

## DIVISION II

### **106 pounds**

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

ALL – Yarbrough, Cuerdo, Hoffarth, Herman; Perez

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***113 pounds***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***120 pounds***

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

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

CLMT – Masters, Emmerling, Finnearty, Dawes; Norris

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **126 pounds**

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

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

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

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

WIL – Hart, Woods, Harkins, Dunn; Stevens

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **132 pounds**

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

ALL – Rhoads, Williams, Smith, Cass; McCarty

CLMT – Ours, Williams, Martin, Kohler; Eckelberry

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

### ***138 pounds***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **145 pounds**

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

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

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

NOR – Hunter, Steyer, Turnbaugh, Jones; Ray

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **152 pounds**

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

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

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

NOR – Conley, Turnbaugh, Barrett, Elson; Badiu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***160 pounds***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **170 pounds**

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

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

CLMT – Talbot, Carrothers, Parks, Oberdier; Parks

NOR – Hernandez, Simcoe, Roberts, Bischoff; Corapi

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **182 pounds**

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

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

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

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

NOR – Mayes, Carter, Beverly, Cover; Hickman

WIL – Stewart, Johnson, Petrella, Machuca; Huff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***195 pounds***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **220 pounds**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **285 pounds**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Team***

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



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