

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read the *State Tournament Predictions Report*. As I embark on year number seventeen – for which I have record – of doing this in some way, shape, or form ... let's take a quick look back at how the first sixteen years have went in predictions, as well as the current landscape in Ohio high school wrestling.

Unlike the previous four seasons, there is no wrestler in position to win their fourth state title next month. In addition, only Bryce Hepner (St. Edward) is even going for his third state title. This will mark the sixth time in 21 years where no three-time state champion will be competing in the state tournament.

In the 1999 state tournament, Jared Opfer (Sandusky St. Mary's Central Catholic) became the ninth wrestler to achieve the distinction of winning four high school state titles in the Buckeye State. In the 20 years since, 23 additional wrestlers have won their fourth state title; most recently it was Dylan D'Emilio (Genoa), who achieved that feat last year.

Last year's state tournament had a rather low total of returning state champions, just 16 in the field; a number that was stretched to 19 when counting for those that won in previous seasons. On the other hand, this year's state tournament is expected to feature 20 defending state champions, with four others that have won titles in a previous season.

As of the rankings published on February 12th by InterMat, there are 23 Ohio high school wrestlers within the top 20 of their weight classes nationally. In addition, there are two Ohio residents attending National Prep schools whom are nationally ranked (Cernus at Wyoming Seminary, Pa. is ranked at 113, while Bryant at Hudson WRA, Ohio is ranked at 145).

There is a nationally ranked wrestler in 12 of the 14 weight classes, with only 106 and 132 bereft a ranked wrestler from Ohio. However, only three wrestlers in total are ranked top five nationally: Victor Voinovich (Brecksville) is No. 5 at 145, Padraic Gallagher (St. Edward) is No. 3 at 160, and Nevan Snodgrass (Kettering Fairmont) is No. 4 at 170. Another observation is that 19 of the 23 ranked wrestler compete in Division I, with six big-school weight classes featuring multiple nationally ranked wrestlers.

In something of a rarity here in Ohio, all three divisions are projected to have a team race that will not be decided until the final day, and possibly even into the championship matches. St. Edward enters as a very slight favorite in Division I to win a fifth consecutive state title, which would be their ninth in the last ten years, and 21 in the last 23. This year's primary challenger is Elyria, which finished as runner-up to the Eagles in 2015 through 2017; the Pioneers have scored above 90 points in the last five state tournaments, including a program-record 143 last year when they finished third in the standings.

In Division II, St. Paris Graham has won the individual tournament each of the last 19 years, and the Falcons have 21 overall in this event. The 123.5 points they amassed in last year's state tournament was the second-lowest team point total in this 19-year run, only the 114.5 scored in 2001 were less. Furthermore, last year's 36-point difference between first and second was the lowest in the course of their streak. This year's two direct challengers, Aurora and Louisville (teams that finished second and third last year in the individual tournament) exit the absolutely stacked Alliance District, one that features four additional teams that finished top nine at state last year.

While in Division III, there looks to be a three-team battle for the title, with two of those teams never having won a team trophy in the individual state tournament. Milan Edison was champion in the dual team state tournament in 2017 and runner-up last year, but has never finished higher than third on the individual side – which they have done in three of the last five years (2015, 2018, 2019); Legacy Christian’s highest finish as a program was their seventh place finish last season. On the other hand, Troy Christian won the individual state tournament four times in a seven-year stretch (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2013), and have been on the board for three consecutive seasons (2017-7th, 2018-4th, 2019-5th).

One of the obvious purposes for writing this report is to predict (hopefully correctly) who wins the state title in each of the 42 weight classes (14 in each of the three divisions). Let’s see how that has played out over the last thirteen years.

2004- DI 8/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10/14 (TOTAL = 28)
2005- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 3(or4)/14 (TOTAL = 21 or 22)
2006- DI 10/14, DII 9/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 26 or 27)
2007- DI 10/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)
2008- DI 9/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 26)
2009- DI 12/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 30)
2010- DI 9/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10(or11)/14 (TOTAL = 29 or 30)
2011- DI 8(or9)/14, DII 8/14, DIII 11/14 (TOTAL = 27 or 28)
2012- DI 11/14, DII 10/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 28 or 29)
2013- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)
2014- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)
2015- DI 5/14, DII 10/14, DIII 13/14 (TOTAL = 28)
2016- DI 7/14, DII 8/14, DIII 10/14 (TOTAL = 25); note: DI and DII each had one case where projected champ did not make weight at sectional, and the second-ranked kid won the title
2017 – DI 7/14, DII 10/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 26)
2018 – DI 9/14, DII 8/14, DIII 7/14 (TOTAL = 24)
2019 – DI 6/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9(or10)/14 (TOTAL = 23 or 24)

Where were the other champs ranked? (note this may not be perfect):
2nd- 121, 3rd- 60, 4th- 23, 5th- 16, 6th- 7, 7th- 3, 8th- 3, 9th- 2, 10th – 2, >10- 4

Each weight class breakdown starts with an ordinal listing of the top 16 wrestlers. Following that ranking, is a listing of the top five (or more) wrestlers at each of the district tournaments; note that four wrestlers at each district tournament site, of which there are four per division, earn state tournament qualification. Then, finally is the commentary, which provides an analysis of the weight class as a whole, the top wrestlers in the weight class, as well as some relevant and/or tangential commentary. After each weight class is presented in the division, a team ranking is presented based on a formula that is intended to replicate scoring at the state tournament.

In addition to being an attempt to accurately predict the champion (and those towards the top) of each weight class, there are two other primary objectives in the creation of this report: (1) an attempt to accurately gauge the composition of each district tournament weight class (2) to provide fans an informative, yet entertaining, read on what to expect in the state series over the next few weeks.

Please note that this report is a reflection of the information acquired based on wrestling through the weekend ending February 8th, though the research actually started on February 2nd. Publication was done on February 15th, so the dual team state championship rounds are not captured. There is a week

left of wrestling in the regular season, though it not one in which every team has a competition scheduled. It is also important to note the impact of the JakesWrestling database, without which a report of this meticulous nature could not be completed.

Also, remember that come the state series, it is a new season. The rankings and summaries carry the value of understanding where one person sees things at this point in time, and also an entertainment factor. However, as the writer of this report, I feel it is important to state: (1) there are matches to be wrestled for a reason (2) it is the upsets, the unexpected, and the thrillers that define state series wrestling (3) if I was somewhat perfect, there would be a different line of employment for me (i.e. psychic or bookie).

These are two predictions that I guarantee to be correct:

*The state tournament will be staged at Value City Arena on the campus of Ohio State University March 13th through 15th.

*42 wrestlers will be crowned as champions, 14 weight classes across 3 divisions.

All others ... I can make no guarantees. Best of luck on the remainder of the season, hope you all achieve the levels of success you wish for, and enjoy the reading!

District Tournament Site Analysis

Since this is the first year of the two-year enrollment cycle, there were notable changes within district compositions in each division. In addition, there is the obvious shift of teams going up and down divisions. In Division I, the central district lost its fifth sectional, and is back at four sectionals. That sectional shifted to northern Ohio, where it was picked up by the northeast district.

This year's northern composition involves an all-northeast district at Mentor with the mixed district at Perrysburg. Mentor features the sectionals hosted by Willoughby South, Kenston, Brecksville, and Wadsworth; while Perrysburg features sectionals hosted by Oregon Clay, Strongsville, Midview (a northeast sectional with a few northwest teams), and St. Edward (which in essence was the "new" sectional). The Central and Southwest district tournaments are self-contained.

Division II features a notable composition change for the southern part of the state. The Wilmington district now features three southwest district sectionals and one central district sectional; while the Claymont district features two east sectionals and two southeast sectionals. The northern composition remains unchanged, an all-northeast district at Alliance that is absolutely stacked; with a mixed district at Norwalk that features the three northwest sectionals plus one northeast sectional.

There are slight changes in Division III composition, but things are mostly the same. All northeast district teams will compete in one district tournament; four of the five northwest district sectionals will compete in one district tournament; the southwest district remains featuring three southwest district sectionals and one northwest district sectional, though there will be no southeast district teams feeding into one of the southwest district sectionals this year; while the mixed central/east/southeast district (hosted this year by Heath) will feature a southeast district sectional, two east district sectionals, and one central district sectional. That mixed district composition differs from last year where there were two central district sectionals, a self-contained east district sectional, and a mixed east/southeast sectional.

When looking at the below district tournament statistics, keep in mind that each site should have the following marks from an expected value standpoint: overall record of 105-105, with a 52.5-52.5 mark in championship bracket matches, and 14 wrestlers going two-and-out. Below are four years of records for each district at the state tournament.

DIV I - All Northeast (Mentor)

2019: 107-106, 50.2% (overall); 53-55, 49.1% (championship only); 13 (two-and-out)

2018: 108-109, 49.8%; 56-53, 51.4%; 10

2017: 126-105, 54.5%; 61-50, 55.0%; 8

2016: 108-109, 49.8%; 50-53, 48.5%; 11

DIV I - Combined Northeast (3)/Northwest (1) <Perrysburg>

2019: 123-97, 55.9% (overall); 70-50, 58.3% (championship only); 10

2018: 114-95, 54.5%; 65-51, 56.0%; 14

2017: 96-100, 49.0%; 61-50, 55.0%; 18

2016: 124-96, 56.4%; 82-49, 62.6%; 10

Note – this composition will be different than any of the other years because the northeast district has seven sectionals, compared to the six in previous years. However, in a bigger picture sense, it's most similar to how things were in 2016.

DIV I - All Southwest (Kettering Fairmont)

2019: 115-104, 52.5% (overall); 54-51, 51.4% (championship only); 6 (two-and-out)
2018: 112-104, 51.9%; 54-52, 50.9%; 12
2017: 101-110, 47.9%; 46-55, 45.5%; 13
2016: 88-112, 44.0%; 31-56, 35.6%; 18

DIV I - All Central (Hilliard Darby)

2019: 75-113, 39.9% (overall); 33-54, 37.9% (championship only); 27 (two-and-out)
2018: 86-112, 43.4%; 35-54, 39.3%; 20
2017: 97-105, 48.0%; 42-54, 43.8%; 17
2016: 100-103, 49.3%; 47-52, 47.5%; 17

DIV II - All Northeast (Alliance)

2019: 128-96, 57.1% (overall); 73-48, 60.3% (championship only); 6 (two-and-out)
2018: 125-96, 56.6%; 69-48, 59.0%; 7
2017: 128-97, 56.9%; 66-51, 56.4%; 8
2016: 104-114, 47.7%; 45-54, 45.5%; 11

DIV II - Combined East (2)/Southeast (2) <now Claymont>

2019: 113-112, 50.2% (overall); 53-55, 49.1% (championship only); 11 (two-and-out)
2018: 99-109, 47.6%; 43-56, 43.4%; 19
2017: 88-111, 44.2%; 42-55, 43.3%; 13
2016: 84-106, 44.2%; 46-54, 46.0%; 17

NOTE: 2016-2019 had composition of Central (1)/East (2)/Southeast (1)

DIV II – primary Northwest district (Norwalk)

2019: 94-109, 46.3% (overall); 45-55, 45.0% (overall); 14 (two-and-out)
2018: 96-120, 44.4%; 37-56, 39.8%; 15
2017: 108-111, 49.3%; 51-55, 48.1%; 14
2016: 122-104, 54.0%; 64-53, 54.7%; 10

DIV II – Southwest (3)/Central (1) (Wilmington)

2019: 85-103, 45.2% (overall); 39-52, 42.9% (championship only); 25 (two-and-out)
2018: 100-95, 51.3%; 61-50, 55.0%; 15
2017: 96-101, 48.7%; 51-49, 51.0%; 21
2016: 110-96, 53.4%; 55-49, 52.9%; 18

NOTE: In 2016-2019 this was 3 SW and 1 SE sectional

DIV III - All Northeast (Garfield Hts)

2019: 115-109, (overall); 46-55, (championship only); 11 (two-and-out)
2018: 98-109, 47.3%; 53-52, 50.5%; 19
2017: 104-108, 49.1%; 48-53, 47.5%; 18
2016: 104-108, 49.1%; 55-53, 50.9%; 16

DIV III - Combined Central (1)/East (2)/Southeast (1) <now Heath>

2019: 76-105, 42.0% (overall); 39-53, 42.4% (championship only); 24 (two-and-out)
2018: 91-107, 46.0%; 43-54, 44.3%; 19

2017: 77-113, 40.5%; 35-55, 38.9%; 23

2016: 70-116, 37.6%; 33-56, 37.1%; 19

NOTE: 2016-2017 this was Central (1), East (2), Southeast (1); 2018-2019 this was Central (2) and East/Southeast (2)

DIV III – Southwest (3)/Northwest (1) <Troy>

2019: 94-113, 45.4% (overall); 47-54, 46.5% (championship only); 15 (two-and-out)

2018: 106-105, 50.2%; 49-52, 48.5%; 10

2017: 120-101, 54.3%; 65-52, 55.6%; 6

2016: 122-93, 56.7%; 61-51, 54.5%; 13

NOTE: For 2016-2017 it was Southwest (2), Northwest (1), Central (1); 2018-2019 this was Southwest (3) and Northwest (1), though one of three southwest sectionals featured half of the southeast district teams

DIV III - All Northwest (now Napoleon)

2019: 135-93, 59.2% (overall); 78-48, 61.9% (championship only); 6 (two-and-out)

2018: 125-99, 55.8%; 65-52, 55.6%; 8

2017: 119-98, 54.8%; 62-50, 55.4%; 9

2016: 124-103, 54.6%; 61-50, 55.0%; 8

NOTE: this reflects four of the five northwest sectionals

DIVISION I

106 pounds

1. Pacey Najdusak, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Pito Castro, Brecksville, sophomore (Mentor)
3. Wyatt Richter, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Christopher Earnest, Wadsworth, freshman (Mentor)
5. Colin Noel, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
6. Vince D'Alessandro, Mayfield, freshman (Mentor)
7. Jack Schmidt, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
8. Austin McBurney, Massillon Perry, freshman (Mentor)
9. Micah Medina, Oregon Clay, freshman (Perrysburg)
10. David Javier, Westerville Central, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Corey Crawford, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Ryan Avalos, Perrysburg, freshman (Perrysburg)
13. Brandon Mitchell, Oak Hills, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jeffrey Kennedy, North Olmsted, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Kevin Grunzweig, Solon, sophomore (Mentor)
16. Ty Daugherty, Avon, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Javier, Crawford, Gunner Havens (Teays Valley, freshman), Jack Viola (Dublin Jerome, senior); Andrew Parker (Big Walnut, sophomore)

KF – Najdusak, Mitchell, Drew Magness (Elder, sophomore), Simon Taylor (Centerville, sophomore); Noah Moreland (Vandalia Butler, freshman)

MEN – Castro, Earnest, D'Alessandro, Schmidt; McBurney, Grunzweig

PBG – Richter, Noel, Medina, Avalos; Kennedy, Daugherty

The last ten years of championship finals contestants in the opening weight of the big-school division includes eight freshmen, eight sophomores, one junior, and three seniors; with the state champions consisting of four freshmen, five sophomores, and one senior. In only two of the last ten years has there not been a freshman state finalist at the weight class: 2013 had Jose Rodriguez (Massillon Perry) knocking off Austin Assad (Brecksville), while 2015 had Caleb Yates (Anthony Wayne) upend Brakan Mead (Olentangy Liberty); both those were collisions of sophomores. The lone senior state champion was Zack Shupp in 2018, while Tommy Genetin in 2014 and Jack Young in 2010 were runners-up.

With that background in place, the projected state champion is the senior Najdusak, who has qualified for state three times in this weight class placing seventh as a sophomore. He missed placement at the Ironman by one match, but had wins over Earnest and Castro in that tournament, while he was runner-up at SWOWCA and fifth at Powerade later in December. Since the turn of the calendar year, he was second up at 113 at Mason before failing to make 106 at Wadsworth.

Life at the Kettering Fairmont district for Najdusak should be relatively easy, as there is just one other ranked wrestler in the field. The sophomore Mitchell was champion at Trenton Edgewood and Middletown, while placing fifth at SWOWCA and GMVWA.

The two northern district features virtually all the contenders in this weight class outside of Najdusak. Six ranked wrestlers each exit Mentor and Perrysburg. The sophomore Castro and the freshman Earnest lead the way at Mentor, and they have split matches this season; Castro winning 9-2 at the Suburban

League, while Earnest got the upset pin in the dual meet. Castro missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was sixth at the Beast, upset the nationally ranked Horwath from Michigan to win Brecksville, and was runner-up in the Suburban League; while Earnest went 2-2 at both Ironman and Powerade before taking third at North Canton and second at Wadsworth. In other dual meet matches, Castro beat McBurney, while Earnest lost to projected Division III champ Hermes.

Fellow freshman D'Alessandro is ranked third among those at Mentor, and has a title at Hudson to go with a runner-up finish at Maumee Bay and third at the Hephner. Next is another freshman in McBurney, who went a combined 4-6 at Ironman, Beast, and Brecksville before taking third at Top Gun and winning at Delaware Hayes. The senior Schmidt was runner-up at Solon and West Holmes, while taking fourth at North Canton and third at the CIT. Rounding out the group at Mentor is the sophomore Grunzweig who was third at North Coast and fourth at Medina before missing placement by one match at Maumee Bay.

Leading the way at Perrysburg is Richter, who was closed out of the lineup as a freshman by Seefeldt, last year's state runner-up in this weight class. At the Ironman he missed placing by one match, while he went 2-2 at the Doc Buchanan, and picked up a pair of quality wins against opponents from Michigan (state 2nd Williams of Davison and state 3rd Walker of DCC). The junior Noel has been closed out by Fenton and Allison the last two years, and this year went 5-4 between Ironman and the Beast before missing Brecksville and Maumee Bay; he did beat Medina 3-2 in the regional dual final.

The freshman Medina is third of five ranked wrestlers at this district. He missed placing at Solon and Maumee Bay by one match, but was fifth at Brecksville and champion at Dublin Scioto. Fellow freshman Avalos went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing second at Perrysburg and sixth at Maumee Bay; he beat Medina 9-4 at the regional duals. State alternate last year as a sophomore Kennedy has finished third at Lorain and Perry, along with a title at Kenston this season. The sophomore Daugherty was champion at Avon Lake and third at the Bill Dies.

At Hilliard Darby, there are two ranked wrestlers, returning state qualifier Crawford and the sophomore Javier, who moved in from North Carolina. Outside of a poor tournament at Dublin Scioto, Javier has been excellent winning three tournament titles and beating returning state qualifier Crawford in a dual meet. Crawford finished fourth at district last year as a junior, but had to scratch from state due to a skin condition. His season includes missing placement by one match at North Canton and Brecksville then finishing second at Delaware Hayes.

113 pounds

1. Jacob Moon, Oregon Clay, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Sean Seefeldt, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Peyton Fenton, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Mason Brugh, Wadsworth, sophomore (Mentor)
5. Kaden Jett, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
6. Damion Ryan, Centerville, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. William Doepker, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Dylan Le, Dublin Scioto, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Johnny Novak, St. Ignatius, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Cael Saxton, Avon, junior (Perrysburg)
11. Nick Molchak, Solon, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Dominic Gerome, Mayfield, junior (Mentor)

13. Thomas Cassetty, Uniontown Lake, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Drew Dulcie, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
15. Daniel Beam, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Trent Jude, Westland, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Le, Beam, Jude, Colton Spurgeon (Mount Vernon, sophomore); Gabe Ohle (Westerville North, junior)

KF – Ryan, Doepker, Jacob Castillo (Middletown, freshman), Bryson Clinger (Beavercreek, sophomore); TBD

MEN – Brugh, Jett, Molchak, Gerome; Cassetty, Dulcie

PBG – Moon, Seefeldt, Fenton, Novak; Saxton

Ten years ago at the state tournament, fans saw what I would consider the best team race in the modern history of the Division I state tournament. Wadsworth and St. Edward battled through the district and state tournaments with the state title decided in the penultimate weight class when Nick Tavenello earned a 6-4 victory over Kyle Rose of Centerville at 215 to give the Grizzlies the state title. It ended the 13-year streak of state titles for St. Edward.

Further, in the 13 previous tournaments, the closest margins were 21-1/2 points in 2009 and 23-1/2 points in 1999. In eight of the other tournaments, the Eagles had amassed winning margins of more than 75 points. Not only was the thought of someone upending St. Edward foreign, so was the general presence of competition.

This season projects to be a two-team battle for the title between St. Edward and Elyria. While there is no guarantee of the title being undecided deep into Sunday evening, it should not be a coronation either. The course of activity in this weight class is one of few weight classes where the Eagles and Pioneers have similar ranked wrestlers.

Last year's 106 pound state final saw Fenton avenge regular season, sectional, and district losses to beat Seefeldt 3-2. Those two wrestlers and the junior Moon, who was third at state in this weight class last year, will do battle for both district and state tournament titles.

Moon placed fourth at the Ironman, losing twice to national top ten Sotelo of Illinois; was a quarterfinalist at Brecksville before pulling out; and was runner-up to Mattin at Maumee Bay in this weight class. He also has two tournament titles up at 120, while earning an overtime victory over Allison in the regional dual final up at that weight class. The junior Seefeldt is a two-time 16U Nationals freestyle All-American, and placed at two of the nation's three best in-season tournaments this season (7th Ironman, 8th Doc Buchanan); he also was upended 5-4 by Gessler in a dual meet. The sophomore Fenton is the returning state champion, though his performances at the Ironman and Beast were less than expectation; he then missed Brecksville, and returned to finish third at Maumee Bay.

Two other returning state medalists are also in the field at Perrysburg, so they face a crucial choice. Stay here, where they will battle each other and/or the bracket for the fourth state spot, or go up to 120 where the path to the fourth spot might be easier. The ceiling at this weight is probably mid-to-low podium, while a low podium at 120 is absolute best case. Novak beat Saxton last year in the seventh-place bout at 106 pounds. This season, the senior Novak was third at Solon and second at the CIT, while falling short of placement at Brecksville by one match; the junior Saxton joined Novak in going 1-2 at the Ironman, while placing seventh at the Bill Dies.

The pair of wrestlers ranked behind the Perrysburg three exit district competition at Mentor. Brugh placed fourth at state as a freshman last year at 106 pounds, and this season won his first match at Ironman before pulling out due to an injury that caused him to miss North Canton and Powerade. Since returning, he was a finalist at the Suburban League and finished third at Wadsworth losing 8-6 to Gessler in the semi. The freshman Jett missed placing at the Beast by one match, was runner-up at Brecksville and the Bill Dies, won the Suburban League when Brugh did not contest the final, and lost 3-0 to Brugh in their dual meet.

Another four ranked wrestlers are at Mentor in the hunt for two state spots. The sophomore Molchak was fourth at Solon and Medina, champion at the North Coast Classic, and missed placing at Medina by one match; the junior Jerome was third at Hudson, eighth at Maumee Bay, and second at the Hephner; Cassetty qualified for state as a freshman, and this season missed placing at Maumee Bay by one match before taking fourth at the Hephner; while fellow sophomore Dulcie was 4-6 between Ironman, Beast, and Brecksville before taking sixth at Top Gun and fourth at Delaware Hayes.

The remaining 2019 state medalist in this weight class is the junior Le, who is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Le was fourth at North Canton, sixth at Brecksville, and runner-up at both Dublin Scioto and Delaware Hayes. The senior Beam is a returning state qualifier in this weight class, while the sophomore Trent Jude missed state qualification in this weight class by one match last year.

Finally, it's the district at Kettering Fairmont, which features just a pair of ranked wrestlers, so there could be some shifting into this weight class from a congested group at 120. The sophomore Ryan, who went two-and-out at 120 in the state tournament last year, lead this contingent. His season includes placing second at SWOWCA and then third at Brecksville and Perrysburg. 2018 state placer Doepker was champion at SWOWCA in this weight class beating Ryan 3-2 in the final before placing sixth at Brecksville up at 120; I hope he doesn't have another season wrecked by injury, which was his undoing last year.

120 pounds

1. Dustin Norris, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Richard Delsanter, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Bryce Allison, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Dominic Ditullio, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Pino Dipierro, Berea-Midpark, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Mikey Lewarchick, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
7. Kollin Howard, Maple Hts., senior (Mentor)
8. Connor Kleinberg, Springboro, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Lucas Acuna, Centerville, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Aidan Agin, Lancaster, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Kyah Patrick, Beavercreek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Andrew Newkirk, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Davante Cooper, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Chris Rocha, Painesville Riverside, junior (Mentor)
15. Ben Sponseller, Uniontown Lake, junior (Mentor)
16. Tony Pendergraft, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)

HD – Agin, Cooper, James Gooding (Westerville North, junior), Wyatt Moore (Hilliard Davidson, freshman); Colin Swincicki (New Albany, junior)

KF – Norris, Ditullio, Kleinberg, Acuna; Patrick, Newkirk

MEN – Lewarchick, Howard, Rocha, Sponseller; Ethan Wannett (Ashtabula Lakeside, junior)

PBG – Delsanter, Allison, Dipierro, Pendergraft; Bradley Humble (North Royalton, senior)

After things went very smoothly for LaSalle as they were hard-luck runners-up at both the dual team and individual bracket state tournaments last season, this season has been anything but. Two-time state finalist Norris, who won state last year as a sophomore, has fit that narrative well. He placed fourth at the Ironman before missing the Dvorak and Detroit Catholic Central Invitational; then his return to tournament competition at Escape the Rock was uneven to say the least. However, Norris has a track record in the state of Ohio and in national competition that makes him the clear favorite.

Five additional ranked wrestlers sit behind Norris at Kettering Fairmont in the hunt for the remaining three state spots. It's unfortunate that two of these wrestlers will get displaced prior to getting the chance to contest for a state medal. Ditullio placed fourth at state last year as a sophomore, and has competed both at this weight and 126; up at 126 he was second at SWOWCA and third at Mason, while in this weight he was 1-2 at the Powerade including a loss to Lewarchick that he avenged on the way to a championship at Wadsworth. The freshman Kleinberg was a junior high state champ last year, and has been both at 126 and this weight class; at 126 he was runner-up at GMVWA and Wadsworth, while finishing fifth at Maumee Bay in this weight.

Acuna has competed at both 120 and 126 after placing seventh at 113 last year as a freshman. His current season includes placing fourth at SWOWCA and third at Perrysburg up one weight class, while he was eighth at Brecksville in this weight. Two-time state alternate Patrick seeks a first state bid as a senior, and he's also competed at both 120 and 126; up one weight class he missed placement at Medina by one match, while in this weight class he beat Ryan 4-1 in the regional dual semifinal. Finally, fellow senior Newkirk was also a state alternate last year with this season including titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield sandwiched around a runner-up finish at Kenston.

Three of the other primary challengers, each of whom has a state medal in their career, exit the Perrysburg district. Two-time state medalist Delsanter has verbally committed to Penn in the Class of 2021; his state tournament career includes front side losses to Norris (3-1 in the 2018 opening round) and Agin (5-3 in the 2019 quarterfinal). Most notable this season for him is falling one match of placing at the Doc Buchanan. Returning state medalist Allison was runner-up at Maumee Bay, with a 5-2 semifinal upset win over Rowan as a signature result; while two-time state qualifier Dipierro placed at state two years ago as a freshman, and this season includes titles at Milan Edison and the North Coast Classic before taking fifth at Brecksville. Also ranked here is returning state qualifier Pendergraft, who was third at Northwood and Dublin Scioto before missing placement by one match at Maumee Bay.

Another quartet of ranked wrestlers, three of whom possess state tournament experience, compete at the Mentor district. That group is led by the junior Lewarchick, who qualified for state in 2018. He was 2-2 at both the Ironman and Powerade, while also finishing runner-up at North Canton and third at Wadsworth. The senior Howard has won opening round matches at state the last two years but is 0-4 on Friday morning, and this season features a tournament title at Hudson. Rocha was a state alternate last year, but qualified for state as a freshman in 2018; this season he has two tournament titles to go with a third at Kenston and fifth at Top Gun. fellow junior Wannett placed at district last year, and this season

placed second at the CVC in this weight class, while up at 126 he was third at Kenston and fourth at Solon.

Rounding out the proceedings is a pair of ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, state placer Agin and state qualifier Cooper. The sophomore Agin was 2-2 at the Ironman, missed placing at Brecksville by one match (3-2 loss to Acuna in consolation), and was champion at New Lexington; while the senior Cooper was 1-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville, sixth at North Canton, and then up at 126 finished fourth at Delaware Hayes.

126 pounds

1. Dylan Shawver, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Logan Agin, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Antoine Allen, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Joseph Blaze, Perrysburg, freshman (Perrysburg)
5. Landen Hacker, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
6. Dy'Vaire VanDyke, Walsh Jesuit, freshman (Mentor)
7. Cole Skinner, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Shane Heil, Berea-Midpark, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Matt Verdes, Vandalia Butler, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Zander Graham, Teays Valley, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Colin Roberts, Austintown Fitch, junior (Mentor)
12. Jerome Scott, John Adams, senior (Perrysburg)
13. Jack Collins, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ricardo Oviedo, Toledo Waite, senior (Perrysburg)
15. Nick Sabin, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
16. Kaden Kraylik, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)

HD – Agin, Graham, Malik Branson (Pickerington Central, senior), Luke Goeschl (Reynoldsburg, senior); Bryson Palmer (Westland, junior)

KF – Allen, Skinner, Verdes, Collins; Nolan Moore (Moeller, junior)

MEN – Hacker, VanDyke, Roberts, Sabin; Justin Bencie (Maple Hts, senior)

PBG – Shawver, Blaze, Heil, Scott; Oviedo, Kralik

Two of the better overall Class of 2020 yet to win a state title anchor this weight class. Each wrestler has placed second, third, and fourth at state during their respective careers. Each has notable national credentials on the resume, while each has also spent a chunk of time in the national rankings over their stint in high school. The enduring question here is how to determine who is better, is it the individual with the stronger overall body of work, or is it the one that has the head-on victories over the other.

If you're one that believes in overall resume, then Rutgers signee Shawver is your choice. The 2018 state runner-up is a two-time Cadet National freestyle All-American, four-time Beast of the East placer, four-time top three finisher at Brecksville, three-time Maumee Bay champ, and two-time Walsh Ironman placer. There are numerous in-season wins over nationally ranked wrestlers. However haunting him will be a 10-9 state semifinal loss last year to Logan Heil when he blew a two takedown first period lead.

If head-to-head is your cup of tea, look to Duke signee Agin. The returning state runner-up beat Shawver in this year's Brecksville final and also beat him at freestyle state last spring. Agin's resume includes two placements at the Super 32 Challenge and a third place at the Walsh Ironman as a sophomore. However,

he has failed to place at the Ironman the last two seasons, including this year where both of his losses were to freshmen (though the loss to Blaze was avenged in the Brecksville semifinal).

In a nutshell, should Agin and Shawver both make it to the state final, Agin will enter that match favored. However, with some congestion in the field, Shawver enters as the pre-tournament favorite.

Four additional returning state medalists are present in this field, including a pair at the Kettering Fairmont district. Skinner placed third at 106 last year as a sophomore, and has jumped three weight classes this season. After going 1-2 at the Ironman, he was fifth at the Dvorak, second at the DCC Invitational, and third at the Escape the Rock. However, the top dog at Kettering Fairmont is two-time state placer Allen, who was at LaSalle the previous three seasons but left before the start of the season. He placed at the Super 32 Challenge in the preseason, and was champion at 132 at both Fairfield and Mason before dropping down to this weight.

Two other ranked wrestlers exit Kettering Fairmont. The senior Verdes was state alternate last year at 138 pounds, while this season has seen him at both this weight and 132. Up at 132, he was champion at Upper Arlington and second at SWOWCA, while in this weight he placed at the GMVWA and was fourth at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Collins went two-and-out at state in this weight class last year, and this season was third at SWOWCA, seventh at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT.

Shawver anchors a district at Perrysburg with five other ranked wrestlers, with the challenge group led by the freshman Blaze, who missed placing at the Ironman by one match before taking third at Brecksville (2-1 loss in the semi to Agin), winning Perrysburg, and finishing runner-up at Maumee Bay (7-6 loss to Shawver). Heil placed seventh last year as a sophomore at 120, and this season was champion at Milan Edison and the North Coast Classic before placing fifth at Brecksville and seventh at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Scott was sixth at North Canton and has three tournament titles, 2017 state qualifier Oviedo was champion at Northwood and missed placement at Maumee Bay by one match, while the freshman Kraylik was champion up two weight classes at Marion Harding on the "Green team" before making his foray into this weight for the primary varsity.

Agin is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at Hilliard Darby, that being the sophomore Graham, who went two-and-out last year at state at 113. This season he was second at Olentangy Liberty and fourth at Medina. Also here is 2018 state qualifier Branson.

Rounding out the field is four ranked wrestlers at Mentor, led by two-time state placer Hacker. He missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was fifth at North Canton and seventh at Powerade, before taking gold at both the Suburban League (5-4 over Butler in the final) and Wadsworth. Next in line is the freshman phenom VanDyke, a Junior High state champion last year. His season includes going 2-2 at the Ironman (including a 2-0 loss to Butler); finishing runner-up at North Canton; along with titles at Solon, CIT, and West Holmes. Next in line is two-time state qualifier Roberts, who has titles in four tournaments, including Top Gun, and a fifth place finish at Medina; while 2018 state medalist Sabin closes out the ranked group with a title at Perry and third at West Holmes in this weight, along with a third place finish up at 132 in the North Coast Classic.

132 pounds

1. Jimmy Carmany, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
2. Casey Wiles, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Scott Richter, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)

4. Nate Burnett, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
5. Logan Hoskins, Vandalia Butler, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jack Haskin, Toledo Whitmer, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Jacob Reed, Lancaster, junior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Ismael Ayoub, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
9. Josue Dawson, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Lucas Rodgers, Tecumseh, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Charles Williams, Gahanna Lincoln, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Jake Williams, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
13. Chase Henderson, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Mentor)
14. Jacob Shanklin, Upper Arlington, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Keegan Knapp, Olentangy Orange, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
16. Desmond Diggs, Xenia, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Reed, Ayoub, Williams, Shanklin; Knapp

KF – Wiles, Hoskins, Dawson, Rodgers; Diggs

MEN – Carmany, Williams, Henderson, Justin Bencie (Maple Hts., senior); Tyler Wittereich (Painesville Riverside, junior)

PBG – Richter, Burnett, Haskin, Milo Miloradovic (Brunswick, senior); Mike Daly (Oregon Clay, junior)

Eight of the projected contenders in this weight class ranged in finish last year between fourth place and winning a state match, while six additional wrestlers have state tournament experience in their careers. The congestion and similarity between the primary contenders in this field makes this one where the primary contenders could do anything from win a state to finish seventh on a given weekend, with 1-2 being plausible if things went truly badly.

The being said, the pick in this report is going to be the wrestler with the highest ceiling in terms of their overall results. The senior Carmany has twice placed fourth at 126 pounds in the state tournament. During the 2018-19 season, he beat Shawver on the way to a Brecksville title, though Shawver reversed that loss and then some in the consolation final at state along with beating eventual state champ Logan Heil decisively on two occasions. At the Junior Duals this summer, Carmany picked up two wins over wrestlers that have been ranked nationally; while his current season includes fourth place finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville along with titles at the Beast, Suburban League, and the Bill Dies.

His challenges will not come at the district level, as the field at Mentor features just two other ranked wrestlers in 2018 state qualifier Williams and the junior Hendreson. The senior Williams missed placement at Brecksville by one match, was sixth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Delaware Hayes; while the junior Henderson was fourth at Solon, third at CIT, and first at West Holmes in this weight class along with a third at North Canton up at 138.

The joint highest returning state medalist in this weight is the junior Wiles, who was fourth at state in this weight last year after placing third at 126 as a freshman (beating Carmany in the consolation final 8-6). In the current season, he was third up at 140 in the DCC Invitational before placing fifth at Escape the Rock, which included a 5-2 loss to Buchanan from Virginia (a wrestler Carmany beat in the semifinals of the Beast of the East).

Four ranked wrestlers join Wiles at the Kettering Fairmont district. Three-time state qualifier Hoskins has won a state tournament match each of the last two years, while this year he won titles at Upper

Arlington and SWOWCA at 138 before dropping to this weight to win at GMVWA and place third at Maumee Bay (beat Haskin, lone loss to Freeman when he was pinned while leading). Fellow senior Dawson won a state tournament bout last year at 120, and has four tournament titles on the season, three of them at 126 pounds before Allen inserted into the lineup at that weight; another senior Rodgers was a state alternate last year in this weight class, while his current season includes three tournament titles and third place finish at GMVWA; finally senior Diggs was sixth at district last year in this weight class, while his current season includes three tournament titles along with a third at Fairfield and (up a weight class) eighth at the GMVWA.

Also here is returning Division II state qualifier Tyrone Keeton (West Carrollton, senior) along with 2018 state qualifier in Division III Max Boaz (Lakota East, junior)

Three returning state placers will exit the Perrysburg district. The senior Richter placed fifth in this weight class last year, while this season he was 2-2 at the Ironman including a 1-0 win over Nate Burnett, and was one match from placing at Dob Buchanan though he beat the nationally ranked Vombaur from Colorado on the front side. Next up is Burnett, who placed fifth last year as a freshman at 120 pounds. He was 2-2 at the Ironman before beating four state medalists on the way to a title at Brecksville, most notably beating defending state champ Rhoads 5-2 in the quarter and upending Haskin 1-0 in the final. Haskin placed sixth at state last year as a sophomore, while this season he was champion at Northwood and Perrysburg, finished second at Brecksville with a 3-1 win over Carmany in the quarterfinal, and then was sixth at Maumee Bay.

Finally, it's five ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, though none really fit the title conversation. The group is led by two-time state qualifier Reed who missed placing at Brecksville by one match, while winning a title at Olentangy Liberty and placing second at New Lexington. Ayoub went two-and-out at state last year as a freshman but went on to finish fourth in freestyle at the 16U Nationals over the summer; his sophomore season features 2-2 finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville sandwiched around a fifth place at North Canton, though he's missed most of the second half due to injury but a return looms before the state series.

The junior Shanklin has runner-up in two tournaments to go with a fifth at Medina and championship at Kettering Fairmont. The sophomore Knapp was third at Upper Arlington and Medina, champion at Olentangy Orange, and missed placing at Maumee Bay by one match. Closing things out is two-time state qualifier Sawchuck, who was champion at Watkins Memorial and runner-up at Buckeye Local.

138 pounds

1. Mick Burnett, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Jake Niffenegger, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Mason Kleinberg, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. James Bronstrup, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
5. Evan Bennett, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
6. Connor Euton, Westerville North, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
7. Luke Marsh, Lebanon, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Zack Snyder, Anthony Wayne, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Caden Wendling, Berea-Midpark, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Trysten Zahoransky, Solon, senior (Mentor)
11. James Baumann, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Jesse Bowers, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)

13. Quentin Whitehill, Medina, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Maclain Morency, Anderson, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. John Perry, Avon Lake, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Samuel Lord, Akron Ellet, senior (Mentor)

HD – Euton, Baumann, Bowers, Lincoln Heard (Marysville, junior); Zack Miller (Olentangy Orange, junior)

KF – Niffenegger, Kleinberg, Marsh, Morency; Matt Motter (Vandalia Butler, junior)

MEN – Bronstrup, Zahoransky, Whitehill, Lord; Tyler Lintner (Austintown Fitch, freshman)

PBG – Burnett, Bennett, Snyder, Wendling; Perry

Wrestling is a very family-oriented sport, something that gets passed on from father to sons and from siblings to one another. The Burnett family is one of those obvious examples here in the Buckeye State. Erik Burnett was a four-time state champion at Oberlin from 1984-1987, while his younger brother Scott was a three-time state champion for Elyria Catholic from 1996-1998.

Erik is now the head coach at Elyria, where the program under his tutelage has finished runner-up three times in the individual tournament and once in the dual meet event prior to this year. In the last five seasons, Pioneers' wrestlers have amassed nine state titles, and the program is well on the way toward the top fifteen then top ten in terms of individuals with state titles.

One of those state titles was won by Erik's son Mick, last year as a junior at 132 pounds after he was sixth at 106 as a freshman and second at 126 as a sophomore (younger brother Nate was fifth at 120 last year as a freshman). Mick, who has signed with Pitt, has been superlative since winning that state title last year: placement finish at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle, Junior National freestyle runner-up, fifth place at the Super 32 Challenge and Walsh Ironman, fourth at the Beast, second at Brecksville, and champion at Maumee Bay.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings exit the Kettering Fairmont district, Niffenegger and Kleinberg. Niffenegger finished as runner-up in this weight class last year as a freshman; while this season includes missing Ironman placement by one match, finishing second at the Dvorak, winning a title in the DCC Invitational, and taking third at Escape the Rock (all four losses coming against nationally ranked out-of-state opponents). Two-time state qualifier Kleinberg placed third at GMVWA and Maumee Bay before winning a title at Watkins Memorial.

An additional pair of ranked wrestlers are at Kettering Fairmont. Marsh won a state tournament match in this weight last year as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at SWOWCA and Medina before winning the title at Western Brown; while the freshman Morency was third at SWOWCA and fifth at GMVWA before winning title at Sycamore and Milford.

Four additional ranked wrestlers will join Burnett at Perrysburg, led by the sophomore Bennett, who was closed out of the St. Edward lineup by two-time state champion Hepner and state medalist Richter last year. His present season includes going 5-4 between the Ironman and Doc Buchanan along with upending two-time Michigan state runner-up Killion 5-3. The junior Snyder placed top five in three tournaments at 145 before taking fifth at Maumee Bay in this weight class, and has a notable dual meet win in overtime over Wendling.

Wendling qualified for state at 126 last year as a junior, and has placed at four tournaments this season including sixth at Brecksville and seventh at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Perry missed placing at Medina

by one match up at 145 before dropping to this weight where he won titles at West Salem Northwestern and West Holmes. This district weight class also features returning state qualifier Jason Cascadden (Toledo Whitmer, senior).

Four ranked wrestlers make up the field at Mentor, led by Bronstrup, who won a state tournament bout last year as a sophomore. He went 7-4 between the Ironman and the Beast, most notably beating Bennett 7-2 in the opening round of Ironman. Since then he was fourth at Brecksville before winning titles at the Suburban League and Bill Dies. Zahoransky was a state alternate last year in a loaded district at this weight class, while his current season includes a finals appearance at Solon and missing placement at Maumee Bay by one match. The sophomore Whitehill was fifth at Medina and second at the Hephner, sandwiched around falling one match short of placing at Maumee Bay. Lastly, it's the senior Lord, who was runner-up at the North Coast Classic, sixth at Perrysburg, and fourth at the Hephner.

Finally, there are three ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby led by Euton, who won a state tournament bout last year as a freshman. This year he has titles at four tournaments, most notably Medina where he beat Marsh. Returning state qualifier Baumann was fifth at North Canton and 2-2 at Brecksville in this weight class before dropping to 132 to cover for the Ayoub injury, where he was champion at Delaware Hayes. The senior Bowers is also a returning state qualifier; his current season includes a title at Fairfield, runner-up finish at Upper Arlington, along with third place finishes at Kettering Fairmont and Medina. Also here is returning state qualifier Heard.

145 pounds

1. Victor Voinovich, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
2. Blake Saito, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Luke Geog, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Austin Mullins, Huber Hts. Wayne, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Darnai Heard, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Lucas Uliano, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jonah Smith, Findlay, senior (Perrysburg)
8. James Scavuzzo, Medina Highland, sophomore (Mentor)
9. Evan Overholser, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Nick Nastasi, Kenston, senior (Mentor)
11. Daniel Devera, Parma, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Zach Richards, Austintown Fitch, senior (Mentor)
13. Sean O'Horo, Boardman, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Tim Smith, Colerain, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Alex Epstein, Lakota East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Jake Bryson, Wadsworth, senior (Mentor)

HD – Uliano, Triston Bowens (Mount Vernon, senior), Jackson Sowers (Hilliard Davidson, senior), Niko Gonzalez (Dublin Coffman, sophomore); Jack Golla (Marysville, sophomore)

KF – Mullins, Heard, Overholser, Smith; Epstein

MEN – Voinovich, Scavuzzo, Nastasi, Richards; O'Horo, Bryson

PBG – Saito, Geog, Smith, Devera; Andrew Phillion (Midview, senior)

Before Todd Haverdill got things humming at Brecksville as head coach, the Bees wrestling program was rather ordinary, producing just two state champions in program history (Joe Lang in 1991 and Dominic

Caruso in 1994). Over the previous 13 seasons, the Bees have finished on the state tournament board every year except 2011, while they have been top five in the standings on nine occasions. That includes each of the last seven years.

Starting with Kyle Lang and Jeremy Johnson in 2009, eight Brecksville individuals won weight class titles in a ten-year stretch; the Bees have also had at least one state finalist in ten of the last twelve seasons. The most recent of the state champions was Voinovich in 2018 as a freshman, which was part of their runner-up finish in the individual state tournament. There's a synergistic relationship between program build and talent at the ability level of a Voinovich.

Despite the 4-3 semifinal loss to Munguia last year at state in the 152-pound weight class, the talent level of Voinovich was abundantly clear. It showed crystal clear over the off-season when he was an All-American at the UWW Junior Nationals, went undefeated at the Junior Duals, and was a Junior National freestyle runner-up. During his junior high school season, he was runner-up at Ironman and fifth at the Beast with all three losses coming to ranked out-of-state opposition before winning titles at Brecksville, the Suburban League, and the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers join Voinovich at the Mentor district, realistically seeking the other three state tournament spots. Scavuzzo placed at a loaded district weight class last year as a freshman, while this year he has titles at Solon and West Holmes to go with third place finishes at Olentangy Liberty, Perrysburg, and Top Gun. Nastasi qualified for state three years ago at 106 pounds, but his previous two seasons were marred by injury; while this season he's been relatively healthy on the way to a title at Kenston up at 152 before dropping to this weight to finish third at the Bill Dies and fifth at Wadsworth.

Returning state qualifier Richards was a consolation finalist at Beaver Local, fifth at Medina and Top Gun, second at the Hephner, and third at the EOWL; while neighboring rival O'Horo was runner-up at Beaver Local, fourth at Kenston and the EOWL, sixth at Top Gun, and champion at the Hephner. The senior Bryson had a stretch of performances not commensurate with a state ranked wrestler before the regional duals, where he pulled off wins against Richards and O'Horo, though he was trailing at the time of the pin against Richards.

The two wrestlers projected as most direct challengers to Voinovich will exit the Perrysburg district. Three-time state placer Saito was champion at the Preseason Nationals prior to the regular season, while his in-season includes placing fifth at Ironman and third at Brecksville before winning titles at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay. Cadet World Team trials placer Geog was closed out of the St. Edward lineup by Hepner and Andonian last season, while this season he went 3-2 at the Ironman before taking second at the Doc Buchanan; he also beat Ironman placer Quiocho 5-0 in a dual meet earlier this month.

Another pair of ranked wrestlers join at Perrysburg, returning state medalist Smith and the junior Devera. The senior Smith missed placing at Ironman by one match, was runner-up at Findlay, champion at Defiance, and third at Maumee Bay; he also lost 2-1 to Uliano at Wadsworth before pulling out of the event. Devera has titles in four tournaments this season, including at Kenston, to go with a fourth-place finish at the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers seek the four state spots at the Kettering Fairmont district, led by 2018 state placer Mullins and returning state placer Heard. The junior Mullins missed last post-season due to injury, and has competed at both this weight and 152 this season. At 152, he was champion at SWOWCA and 2-

2 at Brecksville, while in this weight he was champion at Troy and runner-up at Top Gun. Fellow junior Heard was seventh in this weight class last year.

Another senior is Overholser, who won two district bouts in this weight class last year. He has two tournament titles on the season to go with a 2-2 performance at Brecksville and a runner-up finish at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Smith placed at district down three weight classes last year, while this season he was runner-up at Edgewood and SWOWCA before winning titles at Fairfield and Middletown. The senior Epstein was also a district placer last year, and third was third at SWOWCA and fourth at Perrysburg before winning the title at Miford.

Last and least is the Hilliard Darby district with just one ranked wrestler, two-time state placer Uliano, who was champion at Olentangy Liberty, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and third at Wadsworth. Also here are returning state qualifiers Bowens and Mason McHugh (Upper Arlington, senior).

152 pounds

1. Bryce Hepner, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Derek Fields, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Enrique Munguia, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
4. Micah Norwood, Pickerington North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Daniel Segura, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Alex Garee, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Daniel Patten, Stow, senior (Mentor)
8. Andrew Knick, Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Seth Lambers, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Shawn Erryl Will, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Avery Bair, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Noah Ratliff, Reynoldsburg, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. William Scavuzzo, Medina Highland, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Judah Thomas, Middletown, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Jacob Walsh, Wadsworth, sophomore (Mentor)
16. Danny Martich, Painesville Riverside, junior (Mentor)

HD – Norwood, Segura, Will, Ratliff; Miles Pearson (Upper Arlington, senior)

KF – Knick, Lambers, Bair, Thomas; Alex Hobbs (Little Miami, junior)

MEN – Patten, Scavuzzo, Walsh, Martich; Nathan Thompson (Boardman, senior)

PBG – Hepner, Fields, Munguia, Garee; Kameron Miller (Oregon Clay, senior)

Want to know the prestige of the St. Edward wrestling program beyond the obvious? How about this fact? Should Hepner win state this year, he would become the 12th Eagles wrestler to win three or more state titles in their career. If you counted just those 11 or 12 wrestlers as having won one state title each in their career, that total number of state titles would rank right about 40th out of over 400 schools that have seen an individual win a state tournament weight class.

The club of three-time state champions that call St. Edward their alma mater includes Alan Fried, Eddie and Mark Jayne, Mason Lenhard, Matt Koz, Sean Nemec, Jamie Clark, and Dominic Abounader. While four-time state champions are Ryan Lang, Lance and Collin Palmer, along with Dean Heil.

Hepner's senior season includes missing out on placing at the Ironman by one match before sustaining an injury in his first match at the Doc Buchanan. At the Ironman, he beat Munguia 10-7 in the round of 16 before losing by fall late to nationally ranked Peyton Hall in a match he led 1-0 prior to getting reversed and then 1-0 in consolation to nationally ranked Noah Castillo. Upon return from injury, Hepner lost by fall in overtime against nationally ranked Brayden Roberts.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings at this weight class, along with another projected state medalist also exit the district at Perrysburg; each happens to exit a different sectional. Fields qualified for state two years ago at 126 as a freshman, losing 5-4 to Mick Burnett in the opening round, while he was scratched prior to the start of last year's post-season at 138 pounds. In the off-season, he was runner-up at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle. Fields has titles in five tournaments, with key victories in those tournaments over Patten (twice), defending state champion Contos (Medina semi), Lillard, and Munguia. At the Ironman, he beat Castillo on the front-side before losing to nationally ranked Mastrogiovanni and Munguia to not place; that Munguia loss was avenged by major decision earlier this month.

Munguia was runner-up to Sam Dover last year in this weight class, and notably beat Voinovich 4-3 in the state semifinal. He also was one match away from placement at the Super 32 Challenge, though he picked up two wins over wrestlers that have appeared in the 160-pound national rankings at various points this season. Munguia was also fifth at the Walsh Ironman and Beast of the East, but dropped to seventh at Brecksville before winning at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Garee won an opening round bout last year at state, while this year he was eighth at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings both exit the Hilliard Darby district. Norwood was state runner-up in the tiebreakers at 138 last year for Bishop Hartley in Division II, while he was a state quarterfinalist at 126 for Lancaster in Division I in 2018 as a freshman. This season he was runner-up at 170 at Dublin Scioto, as well as champion at Mount Vernon and Watkins Memorial at 160 before dropping to this weight class in a mid-January dual meet. Two-time state placer Segura was a Cadet World Team member over the summer in Greco-Roman. The George Mason signee has titles in three tournaments, along with runner-up finishes at North Canton and Brecksville.

Two additional ranked wrestlers populate the Hilliard Darby district. Will placed at district last year as a freshman, and this season missed placing at Brecksville by one match before taking fourth at the Top Gun, then beating state qualifier Cain up at 160 in the regional duals. The senior Ratliff has two tournament titles to go with runner-up finishes at Xenia and Watkins Memorial, along with a fourth-place finish at GMVWA.

Another two-time state placer in this weight class is Cleveland State signee Patten, who exits the Mentor district. His senior season includes runner-up finishes at Solon and the Bill Dies, third place at the Hepner, a title at the Suburban League (OT win over Lillard in the semis), and going 2-2 at the Walsh Ironman. Three additional ranked wrestlers are in this district, led by the sophomore Scavuzzo who was fifth at Solon and Top Gun, runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and the Suburban League, and seventh at Medina. Next up is fellow sophomore Walsh, who rides the momentum of a victory over Scavuzzo at the regional duals, but went just 1-2 at North Canton; he also was 2-2 at Powerade along with placing sixth at Wadsworth. The junior Martich was champion in two tournaments at 160 before finishing second at Kenston and seventh at Top Gun in this weight class.

Closing the loop is a group of four ranked wrestlers led by three-time state qualifier Knick, who placed sixth last year at 145 pounds in the state tournament. His senior season includes titles in four tournaments, most notably GMVWA, along with a fourth-place finish at the North Coast Classic up at 160 pounds. Returning state qualifier Lambers was champion at CIT and runner-up at Delaware Hayes; fellow senior Bair was at 160 for the first two months of the season where he was champion at Dublin Scioto, fourth at Perrysburg, but missed placement by one match at SWOWCA and Brecksville; while another senior in Thomas has three tournament titles to go with a runner-up finish at SWOWCA.

160 pounds

1. Padraic Gallagher, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Brett McIntosh, Harrison, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Aaron Morton, Westerville South, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Logan Messer, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
5. Noah Ewen, Perrysburg, sophomore (Perrysburg)
6. Connor Liber, Sylvania Northview, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Brady Linder, Medina Highland, senior (Mentor)
8. Mitchell Broskie, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
9. Ronald Dimmerling, Glen Oak, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Jayce Fitzpatrick, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Emmet Cain, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Anthony Rizzo, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
13. Ethan Marsh, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jake Mack, Solon, senior (Mentor)
15. Kurt Thompson, Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Brandy Crawford, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Morton, Broskie, Cain, Fitzpatrick; Jeff Cameron (Watkins Memorial, junior)

KF – McIntosh, Marsh, Thompson, Jestin Love (Vandalia Butler, senior); Tanner Cuttone (Springboro, senior)

MEN – Messer, Linder, Dimmerling, Rizzo; Mack

PBG – Gallagher, Ewen, Liber, Crawford; Hunter Kupniewski (North Royalton, senior)

Not even counting his run to a Junior National freestyle title, the Ohio State Class of 2021 commit Gallagher has two of the biggest in-season scholastic wrestling wins in the last twelve-month period. The first came when he beat at-the-time national No. 1 Connor Brady 7-6 in last year's state title at this weight class. The second was last month when he knocked off Cadet World medalist Alex Facundo in a dual meet, the Penn State commit who many viewed as the top overall Class of 2021 wrestler.

In the two major tournament competitions of this regular season, Gallagher was champion at the Walsh Ironman beating top five nationally ranked Cerniglia, while he lost at the Doc Buchanan to the nationally elite Cael Valencia.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings at this weight competed in last year's consolation final at this weight, a match in which McIntosh upended Morton 10-8 in the tiebreaker. If one wants to wonder why they are both still in this weight class, just look at who is in the next weight, it's a "no win" situation.

Three additional ranked wrestlers join Gallagher at Perrysburg, including a pair with state experience. Ewen placed sixth last year as a freshman, while Liber won a state match in consolation as a sophomore;

those two have split championship finals bouts this season, Ewen winning at Perrysburg and Liber at Maumee Bay. Ewen also went 3-2 at the Ironman and placed third at Brecksville, while Liber has titles in three other tournaments. Fellow junior Crawford is the other ranked wrestler after placing fifth at Maumee Bay. It should be noted that Gorman champion Jackson Weissinger (Fremont Ross, senior), a state alternate two years ago as a sophomore, is most likely done for the season.

The Wyoming signee McIntosh missed placement at the Ironman by one match, while he has titles at three additional tournaments on the season including at Mason where he beat Indiana state third Dickens two times. He was upset in the semis at Medina up at 170 by Indiana State qualifier Braden Welch. Just two additional ranked wrestlers join him at Kettering Fairmont: the senior Marsh and returning state alternate Thompson. Marsh was third at SWOWCA, fourth at Medina, and champion at Western Brown; while the sophomore Thompson missed placing at Powerade by one match but was fourth at SWOWCA and champion at the CIT. Also here is 2018 state qualifier Love.

Morton has a pair of tournament titles to go with a 2-2 record at the Walsh Ironman, and is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, all returning state qualifiers though none won a match last year at the Schott. The sophomore Broskie placed seventh at North Canton before taking fourth at Brecksville and earning the title at Delaware Hayes; the junior Fitzpatrick was fourth at Olentangy Liberty, Bill Dies, and Wadsworth along with taking second at Medina; while the senior Cain was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Delaware Hayes, champion at GMVWA, fourth at Top Gun, and has a dual meet loss to Fitzpatrick.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Mentor, which features five ranked wrestlers, led by 2018 state placer Messer who had to injury forfeit out of his go-to-state bout last season. As a junior Messer placed third at Powerade and the Suburban League, where he lost to Fishback in overtime in the semis; he was runner-up at Wadsworth to the nationally ranked Best in the tiebreakers, and won gold at North Canton.

Two-time state qualifier Linder was third at Olentangy liberty, runner-up at the Suburban League and Top Gun, as well as winning gold at Medina and West Holmes. The sophomore Dimmerling was been up in weight until very late January; he was fifth at Solon and champion at Hudson in the 170-weight class, along with taking third at the Bill Dies up at 182. Returning state qualifier Rizzo placed eighth at Brecksville and third at the Suburban League up at 170 before dropping to this weight class to place third at the Bill Dies. Finally, the senior Mack was at 170 for the first couple weeks of the season where he was fourth at North Coast after missing placement at Solon by one match; then in this weight class he was fifth at Medina and fourth Maumee Bay.

170 pounds

1. Nevan Snodgrass, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Najee Lockett, Shaker Hts., senior (Perrysburg)
3. Jacob Lagoa, Ashtabula Lakeside, senior (Mentor)
4. Hudson Hightower, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
5. Cole Foor, Watkins Memorial, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Jaden Hardrick, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Corbin May, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Ethan Silvis, Medina, senior (Mentor)
9. Will Coffield, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Chase Stein, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. David Soghomonyan, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)

12. Aidan Corrigan, Twinsburg, junior (Mentor)
13. Kevin Kiussis, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
14. Jayden Jackson, Lakewood, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Jonathan Norwood, Elyria, freshman (Perrysburg)
16. Tristan Bluntschy, Olentangy Orange, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Foor, May, Soghomonyan, Bluntschy; Kyle Demoss (Hilliard Bradley, senior)

KF – Snodgrass, Hardrick, Coffield, Stein; Vincent Scally (Moeller, senior)

MEN – Lagoa, Silvis, Corrigan, Lukas Stiles (Medina Highland, freshman); Logan Shiarla (Wadsworth, junior)

PBG – Lockett, Hightower, Kiussis, Jackson; Norwood

Carson Kharchla finished last season as the No. 3 overall wrestler in the Class of 2019 nationally, just behind Greg Kerkvliet and Cohnton Schultz. He earned bonus points in five of eight bouts on the way to winning a pair of state titles before now redshirting as a freshman at Ohio State. All three of the primary contenders in this weight class have fallen victim to Kharchla the last couple of years.

A two-time Junior National freestyle All-American (sixth in 2018 and third in 2019), Snodgrass earned a pin and major to open his 2019 state tournament run in this weight class. He then faced Kharchla in the semifinal, losing a 5-1 decision; a pair of 3-1 decision victories earned him a third-place finish after placing fourth as both a freshman and sophomore. Snodgrass placed third at the Ironman early on in his senior season, though a 12-6 semifinal loss to nationally unranked Jaden Bullock came as a shock to all. He then missed a month-plus of action before returning in late January.

The two wrestlers ranked directly behind Snodgrass met in the final at Kenston in late December, where returning state runner-up Lockett upended two-time state champion Lagoa 3-2. The Cornell-bound Lockett is a two-time state placer, losing a 7-1 decision to Kharchla in last year's state final at this weight class. The Edinboro-bound Lagoa won state titles as a freshman and sophomore competing at Ashtabula St. John in Division III before transferring to Ashtabula Lakeside for his junior season; between ineligibility and injury, Lagoa missed the second half of the 2018-19 season. With respect to facing Kharchla, Lagoa lost by fall and technical fall in the 2017 and 2018 Brecksville finals respectively.

Lockett started his senior season up at 182 pounds, where he won a title at Olentangy Liberty. Surprising to me, he dropped to down to 170 the next week winning the title at Berkshire before subsequently winning championships at Kenston and Top Gun. He is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, most notably Hightower who finished fifth last year at state in the 182-pound weight class. The junior missed Ironman due to injury before placing fifth at the Doc Buchanan with a pair of losses to nationally ranked opposition, and then went 1-2 at the DCC Super Duals picking up a 1-0 victory over two-time Michigan third-place finisher Jay Nivison.

Kiussis placed at district two years ago as a sophomore, and this season missed placing at Solon by one bout before winning the North Coast Classic, placing seventh at Medina, and then runner-up finishes at the Bill Dies and Wadsworth. The junior Jackson was fourth at Solon, runner-up to Lockett at Berkshire, and fourth at Kenston; while the freshman Norwood missed placement at Brecksville by one match and finished 2-2 at both the Beast and Maumee Bay.

Lagoa's senior season also includes championships at Solon and the CVC. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Mentor. Silvis qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season has placed fifth

at Medina, fourth at Maumee Bay, and third at the Hephner; while the junior Corrigan was runner-up at Solon, North Coast, and the Suburban League along with taking third at Kenston.

Snodgrass is joined by returning state qualifier Hardrick, and two other ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont. The senior Hardrick was runner-up at SWOWCA and the Brooke Classic, while taking fifth at Brecksville and third at Top Gun. Fellow senior Coffield was runner-up at GMVWA, while the sophomore Stein missed state qualification last year by one match at 160 pounds.

Closing out the weight class are a quartet of ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, two of whom placed at state last year. The senior Foor seeks a fourth qualification to the state tournament, finishing sixth last year in this weight class; while his senior season includes runner-up finishes at North Canton and Western Brown sandwiched by a title at Dublin Scioto. Fellow senior May placed seventh at 182 last year, while his season has yielded titles at three tournaments (including GMVWA) and fifth place at the Top Gun. Soghomanyan was a second Upper Arlington wrestler that earned a state alternate position, but got to participate anyway at the state tournament; his senior season includes runner-up finishes at Upper Arlington and Fairfield along with sixth place at Medina. Fellow senior Bluntschy was a state alternate in this weight class last year, and has spent the vast majority of the season up at 195 where he won a pair of tournaments and placed eighth at Medina.

182 pounds

1. Jake Evans, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Gavin Bell, Beavercreek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Sal Perrine, Nordon, junior (Mentor)
4. Dom Loparo, Wadsworth, senior (Mentor)
5. Deron Pulliam, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Dillon Walker, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Toby Amburgy, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Michael Garcar, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
9. Cody Wilson, Licking Hts., senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Mason Sutandar, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Alec Hall, Tecumseh, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nick Copley, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Josiah George, Pickerington North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Dylan Davis, Green, senior (Mentor)
15. Tyler Grogg, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Marvelous Rutledge, Stebbins, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Pulliam, Wilson, Sutandar, Copley; George

KF – Bell, Walker, Amburgy, Hall; Grogg, Rutledge

MEN – Perrine, Loparo, Davis, William Speight (Bedford, senior); Jacob Smail (Austintown Fitch, junior)

PBG – Evans, Garcar, Ryan Musgrove (Perrysburg, junior), Jimmy Paletta (Berea-Midpark, junior);

Shamique Bryant (Lakewood, senior)

The presence of returning state champion Shumate one weight above, and the current triumvirate of Snodgrass, Lockett, and Lagoa one weight below yields this rather open weight class. While there could be a late shift of someone from either below or above to change the calculus, most signs point to the composition not changing materially.

As it presently stands, the highest returning state placer is Evans, who placed fourth at 170 pounds last year as a sophomore. His state tournament losses came 8-6 to Lockett in the semi and 3-1 to Snodgrass for bronze. Headed into this season, Evans placed at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle and the Super 32 Challenge, while missing All-American honors in Junior freestyle by one match. In the current season, he was runner-up at Ironman, including a semifinal win over returning state champ D'Alesio in the tiebreaker; placed third at the Beast of the East, outplacing the opponent he lost to in the quarterfinal; and then won titles at Brecksville and Maumee Bay.

High-end congestion is not the word of the day at Perrysburg, where there is just one other ranked wrestler in the junior Garcar, who has won a consolation match each of the previous two years at state competing in the 170-pound weight class. This season, he missed the Ironman due to injury, and missed placement at the Doc Buchanan by one match with both his losses coming to wrestlers from Illinois.

The primary challenge to Evans will come from three-time state qualifier Bell, who placed fifth at state last year down at 152 pounds. Subsequently, the Naval Academy appointee was seventh in the NHSCA Junior Nationals at 152 and then finished fifth at the Super 32 Challenge including a medal match win over Evans. This season Bell has titles at both SWOWCA and Medina. Five additional ranked wrestlers are in the field at Kettering Fairmont, two with state tournament experience.

Walker qualified for state in 2018 at Legacy Christian before transferring to LaSalle, where he was ruled ineligible for the second half of last season due to OHSAA bylaw. He has competed at both 170 and 182 this season; down at 170 he was 2-2 at the Ironman and runner-up at the DCC Invitational, while in this weight class, he was champion at the Dvorak and fourth at Escape the Rock. Amburgy won a state tournament bout last year in this weight class as a sophomore, and has competed both here and at 95 this season. Up at 195, he was runner-up at SWOWCA and champion at Mason; while in this weight class he went 3-2 at Ironman and finished seventh at Powerade.

The senior Hall has titles at four tournaments, including at Kettering Fairmont and Benjamin Logan, along with a fifth-place finish at GMVWA. Fellow senior Grogg placed at district last year in the 152-pound weight class; he was champion at Western Brown this season after placing third at SWOWCA and fourth at Medina. Finally, Rutledge was state alternate last year as a junior, and this season was runner-up at Kettering Fairmont before winning titles at Miamisburg and Sycamore.

Three returning state tournament participants are among five ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Said group is led by two-time state placer Pulliam, who was runner-up at North Canton and fourth at Brecksville in this weight before making a brief foray up to 195 where he was champion at Dublin Scioto. Wilson went two-and-out in this weight class last year as a junior, and this season has competed both up at 195 and down here; up at 195, he was champion at both Mount Vernon and Marion Harding, while in this weight he was champion at Dublin Scioto and Licking Heights. Fellow senior Sutandar was third at Olentangy Liberty, second at Top Gun, while winning titles at both GMVWA and Delaware Hayes.

Fellow senior Copley placed last year at the district tournament, while this season he was 2-2 at the Ironman before finishing fifth at North Canton, seventh at Brecksville, and second at Delaware Hayes. Finally, another senior in George has been both here and at 195; up at 195 he was runner-up at Mount Vernon and fourth at Olentangy, while in this weight he was runner-up at Dublin Scioto and Watkins Memorial.

Closing the loop is a trio of ranked wrestlers at Mentor, two of whom are returning state placers. The senior Loparo placed fifth at 160 last season, and has been both here and at 195 this season; up at 195, he was second at North Canton and fourth at Powerade, while in this weight class he lost to Perrine in overtime of the Suburban League final and was champion Wadsworth. Perrine placed seventh at 160 last season as a sophomore, and this season has four tournament titles without a known loss (includes titles at Suburban League and Top Gun). The senior Davis placed at district last year, and this season was champion at Solon before taking second at Edgewood, fourth at North Canton, and fifth at the Bill Dies.

195 pounds

1. Seth Shumate, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
2. Ben Vanadia, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
3. Jordan Greer, Avon, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Jacob Kowalski, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Jonathan List, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
6. Tyler Cobb, Oregon Clay, sophomore (Perrysburg)
7. Eddie Sevastos, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
8. Caleb Tackett, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Phillip Tracey, Northmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Ben Doehr, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
11. Dylan Russo, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
12. Clay Ours, Delaware Hayes, junior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Seth Dicola, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
14. Logan Shepherd, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
15. Freddie Lisy, Euclid, senior (Mentor)
16. Ben DeGuzman, North Canton Hoover, junior (Mentor)

HD – Shumate, Russo, Ours, Liam Wilson (Teays Valley, junior); Tristan Bluntschy (Olentangy Orange, senior)

KF – Kowalski, Tackett, Tracey, Johan Martinez (St. Xavier, senior); Tyler Hicks (Beavercreek, freshman)

MEN – Vanadia, List, Dicola, Shepherd; Lisy, DeGuzman

PBG – Greer, Cobb, Sevastos, Doehr; Zach Porch (Berea-Midpark, junior)

Back in 2007-2008, Chris Phillips entered his high school career at Monroeville along with Hunter Stieber and Cam Tessari. All four would go on to win four state titles, as did Logan Steiber, who was one year older than that trio. Phillips was the upper-weight out of that group, and entered high school already a mega-star. As a freshman at 171 pounds, he went 51-0 including titles at both Ironman and Brecksville; at that point, his state title was the highest in weight that a freshman had won.

Last year that was eclipsed when Shumate won state in the 195-pound weight class with a 50-1 record. His lone in-season loss came in the 182-pound semifinal at North Canton, a pin at the 3:30 mark by Anthony Carman from West Virginia, who did not end the season as a nationally ranked wrestler. Outside of a poor Super 32 Challenge this fall and an injury-marred Junior Duals, the performances of Shumate indicate an extremely high ceiling wrestler with star potential.

From a resume standpoint, Shumate was runner-up at the Cadet World Team trials last June and champion in both styles at the 16U Nationals last summer in Fargo. This season he was champion at the Walsh Ironman, North Canton, Brecksville, and Delaware Hayes tournaments. Of note for the state

tournament was his 10-4 win over Vanadia in the final at Brecksville, a match basically over by the end of the first period.

Vanadia returns as a state runner-up from last year at 182 as a sophomore, and his junior season has been most excellent in placing fifth at Ironman, third at the Beast, and second at Brecksville before winning the Suburban League. Five additional ranked wrestlers feature at the Mentor district, including returning state placer List and state qualifier Dicola.

Two-time state qualifier List finished eighth at state last year as a sophomore. He missed the Ironman but returned to the 182-pound weight class where he was a semifinalist at North Canton and missed placement by one match at Powerade, where he sustained another injury but has since returned and will compete here at 195. The senior Dicola was fifth at Medina down at 182 before bumping to this weight class to place seventh at Maumee Bay and win the Hephner.

Shepherd was a state alternate last year at 170 as a freshman, while this season he went 2-2 at the Ironman, missed placement by one match at both the Beast and Brecksville, and was seventh at the Top Gun. The senior Lisy was also a state alternate last year, and has titles in three tournaments to go with a runner-up at Elyria in the current season; while DeGuzman was a state alternate last year in this weight as a sophomore and this season has a title at Coshocton to go with a runner-up at Wadsworth along with placements at North Canton and Top Gun.

It's a pair of ranked wrestlers joining Shumate at Hilliard Darby, the freshman Russo and the junior Ours. Russo was champion at Olentangy Liberty, fifth at Medina and Wadsworth, as well as second at the Bill Dies; while Ours was third at Olentangy Liberty and GMVWA, fourth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Delaware Hayes.

The last of four returning state placers in this weight class is Greer, who took fourth last year in this weight class as a junior. This season, he was seventh at Ironman and champion at the Bill Dies. Three additional ranked wrestlers join him at Perrysburg, led by Cobb, who won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a freshman. His sophomore season includes a title at Solon before taking eighth at Brecksville, second at Dublin Scioto, and fifth at Maumee Bay. The senior Sevastos was state alternate last year up at 220, and this season was runner-up at Solon, fifth at the North Coast, champ at Medina, and then third at both Bill Dies and Wadsworth. Fellow senior Doehr placed at district in this weight last year, and this season was 3-2 at both the Ironman and Beast before medaling at Brecksville (third) and Maumee Bay then winning his conference tournament.

Rounding out the weight class is three ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont, led by returning state qualifier Kowalski who has titles at the GMVWA, Maumee Bay, and Watkins Memorial on the season. Fellow senior Tackett was a state alternate last year, and this season was third at SWOWCA and Medina before taking second at Western Brown; while the junior Tracey was third at North Coast Classic and Western Brown sandwiched around titles at Xenia and Troy.

220 pounds

1. Ethan Hatcher, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
2. Lazar Gasic, North Royalton, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Jacob Meek, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Justin Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Kaden Tong, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)

6. Nick Lisco, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
7. Jay Thompson, Worthington Kilbourne, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Nathan Robinson, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Jake Noon, Findlay, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Ryan Prusinowski, North Canton Hoover, junior (Mentor)
11. Brandon Smith, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Riley Ucker, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
13. Chrisean Merritt, Maple Hts., senior (Mentor)
14. Jake Nelson, Groveport-Madison, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Ace Ehrenschwender, Colerain, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Colton Quantz, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD - Tong, Thompson, Robinson, Ucker; Nelson

KF – Smith, Ehrenschwender, Quantz, Wade Humphrey (Springboro, senior); Laveall Trimble (St. Xavier, sophomore)

MEN – Hatcher, Prusinowski, Merritt, Laron Parks (Euclid, senior); Carlos Elias (Massillon Jackson, senior)

PBG – Gasic, Meek, Jaeckin, Lisco; Noon

Friday night at last year's state tournament was not exactly a night to remember for Brecksville, as the Bees went 1-5 in state semifinals with only Vanadia emerging victorious. The last of the five semifinal losses came from Hatcher, who scored the first takedown but ended up losing an 8-7 instant classic to eventual state champion Shumate. The Cornell-bound Hatcher responded with a pair of decision wins to place third. Between that and a football season where he was the featured running back for a team that made the playoffs one year after going winless; Hatcher was champion at the NHSCA Junior Nationals, third at the Cadet World Team trials, undefeated at the Junior Duals, and third in Junior freestyle.

He was runner-up at the Walsh Ironman and Beast of the East, with both losses coming to wrestlers ranked first and third nationally. Subsequently, he has won titles at Brecksville, the Suburban League, and Bill Dies. Hatcher has a major decision (Ironman quarterfinal) and pin (Suburban League final) over Gasic and a pin over Meek, the two wrestlers ranked right below him at the weight class in this division.

Gasic and Meek both won state tournament bouts last year as juniors, Gasic in this weight class and Meek down at 170. The pair are joined by three other ranked wrestlers in district competition at Perrysburg. Gasic was runner-up to Meek at Solon but since placed seventh at the Ironman before winning titles at Hudson and the Hephner; while subsequent results for Meek include placing fifth at Brecksville, first at Dublin Scioto, and third at Maumee Bay. Against common opponent Fausnaugh, returning runner-up in Division II, Gasic beat him at Ironman while Meek lost by fall in a dual meet.

Jaeckin qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season was runner-up at Olentangy liberty, champion at Medina, and third at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Lisco missed placing at the Ironman by one match, was eighth at the Doc Buchanan, and has quality wins in dual meets over Michigan state placer Colley along with Neves (the projected Division II champ). The other ranked wrestler is Noon, who was a state alternate last year in this weight; this season missed placing at the Ironman by one match before taking second at Findlay, eighth at Maumee Bay, and third at Wadsworth. Also here is returning state qualifier Sam Sawaya (Perrysburg, senior), whose go-to-state win over Noon was arguably the biggest upset of that round state wide last year.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the Hilliard Darby district, led by the senior Tong, who was a state alternate in this weight last year. He was champion at Olentangy Liberty and leading in his consolation final at Medina before sustaining an injury that knocked him out of competition for most of six weeks. Returning state qualifier Thompson has three tournament titles this season, including one at Top Gun, along with runner-up finishes at GMVWA and Dublin Scioto plus a fifth-place finish at Olentangy Liberty. Fellow senior Robinson placed fourth at Olentangy Liberty, GMVWA, and Top Gun before winning at Delaware Hayes.

Ucker qualified for state last year as a freshman and is a two-time 16U National freestyle All-American. This season he placed eighth at Ironman, third at North Canton, and second at Delaware Hayes; he also missed placement at Brecksville by one match, and was pinned by the unranked Joe Huber (Dublin Jerome, senior) at the regional duals. Lastly at a congested Darby district, it's Nelson who placed at district last year as a sophomore, and has titles in four tournaments on the season.

Joining Hatcher at Mentor are just two other ranked wrestlers, both of whom made the state tournament last year. The junior Prusinowski won a consolation bout at 182, and missed the first month-plus of the season before placing third at Top Gun and fourth at Wadsworth; while Merritt went two-and-out as a junior at 195, and was runner-up at Hudson to Gasic. It should be noted that returning state qualifier Blake Chrisman (Medina, senior) is out for the season due to an injury sustained at Maumee Bay.

Finally, there are three ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district led by the junior Smith, who placed last year in this weight at district; this season includes titles at Kenston and Fairfield. The senior Ehrenschwender was state alternate last year up at 285, and he has three tournament titles on the season but lost 14-4 in the semifinal round at Fairfield to Smith on the way to finishing third. Closing the loop is fellow senior Quantz, who placed third at SWOWCA and Medina before earning the title at Western Brown.

285 pounds

1. Max Millin, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. Jacob Padilla, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Daniel Bucknavich, Midview, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Omari Green, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Yousef Awad, Lakewood, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Seth Frantz, Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Marco Tramantano, Mayfield, senior (Mentor)
8. Donovan Hardin, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Ethan Green, Fremont Ross, sophomore (Perrysburg)
10. Tripp Johnson, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Ben Blevins, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Brenden Holiday, Wooster, senior (Mentor)
13. Ethan Hand, Olentangy, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Justin Knipper, Beaver creek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Rowan Tolbert, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Mason Bingham, Avon, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – O. Green, Hardin, Hand, Max Lenz (Big Walnut, senior); Zach McMinn (Marysville, junior)

KF – Padilla, Frantz, Johnson, Blevins; Knipper, Tolbert

MEN – Millin, Tramantano, Holiday, Rager Els (Massillon, junior); Knowledge Smith/Tehjon Avery (Canton McKinley, senior)

PBG – Bucknavich, Awad, E. Green, Bingham; Ben Richmond (Oregon Clay, senior)

Finishing an undefeated 42-0 as a junior at heavyweight normally means that a repeat state title is the next thing on the horizon. At this point in time, that would involve flipping the script for Jacob Padilla, who is bound for Ohio University as a wrestler. Padilla's season started well enough with a 5-4 victory over fellow state champion Coleman in the SWOWCA final. Then in the semifinal at Brecksville, fellow senior Millin knocked off Padilla 6-4 in overtime. While Padilla would go on to finish third in that tournament, he lost to Millin just over two weeks later 2-1 in the Top Gun final, and lost 5-0 to Frazier from West Virginia in the Brooke Classic final thereafter.

It should be noted that Padilla did pick up two wins over Millin last season, Top Gun final and state semifinal. A hypothetical state finals meeting on Sunday, March 15th would be a career rubber match with the wrestlers entering 2-2 against one another.

After placing third at state last season, Millin has been one of the biggest emerging stories among Ohio wrestlers in the national landscape. He finished runner-up at both the Ironman and Beast of the East, though it should be noted that he reversed the overtime loss from the Ironman final with an overtime victory in the semifinal round at the Beast. Millin then followed the semifinal win over Padilla at Brecksville with a 5-4 victory in the final over Michigan state champ Kolcheff, who is also nationally ranked. He also was named Outstanding Wrestler at Delaware Hayes.

There's a third very high-end heavyweight in Bucknavich, who was fifth at state last year as a junior after losing 7-3 to Millin in the quarterfinal round. He placed first this season at Solon, Medina, the Bill Dies, and West Holmes. There are three additional ranked wrestlers at Perrysburg, led by returning state qualifier Awad who beat eventual state placer Omari Green 6-4 in the opening round at state. Ethan Green, only a sophomore, was third at Solon and seventh at Defiance before taking fourth at both Maumee Bay and Delaware Hayes; while Bingham placed at district last year down at 220 in his sophomore campaign, and finished eighth at Brecksville and third at the Bill Dies this season.

Padilla exits the deepest of the districts, as five additional ranked wrestlers are present at Kettering Fairmont. Said group is led by returning state qualifier Frantz, who has titles in four tournaments this season – including GMVWA – and was pinned by Padilla in the final at Troy. Fellow senior Johnson was a state alternate last year at 220, and this season was runner-up at GMVWA; Blevins placed at district two years ago as a sophomore but did not wrestle last year after transferring to LaSalle, while this season includes placing sixth at the DCC Invitational and fourth at Escape the Rock.

Fellow seniors Knipper and Tolbert round out the ranked group. Knipper was third at SWOWCA and sixth at Medina; while Tolbert was fourth at SWOWCA, fifth at Brecksville, runner-up at CIT, and sixth at Delaware Hayes.

It's just a pair of ranked wrestlers joining Millin at Mentor. Fellow senior Tramantano missed last season due to injury but is a physical specimen at every bit of the weight class. He anchored the interior lines for a team that was undefeated in the regular season, and took Hoban to the brink in the playoffs, while also qualifying last year for state in the shot put. This season he was champion at Hudson and the Hephner, along with placing third at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Holiday was closed out of the lineup

last year by returning state qualifier Burns, who transferred to Hoban for his senior season; while he was first at Smithville this season.

Three ranked wrestlers led by returning state medalist Omari Green lead the contingent at Hilliard Darby. The senior Green has titles in three tournaments, including an overtime win over Hardin in the final at Olentangy Liberty; while he finished second at Marion Harding and Delaware Hayes. Fellow senior Hardin is a returning state qualifier, placing this this year at North Canton, Dublin Scioto, and Delaware Hayes in addition to the runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and seventh-place at Delaware Hayes. The junior Hand placed fifth at North Canton and Delaware Hayes, missed placing by one match at Medina, and was runner-up at Mason.

Team

1. St. Edward (Perrysburg)
2. Elyria (Perrysburg)
3. Brecksville (Mentor)
4. Cincinnati LaSalle (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Wadsworth (Mentor)
6. Perrysburg (Perrysburg)
7. Oregon Clay (Perrysburg)
8. Dublin Coffman (Hilliard Darby)
9. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Springboro (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Huber Hts. Wayne (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Dublin Scioto (Hilliard Darby)

DIVISION II

106 pounds

1. Marlon Yarbrough, Copley, junior (Alliance)
2. Codie Cuerdo, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Dominic Hoffarth, Louisville, freshman (Alliance)
4. Tyler Hisey, St. Mary's Memorial, sophomore (Norwalk)
5. Brock Herman, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
6. Anthony Perez, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
7. Logan Cravatas, Medina Buckeye, sophomore (Norwalk)
8. A.J. Hurt, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
9. Caleb Thomas, Lemon Monroe, junior (Wilmington)
10. Colin Mellott, Wapakoneta, junior (Norwalk)
11. Alexander Crane, Sheridan, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Amaar Salaam, Columbus East, senior (Wilmington)
13. Billy Smith, Perkins, sophomore (Norwalk)
14. Ruben Pina-Lorenzana, Firelands, freshman (Norwalk)
15. Jack Welsh, West Holmes, junior (Claymont)
16. Brady Fisher, London, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Yarbrough, Cuerdo, Hoffarth, Herman; Perez

CLMT – Crane, Welsh, Jarrett Stillion (Meadowbrook, junior), Anthony Chevlin (Steubenville, sophomore); Colton Smithley (Maysville, sophomore)

NOR – Hisey, Cravatas, Mellott, Smith; Pina-Lorenzana

WIL – Hurt, Thomas, Salaam, Fisher; Reece Chapman (Jonathan Alder, junior)

Over the course of time, there have been many years where the patterns and trends associated with the opening weight carry out through the course of a tournament/series. A pair of related themes are the proverbial “elephant in the room” of this year’s Division II state tournament: (1) the Alliance District is absolutely loaded (2) said depth is going to adversely impact the ability of Louisville and Aurora to dethrone 19-time defending state champion Graham at the state tournament.

First and foremost, five of the top six ranked wrestlers in this weight class are competing for state spots from Alliance. Second, two of those contenders are from Louisville and Aurora. As a result, it is entirely possible that a potential state placer is not able to be part of the state tournament team title battle.

Now at a weight class that is size appropriate, the junior Yarbrough has separated from the pack, and is the clear state title favorite. Yarbrough was 2-2 at district in Division I as a freshman competing as an undersized 106 after winning a Junior High state title at 84 pounds in 2017. Then last year he was shifted up to 113 late in the season with eventual state medalist Van Voorhis taking over the spot at 106 pounds; he went 2-2 at 113 in the district tournament losing to now two-time state qualifiers in Howard and Roberts. Yarbrough placed fourth at the Ironman, and has titles at Medina, the Suburban League, Bill Dies, and Hephner tournaments.

Aurora’s Cuerdo was closed out of the lineup as a freshman last year by state alternate Robbie Sagaris after winning Junior High state in 2018 at 77 pounds. This past summer he was fourth in 16U Nationals freestyle at 94 pounds. On the season he went 1-2 at the Ironman before placing third at Brecksville, Suburban League, and Top Gun but has a pair of losses to Yarbrough along the way. Next is the

freshman Hoffarth from Louisville, Junior High state runner-up last year at 102 pounds; who was 2-2 at the Ironman before placing third at Maumee Bay, second at the Hephner to Yarbrough, and first at the EOWL.

Fellow freshmen Herman and Perez round out the group of five at Alliance. Herman was Junior High state champ at 96 pounds; his season includes titles at Solon, North Canton, and Wadsworth to go with a 1-2 Walsh Ironman and runner-up at the CIT. He also lost 3-1 to Cuerdo in the regional dual final. Perez has competed at both 106 and 113; at 106 he missed Ironman placement by one bout and was fourth at Brecksville, while up at 113 he was third at North Canton and sixth at Maumee Bay. As to why Perez doesn't just outright decide to go up to 113, take a look at the next weight at Alliance immediately.

Outside of the Alliance district, the sophomore Hisey is the top ranked wrestler. His season includes championships at three tournaments, most notably at Lima Senior, and a 5-3 dual meet win over returning state qualifier Mellott. Four other ranked wrestlers join him at Norwalk.

Cravatas was state alternate last year at his weight class as a freshman, while this season he was fifth at Medina, third at the Gorman, and fourth at Bill Dies before winning the title at West Holmes. The senior Mellott has titles in two tournaments along with placing third at GMVWA and going 0-2 at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Smith upset Cravatas in the regional dual final, though he went 1-2 at Medina, was runner-up at the Gorman, and placed seventh at Maumee Bay. Finally, the freshman Pina-Lorenzana placed eighth at Medina and Maumee Bay, while finishing fourth at Perrysburg.

There was a composition shift in the two southern districts of Division II this year. Instead of one southeast district sectional appearing in each of the Wilmington and (this year) Claymont districts, both southeast sectionals are at Claymont, while the central district sectional is down at Wilmington.

At the Claymont district, the East district sectionals qualified 37 to state in 2019 and 39 in 2018; while at Wilmington, the Southwest district sectionals qualified 47 to state in 2019 and 44 in 2018. The Alexander sectional (southeast) qualified 7 to state in each of the last two years at Claymont, the Licking Valley sectional (central) qualified 12 in 2019 and 10 in 2018 to state out of Claymont, while the Washington C.H. sectional (southeast) qualified 9 in 2019 and 12 in 2018 to state out of Wilmington.

Just two ranked wrestlers call Claymont home in this weight class, the sophomore Crane and returning state alternate Welsh. Crane has titles at Cambridge and Sheridan to go with runner-up finishes at Nelsonville-York, the Bill Dies, and Watkins Memorial; while the junior Welsh was runner-up at Cambridge, fifth at the Bill Dies, and fourth at Welsh Holmes.

Last and least returning state qualifiers Hurt and Thomas lead a group of four ranked wrestlers at Wilmington. Hurt went two-and-out in Division I at the state tournament last year; this year he was champion at Franklin and Central Crossing, while finishing sixth at Medina and second at Western Brown. Thomas went two-and-out as well in this weight class, and this year placed third at SWOWCA, has three tournament titles, and was runner-up to Hisey at Lima Senior. The senior Salaam has three tournament titles to go with a third at Dublin Scioto and second at Central Crossing, while fellow senior Fisher was runner-up at Madison Plains and Marion Pleasant, as well as winning a title at Licking Heights.

113 pounds

1. Cael Woods, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)

2. Brendan McCrone, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Nolan Gessler, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
4. Kenneth Crosby, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
5. Jake Hamulak, Chardon, senior (Alliance)
6. Zane Van Voorhis, Copley, sophomore (Alliance)
7. Blake Sheppard, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
8. Daniel Adams, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
9. Rico Cunningham, Sandusky, senior (Norwalk)
10. Damon Molina, Wauseon, junior (Norwalk)
11. Eddie Pinc, Buckeye, junior (Norwalk)
12. Hunter Miller, Canton South, senior (Alliance)
13. Robbie Sagaris, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
14. Nick Barber, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
15. Brandon Sauter, Batavia, sophomore (Wilmington)
16. Gabe Alda, Bellevue, junior (Norwalk)

ALL – McCrone, Crosby, Hamulak, Van Voorhis; Adams, Miller, Sagaris, Barber

CLMT – Woods, Sheppard, Weston Melvin (Miami Trace, sophomore), Cole Renier (Logan Elm, junior); Tyler Beckley (Indian Valley, sophomore)

NOR – Cunningham, Molina, Pinc, Alda; Trevor Hisey (St. Mary's Memorial, sophomore)

WIL – Gessler, Sauter, Justin Mills (Valley View, senior), Grant Moorman (Clinton-Massie, sophomore); Gabe Miller (Bishop Fenwick, sophomore)

Now three-time state placer Woods set the tone for his sensational junior season when he upended two-time defending state champion Jacob Decatur 2-1 in the tiebreaker at the final of the North Canton tournament in December of 2018. Thirty-two wins later, he was wrestling Decatur for state gold with an undefeated 47-0 record; however, it was not to be as Decatur came up with the crucial takedown late in the sudden victory period to win the title bout 4-2.

With one last chance at a state title, the Ashland signee started his senior season at 120 pounds, where he won titles at Cambridge and North Canton but went 2-2 at the Walsh Ironman. He (smartly) dropped down to this weight class in January with two state champions appearing up at 120, and has since taken championships at the Bill Dies and West Holmes. Just one other ranked wrestler is present at Claymont, and that is returning state medalist Sheppard, who has also competed at both 113 and 120. Up at 120, he was a semifinalist at Cambridge and seventh at Medina; while in this weight class he was runner-up at Licking Valley before winning titles at Athens and New Lexington.

Next in our discussion is the absolute traveling circus at Alliance, where there are EIGHT ranked wrestlers, five of whom populate top eight spots in the rankings. Yet again Aurora and Louisville wrestlers are among the contenders, though in this class each is outside a state qualifying position. If one wants to know, why not go up to 120? Two answers: (1) in some cases there are teammates blocking that path (2) there are two state champions in that weight class. Still, there might be someone that chooses to go up to 120.

McCrone was a semifinalist last year as a freshman at state despite placing fourth at district, though he did slide back down to sixth place on the podium. This season he has titles at Solon, North Canton, and CIT to go with a 2-2 mark at Ironman along with fifth place at Brecksville. State runner-up last year as a sophomore, Crosby has finished as runner-up at North Canton (McCrone), Medina, and Wadsworth

(Gessler) along with winning the title at Top Gun. Two-time state placer in this weight class, the senior Hamulak was champion at Kenston and has finished as runner-up at Solon (McCrone), Perrysburg, and Top Gun (Crosby). Van Voorhis finished fifth as a freshman in Division I, but was a disappointing 2-2 at Medina before finishing fifth at the Suburban League (7-5 loss to Jett), third at the Bill Dies (11-1 loss to Woods), and champion at the Hephner.

Returning state qualifiers Miller and Barber find themselves outside state qualification. The senior Miller won a consolation match in this state bracket last year; this season he has a title at Beaver Local to go with a fifth place at Bill Dies and third at Delaware Hayes. Barber was a state quarterfinalist last year as a sophomore at 106, while this season he went two-and-out at Ironman and 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing seventh at the Hephner and fourth at EOWL. Fellow junior Adams placed seventh at North Canton and Maumee Bay, while finishing third at the Hephner and champion at EOWL. Sagaris was state alternate last year as a sophomore, while this season includes finishing third at the Suburban League, fourth at Top Gun, and fifth at Wadsworth.

The two remaining returning state medalists compete at Wilmington for district, and are the only ranked wrestlers in that field. Gessler bounced back to third at state after losing by fall in the opening round to McCrone. He was runner-up at the Cheesehead along with winning titles at GMVWA and Wadsworth after going 2-2 at the Walsh Ironman in mid-December. Sauter placed seventh at 106 last year as a freshman, while this season he has three tournament titles.

Finally, it's a group of four ranked wrestlers at Norwalk led by the senior Cunningham, who won a consolation match at state in this weight last year. His current season includes a runner-up finish at Defiance, a title at the Gorman, and finishing fourth place at Maumee Bay. The junior Molina was a state quarterfinalist at 106 last year, and this season includes placing sixth at Medina at 120 before taking fourth at Perrysburg and missing the podium by one match at Maumee Bay in this weight. Fellow junior Pinc went two-and-out in this weight class last year at state, and has third place finishes at Medina and the Gorman to go with a fourth at Bill Dies and third place at West Holmes. Closing it out is another junior in Alda, who was a state quarterfinalist last year, while this year he has placed eighth at Brecksville and sixth at Perrysburg.

120 pounds

1. Garrett Lautzenheiser, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
2. Kyle Rowan, Perry, senior (Alliance)
3. Michael Petrella, Bishop Hartley, senior (Wilmington)
4. Tyler Masters, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
5. Dierre Clayton, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
6. Canyon Wells, Copley, junior (Alliance)
7. Mark Emmerling, Beaver Local, sophomore (Claymont)
8. Ethan Fletcher, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
9. Trey Finnearty, Athens, senior (Claymont)
10. Drake Cerny, Caledonia River Valley, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Cameron Deiter, Bowling Green, sophomore (Norwalk)
12. Branton Dawes, Washington C.H., sophomore (Claymont)
13. Jacob Norris, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
14. Nathan Demangeont, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
15. Case George, Ashland, junior (Norwalk)
16. Chase Huff, Goshen, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Lautzenheiser, Rowan, Clayton, Wells; Fletcher, Demangeont

CLMT – Masters, Emmerling, Finnearty, Dawes; Norris

NOR – Deiter, George, Jayden Mayes (Bellevue, junior), Colton Campbell (Clear Fork, junior); Shayne Bianchi (Padua, junior)

WIL – Petrella, Cerny, Huff, Roman Jones (Dayton C-J, sophomore); Jacob Bryan (Wyoming, junior)

After seven consecutive years with at least one state tournament bracket featuring a pair of state champions from the previous year, last year did not have one such weight class. As presently constituted, this weight class has a pair of returning state champions in Lautzenheiser and Rowan, with both exiting the Alliance district.

Lautzenheiser (champ at 120 in 2019) upended Rowan (champ at 106 in 2019) 10-4 in the final at Brecksville, a match in which a five-point move during the third period pushed out the margin of victory as Lautzenheiser already had the lead off an earlier takedown. That title yielded Lautzenheiser one of his three Outstanding Wrestler honors this season, as he also got such award at North Canton and EOWL. The Class of 2021 verbal commit to West Virginia also was champion at Maumee Bay, while his lone trio of losses came to out-of-state wrestlers during an eighth-place finish at the Ironman in the 126-pound weight class; those losses all to wrestlers that are nationally ranked, or have been at varying points of the season.

Along with finishing runner-up at Brecksville, Rowan has titles in three tournaments, and a third-place finish at Maumee Bay where he was upset 5-2 in the semifinal by Allison. Four other ranked wrestlers are slated to compete at 126, though you could see one of the contenders choose the 126 path instead. Returning state placer Clayton was one match from placing at the Ironman before taking fifth at North Canton and Wadsworth, along with taking second at Medina and first at Top Gun.

Fellow junior Wells was state alternate last year in Division I up at 126 pounds. This season he was third at North Canton, fourth at Medina, runner-up at Bill Dies and (at 126 in the) Hephner, and champion of the Suburban League. Yet another junior is Fletcher, state qualifier in 2018 and state alternate last year, who has a win over Wells in the Bill Dies final; he also placed seventh at Brecksville, was runner-up at the Hephner, and third at the EOWL. Finally it's Demangeont, district placer last year as a sophomore, who was runner-up at Hudson before taking first at Central Crossing and third at the Bill Dies.

A pair of two-time state placers are ranked behind Lautzenheiser and Rowan, Petrella and Masters, each of whom are seniors. Petrella also has split time between 120 and 126; up at 126, he was champion at Olentangy Liberty and Watkins Memorial, while in this weight class he was fourth at Brecksville and first at the CIT. Masters started his season at 126, where he was champion at Cambridge, then 1-2 at the Ironman before taking fourth at North Canton; since moving to this weight he was upset by Deiter in the quarterfinal of the Bill Dies and won the title at West Holmes.

Petrella is joined by a pair of ranked wrestlers at Wilmington, both of whom have previously appeared on the state tournament podium. Cerny was fifth at 106 last year as a freshman, while this season he was fifth at Medina and second at Nelsonville-York before winning the title at Watkins Memorial. Huff placed two years ago as a sophomore at 106 before going two-and-out last year at 113; this season he has titles at two tournaments.

Masters is joined by four ranked wrestlers of his own at Claymont, two of whom happened to meet in an opening round match last year at state. Emmerling beat Dawes 7-6 at 113 to win the battle of freshman and secure the four-over-one upset. Emmerling has competed at both 120 and 126 this season. Up at 126, he was runner-up at Cambridge and Beaver Local before taking sixth at Brecksville, while at this weight class he was OVAC champion and EOWL runner-up. Dawes has four tournament titles between the 120 and 126 weight classes, while he was fifth at Nelsonville-York in this weight losing an overtime match to the freshman Campbell during the pool stage.

The senior Finnearty was eighth as a freshman at 106 and qualified for state as a sophomore at 113 while competing for Circleville; last year he was at Culver Academies in Indiana, where he placed eighth at 120. He spent most of this season at 126, where he was third at Cambridge (losing 5-4 to Emmerling in the semifinal) and Nelsonville-York along with champion at Sheridan and Gallia; in this weight class, he has an overtime decision over Sheppard at regional duals. The junior Norris, a returning district placer, is the other ranked wrestler; this season he was runner-up at Cambridge and Coschoton, fourth at North Canton and Top Gun, and champion at Licking Valley.

Closing the loop in this weight class is a pair of ranked wrestlers at Norwalk. Deiter was state alternate last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Findlay and a placer at the Bill Dies (beat Masters, lost to Wells and Demangeont). George went two-and-out at state last year in Division I at this weight class as a sophomore, while this season he missed placing at Medina by one match before winning the Gorman and taking seventh at Wadsworth.

126 pounds

1. Kyren Butler, Copley, junior (Alliance)
2. Nolan Ray, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
3. Koen Kish, St. Clairsville, junior (Claymont)
4. Nick Hart, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
5. Cooper Krauth, Revere, junior (Alliance)
6. Brett Minnick, Tiffin Columbian, sophomore (Norwalk)
7. Koby Beal, New Lexington, junior (Claymont)
8. Elliot Alessia, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Brandon Brown, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
10. Tyler Woods, Franklin, junior (Wilmington)
11. Yuri Podzneevev, Orange, senior (Alliance)
12. Tyler Harkins, Norwood, senior (Wilmington)
13. Josh Dunn, Goshen, senior (Wilmington)
14. Noah Alda, Bellevue, senior (Norwalk)
15. Alijah Stevens, Licking Valley, sophomore (Wilmington)
16. Bo DiJulius, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)

ALL – Butler, Krauth, Alessia, Podzneevev; DiJulius, Jaden Ferris (Chardon, junior)

CLMT – Kish, Beal, Brown, Kendel Weber (West Holmes, sophomore); Tyler Crawford (Tri-Valley, junior)

NOR – Ray, Minnick, Alda, Max Oprzadek (Perkins, junior); Brandon D'Egidio (Vermillion, senior), Josh Calderon (Sandusky, senior)

WIL – Hart, Woods, Harkins, Dunn; Stevens

Thursday so far has been kind to Butler in a pair of career state tournaments, while Friday has been unkind. As both a freshman and sophomore, Butler won his opening round match before losing in the

quarterfinal and consolation match-to-place. In between his sophomore and junior seasons, Butler was third at the U16 Nationals in freestyle while missing placement by one match in a very tough Super 32 Challenge weight class. Within the high school season, he missed placement by one bout at the Ironman, and was runner-up at both Medina and the Suburban League before winning titles at the Bill Dies and (at 132) Hephner.

Right there basically even with Butler is the senior Ray, who finished sixth in this state tournament weight class two years ago. He is something of a big-move fiend, as he pinned all of his opponents at Medina leading to the 9-4 finals victory over Butler. Furthermore, in that victory over Butler, it was an early big move that put Ray in position to win. The lone loss I can find for Ray came 10-8 in overtime to Blaze in December, a match in which Blaze had to rally back from an early big move by Ray. He also beat the freshman Hart 8-4 in the regional dual final.

Four additional ranked wrestlers feature along with Butler at the Alliance district. Something to note is that all five of those wrestlers also exit the same sectional at Beachwood. Unless someone move to 132 for the post-season, (at least) one of the five is not moving to the district stage. Krauth won a state tournament bout last year up at 132 as a sophomore. Alessia was a district placer last year at 120 as a freshman, while this year he went 2-2 at the Ironman before taking eighth at North Canton. The senior Podzneeve was third at Solon, and has since won for tournaments, most notably at Riverside and Kenston; while the sophomore DiJulius missed placement at Brecksville by one match before finishing third at the Suburban League and Wadsworth sandwiched around a fourth place at Top Gun.

Ray is joined by two other ranked wrestlers at Norwalk. Minnick missed the back end of his freshman season due to injury, though he was well positioned to qualify for state; while this season he was champion at Bellevue and the Gorman, along with placing at Brecksville and finishing sixth at Maumee Bay. Alda was state alternate last year as a junior, with this season including taking third at Bellevue and second at Perrysburg. Also in this weight class is returning state qualifier Oprzadek.

Five ranked wrestlers feature at Wilmington led by the freshman Hart, a Junior High state champion last year at 132 pounds. He was 3-2 at the Ironman, including a consolation win over Agin, before finishing first at GMVWA, fourth at the Cheesehead, and second at Wadsworth. Next is the senior Woods, a returning state qualifier in this weight class who was up at 132 for most of this season where he was champion at Edgewood, runner-up at Franklin and Western Brown, and fourth at West Jefferson; his debut at 126 came in a title finish at Eaton.

Next up is returning state alternate Harkins, who has finished as runner-up in three tournaments, was champion at Madeira, and placed sixth at SWOWCA. Returning state medalist Dunn was champ at Williamsburg and runner-up at Madeira. Harkins was state alternate last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Nelsonville-York and Heath, while placing between third and fifth in four other events.

Wrapping up this weight class is the group of three ranked wrestlers at Claymont, led by returning state qualifier Kish. His season includes titles at the OVAC and Brooke Classic, while he was third at North Canton and second at New Lexington. Fellow junior Beal was a district placer last year at 132, while this year he has spent time both at 132 and here at 126. Up one weight class he was runner-up at Cambridge and a quarterfinalist at North Canton, then he has titles at Licking Valley and Athens in this weight. Brown was a state alternate last year after qualifying for state as a freshman the previous year; this year

he placed seventh at North Canton, was runner-up at Licking Valley and West Holmes, and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun.

132 pounds

1. Davin Rhoads, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
2. Matthew Williams, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
3. Logan Ours, Beaver Local, sophomore (Claymont)
4. Payton Burgdorf, Firelands, senior (Norwalk)
5. Chris Kelly, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
6. Josh Lyons, Mansfield, senior (Norwalk)
7. Howard Williams, East Liverpool, junior (Claymont)
8. Hayden Martin, Warsaw River View, senior (Claymont)
9. Ethan Smith, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
10. Crae Muzykowski, Licking Valley, junior (Wilmington)
11. Keegan Kohler, Fairfield Union, senior (Claymont)
12. Dominic Davis, London, senior (Wilmington)
13. Cade Cass, Cloverleaf, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Mason McCarty, Marlinton, senior (Allinace)
15. Joseph Eckelberry, Tri-Valley, junior (Claymont)
16. Tristan Villarreal, Defiance, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Rhoads, Williams, Smith, Cass; McCarty

CLMT – Ours, Williams, Martin, Kohler; Eckelberry

NOR – Burgdorf, Lyons, Villarreal, Jameson Mullins (Port Clinton, junior); Devin McCarthy (Galion, junior)

WIL – Kelly, Muzykowski, Davis, Gage Daugherty (Western Brown, senior); TBD

Back in 1985 and 1986, Louisville had state champions in consecutive years. Daryl Mickley was champion at 167 in 1985, with Mike Malcuit winning the 126 title in 1986, both coming in Class AAA. Those were the only two titles for the Leopards until last year when Lautzenheiser and Rhoads won state titles in back-to-back weight classes. Rhoads won his state title last year despite winning zero tournaments until the state tournament, which has to be something of a rarity.

Rhoads has already won three tournaments this season (North Canton, Maumee Bay, and EOWL), while placing sixth at Ironman and third at Brecksville, where he split matches against projected Division I state champ Carmany. The senior Williams knocked off Rhoads in both the sectional and district finals last year before finishing sixth at state. Rhoads already has three head-on wins over Williams this season (North Canton final, Brecksville consolation semifinal, and Maumee Bay semifinal). None the less, it's been an excellent season for Williams who missed placement at the Ironman by a single match with both losses coming to nationally ranked out-of-state opponents. Since then he was runner-up at North Canton, fifth at Brecksville, fourth at Maumee Bay, and champ at Wadsworth.

Three additional ranked wrestlers feature at Alliance. Smith was closed out of the Lake Catholic lineup last year by Trivisonno and Connor McCrone, while he's been excellent as a sophomore finishing second at Solon and Wadsworth, along with placing third at North Canton and going 3-2 at Brecksville. Fellow sophomore Cass was champ at Lorain and placed fourth at Medina, while the senior McCarty has competed at both 132 and 138. Up at 138 he missed placing at Top Gun by one match after finishing second at Beaver Local and first at Coshocton; while he was second at the Hephner in this weight class.

Also featuring five ranked wrestlers is the Claymont district, which is led by Ours who was a state finalist last year at 120 pounds as a freshman. He was 3-2 at the Ironman and 2-2 at Brecksville, along with winning titles at Cambridge and the OVAC as well losing 6-4 to Rhoads in the EOWL final. Williams qualified for state two years ago as a freshman, and this season has titles at Barnesville and Medina to go with runner-up finishes at the Gorman and OVAC as well as third place finishes at the Hephner and Buckeye Local.

Martin went two-and-out in this state weight class last year as a junior, and this season was champion in three tournaments including New Lexington while taking second at Licking Valley. Kohler qualified for state two years ago as a sophomore and this season has runner-up finishes at Sheridan, West Jefferson, and Licking Heights to go with a fourth at New Lexington; while Eckelberry qualified for state two years ago as a freshman in Division I, and this season has a title at Pickerington North to go with a runner-up at Coshocton and fifth place at the Hephner.

Three-time state placer Burgdorf anchors a group of three ranked wrestlers at Norwalk. His senior season started by going 2-2 down at 126 in the Walsh Ironman before he moved up to this weight in placing second at Perrysburg and fifth at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Lyons is a returning state qualifier, who has titles at three tournaments, including a 6-5 win over Williams in the Gorman final; while a third senior Villarreal was fifth at Defiance and third at Perrysburg. Also in this weight class is 2018 state qualifier Mullens.

Returning state qualifier Kelly, a two-time state finalist back in Arizona, anchors a group of three ranked wrestlers at Wilmington. This season for Kelly started with a 2-2 mark at the Ironman (losing 3-2 to Williams in an elimination match) before finishing second at GMVWA, fourth at Cheesehead, and fifth at Wadsworth. The junior Muzykoski was champ at Sheridan and Licking Valley before placing fifth at Nelsonville-York, sixth at the Brooke Classic, and third at New Lexington. The senior Davis was state alternate last year, and this year he as competed at both 132 and 138; up one weight class he was champ at Madison Plains and second at Licking Heights, while in this weight class he was third at Marion Pleasant.

138 pounds

1. Nick Moore, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Cole McComas, Beaver Local, senior (Claymont)
3. Isaiah Wortham, Dayton C-J, senior (Wilmington)
4. Tyler Muldrew, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
5. Caden Scarbrough, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
6. Caden Stout, St. Clairsville, sophomore (Claymont)
- Jonathan Potts, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)*
7. Colin Koenig, Perry, junior (Alliance)
8. Nick Coreno, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
9. Dominic Paterra, Indian Creek, freshman (Claymont)
10. Nic Willingham, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Alex DelGarbino, Girard, senior (Alliance)
12. Carter Mickley, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
13. J.D. Thom, Perkins, junior (Norwalk)
14. Domanick Speelman, Carrollton, sophomore (Claymont)
15. Shaun Pletcher, New Lexington, junior (Claymont)
16. Sam Miller, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)

17. A.J. Lewandowski, Dayton Oakwood, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Scarbrough, Koenig, Coreno, Willingham; DelGarbino, Mickley, Miller

CLMT – McComas, Muldrew, Stout, Potts, Pattera; Speelman, Pletcher

NOR – Thom, Michael Kinzel (Bowling Green, freshman), Adam Cook (Ashland, senior), Lawson Grime (Wauseon, sophomore); Conner Douglass (Elida, sophomore)

WIL – Moore, Wortham, Lewandowski, Ezra Marlow (Western Brown, senior); Ethan James (London, senior), Owen Hewitt (Eaton, junior)

Four times previous has a three-time state runner-up entered the state tournament in his senior year. All four previous times, said wrestler did not finish as state runner-up. Steven Blunk (Streetsboro) used four state tournament technical falls to win the Division II 135 pound title in 2004, Josh Horne (Pickerington Central) beat Mikey Davis (Hilliard Davidson) 6-4 to win state gold at 140 in Division I in 2005, Ryan Fields (Lakota West) 6-4 to Brad Squire (Wadsworth) in the 2008 Division I semifinal at 130, while Ben Pasiuk (Carrollton) beat Ethan Hernandez 6-2 to win the Division II 160 pound title last year.

Cole McComas enters this state tournament with runner-up finishes at 106 (12-6 to Jacob Decatur in 2017), 113 (5-3 in overtime against Tanner Jordan in 2018), and 126 pounds (3-2 to Rhoads in 2019). This season he has titles at Cambridge and Beaver Local, third place finishes at Brecksville and the OVAC, and missed placement at the Ironman by one match. However, he has been held out of competition since the OVAC meet.

Speaking of state runner-up finishes, projected state champ Moore was runner-up in each of his first two high school season as well. In 2018, it was a 5-3 loss to David Massey in the 126 final, while Jordan Decatur used a late third period takedown to win 3-1 last year in the 132 final. After placing in the Super 32 Challenge this fall, Moore used a 2-1 tiebreaker victory over McComas to assure a podium finish at the Ironman, though he would subsequently lose three narrow decisions against nationally ranked competition to finish sixth. He then finished as runner-up at GMVWA, losing 3-2 to Gavin Brown in the final; would sustain an injury at the Cheesehead, but was able to return to win gold at Wadsworth.

McComas is joined by five other ranked wrestlers at Beaver Local, led by Muldrew who placed fourth at state last year as a sophomore. On the season, he was 3-2 in the Ironman at 145 before winning a North Canton title in this weight class. Stout was a state quarterfinalist last year as a freshman, while this year he missed placement at North Canton by one match and went 2-2 at the Powerade before finishing runner-up at the OVAC and New Lexington along with placing third at the Brooke Classic. Also qualifying for state last year as a freshman is Speelman, who was 2-2 at both North Canton and Top Gun, placed fifth at Licking Valley and third at West Holmes, along with picking up a 5-2 victory over Pletcher at the regional duals.

Pattera was a Junior High state champ last year at 138 pounds, and this season was runner-up at Barnesville and West Holmes, third at Buckeye Local, along with fourth at Beaver Local and fifth at the OVAC. The junior Pletcher was runner-up at Licking Valley, champion at Athens, and third at New Lexington. Potts is positioned here in case McComas is unable to compete in the state series; the junior was champion in this weight at the EOWL, as well as a finalist in two December tournaments up at 145.

Moore is joined by just two ranked wrestlers at Wilmington. The first of those is two-time state placer Wortham, who beat a returning Division I state medalist to win a title at Findlay in December. However, injury then kept him out for the next six-plus weeks. He returned for the regional duals, though there is

consideration of him dropping to 132. Also here is returning state qualifier Lewandowski, who was runner-up at Tippecanoe, missed placing SWOWCA by one match, then winning titles at Bellbrook and Eaton; at the regional dual, he pinned Wortham inside of a minute, though it's hard to know how sustainable that outcome is.

Congestion at Alliance, with Aurora and Louisville wrestlers involved?? Where have we heard that before?? Seven wrestlers are ranked, with six of them between fifth and twelfth. Leading that group is returning state alternate Scarbrough, who was runner-up at North Canton and fourth at Maumee Bay to bookend falling one match short of placement at Brecksville. Koenig, who has missed state by one match in each of his first two high school seasons is next; he has titles at three tournaments to go with a third at Wadsworth, as well as eighth place finishes at Brecksville and Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Coreno was champion at Solon and the CIT, 2-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville, and finished fourth at North Canton.

Willingham entered high school last year with all sorts of credential, but various weight issues derailed his freshman season. This year has been more orderly, falling one match short of placing at Brecksville before finishing second at the Suburban League and third at Top Gun. The senior DelGarbino was champion at Jackson-Milton and the Hephner, fourth at Top Gun, and second at the EOWL. Fellow senior Mickley placed third at both the Hephner and EOWL, while yet another senior Miller was champion at Clear Fork and runner-up at the Bill Dies but fell one match short of placement at North Canton.

Just one wrestler is ranked at Norwalk, and that is Thom, who was a district placer last year as a sophomore. He spent most of the season up at 152 before making the late drop; resume highlights include a runner-up at Lorain, sixth at Medina, and fifth at the Gorman.

145 pounds

1. David Cumberledge, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
2. Alek Martin, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
3. Peyton Kellar, Vincent Warren, junior (Claymont)
4. Austin Pownall, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
5. Elijah Hunter, Sandusky, junior (Norwalk)
6. Gabe Steyer, Van Wert, senior (Norwalk)
7. Max Kirby, Fairless, sophomore (Alliance)
8. Colton Turnbaugh, Ontario, senior (Norwalk)
9. McKale Callahan, Miami Trace, junior (Claymont)
10. Anthony Trivisonno, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
11. Jayden Jones, Ashland, junior (Norwalk)
12. Devon Salsberry, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
13. Matthew Woomer, Warren Howland, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Joe Averill, University School, senior (Alliance)
15. Max Ray, Bellevue, freshman (Norwalk)
16. Aaron Ferguson, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)

ALL – Cumberledge, Pownall, Kirby, Trivisonno; Woomer, Averill

CLMT – Kellar, Callahan, Salsberry, Ferguson; Nathan Welsh (Fairfield Union, senior)

NOR – Hunter, Steyer, Turnbaugh, Jones; Ray

WIL – Martin, Sean Beltran (Hamilton Ross, junior), Sam Eastes (Wilmington, senior), Nathan Bryan (Wyoming, junior); Alex Pitsch (Lemon Monroe, sophomore)

Three standout wrestlers, each of whom has placed twice at the state tournament, have clearly separated themselves from the field. Headed into the season, one would have projected returning state Martin to be in the catbird seat at this weight class; he ran through a gauntlet to place third at 138 pounds in the Super 32 Challenge. However, a preseason injury saw the start to his season delayed, which partly led to his 2-1 loss to Lane in the GMVWA final. He did bounce back to win the Cheesehead, though it did involve reversing a pool stage loss in the championship match. Then at Wadsworth, Martin was upended 9-5 in the final by Cumberledge after two solid wins earlier in the tournament.

The Ohio University signee Cumberledge was a two-time state runner-up in Division III at Ashtabula St. John, doing so at 152 in 2018 and at 170 last year. He opened the season at 152 pounds, where he secured a 2-1 win on the front-side over projected state champ Conley before losing a pair of matches to out-of-state opponents. In this weight class, he placed fifth at Brecksville and was runner-up at the Suburban League before winning titles at Top Gun and Wadsworth.

The junior Keller has finished fifth at 106 and seventh at 126 in state tournaments to date. He faces the least robust in-season schedule of the title contenders, and is undefeated on the season with a pair of wins over Walsh Ironman placer Gavin Quiocho highlighting his season (overtime in the OVAC final, and 10-2 in a dual meet in late January).

Martin is in the least congested district by a mile, as there is no other ranked wrestler in his projected bracket at Wilmington. On the other hand, Cumberledge is in the most congested district at Alliance (stop me where you've heard that before), as five additional ranked wrestlers are here in the present composition.

Three of those wrestlers are returning state qualifiers. The junior Pownall was two-and-out at state in his weight class last year, while this season includes 2-2 finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville along with a title at North Canton as well as placement finishes at Maumee Bay (two wins over Kirby) and Wadsworth. Fellow junior Trivisonno was two-and-out four weight classes below at 120 last year, while this year he was runner-up at Solon, fourth at North Canton (split with Kirby), missed placement at Brecksville by one match, and champion at the CIT. Woomer won a consolation bout last year at state as a freshman, but missed a large chunk of this season with injury before returning to take first at Howland and second at the EOWL.

Kirby's freshman season was derailed by injury, but this sophomore season has been rather positive. It started with a title at Smithville at 152, before coming into this weight class to finish third at North Canton and sixth at Maumee Bay. The senior Averill failed to qualify to district last season, but got a reprieve and was a go-to-state match loser. This season includes runner-up finishes at four tournaments, most notably at North Canton to Pownall and at Howland to Woomer.

Kellar is joined by three additional ranked wrestlers at Claymont, a group led by returning state qualifier Callahan, who has competed both at this weight and 152. Up at 152, he was runner-up at Cambridge and champion at Hamilton Township; while he has placed third at GMVWA and first at Logan Elm in this weight. Salsberry was closed out of the Beaver Local lineup last year as a sophomore, but has performed well this season with titles at Cambridge and EOWL, missing placement by one match at Brecksville, and

finishing fourth at the OVAC. Fellow junior Ferguson placed fifth at North Canton up at 152 before placing sixth in the OVAC at this weight class.

A group of five ranked wrestlers at Norwalk creates congestion, though none is really in conversation for a state title. Hunter placed third at 132 last year as a sophomore, while this season he was a champ at Defiance up at 152 before placing at Maumee Bay in this weight. Two-time state qualifier Steyer has titles at three tournaments, along with a runner-up finish at Wapakoneta. Another two-time state qualifying senior is Turnbaugh, who was fourth at Findlay, eighth at Brecksville, and seventh at Maumee bay. The junior Jones was a Division I state alternate last year, and this year placed third at Medina and won the Gorman; while the freshman Ray was a Junior High state champ but missed the bulk of the season with injury before a late January return to competition.

152 pounds

1. Brody Conley, Tiffin Columbian, sophomore (Norwalk)
2. Tyler Lillard, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Douglas Terry, Granville, junior (Wilmington)
4. Skyler Lasure, Beaver Local, senior (Claymont)
5. Jordan Barnett, Sheridan, junior (Claymont)
6. Ethan Turnbaugh, Ontario, sophomore (Norwalk)
7. Simon Allen, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
8. Trace Braun, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
9. Ethan Mueller, Minerva, senior (Claymont)
10. Nate Barrett, Mansfield Madison, junior (Norwalk)
11. Daniel Kennedy, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
12. Mason Elson, Port Clinton, senior (Norwalk)
13. Christian Miller, Marengo Highland, senior (Wilmington)
14. Trevor Badiu, Medina Buckeye, sophomore (Norwalk)
15. Gage Bickley, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
16. Keanthony Bales, Eaton, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Lillard, Kennedy, Bickley, Caleb Selman (Geneva, junior); Shawn Thomas (Girard, senior)

CLMT – Lasure, Barnett, Allen, Mueller; Caden Kenworthy (Cambridge, sophomore)

NOR – Conley, Turnbaugh, Barrett, Elson; Badiu

WIL – Terry, Braun, Miller, Bales; Robbie Frederick (Clinton-Massie, senior)

Program tradition is not exactly a calling card for two of the primary title contenders in this weight class. For Tiffin Columbian, only four times has a wrestler finished in the top three at state with three of those finishes coming from Seth Williams (3rd in 2012, 2nd in 2013 to Alex Marinelli, and 1st in 2014); while last year's state runner-up finish for Terry was the highest in program history.

Conley placed fourth at state last year as a freshman beating Lasure in the opening round before losing to eventual champ Jordan Crace 7-3 in the quarterfinal and Aurora's Andy Garr 7-5 for bronze. He went 2-2 at the Ironman before winning Brecksville, including a 1-0 semifinal victory over Lillard, then finishing second in two tournaments.

The junior Terry was champion at Defiance up in the 160-pound weight class before dropping here to finish third at the Top Gun, which included a 2-1 semifinal loss to Lillard, and then earning a title at New Lexington. At Wilmington, there are three other ranked wrestlers, led by two-time state qualifier Braun,

who previous state tournament appearances were at 106 and 113. Braun went 4-2 at the Ironman down at 145 when Martin was hurt, while in this weight he was runner-up at GMVWA, ninth at the Cheesehead, and fourth at Wadsworth. The senior Miller was fourth at Licking Valley and sixth at New Lexington, while fellow senior Bales missed placement at Top Gun by one match before earning the title at Eaton.

Four additional ranked wrestlers join Conley at Norwalk, a group led by fellow sophomore Turnbaugh who beat Conley in the district final last year but lost state tournament matches 3-2 and 3-1 to fall short of placement. His season to date includes placing sixth at Brecksville, winning a title at Findlay, and going 2-2 at the Ironman. Barrett placed at district last year as a sophomore, and this season was fourth at North Canton in this weight before placing third up at 160 in the Gorman. The senior Elson is a returning state alternate in this weight class, and has two tournament titles to go with a fifth at Maumee Bay; while the sophomore Badiu placed fourth at Medina in this weight along with taking fifth at the Bill Dies and second at West Holmes down at 145.

Lillard, who was closed out of the lineup at St. Edward by a pair of state champions last year, anchors the field at Alliance. This summer he was fourth in freestyle at the 16U Nationals. To start the season, he went 2-2 in the Ironman at 160 before placing third at Brecksville in this weight class with a pair of wins over Stoney Buell from Michigan, an opponent he lost to in the 16U National freestyle semifinal. He subsequently was third at Suburban League, champ at Top Gun, and second at Wadsworth.

This is the one very poor weight at Alliance with just two other ranked wrestlers, none projected to finish on the podium. The absence of Tommy Ungrady (Lake Catholic, junior) due to second half and post-season suspension for his transfer clearly exacerbates the issue. The junior Kennedy is a two-time district placer, and this season finished seventh at North Canton and Maumee Bay before winning the Hephner, keyed by a 9-4 upset victory over two-time state placer Patten, and taking second at EOWL. The senior Bickley has competed both here where he was third at the EOWL, and at 145 where he was third at Kenston and missed placement by one match at Top Gun.

Finally, it's a group of four ranked wrestlers at Alliance, three with state experience and two that return as state placers. Leading the contingent is three-time state placer Lasure, who has titles in four tournaments at this weight class to go with an OVAC runner-up finish at 160. Next in line is returning state placer Barnett, who has competed both here and at 160; up one weight class he was third at Cambridge before taking second at Sheridan and Nelsonville-York, with a pair of titles at Bill Dies and Watkins Memorial down at this weight. The senior Allen has runner-up finishes at Licking Valley and New Lexington to sandwich a title at Athens; while the two-time state qualifier Mueller was third at North Canton and Licking Valley, champion at Coshocton, and sixth at Top Gun.

160 pounds

1. Dylan Fishback, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
2. Dylan Dodson, Licking Valley, junior (Wilmington)
3. Ethan Pappas, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
4. Logan Krulik, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
5. Dylan Newsome, Bishop Hartley, freshman (Wilmington)
6. Camden McDaniel, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
7. Walker Uhl, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
8. Jake Armstrong, Indian Valley, senior (Claymont)
9. Derrick Coleman, Clyde, senior (Norwalk)

10. Rob Boley, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
11. Brenden Severs, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
12. Braylin Lightner, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
13. Evan Hager, Springfield Northwestern, junior (Wilmington)
14. Tommy Mabry, St. Mary's Memorial, senior (Norwalk)
15. Jasherein Holliday, Huron, junior (Norwalk)
16. Cole Weatherly, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Fishback, Boley, Severs, Lightner; Tyler Williams (Canton South, junior)

CLMT – Pappas, Krulik, Uhl, Armstrong; Colby Moore (Carrollton, senior)

NOR – Coleman, Mabry, Holliday, Weatherly; Carter Kroll (Ontario, junior)

WIL – Dodson, Newsome, McDaniel, Hager; Cody Matthews (Marengo Highland, sophomore)

After a 152-pound weight class that was pretty open at the top in terms of picking a favorite, this one is anything but. There are four returning state medalists in this weight class, three of whom competed last year at 152 pounds in Division II. Fishback was state runner-up as a freshman with a dominant semifinal victory over Coleman, and a win by fall over Dodson in the quarterfinal round. As a result, he is the obvious favorite in this weight class.

Fishback started his sophomore season at the Beast of the East, where he placed seventh losing two matches to wrestlers that currently are outside the national rankings. However, it should be noted that Fishback reversed the front-side loss to two-time National Prep placer Aurelius Dunbar in the match to place; while Luca Augustine also placed at Ironman and Powerade, and is a returning Pennsylvania state qualifier. Since then, he has won all three tournaments entered: upsetting Indiana University signee Derek Gilcher in overtime at the finals of Brecksville, then winning at the Suburban League and Top Gun.

Coleman, Dodson, and the other returning state medalist Pappas each anchor one of the other three district tournaments. Each of the four district tournaments features four ranked wrestlers, which is what theoretically should be the case.

Ranked second is the junior Dodson, who was fifth at state last year, and this year does not have a loss that I am aware of. He has titles in six different tournaments, including wins over returning state medalist Barnett at Sheridan and Nelsonville-York. Two freshmen are positioned behind him in the rankings at Wilmington. Newsome was champion at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at CIT, while missing placement by one match at Brecksville; while Junior High state champ McDaniel did not perform well at Ironman or Cheesehead, but was runner-up at GMVWA. Finally, the junior Hager has five tournament titles between this weight class and 170.

Pappas placed sixth in this weight class at state last year as a sophomore. He went 2-2 at the Ironman before finishing third at North Canton and winning the OVAC title. Krulik qualified for state at 152 as a sophomore but was scratched from the bracket; while this season he has titles at Cambridge, Beaver Local, and the EOWL in this weight class to go with a sixth-place finish at Brecksville. The senior Uhl was state alternate last year at 145, and this year was runner-up at Cambridge, Bill Dies, and West Holmes along with placing fourth at North Canton. Finally, returning state qualifier Armstrong has competed both here and up at 170; in this weight class, he was runner-up at Beaver Local, while up one weight he was first at Cambridge and second at West Holmes.

The senior Coleman was champion at Clyde and runner-up at Tiffin Calvert this season, where he had a bemusing loss in the championship match. Fellow senior Mabry was state alternate last year in this weight class, and has a title at Lima Senior to go with a third place at Marion Harding in this weight class; while at 170, he lost in the final at Bishop Fenwick to Hager. Holliday placed at district in this weight last year as a sophomore, and was runner-up to Coleman at Clyde along with champion at Waterloo; he has moved down to 152 very recently, though it is uncertain as to which weight is his post-season choice. Finally, Weatherly placed as a junior at district but then started this season at 170 where he was runner-up at Lorain and fourth at the Gorman before a 2-2 performance in this weight class at Maumee Bay.

Lastly, it's three additional ranked wrestlers at Alliance to join Fishback. The junior Boley was champion at Solon, second at North Canton, seventh at Brecksville, and fifth at the CIT. Severs was a state alternate in this weight class last year as a freshman at Beaver Local; while this season saw him go 2-2 at the Ironman, place fifth at North Canton, miss placing by one match at Brecksville and Maumee Bay, along with a third place finish at EOWL. Lightner was a district placer in this weight last year as a junior, and has finished third at Top Gun and runner-up at EOWL this season.

170 pounds

1. Ethan Hernandez, Norwalk, senior (Norwalk)
2. Jax Leonard, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
3. Hadyn Danals, Caledonia River Valley, junior (Wilmington)
4. Layne Talbot, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
5. Alex Carrothers, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)
6. Ethan Anderson, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
7. Brice Parks, Jackson, senior (Claymont)
8. Zayne Lehman, Revere, junior (Alliance)
9. Joey Simcoe, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Norwalk)
10. David Frederick, Dayton C-J, junior (Wilmington)
11. Carlton Roberts, Rossford, senior (Norwalk)
12. Jarrett Bischoff, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
13. Brody Stallings, Cloverleaf, senior (Alliance)
14. Collin Corapi, Bellevue, junior (Norwalk)
15. Brady Oberdier, Vincent Warren, senior (Claymont)
16. Luke Linton, Logan Elm, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Leonard, Anderson, Lehman, Stallings; Logan Bell (Alliance, senior)

CLMT – Talbot, Carrothers, Parks, Oberdier; Parks

NOR – Hernandez, Simcoe, Roberts, Bischoff; Corapi

WIL – Danals, Frederick, Colt Conover (Blanchester, junior), Carson Miller (Granville, freshman); Dakota Ritter (Taylor, senior)

In this history of its wrestling program, Norwalk has one individual state champion, which came when Dan Pugh won a 2-0 decision in the 155-pound Class A-AA final back in 1972. This year, the Truckers have a trio of senior upper-weights that could possibly break that drought. The Penn commit Hernandez has won a state tournament match at 160 pounds in all three years of his high school career, placing third as a sophomore and finishing as runner-up to Pasiuk last year.

This season, Hernandez pinned three-time state placer Leonard in the semifinal at Brecksville before losing to Facundo in the championship match, and he has titles in two other tournaments. Placing

eighth, third, and fourth previously at state, Leonard started his senior season by placing fifth at the Walsh Ironman. Since then he was champion at North Canton, Maumee Bay (beating a returning Michigan state champ in the final), and the EOWL along with taking fourth at Brecksville.

The third legitimate state title contender is Danals, who lost 6-5 to Hernandez in the state quarterfinal last year but could only muster an eighth-place finish. He is undefeated to the best of my knowledge this season, and has titles in four tournaments, including at Watkins Memorial where he beat returning Division I state placer Foor and at Medina.

Four ranked wrestlers, all of whom also have state tournament experience, join Hernandez at Norwalk. Fellow senior Simcoe has competed at both 170 and 182 this season, where he made state last year. He placed fifth at Maumee Bay in this weight class, while he was sixth at Brecksville and champion at the Gorman up at 182. Two-time Division III state qualifier Roberts was second at Northwood before winning the title at Marion Harding then taking fourth at Perrysburg. Bischoff was a state semifinalist three years ago at 120 pounds before getting closed out of the lineup as a sophomore, then missing the last part of his junior season due to injury. This season he placed seventh at Medina up at 182 before finishing fifth at Perrysburg and seventh at Maumee Bay in this weight class. Finally, Corapi qualified for state in this weight class last year, while this year the junior was 2-2 at Brecksville before taking seventh at Perrysburg.

Another group of five ranked wrestlers feature in district competition at Claymont. Said group is led by returning district placer Talbot who has competed at both 170 and 182 as a senior. Up one weight class he was champion at Cambridge and third at North Canton; while in this weight class he was runner-up at Washington C.H. before earning titles at Licking Valley, Athens, and New Lexington. Carrothers has qualified for state each of the last two years up at 182 pounds, while this season he placed seventh at North Canton in that weight before finishing second to Talbot at Licking Valley and fourth at Top Gun in this weight.

The senior Parks beat Corapi in the opening round last year at state before losing his consolation match to place against Ethan Anderson. This season he has titles in four tournaments along with a runner-up finish to Danals at Nelsonville-York. Oberdier qualified for state two years ago as a sophomore, while this season he has finished runner-up at four tournaments, including at Vincent Warren to Parks and at New Lexington to Talbot. Fellow senior Linton was champion at three tournaments this season, along with taking third at Miami Trace with a 6-4 loss to Oberdier along the way.

Danals is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at Wilmington, that being the junior Frederick, who has already qualified twice for the state tournament. He placed seventh at Brecksville, then third at Perrysburg, before winning titles at CIT and Eaton.

Finally, Leonard is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Alliance. Anderson placed sixth in this state tournament weight class last year; this season he placed eighth at the Ironman, was a quarterfinalist at Brecksville, a consolation finalist at the Suburban League, sixth at the Top Gun, and first at Wadsworth. The junior Lehman placed third at the North Coast Classic before winning the Suburban League and Bill Dies titles; he lost 6-4 to Leonard at the regional duals. Closing out the list is returning state alternate Stallings, who was champion at Lorain and fourth at Medina.

182 pounds

1. Anthony D'Alesio, Canfield, senior (Alliance)

2. Justin Mayes, Bellevue, junior (Norwalk)
3. Cole Hivnor, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
4. Trevor Stewart, Urbana, sophomore (Wilmington)
5. Joey Petrella, Bishop Hartley, senior (Wilmington)
6. Gage Johnson, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
7. David Tuttle, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
8. Tai Carter, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)
9. Jakob Beverly, Ashland, junior (Norwalk)
10. Kyle Snider, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
11. Nicholas Machuca, Dayton C-J, senior (Wilmington)
12. Jesse Kanatzar, Tallmadge, senior (Alliance)
13. Mason Cover, Bay Village, junior (Norwalk)
14. Nick Hickman, Keystone, junior (Norwalk)
15. Jacob Hopkins, Norton, senior (Alliance)
16. Darian Huff, London, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – D’Alesio, Hivnor, Snider, Kanatzar; Hopkins

CLMT – Tuttle, Justin Bartlett (Cambridge, junior), Anthony Parks (Jackson, senior), Bill Wallace (Athens, senior); David Harper (Philo, junior)

NOR – Mayes, Carter, Beverly, Cover; Hickman

WIL – Stewart, Johnson, Petrella, Machuca; Huff

Playing at nose tackle for a perennially successful Division III high school football program like Canfield takes lots of toughness. It especially takes lots of guts and gumption when said player is doing it at or under 200 pounds. That is something D’Alesio has done for the last couple of seasons for the Cardinals, who were 7-3 this season after going 23-3 on the way to a pair of regional finals appearances the previous two seasons.

After watching D’Alesio wrestle for even a brief bit, one can see that undersized nose tackle toughness ooze through. That toughness, along with significant wrestling ability has yielded three top four placements at the state tournament along with a state title last year in this weight class. The Kent State wrestling signee started his senior season as a semifinalist at the Ironman before missing Brecksville, but has since return to win titles at the Bill Dies and EOWL in decisive fashion. Should D’Alesio repeat as state champion, it would be the third straight year with a two-time state champion for Canfield (Tyler Stein in 2018/2019, David Crawford in 2017/2018).

The next highest returning state medalist is the junior Mayes, who has finished seventh and third at state, both coming at 160 pounds. Most notable this season is his runner-up finish at Brecksville, where he pinned Hivnor in the semifinal of a very tight match before losing 5-0 in the final to Evans. Four other ranked wrestlers join Mayes at Norwalk, including Carter and Cover with state tournament experience.

Carter went two-and-out in this state bracket last year as a junior and spent the vast majority of his season at 195, where he was champion at Lorain, went 2-2 at the Ironman, and advanced to the semifinals at Medina. The junior Beverly was runner-up at Medina in this weight class before placing third at the Gorman and Wadsworth. Fellow junior Cover was a state alternate last year at 170, but got the chance to compete due to Vogel from St. Mary’s Memorial being pulled from the bracket. He opened the season with a championship at Avon Lake before placing fourth at North Coast, third at Findlay, and seventh at the Gorman. Finally, it’s Hickman, who placed at district last year up at 195 as a

sophomore; this season he has titles in two tournaments and runner-up finishes in two others, including a 12-6 loss to Cover in the Avon Lake final.

Another junior, who has placed twice at state is Hivnor, whose finishes are fifth and fourth at 170 pounds. This season features titles at North Canton and CIT along with a third-place finish at Brecksville and taking second at Wadsworth. D'Alesio and Hivnor are joined at Alliance by three additional ranked wrestlers. The freshman Snider missed placing by one match at North Canton and Brecksville before finishing third at Maumee Bay and fourth at Wadsworth. Kanatzar placed at district last year as a junior, while this season he has titles at Hudson and the Hephner to go with placing third at the Suburban League, second at Bill Dies, and losing 3-0 to Snider at the regional duals. Fellow senior Hopkins was first at Smithville before placing fourth at the Gorman.

Five additional wrestlers are ranked at the Wilmington district, including three who were state tournament participants last year. Stewart placed eighth at 170 last year as a freshman, and this season was 1-2 at the Ironman before advancing to the semifinal at GMVWA but forfeiting out of the event then finishing second at Benjamin Logan. The senior Johnson went 1-2 at state after losing to Stewart in the consolation final at district. This season features titles in four tournaments, most notably at Eaton. Machuca is up three weight classes from qualifying for state last year as a junior at 152. His current season includes runner-up finishes in three tournaments, among them at Eaton where he lost 4-3 to Johnson in the final, along with a title at Perrysburg as well as going 2-2 at Brecksville.

Fellow senior Petrella was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty before placing fifth at Brecksville, third at the CIT, and winning the title at Watkins Memorial. Another senior is Huff, who was champion at Madison Plains before going 1-2 at Brecksville (with one of those losses being to Mayes in overtime) and runner-up finishes at Licking Heights and Marion Pleasant.

Tuttle placed fourth in this weight class last year as a junior, and is the lone ranked wrestler in the field at Claymont. This season includes a 1-2 mark at the Ironman, placing eighth at North Canton, and being champion at OVAC.

195 pounds

1. Gabe Phillips, Norwalk, senior (Norwalk)
2. Brent Paulus, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
3. Kenny Marra, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
4. Reese Skaggs, St. Clairsville, junior (Claymont)
5. Keith Bodnar, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
6. Cody Mies, Ontario, senior (Norwalk)
7. Terion Stewart, Sandusky, senior (Norwalk)
8. Evan Anderson, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Aiden Nunez, Bellevue, senior (Norwalk)
10. Cooper Graham, Caledonia River Valley, junior (Wilmington)
11. Garrett Gross, Bellefontaine, senior (Wilmington)
12. Jared Kremer, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
13. Elijah Llewellyn, Indian Creek, freshman (Claymont)
14. Nathan Zehner, Shelby, junior (Norwalk)
15. Wyatt Shaw, Claymont, freshman (Claymont)
16. Colton Doyle, Clinton-Massie, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Paulus, Marra, Anderson, Nate Amato (Tallmadge, junior); Brandon Thomas (Geneva, senior)
CLMT – Skaggs, Bodnar, Llewelyn, Shaw; Bryce Bennett (Miami Trace, sophomore)
NOR – Phillips, Mies, Stewart, Nunez; Zehner
WIL – Graham, Gross, Kremer, Doyle; Charlie Lindberg (Indian Hill, senior)

Last season, Canfield featured back-to-back-to-back state champions in the upper-weight classes as the Cardinals finished fifth in the state tournament standings with 79-1/2 points. Joining D’Alesio and Tyler Stein on top of the podium was Nick Crawford, the younger brother of two-time state champion David. However, Nick suffered an injury while playing running back this fall during football, which will unfortunately preclude him from competing during his senior high school wrestling season. Crawford is still signed to wrestle collegiately at Kent State.

With that out of the way, what remains is two returning state placers, two other wrestlers that won a state bout last season, and two others that went two-and-out in the state tournament. The returning state placers are both seniors, Paulus finished fourth in his state debut at 195 last year, while Phillips has been sixth then fifth the last two years at 182.

Phillips will enter the post-season as the state tournament favorite. He has titles at Findlay and Clyde to go with a third period pin over Paulus that put him into the semifinal round at Brecksville. Paulus went two-and-out at Ironman before placing third at North Canton, fifth along with Phillips at Brecksville, sixth at Maumee Bay, and first at the EOWL.

Four additional ranked wrestlers join Phillips at Norwalk, including returning state qualifier Stewart as well as returning state alternates Mies and Nunez. The senior Mies missed placement by one match at Ironman before taking second at Findlay, seventh at Brecksville, first at the Gorman, and fourth at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Stewart was a star running back on the football field for the Blue Streaks, as they advanced to the regional final each of the last two years. On the mat, he was up at 220 most of the season placing third at the Gorman and one match away from the podium at Maumee Bay. Another senior is Nunez, who has been in-and-out of the Redmen lineup this season; while the junior Zehner was runner-up at the Gorman and a placer at Top Gun.

Just two ranked wrestlers join Paulus at Alliance, returning state qualifier Marra and state alternate Evan Anderson. As a result, this weight class could be ripe for someone from either 182 or 220 to move in for an easier path to a state spot. The junior Marra has won consolation bouts each of the previous two years at state, while this season includes titles at Cambridge and Kenston before finishing second at Top Gun and EOWL. Anderson was state alternate at 182 last year as a freshman, while this season has been injury laden; however, among the times he has competed he was runner-up in the Suburban League and champion at Wadsworth.

The remaining wrestler with a state tournament win is Bodnar, who was a quarterfinalist last year in this weight class as a junior, and this year he was fourth at North Canton before getting pinned in the OVAC final. Skaggs, who pinned Bodnar in the OVAC final, is one of three other ranked wrestlers at the Claymont district; he also placed fifth at North Canton, missed the podium by one match at Powerade, and was champion at New Lexington. Llewelyn and Shaw were both Junior High state champions last year. Llewelyn has titles at three tournaments to go with a third at the OVAC and runner-up at Buckeye Local; while Shaw was third at Barnesville before missing placement by one match at Brecksville and Top Gun.

A quartet of ranked wrestlers at Wilmington concludes the overview of this weight class. Graham was a district placer last year as a junior at 182, and this season was seventh at Medina while placing top five at three other tournaments. The senior Gross was a state alternate last year in this weight class, while this year was champion at Miamisburg before losing to Graham in the pool stage on the way to placing fifth at Western Brown. Fellow senior Kremer was a district placer last year at 182, and this year finished third at Franklin, sixth at Western Brown, along with titles at West Jefferson and Eaton. Finally, Doyle went two-and-out at state in this weight class last year as a sophomore; this season includes a pair of tournament titles, along with placing seventh at Western Brown and runner-up at Benjamin Logan.

220 pounds

1. Nolan Neves, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Alec Maloney, Norwalk, senior (Norwalk)
3. Breslin Walker, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
4. Evan Kaeck, Wapakoneta, senior (Norwalk)
5. Blake Robbins, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
6. Max Fausnaugh, Bowling Green, senior (Norwalk)
7. Derek Witsberger, St. Clairsville, senior (Claymont)
8. Kade Rawlins, McClain, junior (Claymont)
9. Dalton Cunningham, Warsaw River View, senior (Claymont)
10. Charles Taylor, Geneva, junior (Alliance)
11. James Peters, Blanchester, senior (Wilmington)
12. Skylor Wooley, East Liverpool, senior (Claymont)
13. Antonio Burns, London, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Dylan Adkins, Bellevue, senior (Norwalk)
15. George Linberger, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Marquel Henry, Dayton C-J, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Walker, Robbins, Taylor, Linberger; Miles Ashbaugh (Woodridge, senior)

CLMT – Witsberger, Rawlins, Cunningham, Wooley; Logan Williams (Minerva, junior)

NOR – Maloney, Kaeck, Fausnaugh, Adkins; Ronald Williams (Benedictine, junior)

WIL – Neves, Peters, Burns, Henry; Gary Powell (Western Brown, junior)

Tyler Stein was champion here the last two seasons. However, he is now part of the Ohio State wrestling team. The current composition of this state tournament weight class has ten wrestlers with state tournament appearances slated to compete, including four whom have stood on the podium come the end of the tournament.

In a weight class that is totally wide open, the projected champ (which along with a dollar might get you one item at the dollar store, maybe) is the sophomore Neves, who went two-and-out last year at state down at 182 pounds. He went 2-2 at the Ironman before winning the title at GMVWA, most notably beating 2018 state placer Kaeck 6-5 in the semifinal; then it was a fifth place finish at the Cheesehead and a dominant win over three-time state qualifier Walker in the Wadsworth final. Neves, however, lost 7-2 to Lisco in their dual meet against St. Edward.

The two highest returning state placers exit district competition at Norwalk. Fausnaugh beat Maloney 10-7 for a district title last season before Fausnaugh lost 8-3 to Stein in the state final after Maloney lost 8-5 to Stein in the semifinal on the way to a third-place finish at state. Also at Norwalk are Kaeck, sixth at

state in this weight class in 2018, but injured last year as a junior; as well as Adkins, district placer here last year as a junior.

Fausnaugh started his season with a title at Milan Edison then going 0-2 at the Ironman before placing fourth at Perrysburg and second Bill Dies; he also picked up a dual meet pin over returning Division I state qualifier Meek. Maloney has titles at Findlay and the Gorman to go with third place at Brecksville. Kaeck returned to competition with a pin over Division III state placer Neth in the final at Sidney before placing third at GMVWA, then losing by fall to a returning Michigan State placer in the Maumee Bay quarterfinal and defaulting out of the event. Adkins was runner-up at Bellevue, missed placement at Brecksville by one match, and sixth at Perrysburg; in dual meet competition, he was pinned by Meek and won by fall against Gasic.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Neves in district competition at Wilmington, led by returning Division III state qualifier Peters, who has three tournament titles on his season. Burns was a district placer at 195 last year as a freshman, while this season he has titles at Madison Plains and Licking Heights to go with going 2-2 at Brecksville then placing third at Marion Pleasant. The senior Henry was also 2-2 at Brecksville, while placing fifth at Findlay and Perrysburg then first at Eaton. It should be noted that London has another talented sophomore in Thadd Huff, who has missed almost all of the season; he could end up either here or at 195 if cleared to compete – whomever is here for London is a projected state qualifier, while if one of these two drops to 195, they'll be in the mix for a state spot.

Three wrestlers with state tournament pasts are among the four ranked wrestlers competing at Alliance. The senior Walker went 1-2 at 285 in the Ironman to open his season but has shown most excellent form in this weight class: champion at North Canton (over Robbins), seventh at Brecksville, fourth at Maumee Bay, and second at Wadsworth. Two-time state qualifier Robbins was well-positioned to make a run for the state finals spot opposite of Stein last year; however, the fact he showed up to his opening round match with his shoelaces unsecured was a foreboding hint of what was to come. He lost 3-1 in that match to Pattison before falling 2-1 in the tiebreaker in the consolation match to place. This season he was 1-2 at the Ironman before placing second at North Canton, sixth at Brecksville, and fifth at Maumee Bay along with winning the EOWL.

The junior Taylor placed fourth at district last year in this weight class, and then went two-and-out at state. This season has featured four tournament titles and two runner-up finishes (Kenston and CVC). Finally, the sophomore Lindberger missed placement by one match at North Canton before placing at Medina, taking second at Top Gun, and fifth at Wadsworth.

Closing the loop is a group of four ranked wrestlers at Claymont, led by Witsberger, who was state alternate last year as a junior at 195. This season he was fourth at North Canton, one match from placing at Powerade, runner-up at OVAC and Brooke Classic, and then champion at New Lexington. The junior Rawlins qualified for state last year in this weight class, while this season he was runner-up at both Licking Heights and New Lexington. Cunningham was a state alternate last year as a junior down at 182, while this season he has titles at three tournaments before finishing second at Heath and third at New Lexington. Fellow senior Wooley placed fifth at state in this weight last year, and has spent time both here and up at 285 this season; in this weight class he was fourth at the Gorman, fifth at OVAC, and runner-up at Buckeye Local.

285 pounds

1. Alex Coleman, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)

2. Cole Potts, Columbus DeSales, senior (Wilmington)
3. Jacob Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Norwalk)
4. Sam McNulty, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)
5. Jake Burns, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
6. Jake Bever, Ashland, junior (Norwalk)
7. Samuel Sosa, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
8. Daniel Wirth, Beaver Local, senior (Claymont)
9. Jarrett Burress, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
10. Demetrius Hernandez, Napoleon, junior (Norwalk)
11. Todd Allen, Buckeye, freshman (Norwalk)
12. David Hooks, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
13. Kevin Mici, Bay Village, senior (Norwalk)
14. Zack Burroughs, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
15. Mason Mustain, Washington C.H., sophomore (Claymont)
16. Matt Holman, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
17. Jacob Danielson, New Lexington, junior (Claymont)

ALL – Burns, Hooks, Holman, Jacob Hurst (West Branch, senior); Richie Hofus (Canfield, senior), Cameron Brazek (Louisville, sophomore)

CLMT – Wirth, Burress, Mustain, Danielson; Grant DeBruin (Miami Trace, senior)

NOR – Jackson, McNulty, Bever, Sosa; Hernandez, Allen, Mici

WIL – Coleman, Potts, Burroughs, Onyx Mendenhall (Wyoming, junior); Zach Hagedorn (Lemon Monroe, sophomore)

There are some eerie similarities between this year at 285 and last year at 285. With that being said time will tell if the state tournament ends up telling the same story. Last year, you had a returning state champion that was known for being an extreme pinner anchoring the weight class, and appearing to be the clear favorite. However, come the second Saturday in March, Alex DelGarbino lost a 10-7 barn-burner to Alex Coleman in the final. With that result, the first state finalist in program history for Hamilton Ross also became the Rams' first state champion wrestler.

Coleman is in the DelGarbino position this year as the returning state champion and clear favorite. He pinned Potts, who is projected second in this weight class, in 25 seconds in the state semifinal round last year. Coleman has dominated all of his opponents but for one this season on the way to winning titles at Franklin, Fairfield, and Eaton; that one match was a 5-4 loss to returning Division I state champion Padilla in the SWOWCA final. It should be noted that Coleman showed vulnerability in national level competition this off-season, between the Junior Duals, Junior Nationals in Fargo, and Super 32 Challenge; with that being said, those competitions are on the surface a level above what's here.

Potts joins Coleman at the Wilmington district. The senior has championships at Marion Harding, Dublin Scioto, and New Lexington after finishing one match away from placing at the Walsh Ironman. The lone other ranked wrestler in this district is the sophomore Burroughs who went two-and-out at the Ironman and missed placing at the GMVWA by one match before placing fourth at the Cheesehead and third at Wadsworth.

Three others in this weight class have state tournament wins, while three more were state qualifiers last year. Two of the three with state tournament wins come from the Alliance district. Burns qualified for state last year competing for Wooster in Division I before transferring to Hoban primarily due to

football; this wrestling season has seen him win a title at Defiance along with finishing third at Hudson and runner-up at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Hooks is a relatively undersized 285, and was runner-up at North Canton along with fifth at Medina in December before missing Top Gun; he lost 3-1 to Burroughs in pool competition at Wadsworth then subsequently defaulting out of the tournament due to injury. Holman was state alternate in this weight three years ago as a freshman before missing the prior two seasons – and a chunk of this one as well – due to injury. His primary competition this season came in a runner-up finish at Wadsworth. The fourth spot at Alliance is wide open between any number of co-equal wrestlers, all of whom reside outside the top 16/17 statewide (three are listed in this commentary, while others aren't).

The senior Jackson is the remaining wrestler to win a match at state, doing so in consolation after losing by fall in 1:03 against DelGarbino in his opening bout. This season he has titles at four tournaments, including Perrysburg; while also reaching the semifinals at Defiance with a quarterfinal win over returning state placer Meyer, but then forfeited out of the event. Jackson is joined by six other ranked wrestlers in an absolutely loaded district competition at Norwalk.

Fellow senior McNulty won just one district match last year at 220, but started this season by winning at Lorain before advancing to the Ironman semifinals and finishing fifth; since then he was third at Medina and champion at Maumee Bay. Bever qualified to state in this weight class last year in Division I, while this season he was runner-up at Medina, third at the Gorman, and champion at Wadsworth. Sosa was state alternate last year as a junior, losing 3-2 to Jackson in a consolation semifinal at district; he has runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay, along with placing fourth at Medina (three of the four losses in those tournaments came to McNulty).

The junior Hernandez has a dual meet win in overtime over Sosa from December, while his tournament finishes include a runner-up at Defiance and fourth place at Perrysburg before taking first at Wapakoneta. The freshman Allen is an absolute mammoth, and came in to high school as a Junior High state champ. He missed the first half-plus of the season, and since returning split matches with Mici (winning the more recent one at regional duals) and lost 1-0 to Bucknavich in the pool stage at West Holmes on the way to a fifth-place finish. The senior Mici has titles at Avon Lake and Findlay to go with placing second at North Coast and fifth at the Gorman.

Finally, it's a group of four ranked wrestlers at Claymont led by Wirth and Burress, both of whom went two-and-out at state last year in this weight class. The senior Wirth was champion at Cambridge and Beaver Local before missing placement by one match at Brecksville then getting pinned in the OVAC semi and forfeiting out of the tournament. The junior Burress was runner-up at Cambridge before winning titles in three tournaments, including North Canton over Hooks, then placing fourth at Top Gun. The sophomore Mustain was third at Franklin, runner-up at Western Brown, and champion in three other tournaments. Danielson was a district placer in this weight last year as a sophomore, and this season has finished runner-up in three tournaments; lost 5-4 to Burress in the Licking Valley final, then lost to Wogerman in the Athens final but avenged that with a 5-2 win at regional duals.

Team

1. St. Paris Graham (Wilmington)
2. Louisville (Alliance)
3. Aurora (Alliance)
4. Beaver Local (Claymont)
5. CVCA (Alliance)

6. Norwalk (Norwalk)
7. Copley (Alliance)
8. Lake Catholic (Alliance)
9. Steubenville (Claymont)
10. West Holmes (Calymont)
11. St. Clairsville (Claymont)
12. Bishop Hartley (Wilmington)

DIVISION III

106 pounds

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

GH – Reineke, Duncan, Amodio, Davidson; Klingman

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

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

TROY – Caprella, Shore, Schroer, Attisano; Sutton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

113 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

120 pounds

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

GH – Edwards, Unkefer, Markulin, Samad; Moore

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

NAP – Manley, Lecki, Owens, Homan; Margraf

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

126 pounds

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

GH – Reineke, Szuhay, Prikryl, Edelman; McKee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

132 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

138 pounds

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

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

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

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

TROY – Brown, Awan, Moyer, Bey; Flick

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

145 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

152 pounds

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

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

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

NAP – Contos, Slone, Price, Recknagel; Kibler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

160 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

TROY – Davis, Havill, Moore, Hershberger; Bey

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

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

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

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

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

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

170 pounds

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

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

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

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

TROY – Pummel, Olgee, Boysel, Dyer; Martin

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

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

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

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

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

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

182 pounds

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

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

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

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

TROY – Winner, Montgomery, Patterson, Gear; Williams

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

195 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

220 pounds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

285 pounds

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

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

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

TROY – Meyer, Davies, Stevenson, Heltsley; Roose

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team

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