

Division Two – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Tyler Warner, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
2. Hunter Lucas, Lima Shawnee, sophomore (Bowling Green)
3. Justin Stickley, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
4. Tony Decesare, Padua, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Josh Venia, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
6. Jake Martinez, Licking Valley, freshman (Claymont)
7. Bruce Hrynciw, Oak Harbor, freshman (Bowling Green)
8. Hunter Kosco, Canal Fulton Northwest, freshman (Alliance)
9. Dante Ginnetti, Poland, sophomore (Alliance)
10. Alex Potts, East Liverpool, junior (Claymont)
11. Terrell Grant, Tallmadge, junior (Alliance)
12. Noah Jay, Whitehall, senior (Claymont)
13. Skylar St. Peter, Athens, senior (Wilmington)
14. Tyler Adkins, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
15. Charles Nash, Norwalk, sophomore (Bowling Green)
16. Alec Schopfer, West Branch, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Decesare, Kosco, Ginnetti, Grant; Schopfer

BG – Lucas, Venia, Hrynciw, Nash; Tyler Capodice (Sandusky Perkins, sophomore)

CLMT – Warner, Martinez, Potts, Jay; Logan Ball (Cambridge, freshman)

WIL – Stickley, St. Peter, Adkins, Jarred Stevens (Gallia, freshman); Jaylin Cameron (Urbana, sophomore)

Going back over a stretch of 20 years, one can find four wrestlers that have won back-to-back titles with both coming in the opening weight class. Those would be Nathan Tomasello (CVCA, 2010-11), David Taylor (St. Paris Graham, 2006-07), Levi Wyant (Triad, 2002-03), and Shawn Adkins (Coventry, 1996-97). This year, it's Tyler Warner seeking to accomplish that feat, and he's a solid favorite to do so. The most likely blockade will probably be weight control in as much as anything. During this season, he was champion at Ironman and Medina with a runner-up finish at Top Gun.

The rankings suggest the primary challenge to Warner will come from the sophomore Lucas, who was one match away from placing at the Super 32 Challenge in October. During the regular season, he was champion at Marion Harding over returning DIII placer Vidika, and beat projected DIII champ Mattin to win the Oregon Clay title. Lucas exits a Bowling Green district with three other ranked wrestlers. Next in line is Cadet National double All-American Venia, a runner-up at Solon, fourth at Brecksville, and champion at CIT during the season. The freshman Hrynciw was fourth at Medina and third at Perrysburg; while the sophomore Nash was runner-up at the Gorman and third at Kenston.

The other notable challenge will come from Stickley from Graham, who was behind his brother Eli in the lineup last year. On the season, Justin was champion at GMVWA and New Lexington, and has a 2-0 win over Hart of St. Edward in a dual meet. He'll exit a shallow Wilmington district, which has only two other ranked wrestlers. The first of whom is the senior St. Peter, a state alternate that placed fourth at the GMVWA before winning titles at Athens and Miami Trace. The junior Adkins is next in line, and on the season has titles at Middletown Madison and Bellbrook.

The deepest of the four district by the rankings is at Alliance, with five here, led by returning Division I state placer Decesare. He was forced to miss the first half of the season due to transfer, and in his debut tournament lost 6-0 to Venia in the championship bout at the CIT. The freshman Kosco is next in line, and he has placed in three tournaments this year (second at Cambridge, third at North Canton, and sixth at Top Gun). Returning state qualifier Ginnetti was runner-up at Kenston and also placed at Top Gun. The junior Grant was champion at the Hephner and Smithville, and runner-up at Aurora and the Bill Dies; while fellow junior Schopfer was a state alternate last year, but has slid back this year.

In terms of Warner at the district level, he'll exit a Claymont district with four total ranked wrestlers. Next on the ladder is the freshman Martinez, who was champion at Cambridge this year. The junior Potts was champion at the OVAC tournament; while the senior Jay was a state alternate last year after making state two years ago.

113 pounds

1. Eli Stickley, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Seth Beard, Napoleon, sophomore (Bowling Green)
3. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, sophomore (Claymont)
4. Ana Abduljelil, Whitehall, sophomore (Claymont)
5. Trent Duffy, Miami Trace, senior (Wilmington)
6. Cory Simpson, Field, sophomore (Alliance)
7. Paul Petras, Padua, junior (Alliance)
8. Levi Congleton, Vincent Warren, junior (Wilmington)
9. Zach Bussard, Valley View, junior (Wilmington)
10. Thurston Dyer, Upper Sandusky, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Lane Peters, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Corey Marshall, Dover, senior (Claymont)
13. Nick Berry, Dayton Carroll, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Dylan Mansor, Oak Harbor, freshman (Bowling Green)
15. Jack Dawson, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
16. Eli Yoho, Woodridge, freshman (Alliance)

ALL – Simpson, Petras, Yoho, Joseph Brennan (Marlington, sophomore); Colin Langer (Lake Catholic, freshman)

BG – Beard, Dyer, Berry, Mansor; Keysean Amison (Sandusky Perkins, freshman)

CLMT – Wilson, Abduljelil, Peters, Marshall; Dawson

WIL – Stickley, Duffy, Congleton, Bussard; Matt West (Hillsboro, senior)

Last year I projected Stickley to win the 106 weight class. As we all know, he did not win. He finished third after losing 4-2 to Beard in the state semifinal. Based on some sort of faith, as well as maybe trusting broad productivity (Ironman third this year after winning it last year, and a two-time Super 32 placer) or the "Graham push", Stickley is still the pick this year.

He'll exit a Wilmington district that features four ranked wrestlers in all, including returning state placer Duffy, who was fourth at Top Gun and first at Miami Trace. Returning state qualifiers Congleton and Bussard are the other ranked wrestlers in the district field. For this season, Bussard was third at Franklin and fourth at Pickerington North.

Beard exits at Bowling Green district with four ranked wrestlers as well. After finishing runner-up at state last year, losing in the ultimate tiebreaker to Tyler Warner, Beard has been runner-up in two tournaments this year. Losses came 3-2 to Bentley in the Medina final, and 1-0 to Guillen at Perrysburg. Dyer, a qualifier for state last year, in Division III leads that trail pack. For this season, he was champion at Tiffin Columbian and runner-up at Marion Pleasant. Next in line is the sophomore Berry, who was runner-up at Franklin and fourth at the CIT; while the freshman Mansor, third at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay, rounds it out.

The next two ranked wrestlers in this weight class, both placing at state last year as freshmen, exit the Claymont district. Wilson placed sixth at state last year and this year has titles at North Canton and the OVAC; while Abduljelil placed fifth in this state tournament weight class last year. Fellow sophomore Peters is next in line, and he placed seventh at the Top Gun after getting into the lineup when Dustin Warner (prudently) moved up one weight class. Two other wrestlers, Marshall and Dawson, are ranked at this site. The senior Marshall made state last year, and this year was a match away from placing at Top Gun; while the junior Dawson finished third at Cambridge, second at Lorain, and fourth at the OVAC.

Lastly, it's extremely shallow at the Alliance district with only three ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Simpson, who was fifth at Top Gun and runner-up at Wadsworth. Also ranked here is district placer Petras, who was runner-up at the CIT; and the freshman Yoho, a runner-up at the Bill Dies.

120 pounds

1. Dustin Warner, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
2. Ryan Bennett, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
3. Collin Dees, Perry, senior (Alliance)
4. Mario Kastl, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
5. Korey Frost, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
6. Brad Taton, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
7. Colin Ingram, Lima Bath, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Raymond Raimo, River Valley, senior (Claymont)
9. Mike Stewart, Sparta Highland, senior (Claymont)
10. Nick Hoffman, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)
11. Ryan Kelley, Hillsboro, junior (Wilmington)
12. Juwan Minnefield, Sandusky Perkins, sophomore (Bowling Green)
13. Cole Woods, West Holmes, sophomore (Claymont)
14. Brogan Lovejoy, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
15. Rosendo Beltran, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
16. Josh Gunter, Coventry, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Bennett, Dees, Frost, Taton; Lovejoy, Gunter

BG – Ingram, Minnefield, Beltran, Marcus Cruz (Clearview, senior); Gage Campbell (Wauseon, sophomore)

CLMT – Warner, Raimo, Stewart, Hoffman; Woods

WIL – Kastl, Kelley, Kyle Bussard (Valley View, junior), Andrew Spicer (New Lexington, sophomore); Seth D'Allessandris (Springfield Shawnee, junior)

In the narrative of the previous weight class, we talked about the prudent mid-season movement up in weight class for the senior Warner. Now we see why. He's still favored in this weight class, and residually it helps get a teammate into a more optimal position. On a tangential point, at times the focus on weight management and weight making can suck the life and joy out of the sport for many.

Last season Warner was finally in an optimal weight class, as he was stuck behind Burcher and Langdon for two seasons, and placed third at state. This year, he was sixth at Ironman and third at Medina in the 113 weight class. Then, he moved up to 120, where he placed at the Top Gun.

Four of the next five ranked wrestlers in this weight class exit the Alliance district, a field that includes another two ranked wrestlers as well. Making 120 was a struggle for two-time state placer Bennett during the first half of the year, he missed it in their season opening triangular and couldn't hit it for the second day at Medina. However, his form is much better now, and he placed fifth at Top Gun losing only to Mackall and Newhouse. Next in line is returning state placer Dees, a two-time state qualifier in his own right. This season, he placed seventh at Brecksville, first at Perry, and second at Oregon Clay. 2012 state qualifier Frost, who missed much of last season with injury, has bounced back excellently placing third at Perry and fourth at the Bill Dies. In the state dual meet series, he has picked up one point wins over Taton and Dees (though Dees beat him by one at Perry). Rounding the first four out is two-time state placer Taton, who was runner-up at Solon and CIT, and eighth at Brecksville.

The other two ranked wrestlers at Alliance are a pair of juniors, Lovejoy and returning state alternate Gunter. Lovejoy placed fourth at Kenston and was a match from placing at Top Gun, while Gunter was one match from placing at the Bill Dies.

While Warner won't truly be challenged at the district level, his Claymont district does feature four other ranked wrestlers, which means one won't advance to state. Three of them are returning state qualifiers: senior Raimo and Hoffman (who was DIII last year), and the sophomore Woods. Woods was 3-2 at both Medina and the Top Gun but failed to place. Also ranked here is the junior Stewart, a state alternate, who was runner-up at Sparta Highland, eighth at Medina, and third at New Lexington.

The fourth ranked wrestler in this weight class is the sophomore Kastl, who is making a steep cut after making the heavy bump up last year, while finishing as a state alternate at 126. During this season, Kastl was fifth at the GMVWA (pinning Ingram), and has titles at Valley View and New Lexington. His Wilmington district site is extremely shallow here with only Kelley as a ranked wrestler. For the season Kelley was champion in the 126 weight class at Franklin, and has won titles at Bellbrook and Western Brown in this weight.

Returning DIII state placer Ingram is one of only three ranked wrestlers in this weight at Bowling Green. For the season he was sixth at the GMVWA and third at Oregon Clay. Other ranked wrestlers are sophomores Minnefield and Beltran. Minnefield was a state alternate last year, and this year was runner-up at the Gorman and fifth at Marion County; while Beltran finished third at the CIT.

126 pounds

1. Anthony Tutolo, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
2. Eli Seipel, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
3. Cameron Kelly, Bellbrook, junior (Wilmington)
4. Cole Tawney, Gallia Academy, junior (Wilmington)
5. Chandler Minnard, Bloom Carroll, junior (Claymont)
6. Georgio Poullas, Canfield, freshman (Alliance)
7. Devin Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, junior (Bowling Green)
8. Walker Chieffe, University School, senior (Alliance)
9. Kollin Clark, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
10. Elijah Cochran, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
11. Matthew Steer, West Branch, freshman (Alliance)
12. Bryson Leynaud, Lexington, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Hayden Matheney, McConnellsville Morgan, senior (Claymont)
14. Tyler Jenkins, Meadowbrook, junior (Claymont)
15. Billy Shannon, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)
16. C.J. Ball, Rossford, senior (Bowling Green)

ALL – Tutolo, Poullas, Chieffe, Steer; Joe Koontz (Akron SVSM, freshman)

BG – Rogers, Leynaud, Ball, Luke Leonard (Fostoria, junior); Connor Avalon (Clyde, junior)

CLMT – Minnard, Clark, Matheney, Jenkins; Shannon

WIL – Seipel, Kelly, Tawney, Cochran; Shawn Murphy (Washington C.H., junior)

Even though it is not common to see multiple state champions in a weight class, it is something that does happen on a year-to-year basis. Over the previous six state tournaments, it has happened in four of them. Even rarer is it to have three wrestlers in a weight class that have stood on top of the state podium before. In fact the last time that happened was in 2008 with the Division III 145 pound weight class. Zach Toal (Troy Christian) and David Stiltner (Waynedale) were defending state champions, with Zach Nelson (Madison Plains) having won in 2006. That year Toal beat Nelson in the final, while Stiltner failed to place.

The year, Tutolo and Seipel and defending state champions with Kelly winning it the prior year. In fact, Seipel beat Kelly 3-2 in last year's state final. I guess one could see Kelly drop to 120, though it hasn't happened yet. Both Kelly and Seipel will exit the Wilmington district, while means it's likely that the loser will have to face Tutolo in the state semifinal round. They'll be joined in that district tournament by returning state placer Tawney and returning state qualifier Cochran.

On the season, Seipel was runner-up at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments. Kelly's season saw a delayed start after an injury at the Super 32 Challenge, but since his return, he did win a title at Bellbrook. Tawney has titles at Gallia, Nelsonville York, and Western Brown; while Cochran was third at the GMVWA, losing 12-2 to Seipel.

Though Tutolo should not be challenged at the Alliance district, it is deep, as four other ranked wrestlers appear there (obviously one won't make it to state, at least). Three freshmen are among the group, Poullas, Steer, and Koontz. Poullas was champion at Perry and beat returning state placer Lasko on the way to a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies; Steer was champion up at 132 at Riverside, and second at Kenston and sixth at Top Gun in this weight; while Koontz was runner-up at Perry and Perrysburg, eliminated by Steer in failing to place at Top Gun, and finished third at the Hephner. Returning state qualifier Chieffe is the other ranked wrestler, and he was fourth at North Canton, third at Kenston, and runner-up at Wadsworth.

The other deep district is at Claymont, where five ranked wrestlers will also exit. That group is led by two-time Division III state placer Minnard, who was champion at Sheridan, a match from placing at Brecksville, and champion at the Bill Dies. Next in line is the senior Clark, who was fifth at both Medina and Top Gun. Returning state alternate Matheney was runner-up at Cambridge and Nelsonville York, while missing placement by one match at the GMVWA. The junior Jenkins was champion at the OVAC tournament, winning 10-4 in the final over returning state qualifier Jason Keyes (Beaver Local, sophomore). Returning Division III state qualifier Shannon rounds out the ranked contingent.

Just two ranked wrestlers are in the field at Bowling Green, the junior Rogers and returning state qualifier Ball. Rogers was third at both North Canton and Marion Harding, the latter of which included an 11-5 victory over the senior Ball in the third place match.

132 pounds

1. Brent Moore, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Wade Hodges, Wauseon, junior (Bowling Green)
3. Aaran Gessic, Perry, senior (Alliance)
4. Nate Hagan, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Connor Nemec, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
6. Garrett Carter, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
7. Joey Baitt, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
8. Bryson Laytart, Miami Trace, junior (Wilmington)
9. Nate Boggs, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Seth Cochran, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
11. Bret Yutzy, Jonathan Alder, senior (Claymont)
12. Kevin Beal, Fairfield Union, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Jordan McKnight, Carlisle, senior (Wilmington)
14. Hayden Bullard, Johnstown Monroe, sophomore (Claymont)
15. Dylan Dolph, Canton South, senior (Alliance)
16. Austin Shields, Coventry, senior (Alliance)

ALL – Gessic, Nemec, Carter, Baitt; Dolph, Shields

BG – Hodges, Hagan, Boggs, Zane Speelman (Mansfield Madison, junior); Rhett Peterson (Oak Harbor, sophomore)

CLMT – Yutzy, Bullard, Ben Van Wey (John Glenn, junior), Jesse Hubbard (Steubenville, freshman); Samuel Grashel (River View, senior)

WIL – Moore, Laytart, Cochran, Beal; McKnight

We sit here in 2014 looking at St. Paris Graham as prohibitive favorites to win a 14th straight state title in Division II. It has become a personal playground for their program. One has to wonder if it doesn't get boring after awhile, if it isn't totally anti-climactic. Even so, winning that first state title as an individual is a true memory that is cherished.

That is the position of the sophomore Moore, who is favored in this weight class after placing third last year at 120 as a freshman. On this season, he was third at the Ironman (including an OT win in the consolation semifinals over the second-ranked Hodges), and champion at Valley View and New Lexington. He'll exit a district with four other ranked wrestlers, though none pose a legitimate challenge for him. Laytart qualified for state two years ago, but was an alternate last year. This year, he was 3-2 at Brecksville and a match from placing at Top Gun before winning a title at Miami Trace. The senior Cochran placed sixth at the GMVWA. The sophomore Beal was champion at Nelsonville York and Athens, while the senior McKnight was a match away from placing at the GMVWA.

As previously mentioned, Hodges is ranked second in this weight, and will exit a Bowling Green district that features only two other ranked wrestlers. For this season, the two-time state placer Hodges was sixth at Ironman, champion at Brecksville and Perrysburg, and third at Oregon Clay. He'll be joined two-time state qualifier Hagan, a 2012 state placer and Cadet freestyle All-American this past summer, who was champion at Solon and the CIT and fifth at Brecksville. The other ranked wrestler here is the senior Boggs, a district placer, who was fifth at the Gorman, eighth at Medina, and third at Marion County.

The deepest of the districts is at Alliance, with six ranked wrestlers, including four of the top seven. Leading that group is two-time state placer Gessic, who was a match away from placing at Ironman before placing third at Brecksville, first at Perry, and second at Oregon Clay (which did include a semifinal win over Hodges). Returning state placer Nemecek is a two-time state qualifier, and was runner-up at both Solon and Kenston. He does have a certification at 126, and has competed down there, but I'm not sure why he'd pursue that track.

Another returning state placer is the junior Carter, who was runner-up at Perry and the Hephner, while placing sixth at the Top Gun. The senior Baitt was champion at Lorain, while finishing third at Riverside and the Bill Dies. Rounding out the ranked group is Hephner placer Dolph and Bill Dies fourth placer Shields.

Clearly the weakest of the sites in this weight class is the one at Claymont, which features only two ranked wrestlers, none of them projected to place. The senior Yutzy was champion at Marion Pleasant in this weight, and placed in two different tournaments up at 138; while the junior Van Wey is also ranked after winning two district tournament matches last year.

138 pounds

1. Kyle Lawson, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
2. Ryan Skonieczny, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
3. Cody Burcher, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
4. Preston Bowshier, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
5. Jake Zemaitis, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
6. Josh Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Andy Dobben, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
8. Tyler Knul, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
9. Jimmy Kubitza, Field, senior (Alliance)
10. Dashawn Haynes, Buckeye Valley, senior (Claymont)
11. Daniel Hasson, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
12. Wes Smiddy, Springfield Shawnee, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Zach Johnson, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
14. Drew Kinzel, Clear Fork, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Jon Watkins, Lexington, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Christian Price, Granville, junior (Claymont)

ALL – Skonieczny, Zemaitis, Dobben, Kubitza; Chris Dynowski (Streetsboro, senior)

BG – Mossing, Kinzel, Watkins, Seth Boggs (Sandsuky Perkins, sophomore); Gene Porter (Sandusky, senior)

CLMT – Burcher, Haynes, Hasson, Price; Kody Driggs (McConnellsville Morgan, senior)

WIL – Lawson, Bowshier, Knul, Smiddy; Johnson

Normally this type of logjam with four wrestlers carrying top two/three finishes in the state is solved by a shift in weight class. Up is not a realistic option with Micah Jordan seeking a fourth state title at 145, while down has yet to be in reach for any of these four wrestlers (except for Lawson, as teammate Moore is there). The freshman Lawson is ranked in the top position. He comes into high school having finished runner-up in the Kentucky high school state tournament as an eighth grader, and placing sixth in the Super 32 Challenge in October. During the season, he placed sixth at the Ironman, third at the GMVWA, and won titles at Valley View and New Lexington.

Lawson will be joined by fellow state runner-up Bowshier in the Wilmington district along with three other ranked wrestlers for a total of five in all, and all carry state tournament experience on their resumes. Bowshier was fourth at the GMVWA losing in overtime to Demas in the semis and 3-0 to Lawson in the consolation final. Two-time state qualifier and 2012 state placer Knul is next in line, and he has won two tournaments this season. After that is the sophomore Smiddy, who was champion at Middletown Madison and Lima Senior; while the senior Johnson rounds it out, having won titles at Bellbrook and Sycamore to go with a runner-up finish at Miami Trace.

The other members of this logjam are a pair of three-time state placers in Skonieczny (8-3-2) and Burcher (2-2-3). Skonieczny is ranked second in the weight, and exits an Alliance district featuring four state ranked wrestlers. On the season, he was one match from placing at Ironman, sixth at Powreade, and has titles at Perry, Top Gun, and the Hephner on his resume. Next in line at Alliance is two-time state qualifier Zemaitis, a 2012 state placer, who was third at Solon and champion at Kenston. Returning state placer Dobben follows that, as he has been a bit up-and-down on the season, including a seventh place finish at Medina. Rounding out the ranked group is returning state alternate Kubitza, who was a match away from placing at Top Gun and finished as runner-up at Wadsworth.

Burcher is ranked third in this weight class, and exits a Claymont district with four state ranked wrestlers. For the season, he was one match from placing at the Ironman, first at Medina, and fourth at the Top Gun. Given the climate in this weight class, it is possible that Burcher could be left to regret the missed opportunities in state title matches during his freshman and sophomore years. Returning state placer Haynes is next in line at the district, and on the season he was champion at Nelsonville York and sixth at the Top Gun. State qualifier Hasson follows, and the junior was champion at Cambridge and Lorain before finishing third in the OVAC meet. Closing out the ranked group here is the junior Price, who was runner-up at Marion County and New Lexington.

Last and least in this weight class is a Bowling Green district that features only three ranked wrestlers, with just the junior Mossing as a projected placer. For the season, Mossing was fourth at Solon, fifth at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT. Returning state qualifier Kinzel was fourth at the Gorman and North Canton tournaments, while Boggs was fifth at the Gorman and Medina.

145 pounds

1. Micah Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Beau Minnick, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Kyle Kaminski, Padua, junior (Alliance)
4. Heath Lange, Indian Lake, senior (Wilmington)
5. Walter Gibson, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
6. Caden Herron, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
7. Dalton Harsthorn, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
8. Nick Wrobel, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
9. Tristan Stallard, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)
10. Spencer Nagy, Alliance, junior (Alliance)
11. Richard Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
12. Zack Lake, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
13. Tyler Wiederholt, Bellbrook, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Tyler Sowards, Kenton Ridge, junior (Wilmington)
15. Jake Kluding, Norwalk, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Colin Wilson, Lemon Monroe, junior (Bowling Green)

ALL – Kaminski, Gibson, Wrobel, Nagy; Lake

BG – Minnick, Jackson, Kluding, Wilson; Derek Kuhlman (Lima Shawnee, junior)

CLMT – Herron, Hartshorn, Stallard, Logan Johnson (Licking Valley, senior); Bailey Jenkins (Meadowbrook, sophomore)

WIL – Jordan, Lange, Wiederholt, Sowards; Dillon Hunick (McClain, senior)

Many words have been written in these types of reports about the Jordan family legacy. I'll try to keep it brief as Micah Jordan is prohibitively favored to win his fourth state title. Micah's father Jeff and uncle Jim both won four state titles. In college, Jim was a three-time All-American and two-time national champion, while Jeff was a two-time All-American.

Jim, now a member of Congress, had two sons Ben and Isaac, who had the gall (sarcasm alert) to only win three state titles respectively. Ben was a one-time All-American at Wisconsin, while Isaac is well-positioned to earn All-American honors in this his redshirt freshman season. Jeff, the head coach at Graham, has had two sons come through high school so far; Bo was a four-timer, and is redshirting this year in his first year at Ohio State, while Micah seeks his fourth this year. A third son for Jeff starts high school next year, Rocky, and he is ranked in the top 15 among all junior high wrestlers nationally.

Having went through that exposition, Micah is ranked No. 1 nationally at this weight class and exits a Wilmington district with four ranked wrestlers. That group is led by returning state placer Lang, who was third at Oregon Clay in this weight and second up a weight class at Dublin Scioto. The sophomore Wiederholt, last year a state alternate, placed second at Edgewood and fifth at the GMVWA (splitting matches with Sowards) before winning a title at Bellbrook. The junior Sowards, a returning state qualifier, was sixth at the GMVWA.

Among the challenge pack to Jordan – if one wishes to call it that – the leader is returning state placer Minnick, a three-time state qualifier. For the season, he was runner-up at Brecksville with a pair of high quality wins on the way to the final. Minnick will exit a Bowling Green district with three other ranked wrestlers. The sophomore Jackson was a district placer last year, and this year was third at the CIT after going 3-2 at Brecksville. The senior Kluding was champion at Milan Edison and the Gorman and a runner-up at Kenston, while the junior Wilson was champion at Madeira.

Ranked third in this weight class is the junior Kaminski, a returning state placer, though he has considered the trek down to 138 (I know the why, but I still don't get it). He'll lead a deep Alliance district featuring five wrestlers ranked inside the top 16. For the season, Kaminski went 3-2 at the Ironman, was fourth at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT. Two-time state qualifier Gibson was champion at Perry, sixth at the Top Gun, and fourth at the Hephner. The junior Wrobel was a district placer last year, missed the first half of this season due to his transfer to Crestwood, and lost by fall to Harsthorn in tonight's state dual regional semifinal round. Fellow junior Nagy beat Harsthorn very early in the season, and placed at the Top Gun; while to round it out, another junior Lake was a state alternate last year and finished third at the Bill Dies.

Finally, we have the Claymont district that features three ranked wrestlers, all with state experience, and all inside the top nine. That means there is one very open state qualification spot. 2012 state qualifier Herron fell short of placement at Medina by a match before placing seventh in the Top Gun (beat Nagy there), and earned a major decision over Stallard in a regional semifinal of the state duals. Returning state qualifier Harsthorn dropped just this week into the weight class (again, not sure why); while at 152, he was champion at Cambridge and fifth in the Top Gun. Rounding it out, Stallard was another late dropper; his drop I get, as he went 1-2 in the Top Gun up at 152.

152 pounds

1. David-Brian Whisler, Warren Howland, junior (Alliance)
 2. Alex Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Bowling Green)
 3. Jeff Hojnacki, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
 4. Blake Miller, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
 5. Garrett Jordan, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
 6. Mason Correll, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Bowling Green)
 7. Kenon Bowling, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)
 8. Andrew Dunn, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
 9. Jack Peura, Tippecanoe, sophomore (Bowling Green)
 10. Steven Fearnow, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)
 11. Reyse Wallbrown, Indian Lake, senior (Wilmington)
 12. Eric Fasnacht, Padua, sophomore (Alliance)
 13. Collin Rollison, River Valley, senior (Claymont)
 14. Connor Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, junior (Bowling Green)
 15. Marcus Howells, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
 16. Evan Schenk, Perry, freshman (Alliance)
- *Ashden Gibson, Whitehall, senior (Claymont), if he competes, would be ranked 10th

ALL – Whisler, Hojnacki, Fasnacht, Howells; Schenk

BG – Mossing, Miller, Correll, Peura; Rogers

CLMT – Fearnow, Rollison, Nico Moray (Steubenville, sophomore), Kevin Scrudders (Cambridge, senior); Ethan Fout (Licking Valley, freshman)

WIL – Jordan, Bowling, Dunn, Wallbrown; Corey Williams (Greenon, junior)

These proverbial sandwich weights, the ones between a pair of obvious stars (i.e. here with Jordan below at 145, and Marinelli above at 160) normally look more deep than this one. Even with a defending state champ in Mossing not holding the projected champion position, there are still only four returning state placers present and eight having state tournament experience. It's hard to speculate on why, but maybe there is some movement pending (late droppers to 145 come back up to here, or somebody drops from 160, who knows for sure).

In terms of the top of this weight class, you have a pair of wrestlers that placed at the Ironman; Mossing seventh down at 145, and Whisler eighth up at 160. Mossing, having previously won Solon at 145, then made the move up to 152 where he finished third at Brecksville (loss to Newton in the semifinal); while Whisler would add a title at Hudson (6-4 over Coleman in the final), and make the drop to 152 for his title at Wadsworth this past weekend.

The other two returning place finishers in this weight class are Miller and Hojnacki. Miller has twice qualified for state, placing sixth last year; while Hojnacki is a two-time placer, finishing sixth last year. This year, Miller was fourth at Brecksville; while Hojnacki was runner-up at Top Gun and Wadsworth. In combination, Whisler and Hojnacki lead the show at Alliance; while Mossing and Miller anchor at Bowling Green. Each site features five ranked wrestlers.

The dynamic at Alliance is one where the other three wrestlers are ranked 12-16, which means it's a true battle for two spots between them and some outside the rankings. The sophomore Fasnacht was runner-up at North Coast Classic and the CIT, missing placement at Brecksville by one match in the interim. Though Howells and Schenk are ranked, their position here is more a function of the mediocrity of this weight class across the state and district.

It's slightly different at Bowling Green, as Correll is one of the other four to have state tournament experience. For this season, he was champion at Tiffin Columbian and runner-up at Oregon Clay. The sophomore Peura was a state alternate last year, and this season was champion at his home tournament; while the junior Rogers was a district placer, this year finishing fourth at North Canton and runner-up at Marion Harding.

Two state tournament experienced wrestlers are in the field at Wilmington, the pair of seniors in Bowling and Dunn. Bowling has titles at Bellbrook and Western Brown this year, while Dunn was runner-up at Franklin and champion at Fairfield. However, it's the sophomore Garrett Jordan, that has emerged as the leader of this district after finishing runner-up at the GMVWA and Valley View (OT loss to two-time DIII placer Mays in that final). Rounding out the ranked quartet is the senior Wallbrown, who was champion at Dublin Scioto and fifth at Medina up at 160 before dropping to this weight in taking third at Oregon Clay.

Last, and also least, in this weight class is a Claymont district that features just two ranked wrestlers, neither a projected state placer. The senior Fearnow was a state qualifier in Division III last year at 160, while the senior Rollison was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Nelsonville York this season. Here's a climate ripe for movement or some sort of step-up performance for state qualification.

160 pounds

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Ben Schram, Bellbrook, junior (Wilmington)
3. Kordell Ford, Hillsboro, senior (Wilmington)
4. Dain Steffeny, Granville, senior (Claymont)
5. Alex Kenner, Upper Sandusky, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Tony Rupert, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
7. Jordan Radich, Warren Howland, junior (Alliance)
8. Tre Campbell, Wauseon, sophomore (Bowling Green)
9. Hannibal Tate, Mifflin, senior (Claymont)
10. Matt Ludwig, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
11. Alonzo Turner, Painesville Harvey, senior (Alliance)
12. Lucas Beauch, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Troy Stalder, Athens, junior (Wilmington)
14. Travis Grooms, Miami Trace, junior (Wilmington)
15. Caleb Horn, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)
16. Owen Shoemaker, London, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Rupert, Radich, Ludwig, Turner; Anthony Audi (Poland, sophomore)

BG – Kenner, Campbell, Beauch, Aldin Leaker (Eaton, senior); Cole Smith (Tippecanoe, junior)

CLMT – Steffeny, Tate, Horn, Shoemaker; Brendan Scherer (River View, junior)

WIL – Marinelli, Schram, Ford, Stalder; Grooms

While I'm sure it's not just the case in this specific weight class, going back five state tournaments, St. Paris Graham has won the title at 160 pounds in four of them. The other time was in 2010, when defending state champion Kyle Ryan finished second to Brad Wukie. Should Marinelli win it this year, which he is favored to do, it would make four successive titles for a Falcons wrestler in this weight. During this season, the sophomore Marinelli finished as runner-up at the Ironman for a second straight time, while adding titles at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments to the ledger.

Marinelli's immediate competition will come from his district field at Wilmington. Wrestlers in that district rank second and third, with two others also in the top sixteen. Competition for the title, and the secondary competition for state qualification, will be rigorous. Ranked second is the junior Schram, who was one match away from placing at the Ironman after earning a fifth place finish at the Super 32 Challenge. Subsequently, he won titles at Edgewood and Bellbrook (beating Ford in OT) and was runner-up to Marinelli at the GMVWA (losing 3-0). The senior Ford, who was fourth at state in 2012, is ranked third in this weight class. Interestingly, Ford extended Marinelli in a 6-5 loss during the district semifinal, but then had to pull out of the state tournament after qualifying. This season, he was runner-up at Bellbrook and champion at Western Brown.

Returning state qualifier Stalder and state alternate Grooms are those two other ranked wrestlers. These two met in a go-to-state match last year, Stalder winning 5-3, which was a reversal of the sectional final. This year, Stalder beat Grooms in the Miami Trace final. In other competition Stalder was champion at Athens, while Grooms placed sixth at Top Gun.

Only two other wrestlers in this weight class have a past state podium on the resume, the seniors Kenner and Shoemaker. Shoemaker, eighth at state last year, is fourth of four ranked wrestlers on the ladder from the Claymont district. Leading that ladder is 2012 state qualifier Steffeny, who was champion at Marion County and runner-up at New Lexington. Returning state qualifiers Tate and (from Division III) Horn fill out the group.

Kenner heads the shallowest district of the four in this weight class, the one at Bowling Green, which has only three ranked wrestlers. For the season, Kenner was champion at Tiffin Columbian and Marion Pleasant with a fourth place finish at Marion County on the resume. He's joined by the sophomore Campbell and junior Beuach. Campbell was fifth at Brecksville, second at Perrysburg, and fourth at Oregon Clay; while Beuach missed placement at Brecksville, going 3-2, but was first at the CIT.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Alliance, which has a pair of wrestlers with state experience – Radich and Turner – among the four in the rankings. The junior Rupert leads the list though, as he was runner-up at North Canton and champion at the Hephner. Next in line is returning state qualifier Radich, who finished third at Wadsworth in this weight, while taking second at Hudson at 152 before him and Whisler flip-flopped. Returning state alternate Ludwig was champion at Solon, with a 7-2 win over Turner, and runner-up at the CIT (losing 3-1 to Beuach); while 2012 state qualifier Turner, a state alternate last year, was second at Solon and first at Perry.

170 pounds

1. Seth Williams, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Aaron Schuette, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Alec Schenk, Perry, senior (Alliance)
4. Jimmy Sandlin, Carlisle, senior (Wilmington)
5. Lane Thomas, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
6. Russell Miller, Miami Trace, junior (Wilmington)
7. Mike Audi, Poland, senior (Alliance)
8. L.J. Henderson, Indian Lake, senior (Wilmington)
9. Zeck Lehman, Revere, junior (Alliance)
10. Kaz Struna, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
11. Matt Dennis, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
12. Dylan Hefner, Lima Shawnee, sophomore (Bowling Green)
13. Zach Gibson, Bloom Carroll, senior (Claymont)
14. Dallas Lazear, Athens, senior (Wilmington)
15. Brock Nagel, Bryan, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Alec Eisnnicher, Big Walnut, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Schenk, Audi, Lehman, Struna; Brendan Winning (Ravenna, junior)

BG – Williams, Schuette, Hefner, Nagel; Austin Robbins (Tippecanoe, junior)

CLMT – Dennis, Gibson, Eisnnicher, Will Navin (Granville, senior); Brandon Jones (Steubenville, junior)

WIL – Sandlin, Thomas, Miller, Henderson; Lazear

The weight above Marinelli is the one that feels a logjam with four returning top three finishers in the field at present, and two other that placed top five at state last year. The favorite at present is three-time state placer Seth Williams (6-3-2), who was runner-up to Marinelli last year at 152 pounds. This season he was champion at Tiffin Columbian and Oregon Clay, which included an 8-5 win over Schuette in the final. Speaking of Schuette, he was runner-up to Bo Jordan last year at 160, and augments the Oregon Clay runner-up finish with titles at Brecksville and Perrysburg. Those two both exit the district at Bowling Green, which features two other ranked wrestlers in the sophomore Hefner and the senior Nagel. Hefner was a state alternate last year, and this year was champion at Allen County, third at Marion Harding, and fourth at Oregon Clay; while Nagel qualified for state last year, and this year was runner-up at the Gorman and third at Marion County.

The first of those third place finishers is Sandlin, who did so in Division III, and exits a district with five ranked wrestlers. On the season Sandlin was first and Edgewood and Fairfield, while finishing third at the GMVWA. Leading that challenge group is Thomas, who finished fifth at state last year, and this year was runner-up at the GMVWA and a champion at Valley View and New Lexington. The junior Miller is next in line, and was runner-up at Top Gun to go with a title at Miami Trace. Returning state placer Henderson follows, and he was champion at Dublin Scioto while finishing sixth at Medina and fifth at Oregon Clay. Finally, it's two-time state qualifier Lazear, who may end up exploring things at the 182 pound weight class after losing to Miller in the Miami Trace final. Though that weight has quantity at Wilmington, it doesn't have the quality of this weight.

Finally among the placer group is Schenk, who was third at state last year. He has spent time at both 170 and 182 this season. While at 182, he was one match from placing at the Ironman, fourth at Brecksville with a win over McLaughlin, and champion at Perry with a 3-1 victory over defending state champion Adkins. Coming down to 170 at Oregon Clay, he finished third losing in the semifinal to Schuette by 10-2 major decision. Schenk exits an Alliance district that features three other ranked wrestlers, which is led by returning state qualifier Audi. This season, he was fourth at the Top Gun and first at the Hephner in this weight class. Another returning state qualifier is here in Lehman, who missed placement by a match at the Bill Dies losing to a pair of Division I state qualifiers; but he did beat Thomas 3-1 in a December dual meet. Rounding it out is state alternate Struna, who was fourth at Brecksville and third at the CIT in this weight class.

Last among the districts is the one at Claymont, which features four returning state qualifiers, but only three within the top sixteen. The senior Dennis leads the way, as he missed placement by a match at both Medina and Top Gun. Next in line is the senior Gibson, a two-time Division III state qualifier, who was runner-up at Brecksville and the Bill Dies; while fellow senior Eisnicher rounds it out.

182 pounds

1. Jack Harris, Urbana, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Aaron Adkins, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
3. Jacob Kasper, Lexington, junior (Bowling Green)
4. Colt Crall, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
5. Jacob Worthington, Keystone, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Ahmad Khatib, Revere, senior (Alliance)
7. Stan Socha, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
8. Dylan Hermes, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Nick Svarda, Carlisle, sophomore (Wilmington)
10. Jordan Leasure, Amanda Clearcreek, sophomore (Claymont)
11. Jake Hartman, Padua, senior (Alliance)
12. Evan Hickey, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
13. Nick Jackson, Norwood, junior (Wilmington)
14. Kanan Sarver/Hayden Bronne, St. Paris Graham, freshman/junior (Wilmington)
15. Mitchell Wells, Richmond Edison, junior (Claymont)
16. Tobin Anderson, Washington C.H., junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Adkins, Khatib, Socha, Hartman; Jason Huelskamp (Geneva, senior)

BG – Kasper, Worthington, Hermes, Cody Wright (Bay, senior); Alec Vonier (Wauseon, senior)

CLMT – Crall, Leasure, Wells, John Mercer (Cambridge, junior); Steven Frazier (Philo, senior)

WIL – Harris, Svarda, Hickey, Jackson; Sarver/Bronne, Anderson

Here comes a second weight class in Division II where a returning state champion is not being picked to repeat (technically that number is three, but at 126 there are multiple returning state champions). The pick here is the sophomore Harris, who lost 11-6 to eventual state champion Adkins in last year's state semifinal round. However, his overall form this year has been better than the senior defending champ. Though Harris did not place at Ironman, he beat McLaughlin 4-3 on the front side before losing by fall to a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers. He augmented that with a title at the GMVWA, where he pinned Robinson in the final.

After transitioning back from football, Adkins has performed relatively well in recent weeks with titles at the Top Gun and the Hephner. In earlier tournaments, he was fifth at Powerade, runner-up to Schenk (3-1 loss) at Perry, and runner-up to Caywood (5-3 loss) at Perrysburg. Adkins anchors an Alliance district with four ranked wrestlers, all within the top 11. Khatib was champion at Beachwood and third at the Bill Dies; state alternate Socha was third at Perry and fourth at the Bill Dies; while Hartman was third at the CIT.

Harris is in the deepest of the four districts at Wilmington, one with six ranked wrestlers, though four of those are in the back five spots of the top 16. Fellow sophomore Svarda was a district placer last year in Division III, and this year finished third at Edgewood and was champion at Fairfield. The senior Hickey was champion at Miami Trace and Edgewood, while finishing second at Bellbrook and Sycamore. The junior Jackson was a state alternate last year.

While only three ranked wrestlers populate the field at Bowling Green, they are all in projected placement positions. The junior Kasper has been excellent this year in winning at title at the Gorman after finishing fourth at Medina. Returning Division III state placer Worthington, also a junior, has titles at Milan Edison (up at 195), Avon Lake, and Lorain to his credit. The senior Hermes, a district placer last year, was fourth at the Gorman, champion at Marion County, and seventh at the Top Gun after failing to place at Medina.

Also with just three ranked wrestlers is the field at the Claymont district, though only returning state alternate Crall holds a ranked position. The senior was fifth at Medina and fourth at the Top Gun. Leasure qualified for state in Division III in this weight class last year as a freshman, while the junior Wells was champion at the OVAC after finishing as runner-up at Nelsonville York.

195 pounds

1. Bailey Faust, Lexington, junior (Bowling Green)
2. Tyler McClellan, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
3. Jhulyis Monroe, Marion Franklin, senior (Claymont)
4. Kenny Jackson, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
5. Kyle Kremiller, Perry, junior (Alliance)
6. Tyler Dodd, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
7. John Workman, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Clayton Bullard, Johnstown Monroe, senior (Claymont)
9. Andy Eckhart, Field, senior (Alliance)
10. Isaiah Margheim, Sandusky, junior (Bowling Green)
11. Blake Owens, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
12. Marshall Messer, Clyde, sophomore (Bowling Green)
13. Josh Couchman, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
14. Tyler Rowland, Streetsboro, junior (Alliance)
15. Dylan Robertson, Upper Sandusky, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Jeremiah Jones, Miami Trace, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – McClellan, Jackson, Kremiller, Eckhart; Rowland

BG – Faust, Workman, Margheim, Messer; Robertson

CLMT – Monroe, Dodd, Bullard, Owens; John Miscuk (East Liverpool, senior)

WIL – Couchman, Jones, Isaac McFann (New Lexington, senior), James Ritchie (Carlisle, senior); Wyatt Hilliard (Franklin, freshman)

Many times in scholastic wrestling, a big deal is made about excellence coming in pairs. That theme applies here, as the junior Faust was somewhat of an understudy the last two years to Josh Lehner, winner of the last two state titles in this weight class. He was closed out of the state series lineup as a freshman, while he was up at 220 last season while Lehner finished as undefeated state champ giving up only one offensive score all year.

Faust qualified for state, but went 0-2. However, he's been competing and thriving in his more optimal weight since. Eighth in the FloNationals at 195, a Disney Duals silver medalist at 195 (only one loss in about ten duals against national competition), and a Cadet National double All-American at 195. During this season, he has titles at Medina and the Gorman in mostly dominant fashion. Faust will anchor a group of five ranked wrestlers at the Bowling Green district.

Returning state alternate Workman is next on the ladder; this season he was fifth at Medina and the Gorman, before finishing third at Marion County and fourth at the Top Gun. Margheim, last year's state runner-up, has looked anything but so far this season. He was third at Tiffin Columbian and Wadsworth with a fourth place finish at Oregon Clay. Messer qualified for state last year as a freshman, was 1-2 at Brecksville in late December, but upended Workman 4-1 in the regional semifinal of the state duals. Returning Division III state qualifier Robertson was runner-up at Tiffin Columbian and Marion Pleasant.

Three of the prime challengers to Faust exit the Alliance district, one that also includes five ranked wrestlers overall. Second overall in this weight class is returning state placer McClellan, who won a title at the Top Gun but lost by fall to Faust in the Medina final. Returning state qualifier Jackson is ranked fourth, and this year he was champion at Solon before losing a 3-2 decision in the Kenston final to the projected DI state champ Conel. The junior Kremiller, last year a district placer, is ranked fifth having placed second at the North Coast Classic and Oregon Clay, fourth at Brecksville, and first at Perry. Other ranked wrestlers include the senior Eckhart, who upset Margheim by major decision at Wadsworth on the way to a runner-up finish after missing placement at Top Gun by one match; along with the junior Rowland, who was champ at Aurora and Hudson, third at Kenston, and second at the Bill Dies.

Four ranked wrestlers, including three projected state placers, exit the district tournament at Claymont. That group is led by returning state qualifier Monroe, who was more known for his football exploits. It's followed by returning state qualifier Dodd, who was fifth at the Top Gun; and the top eight group is capped by returning Division III state placer Bullard, who was champion at New Lexington. The other ranked wrestler at Claymont is another returning state qualifier in Owens, who was champion at Cambridge.

Last, and in this case least, is the pair of ranked wrestlers at Wilmington. They sit at 13 and 16 in the rankings, so it's pretty much anyone can make the district finals or anyone can be left at home. The junior Couchman was a state alternate last year, and was runner-up at the GMVWA and New Lexington (major decision loss to Bullard) this season. Fellow junior Jones placed seventh at Top Gun and won a title at Miami Trace.

220 pounds

1. Sean Rutherford, Norton, junior (Alliance)
2. Harrison Hoppel, Minerva, senior (Claymont)
3. Garrett Harding, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
4. Troy Caldwell, Jonathan Alder, junior (Claymont)
5. Deaken McCoy, Galion, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Tylor Pritchard, Upper Sandusky, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Kordell Chaney, Sandusky Perkins, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Austin Bentley, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)
9. Mason Hilling, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
10. Beau Swank, Benjamin Logan, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Mike Bell, Warren Howland, junior (Alliance)
12. Devin King, Sheridan, senior (Wilmington)
13. Michael Crockett, Franklin, junior (Wilmington)
14. Mario Bell, Thurgood Marshall, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Dustin Baker, Sparta Highland, junior (Claymont)
16. Jacob Esarco, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)

ALL – Rutherford, Hilling, Mi. Bell, Esarco; Chris Williams (Painesville Harvey, senior)

BG – McCoy, Pritchard, Chaney, Swank; Ma. Bell

CLMT – Hoppel, Harding, Caldwell, Bentley; Baker

WIL – King, Crockett, Reece Human (Carlisle, freshman), Aaron Leciejewski (Greenon, sophomore);

Daylen Neece (Meigs, junior)

The junior Rutherford was excellent coming through Junior High state as an upper-weight, and that form has extended into his high school career, as he's already a two-time state placer (7th and 3rd). He's been dominant this year, with lots of pins, including titles at Hudson and the Bill Dies. Rutherford exits a district tournament with four ranked wrestlers in all, including returning state qualifier Hilling, who was runner-up to Rutherford at the Bill Dies and sixth at Brecksville. State alternate Bell has dropped into this weight class after a runner-up finish at Hudson up at 285, and was champion at Wadsworth here. The sophomore Esarco has wrestled well season to date, including a title at Perry and sixth place finish at the Bill Dies.

Four of the other projected state placers will exit the Claymont district. That group is led by the senior Hoppel, who finished fifth at 195 last year, and this year was first at Cambridge and fourth at the Top Gun. Next in line is returning state alternate Harding, a senior who was champion at Medina and fifth at the Top Gun. The junior Caldwell was a returning state qualifier, and carries titles at Nelsonville York and Marion County on the resume, along with a runner-up finish at Marion Pleasant. Last among the projected state placers is another returning state qualifier in the senior Bentley, who was sixth at the Top Gun, but also beat Harding 2-1 in the regional semifinal round of state duals. The junior Baker is also ranked here, and on the season was runner-up at Marion Harding losing in OT to McCoy.

The other three projected state placers exit from the Bowling Green district, a site with five ranked wrestlers in all. Leading that is the junior McCoy, a returning state qualifier, who has titles at the Gorman and Marion Harding along with a fourth place finish at Marion County. Division III state qualifier Pritchard is next, as he was fifth at Marion County losing 3-1 to McCoy but winning at Marion Pleasant (2-1 over Caldwell in the final). Chaney placed sixth at state as a freshman, but has been rather uneven with his match-to-match and in-match performance this year. He was fifth at Medina, second at Marion County, and eighth at the Top Gun. Returning state qualifier Swank was runner-up at Franklin to go with titles won at Tippecanoe and Madeira. Rounding out the ranked group is the senior Mario Bell, who was runner-up at Tippecanoe to Swank.

The Wilmington district is very shallow in this weight class with only the 12th and 13th ranked wrestlers in this field. Returning state alternate King was champion at Sheridan and Miami Trace, runner-up at Cambridge, but failed to place at the Bill Dies. The junior Crockett was runner-up to King at Sheridan and third at the GMVWA.

285 pounds

1. Billy Miller, Perry, senior (Alliance)
2. Chase Henderson, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
3. Logan Sharp, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
4. Evan Loughman, Sheridan, junior (Wilmington)
5. Drek' Brumley, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
6. Kostas Parrish, University School, senior (Alliance)
7. T.J. Lawrence, Oak Harbor, junior (Bowling Green)
8. Kyle Henry, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
9. J'Quan Fisher, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Gavin Peacock, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
11. Cody Hawkins, Ravenna, senior (Alliance)
12. Josh Rohrbacher, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Jaqui Vanmeter, Licking Valley, sophomore (Claymont)
14. Jacob Smith, Minerva, senior (Claymont)
15. Mike Holzworth, Mansfield Madison, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Charles Broderick, Bellbrook, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Miller, Sharp, Brumley, Parrish; Hawkins

BG – Lawrence, Fisher, Rohrbacher, Holzworth; Grant Moyer (Bellevue, junior)

CLMT – Henry, Vanmeter, Smith, Cody Martsof (Beaver Local, senior); Josh Kempf (River View, senior)

WIL – Henderson, Loughman, Peacock, Broderick; Pahl (Vincent Warren, junior)

Miller went 45-2 on the way to a state title in this weight class last year. He is undefeated on this season, and is the favorite to repeat as state champion and culminate a career with three state placement finishes. Recovering from a football injury, he missed the Ironman, but did win the North Coast Classic. Then, in a battle of state champions in the Brecksville final, he upended Garren 5-3. He has added titles at Perry and Perrysburg to the resume. Miller will exit a deep Alliance district that features five ranked wrestlers, including three other projected state placers.

Logan Sharp continues the Sharp family tradition of HVY excellence at West Branch. He qualified for state last year at 220, while Connor Sharp occupied HVY. This year, Sharp was champion at Riverside and Kenston before finishing runner-up at Top Gun to the nation's No. 1 HVY, Nevills from California. Last week, he did extend Miller, losing 7-5. Returning state placer Brumley placed sixth at Powerade, runner-up at Perry, third at Perrysburg, and first at the Hephner. District placer Parrish was runner-up to Sharp at Kenston and runner-up to Zapata at Wadsworth. The other ranked wrestler here is Hawkins, who was fourth at Kenston and sixth at Top Gun.

Two of the other projected placers will exit the Wilmington district that features four ranked wrestlers in this weight class. The senior Henderson placed third at state last year, and this year was champion at Franklin over Peacock and Jackson, missed placement at the Ironman by a match, was runner-up at the GMVWA, and champion at Western Brown. Returning state qualifier Loughman, a junior, was champion at Miami Trace, Cambridge, and Sheridan with a third place finish at the GMVWA. The senior Peacock was a state alternate last year, and this year was fourth at Franklin and SWOWCA, with a fifth place finish at Fairfield. Finally among the ranked is fellow senior Broderick, who has titles at Edgewood and Bellbrook to go with a sixth at the GMVWA.

Two other wrestlers in this weight class bring state tournament experience, and both exit from the Bowling Green district. Returning state placer Lawrence went 1-2 at Medina, losing 4-3 to Lee early and then by fall to Henry in consolation. He was a semifinalist at Perrysburg before having to injury default back. Rohrbacher placed second at the Gorman and fifth at Top Gun, while falling short of placement at Ironman and Medina. Two other wrestlers are ranked in this district: the junior Fisher, who was runner-up at the CIT; and returning district placer Holzworth, a senior who came back in the last couple of weeks.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Claymont, which features only three ranked wrestlers. It's led by the senior Henry who was fifth at Medina and seventh at the Top Gun. District placer Vanmeter was third at Cambridge, while the junior Pahl was champion at Gallian and Athens to go with a runner-up finish at Miami Trace.

Team Standings

1. St. Paris Graham (Wilmington)
2. Claymont (Claymont)
3. Perry (Alliance)
4. Akron SVSM (Alliance)
5. Toledo Central Catholic (Bowling Green)
6. CVCA (Alliance)
7. Crestwood (Alliance)
8. Wauseon (Bowling Green)
9. Lexington (Bowling Green)
10. Padua (Alliance)
11. Bellbrook (Wilmington)
12. Lake Catholic (Alliance)