Scioto (18-11 win over Grant in the final) and Hamilton Township, along with a runner-up finish to Hernandez at Olentangy in the 138 weight class.

Returning state qualifier Grant was third at Medina, second at Dublin Scioto, and won the title at Licking Hts this season. Two-time district placer Bogetich is seeking an elusive state tournament appearance,

and has four-plus wins over state qualifiers on the season; within this district, he did lose 8-2 to Segura at Dublin Scioto. Also in this district weight class are state alternate Monroe and two-time state qualifier Furnas, both of whom placed at Brecksville in this weight class.

138 pounds

1. Moises Guillen, Perrysburg, senior (Mentor)
2. Corey Shie, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Carson Kharchla, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
4. Nick Henneman, Oregon Clay, senior (Mentor)
5. Sam Dover, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
6. Chris Donathan, Mason, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Gary Define, Massillon Perry, senior (North Canton)
8. Walker Heard, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
9. Andrew Garr, Aurora, sophomore (North Canton)
10. Jake Meredieth, Cincinnati Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Tomas Castaneda, Brunswick, senior (North Canton)
12. Andrew Fairbanks, Austintown Fitch, senior (North Canton)
13. Jax Leonard, Louisville, freshman (North Canton)
14. Andrew Murphy, Dover, senior (North Canton)
15. Jakee Frazier, Shaker Hts, senior (North Canton)
16. Jensen Quinn, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Kharchla, Heard, James White IV (Delaware Hayes, junior), Ben Yost (Dublin Coffman, junior); Tai Bloch (Hilliard Darby, senior);

KF – Shie, Donathan, Meredieth, Quinn; Justin Taylor (Oak Hills, junior)

MEN – Guillen, Henneman, Dover, Kevin Kelly (North Olmsted, senior); Charles Chapman (Fremont Ross, sophomore)

NC – Define, Garr, Castaneda, Fairbanks; Leonard, Murphy, Frazier

Older brother Mario had to clear a four-time state placer, three-time state finalist, and former state champion in Alex Mackall to earn gold at last year's state tournament. While that highly credentialed of an opponent is not present in this field, the path is none the less going to be robust for Moises Guillen. On this season, the three-time state placer (7th/3rd/2nd) is undefeated with notable titles at the Ironman and Bill Dies Memorial. Like Donathan in the weight below, he beat three nationally ranked wrestlers to win the Ironman (Shie 3-2, Grant Aronoff 3-1, and Cole Matthews 7-5 OT).

Two of the most direct challengers are the only other ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. Two-time state placer Henneman has six tournament titles on the season, including a pin over Shie in the Grizzly Invitational, while his losses came to 4-2 to Shie in the Brecksville final and 6-2 to Guillen in a dual meet earlier in February. The sophomore Dover placed fifth at 132 as a freshman, and started this season with an appearance in the Ironman quarterfinals keyed by an OT win over projected Division III state champ Barnett. However, during a 9-3 loss to Matthews, he sustained an injury that led to an injury default and missing competition until early February. Also here is returning state alternate Kelly.

Ranked second in this weight class is two-time state placer Shie, who was third at 132 last season and placed third in this weight class at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge. After losing to Guillen in the quarterfinal at Ironman, he suffered an upset overtime loss to projected Division II state champ Stickley. Since that bout, Shie is undefeated outside of the loss to Henneman in the Grizzly Invitational final, a run

that includes becoming a four-time champion at SWOWCA and Top Gun along with a tournament title at Brecksville. Three other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Kettering Fairmont.

Leading that group is the sophomore Donathan, who had to injury default during his go-to-state match last season. In 2016-17, he was one match from placing at the Ironman (losing to Matthews in OT in the round of 16), finished fourth at the Dvorak, and has a pair of tournament titles. Two-time state qualifier Meredieth was runner-up at SWOWCA and the Rieman, eighth at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT; while the senior Quinn upset Donathan to with the JVH, was runner-up to Donathan at the GMC, and has third place finishes in three other tournaments.

The sophomore Kharchla is the other primary contender. A Cadet freestyle All-American in the summer of 2015, he did not participate in the state series last season as he could not beat out Brady for the 132 position. He has been at 145 for the whole season, though all indications are he will drop to this weight for the post-season. He has three tournament titles, including two where he beat a state placer along the way, to go with a fifth place finish at Brecksville. The only other ranked wrestler at Hilliard Darby is fellow sophomore Heard, who won his opening round match last year at the state tournament. He placed seventh at Brecksville up a weight class before placing fourth at Top Gun in this weight class. Also at the district are returning state alternate White and district placer Yost.

Wrapping things up is the deepest of the districts, the one at North Canton that features seven ranked wrestlers, though none is a true title contender. Leading the group is returning state qualifier Define, who won five matches at the Beast and placed fifth at Medina up one weight class, while winning the Rieman in this weight class. Fellow state qualifier Garr was runner-up at Hudson and a placer at the Top Gun, while missing out on the podium at Brecksville by one match. The senior Castaneda placed seventh at the Bill Dies in this weight class, and upset returning state placer Muhammed 6-4 to win his conference tournament up a weight class.

Another returning state qualifier is the senior Fairbanks, who was fifth at the Top Gun and runner-up at the Hephner, but missed placing at Medina by a match. The freshman Leonard placed seventh at Medina, sixth at the Top Gun, and beat Fairbanks in the Hephner final. The senior Murphy placed eighth at 126 pounds last year, and was seventh in the Top Gun; while fellow senior Frazier beat Leonard to get on the podium at North Canton, won a title at Kenston, but lost to Leonard in the semis at the Hephner on the way to a third place finish.

145 pounds

1. Dominick Demas, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Jake Marsh, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Trey Grenier, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Antwon Pugh, Copley, senior (North Canton)
5. Eric Beck, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Austin Murphy, Cincinnati Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Nevan Snodgrass, Kettering Fairmont, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Farouq Muhammed, Shaker Hts, sophomore (North Canton)
9. Sam Meddings, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Jason Bronstrup, Brecksville, senior (North Canton)
11. Josh Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, junior (Mentor)
12. Malachi Strickland, Massillon Perry, senior (North Canton)
13. Alexander Gore, Olentangy, junior (Hilliard Darby)

14. Quade Rasmussen, St. Ignatius, senior (North Canton)
15. Cade Hepner, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
16. Cameron Schweiter, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Demas, Marsh, Grenier, Gore; Delonte Myers (Mifflin, senior)

KF – Beck, Murphy, Snodgrass, Meddings; Schweitzer

MEN – Jaeckin, Hepner, Garrett Anderson (Oregon Clay, junior), Drew Newton (Perrysburg, sophomore); Shawn Petty (Lorain, junior)

NC – Pugh, Muhammed, Bronstrup, Strickland; Rasmussen

As with the previous weight class, the theme of sibling success is prevalent. Josh Demas, the older brother of Dominick, was a four-time state placer from 2007-2010 when he finishing 2nd/3rd/1st/1st for Marion Pleasant and Westerville North. Come this state tournament, Dominick is looking to equal Josh as a four-time state placer, three-time state finalist, and two-time state champion. The wrestler projected to finish second, Jake Marsh, his older brother was also a four-time state qualifier and three-time state placer (6th/4th/3rd) from 2007-2010. Both older brothers were multi-time qualifiers for the Division I NCAA Tournament.

The pair of current wrestlers met in the round of 16 at the Walsh Ironman, where Demas prevailed by a 3-2 decision over Marsh; Demas would place fourth in the tournament, while Marsh placed seventh. Demas has titles at the GMVWA and (at 152) North Canton to go with a third place finish at the Rieman up at 152; while Marsh has titles at the Top Gun and Brecksville, the title at Brecksville up at 152 catapulted by a 6-5 semifinal upset over Brady. Two other ranked wrestlers, both with state experience feature in the Hilliard Darby district.

Returning state third Grenier was a quarterfinalist at the Walsh Ironman, sustaining an injury while pinned in that match, and did not return until early February. The junior Gore is already a two-time state qualifier, who this season placed third at North Canton and fourth at the Rieman, while finishing a match short of placing at Medina and the Top Gun.

A pair of wrestlers that have appeared on the state podium headline five ranked wrestlers at North Canton. Pugh placed at state as a sophomore before losing 2-0 in the quarterfinals to Muhammed and 8-6 to Grenier last year at the state tournament. This season he has titles at Medina, the Hephner, and his conference tournament with a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies. The previously mentioned Muhammed advanced to the semis as a freshman but slid back to sixth, and this has been an uneven season since returning in late December with an injury; champion at Kenston and a quarterfinal loser at the Hephner up at 152, runner-up at his conference tournament down in this weight class.

Also at the district are two-time state alternate Bronstrup, two-time district placer Strickland, and previous district placer Rasmussen. Bronstrup placed fourth at Brecksville, third at the Bill Dies, and was runner-up to Pugh in his conference tournament; Strickland was seventh at Top Gun and runner-up at the Rieman; while Rasmussen was runner-up at Solon and missed placement at Brecksville by a match.

Another pair of state placers leads five ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district. The senior Beck is also a three-time state qualifier and was champion at the SWOWCA this season, also placing third at the Grizzly Invitational and missed placement at the Walsh Ironman by one match. The junior Murphy was runner-up at SWOWCA, third at the CIT, missed placement at Brecksville by a match, and

was champion at the Rieman; he also has a notable dual meet victory over a two-time Pennsylvania state placer that was fourth at the Beast and Powerade.

The freshman Snodgrass missed placement at the Ironman and Brecksville by one match, and in 2017 has tournament titles at the JVH and GWOC. The senior Meddings was a state qualifier last year and won his opening round bout, while this season was champion at Fairfield and fourth at SWOWCA in the 152 weight class before dropping here to win a conference title. Fellow senior Schweitzer was runner-up to Meddings in the conference tournament and also placed second up a weight at Western Brown, while taking third in the Dvorak at this weight class.

Just two ranked wrestlers exit the Mentor district, returning state alternate Jaeckin and the senior Hepner. Jaeckin was third at Olentangy Liberty, seventh at Medina, and fourth at the Bill Dies; while Hepner won two matches at the Ironman before sustaining an injury that led to him missing a significant chunk of time before returning in early February.

152 pounds

1. Jaden Mattox, Grove City Central Crossing, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. David Carr, Massillon Perry, junior (North Canton)
3. Connor Brady, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
4. Connor Craig, Cincinnati Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Brady Chrisman, Medina, junior (North Canton)
6. David Johnson, Walsh Jesuit, junior (North Canton)
7. Hunter Perdue, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Connor Yauss, Cincinnati St. Xavier, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Cameron Jenkins, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Larry Grapo, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
11. Trevor Begin, Midview, junior (Mentor)
12. Brett McIntosh, Harrison, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Kevin Contos, Oregon Clay, freshman (Mentor)
14. Tyler Bates, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Chase Hoehnle, Oak Hills, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Braxton Freeman, Massillon Jackson, senior (North Canton)

HD – Mattox, Brady, Jenkins, Bates; Hunter Thornsberry (Newark, junior)

KF – Craig, Perdue, Yauss, McIntosh; Hohnle

MEN – Grapo, Begin, Contos, Drew Butera (Elyria, freshman); Brian Bethel (Holland Springfield, senior)

NC – Carr, Chrisman, Johnson, Freeman; Ethan Hatcher (Brecksville, freshman)

In order to win his second Ohio state title, now junior Carr beat defending state champion Demas by a decisive 8-4 match victory in last year's state final at 145 pounds. If he is to make it three-for-three, Carr could have to win another champ vs. champ final with fellow junior Mattox, who is also a two-time state finalist. The pair of wrestlers are ranked among the top five nationally in the weight class, and are among the best overall juniors in the country.

Carr has titles at Medina and the Top Gun, along with runner-up finishes at the Ironman, Beast, and the Rieman. Three other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at North Canton. Two-time district placer Chrisman finished third at both Medina and Maumee Bay, while winning titles at three other tournaments including the Hephner. A third ranked junior in this weight class is Johnson, who was

runner-up at Top Gun to Carr, runner-up at Solon, and champion in his conference meet. The senior Freeman placed seventh at the Bill Dies in this weight class, while finishing fifth at North Canton and runner-up at the Hephner up at 160 pounds.

The already mentioned Mattox leapt into the favorite position in this weight class with his championship performance at the Rieman, and it was one for the ages. He earned a 14-5 major decision over Demas in the semifinal before beating Carr 8-6 in the final. Since returning in mid-January, Mattox also was champion at Maumee Bay and (in the 160 weight class) at Central Crossing. A third major figure in this weight class is the nationally ranked Brady, fourth at state last year down three weight classes at 132; he also lost to Mattox in the district tournament semifinals. Just a sophomore, he was fifth in the pre-season Super 32 Challenge before placing third at both the Ironman (losing just in the tiebreaker against national No. 1 Hovis in the semifinal) and Brecksville along with titles in three other tournaments.

The other pair of ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district are returning state qualifier Jenkins, who has titles in two tournaments and placement in two others; along with the junior Bates, sixth at the Top Gun and champion at Dublin Scioto (3-2 over Jenkins in the final) and Watkins Memorial (at 160). Also here is returning state qualifier Riley Amador (Hilliard Bradley) and state alternate Ben Tate (Mt. Vernon).

Most voluminous in the rankings of the four districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont with five. 2015 state qualifier Craig missed the second half of last season with injury, but this season has been excellent winning at SWOWCA and the Rieman, while placing fourth at the Rieman and seventh at Brecksville. Fellow senior Perdue is a returning state qualifier, placing third at the Grizzly Invitational, fifth at SWOWCA and Top Gun, and missed placement at Brecksville by a single match. Another senior in Yauss was a state alternate last season, this season placing fourth at SWOWCA up at 160 before winning at Troy and taking third at the CIT in this weight class. The freshman McIntosh had an excellent runner-up finish at SWOWCA, was third at Fairfield, but sixth at the Rieman; while the junior Hoehnle was third at SWOWCA, missed placement at Medina by a match, and has a pair of tournament titles on the season.

Least here is a Mentor district that has just three ranked wrestlers. Leading the list is the senior Grapo, who competed opening weekend, and then missed a significant chunk of the season due to injury. The junior Begin was champion at Solon and missed placement at Brecksville by one match up at 160 before placing fifth at the Bill Dies in this weight. The freshman Contos placed fourth at Solon, and has earned fifth in three additional tournaments on the season.

160 pounds

1. Nick Kiussis, Brunswick, senior (North Canton)
2. Kyle Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Cody Surratt, Wadsworth, senior (North Canton)
4. Joe Koontz, Massillon Perry, senior (North Canton)
5. Michael Carpenter, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
6. Ti'Ric Evans, Cincinnati Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Joey Andrassy, Stow, senior (North Canton)
8. Josh Herhold, Perrysburg, senior (Mentor)
9. Cornell Beachem, Winton Woods, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Tristan Brady, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
11. Jimmy Traub, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Jack Stein, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

13. Quentin Thatcher, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Trey Sizemore, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Michael Feree, Austintown Fitch, junior (North Canton)
16. Logan Broskie, Olentangy Orange, senior (Hilliard Darby)
17. Alex Defaine, Medina, senior (North Canton)

HD – Lawson, Thatcher, Broskie, Chance Esmont (Pickerington Central, senior); Dereck Wilson (Licking Hts, junior), Jordan Deluse (Lancaster, junior)

KF – Evans, Beachem, Traub, Stein; Sizemore

MEN – Carpenter, Herhold, Brady, Noah Broski (Olmsted Falls, senior); Tyler Grine (Fremont Ross, senior), Sam Rocazella (Chardon, senior)

NC – Kiussis, Surratt, Koontz, Andrassy; Feree, Defraime

Prior to the 2016 state tournament, wrestlers that advanced to the state tournament in hunt of their fourth state title would win that state title on 27 out of the 27 occasions (though sometimes it was not bereft of controversy). However, in last year's Division II 120 pound semifinal, Tyler Warner was upset 6-4 by Seth Beard to be denied the chance of winning his fourth state title.

We could see a second straight year of a three-time state champion losing at the state tournament, as Lawson has already suffered defeats against two of his immediate peers in this weight class; losing 5-3 in the Bill Dies final at Kiussis and 7-6 in the Grizzly Invitational final to Surratt. He also lost 6-3 to projected Division II state champ Poullas in the final at Brecksville. Two other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Hilliard Darby. Returning state alternate Thatcher placed third at Sparta Highland, then had to miss time due to injury before placing fourth at the Grizzly Invitational (including a 5-4 win over Sizemore along the way), but had to injury default out of his last match. Returning district placer Broskie was runner-up at Upper Arlington and Olentangy Liberty before placing fifth at the GMVWA. Also here is returning state alternate Esmont.

Another historic feat could be achieved in this weight class, one that would be relatively depressing for the three-time state runner-up Kiussis. There has never been a four-time state runner-up in the previous 79 years of the OHSAA state tournament. The closest was Josh Horne (Pickerington Central), who finished as runner-up in 2002, 2003, and 2004 (the latter two of those losses to three-time state champ Jason Johnstone) before winning 6-4 in the 2005 state final over Mikey Davis.

During the course of his senior season, Kiussis has three tournament titles, a runner-up finish up a weight class at Medina (which included a semifinal win over the projected state champ Soehnen), and missed placing at the Ironman in this weight class with a pair of losses to top ten in the country wrestlers. Four/five other ranked wrestlers join him in a loaded district at North Canton, including three previous state medalists.

Surratt placed seventh last year in a loaded 152 pound weight class, but announced his name loud and clear when he gave national top five wrestler Hunter Bolen his only loss on the season, 2-1 in the round of 16 at the Ironman. Surratt also has titles at North Canton, Medina (where he avenged his consolation loss from the Ironman against Koontz), Grizzly Invitational (beating Lawson) and his conference tournament (beating Andrassy). The senior Koontz placed fourth in Division II as a sophomore for Akron SVSM, and was a state qualifier last season but had to miss the tournament due to injury. This season includes a sixth at Ironman, runner-up at Medina, along with titles at Top Gun and the Rieman. Andrassy placed fourth last year up at 170 pounds in the state tournament, but missed a large chunk of this

season; relatively early in his season was the 7-2 finals loss to Surratt this month in the Suburban League final. Seniors Feree and Defraime split matches against each other in advancing to the consolation finals at Medina, while Feree also beat Defraime in the semifinal at the Hephner; Defraime also has a title at Maumee Bay to his credit, while Feree missed placing at the Top Gun by a match.

Another five ranked wrestlers exit the district at Kettering Fairmont, a group led by the junior Evans, who is 0-4 in his pair of state tournament appearances. This season includes championships at SWOWCA and the CIT, along with a third place finish at Brecksville; dual meet results include a wins over Carpenter and Beachem as well as a loss to Sizemore. Returning state qualifier Beachem was third at SWOWCA and has titles in three other tournaments. The senior Traub was fourth at SWOWCA and fifth at Brecksville up a weight class before finishing runner-up to Beachem at Fairfield and beating returning state placer Stein in overtime to win the GMC in this weight. The just mentioned Stein also placed fourth at the Dvorak along with a runner-up finish at 170 in the Hammer & Anvil. Wrapping up the group is the sophomore Sizemore, who missed December due to injury, but returned in January to a sixth place finish at Top Gun and fifth at the Grizzly Invitational.

A trio of ranked wrestlers exit the Mentor district, led by the senior Carpenter, a state semifinalist last year before losing three in a row to place sixth. Among his results this season is a one-point loss to two-time state placer Thomas from St. Paris Graham in mid-January. Two-time state qualifier Herhold has won a match in each appearance at the state tournament, and this season was fifth at both Brecksville and the Bill Dies along with a pair of tournament titles. Returning state alternate Brady placed seventh at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge, but did not compete in the regular season until mid-January, where he has titles at Berea-Midpark and his conference tournament. It should be noted that Elyria could end up dropping the 152-170 combo of Butera, Brady, and Price down a weight class respectively.

170 pounds

1. Emil Soehnen, Massillon Perry, junior (North Canton)
2. Trevor Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Joey Baughman, Wadsworth, junior (North Canton)
4. Andrew Sams, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Michael Baker, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Brendan Price, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
7. Josiah Harrell, Licking Hts, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Shota Sisco, Pickerington Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Gary Wokojanec, Barberton, sophomore (North Canton)
10. Eric Vermillion, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Luke Reicosky, North Canton Hoover, junior (North Canton)
12. Alec Forrer, Midview, senior (Mentor)
13. Zenik Vovk, Massillon Jackson, junior (North Canton)
14. Jansen Love, Vandalia Butler, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Garrett Barth, Fremont Ross, junior (Mentor)
16. Michael O'Horo, Boardman, sophomore (North Canton)

HD – Lawson, Harrell, Sisco, Lenox Wolak (Dublin Coffman, sophomore); Hunter Heard (Marysville, senior)

KF – Sams, Baker, Vermillion, Love; Jacob Yost (Springfield, junior)

MEN – Price, Forrer, Barth, Dominic Shelley (Mentor, junior); Evan Lonsway (Holland Springfield, senior)

NC – Soehnen, Baughman, Wokojanec, Reicosky; Vovk, O'Horo

Two returning state runners-up are featured among the field in this weight class, and both are juniors. Lawson could not crack the starting lineup at St. Paris Graham as a freshman before transferring to Olentangy Liberty, where he found form in the post-season on the way to a runner-up finish in this weight class. Baughman advanced to the state semifinal at 145 as a freshman before sliding all the way to sixth, while last season he finished second at 160 to Trevor's older brother Kyle.

However, it's a third junior that has jumped to the head of this weight class. Two-time state qualifier Soehnlén is 1-4 in his pair of state tournament, though three of the losses came to wrestlers that exited said state appearance with eleven podiums between them. This season, he bested Baughman in overtime in the match to place at the Ironman, and has a pair of wins over Lawson (overtime in the Ironman consolation final and 2-1 in an early February dual meet). Soehnlén placed seventh at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge, also finishing fifth at the Beast, third at Medina, with titles at Top Gun and the Rieman.

Five other ranked wrestlers join him at the North Canton district, most notable among them Baughman, which makes it very likely that the loser of the district match between Soehnlén and Baughman will see Lawson in their half-bracket along with possibly another two-time state placer. On the season, Baughman also has a title at Medina (beating Kiussis 5-4 in the final) and the Suburban League, along with a runner-up finish at the Grizzly Invitational (2-1 to Lawson). Returning state qualifier Wokojanec was runner-up in the Suburban League and third at the Bill Dies. The junior Reicosky was fifth at the Top Gun down at 160 and champion at North Canton in this weight class. Fellow junior Vovk was a district placer last year, runner-up at North Canton and the Hephner this season and down at 160 place third at the Bill Dies. The sophomore O'Horo won a title at Kenston and was sixth at the Top Gun.

Lawson is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district, 2015 district champion Harrell and returning district placer Sisco. This season for Lawson also includes championships at Olentangy Liberty, the Bill Dies (where he beat projected Division II champ Crawford in the final), and Grizzly Invitational. Harrell has four tournament titles on the season, including one at Central Crossing where he beat Sisco 6-3 in the semifinal, while his two losses came at Olentangy Liberty (2-1 to Lawson and 9-5 to Sisco). Sisco was third at Olentangy Liberty and Central Crossing, runner-up at the GMVWA, and champion at Dublin Scioto.

A trio of ranked wrestlers feature at the Mentor district, led by returning state qualifier Price, who missed the first half of the season before returning with a title at Berea-Midpark, a dual meet victory over Surratt in overtime, and a runner-up finish in his conference tournament (losing 3-2 to Kiussis). Fellow senior Forrer is also a returning state qualifier, and was runner-up at Solon before missing placement by a match at Brecksville and the Bill Dies this season. Returning district placers Barth (ranked) and Shelley (not ranked) also exit this district; Barth was sixth at Brecksville, third at Maumee Bay, and champion in three other tournaments.

182 pounds

1. Jared Ball, Hilliard Darby, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. J.T. Brown, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
3. Kaden Russell, St. Ignatius, senior (North Canton)
4. Tyler Stepic, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
5. Victor Marcelli, Massillon Jackson, junior (North Canton)
6. Jake Thompson, Cincinnati Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

7. Alex Jones, Wadsworth, senior (North Canton)
8. Mark Kimbrell, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Blake Wilson, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Nick Goldfuss, Oak Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Zach Blackiston, Massillon Perry, junior (North Canton)
12. Cole Fitzpatrick, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Seth Frambach, Midview, junior (Mentor)
14. Alex Sadowsky, Medina, senior (North Canton)
15. Caleb Harris, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Max Boyd, Watkins Memorial, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Ball, Fitzpatrick, Boyd, Carter Davidson (Delaware Hayes, senior); Hunter Knipp (Olentangy Orange, senior)

KF – Thompson, Kimbrell, Wilson, Goldfuss; Harris

MEN – Brown, Stepic, Frambach, Hunter McNutt (Oregon Clay, senior); Caleb Wood (Fremont Ross, sophomore)

NC – Russell, Marcelli, Jones, Blackiston; Sadowsky

Lots of interesting developments have happened in this weight class. It's a field that features last year's state champion and another wrestler that has beaten a pair of returning Ohio state champions this season. However, neither of those wrestlers is the state tournament favorite. That mantle would be worn by the junior Ball, who went 1-2 at 138 pounds in his freshman year at state and placed third last year at 160 pounds. In the pre-season he was one match from placing at the Super 32, including a win in consolation over Brown. While during the season, his lone losses are to a pair of top ten wrestlers in the country (7-0 to Travis Stefanik in the Ironman quarterfinal and 6-5 to Handwerk in the Medina semi). Ball bounced back to place third in both those tournaments, including five wins in aggregate over returning state placers (Stepic, Brown, and Russell at the Ironman), also adding a tournament title at the Grizzly Invitational. A state championship would be a first for Hilliard Darby.

Two-time state fourth place finisher Brown is a commitment to West Point. He has fifth place finishes at the Ironman and the Beast to go with titles at Brecksville (10-4 over Russell in the final), Bill Dies (3-2 over returning state champ Steiner in the final), and his conference tournament. The Ironman consolation semifinal loss to Ball was in overtime. At the Mentor district, there are only two other ranked wrestlers. The senior Stepic was an 18-13 loser in last year's state semifinal against Russell before sliding down to sixth; this season includes missing placing at the Ironman by one match, a pair of losses to nationally ranked wrestlers at the Clash, a pair of dual meet losses to Russell, and a dual meet loss to Braun. The junior Frambach was runner-up at Solon, eighth at Brecksville, and fourth at the Bill Dies.

Returning state champion Russell anchors a district at North Canton that features five ranked wrestlers in all. On the season, he has titles at Solon and the CIT to go with a fourth place finish at the Ironman and runner-up at Brecksville. The junior Marcelli placed third at state last year and was a Junior Greco-Roman All-American this summer, but sustained an injury right after Fargo that has kept him out of competition until mid-February. The senior Jones is also a returning state placer, losing to Marcelli in the consolation final; this season features a runner-up finish at North Canton, seventh at Medina, and third place finish at the Grizzly Invitational. The junior Blackiston placed eighth in this weight class last year, and this season placed sixth at Medina, second at the Top Gun, and won the Rieman. Closing out the

group is returning district placer Sadowsky, who was fourth at Medina, seventh at Maumee Bay, and champion at the Hephner.

Ball is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district. Ironman placer Fitzpatrick was also runner-up at Olentangy Liberty before sustaining an injury that cost him close to six weeks of time, while in his return it was an 8-3 loss in a dual meet to Blackiston. Two-time district placer Boyd placed at North Canton and the GMVWA, along with winning at Watkins Memorial. Also in this weight class is returning district placer Davidson.

Rounding it out is five ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont, a group that is led by three returning state qualifiers. The junior Thompson has state appearances at 132 and 138 before jumping five weight classes this year, where he was champion at SWOWCA, runner-up at the CIT, and seventh at Powerade. The senior Kimbrell missed placement at the Ironman by one match before placing fifth at Brecksville and fourth at Maumee Bay, while the junior Wilson has five tournament placements this year including a title at Franklin and a runner-up at SWOWCA. Returning state alternate Goldfuss was third at SWOWCA, fifth at Medina, and has three tournament titles in calendar year 2017. Fellow senior Harris was runner-up at GMVWA and (at 195) his conference tournament, champion at Fairfield, and fourth t SWOWCA.

195 pounds

1. Max Wright, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Anthony Perrine, Nordonina, senior (North Canton)
3. Aaron Naples, Brunswick, senior (North Canton)
4. Cody Howard, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
5. Joseph Cochran, Springfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Brett Bryant, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Aaron Huff, Lorain, senior (Mentor)
8. Jimmy Leonard, Louisville, senior (North Canton)
9. Ben Smith, North Canton Hoover, junior (North Canton)
10. Cameron King, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
11. Cole Cain, Cincinnati Anderson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Garrett Bledsoe, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Cameron Sauerwein, Harrison, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Chase Newton, Perrysburg, senior (Mentor)
15. Michael Drobnick, St. Ignatius, junior (North Canton)
16. Ashton Spurgeon, Mt. Vernon, junior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Wright, Spurgeon, Stephen Deluse (Lancaster, senior), L.A. Kelly (Licking Hts, senior); Dante Landolfi (Upper Arlington, junior)

KF – Cochran, Bryant, Cain, Bledsoe; Sauerwein

MEN – Howard, Huff, King, Newton; Kyle Walsh (Toledo Whitmer, senior)

NC – Perrine, Naples, Leonard, Smith; Drobnick

Nine wrestlers in this weight class have state tournament experience, including seven with a state tournament victory and three with an appearance on the podium. With none of those podiums being fifth, this seems to be a very open weight class. Pushing through that opening has been the senior Wright, a state qualifier last year at 160 pounds and an Air Force Academy commit. Having missed the first half of the season due to injury, Wright came back on fire with a title at the Top Gun, including a 3-1

victory over second-ranked Perrine in the semifinal. He has complimented that performance with titles at Central Crossing and the Rieman, and is seeking to become the first state champion in school history. The lone additional ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Spurgeon, who has two tournament titles to go with a third at Maumee Bay and fifth at SWOWCA. Also here is returning state alternate Landolfi.

Two of the three with a state podium weight class are his direct challengers, both of whom exit the district at North Canton. Perrine was fifth in the 2015 state tournament before missing placement last year with a 4-3 loss in the opening round to Russell and 6-5 in the tiebreaker to Brown. This season started well with titles at Solon (over Naples) and East Liverpool (over Kelbly); it continued with a third place finish at Brecksville and a semifinal at the Top Gun. Naples lost in the state semifinal last year at this weight class, and then defaulted both consolation matches. This season includes runner-up finishes at Solon and the Ironman to go with titles at Medina, the Bill Dies, and his conference tournament.

Three other ranked wrestlers are at North Canton. Returning state qualifier Leonard was runner-up at North Canton and the Top Gun, fourth at Medina, and champion at the Hephner. The junior Smith was a state alternate last year at Division III Fredericktown, and has placed in three tournaments this season (third at North Canton, fifth at Top Gun, runner-up at the Grizzly Invitational). Fellow junior Drobnick played tight end on the state runner-up football team at St. Ignatius and was a district placer last season; this wrestling season includes a third place finish at the CIT.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the district at Kettering Fairmont, including a pair with state tournament experience. The junior Cochran went 0-2 in last year's state tournament, but this year was champion at SWOWCA and his conference tournament, runner-up at the GMVWA and Maumee Bay, and third at Eaton. Bryant has lost five straight state tournament matches after advancing to the state semifinal at 160 pounds as a sophomore. This season includes a runner-up at SWOWCA, sixth at Powerade, and championship at the CIT. Fellow senior Cain was a district placer last year, and this season has placed third at both SWOWCA and the GMVWA. The sophomore Bledsoe played middle linebacker on the state title winning and GCL champion football team at LaSalle; since taking to the mats he went 3-2 at both Brecksville and Top Gun before taking fifth at the Grizzly Invitational. The junior Sauerwein placed fourth at SWOWCA, first at Fairfield, and second at the Rieman.

Rounding it out are the five ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district, led by state qualifiers Howard and Huff. Howard placed sixth at the Ironman, losing to Naples in the semifinal before defaulting during the consolation semifinal. Huff was a semifinalist at North Canton and third at Maumee Bay, both coming at 182 before moving up into this weight class. The senior King was a district placer last year up at 220, and went 3-2 in both the Ironman and Beast this year before placing seventh at Brecksville and third at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Newton was a state alternate two years ago, missed placement at Brecksville by a match before taking third at Perrysburg and earning a podium at the Bill Dies. Also here is returning state alternate Walsh. It should be noted that returning state qualifier Klingbergs (Chardon) is out for the season due to an injury sustained at the Top Gun, where he made the quarters with a win over a wrestler that placed through the consolation bracket.

220 pounds

1. Jared Campbell, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
2. Antonio McCloud, Cincinnati Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Bubba Arslanian, Aurora, senior (North Canton)
4. Michael Carter, Cincinnati Northwest, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

5. Quinton Mincy, Walnut Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Spencer Berthold, Midview, senior (Mentor)
7. Jack Heyob, Cincinnati St. Xavier, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Clay McComas, Wadsworth, junior (North Canton)
9. Trevor Hankins, Cincinnati Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Brandon Myers, Mansfield, senior (Mentor)
11. Dillon Smith, North Canton Hoover, senior (North Canton)
12. Jacob Cover, Hilliard Darby, junior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Jake Roesch, Avon, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Slade Morley, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Brian Zimmerman, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Jacob Charette, Centerville, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Cover, Morley, Zimmerman, Mason Hay (Westerville North, senior); Bryce Houston (Olentangy Orange, junior)

KF – McCloud, Carter, Mincy, Heyob; Hankins, Charette

MEN – Campbell, Berthold, Myers, Roesch; Parker Meaney (Ashtabula Lakeside, junior)

NC – Arslanian, McComas, Smith, Riley Warner (Dover, junior); Caleb Puchajda (Cuyahoga Falls, junior)

In a year where the big-school division is so robust in almost every weight class, this one represents a total exception. However, it is not for the lack of an elite anchor in two-time state runner-up Campbell. The Missouri signee was champion at both the NHSCA Junior Nationals and Flo Nationals last spring, and this season was third at the Ironman, and earned both a 13-4 major decision over McCloud and a 5-0 decision over the nation's third-ranked 195 pound wrestler (Jake Woodley) on the first Saturday of January.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Campbell in the rankings at the Mentor district. The senior Berthold was champion at Solon and runner-up at Brecksville and the Bill Dies already this season. Fellow senior Myers was runner-up at one tournament and third in three others (including Top Gun and Grizzly Invitational) before winning his conference tournament. The sophomore Roesch was champion at Avon Lake, a consolation quarterfinalist at North Canton, and third at Perry.

The second ranked wrestler in this weight class was a district alternate last year at 182 pounds. However, the junior McCloud has amassed five tournament titles; including those at SWOWCA and Brecksville. His pair of losses came to Campbell (13-4) and Woodley (5-2) in early January. The district at Kettering Fairmont features five other ranked wrestlers. Returning district placer Carter has five tournament titles, including a 7-2 win over returning state placer Mincy in the final at Milford; while his loss came 16-8 to McCloud in the SWOWCA semifinal. The just mentioned Mincy was seventh in this state tournament weight class last year, and was one match from placing at the Ironman. The junior Heyob was runner-up at SWOWCA, losing 4-3 to McCloud, and champion at Troy. Returning state qualifier Hankins placed fifth at SWOWCA, while the junior Charette was seventh at SWOWCA and fourth at the GMVWA before winning his conference tournament.

Two additional wrestlers have state tournament experience in this weight, Arslanian and McComas, both exiting the district at North Canton. The senior Arslanian was third at 182 pounds, and has four tournament titles this season, including a pair of finals victories over McComas; he also was a semifinalist at Brecksville, losing 9-7 to Berthold and then injury defaulting. The junior McComas was 0-2 at state last year, and this season placed third at North Canton before finishing second in three different

tournaments (Medina to projected Division III champ Thorp, Grizzly Invitational and Suburban League to Arslanian). Also ranked at this district is the senior Smith, who was runner-up at North Canton and fifth at both Top Gun and Grizzly Invitational.

Rounding it out is the Hilliard Darby district, which features three ranked wrestlers. The junior Cover placed sixth at Medina, the senior Morley was champion at 285 in the Upper Arlington tournament before dropping to this weight class, while the senior Zimmerman won a pair of tournaments at 285 before dropping here. Also in this field is returning state alternate Hay.

285 pounds

1. Kevin Vough, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
2. Ben Frye, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Jon Spaulding, Lakota East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Matt Carrick, Massillon Perry, senior (North Canton)
5. Matt Lee, Amherst, junior (Mentor)
6. Jordan Earnest, Wadsworth, junior (North Canton)
7. Alec Moore-Nash, Cincinnati Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. R.J. Harris, Zanesville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Jerron Cage, Winton Woods, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Zaid Hamdan, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Bruce Wolff, North Canton Hoover, senior (North Canton)
12. Michael Mather, Uniontown Lake, sophomore (North Canton)
13. Mo Debyan, Hilliard Darby, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Tyler Connolly, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
15. Brian Ross, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
16. Nick Daly, Oregon Clay, junior (Mentor)

HD – Frye, Harris, Debyan, Connolly; Austin Wolfe (Canal Winchester, senior)

KF – Spaulding, Moore-Nash, Cage, Hamdan; Jacob Padilla (Huber Hts Wayne, freshman)

MEN – Vough, Lee, Ross, Daly, Omar Fattah/Luca Santillo (St. Edward, junior)

NC – Carrick, Earnest, Wolff, Mather; Tyjuan Hill (Bedford, junior)

For a four-year run exclusively at heavyweight, the one being completed here by Vough has to be among the best this state has seen in terms of high school productivity. The resume includes three very high state placements (third/champ/runner-up), titles at multiple major events (Cadet Greco, Flo Nationals, Ironman), and other high value productivity (Junior freestyle runner-up in 2015). A second state title would help seal that case. His senior season includes a third place finish at the Ironman and runner-up at the Beast before titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies.

However, that title will not come easy for Vough, as it's again a very explosive and talented wrestler from the Hilliard Darby district standing in his way. Though not as massive as Kameron Teacher (who beat Vough in last year's state final), the senior Frye will pose his own problems. The Duke football commit as a defensive end placed fourth in the 220 pound weight class last season, and is undefeated this season; including titles at North Canton (3-0 over projected Division II state champ Sharp), GMVWA, and the Rieman. Three other ranked wrestlers reside in this central district. Returning state qualifier Harris has three tournament titles on the season, fellow senior Debyan was runner-up at Medina but was seventh at the Grizzly Invitational, while the sophomore Connolly placed eighth at Brecksville and seventh at the Top Gun.

Another challenger to Vough is the senior Spaulding, who was seventh in this weight at state last year. He also extended Vough in a 2-1 tiebreaker loss in the Brecksville final; other results include titles at SWOWCA and his conference tournament, a runner-up at Fairfield (though he would avenge that loss the following week in a dual meet), and seventh at the Ironman. Three other ranked wrestlers are at Kettering Fairmont. The junior Moore-Nash was runner-up at SWOWCA and third at Brecksville, both losses to Spaulding, champion at the CIT, and third at the Rieman. The senior Cage is an Ohio State football commit at the defensive tackle position; this season he advanced to the semis at SWOWCA, finished third at Fairfield, and beat Moore-Nash in a dual meet. The junior Hamdan was champion at the Hammer & Anvil, runner-up at the GMC, fourth at the Dvorak, and missed placing at the Ironman by one match.

Joining Vough at the Mentor district are three other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Lee, who went 1-2 at the Schott as a sophomore. This season he has three tournament titles, including the one at Maumee Bay, while his only loss is to a Pennsylvania state placer (DeBoe) in the final at Perry Pin City. Also ranked here are the senior Ross, who was champion at Sidney and fourth at Perry (losses to DeBoe and Mathis); along with the junior Daly, champion at Solon, sixth at North Canton, fourth at Fairfield and the Grizzly Invitational.

Rounding it out is the district at North Canton, which features four ranked wrestlers led by 2015 state placer Carrick. The Michigan State football commit did not wrestle as a junior, and only returned to competition starting at Medina this year. While there's been some rust to shake off, and it's shown in baffling losses, the form and talent has shown as well, including the runner-up finish at the Rieman (beating Moore-Nash and losing 2-1 to Frye). The junior Earnest placed eighth at the Ironman and was third at Medina, including a win over Carrick in the consolation final; other tournaments include a third at North Canton and a title at the Grizzly Invitational. The senior Wolff placed fifth at North Canton and the Top Gun, along with finishing runner-up at the Grizzly; while the sophomore Mather placed sixth at the Top Gun and third at the Hephner.

Team Board

1. St. Edward (Mentor)
2. Olentangy Liberty (Hilliard Darby)
3. Elyria (Mentor)
4. Massillon Perry (North Canton)
5. Cincinnati LaSalle (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Wadsworth (North Canton)
8. Brecksville (North Canton)
9. Cincinnati Elder (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Brunswick (North Canton)