

Division Two – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Cody Burcher, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
2. Cameron Kelly, Bellbrook, freshman (Goshen)
3. Jude Michel, Milan Edison, junior (Marion)
4. Ryan Bennett, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
5. Brad Taton, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Matt Pool, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Marion)
7. John Martin, Wapakoneta, junior (Marion)
8. Devin Brown, Steubenville, freshman (Claymont)
9. Eli Stickley, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Marion)
10. Korey Frost, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Derik Kopp, Tiffin Columbian, junior (Marion)
12. Michael May, Eaton, freshman (Goshen)
13. Jake Zemaitis, Crestwood, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Ben Crabtree, River Valley, junior (Claymont)
15. Josh Henderson, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
16. Brandon Carter, Hillsboro, junior (Goshen)

Alliance – Bennett, Taton, Frost, Zemaitis, Colin Dees (Perry, sophomore)

Claymont – Burcher, Brown, Crabtree, Henderson, Jared Patterson (Meadowbrook, junior)

Goshen – Kelly, May, Carter, Brandon Kahlenbeck (Bethel-Tate, senior), Jordan Hooks (New Richmond, junior)

Marion – Michel, Pool, Martin, Stickley, Kopp

This opening weight in Division II has an eclectic mix of contenders. There are freshmen with junior high state credentials, freshmen without junior high state experience, returning state qualifiers/placers, veteran wrestlers seeking a state tournament debut, and so forth. However, the pick here in the opening weight is returning state runner-up Burcher, who was third at Medina in the 113 weight class before dropping to the Top Gun and taking seventh in a loaded weight class; his losses there were 5-4 in overtime to Rahmani and 4-1 to fellow state runner-up Bavery.

Within his own district at Claymont, there reside three other ranked wrestlers, and they are most likely to join him at state. Brown is a freshman, who placed third at junior high state last year, was sixth at Top Gun and runner-up at the OVAC meet. Returning state qualifier Crabtree was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty, champion at Nelsonville York, and fourth at Marion. Henderson, a junior seeking his state tournament debut, was champion at Lorain and third at the OVAC.

Ranked second here is a freshman sensation in Kelly, who was a junior high state champion last year. This year, he bounced back from an early loss by fall to May to take third at the GMVWA, which was bookended by titles at Edgewood and Bellbrook. In what's going to become a theme for the Goshen district, only two other wrestlers appear in the rankings. Fellow freshman May was a junior high state champion at 84 pounds (one weight below Kelly), placed sixth at the GMVWA and failed to place at the Top Gun suffering losses to Bavery and Rahmani. State alternate Carter was runner-up to Kelly at Bellbrook and placed third at Western Brown.

Third in the rankings is Michel, the highest returning state placer here other than projected state champion Burcher - seventh in Division III last year at 103 pounds. This year, he has been excellent in splitting time between 106 and 113 pounds – while at 103, he was fourth at North Canton and champion at Brecksville. His Milan Edison squad has a solid freshman in Evan Cheek that could make the state tournament as well; however, Ohio does not allow double entries for the state series. In another recurring trend, the Marion district is loaded in this weight class with five ranked wrestlers. Three wrestlers in addition to Michel have state experience. Pool – eighth at state last year – was champion at Olentangy Liberty and CIT, and sixth at Brecksville; Martin was seventh at Brecksville, second at the Top Gun, and has a dual meet major decision victory over May; while Kopp was third at Tiffin Columbian and fifth at Oregon Clay. Fab freshman Stickley was fifth at junior high state, but did not place at the Top Gun with losses to Martin and Burcher.

The fourth ranked wrestler in this weight is a freshman, who did not even compete in the junior high state meet last year. However, Bennett, has made significant strides this year – of course that’s going to happen when Nathan Tomasello is the weight above you. There’s two ways to go there – improve or wallow into irrelevance. He’s chosen the prior, as shown by a third place finish at Medina and a fourth place finish at Top Gun where he split matches with Bavery (projected DI state champ). The challenge group at Firestone is pretty formidable led by returning state qualifier Taton, who was runner-up at Solon and fifth at Brecksville. An under the radar sophomore is Frost, who was undefeated until the Bill Dies, where he took third losing on a very late takedown against Torres, and beat the just coming back Assad in overtime in consolation. Zemaitis is rated in the fourth qualification spot, and has titles at Hudson and Kenston to his credit this year.

113 pounds

1. Nathan Tomasello, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
2. Luke Langdon, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
3. Anthony Tutolo, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
4. D.J. Schoeppner, Canton South, junior (Alliance)
5. Eli Seipel, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Marion)
6. Nathan Smith, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
7. Joey Miller, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
8. Anthony Craig, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
9. Lyle Plummer, Dayton CJ, sophomore (Goshen)
10. Dalton Howard, Milan Edison, junior (Marion)
11. Josh Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, freshman (Marion)
12. John Maurice, Bellefontaine, senior (Marion)
13. Tyler Price, Licking Hts., senior (Claymont)
14. Connor Nemec, Crestwood, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Brady Hooks, New Richmond, senior (Goshen)
16. Jonathan Edwards, River Valley, senior (Claymont)

Alliance – Tomasello, Tutolo, Schoeppner, Nemec, Kendrick Maple (Jefferson, junior)

Claymont – Langdon, Smith, Miller, Craig, Price, Edwards

Goshen – Plummer, Hooks, Cory Parsons (Vincent Warren, junior), Trent Duffy (Miami Trace, sophomore), Ethan Kehn (Sheridan, junior)

Marion – Seipel, Howard, Mossing, Maurice, Wade Hodges (Wauseon, freshman)

This begins a stretch within Division II where eight of the next ten weight classes are anchored by a nationally ranked wrestler. In this case, it's two-time state champion Tomasello, who combines his talents with a relentless work ethic. The results reflect that – two straight Super32 runner-up finishes, along with two straight titles at Ironman, Medina, and the Top Gun – for the second ranked wrestler in America at this weight class. He is the clear favorite in this weight class.

Second ranked here is three-time state placer Langdon, who has finished third, fourth, and third in the state. He won the Medina championship at 120, before getting blown out by Ryan Taylor at state duals; then, he dropped down to this weight class at the Top Gun and suffered a 5-0 loss to Tomasello. The district in which Langdon resides at Claymont is absolutely loaded. Five others are ranked here, and all of them made the state tournament last year – three placed, with a fourth having medaled in 2010. Multiple state caliber wrestlers will be sitting in the stands with tickets, while others from a certain district have easier paths to take their place.

Smith placed fifth at 103 last year, and this year has finished eighth at Medina and fifth at Top Gun – both in loaded weight classes. Miller has placed seventh and sixth the last two years, but failed to place at Top Gun losing to Fausnight and Smith. Craig was sixth last year at 103, placed third at the OVAC, and was seventh at Top Gun. Price went 0-2 at state last year after placing sixth as a freshman. Edwards was 1-2 at state in Division III, and this year placed third at Olentangy Liberty and Marion sandwiched by a championship at Nelsonville York.

The other two members of the top four join Tomasello at the Alliance district. Tutolo was considered a bona fide title contender last year after placing at Ironman and Powerade, but injuries and weight issues marred the back half of his season, as he fell one match short of the state tournament. This year, he's been excellent, with a pair of wins over Rix in placing second at Solon and third at Brecksville (both at 120); and also won the CIT in this weight class. Schoeppner placed fourth at state, but had a pair of wins over eventual state champion Michael Rix (section and district). This year, he has titles at Cuyahoga Hts and the Bill Dies sandwiched around a North Canton runner-up finish. Nemecek is a clear pick for the fourth qualifying spot, having done so last year.

Yet another impressive freshman for Graham, Seipel, anchors the contingent at the Marion district. Graham had been at Goshen in past years, but was moved up to Marion in the infinite wisdom of the state and SWDAB. Three other ranked wrestlers are in the top 12 at this weight, and are the picks to make state.

Again it is that Goshen district, which lacks quality depth with just two ranked wrestlers in this weight class, both outside the top eight. However, the sophomore Plummer – who won a match at state last year – has been solid this year with a title at Franklin along with runner-up finishes at the GMVWA, Bellbrook, and CIT.

120 pounds

1. Ryan Taylor, St. Paris Graham, senior (Marion)
2. Cory Stainbrook, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
3. Michael Rix, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
4. Aaran Gessic, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
5. J.R. Perry, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
6. Beau Minnick, Clyde, sophomore (Marion)
7. Kyle Kaminski, Padua, freshman (Marion)

8. Andy Dobben, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
9. Nate Hagan, Toledo Central Catholic, freshman (Marion)
10. Kole Trigg, Washington Courthouse, junior (Goshen)
11. Austin Skaggs, New Richmond, senior (Goshen)
12. Trace Plougher, Lima Shawnee, junior (Marion)
13. Jesse Gunter, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
14. Spencer Nagy, Alliance, freshman (Alliance)
15. Anthony Parada, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
16. Jimmy Kubitza, Field, sophomore (Alliance)

Alliance – Stainbrook, Rix, Gessic, Perry, A. Dobben, Gunter, Nagy, Kutbitza

Claymont – Parada, Brett Yutzy (Jonathan Alder, sophomore), Nathan Kirk (Buckeye Local, junior), Hunter Pizzino (Harrison Central, freshman), Daniel Hasson (Beaver Local, freshman)

Goshen – Trigg, Skaggs, Nathan Kern (Circleville, senior), Zach Borton (Clinton Massie, junior), Brauner Chafin (Eaton, junior)

Marion – Taylor, Minnick, Kaminski, Hagan, Plougher

The theme of this weight is inequity. Two-time state champion Taylor is such a clear favorite that he has scared away two of his top challengers – Langdon has moved down to 113, while two-time state runner-up Calvin Campbell has chosen to try his luck up at 126. The district tournaments in this weight class are beyond lopsided. The Alliance district has eight ranked wrestlers, Marion has five, Goshen has two, and Claymont has one.

Let's walk through the absolutely loaded Alliance district that is headed up by Stainbrook, a three-time state placer and returning state runner-up. Despite below par performances at Ironman (failing to place) and Powerade (finishing fourth), he does have a title at Solon and a runner-up finish at Top Gun (losing 7-3 to Taylor) to his credit this year. However, there is the head-scratching 3-2 loss to Gessic at state duals. Next on the docket is the always inconsistent Rix; however, he does have that gold medal from last year at 103 hanging on his neck. This year, he's been third at Solon, sixth at Brecksville, second at the CIT, and 0-2 at the Walsh Ironman. The previously mentioned Gessic was a state alternate last year as a freshman up at 125. This year, he has titles at Riverside, Kenston, and Perry along with a runner-up finish at Oregon Clay. Perry was champion at Hudson in December, and a Division I state placer in 2010 before failing to make state last year.

The second group of four at Alliance would be a solid state qualification set in their own right. The freshman Andy Dobben was a junior high state champ last year, went 3-2 at the Ironman, placed fifth at Medina (including a giant win over Campbell in the second round), and seventh at Top Gun. Gunter, a senior, has lost three consecutive years in the go-to-state match by a single point. Based on ranking, he would lose a go-to-match for the fourth consecutive year ... has that ever been done before? Nagy has been terrific in his freshman year, with a pair of dual meet wins over state placers (Smith and Miller), but he failed to place at Top Gun with losses to Trigg and Dobben. Finally, Kubitza was an eighth at the Top Gun. Will any individuals from this group try their luck at the less deep 126 pound weight class?

Looking at Taylor's district at Marion, no one is challenging him. However, these four wrestlers are relatively close in ability and seek the other three qualifying spots. Minnick went 1-2 at the state tournament as a freshman, while freshmen Kaminski and Hagan both placed at Brecksville, and Plougher was 0-2 at the state tournament last year.

Life at the Goshen and Claymont districts are comparatively tame, with it being open season on state qualification – though some/many of the qualifiers might not sniff a go to match at Alliance or Marion. Leading the way at Goshen are returning state qualifier Trigg and state alternate Skaggs, who made state in 2010. State alternate Parada, fourth at Top Gun and second at the OVAC, is the lone ranked wrestler at the Claymont district.

126 pounds

1. Micah Jordan, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Marion)
2. Mike Kostandaras, Walsh Jesuit, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Calvin Campbell, Lexington, senior (Marion)
4. Darran Warner, Indian Valley, senior (Claymont)
5. Bobby Mason, Padua, senior (Marion)
6. Kade Kowalski, Tri-Valley, freshman (Claymont)
7. Alex Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Marion)
8. Preston Bowshier, Kenton Ridge, sophomore (Marion)
9. Sean Fee, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
10. Connor Blacka, Jonathan Alder, senior (Claymont)
11. Blake Miller, Clyde, sophomore (Marion)
12. Walter Gibson, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Travis Dickey, Ashtabula Edgewood, senior (Alliance)
14. Jose Parsons, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
15. Drew Dillon, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
16. Ricardo Simonelli, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)

Alliance – Kostandaras, Fee, Gibson, Dickey, Simonelli

Claymont – Warner, Kowalski, Blacka, Parsons, Dillon

Marion – M. Jordan, Campbell, Mason, Mossing, Bowshier, Miller

Goshen – Tyler Knul (Circleville, sophomore), Payton Ott (Eaton, junior), Brian Carter (Bethel-Tate, junior), Matt Middleton (Franklin, junior), Christian Hensley (Hamilton Ross, seior)

Eight weights combine to feature ten returning state champions in Division II this year, and one of them is this one with sophomore Micah Jordan leading the way. Micah is the sixth member of the “Jordan Tree” to compete in high school, and all of the other five won state in their sophomore year (Jim and Jeff were four-timers; Ben was a three-timer, losing as a junior; Isaac has won two titles, finishing third as a freshman, with a senior year to go; and Bo, a junior, has already won two).

Micah anchors a loaded Marion district in this weight – and virtually all other weights. Five from this district are ranked in the top eight (six in the top eleven). On the other hand, there are zero from the Goshen district ranked in the top sixteen. Picking state qualifiers will be a crapshoot. Knul made state last year but went 0-2, while Ott was a state qualifier in 2010.

Now onto discussing the other five ranked wrestlers at Marion – all of whom have state tournament experience. Campbell is a two-time state runner-up, went 120 earlier this season to place eighth at Ironman and third at Medina, before bumping to this weight and winning the J.C. Gorman. Mason is a three-time state qualifier and took fifth at state last year; this year he was third at Brecksville and champion at the CIT. Mossing and Bowshier both placed seventh at state as freshmen last year. This year, Mossing was fifth at Brecksville and fourth at the CIT, while Bowshier has titles at Valley View and Troy to go with a GMVWA runner-up finish. Kind of an afterthought in this district is fellow sophomore

Miller, who went 1-2 at state last year, and has a title at Lorain to his credit. It is an absolute crime what the state and the SWDAB did with district compositions – I can't state that enough.

Life at the Alliance district is no breeze with five ranked wrestlers, led by yet another sophomore Kostandaras, who placed sixth at state last year. This year has been a good one for him winning a title at Solon, placing third at Top Gun, fifth in a loaded Powerade tournament, and one match away from placing at the Ironman. Fee placed at state in 2010, but was a match away last year. He's been in and out of the lineup due to injury, but placed fourth at Solon up at 132 before failing to place in this weight at the CIT suffering two-point losses to Bobby Smith and Mossing. Gibson went 1-2 at the state tournament last year, but has had an uneven season to date; while Dickey and Simonelli were state alternates last year.

Warner, third in the state at 119 last year, leads five ranked wrestlers at the Claymont district. Next on the list is the freshman Kowalski, who was a junior high state champion last year and placed fourth this year at Brecksville. Blacka placed eighth at state last year, Parsons was a state alternate, while Dillon went 2-2 at the district last year and placed eight at Medina this year.

132 pounds

1. Brent Fickel, Padua, senior (Marion)
2. Nick Skonieczny, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
3. Ryan Skonieczny, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Josh Decatur, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
5. Colin McDermitt, Lima Shawnee, senior (Marion)
6. Brodie Scherer, Warsaw River View, senior (Claymont)
7. Dylan Kager, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
8. Cordell Byrd, Hamilton Ross, junior (Goshen)
9. Aaron Thompson, London, senior (Claymont)
10. Nathan Henkle, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Marion)
11. Kyle Lang, Norwalk, junior (Marion)
12. Chip Ratcliff, Bethel-Tate, junior (Goshen)
13. Ron Foster, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
14. Nathan Salmon, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Marion)
15. Nick Wrobel, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
16. Jake McKittrick, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)

Alliance – Ni. Skonieczny, R. Skonieczny, Decatur, Kager, Wrobel

Claymont – Scherer, Thompson, Foster, McKittrick, Drew Avery (Claymont, junior)

Goshen – Byrd, Ratcliff, Chris Conley (Sheridan, senior), Nelson Roberts (Greenville, junior), Stewart Oehlers (Fairfield Union, junior)

Marion – Fickel, McDermitt, Henkle, Lang, Salmon

Two-time Brecksville champion, two-time Super32 placer, three-time Ironman placer ... all that but yet to make the final. That is the resume which three-time state placer (third, fourth, and third) Fickel brings to the table this year. Not only that, but he's 0-3 in state semifinals career to date, including "bad" losses the last two years. He's hoping that the fate of Darrin Boing (Chanel/Ohio University) doesn't hit him – being favored as a senior at state, but suffering an unexpected loss prior to the semis.

Joining Fickel at the Marion district is fellow third place finisher McDermitt, who has won titles at Allen County and Marion Harding before placing third at Oregon Clay. Two spots remain open for the other three ranked wrestlers; Lang placed at state as a freshman in 2010, but failed to make it last year, while Salmon went two-and-out at state last year.

The other three wrestlers ranked in the top five, all returning state placers, exit the Alliance district. Nick Skonieczny placed third last year at 140 pounds, and just recently made his return to the mats after an injury. Ryan Skonieczny placed eighth at state, was second at Solon, third at the CIT, and seventh at Brecksville. Decatur was sixth in Division III last year, and has fifth place finishes at Medina and the Top Gun on his resume this year. The other projected state qualifier is the junior Kager, who went 1-2 at state, and has titles at Hudson and Kenston to his credit this year.

Last of the returning state placer group is Scherer, who took fourth last year and anchors the Claymont district. This year, he was seventh at the Top Gun. Thompson and Foster are returning state qualifiers, Thompson winning a match in Columbus; while McKittrick and Avery were district placers, with McKittrick being a state alternate.

As seems to be a theme here, the Goshen district has just two ranked wrestlers. Byrd is a returning state qualifier, who went 1-2 at the state; this year, he was fourth at SWOWCA and champion at Fairfield. Ratcliff was just 1-2 at the district last year, but has placed fifth at SWOWCA with a win over state qualifier Gonzalez and third at Madeira. I would tab Byrd as the district favorite, with Ratcliff and the three others listed here leading a group seeking the last three spots..

138 pounds

1. Nate Skonieczny, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
2. Max Rohskopf, West Holmes, junior (Claymont)
3. Dalton Nicely, Wauseon, senior (Marion)
4. Cameron Campbell, Perkins, senior (Marion)
5. Tyler Majoy, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)
6. Nick Fejedelem, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
7. Joseph Jones, Hamilton Ross, junior (Goshen)
8. Adam Fasnacht, Padua, senior (Marion)
9. Sheldon Struble, Bryan, senior (Marion)
10. Oscar Romero, Franklin, senior (Goshen)
11. John Gershom, Hebron Lakewood, junior (Claymont)
12. Chastin Hobley, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
13. Bryan Newland, Benjamin Logan, senior (Marion)
14. Ben Schram, Bellbrook, freshman (Goshen)
15. Zach Ladich, Field, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Michael Tassone, University school, senior (Alliance)

Alliance – Nate Skonieczny, Fejedelem, Ladich, Tassone, Michael Belknap (Akron Hoban, senior)
Claymont – Rohskopf, Gershom, Hobley, Brad Davis (Philo, senior), Cade Herron (Claymont, sophomore)
Goshen – Jones, Romero, Schram, Dillon Hunick (Hillsboro, sophomore), Seth Stadler (Athens, senior)
Marion – Nicely, Campbell, Majoy, Fasnacht, Struble, Newland

Defending state champion Nate Skonieczny is arguably the strongest favorite in any of the Division II weight classes (I think Isaac Jordan has a compelling argument as well). Nate is the second ranked

wrestler in America with titles at the Ironman and Top Gun to his credit; his only loss was in the tiebreakers at the Powerade to two-time National Prep champion Todd Preston from Blair Academy. In testament to how strong a favorite he is, Nate beat second ranked Rohskopf in the Top Gun final by a 19-4 technical fall.

Rohskopf has made state in both years of his high school career, placing seventh last year as a sophomore. This year, he has finished as runner-up at both Medina and the Top Gun, including a big victory in the top Gun semis over Matt Hammer.

In what should come as unsurprising, the Marion district has yet again the most depth with six ranked wrestlers, including the three directly behind Skonieczny and Rohskopf, though there is a significant drop from Skonieczny (and Rohskopf) to those three. Nicely has competed at both 145 and this weight class, while at this weight class, he placed seventh at Brecksville. This includes a 13-6 win over fourth ranked Majoy, who was a Division III state runner-up last year – quite frankly that was the sacrificial lamb position to Hunter Stieber. Majoy failed to place at both Brecksville at North Canton, took sixth at Marion Elgin, and first at Milan Edison. Campbell is a two-time state qualifier, making state as a freshman in 2009 and last year as a junior; this year, he finished third at Marion County. State qualifier Fasnacht, state alternate Struble, and district placer Newland are realistically gunning for that last spot to state.

At the Alliance district, Nate Skonieczny is the anchor. District placer Fejedelem is the next best here, and a pretty sure bet to make state – he has runner-up finishes this year at both Hudson and Kenston. The other two spots are pretty wide open for the taking – the two other ranked wrestlers are Ladich, a sophomore who placed at North Canton and Top Gun, and the senior Tassone who made state in 2009 as a freshman.

The Claymont district is similarly mediocre behind Rohskopf – then again, that’s a statewide thing at this weight class. The other two wrestlers here are state alternates Gershom and Hogley. That fourth qualifying spot is wide open.

Three ranked wrestlers reside from the Goshen district led by state alternate Jones, who was champion at SWOWCA. Also ranked are Romero, who was champion at Franklin; and the freshman Schram who placed fourth at the GMVWA. The fourth spot is rather wide open.

145 pounds

1. Blake Kastl, St. Paris Graham, senior (Marion)
2. Jake Faust, Lexington, senior (Marion)
3. T.J. Fox, Field, senior (Alliance)
4. Jimmy Klosz, Holy Name, senior (Marion)
5. Kyle Warner, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
6. Sam Viengmany, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Marion)
7. Shawn McGhee, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
8. Luke Cramer, Oak Harbor, junior (Marion)
9. Nathan Bowers, Miami Trace, senior (Goshen)
10. Matt Dobben, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
11. Tom McNulty, Padua, junior (Marion)
12. Alex Doughty, Norwalk, junior (Marion)
13. Dominic Monaco, University School, junior (Alliance)

14. Alec Schenk, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Robby Klose, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
16. Mike Coffman, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)

Alliance – Fox, M. Dobben, Monaco, Schenk, Rose

Claymont – Warner, McGhee, Tyler Schentz (Big Walnut, senior), Sawyer Leppla (Cambridge, junior), Matt Straight (Whitehall, senior)

Goshen – Bowers, Anthony Foreman (New Lexington, senior), Jacob Wright (Franklin, junior), Mikey Gonzalez (Wyoming, senior)

Marion – Kastl, Faust, Klosz, Viengmany, Cramer, McNulty, Doughty, Coffman

Sandwich weights tend to be very deep, and this is the epiphany of a sandwich weight with Nate Skonieczny below and Bo Jordan above. The senior Kastl moved here from California in the off-season, where he was a two-time placer in that single class state tournament. He has dazzled this year with a runner-up finish at the Ironman, and a dominant performance in the Top Gun – winning 7-3 in the finals against returning state runner-up Fox. Leading the challenge group is an individual from his own district at Marion that has placed fifth twice at the state tournament, but made a huge leap this year. The senior Faust placed third at the preseason Super32 challenge going through an impressive gauntlet of wins, was fourth at the Ironman losing only 3-1 to Kastl and 1-0 to projected Division I state champ (at 152) Zack Dailey, took third at Medina losing in the overtime tiebreaker to three-time Michigan state champion Alec Mooradian, and dominated his way to a Gorman title.

Yet again, the Marion district is stacked. This time, there are eight ranked wrestlers in the weight class. Next up is two-time state placer Klosz, who placed sixth at 152 in the Ironman. He dropped to this weight to get away from Bo Jordan, but finds himself in a brutal class. After that, there are five other ranked wrestlers after essentially one spot. Viengmany was a state alternate last year; this year he has championships at Olentangy Liberty and the CIT sandwiched around a fourth at Brecksville. Coffman and McNulty are Brecksville placers (McNulty a finalist), while Cramer and Doughty are both excellent juniors.

The highest returning placer here is Fox, who was runner-up last year to Brascetta. This year, he has runner-up finishes at North Canton and Top Gun – both losses coming to nationally ranked opposition in Solomon Chishko (from Pa.) and Kastl. Life is not easy at the Alliance district with Fox and four other ranked wrestlers, plus two district placers not ranked (Faulkner of West Branch and Minns of Woodridge). Could we see movement from this weight either down (though there's a muddle there) or up? Dobben placed third in Division III last year, but it's been a mixed bag of results this year in failing to place at Medina and finishing just seventh at the Top Gun. Monaco is a returning state qualifier, while Klose a state alternate at this weight last year.

Last among the five realistic title contenders in this weight class is three-time state placer Warner, who is after that elusive state finals appearance (and obviously title). He was runner-up to Dailey at Medina up a weight at 152, before dropping back down to 145 with a third place finish at Top Gun (losing to Fox in the semis). Two-time state qualifier McGhee, champion at OVAC and fourth at the Top Gun, is the lone other ranked qualifier at this district. Others mentioned include state alternate Schenz and district placer Straight, along with OVAC third place finisher Leppla.

Yet again, the Goshen district is super thin with just one ranked wrestler in Bowers, a returning state qualifier who finished seventh at the GMVWA and sixth the Top Gun. Only four names are listed here, as it was a struggle to come up with who in my mind can contend for a state tournament spot.

152 pounds

1. Bo Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (Marion)
2. Kyle Burns, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)
3. Alex Bergman, Oak Harbor, senior (Marion)
4. Seth Williams, Tiffin Columbian, sophomore (Marion)
5. Justin Stitzlein, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
6. Jerald Spohn, New Lexington, junior (Goshen)
7. Bradley Ponchak, Morgan, senior (Claymont)
8. Jon Edwards, Greenville, senior (Goshen)
9. Brian Downs, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
10. Caleb Brown, Marietta, senior (Goshen)
11. Nick Davis, Norwalk, senior (Marion)
12. Grant Kimble, Dover, junior (Claymont)
13. Trent Mays, Steubenville, freshman (Claymont)
14. Logan Reaser, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
15. David Whisler, Warren Howland, freshman (Alliance)
16. Tyler Pidgeon, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
16. Zach Green, Elida, junior (Marion)

Alliance – Downs, Reaser, Pidgeon, Whisler, Brandon James (Ravenna Southeast, junior)

Claymont – Stitzlein, Ponchak, Kimble, Mays, Taylor Peters (Claymont, senior)

Goshen – Spohn, Edwards, Brown, Daniel Zimmerman (Wyoming, senior), Andrew Dunn (Hamilton Ross, sophomore)

Marion – Jordan, Burns, Bergman, Williams, Davis

One of the many great things about the state tournament here in Ohio over the years is the privilege to watch some of the great wrestlers of our time step foot on the big state. We're talking Logan Stieber, David Taylor, Lance Palmer, Dustin Schlatter, and so forth – and that's just in recent times. Bo Jordan has the potential to be that type of wrestler. Right now I would say he is one of the five best high school wrestlers in America regardless of age or weight class. This two-time state champion is going for a third state title and is undefeated with titles at the Ironman and Top Gun.

Not that it matters who his challengers are, but the other three leading challengers reside at the Marion district along with him. In fact, Burns is also undefeated on the season with titles at Milan Edison, North Canton, Brecksville, and Marion County; placed at the Super32 and FloNationals, and is a defending state champion. Bergman and Williams both placed sixth in the state last year. This year, Bergman placed 7th at Ironman, third at Medina, and second Perrysburg; while Williams has titles at Tiffin Columbian and Oregon Clay to his credit. Two other wrestlers from this district are also ranked, but would not realistically expect to see Columbus is in this district composition.

The lone other returning state qualifier is Stitzlein – in fact he is a two-time state qualifier – and he anchors the Claymont district. State alternate Ponchak and 2011 junior high state runner-up Mays are two of the three other ranked wrestlers in this weight class at the district.

At Goshen there are three ranked wrestlers, including Spohn – a junior who did even make the district tournament last year. This year, he was fifth at Medina and first at West Brown. Also in the rankings are district placer Edwards, a champion at Troy; and Brown, champion at Marion Harding.

Finally, the Alliance district is lacking in terms of quality depth at this weight class with four in the rankings but none projected to place. State alternate Downs leads the pack here, followed by Top Gun and Kenston fifth placer Reaser, Wadsworth third place finisher Whisler who made a late drop down from 160, and then Pidgeon (fourth at both Riverside and Mount Veron). District placer Cash is not among the on paper top five, but quite frankly 2-4 spots are truly open among a slew of candidates. Movement in (from 145) and out (to 160) could influence the final dynamics.

160 pounds

1. Isaac Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Marion)
2. Lucas Poyser, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
3. Brad Metz, Lexington, senior (Marion)
4. Scott Boyce, Minerva, senior (Claymont)
5. Dominic Scarberry, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
6. Michael Burge, Wilmington, senior (Goshen)
7. Zach Rutherford, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)
8. Justin Halsey, Marietta, senior (Goshen)
9. Doug Eddy, Harrison Central, senior (Claymont)
10. Alex Sherman, Buckeye, senior (Marion)
11. Jett Hurt, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Marion)
12. Kordell Ford, Hillsboro, sophomore (Goshen)
13. Cody Kucera, Sparta Highland, senior (Claymont)
14. William Paynter, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
15. Jason Allen, Columbus DeSales, senior (Claymont)
16. Mark Cole, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)

Alliance – Poyser, Scarberry, Paynter, Ryan Sill (Perry, junior), Cody Davis (Warren Howland, junior)

Claymont – Boyce, Eddy, Kucera, Allen, Cole

Goshen – Burge, Halsey, Ford, Anthony Carome (Goshen, senior), Ian English (New Richmond, senior)

Marion – Jordan, Metz, Rutherford, Sherman, Hurt

This weight is headlined by the third of the Jordan trio that remains in high school. Micah (126) and Bo (152) are Graham head coach Jeff Jordan's sons, while Isaac at this weight is the son of U.S. Congressman Jim Jordan (whose other son Ben is a senior 165 pound wrestler at Wisconsin this year). Isaac, seeking a third consecutive title, is a prohibitive favorite in this weight, and is undefeated during a dominant season, including titles at the Ironman and Top Gun. In the final at the Top Gun, he earned a pin over the second ranked wrestler.

Ranked second in this weight is Poyser, who placed sixth at state last year, and also has a runner-up finish at North Canton this year to his credit. He obviously leads the pack at the Alliance district, which features just two other ranked wrestlers – state alternate Scarberry, who was runner-up at Solon and seventh at the Top Gun; and Paynter, who was second at both Mount Vernon and Riverside. A couple of wrestlers listed, but not ranked, here are favorites to poach the fourth spot.

Other than Jordan and Poyser, there are only four other wrestlers in this weight class with state tournament experience – a pair that went 1-2, two others that went two-and-out.

Ranked fourth, and anchoring the Claymont district is Boyce, a two-time state qualifier, who failed to place at Medina (losing to Vilimonovic and Metz) before taking fifth at the Top Gun. Four other wrestlers at this site are ranked and realistically are after the three other spots. Eddy was a champion at the OVAC tournament, Kucera was a district placer last year, Allen placed at both Brecksville and the CIT, while Cole took third in the OVAC.

The Goshen district features two of those other returning state qualifiers in Burge and Halsey. Burge went 1-2 in Columbus last year, and this year was second at both the GMVWA and Sycamore; while Halsey went two-and-out at state, and this year has a title at Marion Harding. The other ranked wrestler from this district is the sophomore Ford, who took sixth at the district tournament last year, and was champion at Bellbrook and Western Brown this year. Carome is favored to earn the fourth spot.

The other returning state qualifier is Rutherford, who went 0-2 in Division III at 171 pounds last year, and he'll join Jordan at the Marion district – where he is ranked third at that site. Ranked second among those at Marion, third overall, is the senior Metz, who was a state alternate last year. This year Metz placed fifth at Medina and won the J.C. Gorman. Two other wrestlers are ranked at this district, and they are after that last spot along with some that aren't ranked – Sherman, who placed sixth at the Bill Dies, and Hurt, who has titles at Tiffin Columbian and Oregon Clay to his credit.

170 pounds

1. Brandon O'Neill, Clear Fork, senior (Marion)
2. Austin Jones, Tri-Valley, junior (Claymont)
3. Chris Moore, Clyde, junior (Marion)
4. David Gray, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
5. Wyatt Running, Clinton-Massie, junior (Goshen)
6. Corey Mancuso, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)
7. Brandon Taylor, Gallia Academy, senior (Goshen)
8. Brogan Endres, Dover, senior (Claymont)
9. Jacob Kasper, Lexington, junior (Marion)
10. Dymonte Thomas, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
11. Holden Hengstler, Wapakoneta, junior (Marion)
12. Jacob Howarth, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
13. Tyler Brokaw, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
14. Jake Thayer, Buckeye, senior (Marion)
15. Hyle Squire, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
16. George Bollas, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)

Alliance – Gray, Thomas, Brokaw, Squire, Bollas, Aaron Page (West Branch, senior)

Claymont – Jones, Endres, Howarth, Kevin Yeager (Licking Heights, senior), Michael Patrick (Marion Franklin, senior)

Goshen – Running, Taylor, Kevin Reid (New Richmond, junior), Aluor Naymor (Wyoming, senior), Chris Wilson (Lemon Monroe, junior)

Marion – O'Neill, Moore, Mancuso, Kasper, Hengstler, Thayer

For all the excellent performances that O'Neill has had over the last two years, true and fulfilling success at the state tournament is that missing ingredient. In position to possibly finish second to Chris Phillips last year in Division III at 171 pounds, his state tournament did not get off to a fortuitous start, as he lost in the first round before bouncing back to finish seventh. This off-season he was sixth at the FloNationals and fifth at the Super32 Challenge, and during the season he finished third at North Canton beating two West Virginia state champs, made his second straight Top Gun final (winning this time), and won the J.C. Gorman title. He is the state title favorite in this weight class.

In addition to O'Neill, there are three other mid-to-low state placers present, along with a pair of state qualifiers (one was 1-2, while the other went two-and-out). The Marion district in which he will exit is super deep with six ranked wrestlers (four in the top nine). Returning eighth placer Moore has had an excellent season with titles at Edison and Lorain, and was undefeated until a loss to Division III state title contender Zeb Beam yesterday. Next at this district is Mancuso, who despite never making state has placed twice at Brecksville, and had a superlative tournament in mid-January at Marion County when he upended three Division III title contenders to win that tournament. Last among the first four at this site is the junior Kasper, who was fifth at Medina and a Gorman runner-up to O'Neill. Also in this district are district placer Hengstler, who was fifth at Top Gun, and state alternate Thayer who took seventh at Medina.

Ranked second in this weight behind O'Neill is the highest returning placer Jones, who took fourth at state last year. This year, he was champion at Heath and runner-up at Brecksville. He'll lead a Claymont district that also features returning state qualifier Endres, who placed fourth at the Top Gun. OVAC runner-up and Top Gun sixth placer Howarth is the other ranked wrestler from this district site, while it's wide open for that fourth qualifying spot.

Despite placing sixth in a Division III district last year (yes, it was the excellent one at Maple Hts.), the senior Gray has come on super strong this year, and is in the mix for a state title. Coming off an eighth place finish at the Ironman, he'll be remembered for his upset victory over Felipe Martinez in the quarterfinals at Medina – a tournament in which he went onto a runner-up finish. Additionally Gray placed third at the Top Gun, losing just 4-1 to O'Neill. Along with Gray, the Alliance district features four other ranked wrestlers including state qualifier Brokaw, district sixth Thomas (who beat Brokaw in the finals of the Hephner), Solon placer Squire, and the sophomore Bollas who won titles at Hudson and Perry.

Finally, the Goshen district features two wrestlers with state tournament experience – Running, who placed sixth in Division III, and Taylor who went 1-2 at state. Running was a champion at Clinton Massie and Fairfield before finishing second at Western Brown. Taylor this year has titles at Gallia and Nelsonville York. However, the district also has no other ranked wrestlers – the three mentioned below the rankings the leaders among those seeking the other two qualifying spots.

182 pounds

1. Huston Evans, St. Paris Graham, senior (Marion)
2. Chaz Gresham, Goshen, senior (Goshen)
3. Tyler Harble, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
4. Brad Smith, Clyde, junior (Marion)
5. Aaron Adkins, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Jordan Cole, Milan Edison, senior (Marion)
7. Jake Alexander, Norwalk, senior (Marion)

8. Zach Tackett, Gallia Academy, senior (Goshen)
9. Sean Rutherford, Norton, freshman (Alliance)
10. Dustin Harlow, Vincent Warren, senior (Goshen)
11. Clay Rollison, River Valley, senior (Claymont)
12. Chris Ashburn, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
13. Ian Ferguson, Columbus DeSales, junior (Claymont)
14. Colin Day, Kenton Ridge, senior (Marion)
15. Brian Deming, Perry, senior (Alliance)
16. Anthony Robinson, London, senior (Claymont)

Alliance – Adkins, Rutherford, Ashburn, Deming, Nick Havener (CVCA, junior)

Claymont – Harble, Rollison, Ferguson, Robinson, Mark Barrow (New Philadelphia, sophomore)

Goshen – Gresham, Tackett, Harlow, James White (New Richmond, junior), Tyler McBeath (Dayton CJ, senior)

Marion – Evans, Smith, Cole, Alexander, Day

Quite possibly the most anticipated state final in all 42 weight classes this year comes in this weight class, and it is a rematch of last year's district and state tournament championship matches. Evans and Gresham split those two meetings – Evans winning at the district, and Gresham on Saturday night in Columbus. This year, we were deprived of a potential meeting at the Ironman when Gresham suffered an injury on day one, which forced him to default on day two. Evans went on to win that title with a win over Division I favorite Abounader in the final. Since then Evans, the projected state champ, was undefeated at the Clash and won the Top Gun in dominant fashion before Abounader avenged that loss with a 3-2 tiebreaker victory about ten days ago.

Due to the injury, defending state champion Gresham – also a three-time state placer and two-time Super32 placer – missed the SWOWCA and Brecksville tournaments but came back for Western Brown, which he won in dominating fashion. The presence of these two, along with the additional upper-weight, has created a field short on state experience. Only three others with such experience are in the field; but five that lost go-to-matches at the district tournament last year join them.

Breaking down the district that Evans anchors at Marion, it is the strongest in all with four other ranked wrestlers. The four projected qualifiers for state are also projected to place in the top eight. State alternate Smith has been impressive with a pair of wins over Cole this year, a championship at Lorain, and a runner-up finish at Milan Edison. Returning state placer Cole (though he was in Division III last year) has been solid this year with a third at Milan Edison, a sixth at Brecksville, and a second at Marion Elgin. State qualifier Alexander was second at Kenston and champion at the J.C. Gorman. The senior Day has shown well this year with a fourth at GMVWA followed by titles at Troy and Valley View.

Harble is the lone other returning state qualifier, and he did win a match at state. He anchors the Claymont district, and comes in with a second place at Olentangy and a title at Licking County. Others here include district placer Rollison, and a trio of wrestlers that went 2-2 at the district tournament last year in Ferguson, Robinson, and Barrow.

District placer Adkins leads the contingent at the Alliance district. The sophomore has been impressive this year with a third at Solon, seventh place finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville, before winning a CIT title. The freshman Rutherford, a junior high state runner-up, has wrestled well this year – second at Hudson and fifth at the Bill Dies. Others at this site include Ashburn, who has made the semis at Hudson

and Kenston; Deming, who was champion at Riverside, third at Kenston, second at Perry, and fifth at Oregon Clay; and Havener, who took seventh at both Medina and the Top Gun.

Lastly, Gresham is the anchor at the Goshen district that features just two other ranked wrestlers. Despite going just 1-2 at district last year, Tackett has impressed with titles at Gallia and Nelsonville York (where he had a 7-1 win over Rollison); while Harlow was a state alternate last year. Also to note is White was a district placer last year.

195 pounds

1. Josh Lehner, Lexington, junior (Marion)
2. Cody Thompson, Mansfield Madison, senior (Marion)
3. Zach Zody, Triway, senior (Alliance)
4. Sam Harris, Urbana, junior (Marion)
5. Jimmy Szep, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
6. Evan Nichols, Perry, junior (Alliance)
7. Hunter Auletta, Orange, senior (Alliance)
8. Dillon Headrick, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
9. Matt Shurina, Harrison Central, senior (Claymont)
10. Charlie Keenan, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
11. Garrett Harding, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Dillon Gilbert, Eaton, senior (Goshen)
13. Alex Poole, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)
14. Mickey Crum, Hamilton Township, sophomore (Claymont)
15. Cameron Shaw, Washington Courthouse, junior (Goshen)
16. Gabe King, Kenton, senior (Marion)

Alliance – Zody, Szep, Nichols, Auletta, Headrick

Claymont – Shurina, Keenan, Harding, Poole, Crum

Goshen – Gilbert, C. Shaw, Tyler Bridwell (Hamilton Ross, junior), Tommy Reidinger (Dayton CJ, junior), Michael Crockett (Franklin, freshman)

Marion – Lehner, Thompson, Harris, King, Nick Mazzaro (Bellevue, senior)

When looking at all fourteen weights in Division II, this is clearly the weakest in terms of top-level anchors and overall depth. Then again, that is somewhat to be expected given the added upper-weight, which stretches out the wrestler pool across an extra weight. Only four wrestlers in this weight possess state experience, the lone placer among them taking seventh last year. There are three others that were state alternates; however, no one else won more than a single match at the district tournament last year. Leading the way here is that lone returning placer, the junior Lehner, who has placed seventh at Ironman, second at Medina, and first at the Gorman this year.

The lead challenger to Lehner exits the same district at Marion, and that would be the returning state qualifier Thompson, who won a match at state last year. This year, he was a champion at North Canton, and runner-up at the J.C. Gorman (where he lost to Lehner 9-7) and Oregon Clay tournaments. Two other wrestlers are ranked at this site – state alternate Harris and Marion Harding runner-up King.

Returning state qualifier Zody, who went 1-2 in the Division III tournament, anchors the deepest district at Alliance. This year Zody won at Smithville, placed fifth at Medina, and third at the Bill Dies. The other four ranked wrestlers in this district represent the 5th through 8th positions, which means a legitimate

state placement candidate will be “left at home”. Szep placed second at Solon and fourth at Brecksville; state alternate Nichols was second at Riverside, fourth at Kenston, first at Perry, and fifth at Oregon Clay; 2010 district placer Auletta was fifth at Solon, champion at North Coast and Normandy, and third at Kenston as well as Perry; finally state alternate Headrick was first at Chippewa and fifth at the Bill Dies.

The other returning state qualifier is Shurina, who went 1-2 at 215 pounds last year. This year, he took fifth at the OVAC meet. He is one of five ranked wrestlers at the Claymont district, all ninth and below. Keenan was fourth at the OVAC meet and fifth at the Top Gun. Harding was a match away from placing at Medina, but did beat Zody on the front side of the draw, and finished sixth at the Top Gun. Then, there is Pool and Crum, both placing top four at North Canton (Poole second and Crum fourth); and Poole also placed eighth at Top Gun.

Finally, it is the Goshen district that features just two ranked wrestlers, neither above 12th in the rankings. Gilbert leads the way, and his credentials are placing seventh at both GMVWA and Top Gun. Then, it is Shaw, who placed third at the GMVWA and was one match away from placing at the Top Gun.

220 pounds

1. Matt Meadows, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Billy Ward, Clyde, senior (Marion)
3. Ray Stone, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Zane Krall, Wauseon, junior (Marion)
5. Bryan Day, Valley View, senior (Goshen)
6. Lucas Sparks, Springfield Shawnee, senior (Goshen)
7. Greg Moray, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
8. Anthony Miller, Perry, senior (Alliance)
9. Kyle Wadkins, Triway, senior (Alliance)
10. Kelly Baker, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
11. Trent Johnson, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
12. Shawn Walters, Warsaw River View, senior (Claymont)
13. Tyler Carrow, Buckeye, senior (Marion)
14. Mitch Ridder, Jonathan Alder, senior (Claymont)
15. Justin Goss, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
16. Tyler Mullins, Vinton County, senior

Alliance – Meadows, Stone, A. Miller, Wadkins, Baker, Goss

Claymont – Moray, Johnson, Walters, Ridder, Elliott Williams (Granville, senior)

Goshen – Day, Sparks, Mullins, Jerome Pettiford (Washington Courthouse, senior), Tyler Bridwell (Hamilton Ross, junior)

Marion – Ward, Krall, Carrow, Quentin Poling (Elida, junior), Chris Overfield (Port Clinton, junior)

The senior Meadows arguably is the state’s most improved wrestler over the last twelve months. This time last year, he was a mid-to-low placer in the big tournaments. Fast forward to now when he is winning those events and dominating all but the best this state has to offer. It started last year with a third place finish at state in which he extended returning state champ Hayes to the wire before losing 6-4 (Hayes would go onto win the state title) and continued at the FloNations where he took second with an upset over Tank Knowles in the semifinal round. Moving to this year, he beat Division I state tournament favorite Walz for the second straight year during the opening weekend of the year. Then, he

takes third at the Ironman losing just 3-2 to the second ranked wrestler in the country, and has won titles at Medina and Top Gun. At this point, he's the clear favorite in a weight class that features a pair of state placers, three others that won a match at state, another pair that went two-and-out, and five wrestlers that lost go-to-state matches.

The lead challenger to Meadows is fellow third place finisher Ward, who has competed at both this weight and 285 pounds. He has a choice to make about which path to a state title is easier – here with Meadows, or up at 285 with defending state champ Riley Shaw. Ward anchors a district tournament at Marion that features just two other ranked wrestlers – two-time state qualifier Krall and Carrow. This year, Krall was fourth at Brecksville and first at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay. Carrow made a brief drop to 195, but has apparently decided that 220 is the right weight class for him; at 220, he placed sixth at Medina. Things are wide open for the fourth spot here in arguably this district's thinnest weight class.

On the other hand, there is a cadre of wrestlers at the Alliance district right behind Meadows, and they are led by returning state placer Stone. Coming off a sixth place finish at state, he started the season right in winning a title at Solon. However, Stone was injured in the quarterfinals at the Ironman, and has yet to return to the mats. Four other wrestlers are ranked at this site behind Meadows and Stone to battle for the last two spots, and this does not even include returning state alternate Stephan Vinson (Kenmore, senior). The senior Miller was a state qualifier last year and has titles at Kenston and Perry this year, along with a third at Riverside and fourth at Oregon Clay. Fellow state qualifier Wadkins was runner-up at Smithville and missed placements at Medina and the Bill Dies by a single match. Baker went just 1-2 at the district last year, but has wrestled well this year including a runner-up finish at Hudson and seventh at the Top Gun. Finally, district placer Goss finished fourth at Hudson and fifth at Kenston. In closing, does someone(s) move up to 285 pounds, which is a less deep weight class at the district level?

Things are pretty balanced at the Claymont district, which features the vastly improved Moray leading the way – he placed third at the Top Gun and won the OVAC this year after scratching from last year's district tournament. State alternate Johnson is next in the rankings, and he missed the first month of the year before placing sixth at the Top Gun. Returning state qualifier Walters was a match away from placing at the Top Gun; while Ridder has wrestled well this year with two wins over Division III title contender Jacob Coon in winning at Nelsonville York and placing second at Marion County.

Rounding it out, the Goshen district has three ranked wrestlers led by returning state qualifier Day, who has won at least four tournaments this year. Also ranked here here is two-time district placer Sparks and Mullins, who just beat Top Gun and GMVWA placer Pettiford at the Miami Trace event.

285 pounds

1. Riley Shaw, Washington Courthouse, senior (Goshen)
2. Mike Brown, Sandusky, senior (Marion)
3. Connor Sharp, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
4. Levi Pickerel, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Marion)
5. J.R. Forsee, New Richmond, junior (Goshen)
6. Mark Castillo, New Philadelphia, junior (Claymont)
7. Dustin Kuhlwein, Jonathan Alder, junior (Claymont)
8. Billy Miller, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Beau Harmon, Benjamin Logan, junior (Marion)
10. Travis Gusan, Walnut Ridge, junior (Claymont)

11. Devin Cox, Mansfield Madison, senior (Marion)
12. Jason Griffith, Big Walnut, senior (Claymont)
13. Travis Gosnell, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
14. Joe Nalawaniec, Benedictine, senior (Alliance)
15. Adam Blum, Wyoming, senior (Goshen)
16. Hayden Bottorff, Miami Trace, sophomore (Goshen)

Alliance – Sharp, B. Miller, Gosnell, Nalawaniec, Gage Severino (Jefferson, senior)

Claymont – Castillo, Kuhlwein, Gusan, Griffith, Tim Lehr (Dover, senior)

Goshen – R. Shaw, Forsee, Blum, Bottorff, Keifer Johnson (Marietta, senior)

Marion – Brown, Pickerel, Harmon, Cox, Darin Bovey (St. Paris Graham, senior)

Last year Riley Shaw moved up to this weight class from 215 pounds, where he was for the first half-plus of the year, to get away from an absolutely loaded 215 pound weight class. It was a very smart move, as he earned the state title. This year, while not the biggest out there in this weight class, he is bigger and he is showing even more dominance. In winning the GMVWA and Top Gun, he did not have a single match go the distance – all pins. He stands a strong favorite to repeat as state champion.

Leading the challenge group is the lone other returning state placer Brown, who was seventh in Division I last year. This year, he has runner-up finishes at Medina and Wadsworth along with a fifth place finish at Oregon Clay. Following him in order at the Marion district is returning state alternate Pickerel, who finished second at Olentangy Liberty, fourth at Brecksville, and first at the CIT. Joining them at this site as lead candidates for the last two state qualifying spots are GMVWA runner-up Harmon, who also has titles at Franklin and the J.C. Gorman, and district placer Cox who has medals at North Canton, Tiffin Columbian, the J.C. Gorman, and Oregon Clay.

Along with Shaw and Brown, the only other wrestler to win a state tournament match in this weight is the junior Connor Sharp from the great family of heavyweights at West Branch. This one was champion at Riverside and runner-up at the Bill Dies this year. Joining him as contenders at this site are sophomore Billy Miller, who was runner-up at Perry and Kenston, also third at Riverside and Oregon Clay; Gosnell, third at Chippewa and fourth at the Bill Dies; and a pair of wrestlers that were 2-2 at district last year in Nalawaniec and Severino.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Shaw at the Goshen district, including the fourth state qualifier in this weight class – Forsee, who went 0-2 at state last year, and has a third place finish at SWOWCA to his credit this year. Blum went 2-2 at last year's district and has a fourth at Sycamore to his credit; while Bottorff placed at both the GMVWA and Top Gun tournaments.

Rounding it out is the Claymont district featuring four ranked wrestlers. Leading that group is state alternate Castillo, who was second at Hudson this year; district placers Kuhlwein and Gusan, as well as Griffith join him in the rankings.

Team Standings

1. St. Paris Graham

To be posted when the calculations are done