

DIVISION III

106 pounds

1. Zack Mattin, Delta, sophomore (Lakota)
2. Kellan Anderson, Covington, sophomore (Troy)
3. Brett Szuhay, Crestwood, junior (Garfield Hts.)
4. Gavin Owens, Eastwood, freshman (Lakota)
5. Matt Ellis, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
6. Nolan Frye, Cuyahoga Hts., freshman (Garfield Hts.)
7. Jarrett Hornish, Wayne Trace, freshman (Troy)
8. Caleb Schroer, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
9. Gavin Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, freshman (Troy)
10. Jayden Strickland, South Central, sophomore (Lakota)
11. Cade Petersen, Oak Harbor, freshman (Lakota)
12. Olivia Shore, sophomore (Troy)
13. Wil Blevins, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Lakota)
14. Tayton Kleman, Bluffton, sophomore (Troy)
15. Jordan Kennedy, Allen East, junior (Troy)
16. Griffen Stephen, Barnesville, freshman (Buckeye Local)

BL – Stephen, Alex Overly (Shenandoah, sophomore), Joe Cunningham (Nelsonville-York, freshman), TBD; TBD

GH – Szuhay, Frye, Jarrison Moore (Norwayne, sophomore), Patrick Reineke (Hawken, freshman); Joey Bond (Newbury, sophomore)

LAK – Mattin, Owens, Strickland, Petersen; Blevins

TROY – Anderson, Ellis, Hornish, Schroer; Caprella, Kleman, Shore, Kennedy

Three wrestlers in this weight are returning state placers from last year, they were the competitors that took sixth, seventh, and eighth place. Narrowing things further, the deliberation for projected champion came down to Mattin and Anderson. While the only real common data point (last year's state tournament), I'm playing on gut instinct and picking Mattin. At last year's state tournament, both wrestlers earned major decision victories over Szuhay (Anderson in the consolation quarterfinal, Mattin for seventh place); they also wrestled Wyatt Riddle, with Mattin losing 2-1 in the consolation quarterfinal and Anderson winning 6-4 in overtime.

For me, the sophomore Mattin has demonstrated an excellent talent level despite clearly lacking size. His junior high state title in eighth grade came at 78 pounds, and he has competed on USA Ohio National Dual teams the last two summers at 88 and 100 pounds respectively, while he placed fourth this fall at the Preseason Nationals in the freshman/sophomore division at 100 pounds. The current season for Mattin includes titles at Olentangy Liberty, Medina (where he beat Brugh and Crosby), and Perrysburg along with an 8-2 finals loss to Rowan at Maumee Bay.

Anderson is excellent in his own right, as he has won three tournaments this year – GMVWA (beating Gessler in the final), Troy, and Lima CC. The greatest advantage for Anderson against Mattin would probably come if they met on Saturday night in the state final. The district from which Anderson exits at Troy is yet again absolutely loaded in the opening weight class. There are eight total ranked wrestlers here, including five of the top nine!

The freshman Ellis was runner-up to Mattin at Olentangy Liberty, placed fifth at the GMVWA, missed placement by one match at Escape the Rock, and was runner-up at Delaware Hayes. Fellow freshman Hornish was champion at Arcadia and Defiance before finishing second at Troy and Van Buren then finishing fourth at Lima CC. Schroer was state alternate in this weight last year as a sophomore, while this season features a sixth place finish at GMVWA (splitting with Ellis), runner-up at Western Brown, and third at Lima CC (splitting with Hornish). Another freshman is Caprella, who has runner-up finishes at three tournaments (including a 2-1 finals loss to Owens at Lima Senior and 5-4 to McCrone at CIT, while finishing third at Defiance and fifth at Lima CC.

The sophomore Kleman was runner-up at Defiance, fourth at Van Buren, and sixth at Lima CC. Ms. Shore has competed at Cadet Worlds in women's freestyle the last two years, and this year went 1-2 at Medina after placing there last year (both losses were to excellent freshmen) before taking seventh at Lima CC. Then finally, the junior Kennedy has a title at Sidney to go with a sixth at Defiance, fifth at Van Buren, and eighth at Lima CC.

Four additional ranked wrestlers will join Mattin at the Lakota district. The freshman Owens placed third at Junior High state last year, and has started his high school career excellently with titles in four tournaments (most notably at Lima Senior and Van Buren) before taking second to Anderson at Lima CC. Strickland was a go-to-state match loser in this weight last year as a freshman, while he has titles at the Kilted Klassic and Black River to his credit this season. Petersen placed seventh last year at Junior High state in the 102 weight class, and this year was runner-up at Bellevue and a placer at Maumee Bay. The junior Blevins was champion at Northwood before placing third at the Gorman and Van Buren.

Szuhay was eighth at state last year, and this season has won tournament titles at Willoughby South and Kenston, along with taking second up a weight class to Hamulak at Solon; dual meet results include a loss to McCrone and a 5-2 win over Frye. The lone additional ranked wrestler at the Garfield Hts. district is the freshman Frye; last year a Junior High state runner-up, he has three tournament titles this year to go with a runner-up finish (to Owens) at Waterloo and a fourth at Top Gun.

Last but not least it's the Buckeye Local district, which features just one ranked wrestler in this weight class, that being the freshman Stephen. He was fourth at Union Local and second at Barnesville with finals losses to Overly on both occasions, before beating the returning state qualifier in the third place match at the OVAC meet, and then taking fifth at New Lexington. Overly is a returning state qualifier, as he finished fourth in this district weight class last year. Similar to last year, there is a clear lack of options when looking at the back end state spots for this weight class.

113 pounds

1. Caleb Edwards, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
2. Lucian Brink, Coshocton, junior (Buckeye Local)
3. Casey Barnett, Milan Edison, sophomore (Lakota)
4. Max Shore, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
5. Cael Vanderhorst, Covington, sophomore (Troy)
6. Collin Yinger, Nelsonville-York, senior (Buckeye Local)
7. Marshal Niswonger, Caldwell, senior (Buckeye Local)
8. Dominic Savoca, Crestwood, senior (Garfield Hts.)
9. Troy Kennedy, Troy Christian, freshman (Garfield Hts.)
10. Tyler Davis, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Lakota)
11. Brian Chmielewski, Coldwater, senior (Troy)

12. Kobe Epperly, Versailles, sophomore (Troy)
13. Teagan Hendricks, Greeneview, sophomore (Troy)
14. Logan Attisano, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
15. Adam Ryder, Tuslaw, freshman (Garfield Hts.)
16. Trey Allen, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)

BL – Brink, Yinger, Niswonger, Josh Proper (Delaware Christian, sophomore); Corey Keim (Tuscarawas Valley, junior)

GH – Edwards, Savoca, Ryder, Brandt Virden (Columbiana, senior); Trevor Meeker (Grand Valley, sophomore)

LAK – Barnett, Davis, Christian Lecki (Milbury Lake, freshman); Cameron Henneman (Liberty Center, senior); Bryce Maynard (Eastwood, sophomore)

TROY – Shore, Vanderhorst, Kennedy, Chmielewski; Epperly, Hendricks, Attisano, Allen

Though he is slotted third in this report, I would actually identify Barnett as the most likely wrestler to win this weight class. Winning state last year as a freshman, should Barnett and the two wrestlers ranked above him win district titles, it is Barnett who would be isolated in terms of half-bracket at state the following week. Brink lost 7-3 to Barnett last year in the 106 pound state final, while Edwards took third as a freshman in this weight class after losing 5-1 in the semifinal to 2017 state champion Oscar Sanchez. As a result, Brink and Edwards would be looking at a semifinal clash.

During the month of December, Edwards was one match away from placing at the Beast before finishing runner-up at Kenston up at 126 while weighing-in at 120. During January, he was champion at Jackson Milton and the Hephner, with a runner-up at the Bill Dies sandwiched in between. There are just two other ranked wrestlers present in his district weight class at Garfield Hts. The senior Savoca went 2-2 in this district weight last year, while this year he placed fifth up a weight at Solon before taking second to Rowan at Willoughby South, then beating state placer Hamulak 1-0 to win the title at Kenston. The freshman Ryder went 3-2 at Brecksville and placed sixth at Top Gun.

Brink went 1-2 at state as a freshman at 106, then last year was runner-up to Barnett. This season includes titles at Barnesville and Waterloo, along with a 4-3 win over Barnett at the SMCC Duals in late January. Only two ranked wrestlers join him in district competition at Buckeye Local. The first is two-time state placer Yinger who has titles in three tournaments, runner-up finishes at Nelsonville-York and Lima CC, and a fourth at GMVWA. The other is returning state qualifier Niswonger, whose season includes a runner-up finish to Brink at Barnesville and a fourth at the OVAC. Also a returning state qualifier is Proper, who went 0-2 at state last year as a freshman at 106.

Barnett started his season with a title at Milan Edison, before going undefeated at the Fricker's Duals including an upset pin over Moon in the championship final. He then missed Brecksville with an injury. There is just one other ranked wrestler at the Lakota district, and that is returning state qualifier Davis, who went 1-2 at 106 last year as a freshman. His season includes titles at Bellevue and Woodmore along with a seventh at Perrysburg.

Eight ranked wrestlers once again reside at the Troy district, as this is the other residual from last year's loaded 106 weight class. The group is led by the freshman Max Shore, younger brother of Olivia and Graham, who won state last year at 120 pounds and is now at the Air Force Academy. Max placed fifth at Medina, was runner-up at Troy up a weight class, and beat a pair of state placers to win at Lima CC. Next in line is Vanderhorst, who placed eighth in this weight last year a sophomore; his current season

includes placing fourth up a weight at GMVWA, winning this weight class at Troy, and placing third at Lima CC (5-2 semifinal loss to Shore). The freshman Kennedy has two tournament titles to go with a fifth at GMVWA and fourth at Lima CC. Chmielewski was a go-to-state match loser last year in this weight as a junior, while this year has titles at Findlay and Milton Union along with a fifth at Lima CC on the resume.

The sophomore Epperly was runner-up at Sidney up a weight class, then in this weight class placed seventh at GMVWA and third at Valley View. Fellow sophomore Hendricks went 1-2 at state last year in the 106 weight class, with championships at two tournaments on the resume, but placed eighth at Lima CC and missed placement by one match at GMVWA. The freshman Attisano was champion at Fenwick, sixth at Olentangy Liberty at GMVWA, missed placement by a match at Escape the Rock, and was third at Delaware Hayes. The eighth of the ranked wrestlers is fellow freshman Allen, who was champion at Lima Senior.

120 pounds

1. Oscar Sanchez, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
2. Brandon Hahn, Eastwood, sophomore (Lakota)
3. Cameron Lacure, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
4. Ray Adams, Milan Edison, senior (Lakota)
5. Austin Guthrie, Coshocton, senior (Buckeye Local)
6. Hunter Long, Wayne Trace, freshman (Troy)
7. Dylan Matthews, Liberty Center, sophomore (Lakota)
8. Trey Sander, Bethel-Tate, senior (Troy)
9. Aidan McAlexander, Antwerp, senior (Lakota)
10. Drake Carmean, Allen East, sophomore (Troy)
11. J.C. Fox, Dixie, senior (Troy)
12. Jake Edelman, Pymatuning Valley, junior (Garfield Hts.)
13. Jackson Reineke, Hawken, junior (Garfield Hts.)
14. Mason Turner, Troy Christian, freshman (Troy)
15. Lukas Wamer, Milbury Lake, junior (Lakota)
16. Jacob Edwards, Bidwell Rive Valley, senior (Troy)

BL – Guthrie, Joseph Bonfini (Bellaire, senior), Aiden Aiello (Bishop Ready, sophomore), Brayden Rittenhouse (West Muskingum, junior); Hayden Pacha (North Union, senior)

GH – Edelman, Reineke, Zach LaHood (Black River, senior), Michael Markulin (South Range, freshman); Michael Prikryl (Rootstown, sophomore)

LAK – Sanchez, Hahn, Adams, McAlexander; Matthews, Wamer

TROY – Lacure, Long, Sanders, Carmean; Fox, Turner, Edwards

Hear ye, hear ye, let the Genoa brigade begin. Last year the Comets scored 113.5 points with six wrestlers placing inside the top three on the way to their title at the individual state tournament. All six of those wrestlers return this year, including 2017 state champion Oscar Sanchez who lost 3-2 in the tiebreakers to Ethan Turner in the 113 pound final.

The Ohio Bobcat signee's season did not start great, as it featured a 3-2 dual meet loss to Hahn then going 1-2 at the Ironman (though both losses were to nationally ranked out-of-state opponents). Sanchez returned back to relative normalcy with a third at Medina, winning gold at Perrysburg, and then three dual meet wins over direct contenders in this weight class (9-1 over Guthrie, 8-3 over Adams, and

then 7-2 over Hahn). Splitting matches with Sanchez and losing nowhere else puts Hahn, who was 1-2 at state last year as a freshman at 113, in the second spot of the rankings; he has tournament titles at Waterloo, West Jefferson, Lima Senior, Van Buren, and Lima CC on the resume.

Four other wrestlers join Sanchez and Hahn in the rankings at the Lakota district, most notably state placers Adams and McAlexander. Two-time state placer Adams was champion at Milan Edison and seventh at Brecksville, while picking up a 3-2 dual meet win over Guthrie in late January. The third place finish for McAlexander last year at 106 was the first state medal Antwerp had ever earned in wrestling; his current season results include a third place finish at Defiance. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the sophomore Matthews and the junior Wamer. Matthews was champion at Marion Harding up a weight before dropping to this weight, taking eighth at Perrysburg and winning the Sally George; while Wamer was champion at Woodmore and third at the Sally George (2-1 semifinal loss to Matthews).

Five of the six ranked wrestlers from Lakota feature in the top nine, while five of the remaining six wrestlers inside the top 11 exit the Troy district. That group is led by a pair of freshmen in Lacure and Long. Lacure has titles at Bishop Fenwick, GMVWA, and Delaware Hayes to his name this season, along with a third at Olentangy Liberty and fourth at Escape the Rock; while Long has titles at Defiance (wins over Carmean and McAlexander) and Troy to go with a runner-up finish at Van Buren.

Sander placed seventh in this weight last year as a junior, while this season started with a pair of tournament titles at 126 before placing fifth at SWOWCA and second at Madeira in this weight. Carmean went 1-2 at the state tournament in this weight last year as a freshman, and started this season with titles at Sidney and Allen County, before placing third at Defiance and Van Buren then taking second at Lima CC. Fox missed all of last season after finishing as a state alternate in his sophomore season, and his return to the mat has been excellent with three tournament titles leading into a third place finish at Lima CC.

Additional ranked wrestlers at Troy are the freshman Mason Turner (younger brother of state champion Ethan) and two-time go-to-state match loser Edwards. Turner's season features an eighth at GMVWA, fifth at Western Brown, and a quarterfinals appearance at Lima CC. Edwards won tournaments up in weight at Jackson (132) and Gallia (126) before placing fifth at Nelsonville-York in this weight class.

The remaining top 11 ranked wrestler is Guthrie, who placed seventh at 113 last year as a junior. He was third at Barnesville and runner-up at Van Buren, but is the only ranked wrestler at the Buckeye Local district. Returning state alternate Bonfini is among those projected to qualify for state, while fellow returning state alternate Branden Parsons (Caldwell, sophomore) is not among the top five at this district.

Rounding out the ranked contingent is a pair of returning state qualifiers from the Garfield Hts. district, who each went 0-2 last year competing at 113 in the state bracket as sophomores. Edelman was champion at Hawken and Jackson-Milton, runner-up at Riverside and Kenston, and fourth at the EOWL; while Reineke won titles at Hawken (at 126) and Berkshire, was runner-up at the CVC, along with placing third at Waterloo and fifth at North Coast. Returning state qualifier Prikryl is also in this district.

126 pounds

1. Gavin Brown, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
2. Ethan Turner, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
3. Zach Larue, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts.)

4. Cameron Dickman, Oak Harbor, senior (Lakota)
5. Gavin Weaver, Newcomerstown, junior (Buckeye Local)
6. B.J. Palmer, Buckeye Local, sophomore (Buckeye Local)
7. Gavin Ramos, Northmor, junior (Buckeye Local)
8. Antonio Lecki, Milbury Lake, junior (Lakota)
9. Jacob Poling, Versailles, senior (Troy)
10. Carter Chase, Marion Pleasant, freshman (Buckeye Local)
11. Wyatt Lucas, Arcadia, senior (Lakota)
12. Kyle Keenan, South Range, senior (Garfield Hts.)
13. Joey Buckland, West Jefferson, senior (Buckeye Local)
14. Mason Kline, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
15. Derik Houser, Columbiana Crestview, senior (Garfield Hts.)
16. Zach Schaller, Swanton, senior (Lakota)

BL – Weaver, Palmer, Ramos, Chase; Buckland

GH – Larue, Keenan, Kline, Houser; Jacob McHood (Mogadore, freshman)

LAK – Dickman, Lecki, Lucas, Schaller; Caden Crawford (Hopewell Loudon, sophomore)

TROY – Brown, Turner, Poling, Garrett Kowalak (Miami East, sophomore); Justin Ritchie (Carlisle, junior)

Seeing a freshman beat a returning state champion during the state series is a relatively uncommon event. The most recent incidence at the Schott came in the 2015 Division I state semifinal at 113 when Jaden Mattox beat Noah Baughman 9-5; Mattox would lose that championship final, go on to win two state titles in four state finals appearance, while Baughman would win his second state title the next year. It could happen this year with Brown and Turner in the same weight class; heck there could be three matchups between the two, as Legacy Christian and Troy Christian are in the same sectional.

Though the freshman Brown went 0-2 at the Ironman, he gave clear signals of being an elite level contender, with the losses coming in overtime to Shawver and 5-2 to Molton from Illinois (both are nationally ranked). He also has four tournament titles on the season, most notable among them at the GMVWA where he beat Hoskins in overtime in the championship match; while also placing fourth at Escape the Rock, beating New Jersey state champ Olivieri 2-0 in the consolation semifinal.

Turner reversed a 4-1 state semifinal loss from his freshman year to knock off Sanchez 3-2 in the tiebreaker to win gold at 113 pounds in 2018. He also took two losses to nationally ranked opponents at the Ironman, but did win two matches as well. Other events in the season include titles at Western Brown and Lima CC, while finishing second when up a weight class at Licking Valley. Based on present composition, there is just one other ranked wrestler at the Troy district in this weight, and that would be Poling, who was 1-2 last year at 120 pounds as a junior at state. Poling's current season includes winning Sidney, taking second at Valley View and Central Crossing, while missing placement at GMVWA by one match.

13 additional returning state qualifiers, six of whom placed last year, make this a highly congested weight class statewide. At the core of that congestion is five ranked wrestlers competing at the Buckeye Local district, three of whom placed last year at state. Said group is led by returning state fifth Weaver, who was champion at the Wayne Invite and New Lexington, runner-up at Top Gun, and then up a weight was third at Nelsonville-York. Returning state sixth Palmer moved down into this weight late in the season after winning the Union Local tournament at 132, while finishing third at Barnesville and the OVAC also at 132. Ramos placed eighth in this weight last year as a sophomore, and his current season

started at 132 with a second at Big Walnut before going 2-2 at Medina, while in this weight class he missed placement at the Gorman by one match and was champion at the Sally George.

The freshman Chase was fourth at Olentangy Liberty, runner-up at both Marion Harding and Horth Union, before taking third at the Sally George (4-3 semifinal loss to Ramos); while Buckland went 1-2 in this state tournament weight last year as a junior, and this year was third at West Jefferson and champion at Nelsonville-York.

The highest returning placer after state champ Turner is the senior Dickman, who was third last year at 120 pounds. He was champion at Bellevue up a weight class, and in this weight was a quarterfinalist at Maumee Bay. Three other ranked wrestlers join Dickman at the Lakota district. Lecki was sixth at 113 as a sophomore last year, while this year he was runner-up at Northwood and Marion Pleasant along with winning titles at Toledo St. John and Woodmore. The senior Lucas was runner-up at Arcadia before winning titles at Findlay, Woodmore (up at 132), and Van Buren; while fellow senior Schaller qualified for state last year, this year he has runner-up finishes at Defiance and Lima CC with a third at Van Buren but a couple of baffling dual meet losses.

Wrapping up the four districts is the field at Garfield Hts. that features four ranked wrestlers led by three-time state placer Larue who went 1-2 at the Ironman and has a pair of tournament wins on the season (Waterloo up a weight and Gorman in this weight). Two-time state qualifier Keenan was champion at Waterloo, Jackson-Milton, and the Hephner while finishing second at Berkshire and fourth at Kenston. The sophomore Kline was sixth at Kenston up a weight class, runner-up at Jackson-Milton, and fifth at the Bill Dies; while the senior Houser was runner-up at Waterloo, third at Jackson-Milton, along with fifth at both EOWL and OVAC. Also in this district weight are four returning state qualifiers outside the rankings: Michael Kucera (Independence, senior), Konnor Duncan (Kirtland, senior), Storm Stanley (Waynedale, sophomore), and Dylan Martin (West Salem Northwestern, junior) – down might be an option for one or two, but going up solves nothing.

132 pounds

1. Cole Mattin, Delta, senior (Lakota)
2. Julian Sanchez, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
3. Klay Reeves, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Buckeye Local)
4. Dakota Blanton, Ashland Crestview, senior (Lakota)
5. Trent Duvall, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts.)
6. Isaac Hernandez, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Troy)
7. Jake White, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts.)
8. Colton Robins, Reading, senior (Troy)
9. Ethan Hoffman, Arcanum, senior (Troy)
10. Seth Majewski, Brooklyn, senior (Garfield Hts.)
11. Luke Hopkins, Cuyahoga Hts., senior (Garfield Hts.)
12. Chase Trainer, Greenon, sophomore (Troy)
13. Donnell Marshall, Centerburg, sophomore (Buckeye Local)
14. Jake Hurst, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)
15. Chase Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Troy)
16. Hayden Johnson, Richmond Edison, junior (Buckeye Local)

BL – Reeves, Marshall, Johnson, Austin Amens (Northmor, junior); Ryley Crall (Union Local, senior)

GH – Duvall, White, Majewski, Hopkins; Robert Pinkie (Lutheran West, senior)

LAK – Mattin, Sanchez, Blanton, Zach Rocha (Archbold, senior); Matthew Dewitz (Oak Harbor, junior)
TROY – Hernandez, Robins, Hoffman, Trainer; Hurst, Caprella

Just look to the top of this weight, and one might see why the previous one is so congested. Returning state champion Mattin is joined by returning runners-up in Sanchez and Reeves. Mattin played the role of “giant killer” on Friday night, as for the third straight year a three-time state champion fell at the state tournament after the first 27 went a combined 108-0 in their senior year at state. He beat Hoskins 4-2 in overtime to reverse a regular season loss, and then upended Reeves 9-3 to earn state gold. Cole’s older brother Drew was a three-time state champion and qualified for the NCAA tournament at the University of Michigan as a true freshman last year, while younger brother Zack is the projected champion this year at 106.

The current season for Cole features tournament titles at Medina (4-3 over Sanchez in the final) and Perrysburg, along with runner-up finishes at Olentangy Liberty (3-2 to Collica in the 138 weight class) and Maumee Bay (3-1 to Jordan Decatur). Sanchez is a three-time state placer, finishing runner-up the last two years, and an Army West Point commit; he picked up three wins over state tournament participants on the way to his runner-up finish at Medina. Just one other ranked wrestler joints those two at Lakota, though that would be returning state placer Blanton, who has titles at the Gorman and Lima CC this season.

Reeves is also a three-time state placer, and became the first state finalist in his school’s wrestling history last season. His senior season includes championships at Mount Vernon and New Lexington, while finishing second at Olentangy Liberty and fourth at Medina. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at Buckeye Local. Marshall was a go-to-state match loser last year as a freshman, while this year he has two tournament titles, along with runner-up finishes at Dublin Scioto and Benjamin Logan, and a third at Marion Harding. Returning state qualifier Johnson went 1-2 last year as a sophomore at 120, while this year was eighth at the OVAC.

Congestion is abound at the Troy district, where there are six ranked wrestlers led by Hernandez, who was third at Defiance, champion at Van Buren, and runner-up at Lima CC. Next in line Robins, state alternate last year up at 138 as a junior, while this year he has a title at Sycmaore to go with runner-up finishes at Madeira and Eaton. Returning state qualifier Hoffman went 1-2 at 126 last year as a junior, while this year was sixth at Eaton and champion at Troy. The sophomore Trainer was champion at Benjamin Logan beating Marshall in the final. The freshman Hurst was champion at Lima Senior over returning state qualifier Caprella, while Caprella was also fourth at the CIT and third at Lima CC.

Rounding things out is four ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts. district, a group led by Duval, state alternate last year at 138 pounds as a junior. His current season includes titles at Jackson-Milton and the Hephner, along with a fifth place finish at Bill Dies. Returning state placer White was champion at Waterloo up a weight class before finishing second at the Gorman and sixth at Bill Dies. Majewski is 1-4 in two state tournament appearances with this season featuring a title at the Cobos Classic and placement at North Coast. 2016 state qualifier Hopkins has titles at three tournaments to go with third place finishes at Waterloo (up a weight) and Top Gun. Also in this field is 2017 state qualifier Pinkie.

138 pounds

1. Dylan D’Emilio, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
2. Logan Hursey, Newcomerstown, sophomore (Buckeye Local)
3. Niko Chilson, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts.)

4. Jordan Keegan, Milan Edison, senior (Defiance)
5. Parker Watson, Lutheran West, senior (Garfield Hts.)
6. Peyton Lane, National Trail, junior (Troy)
7. Tad Jensen, Oak Harbor, senior (Defiance)
8. Colin Wiley, Caldwell, junior (Buckeye Local)
9. Teryn Debold, Seneca East, senior (Lakota)
10. Austin Awan, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
11. J.T. Brown, Newark Catholic, senior (Buckeye Local)
12. Trey Wonner, Columbiana Crestview, senior (Garfield Hts.)
13. Noah Campbell, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts.)
14. C.J. Smith, Marion Pleasant, freshman (Buckeye Local)
15. Westyn Moyer, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)
16. Zane Jankowski, Eastwood, senior (Lakota)

BL – Hursey, Wiley, Brown, Smith; Niko Christo (Northmor, freshman)

GH – Chilson, Watson, Wonner, Campbell; Wyatt Zimmerman (Orrville, junior)

LAK – D’Emilio, Keegan, Jensen, Debold; Jankowski

TROY – Lane, Awan, Moyer, Austin Flick (Covington, junior); Johnny Schirmer (Blanchester, junior)

Mark Zimmer of Columbus DeSales became Ohio’s first four-time state champion forty years ago on March 10, 1979 with a pin over Scott Adams of Belpre in the 119 pound final. It will be one day before that when D’Emilio is a strong favorite to make it a club of 30 to be four-time state champions. It is a distinguished list that includes stars such as Jim Jordan, Harry Lester, C.P. and Dustin Schlatter, Jeff Jagers, Lance Palmer, David Taylor, Logan Stieber, Dean Heil, Bo Jordan, and Nathan Tomasello.

The Ohio State commit is a three-time Super 32 placer (champion this fall) and a four-time Fargo freestyle All-American (including sixth this past summer). He was fourth at the Ironman losing a pair of matches by one point, finished runner-up at Medina (losing 2-1 to Baughman in the tiebreaker), and champion at Perrysburg. Four ranked wrestlers are after the three additional state spots at the Lakota district.

Said group is led by returning state placer Keegan, who was champion at Milan Edison before going 2-2 at Brecksville, and also losing 13-4 to D’Emilio in a late January dual meet. Jensen qualified for state last year as a junior; while this season he was champion at Bellevue up a weight before missing placement at Medina by a match in this weight, finishing third at Perrysburg, and placing at Maumee Bay. Debold qualified for state last year in this weight class, and was a semifinalist at Van Buren earlier in the season; while the senior Jankowski was fifth at Waterloo, and has placed third in four other tournaments (most notably at Lima CC).

D’Emilio and Keegan are two of five returning state placers in this weight class, while two others are among the four ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts. district. Chilson beat Watson for the district title last year at 132, though it was Watson who placed fourth at state to Chilson’s fifth. Chilson was runner-up at both Kenston and the Hephner to returning Division I state placers, won the title at Jackson-Milton, and was third at the Bill Dies; while Watson was fourth at the North Coast Classic and Medina, along with winning titles at Black River and Perry Pin City. Fellow senior Wonner was runner-up at Waterloo and Jackson-Milton before placing fifth at EOWL and missing placement at the OVAC by one match. Yet another senior Campbell was champion at Hawken up a weight class before placing fourth at

Riverside and the EOWL. Also in this weight class, though not ranked is 2017 state qualifier Nick Ciancola (Canton Central Catholic, senior).

The remaining state placer in this field is Hursey, who was sixth as a freshman at 126 last year. His season to date includes three tournament titles plus a third place finish at Top Gun. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Buckeye Local district. Wiley qualified for state in this weight last year as a sophomore, while this year he has placed fourth at Barnesville and sixth at OVAC. The senior Brown placed at three tournaments up at 145 before dropping into this weight and making the finals at Lima CC; while the freshman Smith was sixth at Olentangy Liberty, third at Marion Harding, champion at North Union, and fourth at the Sally George.

Rounding things out is a group of three ranked wrestlers at Troy led by returning state qualifier Lane, who was at 145 until the last weekend of January; those results included three tournament titles, a second at Valley View, and a fourth at GMVWA. Awan was a go-to-state match loser last year at 145 as a freshman, and spent more than half the season at 152 before coming into this weight to win the Lima CC title. The freshman Moyer was champion at Lima CC beating Jankowski in the final.

145 pounds

1. Nick Burgard, Ashtabula St. John, senior (Garfield Hts.)
2. Dustin Morgillo, Genoa, junior (Lakota)
3. Ryan Whitten, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
4. Joey Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
5. Brier Marthey, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts.)
6. Devan Hendricks, Greeneview, senior (Troy)
7. Cael Rowland, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts.)
8. Jeremy Tracy, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts.)
9. Blake Barrick, Coshocton, senior (Buckeye Local)
10. Shadrick Slone, Milan Edison, freshman (Lakota)
11. Carter Winegarner, West Muskingum, junior (Buckeye Local)
12. Dawson Swicegood, Delta, senior (Lakota)
13. Gunner Endicott, Elmwood, freshman (Lakota)
14. Andrew Halko, Bishop Ready, senior (Buckeye Local)
15. Jackson Hugentobler, Madeira, senior (Troy)
16. Tony Martinez, Northmor, senior (Buckeye Local)

BL – Barrick, Winegarner, Halko, Martinez; Jacob Newell (Sandy Valley, senior)

GH – Burgard, Marthey, Rowland, Tracy; Austin Warrick (Orrville, senior)

LAK – Morgillo, Slone, Swicegood, Endicott; Brennan Short (Archbold, senior)

TROY – Whitten, Caprella, Hendricks, Hugentobler; Cael Bey (Versailles, junior)

Unlike the weights immediately above and below, which look to be coronations for the wrestler from Genoa, this weight class has a rather open four person battle for gold. At the head of that is returning state champion Burgard. The senior from Asthabula St. John was champion at Lima CC (over Whitten), runner-up at Solon, and fourth at Top Gun in this weight while placing seventh at Brecksville up a weight class.

His most direct challenge will come from Morgillo, who lost 8-6 to Burgard last year in the state semifinal as a sophomore; a meeting between the two would happen on Saturday night barring an upset

for either at district. Morgillo's season includes finishing second at Medina and first at Perrysburg, along with going 2-2 at Ironman (both losses to nationally ranked wrestlers). While the other two primary contenders are a pair of seniors in returning state placer Caprella and Whitten, who both exit the Troy district.

Caprella was fifth at state in this weight last year after entering the state semifinal match with an undefeated 42-0 record. He already has two regular season losses this year, 6-5 to Terry in the Defiance final and 4-3 to Whitten in the Lima CC semi; Caprella also has three tournament titles up at 152 and a title at the CIT in this weight class. Whitten competed for Division I Stebbins last year, but did not complete the season, and transferred to Troy Christian; this season includes a third at GMVWA, second at Lima CC, along with titles at Licking Valley and Western Brown. Two other ranked wrestlers are present at this district, returning state placer Hendricks and 2017 state qualifier Hugentobler. Hendricks was champion at Xenia and Beavercreek, while placing seventh at GMVWA and fourth at Lima CC; Hugentobler was champion at Middletown Madison and Madeira before advancing to the finals at Sycamore.

Burgard heads a district at Garfield Hts. that features three additional top eight ranked wrestlers. The junior Marthey has qualified for state in each of his previous two seasons, while this year he has a pair of overtime wins over returning Division II state placers and was one match from placing at the Top Gun. Rowland placed eighth last year at 132 pounds as a junior, and this season was runner-up at Nelsonville-York to Hursey while also beating state qualifier Barrick 2-0 in a dual meet. The junior Tracy has three tournament titles to go with a third at Marion Harding and fourth at the Gorman.

Morgillo is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Lakota, two of whom are freshmen. Returning Junior High state champion Slone was champion at Milan Edison and one match from placing at Brecksville, along with pinning Barrick in a late January dual meet; while Endicott went 2-2 at Brecksville and placed sixth at Perrysburg. Also ranked is returning state alternate Swicegood, who has placed at four tournaments in this his senior season, most notably third at Perrysburg with a win over Endicott.

The remaining four ranked wrestlers exit the Buckeye Local district, a group led by two-time state qualifier Barrick, who was fifth at Barnesville and champion at Waterloo. Returning state placer Winegarner was fourth at Barnesville, as well as finishing runner-up at Tri-Valley and New Lexington. The senior Halko was a state alternate in this weight last year, was runner-up at Grandview Hts. along with titles at East Knox and Central Crossing; while fellow senior Martinez was state alternate at 160 last year, and this year was champion at Big Walnut up at 152 before placing fourth at the Gorman and third at the Sally George.

152 pounds

1. Kevin Contos, Genoa, junior (Lakota)
2. Ryan Marvin, Swanton, senior (Lakota)
3. Brennan Shirley, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts.)
4. Kerington Martin, Covington, senior (Troy)
5. Billy Luft, Newark Catholic, senior (Buckeye Local)
6. Beau Lefever, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts.)
7. Dylan Schenck, Milton-Union, senior (Troy)
8. Tyler Kay, Liberty Center, senior (Lakota)
9. Clayton Schirmer, Blanchester, senior (Troy)
10. Nick Skye, Mogadore, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)

11. Andrew Knaup, West Muskingum, junior (Buckeye Local)
12. Carlton Roberts, Rossford, junior (Lakota)
13. Noah Inboden, Nelsonville-York, junior (Buckeye Local)
14. Peyton Lemon, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts.)
15. D.J. Slone, Willard, junior (Lakota)
16. Wyatt Miller, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Lakota)

BL – Luft, Knaup, Inboden, Coltin Meek (Newcomerstown, sophomore); Brady Crum (Union Local, sophomore)

GH – Shirley, Lefever, Skye, Lemon; Donovan Palmer (Lutheran West, sophomore)

LAK – Contos, Marvin, Kay, Roberts; Slone, Miller

TROY – Martin, Schenck, Schirmer, Travis Howard (Preble Shawnee, sophomore); Dalton Metzger (Adena, junior)

Being a district champion and state semifinalist in Division I at 152 pounds as a freshman is normally an indicator of big things to come. For the junior Contos, that validation has come, but it was a bit delayed. He transferred from Oregon Clay to Genoa before the start of his sophomore season, so he had to sit out the first half, while navigating through an injury made peak performance not realistic. Even so, he still almost got to the state tournament, just losing 3-2 in the quarterfinal and 6-3 in the consolation semifinal.

With a full off-season in place to get everything in order, Contos has been locked in this season. He was one match away from placing at the Ironman and picked up tournament titles at Medina and Perrysburg. Season to date, he has beaten at least four returning/previous state medalists. Five additional ranked wrestlers are after the other three state spots at the Lakota district.

Marvin, eighth last year at 160, is one of just two wrestlers that placed in the 2018 state tournament expected to compete at this weight class. His current season includes a runner-up finish at Defiance along with titles at Van Buren and Lima CC. Fellow senior Kay was a go-to-state match loser last year at 145 pounds, and this season has a 6-1 dual meet win over Marvin as well as placing fifth at Marion Harding, fourth at Perrysburg, and winning the Sally George. Roberts qualified for state in this weight last year as a sophomore; this season he has two tournament titles at 160, a third at Marion Harding in that weight class, before dropping down to this weight and lacing eighth at Perrysburg. The junior Slone was a go-to-state match loser last year at 160, and was champion in that weight class at Loudonville and Mapleton before taking second at Lima Senior in this weight; while the sophomore Miller was runner-up at 160 early on at Bellevue before placing sixth in this weight at both Medina and Perrysburg.

The other state placer in this field from last year is Luft, who was sixth in this weight as a junior. He went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing second at Licking Valley, winning the CIT, and taking third at Lima CC. Another pair of wrestlers join him in the rankings at the Buckeye Local district. The junior Knaup was champion at Grandview Hts. down a weight, while at this weight he placed third at Barnesville and New Lexington as well as runner-up at Tri-Valley. Two-time state qualifier Inboden placed in 2017 as a freshman, and his current season includes two tournament titles, three runner-up finishes (including at GMVWA), and a fifth at Lima CC. Also in this weight class is returning state qualifier Meek.

Returning state qualifier Shirley leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at Garfield Hts. On the season, Shirley was one match from placing at Brecksville, including a win over Luft, while he also finished runner-up at Top Gun. Another returning state qualifier is the senior Lefever, who has two tournament

titles along with runner-up finishes at Marion Harding and the Gorman; while the sophomore Skye is a third with state tournament participation, and this season includes finishing first at Waterloo, sixth at Bill Dies, and runner-up at the Hephner. The freshman Lemon is also ranked here, he was champion at Cuyahoga Hts., seventh at the Grizzly Invitational, and upset returning state placer Ryder 4-2 at regional duals.

A group of three returning seniors, all state qualifiers round out the rankings at this weight class; they all exit the Troy district. The senior Martin was third at GMVWA, champion at Troy, and runner-up at Lima CC; Schenck was fourth at GMVWA and champion at three other tournaments, most notably at Eaton; while Schirmer was runner-up at Madeira, champion at Sycamore, and fourth at Lima CC.

160 pounds

1. James Limongi, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
2. T.J. Rhamy, Patrick Henry, junior (Lakota)
3. Trevor Franks, Lakota, junior (Lakota)
4. Brady Jaso, Gibsonbug, senior (Lakota)
5. Seth Henderson, Miami Valley Christian Academy, senior (Troy)
6. Kyle Ryder, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts.)
7. Mason Kuneff, Bridgeport, senior (Buckeye Local)
8. Hayden Pummel, Indian Lake, sophomore (Troy)
9. Ethan Ducca, Ashtabula St. John, junior (Garfield Hts.)
10. Chris Anderson, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
11. Kasyn Schaffner, Archbold, senior (Lakota)
12. Zion Matlock, Youngstown Liberty, senior (Garfield Hts.)
13. Cody Albaugh, Bellaire, junior (Buckeye Local)
14. Clayton Baglia, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts.)
15. Dylan Burns, Covington, senior (Troy)
16. Wyatt Stabler, Wayne Trace, senior (Troy)

BL – Kuneff, Albaugh, Chase Goff (Martins Ferry, sophomore), Bryce Keckley (West Jefferson, freshman); Andrew McFee (West Muskingum, junior)

GH – Ryder, Ducca, Anderson, Matlock; Baglia

LAK – Limongi, Rhamy, Franks, Jaso, Schaffner

TROY – Henderson, Pummel, Franks, Stabler; Deontae Davis (Cory Rawson, junior)

Two years ago Limongi won the state title in this weight class as a sophomore with a 1-0 victory over Lance Miller of Covington in the state final. He was one of three Comets champions out of four finalists on that Saturday evening, all of whom happen to be competing this year as well. Last year he was upset 3-1 by Santino Kusic in the state quarterfinal round at this weight class, but would reverse that loss with a 2-0 victory in the third place bout. Limongi missed the first month of this season, but returned to win the title at Perrysburg, and also has a 3-2 dual meet victory over returning Division II state placer Hernandez.

Four additional ranked wrestlers are present at the Lakota district, including three that are returning state tournament participants. Rhamy placed sixth last year at 170 pounds in his sophomore season, but is down here this year where he was runner-up at Defiance and Lima CC, champion at Woodmore, and fifth at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Franks qualified for state last year at 152 pounds, and this year was champion at Bucyrus, Van Buren, and Lima CC while taking third at Perrysburg. The senior Jaso qualified

for state last year in this weight class, while this season missed placement at Perrysburg by one match before finishing runner-up at Van Buren. Fellow senior Schaffner placed fifth at Defiance, has a dual meet loss to Rhamy, but has a dual meet win over returning state qualifier Murphy.

The senior Henderson, a two-time state qualifier in this weight class, leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at the Troy district. His season to date features placing fifth at SWOWCA, second at Valley, along with championships at Sycamore and Milford. The talented sophomore Pummel is next having won titles at DeSales and Milton Union, while placing third at Defiance and seventh at Maumee Bay. The senior Burns missed placement by one match at the GMVWA before placing fourth at Troy and Lima CC; while fellow senior Stabler was champion at Arcadia, missed placing by one match at Defiance and Lima CC, and finished third at both Troy and Van Buren.

Two-time state qualifier Ryder, fifth last year at 152 as a junior, is one of four ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts. district. The junior Ducca competed at Chardon his first two years, where he was a district semifinalist as a freshman when the Hilltoppers were a Division I school; this year he was third at Solon and Lima CC, while winning a title at Perry Pin City and finishing seventh at Top Gun. The sophomore Anderson placed seventh at the Bill Dies and fifth at the Hephner; while the senior Matlock has two tournament titles to go with a second at Loudonville, third at the EOWL, and fourth at the Hephner.

Rounding it out is two ranked wrestlers at the Buckeye Local district, led by two-time state qualifier Kuneff who has titles at Union Local and Waterloo to go with a 3-2 performance at Brecksville and a fourth at the OVAC. Also ranked is the junior Albaugh, who was eighth at the OVAC and third at Watkins Memorial. Falling outside the rankings, but at this district tournament, is returning state qualifier McFee.

170 pounds

1. David Cumberledge, Ashtabula St. John, junior (Garfield Hts.)
2. Brad Mendoza, Gibsonburg, senior (Lakota)
3. Santino Kusic, Bridgeport, senior (Buckeye Local)
4. Conor Becker, Northmor, junior (Buckeye Local)
5. Sevi Garza, Rittman, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
6. Caden Brown, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Lakota)
7. Clayton Takacs, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts.)
8. Devin Oligee, Middletown Madison, sophomore (Troy)
9. Garrett Wright, Elmwood, senior (Lakota)
10. John Cline, East Clinton, junior (Troy)
11. Gavin Davis, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts.)
12. Tyler Gigandet, Versailles, senior (Troy)
13. Jacob Stewart, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
14. Duncan Cooper, Covington, sophomore (Troy)
15. Micah Hershberger, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts.)
16. Logan Korpics, Cory Rawson, senior (Troy)

BL – Kusic, Becker, Gavin Baisden (Marion Pleasant, senior), Noah Love (Tuscarawas Valley, junior);
Joshua Newell (Sandy Valley, senior)

GH – Cumberledge, Garza, Takacs, Davis; Hershberger

LAK – Mendoza, Brown, Wright, Stewart; Sam Meyer (Norwalk St. Paul, senior)

TROY – Oligee, Cline, Gigandet, Cooper; Korpics

Things are very top heavy in this weight class with five returning state placers, four finishing in the top four last year, but no other projected participant with state tournament experience. The highest returning placer is Cumberledge, who was runner-up at 152 as a sophomore after poor district Saturday the previous year relegated the 2016 Junior High state champ to a state alternate finish at 160. During the fall season, Cumberledge was a two-way player (including QB on offense) and led his team to a playoff spot in Division VII.

Most of the season has been at this weight class, where he was one match from placing at the Ironman, champion at Perry Pin City and Lima CC, along with runner-up at the Top Gun. He competed down at 160 for Brecksville, where he placed fourth, but more likely than not 170 is in the cards (which enables Ducca to stay down at 160). Four other ranked wrestlers join Cumberledge at the Garfield Hts. district, including Garza, who placed seventh at 160 last year as a freshman.

Garza's sophomore season includes titles at the Wayne Invitational, Loudonville, and Berkshire. Takacs was state alternate last year at 160 as a junior, while this year he was runner-up at Pin City and EOWL before finishing fourth at Top Gun. The junior Davis was also a go-to-state match loser last year at 160, while fellow junior Hershberger was champion at Cuyahoga Hts. and fifth at the Grizzly Invitational.

A pair of returning state placers, Kusic and Becker, are the lone ranked wrestlers at the Buckeye Local district. The senior Kusic was champion at Union Local and Waterloo before extending Smith to overtime in a loss at the OVAC final; while the junior Becker was champion at Big Walnut at the Sally George, along with runner-up finishes at both Medina and the Gorman.

The senior Mendoza has lost in the state semifinal round at this weight class the last two years, battling it back to third place this past year. His current season includes a runner-up finish at Perrysburg and a title at Van Buren. Three additional ranked wrestlers will join him at the Lakota district. The junior Brown placed fourth up a weight class at Defiance in late December, before coming into this weight to win the title at Woodmore and take second at Lima CC; Wright missed placing at Brecksville by one match before taking fifth at Perrysburg then second at Van Buren; while Stewart, the senior from Genoa, rounds out the ranked contingent.

Lastly it's the district at Troy that features five ranked wrestlers, none with state experience, but two that lost in go-to-state bouts last year (Oligee and Cline). The sophomore Oligee has four tournament titles this year, while the junior Cline has three tournament titles along with taking eighth at SWOWCA. The senior Gigandet has two tournament titles and a fifth place finish at Valley View; the sophomore Cooper was champion at Troy, missed placing at Valley View by one match, and was third at Lima CC; while the senior Korpics started the season at 182 before dropping into this weight class to finish fourth at Lima CC.

182 pounds

- 1. Deandre Nassar, Bluffton, senior (Troy)*
- 2. Chris Langguth, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts.)*
- 3. Danny Rosales, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Troy)*
- 4. Brylan Clouse, Barnesville, senior (Buckeye Local)*
- 5. Tanner May, Carey, junior (Lakota)*
- 6. Craig Montgomery, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)*
- 7. Doug Byrne, Wickliffe, senior (Garfield Hts.)*
- 8. Kaden Kidd, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)*

9. Tristan Bush, Johnstown Monroe, senior (Buckeye Local)
10. Kaleb Leeth, Mohawk, sophomore (Lakota)
11. Chase Dyer, Brookville, junior (Troy)
12. Antonio Quezada, Genoa, junior (Lakota)
13. Hunter Morris, Southern Local, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
14. Richard McFarland, Martins Ferry, junior (Buckeye Local)
15. Eric Weber, Bidwell River Valley, senior (Troy)
16. Chris Cox-Wilson, North Union, senior (Buckeye Local)
17. Mason Babcock, Archbold, junior (Lakota)

BL – Clouse, Bush, McFarland, Cox-Wilson; Shayne Christian (Buckeye Local, senior)

GH – Langguth, Byrne, Kidd, Norris; Mike McKale (Newbury, senior)

LAK – May, Leeth, Quezada, Babcock; Austin Cole (Northwood, junior)

TROY – Nassar, Rosales, Montgomery, Dyer, Weber; Gavin McReynolds (Covington, senior)

This weight class and the next one (Division III, 195 pounds) are pretty similar in their surface level profile, four returning state placers and nine state qualifiers. The top two wrestlers in this weight carry similar profiles at the surface, they both took fourth at state last year as juniors, losing to the eventual runner-up in the state semifinal round by one point before losing in the consolation final to the projected state champion.

Competing at 195, Nassar beat Boyle (the projected 220 pound champ from Rootstown) 10-3 in the quarters before losing 5-4 to Dylan Hinton in the semifinal, while in this weight class Rootstown's Langguth lost 4-3 to Sam Stoll in the semifinal. Then in the consolation final, Dalton Hoover beat Nassar 6-1 and Logan Stanley pinned Langguth in the second period.

Given the top of 195 this year, I am surprised one of these two does not move up in weight class. In some ways, one of the next level contenders might ponder such a move, unless they feel that size would be an issue.

Nassar exits the Troy district, one that also features returning state placer Rosales, who was seventh at 170 last year as a junior. Rosales competed one weight class below fellow Ottawa Glandorf wrestler Daniel Beemer, who won state at 182 to become their school's first state champion. This season includes runner-up finishes to Nassar in three tournaments (overtime losses at Defiance and Van Buren, before an 8-2 loss at Lima CC). Three more ranked wrestlers feature at this district: returning state qualifier Montgomery, the junior Dyer, and the senior Weber.

Montgomery won a state tournament match last year at 170 as a sophomore, while this year he started up at the 195 pound weight class placing seventh at GMVWA and second at Licking Valley; down in this weight class, he was runner-up at Western Brown and fourth at Lima CC. Dyer also started at 195, winning at Trenton Edgewood then taking eighth at GMVWA, while in this weight he was champion at Milton-Union and second at Miami Trace. Weber's season includes runner-up finishes at Jackson and Nelsonville-York, a title at Gallia, and a sixth at New Lexington.

The other returning state placer is May, who has placed at state each of his prior two high school seasons, fifth at 170 last year and sixth in this weight the year before. His current season includes a title at Bellevue, making it to the semifinals at Van Buren, and placing third at Lima CC losing 4-3 to Rosales in the semifinal). He exits the district at Lakota, which features three additional ranked wrestlers. The

sophomore Leeth beat May 6-2 at regional duals, but has a couple dual meet losses to lesser opposition; while in tournaments he was runner-up at 195 at Northwood, and then in this weight fourth at Perrysburg and a semifinalist at Van Buren. The junior Quezada was at 170 for part of this season, where he was one match from placing at Medina and seventh at Perrysburg; while in this weight he was runner-up to May at Bellevue opening weekend, and more recently went 9-1 in contested matches at the Napoleon and SMCC Duals. Returning state qualifier Babcock was one match from placing at Defiance in late December.

For Langguth, he is matched with three additional ranked wrestlers in district competition at Garfield Hts. Fellow senior Byrne was runner-up at Kenston, fifth at the Bill Dies, and champion at Berkshire despite competing for a school with about five total kids on its team. Kidd made state last year at 170 pounds as a freshman, while this year he was champion at Xenia, sixth at Medina, and fourth at the Bill Dies despite losing 7-2 to Byrne in the quarterfinal; he also pinned Leeth in a late January dual meet. The sophomore Morris was fifth at Beaver Local and fourth at the OVAC.

It's a group of four ranked wrestlers at Buckeye Local, led by 2017 state alternate Clouse, who went a disappointing 2-2 at district last year as a junior in the 160 pound weight class. His current season includes placing third at the OVAC and winning the title at New Lexington when he beat Vanmeter in overtime. Returning state alternate Bush was fifth at Tri-Valley before winning titles at Sheridan and Utica. McFarland qualified for state at 170 last year as a sophomore, while this year he was fourth at Barnesville and fifth at the OVAC; while Cox-Wilson made state in this weight last year as a junior, and this year took fourth at Nelsonville-York before winning titles at North Union and the Sally George.

195 pounds

Deandre Nassar, Bluffton, senior (Troy)

1. Jake Loar, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts.)
2. Caleb Carpenter, Liberty Center, senior (Lakota)
3. Wil Morrow, Patrick Henry, junior (Lakota)
4. Drake Dobson, Martins Ferry, senior (Buckeye Local)
5. Garrett Neth, Allen East, junior (Troy)
6. Levi Morris, Greenon, senior (Troy)
7. Jake Sage, Oak Harbor, senior (Lakota)
8. Jacob Brewer, Milan Edson, junior (Lakota)
9. Isaac Grillot, Versailles, junior (Troy)
10. Brian Martin, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
11. Major Stratton, West Liberty-Salem, senior (Troy)
12. Nathan Whitehead, Columbiana, senior (Garfield Hts.)
13. Sam Lowe, Southern Local, sophomore (Garfield Hts.)
14. Quinton Brown, Middletown Madison, junior (Troy)
15. Mitch Sanders, Newbury, junior (Garfield Hts.)
16. Matt Schmersal, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Troy)

BL – Dobson, Ian Joyce (Trimble, junior), Wyatt Moyer (Sandy Valley, freshman), Jordan Sanders (Newcomerstown, sophomore); TBD

GH – Loar, Whitehead, Love, Sanders, Logan Penix (Mogadore, senior)

LAK – Carpenter, Morrow, Sage, Brewer; Martin

TROY – Nassar, Neth, Morrison, Grillot, Stratton; Brown, Schmersal

The four returning state medalists in this weight class all placed between sixth and eight last year in varying weight classes. It's led by a pair of wrestlers who took sixth last year as juniors, Loar at 182 and Carpenter at 220. Projected to win state is Loar, whose tournament placings this year were sixth at Brecksville and fifth at Top Gun.

The other three returning state placers all exit out of the Lakota district. Carpenter qualified for state as a freshman and sophomore in this weight class before taking sixth last year at 220 pounds. This season includes titles at Perrysburg and the Sally George. Morrow qualified for state at 182 each of his first two high school seasons, including a seventh place finish last year; this season includes titles at Defiance, Woodmore, and Van Buren along with finishing second at Maumee Bay. Sage was eighth in this weight last year as a junior, was champion at Woodmore up at 220, has placed fifth in two tournaments (Bellevue at 220 and Perrysburg in this weight class), along with missing placement at Maumee Bay by one match in this weight.

There are two other ranked wrestlers at the Lakota district, the junior Brewer and the senior Martin. Brewer pinned Martin in a late January dual meet, while losing 3-1 to Carpenter at the regional duals. Martin was champion up a weight class at Bellevue, and then in this weight class placed third at Perrysburg after going 0-2 at Medina.

Congestion is abound at Troy, where there are two returning state qualifiers among the six ranked wrestlers; a third returning state qualifier (Gage Kerrigan, Covington, junior) competes for a school in this district, but he is most likely done for the year due to injury. Returning state qualifier Neth leads this group, and his season features a title at Van Buren along with finishing runner-up at Lima CC. The senior Morrison also won a state tournament bout last year, and this year took third at Xenia before earning titles at McClain and Benjamin Logan.

The junior Grillot was champion this year at Sidney and Central Crossing, while also placing sixth at GMVWA and second at Valley View. Stratton was state alternate in this weight last year as a junior, and this season was champion at Milton-Union also finishing sixth at Perrysburg and third at Lima CC. Brown was state alternate last year at 182 as a sophomore, and this year has titles at Middletown Madison and Bellbrook to go with a fourth at Miami Trace. Lastly Schmersal was a go-to-state match loser in this weight last year as a junior, and this year was third at Defiance before taking fourth at Van Buren and Lima CC.

Circling back to Loar, three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Garfield Hts. district. Whitehead did not wrestle last year after winning a district match as a sophomore, and this year was runner-up at Kenston before taking fourth at the EOWL. Lowe was a go-to-state match loser last year in this weight class at Division II Beaver Local, and this year was runner-up at the Beaver Local tournament before finishing eighth at OVAC; while Sanders was a go-to-state match loser in this district weight last year as a sophomore, and this year won titles at Hawken and Waterloo before finishing third at Kenston and fifth at the EOWL.

Lastly there exists just one ranked wrestler and not much overall depth at the Buckeye Local district. Dodson won a state tournament match last year at 182 pounds as a junior, while this season features titles at Barnesville and New Lexington sandwiched around a third at the OVAC.

220 pounds

1. Hudson Jump, Grandview Hts., senior (Buckeye Local)

2. Ryan Boyle, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts.)
3. Nick Baker, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
4. Brenden Dalton, Miami East, senior (Troy)
5. Kaleb Snodgrass, Van Buren, junior (Lakota)
6. Austin Kohlhofer, Delta, freshman (Lakota)
7. Hunter Braithwaite, West Jefferson, senior (Buckeye Local)
8. Dylan Sargent, Columbus Grove, junior (Troy)
9. Will Bechstein, Elmwood, junior (Lakota)
10. Anthony Czap, South Range, junior (Garfield Hts.)
11. James Peters, Blanchester, junior (Troy)
12. Dalton Rice, Shenandoah, senior (Buckeye Local)
13. Zac Cesario, Buckeye Local, junior (Buckeye Local)
14. Dylan Thompson, North Union, senior (Buckeye Local)
15. Cole Maxson, Huntington, junior (Troy)
16. Luke Clymer, Independence, junior (Garfield Hts.)

BL – Jump, Braithwaite, Rice, Cesario; Thompson

GH – Boyle, Czap, Clymer, Justin Bell (Columbia, senior); Joe Connors (Cuyahoga Hts., junior)

LAK – Snodgrass, Kohlhofer, Bechstein, Travis Degler (Defiance Ayersville, senior); Alex Duran (Genoa, senior)

TROY – Baker, Dalton, Sargent, Peters; Maxson

One of the more underappreciated talents statewide is the Grandview Hts. senior Jump, who has placed three times at the state tournament in weight classes at or above 182 pounds, including his state title last year at 195 pounds. His state tournament run last year featured a 5-0 decision, two pins early in the second period, and a 9-0 major decision in the championship match; at the district level it was two pins, a 6-5 semifinal win over Dalton Hoover (who was runner-up at NHSCA Senior Nationals in the 220 weight class subsequent to last year's state tournament), and a technical fall in the final. Jump dominated his way to titles at Medina and Top Gun this season; four pins and a major decision in the final of Medina, while at Top Gun it was three technical falls and a pin (the technical falls in the semifinal and final coming against returning state qualifiers).

The most direct challenger to will come from the senior Boyle, a two-time state placer. He has titles at Kenston and the Hephner, along with finishing fourth at the Beast (both losses coming by one point to nationally ranked out-of-state opponents) and runner-up at the Bill Dies losing to Stein in overtime. Only two ranked wrestlers join Boyle at Garfield Hts. for district competition. Czap was a state alternate two years ago as a freshman, while this season features titles at three tournaments along with finishing fourth at the EOWL and fifth at the Hephner. Fellow junior Clymer did not place at North Coast, was fifth at Waterloo, and champion at the CVC.

Wrestlers ranked third and fourth in this weight class, returning state alternate Baker and returning state qualifier Dalton, exit the Troy district along with three other ranked wrestlers. The senior Baker was one match from placing at the GMVWA before winning titles at Licking Valley, Western Brown, and Lima CC (where he pinned Dalton in the final). Fellow senior Dalton won a state tournament bout in this weight class last year, and his current season includes a third at Troy and second place at Lima CC. Sargeant qualified for state in this weight class last year as a sophomore, while his current season includes two tournament titles, a fifth at Defiance, and quarterfinal appearance at Lima CC. Fellow

junior Peters was champion at Madeira and Sycamore before finishing third at Lima CC, while the junior Maxson has titles at Clear Fork and Huntington.

Going back to Jump, there are five total ranked wrestlers at Buckeye Local (i.e. four in addition to Jump). That group is led by the senior Braithwaite, a returning state qualifier in this weight class; his current season features titles at West Jefferson and Nelsonville-York. The senior Rice placed third at Union Local, fifth at Barnesville, and seventh at the OVAC. Cesario was a go-to-state match loser at 195 last year as a sophomore, and this year was runner-up at Union Local, sixth at Barnesville, and seventh at the OVAC; while the senior Thompson is a returning state qualifier, finishing third this year at Nelsonville-York up at 285 before dropping into this weight to take second at North Union and fifth at the Sally George.

Rounding it out is a group of three ranked wrestlers at Lakota, led by the junior Snodgrass who was third at Arcadia and runner-up at Woodmore before winning titles at Perrysburg and Van Buren. The freshman Kohlhofer placed third at Olentangy Liberty and Perrysburg, while finishing runner-up at Medina and being one match from placement at Maumee Bay. Rounding it out is the junior Bechstein, who went 2-2 at Brecksville before placing fourth at Perrysburg and third at Van Buren.

285 pounds

1. Noah Price, Fremont SJCC, senior (Lakota)
2. Noah Koch, Genoa, senior (Lakota)
3. Donovan McCollister, Nelsonville-York, senior (Buckeye Local)
4. Caden Hill, Ashland Crestview, junior (Lakota)
5. Kain Brossia, Elmwood, senior (Lakota)
6. Liam Kirkpatrick, Newark Catholic, senior (Buckeye Local)
7. Chet Loar, West Jefferson, senior (Buckeye Local)
8. Joe Warren, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts.)
9. Jeff Meyer, Columbus Grove, sophomore (Troy)
10. Ryan Elrod, Ashtabula St. John, freshman (Garfield Hts.)
11. Raven Brant, Willard, senior (Lakota)
12. Dalton Richard, Delta, senior (Lakota)
13. Jacob Backhaus, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Lakota)
14. John Hill, Arcadia, senior (Lakota)
15. Brennan Davies, Allen East, junior (Troy)
16. *Ty Stevenson, Preble Shawnee, junior (Troy)*
17. William Lindsey, Hawken, junior (Garfield Hts.)

BL – McCollister, Kirkpatrick, Lohr, Billy Reed-Bodey (Fairbanks, sophomore); Sheldon Harter (West Muskingum, senior)

GH – Warren, Elrod, Lindsey, Coddie Phillips (Orrville, junior); Simi Moananu (Youngstown Liberty, junior)

LAK – Price, Koch, C. Hill, Brossia; Brant, Richard, Backhaus, J. Hill

TROY – Meyer, Davies, *Stevenson*, Hunter Ross (Milton-Union, senior), Jon Mitchell (Brookville, junior); Chase Jordan (Greeneview, senior)

The district at Lakota in this weight class is absurdly loaded, as it is led by two wrestlers that placed third at state last year. Also featured in the district are two other wrestlers ranked within the top five of the

division plus four additional ranked wrestlers. The result is going to be one meatgrinder of a district weight class, one that could arguably be tougher than the state tournament itself.

Price placed third at 220 last year before finishing eighth in that weight at the NHSCA Junior Nationals. This season features no losses that I can detect, along with tournament titles at Northwood, Woodmore, Van Buren, and Lima CC; it includes wins over four of the next eight ranked wrestlers in this weight class. Price has yet to face the second ranked wrestler Koch, last year third place in this weight class, but they could see each other three straight weeks in championship bouts (sectional-district-state). Koch was third at Medina before winning gold at Perrysburg, and also has a win over projected Division II state placer Leroux.

The junior Hill of Crestview, a placer at the Ironman, and returning state qualifier Brossia are also in this district tournament. In addition to placing at Ironman, Hill was third at both the Gorman and Lima CC; while the senior Brossia placed third at Perrysburg and took second at Van Buren. Brant lost a go-to-state match in this weight last year as a junior, and this year has tournament titles at Loudonville and Lima Senior. Richard qualified for state at 220 last year as a junior, this year winning the title at Olentangy Liberty before fifth place finishes at Medina and Maumee Bay, sandwiched by a fourth at Perrysburg. Fellow senior Backhaus was champion at Findlay and sixth at Defiance, with dual meet losses coming against Koch and Brossia; while fellow senior Hill of Fairview was champion at Arcadia, second at Findlay, along with placing third at Woodmore and Van Buren.

Returning state fifth at 220 McCollister is the lone top five ranked wrestler not from the Lakota district. His current season includes titles in four tournaments, along with placing fourth at the GMVWA and second at Lima CC (4-2 loss to Price). It's two additional ranked wrestlers present at Buckeye Local, the seniors Kirkpatrick and Lohr. Returning state alternate Kirkpatrick has titles at the Kilted Classic and Licking Valley to go with a seventh at Brecksville, as well as fourth place finishes at CIT and Lima CC. Lohr has titles at Xenia and West Jefferson to go with a runner-up finish at Nelsonville-York.

The senior Warren is the fourth and final returning state placer in this field, placing eight last year in his second state tournament appearance at this weight class. His current season includes two tournament titles, a runner-up finish at West Salem Northwestern, and a fourth at the Grizzly Invitational. The freshman Elrod's older brother Derek was a state finalist last year, losing in overtime to eventual state champion Brian Stears before sliding back to sixth; Ryan's current season includes a runner-up finish at Solon before missing placement at Brecksville and Top Gun by one bout. The junior Lindsey was champion at Hawken, Waterloo, and Berkshire along with taking third at the North Coast Classic.

Rounding it out is a group of two or three ranked wrestlers at the Troy district, led by Meyer who won a match in consolation last year in this state tournament weight class as a freshman. His current season includes a title at Milton Union, second place at Arcadia, along with fifth place finishes at Defiance, Van Buren, and Lima CC. The junior Davies was champion at Allen County, second at Sidney, fourth at Van Buren, and seventh at Lima CC; while Stevenson was a go-to-state match loser last year as a sophomore at 220 pounds, but has missed a good chunk of this season.

Team – based on a state scoring model per ranking position

1. Genoa (Lakota)
2. Rootstown (Garfield Hts.)
3. Troy Christian (Troy)
4. Tuslaw (Garfield Hts.)

5. Delta (Lakota)
6. Milan Edison (Lakota)
7. Ashtabula St. John (Garfield Hts.)
8. Legacy Christian (Troy)
9. Covington (Troy)
10. Oak Harbor (Lakota)