

## **Introduction**

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

Last year ended a stretch of seven straight years, and 13 in 14, where there was a wrestler seeking to win their fourth state title at the state tournament. This year there are a pair. One is Alex Marinelli (St. Paris Graham), who has unequivocally been the best wrestler in Ohio for the last two seasons. He is ranked as the No. 3 overall national prospect in the Class of 2016, and is a two-time champion of the Walsh Jesuit Ironman. The other is Tyler Warner (Claymont), whose state tournament journey has been murkier over the years, though it's ended atop of the podium on all three occasions.

Arguably the second best wrestler this year in the Buckeye State, behind Marinelli, is returning state champion Matt Stencel (Oregon Clay). The 220 pound wrestler is 31-0 as of the writing of this report with all wins coming by pin (28) or forfeit (3). The Junior Nationals double All-American, and 2014 Cadet Nationals double champion, has seen his prospect ranking improve to being within the top 15 overall in the Class of 2016.

The presence of 22 returning state champions, which increases to 24 if you count those titles won in a year prior to 2015, is a rather high number relative to recent years (2015 had 18 defending and/or previous state champs, 2014 had 21, 2013 had 17, 2012 had 24). That reflects last year's relatively weak senior class, and also the individual talent present in the Buckeye State this year across all grade levels.

There is more top end individual talent in Ohio than there was last year, with five individuals ranked among the top five in their weight class nationally from the InterMat rankings as of January 27<sup>th</sup>. That number is tied for fifth most among any state, with California; leading the way are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Illinois (California also has five). There is also no number one wrestler; David Carr (Massillon Perry) and Marinelli are ranked second; Ben Darmstadt (Elyria), Stencel, and Kevin Vough (Elyria) are ranked third.

From a team race standpoint, Division I is the one to follow, as three nationally ranked teams anchor the field: St. Edward, Elyria, and Olentangy Liberty; presuming all components present, Brecksville could make a dent into that top three as well. Division II is the domain of St. Paris Graham, as the Falcons are prohibitively favored to win a 16<sup>th</sup> straight state title in the individual tournament. Within Division III, nationally ranked Delta is the favorite, with an interesting battle for second between southwest district teams Mechanicsburg and Dayton Christian.

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

2004- DI 8/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10/14 (TOTAL = 28)

2005- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 3(or4)/14 (TOTAL = 21 or 22)

2006- DI 10/14, DII 9/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 26 or 27)

2007- DI 10/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)

2008- DI 9/14, DII 8/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 26)

2009- DI 12/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 30)

2010- DI 9/14, DII 10/14, DIII 10(or11)/14 (TOTAL = 29 or 30)

2011- DI 8(or9)/14, DII 8/14, DIII 11/14 (TOTAL = 27 or 28)  
2012- DI 11/14, DII 10/14, DIII 7(or8)/14 (TOTAL = 28 or 29)  
2013- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)  
2014- DI 9/14, DII 9/14, DIII 9/14 (TOTAL = 27)  
2015- DI 5/14, DII 10/14, DIII 13/14 (TOTAL = 28)

Where were the other champs ranked? (note this may not be perfect):  
2<sup>nd</sup>- 86, 3<sup>rd</sup>- 41, 4<sup>th</sup>- 19, 5<sup>th</sup>- 11, 6<sup>th</sup>- 2, 7<sup>th</sup>- 3, 8<sup>th</sup>- 3, 9<sup>th</sup>- 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1, >10- 4

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

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

Please note that this report is a reflection of the information acquired based on wrestling through the weekend ending January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with updating done after the weekend of wrestling ending January 30<sup>th</sup>. Most of the Division I report was written Tuesday through Thursday, Division II was written Friday through Sunday, while Division III was written Sunday and Monday. Minor edits made towards end for major developments (i.e. weight class changes in DI and DII) from the January 30<sup>th</sup> weekend.

There are two more weeks left of wrestling in the regular season, most notably including the regional level of the state duals, conference tournaments, and the state duals on the calendar. Given the timing of this report, results from the initial regional layer of the state duals from this past week may or may not be captured in the ordinal rankings and/or commentary.

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

These are two predictions that I guarantee to be correct:

\*The state tournament will be staged at Value City Arena on the campus of Ohio State University March 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

## District Tournament Site Analysis

As this is the first year of the enrollment cycle, there are some significant changes within the district compositions, especially within Division II, and to a lesser extent within Division III.

The composition for Division I is basically the same: an all Northeast district (4 sectionals), a mixed Northeast (2 sectionals) and Northwest (2 sectionals) district, an all Central district (4 sectionals), and an all-Southwest district (4 sectionals).

There are significant changes within Division II, only the all Northeast district (4 sectionals) replicates last year. The district hosted by the Northwest features 3 Northwest sectionals and 1 Northeast sectional (instead of 2 NW, 1 NE, and 1 SW). As a result, the district hosted by the Southwest (which last year was hosted by the southeast) now features all three southwest sectionals along with a mixed Southwest/Southeast sectional. The district hosted by the East (which last year was hosted by the Central) now includes the all Southeast sectional to go with one Central sectional, one East sectional, and a mixed Central/East sectional held in the East. On the net, the NW picked up a sectional at the extent of the C/E.

Change is also present within Division III; however, two of the district tournaments remain virtually the same: an all Northeast district (4 sectionals) and an all Northwest district (4 sectionals). The district hosted in the Southwest features just two Southwest sectionals to go along with one of the Central sectionals and one Northwest sectional. Finally, the district hosted in the Central (last year was in the East), features the other Central sectional, two East sectionals, and one Southeast sectional. On the net, the Central picked up a sectional at the extent of the SW.

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

### DIV I - All Northeast (Mentor)

2015: 93-105, 47.0% (overall); 50-52, 49.0% (championship only); 19 (two-and-out)

2014: 107-99, 51.9%; 61-50, 55.0%; 19

2013: 120-101, 54.3%; 67-51, 56.8%; 10

2012: 120-96, 55.6%; 71-49, 59.2%; 10

### DIV I - Combined Northeast (2)/Northwest (2) <Perrysburg>

2015: 139-92, 60.2% (overall); 76-50, 60.3% (overall); 7 (two-and-out)

2014: 142-98, 59.2%; 57-53, 51.8%; 7

2013: 119-100, 54.3%; 62-52, 54.4%; 9

2012: 122-94, 56.5%; 65-51, 56.0%; 13

**Note** – The combined Northeast/Northwest configuration is the same, as it has been for the previous four years presented here. The Wadsworth (formerly Medina) sectional is joined by the Westlake (formerly Lorain) sectional in going to the combined district; while sectionals at Massillon Perry, Willoughby South, Kenston (formerly Austintown-Fitch), and Brecksville (formerly North Royalton) form the all Northeast district

DIV I - All Southwest (now Kettering Fairmont)

2015: 77-118, 39.5% (overall); 31-55, 36.0% (championship only); 21 (two-and-out)

2014: 83-110, 43.0%; 50-54, 48.1%; 16

2013: 91-111, 45.0%; 41-53, 43.6%; 19

2012: 99-117, 45.8%; 42-55, 43.3%; 9

DIV I - All Central (Hilliard Darby)

2015: 111-105, 51.4% (overall); 53-53, 50.0% (championship only); 9 (two-and-out)

2014: 88-113, 43.8%; 42-53, 44.2%; 14

2013: 90-108, 45.5%; 40-54, 42.6%; 18

2012: 79-113, 41.1%; 32-55, 36.8%; 24

DIV II - All Northeast (Alliance)

2015: 115-111, 50.9% (overall); 56-54 50.9% (championship only); 10 (two-and-out)

2014: 124-103, 54.6%; 60-52, 53.6%; 10

2013: 131-105, 55.5%; 63-51, 55.3%; 9

2012: 122-107, 53.3%; 54-53, 50.5%; 9

DIV II - Combined Central (1)/East (1)/Central & East (1)/Southeast (1) <now Claymont>

2015: 79-111, (overall); 33-53, 38.4% (championship only); 22 (two-and-out)

2014: 91-108, 45.7%; 45-53, 45.9%; 16

2013: 80-108, 42.6%; 37-55, 40.2%; 19

2012: 88-112, 44.0%; 41-56, 42.3%; 16

**NOTE:** All previous years had composition of Central (2)/East (2)

DIV II – primary Northwest district (now Fostoria)

2015: 113-104, 52.1% (overall); 55-53, 50.9% (championship only); 12 (two-and-out)

2014: 93-109, 46.0%; 53-53, 50.0%; 16

2013: 107-102, 51.2%; 57-52, 52.3%; 15

2012: 134-89, 60.0%; 87-48, 64.4%; 9

**NOTE:** 2012 had 2 NW sectional, 1 NE (some NW) sectional, 1 SW sectional (northern-most, included St. Paris Graham, et al); 2013-2015 had 2 NW sectional, 1 NE (some NW) sectional, 1 SW sectional (teams chose whether to attend NW or SW district). Composition this year is 3 NW, 1 NE.

DIV II – primary Southwest district (now Wilmington)

2015: 113-94, 54.6% (overall); 66-50, 56.9% (championship only); 12 (two-and-out)

2014: 112-100, 52.8%; 52-52, 50.0%; 14

2013: 102-105, 49.3%; 53-52, 50.5%; 13

2012: 76-112, 40.4%; 28-53, 34.6%; 22

**NOTE:** 2012 had 2 SW sectionals (Graham was not here), 1 all SE sectional, 1 SE (with some SW) sectional; 2013-2015 had 2 SW sectionals (one of which was a sectional involving teams with a choice between NW or SW district), 1 all SE sectional, 1 SE (with some SW) sectional; the composition this year is 3 SW sectionals, 1 SE (with some SW) sectional

DIV III - All Northeast (Garfield Hts)

2015: 106-121, 46.7% (overall); 41-54, 43.2% (championship only); 10 (two-and-out)

2014: 104-100, 51.0%; 59-50, 54.1%; 12

2013: 117-103, 53.2%; 59-51, 53.6%; 10

2012: 128-104, 55.2%; 57-53, 51.8%; 8

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

2015: 61-109, 35.9% (overall); 30-55, 35.3% (championship only); 25 (two-and-out)

2014: 68-118, 36.6%; 31-56, 35.6%; 19

2013: 104-109, 48.8%; 49-52, 48.5%; 13

2012: 84-110, 43.3%; 40-54, 42.6%; 18

DIV III - Combined Southwest (2)/Northwest (1)/Central (1) <now Troy>

**Note:** For the previous four years, it was 3 SW and 1 NW sectional, this year it's 2 SW sectionals, with the extra sectional coming from the Central

2015: 133-90, 59.6% (overall); 76-50, 60.3% (championship only); 11 (two-and-out)

2014: 117-97, 54.7%; 64-48, 57.1%; 14

2013: 109-100, 52.2%; 58-52, 52.7%; 18

2012: 99-99, 50.0%; 58-51, 53.2%; 15

DIV III - All Northwest (now Toledo Waite)

**Note:** In all years recorded here, it has been four of the five northwest sectionals present

2015: 120-100, (overall); 63-51, (championship only); 10 (two-and-out)

2014: 129-105, 55.1%; 55-55, 50.0%; 12

2013: 90-108, 45.5%; 44-55, 44.4%; 15

2012: 109-107, 50.5%; 55-52, 51.4%; 15

## Division I

### *106 pounds*

1. Brakan Mead, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Gio DiSabato, Hilliard Davidson, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
3. Bryce Andonian, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)
4. Gabe Tagg, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
5. Zach Shupp, Fairfield, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jake Canitano, Solon, freshman (Mentor)
7. Sam Glassco, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Jack Gorman, Aurora, freshman (Mentor)
9. Lucas Byrd, LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Joe Pascale, Troy, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Matt Zuckerman, Elyria, freshman (Perrysburg)
12. Andy Graham, Louisville, junior (Mentor)
13. Johnny Cracker, Mayfield, senior (Mentor)
14. Michael Shaw, Olmsted Falls, sophomore (Perrysburg)
15. Lucas Seibert, Westerville North, sophomore (Hilliard Davidson)
16. Oscar Sanatana, Glen Este, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Mead, DiSabato, Seibert, Justin Rodriguez (Whetstone, junior); Zach Williams (Delaware Hayes, freshman)

KF – Shupp, Glassco, Byrd, Pascale; Santana

MEN – Tagg, Canitano, Gorman, Graham; Cracker

PBG – Andonian, Zuckerman, Shaw, Brock Swartzbaugh (Wadsworth, senior); Kyle Ryan (Perrysburg, junior)

Though many view the opening weight class as a bastion for freshmen, just one has won the big-school state title in this weight class (be it 103 or 106) in the ten years prior to this one. That being Dean Heil of St. Edward back in 2010 on his way to becoming a four-time state champion. Though the top two ranked wrestlers are non-freshmen, there are just three total wrestlers in this weight class with state tournament experience, so the climate is rife for a freshman winner; duly noted is the presence of freshmen in six of the seven ranking spots behind the top two.

There are a couple of narratives that have run its course over the last few years about Central District wrestling in the big-school division (Hilliard Darby the host site). One of those is about it being the weak link within Division I statewide. That was the case five years ago to be sure, but it is clearly not the case today; for evidence look at the statistics showing year-to-year improvement from the Hilliard Darby district at the state tournament (minimizing two-and-outs, overall and championship only record). From another camp is the theory that the potential for five-plus state champs shows that it is a/the strong district; however, a counter-argument points to the number of weights where there is a paucity of ranked wrestlers (conversely a couple of weights have an abundance of ranked wrestlers, i.e. five-plus).

This weight class has it all encapsulated. The top two ranked wrestlers in this state weight class, returning state placers Mead and DiSabato, exit the district. However, they are joined by just one other ranked wrestler at the district tournament (Seibert in 15<sup>th</sup>). Mead, an unexpected runner-up last year in this state tournament weight class, is this year's favorite. He is undefeated in matches at this weight

class, winning titles at Olentangy Liberty, Brecksville, and Wadsworth; the lone loss came in an early round at the Bill Dies, while competing at 113 pounds, but was avenged in the third place bout.

DiSabato placed sixth at state last year, and has spent much of the year up a weight class, but won the title in this weight class at the West Jefferson Invitational between Christmas and New Year's. The sophomore Seibert was champion at the Tilted Kilt Classic and Licking Heights, while finishing sixth at Medina.

The two deepest district tournaments in this weight class are at Kettering Fairmont and Mentor, each has five ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Shupp, who has won three tournaments this season (SWOWCA, Kenston, and Fairfield) without a documented loss is the anchor at Kettering Fairmont. He is joined by the freshman Glassco, champion at Mason; another freshman in Byrd, champion at Top Gun; returning district placer Pascale, champion at Trenton Edgewood; and the senior Santana, runner-up at Mason in this weight after competing at 113 for much of the early season.

The freshman Tagg, a Cadet freestyle All-American and champion at the Bill Dies, anchors the field at Mentor; also on the season, he placed eighth at the Ironman and fifth at Brecksville. Next in line is fellow freshman Canitano, champion at Solon, North Coast Classic, and Maumee Bay. Another freshman Gorman is next with a title at Hudson, runner-up finish at Top Gun, and third place at Wadsworth. Upper classmen in Graham and Cracker, both of whom placed at the Top Gun and in at least one other major tournament this season, round it out.

Last on the board is our other shallow district, the one at Perrysburg, which is anchored by the freshman Andonian. He was one match from placing at the Ironman, including first day wins over Tagg and returning state champion Josh Venia, and beat Division II title contender Jordan Crace in a January dual meet. The other two ranked wrestlers at this site are outside the top nine statewide that have created slight separation on the field, and fit closer with the honorable mention wrestlers; therefore, the three state spots behind Andonian are very open for the taking.

#### *113 pounds*

1. Davione Edwards, Lorain, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Brandon Fenton, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
3. Coleton Chase, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Caleb Yates, Anthony Wayne, junior (Perrysburg)
5. Jarod Bronstrup, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
6. Jackson Lakso, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Matt Kazimir, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Jordan Ward, Moeller, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Logan Heil, Brunswick, freshman (Perrysburg)
10. Spencer Dusi, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
11. Matt Fields, Walsh Jesuit, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Chad Craft, Nortmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Cory Baird, Harrison, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jamien Hood, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Parker Brunkala, Mentor, junior (Mentor)
16. Noah Georgian, Kenston, senior (Mentor)
17. Gannon Petrullo, Dover, junior (Mentor)

HD – Chase, Lakso, Jakaria Hossan (Dublin Coffman, junior), William Harris (Tri-Valley, sophomore); Vu Nguyen (Pickerington Central, senior)

KF – Ward, Craft, Baird, Hood; Jabari Thomas (Fairfield, freshman)

MEN – Bronstrup, Dusi, Fields, Brunkala; Georgian, Petrullo

PBG – Edwards, Fenton, Yates, Kazimir; Heil, Matt McMillen (Wadsworth, junior)

A couple of things can be said about this weight class. First, there is a quantity of talent here, with twelve returning/previous state qualifiers plus two freshmen with high-level junior high resumes. The second, this is a wide open weight class. It's the residual of last year's 106 pound landscape in Division I once Zack Donathan failed to make weight at the state tournament (Donathan is at 126 this year).

The most talented wrestler in this weight class, and one with the most robust credentials, is the senior Edwards. Having placed third at state as a sophomore, he was seconds from a state finals appearance before a third caution during the ultimate tiebreaker condemned him to a semifinal loss to eventual state champion Yates. On the season, he has a title at the Maumee Bay Classic to go with a runner-up finish at Medina. Edwards anchors a very strong district tournament at Perrysburg that has four other top nine wrestlers, which means a potential state placer won't even get to Columbus.

Ranked second in this weight class is the sophomore Fenton, who placed seventh in this weight class last year. He went 1-2 at the Ironman in this weight class before moving up to 120 where he has been for subsequent competitions, including a fourth place finish at Brecksville and a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies; however, a return to this weight class is pending for the state series. State champion Yates has just won one tournament this season, that being at the J.C. Gorman; he went 3-2 at the Ironman, placed sixth at Brecksville, and fourth at the Maumee Bay Classic. The sophomore Kazimir is a returning state qualifier, who sustained an injury while extending nationally ranked Blair freshman Chris Cannon to overtime at the Ironman; he has not returned since, though a February return has been suggested. Rounding it out is the freshman Heil, who was champion at Solon with runner-up finishes at the Bill Dies and Central Crossing tournaments.

Showing the wide open nature of this weight class is the senior Chase, who placed seventh at state last year. Despite a head-on win over projected champion Edwards in the final at Medina, he is predicted to finish third at state in this weight class. Chase also anchors a Hilliard Darby district that has just one other ranked wrestler, that being fellow senior Lakso, a returning state qualifier last year; this season he placed third at North Canton and the Maumee Bay Classic, fifth at Medina, and won a title at Central Crossing.

The deepest district tournament in this weight class is at Mentor, one that features six ranked wrestlers, led by returning state third place finisher Bronstrup, who has been in and out of the lineup this year due to injury. Next on the ladder is fellow senior Dusi, also a returning state qualifier, who was runner-up at Solon and the Hephner, champion at the North Coast Classic, and fifth at Brecksville. The sophomore Fields was a state alternate last year competing at Brunswick, and upon eligibility at Walsh Jesuit finished as runner-up at the Top Gun. Other ranked wrestlers include state qualifiers Georgian, champion at Kenston, and Top Gun third place finisher Petrullo.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which is anchored by the freshman Ward, who was champion at SWOWCA and third at the CIT. Next on the ladder is 2014 state qualifier Craft, who was runner-up at the GMVWA before winning titles at Troy and Valley View. Fellow junior Baird, a



state qualifier last season, placed fifth at SWOWCA; while it's another junior Hood who rounds out the ranked lot, placing fourth at the Dvorak in Illinois and first at Mason.

### *120 pounds*

1. Noah Baughman, Wadsworth, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Nick Henneman, Oregon Clay, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Colin Schuster, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Ronnie Rowan, Firestone, sophomore (Perrysburg)
5. Harry Feuer, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
6. Andy Garr, Aurora, freshman (Mentor)
7. Josh Breeding, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Jordin James, Bedford, junior (Mentor)
9. Chase Craft, Northmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Lamonte Chapman, Fremont Ross, sophomore (Perrysburg)
11. Jordan Rosselli, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
12. Seth Transue, Dublin Jerome, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Ray Porter, Strongsville, senior (Perrysburg)
14. A.J. Warner, Fairborn, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Derek Sharp, Marysville, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Jared Thiemann, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Rosselli, Transue, Sharp, Zach Collins (Central Crossing, junior); James White IV (Delaware Hayes, sophomore)

KF – Schuster, Craft, Warner, Thiemann; Brandon Hertel (Glen Este, senior)

MEN – Feuer, Garr, James, Tyson Long (Shaker Hts, junior); Josh Nelly (Garfield Hts, senior), Dietrich Boysel (Hudson, sophomore)

PBG – Baughman, Henneman, Rowan, Breeding; Chapman, Porter

Ever since last year's 9-5 setback in the state semifinal against then freshman Jaden Mattox, 2014 state champion Baughman has been on a mission of redemption. It started by bouncing back to place third on Saturday morning, and then continued with a Junior National freestyle All-American finish this summer in Fargo. The Cornell commit then earned a third place finish at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman to open the season, a finals appearance at North Canton, and a championship at Wadsworth. Baughman is favored to finish off the mission with his second state title.

He leads a district at Perrysburg that features three of the top four, along with three other state ranked wrestlers; meaning that at least two ranked wrestlers won't be making the trip to the Schott. For those pondering a move to 126, three returning state placers at that weight class in this district makes it risky.

Ranked second in this weight class is the junior Henneman, who placed sixth at state last year and joins Baughman at the same district tournament. On this season, he won a titles at Solon and the Maumee Bay Classic, while placing eighth at the Ironman and fifth at Brecksville. The sophomore Rowan, runner-up at Solon in the 126 pound weight class before dropping to this weight class and winning titles at North Coast and the Bill Dies (where he beat two state placers), is next in the rankings from this district. Also here is Breeding, who made state as a freshman last year, and has spent the bulk of the season at 126 where he was fourth at Brecksville and the Bill Dies; he made this weight class for the regional quarterfinal round of state duals. Rounding out the ranked lot is the sophomore Chapman, who won a

title at the Gorman while placing at Brecksville and Maumee Bay, along with returning state qualifier Porter.

Three other returning state placers, for a total of five, populate this weight class among its eleven returning state tournament participants. Two of those state placers reside in the Kettering Fairmont district in the juniors Schuster and Craft, both of whom finished eighth last year. Schuster spend the first month of the season up in weight class, including an eighth place finish at 138 in the Dvorak; before dropping to this weight class to win a title at Mason. Craft has runner-up finishes to Justin Stickley at both the GMVVA and Valley, while winning a title at Troy. Returning state qualifier Warner has titles at Bellbrook and Hamilton Township, the junior Thiemann was runner-up at SWOWCA and placed in two other tournaments, while the senior Hertel is a returning state alternate.

Last among the returning podium finishers is two-time placer Feuer, who has had an uneven senior season after transferring from Mayfield to Brecksville. He won a combined six matches at the nation's two toughest tournaments to start the season, placed eighth at Brecksville, and was third at the Bill Dies taking a loss to Rowan. Feuer is joined by two other projected state placers in the freshman Garr and returning state qualifier James at the Mentor district, though they are the only ranked wrestlers at that district. Garr has a head-on win over James in finishing runner-up at Aurora, has another runner-up finish at Hudson, was third at Top Gun, and seventh at Brecksville.

The remaining district is at Hilliard Darby, which has just three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifiers Rosselli and Transue. The sophomore Rosselli was champion at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at Wadsworth, while the senior Transue has placed in four different tournaments this season. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the junior Sharp who placed seventh at Top Gun.

#### *126 pounds*

1. Alex Mackall, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
2. Mario Guillen, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Allan Hart, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
4. Zack Donathan, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Garrett Lambert, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Kris Volpe, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jake Donahue, Massillon, senior (Mentor)
8. Austin Murphy, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Marco Regalbuto, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
10. Cameron Latham, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Michael North, Wadsworth, freshman (Perrysburg)
12. Elijah Perkins, Miamisburg, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Andrew Lieb, Watkins Memorial, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Andrew Murphy, Dover, junior (Mentor)
15. Josh Grant, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Ryan Wissell, Medina Highland, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Volpe, Latham, Lieb, Grant; J.D. Woods (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Donathan, Au. Murphy, Perkins; Drew Saunier (Springboro, junior)

MEN – Mackall, Donahue, Regalbuto, An. Murphy; Evan Hornyak (Chardon, senior)

PBG – Guillen, Hart, Lambert, North; Wissell

Over the last eight state tournaments (2008-2015), there has been at least one weight class with two past state champions present on six occasions. Should the present composition remain in this weight class, it would be seven in nine. Among the anchors in this weight class are 2014 state champion Mackall and returning state champion Hart. Furthering the stacked nature of this weight class is four other wrestlers that have placed in the top six previously at the state tournament, seven other returning state qualifiers, and two freshmen who were junior high state finalists last year.

Let's start with projected state champion Mackall, a two-time state finalist and returning Junior National freestyle All-American who signed with Rutgers in the early period. On the season he placed sixth at the Ironman, though he was less than 20 seconds away from the championship match, won a title at Solon, and was runner-up to three-time state champion Tyler Warner at the Top Gun. He anchors the district at Mentor that also features returning state placer and three-time state qualifier Donahue, who was champion at Maumee Bay this season. The season of the freshman Regalbuto embodies the perplexing nature of ranking this weight class; finalist at Brecksville and champion at the Bill Dies, but losing to two fellow freshmen in dual meets. Rounding out the ranked group at Mentor is the junior Murphy, who placed fourth at the Top Gun, and won a state tournament match in Division II last year.

Three of the other top five wrestlers in this weight class exit the district at Perrysburg, which is led by three-time state placer Guillen. The Ohio University signee was fourth at the Ironman, including a split of matches with returning state champion Mitch Moore, before winning titles at Brecksville and Perrysburg. Returning state champion Hart lost to Baughman at the district last year, but upset Mattox in the state final; he was one match from placing at the Ironman, losing 4-2 to tournament runner-up Cole Matthews and 1-0 to third place finisher Mitch Moore. Two-time state placer Lambert placed fifth in this weight class at the Ironman (including a win over Mackall) and the Bill Dies, while at 132 was second at Medina and third at Solon.

There are two other state ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, the freshman North and returning district placer Wissell. The freshman North was fourth at North Canton and had the huge 5-2 dual meet victory over Regalbuto. Returning state alternate Brandon Bartlome (Lorain) has also competed here this year, but is more likely to be seen at 132.

The last of the top five wrestlers in this weight class is 2014 state placer Donathan, who failed to make weight at last year's state tournament; he was a very strong favorite to take home gold at 106 pounds. On the season, his three losses are by a combined five points, all of them to nationally ranked wrestlers; 4-2 to Mitch Moore and 5-4 in the tiebreaker to Tyler Warner at the Ironman, and then 4-3 in the semifinals to Austin Gomez from Illinois at the Dvorak. Donathan was champion at Mason in January, and is joined by two other ranked wrestlers in the Kettering Fairmont district, both of whom were state qualifiers last year. The sophomore Murphy was champion at SWOWCA, third at Brecksville, and a consolation finalist at the CIT; while the junior Perkins was champion at Fairfield, runner-up at Miamisburg, and third at the GMVWA.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Hilliard Darby, which features four ranked wrestlers; led by returning state qualifier Volpe, champion at Wadsworth and 1-2 in this state tournament weight class last year. 2014 state placer Latham was champion at Olentangy Liberty and Miamisburg, with a sixth place finish at Brecksville coming from a semifinal appearance. Returning state qualifier Lieb has titles at Olentangy Orange and Marion County on the season. Returning state qualifier Osborn falls outside the top sixteen in this weight class.

### *132 pounds*

1. Jaden Mattox, Central Crossing, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
2. Corey Shie, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Connor Brady, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
4. Sam Dover, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)
5. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
6. Andre Stowers, Maple Hts, senior (Mentor)
7. Gary Define, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
8. Jeremy Rezabek, Strongsville, senior (Perrysburg)
9. Dylan Buis, Oak Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Austin Sper, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Jason Bronstrup, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
12. Isaac Hendershot, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
13. Luke Hernandez, Tri-Valley, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Walker Heard, Marysville, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
15. Chris Donathan, Mason, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Brady Wilson, Stebbins, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
17. Jalil Barnes, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Mattox, Brady, Hernandez, Heard; Barnes

KF – Shie, Buis, Sper, Donathan; Wilson

MEN – Brezovec, Stowers, Define, Bronstrup; Hendershot, Andrew Fairbanks (Austintown Fitch, junior)

PBG – Dover, Rezabek, Luke Baughman (Wadsworth, freshman), Tyler Grimes (Copley, senior); Brandon Barlome (Lorain, senior)

The top four ranked wrestlers in this weight class have separated from the rest of the field, two of them are underclass veterans while the other two are immediate impact freshmen. Ranked first in this weight class is returning state runner-up Mattox, who beat defending state champion Baughman in the semifinal before losing to Hart in the final; Baughman beat Hart in the district final the previous Saturday night, proving yet again the transitive property tends not to hold, even though it would make ranking and analysis much easier.

On the season, Mattox finished third at the Walsh Ironman, losing just 9-5 to the tournament champion, and has then won four straight tournaments: North Canton, Medina, Maumee Bay, and (at 138) Central Crossing. He leads the way at a Hilliard Darby district weight that features two freshmen among the other four ranked wrestlers. The first of those freshmen is Brady, a multi-time junior high state champion, who has been in the final of four tournaments this year; champion at Olentangy Liberty and the Bill Dies, while losing in the tiebreaker at both Brecksville and Wadsworth. The other freshman is Heard, also a junior high state champion last year, and a semifinalist at both the SWOWCA and Top Gun tournaments already this season. The other two ranked wrestlers are the junior Hernandez and the senior Barnes; Hernandez made a late drop into this weight class to win the Cruiser Invitational, while the senior Barnes was first at Olentangy Orange.

The other veteran among the top four in this weight class is the junior Shie, who placed fifth at state as a freshman before going a disappointing 1-2 last year in this state tournament weight class despite entering as a district champion. On the season, he has titles at SWOWCA, Top Gun, and Wadsworth (beating Brady) to go with a third place finish at Brecksville. Anchoring the Kettering Fairmont district he is joined by four other ranked wrestlers: returning state qualifiers in Buis and Sper, the freshman

Donathan, and the sophomore Wilson. Buis was fourth at Medina this season, Sper was a late dropper into this weight class placing at SWOWCA and Kenston at 138, the freshman Donathan was champion at Mason and placed at the Dvorak, while Wilson has won three different tournaments. Also here is returning state qualifier Keyon Huntley (Cincinnati Northwest).

The other “big four” wrestler is the freshman Dover, who has been excellent in his high school debut season. He was one match away from placing at the Walsh Ironman, including a pair of wins over multi-time Ohio state placers, and at the Clash National Duals he had three wins over multi-time state placers from Illinois and Oklahoma. Dover anchors the weakest of the four districts, as he is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at Perrysburg. That would be returning state alternate Rezabek, who was champion at Solon, runner-up at Kenston, and seventh at the Top Gun. The other two district spots are wide open among many wrestlers.

Last among the districts is the one at Mentor, which has a lot of depth if not possessing a top end contender. Rumored to making a late drop is the junior Brezovec, a 2014 state placer, who has titles at Hudson and Wadsworth to go with a fourth place at Brecksville up in the 138 weight class. He’ll be joined by state placer Stowers, who was runner-up at Hudson and champion at Kenston. Also here is the junior Define, whose first two years were lost in the shuffle while being closed out by excellent Massillon Perry light-weights; this season he has placed third at Medina and fourth at Top Gun. The other two wrestlers ranked here were go-to-state match losers last season, as is Fairbanks.

### *138 pounds*

1. Hunter Ladnier, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Moises Guillen, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
3. James Wimer, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Jake Marsh, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
5. Joseph Koontz, Massillon Perry, junior (Mentor)
6. Carson Kharchlava, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jarrod Brezovec, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
8. Eric Beck, LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Nathan Langston, Solon, senior (Mentor)
10. Jake Thompson, Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Seth Whitehead, Massillon Jackson, senior (Mentor)
12. Andrew Ormiston, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Jake Meredieth, Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Austin Victor, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
15. Adam Kirresh, Avon, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Charles Bartz, Dover, senior (Mentor)
17. Josh Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Wimer, Marsh, Kharchlava, Ormiston; Gore

KF – Beck, Thompson, Meredieth, Chase Haehnle (Oak Hills, sophomore); Evan Pulaski (Centerville, senior)

MEN – Koontz, Brezovec, Langston, Whitehead; Victor, Bartz

PBG – Ladnier, Guillen, Kirresh, Jaeckin; Calixtro Mondragon (Oregon Clay, senior)

Over the years, much has been talked about the dynasty that is St. Edward wrestling. Two years ago the Eagles went without a state champion for the first time since 1990. Then, if not for Hart’s upset win in

the state final, they would have done the ever rare win a state championship without a state champion. This year, the senior Ladnier is the lone St. Edward wrestler favored to win a state title.

The returning state runner-up started the season on fire winning the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, and then continued the form at the Clash National Duals as he went undefeated. Ladnier's lone loss on the season came by 11-3 major decision against returning state champion Brent Moore, a wrestler he out-placed at the Ironman. The second ranked wrestler also exits his district at Perrysburg, the junior Guillen, who already is a two-time state placer; on this season he was champion at Brecksville, runner-up at Maumee Bay, and one match from placing at the Ironman.

Behind those two, this district is thin when it comes to state level talent with Kirresh and Jaeckin as the other two ranked wrestlers, but very low in the rankings. Kirresh was champion at Avon Lake, runner-up at Perry, and third at the Bill Dies; while Jaeckin was eighth at Medina, fifth at the Bill Dies, and third at Central Crossing. These two, the other kid listed, and a couple of others will be battle it out for state spots behind Ladnier and Guillen.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings exit the Hilliard Darby district, which has five in the rankings at this weight class. The senior Wimer is a returning state placer, and has titles at North Canton and Medina this season, along with a third place finish at Maumee Bay. Marsh went 1-2 in the state tournament last year as a freshman, and has a title at Top Gun to go with a runner-up finish at SWOWCA for the season to date. The third ranked wrestler from the district is the freshman Kharchlava, a Cadet freestyle All-American, who has competed on a limited basis this season.

Rounding out the ranked group at Hilliard Darby is the senior Ormiston, a returning state alternate, and the sophomore Gore Hernandez. Ormiston was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and seventh at Brecksville, while Gore is a returning state qualifier. Also here is 2014 state qualifier Ben Tate (Mt. Vernon).

The fourth, and final, returning state placer is the junior Koontz, who transferred from SVSM to compete for Massillon Perry this season. Upon eligibility, he placed third at the Top Gun, losing by major decision to Marsh during the tournament. Koontz anchors a Mentor district that features four other ranked wrestlers, along with the possibility of 2014 state placer Brezovec not moving down to 132.

The senior Langston was champion at Solon and the North Coast Classic, as well as runner-up at Oregon Clay. The junior Whitehead is a returning state alternate, and has runner-up finishes at Medina and the Bill Dies this season. Next is the senior Victor, who was runner-up at Solon; while rounding out things is the senior Bartz, who was champion up a weight class at Beaver Local. Also in this district weight class is returning state qualifier Noah McCumbers (Massillon).

Three state qualifiers anchor the district at Kettering Fairmont, though they are the only ranked wrestlers present. Leading the way is the junior Beck, who has made state in both of his previous seasons, and was champion at SWOWCA, second at Wadsworth, and third at Brecksville. Next is the sophomore Thompson, who was champion at CIT; while the junior Meredieth placed third at the CIT.

#### *145 pounds*

1. David Carr, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
2. Dominick Demas, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Josh Heil, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)

4. Justin Demicco, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
5. Trey Grenier, Olentnagy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Antwon Pugh, Copley, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Connor Craig, Elder, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Ryley Regan, Miamisburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Isaac Collier, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Chris Motter, Hudson, senior (Mentor)
11. Andrew Acuna, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Brock Jones, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
13. Tristan Brady, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
14. Jack Stein, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Cameron Jenkins, Westerville North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Sam Meddings, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Demas, Grenier, Jenkins, Will Green (Westerville Central, senior); Derek Wurzauf (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Craig, Regan, Acuna, Stein; Meddings

MEN – Carr, Demicco, Motter, Kyle Henning (Mentor, senior); Morgan Peterson (Solon, senior)

PBG – Heil, Pugh, Collier, Jones; Brady

Should Carr and Demas both remain in this weight class, the likely state finals match between the two returning state champions would be the most anticipated of the Saturday night session at The Schott (barring a scenario where Tyler Warner remained at 126 in DII, instead of dropping to 120). There is some conversation that Demas may move either up or down, but the most likely scenario is that he stays in this weight class. Should Demas drop down, he is a joint favorite with projected state champion Ladnier; while up at 152 pounds, he becomes the projected state champion.

On the season, the junior Demas is undefeated with tournament titles in this weight class at North Canton, the GMVWA, and Mason. Outside of the Top Gun finals loss to two-time state champion Logan Lacure, which was tightly contested and controversial, it could be argued that Carr has had the most productive folkstyle season in the United States. Prior to the season, he won the Super 32 Challenge; and then during the season he has titles at the Ironman, Beast of the East, and Medina. Between those tournaments, Carr has wins over five of the top eleven wrestlers in the country at his weight class.

Neither district that Demas or Carr anchors is particularly strong in this weight class, as only two ranked wrestlers join them at their respective sites. Joining Demas at Hilliard Darby is a pair of juniors in two-time state qualifier Grenier and Jenkins; while Carr is joined by a pair of seniors in two-time state placer Demicco and returning state alternate Motter.

On the season, Grenier has tournament titles at Olentangy Liberty and Wadsworth, while Jenkins was champion at Licking Heights and fourth at Medina. One could see movement from weights below or above at the Hillard Darby district. Demicco was a match from placing at both the Beast and Ironman, third at Brecksville, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Motter dropped mid-year into this weight class after a tournament title at Hudson and a seventh at the GMVWA in the 152 class. Though not ranked Henning is a returning state qualifier, and there are a couple of wrestlers outside those listed that could steal that last qualification spot at Mentor.

The strongest district in this weight class is the one at Perrysburg, which features five ranked wrestlers, including a pair of returning state placers. Three-time state placer Heil earned seventh at the Ironman and runner-up at Solon in addition to titles at three different tournaments (beating Demicco in the Bill Dies final); while the junior Pugh was a semifinalist at Medina and champion at the Hephner. Next here is the senior Collier, who has lost go-to-state matches each of the last two years. Fellow senior Jones has third place finishes at both Perrysburg and Top Gun to his credit, while the junior Brady was fourth at the Bill Dies.

Rounding out the district sites is Kettering Fairmont, which also has five state ranked wrestlers, led by a pair with state tournament experience. The junior Craig went two-and-out in this weight class last year at state, while this season has finished runner-up at SWOWCA and fifth at Brecksville. The senior Regan placed eighth at state last year, placed fourth at the GMVWA, and has won two tournament titles in January. Returning state alternate Acuna is next, having a runner-up at SWOWCA and third place finish at the GMVWA while competing at 152; in this weight class, he was runner-up at Mason. Rounding it out are a pair of juniors in Stein and Meddings.

### *152 pounds*

1. Nick Kiussis, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Austin Hiles, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
3. Greg Brusco, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Nico O'Dor, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Jacoby Ward, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jack Conway, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
7. Andrew Sams, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Lane Hinkle, Mt. Vernon, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Emil Soehnen, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Farouq Muhammed, Shaker Hts, freshman (Mentor)
11. Cody Surratt, Wadsworth, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Brady Chrisman, Medina, sophomore (Perrysburg)
13. Adam Green, Austintown Fitch, senior (Mentor)
14. Tyler Grine, Fremont Ross, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Logan Broskie, Olentangy Orange, junior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Willy Plaisir, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Brusco, Hinkle, Broskie, Plaisir; Ethan Leapley (Central Crossing, senior)

KF – Ward, Sams, Hunter Bryant (Piqua, senior), Jacob Ottaway (Springboro, senior); Samuel Williams (Elder, senior)

MEN – Hiles, Soehnen, Muhammed, Green; Spencer Haught (Walsh Jesuit, senior)

PBG – Kiussis, O'Dor, Conway, Surratt; Chrisman, Grine

This is the epitome of a sandwich weight class both in terms of context and evolution. Defending state champions Carr and Demas are in the weight below, two-time defending state champion Kyle Lawson is in the weight above. That inherently means a bunch of wrestlers will find that “sweet spot” in between. Furthermore, four other high end wrestlers have joined, or will join, this weight class after competing in other weight classes over the course of the season.



With fourteen wrestlers in this weight class – at present – having state tournament experience, most of any weight class in Division I, this is one to keep an eye on throughout the post-season. It is an example of why the big-school division is going to be a very enjoyable watch and follow during the state series.

Seven returning state placers are present, including four that carry top three “protected” status; which means that if they win a district title, they will have separation criteria in the state draw from each other. Two-time runner-up Kiussis and returning third Conway exit Perrysburg, returning third Hiles exits Mentor, while returning third Hinkle exits Hilliard Darby. Three-time state placer Ward is the anchor at Kettering Fairmont, while state fourth Brusco joins Hinkle and Hilliard Darby, and state fourth O’Dor is at Perrysburg.

Along with the three returning placers, three other ranked wrestlers are present at an absolutely loaded Perrysburg district in this weight class. Projected champion Kiussis was champion at Solon and Medina, third at the Bill Dies, and seventh at the Ironman up at 160; O’Dor placed at both the Ironman and Beast, fourth at Brecksville, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Conway has been in and out of the lineup this season, including missing placement by one match at the Ironman (loss to O’Dor). The junior Surratt has titles at North Canton and Wadsworth to go with a runner-up finish at Medina; Chrisman was a district placer last year as a freshman, and placed third at the Hephner this season; while the junior Grine is also a returning district placer and has a runner-up at the Gorman to go with a third place finish at Maumee Bay.

Brusco and Hinkle are joined by a pair of ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district. The senior Brusco is undefeated while competing in this weight class with titles at the GMVWA and Top Gun, after placing fourth at the Ironman. Fellow senior Hinkle was fifth at SWOWCA in the 160 pound class before a fifth place finish at Brecksville in this weight class to go with runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Central Crossing. The junior Broskie was champion at Olentangy Orange and fourth at the GMVWA; while the senior Plaisir has a title at Mason to go with a runner-up at North Canton, and sixth at GMVWA.

Hiles joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. On the season, Hiles placed at both the Ironman (eighth, loss to Kiussis) and Beast before taking third at Brecksville, all at 160 pounds. Soehnlén qualified for state last year as a freshman, and this year has placed eighth at the Beast to go with a third at Medina and fourth at Top Gun. The freshman Muhammed, a junior high state champ last year, has titles at Kenston and the Hephner (where he beat three state qualifiers) on the resume. Rounding it out is the senior Green, a returning state qualifier who was fourth at Medina and the Hephner, along with sixth at Top Gun.

Rounding it out is the Kettering Fairmont district, which has just two ranked wrestlers though there are five wrestlers with state tournament experience. Three-time state placer Ward placed third at Powerade and won a title at the CIT, while 2014 state placer Sams was champion at SWOWCA and (at 160) Kenston with a runner-up finish at Fairfield. Seniors Ottaway and Bryant are returning state qualifiers, while fellow senior Williams made state as a freshman and was an alternate last year.

#### *160 pounds*

1. Kyle Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
2. Jared Ball, Hilliard Darby, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
3. Joey Baughman, Wadsworth, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Brice Locklear, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)

5. Mikah Price, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Max Wright, Delaware Hayes, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Josh Herhold, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
8. Mike Carpenter, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Dylan Roth, Oak Hills, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Mario Graziani/Carlo Deniro, Boardman, senior/junior (Mentor)
11. Jared Torch, Dover, senior (Mentor)
12. Drew Hobbs, Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Nick D'Agostino, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Simon Shirley, Harrison, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Jake Little, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
16. Luke Reicosky, North Canton Hoover, sophomore (Mentor)

HD – Lawson, Ball, Wright, Scott Allen (Dublin Coffman, senior); Stephen Deluse (Lancaster, junior)

KF – Roth, Hobbs, D'Agostino, Shirley; Blake Wilson (LaSalle, sophomore)

MEN – Graziani/Deniro, Torch, Little, Reicosky; Cal Miller (St. Ignatius, junior)

PBG – Baughman, Locklear, Price, Herhold; Carpenter

The junior Lawson won a pair of state titles in Division II while competing for St. Paris Graham before making the move to Olentangy Liberty. He is one of three key newcomers to the Patriots' lineup (along with freshmen Brady and Kharchlava) as they seek to make a dent into the perceived two horse race for the Division I state title between St. Edward and Elyria, who finished first and second at state last year. On the season, Lawson was third at Brecksville and champion at the Bill Dies; his Brecksville loss came 9-7 in overtime, a match in which he led 5-0 early. Between those two tournaments, he is 11-1 with ten wins coming by fall, with three of those falls coming against returning state qualifiers (two against top four placers last year).

His presence here has somewhat cleared out the weight class, but even so the field includes eight returning state qualifiers, four who were on the podium last year (2014 placer Graziani would make a ninth and fifth if he ends up competing here for Boardman). Recall that this state tournament weight class last year had zero returning state placers and something like four combined state tournament wins in previous seasons.

Nowhere is this existence of quality more present than at the Perrysburg district, which features five of the top eight wrestlers, meaning that a projected state placer won't even get to Columbus. An Elyria and St. Edward wrestler are in this scramble, which could pose a hidden impact on the state race the following week at The Schott. The senior Locklear is the highest returning placer, finishing fourth last year at 152 pounds; this year he was champion at Central Crossing, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and fourth at Medina. Baughman placed fifth at state last year as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at Wadsworth and Medina to go with a third place finish at North Canton. Price placed eighth at state as a sophomore, which was disappointing as he had a significant lead midway through his state quarterfinal bout; he has placement finishes at both Brecksville and the Bill Dies this season. The junior Herhold made state last year, missed the first half of the season due to injury; since returning he was runner-up at Perrysburg and third at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is fellow junior Carpenter, who was a state alternate last year.

Lawson anchors the Hilliard Darby district, which features the other two projected state placers in the sophomore Ball and the junior Wright. However, there is no other ranked wrestler present, so the last

spot is going to be rather open for the taking. Ball qualified for state last year down at 138 pounds, and has shown a profound leap this season in earning a title at Wadsworth (over Baughman) and third at Medina (over Locklear, narrow 7-6 loss to Kiussis in the semi). Wright was a state alternate last year at 145, and has earned titles at both Olentangy Orange and Top Gun to go with a third at the GMVWA.

Two of the three others with state experience exit the Mentor district, in seniors Graziani and Torch. Graziani placed at state in 2014 before losing two tight matches on Saturday at the district last year; he did not compete this year until the Hephner, where he placed third (while absent, the junior Deniro was third at Kenston and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun). Torch qualified for Dover last year when they were in Division II, and this season has a title at Beaver Local to go with a fifth place finish at Top Gun. Rounding it out are the senior Little and the sophomore Reicosky, who placed seventh and eighth at Top Gun respectively.

Rounding it out are the four ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district, whom are led by the senior Roth, champion at SWOWCA and Western Brown to go with his fifth place finish at Medina. The junior Hobbs was a state alternate two years ago before missing last season due to injury. D'Agostino qualified for state last year as a junior, and won a tournament title at Mason this season; while the freshman Shirley was third at SWOWCA and runner-up at Fairfield.

#### *170 pounds*

1. Andrew McNally, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)
2. Victor Marcelli, Massillon Jackson, sophomore (Mentor)
3. Ti'Ric Evans, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Josiah Harrell, Licking Heights, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Joseph Terry, Pickerington Central, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Brandon Goldsmith, Westerville North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Tony Caraffi, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
8. Brett Bryant, Moeller, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Colton Carroll, Teays Valley, senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Trevor Lawson, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Brendan Price, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Mark Kimbrell, Kettering Fairmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Joey Andrassy, Stow, junior (Mentor)
14. Michael Baker, LaSalle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Josh Weaver, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Tyler Dempsey, Boardman, senior (Mentor)

HD – Harrell, Terry, Goldsmith, Carroll; Lawson

KF – Evans, Braynt, Kimbrell, Baker; Weaver

MEN – McNally, Marcelli, Andrassy, Dempsey; Isaiah Jackson (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Caraffi, Price, Zach Defraime (Medina, senior), Jared Leidich (St. Edward, senior); Alex Jones (Wadsworth, junior)

McNally is the defending champion in this weight class, was one match away from All-American honors in Junior National freestyle this summer, and placed at the Super 32 Challenge in the fall. Normally that formula would yield a clear, bereft of doubt, favorite. However, when the sophomore Marcelli upended McNally 4-3 in the North Canton final the doubt was cast. However, McNally is still the favorite as he has

two wins over Marcelli this regular season (1-0 in the dual meet before North Canton, and 4-2 at the Hephner); in addition, he has titles at Brecksville and the Top Gun to go with that title at the Hephner.

Marcelli qualified for state last year as a freshman and was a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer. He has a title at the Bill Dies to go with the championship at North Canton; the other loss on the season for Marcelli came in the quarterfinal round at Medina (to Harrell), and would be avenged in third place match. McNally and Marcelli could meet in the sectional, district, and state final. The other two qualifying spots from Mentor are wide open for the taking between a plethora of wrestlers, two of whom are ranked. The junior Andrassy was a star on Stow's state semifinal football team this fall, and since returning placed fourth at the Bill Dies; while the senior Dempsey was champion at Kenston before placing fourth at Top Gun and the Hephner. State qualifier Jackson is also at this district.

The deepest of the district tournaments is the one at Hilliard Darby, where five of the top ten wrestlers reside, along with a couple other non-ranked wrestlers that would be fringe state qualification contenders at a different district site. Leading the way is the senior Harrell, who was a district champion last year at 160 pounds; on the season he has sandwiched a title at Licking Heights around fourth place finishes at Medina and Central Crossing. Fellow senior Terry was a state alternate last year four weight classes below at 138 pounds; he was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and third at GMVWA before winning titles at Miamisburg and Central Crossing.

Yet another senior Goldsmith was a state alternate last year at 152 pounds, and on this season finished seventh at Medina and runner-up at Licking Heights after an opening weekend dual meet over state placer Bryant. Returning state qualifier Carroll is next on the ladder, and his season highlights are finishing third at Brecksville and runner-up at Miamisburg. Last among the ranked wrestlers is the sophomore Lawson, who has titles at Olentangy Liberty and Wadsworth to go with a fifth place finish at Brecksville.

The other two projected state placers exit the district at Kettering Fairmont, which also has five wrestlers ranked in this weight class. The sophomore Evans has titles at SWOWCA and the CIT sandwiched around a fourth place finish at Brecksville; while Bryant, who placed sixth at state as a sophomore last year, placed at Powerade before finishing third at the CIT (6-5 loss to Evans in the semifinal). The junior Kimbrell was a district placer last year, and this season placed sixth at Brecksville before winning a title at Mason. Just a freshman, Baker has placement finishes at five tournaments this year, highlighted by third place medals at SWOWCA and Top Gun. Rounding it out is the senior Weaver, who was fourth at SWOWCA.

Finally, it's the Perrysburg district, which features just two ranked wrestlers. The last two spots are open for the taking among those listed and maybe another one or two. The senior Caraffi was a state alternate last year, and this season was fifth at Medina, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and third at Central Crossing; while junior Price missed placement at the Beast and Brecksville by a match, before placing sixth at the Bill Dies.

#### *182 pounds*

1. J.T. Brown, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Anthony Perrine, Nardon, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Eric Deluse, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Luke Strnad, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
5. Tyler Stepic, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)

6. Kaden Russell, St. Ignatius, junior (Mentor)
7. Avery Jones, Glen Este, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Aaron Huff, Lorain, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Zach Blackiston, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Doland Martin, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Joseph Cochran, Springfield, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Alex Sadowsky, Medina, junior (Perrysburg)
13. Antonio McCloud, Elder, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Bria, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Bubba Arslanian, Aurora, junior (Mentor)
16. Patrick Yeo, Hilliard Bradley, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Deluse, Martin, Yeo, Brady Garren (Logan, sophomore); Cole Fitzpatrick (Olentangy Liberty, junior)

KF – Jones, Cochran, McCloud, Bria; Hunter Shepherd (Oak Hills, senior)

MEN – Strnad, Russell, Blackiston, Arslanian; Jimmy Leonard (Louisville, junior)

PBG – Brown, Perrine, Stepic, Huff; Sadowsky

This is just a weird weight class. Here are some facts. Only four wrestlers return with state tournament experience, which is the least of any weight class other than 106 (with three total). Only four seniors hold a ranking position. All this is somewhat a surprise given the presence of nationally elite wrestler, and defending state champion, Darmstadt up in the next weight class. However, that is somewhat countered with the fact that in last year's state tournament, only four underclassmen were present in each of the 160 through 182 pound weight classes (Jacob Paul was a fifth at 170, but he's not competing this year).

The top four wrestlers in this weight class are the ones with state experience, and the projected state champion is the junior Brown, the highest returning state placer after finishing fourth last year at 170 pounds. This season he placed seventh at the Ironman and Beast, before finishing second at Brecksville and first at the Bill Dies. Brown anchors a Perrysburg district that features five of the top eleven ranked wrestlers.

Second in the rankings is fellow junior Perrine, who was fifth in this weight class last year at state, and joins Brown at the Perrysburg district. Perrine was fourth at Brecksville up at 195 before dropping to 182 and winning a title at the Top Gun. Ironman placer Stepic is next at the Perrysburg district, followed by fellow juniors Huff and Sadowsky. Huff has a title at Lorain to go with third place finishes at North Canton and Medina, along with a runner-up at Maumee Bay; while Sadowsky was champion at the Hephner after a seventh at Medina and sixth at Maumee Bay.

The other returning state placer is the senior Deluse, who was champion at Olentangy Liberty and runner-up at Medina this season. He anchors just three ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Returning state alternate Martin is next, having spent December up at 195 before dropping in January. Rounding it out is the senior, who Yeo placed sixth at the GMVWA after winning two matches at district last year.

Returning state qualifier Strnad leads four ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district. The junior has yet to wrestle this season after sustaining an injury during football, but is expected to return by the sectional tournament. Fellow junior Russell has titles at Solon and CIT to go with a fourth place finish at Brecksville. The sophomore Blackiston played both ways on Massillon Perry's state runner-up football team, and took a bit of time to get going in wrestling; once he did, he placed sixth at Medina and was

runner-up at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is Arslanian, who was a district placer two years ago as a freshman; this season he was seventh at Top Gun and runner-up at Wadsworth.

The Kettering Fairmont district features four ranked wrestlers led by the junior Jones, who as third at SWOWCA and GMVWA before winning a title at Mason. Next in line is the sophomore Cochran, who was runner-up at GMVWA and champion at Fairfield. The sophomore McCloud placed seventh at Brecksville and runner-up at the CIT, while the senior Bria was runner-up at SWOWCA and third at Kenston.

#### *195 pounds*

1. Ben Darmstadt, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Aaron Naples, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Gary Traub, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. A.J. Jones, Thomas Worthington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Grant Martin, Uniontown Lake, senior (Mentor)
6. Chris Martinez, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Cody Howard, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
8. Logan Kemp, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Kyle Vilsack, St. Ignatius, senior (Mentor)
10. Devin Amburgy, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Jake Kendzierski, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Mason Brunner, Harrison, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Noah Satterfield, Marysville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Devin Johnson, Chardon, senior (Mentor)
15. Nate Rogers, Green, junior (Mentor)
16. Chase Newton, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Jones, Martinez, Kendzierski, Satterfeild; Jimmy Craig (Dublin Coffman, senior)

KF – Traub, Kemp, Amburgy, Brunner; Sam Wyche (Moeller, sophomore)

MEN – Martin, Vilsack, Johnson, Rogers; Chris Droege (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Darmstadt, Naples, Howard, Newton; Madison Prokop (Copley, senior)

The second of Elyria's three projected state champions is the senior Darmstadt, a returning state champion, and one of the best overall seniors in the county. His resume of major event productivity could fill the whole commentary for this weight class. The Cornell bound wrestler was third at the Ironman, avenged that loss in winning a title at the Beast, and won subsequent titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies.

He anchors five ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, including projected runner-up Naples, who qualified for state last year as a sophomore. On the season, he has already lost by 13-0 major decision in consolation at the Ironman, and by 18-2 technical fall in the Bill Dies final; on the more positive side, he has titles at Solon, Medina, and Central Crossing on the resume. Next on the ladder at this district is the sophomore Howard, who was one match from placing at the Ironman, where one of his wins was an upset over a Junior double All-American from Utah. The last spot is absolutely open for the taking, with returning state alternate Newton the pick at the minute.

Three returning state qualifiers lead the way from four ranked wrestlers at the Hilliard Darby district, including returning state placer Jones; coming off a sixth from state last year, he's been excellent this season, including a title at Marion Harding. Martinez won a match at state last year as a junior, and this

year was third at both GMVWA and the Top Gun. Fellow senior Kendzierski qualified for state three weights lower at 160, and this year finished fourth at the Bill Dies before taking third at Wadsworth. The last state spot is projected for Satterfield, who has fifth place finishes at both SWOWCA and Top Gun on the season to date.

The second highest returning placer in this weight class is the senior Traub, who placed fourth at state last year after entering the tournament undefeated. This season, he was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman before placing in three different tournaments; runner-up at SWOWCA, third at Brecksville, and champion at Sycamore. Traub is joined by three other ranked wrestlers in the Kettering Fairmont district. Fellow senior Kemp upended Traub in the SWOWCA; subsequently he finished fifth at GMVWA, runner-up at Perrysburg, and champion at Mason. Two other seniors are also projected for state qualification and ranked top 16. Amburgy was third at SWOWCA before winning titles at Fairfield and Western Brown, while Brunner was fourth at SWOWCA and second at Fairfield.

Rounding it out is the district tournament at Mentor, which has four ranked wrestlers anchored by returning state placer Martin. On the season, he sandwiched second place finishes at North Canton and Top Gun around a sixth at Brecksville, before most recently earning first at the Hephner. Fellow senior Vilsack was third at Solon and runner-up at the CIT, while returning state alternate Johnson had a championship at Kenston sandwiched by a runner-up finish at Solon and seventh place at the Top Gun. Rogers won two matches at district last year as a sophomore, missed a good chunk of this season before coming back to place fifth at the Bill Dies.

#### *220 pounds*

1. Matt Stencel, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Jared Campbell, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Noel Caraballo, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Jack Meyer, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Floyd Rogers, Green, senior (Mentor)
6. Ben Frye, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Cody Smith, Xenia, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Leo Crosby, Zanesville, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Eddie Sternad, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
10. Todd Hastings, Amherst, senior (Perrysburg)
11. Nate Stone, Glen Este, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Quinton Mincy, Walnut Hills, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Cole Sutton, Sycamore, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ras Lumpkins, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Michael Carter, Cincinnati Northwest, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Spencer Berthold, Midview, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Frye, Crosby, Lumpkins, Ben Roshon (Marysville, senior); Chase Fickell (Worthington Kilbourne, senior)

KF – Meyer, Smith, Stone, Mincy; Sutton, Carter

MEN – Rogers, Sternad, Matt Klingbergs (Chardon, junior), Danny Baka (Hudson, senior); Mark Gordon (Mentor, junior)

PBG – Stencel, Campbell, Caraballo, Hastings; Berthold

The opening section of this report addressed the superlatives of Stencel's season to date. None the less, here's another one, in 31 matches to date, Stencel has wrestled into the second period in a grand total of three bouts. He's the favorite to repeat as state champion. There are two returning state runners-up in this weight class, and both exit the same district as Stencel.

The junior Campbell lost in the final last year to Stencel by major decision, but lost by fall to Stencel in the semifinal round of the Walsh Ironman at the 1:56 mark for his only loss of the season so far. He placed third at the Ironman, and went undefeated at the Clash. Meanwhile, Caraballo was runner-up in this weight class as a junior, and is undefeated for the season with titles at Medina, the Bill Dies, and Central Crossing. It should be noted that Stencel dropped to 195 for the regional quarterfinal match of the state duals, and earned a 5-2 decision over that weight's projected state runner-up. Any decision on post-season weight class for Caraballo will be driven by which climate is easier for his teammate (Michael Iler) to make the state tournament; be it 195 or 220.

The other two ranked wrestlers in this weight class are returning state qualifier Hastings and the junior Berthold. Hastings earned titles at Avon Lake and Bellevue before finishing third at Perry and fourth at Maumee Bay; while Berthold was runner-up at Solon and seventh at the Bill Dies. Should Caraballo be at 195, both would be projected to make state; otherwise, they're battling for one spot.

There are two more returning state placers in this weight class, seniors Meyer and Smith, both exiting the district at Kettering Fairmont. Meyer was fifth at state, losing a 3-2 decision to Caraballo in the state semifinal round. This season, he has titles at SWOCA and the CIT to go with a seventh at Ironman and third at Powerade. Smith placed seventh at state last year, and this season sandwiched titles at Xenia and Beavercreek around a third place finish at the GMVWA.

Four wrestlers in the rankings, and another couple outside the rankings, seek the other two state spots from this district tournament. Returning state qualifier Stone was at 195 for the month of December where he placed seventh at SWOWCA and GMVWA, before moving up to this weight class and placing second at Mason. The junior Mincy was runner-up at Madeira and champion at Sycamore; while returning district placer Sutton has runner-up finishes at both SWOWCA and Sycamore this season, along with a title at Fairfield. Rounding it is another returning district placer in Carter, who has a title at Edgewood along with a sixth at SWOWCA and third at Fairfield.

The Mentor district features two returning state qualifiers, and to be quite frank very little behind them. Rogers won a match at state last year, and this season has titles at Solon and North Canton to go with a fifth place finish at the Bill Dies; while Sternad went 0-2 at state, and has placed fourth at Brecksville and sixth at the Bill Dies this season.

Lastly the Hilliard Darby has three ranked wrestlers, and quite frankly it's open season on that fourth spot. Leading the group here is the junior Frye who has just one loss on the season and has dominated everything else; titles at GMVWA and Mason along with that third place finish at North Canton. Returning state qualifier Crosby also qualified for the track state tournament in both weight throws along with a sprint relay, which is freaky athleticism. The senior Lumpkins was champion at Dublin Scioto and Marion Harding before taking second at Marion County.

#### *285 pounds*

1. Kevin Vough, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Kameron Teacher, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)



3. Jonathan Floyd, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Arman Samouk, Copley, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Nik Urban, Willoughby South, senior (Mentor)
6. Joseph Hensley, Moeller, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Josh Burger, Aurora, senior (Mentor)
8. Jon Spaulding, Lakota East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tim Tanner-Blair, Lakota West, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Doug Mullen, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Sterling Roseberry, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Izak Wunderlich, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Michael O'Malley, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
14. Sadi Santana, Lorain, senior (Perrysburg)
15. Patrick Simon, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Adam Gregoire, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)

HD – Teacher, Roseberry, Wunderlich, Winston Spiker (Tri-Valley, senior); Connor Hubschman (Dublin Scioto, senior)

KF – Floyd, Hensley, Spaulding, Tanner-Blair; Mullen

MEN – Urban, Burger, Gregoire, Kyle Claridy (Kent Roosevelt, senior); Matt Rood (Austintown Fitch, senior)

PBG – Vough, Samouk, O'Malley, Santana; Simon

Headed into the state tournament there was the much anticipated semifinal showdown between the undefeated Class of 2016 wrestlers Vough and Teacher. However, that was derailed when Teacher lost in the first round; Vough would go onto win a state title, while Teacher fell one match short of the podium. Again, they are on a collision course, with each undefeated for their seasons.

Vough's season has not been a full one, as he did not make his debut until the Bill Dies tournament after a football injury. He won that tournament obviously. During the off-season, Vough was a Junior double All-American, third in Greco-Roman and runner-up in freestyle. He is joined by another returning state qualifier, a state alternate from last year, and two other ranked wrestlers at Perrysburg.

The returning state qualifier, Samouk, was third at North Coast and Medina, runner-up at the Bill Dies (3-1 to Vough), and champion at the Hephner (avenging a semifinal loss to Urban from the North Coast Classic). Returning state alternate O'Malley was busy during the fall season earning state defensive player of the year honors for the Eagles' state championship football team; he didn't return to the mat until the Clash at the end of December. The senior Santana has titles in two events, while placing in two others; while fellow senior Simon was sixth at Medina, seventh at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at Central Crossing.

Teacher is undefeated on his season as well with titles at the Ironman, Medina, Maumee Bay, and Central Crossing tournaments to his credit. Two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Hilliard Darby district, while it's open season for the fourth qualifying spot. Returning state alternate Roseberry was a finalist at Mt. Vernon before finishing third at both the GMVWA and Mason. Fellow senior Wunderlich was runner-up at Medina with two victories over state tournament participants along the way.

The district at Kettering Fairmont is the deepest in this weight class with five ranked wrestlers, two of whom made the state tournament last year, seniors Floyd and Hensley. Floyd placed fourth at state last

year despite taking fourth at district; this season he was eighth at the Ironman, runner-up at the GMVWA, and first at Beaver Creek. Hensley has titles at SWOWCA and the CIT to go with a fourth place finish at Powerade. The junior Spaulding was runner-up at SWOWCA and fourth at Brecksville; the senior Mullen upset Hensley in a January dual meet, while placing sixth at the Dvorak and runner-up at Mason to go with his Olentangy Liberty title; fellow senior Tanner-Blair was champion at Mason to go with three other tournament placements this year.

Rounding things out there are two previous state tournament placers at the Mentor district, but it's going to be open season for the other two state tournament spots; in line with 220, the heavier weights are thin here. Urban placed sixth in 2014, but went 0-2 at state last year despite winning a district title. The Northwestern football recruit has a title at Solon followed up by runner-up finishes at North Coast, Brecksville, and the Hephner this season. Burger was eighth in the 2014 state tournament before losing two matches on Saturday afternoon of district last year to fall short of the state tournament. This season, he was champion at Hudson, runner-up at Top Gun, and third at Brecksville and Wadsworth. The last ranked wrestler is fellow senior Gregoire, who placed fourth at Top Gun and was part of the state runner-up Panthers' offensive line this fall.

#### *Team Board*

1. St. Edward (Perrysburg)
2. Elyria (Perrysburg)
3. Olentangy Liberty (Hilliard Darby)
4. Brecksville (Mentor)
5. Brunswick (Perrysburg)
6. Central Crossing (Hilliard Darby)
7. Moeller (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Massillon Perry (Mentor)
10. Aurora (Mentor)

## Division II

### *106 pounds*

1. Nate Keaton, Circleville, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Hunter Lucas, Western Brown, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Jordan Crace, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
4. Jacob Decatur, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
5. Ben Pasiuk, Carrollton, freshman (Claymont)
6. Mason Brainard, Field, senior (Alliance)
7. Connor McCrone, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
8. Tyler Capodice, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
9. Timmy Young, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
10. Christian Wayt, West Branch, freshman (Alliance)
11. Clayton Eagle, Ashland, sophomore (Fostoria)
12. Charley Bohls, Napoleon, junior (Fostoria)
13. Dawson Carter, Hillsboro, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Dalton Burcher, Indian Valley, freshman (Claymont)
15. Wade Monebrake, Eaton, freshman (Wilmington)
16. Dominic Carone, Streetsboro, sophomore (Alliance)
17. Edwin Suber, Tallmadge, freshman (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Brainard, McCrone, Wayt; Carone, Suber

CLMT – Pasiuk, Young, Burcher, Thane Kaufman (West Holmes, sophomore); Caleb Greenlee (Gallia Academy, sophomore)

FOS – Capodice, Eagle, Bohls, Gavin Ritter (Wauseon, freshman); Jake Bartinelli (Buckeye, sophomore)

WILM – Keaton, Lucas, Crace, Carter; Monebrake, Cole Hauser (Benjamin Logan, sophomore)

Within the middle-weights of Division I, a discussion ensued about the potential impact of moving parts, unknown which weight class they will end up. In the opening weight class of Division II, such a discussion should be conducted. The top two ranked wrestlers here, as well as returning state champion Josh Venia (who is ranked at 113), have only one tournament appearance in this weight class. It has been indicated to me that Lucas will end up in this weight class, while the status of Keaton and Venia is much murkier.

At this point, the projected state champion is the sophomore Keaton, champion at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman in this weight class; has additional titles at West Jefferson and Western Brown at 113. Last season, he lost in the state semifinal to Justin Stickley before finishing fourth. However, it would not surprise me if either Lucas or (if in this state tournament weight class) Venia are atop the podium at The Schott. Keaton exits the Wilmington district, one that features five ranked wrestlers in all, including the top three.

Fellow sophomore Lucas is a two-time Fargo All-American in Cadet Greco-Roman, and is already the highest state placer in Western Brown history, finishing fifth last year. He is the anchor wrestler for a surging Broncos program that seeks a team state tournament appearance along with a top ten finish at the individual bracket state tournament. On the season he placed third at Brecksville in this weight class, and won a title at Franklin up a weight class. Crace, a junior high state champion last year, has titles at the GMVWA and Valley View tournaments.

Rounding out the quintet at Western Brown is the sophomore Carter, who has titles at Vinton County and Western Brown this season, along with the freshman Monebrake, who placed fifth at the GMVWA.

The deepest district in this weight class is the one at Alliance, which features six ranked wrestlers in all, though the four projected state qualifiers have created a slight gap on the challenge pack. Leading the way is freshman Jacob Decatur, who was champion at North Canton and a semifinalist at Brecksville and Maumee Bay. Next in line is the senior Brainard, a returning state alternate, who placed fourth at the Top Gun. Two freshmen round out the projected state qualifiers. McCrone was third at Solon, runner-up at the Gorman, and champion at the CIT; while Wayt was third at the GMVWA and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun.

Additional ranked wrestlers in this district are the sophomore Carone, who placed fourth at the Bill Dies after missing the early part of the season, while the freshman Suber placed fifth at both the Bill Dies and Hephner tournaments.

Three ranked wrestlers populate the district at Claymont, which includes the freshman Pasiuk, a junior high state runner-up last year. On the season he placed third at both North Canton and the Top Gun. The junior Young was a district placer last year while competing for Division III Steubenville Catholic Central; this season he was fifth at North Canton and champion at the OVAC. Rounding out the ranked lot is the freshman Burcher, who was champion at West Holmes.

Lastly it's the three ranked wrestlers in the Fostoria district, whom are led by the senior Capodice, last year a state alternate. This season, he was champion at Avon Lake before placing at fifth at Medina, third at the Gorman, and sixth at Top Gun. The sophomore Eagle was champion at the Gorman and fifth at Marion County, while the junior Bohls was seventh at Medina and fifth at Perrysburg.

#### *113 pounds*

1. Jordan Decatur, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
2. Ana Abduljelil, Whitehall, senior (Claymont)
3. Lukus Stricker, Hoban, junior (Alliance)
4. Josh Venia, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
5. *Nate Keaton, Circleville, sophomore (Wilmington)*
6. Eric Bartos, Buckeye, sophomore (Fostoria)
7. Jeff Thomas, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
8. Hunter Ryan, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Jake Ondash, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
10. Jake Gentry, Hamilton Ross, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Reese Wainuskis, Alliance, junior (Alliance)
12. Alex Lucas, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
13. Alex Slattman, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
14. Louis LaChapelle, Maumee, senior (Fostoria)
15. Leondre Cooley, Sandusky, junior (Fostoria)
16. Joe Wright, Coventry, sophomore (Alliance)
17. Josh Smith, Canal Fulton Northwest, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Stricker, Ryan, Ondash; Wainuskis, Wright, Smith

CLMT – Abduljelil, Lucas, Kyle Greenlee (Gallia Academy, sophomore), Jake Johnson (Jonathan Alder, sophomore); Landin Price (New Lexington, sophomore)

FOS – Venia, Bartos, Slattman, LaChapelle; Cooley

WILM – *Keaton*, Thomas, Gentry, Matt Asher (Clinton Massie, sophomore); Drew Price (Middletown Madison, sophomore)

The Buckeye State has seen 27 four-time state champions, not counting for any to earn that distinction this year, two of them attending CVCA. The Royals have a freshman this year, who is well positioned to take the first step towards becoming yet another member of that club. Jordan Decatur was a Cadet National freestyle champion this summer, and placed fourth in his first high school tournament, the Walsh Ironman. Since then, he's been to the finals of four different tournaments, winning titles at North Canton (120) and Wadsworth, while taking second at Brecksville and Maumee Bay (120).

A very late drop by two-time state placer Abduljelil, who missed the second half of last season due to injury, provides a genuine challenger for Decatur. In his return season from injury, Abduljelil was champion at Licking Heights up at 120 before dropping the last weekend of January to win the Cruiser Invitational.

If not for a phenom like Decatur, and before the drop of Abduljelil, there would have been around four different wrestlers that could win the state title. First among them is the junior Stricker, who joins Decatur in exiting the district at Alliance. On the season, Stricker placed fifth at the Ironman, and has followed that up with titles at Hudson, Bill Dies, and the Hephner. This district tournament features five other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Ryan, who was runner-up at the Gorman and CIT this season. Returning state alternate Ondash was runner-up at Kenston, which was sandwiched by a sixth at Solon and fourth at the Bill Dies. Rounding out the ranked group are Top Gun placers in Wainuskis and Smith, along with North Coast runner-up Wright.

Returning state champion Venia is in the mix behind Decatur and Abduljelil, and he anchors a group of five ranked wrestlers at the Fostoria district. While competing in this weight class, Venia placed third at Solon and Brecksville, with titles at Perrysburg and the CIT. Next in line at this district is Bartos, who placed seventh at state last year as a sophomore; on the season he has a title at West Holmes to go with a sixth at Medina and fifth at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Slattman placed fourth at Perrysburg and sixth at Maumee Bay; returning state alternate LaChapelle was third at Tiffin Columbian, runner-up at Perrysburg, and seventh at Maumee Bay; while returning state qualifier Cooley was fourth at Tiffin Columbian while falling short of placement at Maumee Bay.

The district at Wilmington is very shallow beyond the top two (or if Keaton is here, three) wrestlers. Leading the way, outside of Keaton, is the freshman Thomas, who was champion at the GMVWA. Next in line is returning state qualifier Gentry, who finished runner-up at SWOWCA before taking third at Fairfield. The last one or two spots is open for the taking.

Beyond Abduljelil there is little in top end quality and overall quantity, a situation exacerbated by the season-ending injury suffered by returning district placer Dillen Lewis (Carrollton), who was sixth at both North Canton and the Top Gun. The only other ranked wrestler is returning district placer in Lucas, who was fifth at both those tournaments.

#### *120 pounds*

1. Tyler Warner, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
2. Tony Decesare, Padua, senior (Alliance)
3. Seth Beard, Napoleon, senior (Fostoria)

4. Justin Stickle, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
5. Hunter Kosco, Canal Fulton Northwest, junior (Alliance)
6. Nick Berry, Dayton Carroll, senior (Wilmington)
7. Dante Ginnetti, Poland, senior (Alliance)
8. Blaine Hunter, Elida, senior (Fostoria)
9. Matthew Cardello, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
10. Matthew Taylor, Ashland, junior (Fostoria)
11. Addison Fogle, Licking Valley, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Carson Speelman, Mansfield Madison, junior (Fostoria)
13. Zane Johnson, Jonathan Alder, junior (Claymont)
14. Jared Stevens, Gallia Academy, junior (Claymont)
15. Quinton Bookman, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
16. Sammy Southers, Minerva, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Decesare, Kosco, Ginnetti, Cardello; Seth Schroeder (West Branch, sophomore)

CLMT – Warner, Fogle, Johnson, Stevens; Bookman, Southers

FOS – Beard, Hunter, Taylor, Speelman; Danny Assaf (Defiance, junior)

WILM – Stickle, Berry, Jaylin Cameron (Urbana, senior), Jordan Hamblin (Western Brown, sophomore); Ben Sherrill (Bellbrook, sophomore)

Take three-time state champion Tyler Warner out of the equation for a moment. Consider these facts: there are FOURTEEN other returning and/or previous state qualifiers in this weight class, six of whom have stood on the state podium at some point in their career; it includes two returning state finalists, and a third that also has a state finals appearance during his career. And to think this is the “easier” path to win a fourth state title ... tells you what is coming when one reads the 126 pound section.

Warner competed exclusively at 126 pounds through most of the season, before dropping for a tri-meet on the last Saturday of January. Up at 126 pounds, he placed seventh at the Ironman (losses to both Tariq Wilson and Mitch Moore) before winning titles at Medina and the Top Gun (over projected D1 champion Mackall). Five other ranked wrestlers join him at the Claymont district, though all occupy positions 11 through 16 on the ladder.

The rest of the ranked group is led by returning state qualifiers Fogle and Johnson, along with 2014 state qualifier Stevens (last year a state alternate), as well returning state alternates Bookman and Southers. Stevens is the only one of the six who would not have been at this district tournament under last year’s composition.

Two others of the top five exit the district at Alliance, along with two other top nine ranked wrestlers. They are the clear state qualification favorites. Two-time state runner-up DeCesare, who lost to Warner in the 2014 state final, leads the delegation; on the season he was sixth at Ironman, runner-up at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT. Two-time state placer Kosco was a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer, but missed the first half of the season due to injury; however, since return, he was champion at Top Gun. Returning state placer Ginnetti is next, and has sandwiched titles at Kenston and the Hephner around a fourth place finish at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is Cardello, who placed a disappointing eighth at state last year as a freshman at Canfield; after transferring to CVCA he was forced to sit the first half of the season, and since returning placed fifth at Maumee Bay down a weight class before taking third at Wadsworth in this weight. Among the others here is 2014 state qualifier Dalton McCloskey (Girard), who competed in Division III on that occasion.

Three-time state placer Beard was runner-up to Warner back in 2013, losing in the ultimate tiebreaker on that occasion; since then it's been back-slides to third and fifth. This season he was seventh at the Ironman before winning titles at Medina and Perrysburg. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Fostoria district, a group led by 2014 placer Hunter, who was runner-up at Allen County and third at Defiance. The junior Taylor is next having a third place finish at the Gorman to go with a runner-up at Marion County; while fellow junior Speelman placed sixth at Medina and fifth at both the Gorman and Marion County. Returning state qualifier Assaf is also here.

Rounding it out is the district at Wilmington, which has just two ranked wrestlers. The duo is anchored by returning state runner-up Stickley, who was champion at the GMVWA after failing to place at the Ironman. Joining him is returning state qualifier Berry, who placed fourth at Medina. Also here is returning state qualifier Cameron.

### *126 pounds*

1. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
2. Mitch Moore, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Rosendo Beltran, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
4. Luke Wymer, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Charlie Nash, Norwalk, senior (Fostoria)
6. Justin Shaw, Carrollton, sophomore (Claymont)
7. Errik Gerback, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
8. Chandler Golec, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
9. Aaron Kelly, Rocky River, senior (Fostoria)
10. Hunter Deshon, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
11. Taylor Steele, Waynesville, junior (Wilmington)
12. Tra Jones, Sandusky, senior (Fostoria)
13. Mauricio Barajas, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
14. Jayden Hefner, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
15. Logan Ball, Cambridge, junior (Claymont)
16. Casey Ragle, Norwood, sophomore (Wilmington)

ALL – Wymer, Gerback, Deshon, Mitch Skleres (Lake Catholic, junior); David Genovese (Woodridge, junior)

CLMT – Wilson, Shaw, Golec, Ball; Ben Kring (Bishop Watterson, senior)

FOS – Beltran, Nash, Kelly, Jones; Barajas, Hefner

WILM – Moore, Steele, Ragle, Coby Hughes (Miami Trace, sophomore); Coleman Manning (Eaton, junior)

Given that there is no question about St. Paris Graham winning the state title, which would be their sixteenth in a row, there has to be some questions for them to answer along the way. One would be how many individuals win their weight class. The record for state champions and points scored in the state tournament was accomplished by Graham in 2009 (seven champs and 282 points). One of the cogs in the Falcons machine is Mitch Moore, state champion last year as a freshman.

However, he's going to have a very tough battle on his hands if he is to repeat as state champion with two-time state runner-up Wilson standing in his way. The two met in the preseason at the Super 32 Challenge in the match to place. Wilson took a decent sized lead midway through the match; Moore

than ate into the lead, finally going ahead on a toss that ended up in him getting a fall. However, Wilson won the Ironman six weeks later, with Moore finishing in third place.

Since then both have impressively ran through their opposition. Moore with wins over the Ironman runner-up Matthews and returning state champion Hart in dual meets to go with his title at the GMVWA, while Wilson added titles at North Canton and the OVAC. Should each win their district tournament, they would be bracketed to meet on the raised mat at The Schott on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ten other returning and/or previous state qualifiers shape the periphery of this weight class, led by four at the Fostoria district among their six ranked wrestlers. Two-time state qualifier Beltran was runner-up at Solon (at 132) and Perrysburg before winning the CIT, while two-time state placer Nash has titles at Milan Edison (at 120), Kenston, and Hamilton Township this season. The other two state qualifiers here are the senior Kelly, champion at three tournaments and a quarterfinalist at the Bill Dies this season; along with the sophomore Barajas, who placed fifth at Maumee Bay. The junior Hefner was a state alternate last year, and placed eighth at the GMVWA; while the senior Jones was champion at Tiffin Columbian and third at Maumee Bay.

Wilson, who signed with North Carolina State, is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Clamont district. The group is led by the sophomore Shaw, who placed third at North Canton and fifth at the Top Gun. Next in line is the junior Golec, already a two-time state qualifier; while fellow junior Ball is a returning state qualifier down three weight classes and placed third in the OVAC meet this year.

Moore is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Wilmington, returning state qualifier Steele and returning state alternate Ragle. The junior Steele won a title at Milton-Union, while Ragle was third at Franklin and fifth at SWOWCA.

Rounding it out is the Alliance district, which features just three ranked wrestlers. The group is led by Wymer, who qualified for state as a freshman last year and has won tournaments at Lorain (132) and the Hephner along with a fifth place finish at Medina and third place at the Top Gun. The junior Gerback was a state alternate last year, and this season was runner-up at the Hephner along with lower places at North Canton and Top Gun; while Deshon placed eighth at state as a junior last season and was runner-up at Defiance this season. Also here is 2014 state qualifier Skleres, whose accomplishment came when competing for Division III Pymatuning Valley.

### *132 pounds*

1. Ryan Thomas, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Hunter Bray, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
3. Lane Peters, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
4. Cory Simpson, Field, senior (Alliance)
5. Collin Adkins, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)
6. Kevon Freeman, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
7. Jashon Hubbard, Steubenville, sophomore (Claymont)
8. Eli Yoho, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
9. Hunter Yackee, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
10. Otha Jones, Toledo Scott, sophomore (Fostoria)
11. Andrew Spicer, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
12. Jacob Kordik, Dayton Oakwood, senior (Wilmington)
13. Isaiah Ngaraingas, Conneaut, senior (Alliance)



14. Jacob Boldman, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
15. Drew Crabtree, Perkins, junior (Fostoria)
16. Beau Smith, Beaver Local, freshman (Claymont)

ALL – Simpson, Freeman, Yoho, Ngaraingas; Dakota McKenzie (Ravenna, senior)  
CLMT – Peters, Hubbard, Spicer, Smith; Chance Haynes (Buckeye Local, senior)  
FOS – Adkins, Yackee, Jones, Crabtree; Brad Beemer (Wapakoneta, sophomore)  
WILM – Thomas, Bray, Kordik, Boldman; Wes Davenport (Unioto, freshman)

The robustness of the lower-weights within Division II continues in this weight class that has seven returning state placers, with at least four others having state tournament experience. Yet another excellent Graham wrestler is here in the sophomore Thomas, who placed third at state last year up a weight class at 138. He's the slight favorite here, and on the season won the GMVWA, but failed to place at the Ironman and lost in overtime to the St. Edward freshman Dover in their dual meet.

The direct challenger to Thomas is three-time state placer Bray, who also exits the Wilmington district. At the Ironman, Bray also lost in overtime to Dover, then his second loss was to 2014 placer Shie; he also has titles at Franklin and Western Brown this season. The other two ranked wrestlers are both seniors; Kordik was runner-up at Tippecanoe, while Boldman has titles at Edgewood and Bellbrook.

Two other returning state placers exit the district at Claymont, including two-time placer Peters, who has been in and out of the lineup this season; he went 2-2 at the Ironman, with his front side loss being to Dover by a 5-4 score. Also here is Hubbard, who was third at 106 last year as a freshman; he missed the first half of the season, but returned to win a title at the OVAC meet. Also ranked here are 2014 state qualifier Spicer and the freshman Smith; Spicer was a quarterfinalist at Medina, while Smith placed fifth at the OVAC.

Another pair of state placers exit the district at Alliance. Three-time state placer Simpson took fourth each of the last two years, and was runner-up at the Top Gun; while the sophomore Freeman placed fourth at Brecksville and second at Brecksville before winning the CIT. The junior Yoho is a returning state alternate, placing third at Hudson and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Ngaraingas qualified for state in 2014 as a sophomore.

Rounding out the returning state placers is the senior Adkins, who placed sixth up a weight last year at 138 pounds. On the season he has titles at Bellevue (at 138) and the Gorman. His the anchor of the district at Fostoria. Among the others here is Yackee, who made state last year as a freshman, and this year has finished fourth at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. Also here is the sophomore Jones and the junior Crabtree; Crabtree having placed third at the Gorman and also a quarterfinals appearance at the Top Gun.

### *138 pounds*

1. Brent Morore, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Jake Martinez, Licking Valley, junior (Claymont)
3. Cole Woods, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
4. Brett Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
5. Hayden Bullard, Johnstown Monroe, senior (Claymont)
6. Miles Mazik, Indian Creek, junior (Claymont)
7. Adam Shaw, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)

8. Juwan Minnefield, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
9. Tyler Copeland, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
10. Jason Keyes, Beaver Local, senior (Claymont)
11. Dakota Bunting, Sparta Highland, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Greg Briggs, Cloverleaf, senior (Fostoria)
13. Alex Kowal, Bishop Fenwick, junior (Wilmington)
14. Leconte Merrell, Mansfield Madison, junior (Fostoria)
15. Parker Utley, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Greg Brewer, Circleville, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Bailey, Utley, Luke McKeon (Lake Catholic, sophomore), Chayse Creager (Marlington, junior); Charlie Olson (University School, junior)

CLMT – Martinez, Woods, Bullard, Mazik; Shaw, Keyes, Bunting

FOS – Minnefield, Copeland, Briggs, Merrell; Thurston Dyer (Upper Sandusky, senior)

WILM – Moore, Kowal, Brewer, Kurt Crockett (Indian Lake, senior); Trenton Scott (Franklin, junior)

The robust nature of these Division II weight classes in the lower half continues. Even with a defending state champion (who is nationally ranked) in this field, there still are six other state placers along with five additional wrestlers having state experience. This weight class is absolutely cannibalistic at the Claymont district as seven ranked wrestlers are here, including five of the top seven. When accounting for the unranked Maxx Peters (Claymont), six wrestlers at this district have state experience, while a seventh was a state alternate last year.

When looking at the weight above at this district, it would not be shocking at all to see a couple of kids move up one weight class; especially when considering the climate at the top of both weights is anchored by a St. Paris Graham wrestler who is the defending state champ and a clear favorite to repeat.

The junior Martinez is a returning state placer with but one blemish on the season, in the Brecksville final; he has titles at Cambridge, Olentangy Liberty, and the Bill Dies. Two-time state placer Woods finished second at state two years, and spend most of this season at 145 – including a title at Cambridge and finishing fourth at Top Gun – before making the late drop. Another returning state placer is Bullard, who lost to Woods in a dual meet. The junior Mazik has been most excellent this season with titles at four different tournaments, including the OVAC meet. Returning state alternate Shaw was runner-up at both North Canton and the Top Gun. Keyes placed seventh at state last year as a junior, placing seventh at Medina in the 145 weight class, before finishing second to Mazik in the OVAC meet here. Last among the ranked is the sophomore Bunting, a returning state qualifier, who placed third at Medina.

As mentioned already, the strong favorite here is Brent Moore, state champion last year up at 145 pounds. The Virginia Tech signee was third at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA, along with an 11-3 major decision over Ironman champion Hunter Ladnier in a mid-January dual meet. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, juniors Kowal and Brewer; Kowal was champion at Bishop Fenwick, while Brewer has a title at Western Brown.

The Fostoria district features four ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Copeland along with state qualifiers Minnefield and Copeland. The senior Minnefield leads the way having won titles at Avon Lake (at 145) and the Gorman this season before placing seventh at the Top Gun; Copeland placed fifth at state last year as a sophomore, and was a semifinalist at the GMVWA this year; while the senior

Merrell has been in and out of the lineup. Rounding out the ranked group is fellow senior Briggs, who was sixth at Medina and a champion at Willard. Also at this district is 2013 and 2014 state qualifier Thurston Dyer (Upper Sandusky), who was a state alternate last year.

Rounding it out is the district at Alliance, which features just two ranked wrestlers, including returning state third place finisher Bailey. On the season, he was fifth at Top Gun and champion at the Hephner.

#### *145 pounds*

1. Rocky Jordan, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Gage Grunden, Defiance, sophomore (Fostoria)
3. Sandro Ramirez, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
4. Brennan Joseph, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
5. Sid Ohl, Ashland, junior (Fostoria)
6. C.J. Frost, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
7. Joey Boley, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
8. Hunter McPeak, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
9. Dakotah Goff, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
10. Devin Hessler, River Valley, senior (Claymont)
11. Jake Henderson, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
12. Kevin Beal, Fairfield Union, senior (Claymont)
13. David Esarco, Poland, senior (Alliance)
14. Hunter Miles, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
15. Tony Lewis, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
16. Gavin Pearson, Talawanda, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Joseph, Frost, Boley, McPeak; Esarco, Lewis

CLMT – Goff, Hessler, Beal, Miles; Cameron Cua (Columbus DeSales, junior)

FOS – Grunden, Ramirez, Ohl, Gabe Makin (Elida, junior); Art Clark (Buckeye, junior)

WILM – Jordan, Henderson, Pearson, Mac Altom (Eaton, senior); Cameron Svarda (Middletown Madison, freshman)

The Jordan family is wrestling royalty in the Buckeye State. Jim (now a U.S. Congressman) and Jeff (head coach at St. Paris Graham) were each four-time state champions; Jim a two-time NCAA Division I champion, Jeff earning All-American honors in college. Ben and Isaac, Jim's two sons, were each three-time state champions and earned All-American honors. Bo and Micah, Jeff's two older sons were each four-time state champions; Bo was an All-American last year as a redshirt freshman, while Micah is competing as a redshirt freshman this year. Rocky is the third and final son for Jeff, and the last of the second generation Jordan's.

Rocky was runner-up at state last year, but is a strong favorite to win this coming year. Should he win state the next three years, the second generation Jordan's would have combined for 17 by themselves to go with the eight earned by Jim and Jeff. This one legacy would have 25 state titles, or one less than those earned by the great St. Peter Chanel program before its close; those state titles would be just outside the top ten for any school in Ohio history.

This season Rocky placed fifth at the Ironman and second at the GMVWA. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, both outside the placement positions. The junior Henderson

was champion at Franklin and Western Brown, while the senior Pearson is a returning district placer, placing at both Edgewood and SWOWCA this year.

The two wrestlers ranked behind Rocky are both sophomores who competed at 126 pounds last year. Ramirez placed third at state, while Grunden won two district tournament matches at a loaded weight class before having to bow out of the tournament. Each also entered high school with high-level junior high credentials. Ramirez was champion in the Frosh/Soph division at the USA Wrestling Preseason Nationals this fall, but missed the first month-plus of the season due to injury; he returned at the Maumee Bay Classic, where he placed third after losing a semifinal match to Grunden in overtime. Grunden has won titles at Defiance, Perrysburg, and Maumee Bay this season with his only loss coming to Moises Guillen at the Fricker's Duals.

That pair anchors a district weight at Fostoria that features just one other ranked wrestler, returning state alternate Ohi; on the season he was champion at Marion County up at 152 before dropping to win a title at West Holmes, by major decision over 2014 state runner-up Woods. Should one of these three move up to 152, it turns a shallow district weight into one that is very weak.

Three returning state qualifiers, all seniors, anchor the district at Alliance. Leading the group is returning state placer Joseph, who was runner-up at the Hephner; Frost placed sixth at Brecksville and fifth at the Dies, while in between he was runner-up at Perry; while McPeak was eighth at Top Gun and runner-up at the Hephner up one weight class before dropping here. Three others are ranked at this district tournament, though it's the senior Boley who is the additional projected state qualifier; on the season he was runner-up at Solon, seventh at Brecksville, third at the Gorman, and champion at CIT. Esarco and Lewis have faced each other this year in medal bouts at Kenston, Top Gun, and the Hephner.

The remaining four ranked wrestlers exit the district at Claymont, though they could be joined by some of those ranked at 138 pounds (Keyes and Bunting come immediately to mind as the likely "bump" candidates). The senior Goff is the lone returning state qualifier. He went 1-2 at the Ironman and was a quarterfinalist at North Canton while up at 152 pounds, before dropping to this weight class and finishing second at the OVAC meet. Three seniors in Hessler, Beal, and Miles were all state alternates last year.

#### *152 pounds*

1. Georgio Poullas, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
2. Davey Tunon, Clinton Massie, senior (Wilmington)
3. Seth Boggs, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
4. Richard Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
5. Justice Avery, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
6. Jack Peura, Tippecanoe, senior (Wilmington)
7. Luciano Mendicino, Granville, junior (Claymont)
8. Michael McIntire, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
9. Tommy King, Huron, senior (Fostoria)
10. Vince Zitiello, Bay, senior (Fostoria)
11. Casey Parsons, Vincent Warren, senior (Claymont)
12. Malachi Marlow, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)
13. Joey Sanchez, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Kobe Chellan, Defiance, senior (Fostoria)
15. Colin Hagenbush, Norton, senior (Alliance)

16. Tyler Young, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Poullas, McIntire, Hagenbush, Isaac Yoho (Woodridge, sophomore); Nick Vespucci (Crestwood, junior)

CLMT – Avery, Mendicino, Parsons, Clayton Glick (New Lexington, junior); Hayden McGee (Maysville, freshman)

FOS – Boggs, Jackson, King, Zitiello; Chellan

WILM – Tunon, Peura, Marlow, Sanchez; Young

Though there is no superstar anchor, there is some breadth with eleven wrestlers having state tournament experience in this weight class. Leading the way is nationally ranked Poullas, who has placed sixth at state in each of his first two high school seasons. He jumped onto the national scene with a sixth place finish in the pre-season Super 32 Challenge, including some high quality wins. There was a slight blemish in going 2-2 at the Ironman; however, he is undefeated since then with titles at Brecksville, Perry, and the Bill Dies.

Only two other ranked wrestlers join Poullas at the Alliance district, both of whom were go-to-state match losers in the junior McIntire and the senior Hagenbush (returning state alternate). On the season, McIntire has tournament titles at Lorain and the North Coast Classic, while finishing seventh at Medina and falling short of placement at the Top Gun.

Two wrestlers in this weight class placed third at state last year, both of whom are seniors, Tunon and Jackson; Tunon did so down in Division III, while Jackson's came up a weight class at 160 pounds.

Jackson is the second best wrestler among the five ranked at the Fostoria district. On the season he was sixth at Brecksville before runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and the CIT. Leading the group at this district is the senior Boggs, who made the state tournament last year; this season he won titles at Avon Lake and Medina before finishing third at the Gorman and runner-up at Top Gun. King qualified for state last year in Division III, and this year was runner-up at Marion County; while Zitiello, who qualified for state as a sophomore in 2014, won the Gorman after finishing runner-up at Lorain and third at the North Coast. Rounding out the ranked lot is fellow senior Chellan, who was champion at Defiance.

Tunon anchors five ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, with his lone blemish being a 4-3 finals loss at the GMVWA to two-time Division I state placer Brusco; he has titles at Fairfield, Western Brown, and Hamilton Township subsequent to that. Another returning state placer in this weight is fellow senior Peura, who was champion at Tippecanoe before making a mid-January drop into this weight. Marlow is a returning state qualifier who was champion at Franklin and runner-up at Western Brown. The sophomore Sanchez failed to place at the GMVWA but was the hero of the Blair dual with a last match upset to win the meet; while Young was a district placer last year and placed third in this weight at Fairfield, while winning an opening week title at Franklin competing at 160.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Claymont, which features just three ranked wrestlers, but all are returning state qualifiers. The senior Avery placed fifth at the Top Gun, the junior Mendicino won titles at the Tilted Kilt and Defiance up one weight class before finishing third at Marion County in this weight class, while the senior Parsons had titles at Vincent Warren and Gallia up a weight class before making the mid-January drop.

*160 pounds*

1. Garrett Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. David Crawford, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Kyle Myers, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
4. Ashton Eyer, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
5. Keysean Amison, Perkins, junior (Fostoria)
6. Zach Bowman, Bishop Hartley, senior (Claymont)
7. Allister Brausch, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
8. David Heath, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Bailey Jenkins, Meadowbrook, senior (Claymont)
10. Brenton Miller, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
11. Kade Byland, Salem, senior (Alliance)
12. Dylan Plaugher, Wapakoneta, senior (Fostoria)
13. Jake Badgley, McClain, senior (Wilmington)
14. Marcus Davis, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Derek Schuette, Wauseon, senior (Fostoria)
16. Patrick Keown, Firelands, junior (Fostoria)

ALL – Crawford, Myers, Heath, Byland; Davis

CLMT – Eyer, Bowman, Jenkins, Miller; Anthony Moran (Licking Valley, senior)

FOS – Amison, Plaugher, Schuette, Keown; Garrett Coe (Keystone, junior)

WILM – Jordan, Brausch, Badgley, Drew Moore (Eaton, junior); Isaiah Davis (Indian Lake, senior)

The landscape of this weight class was somewhat shaped by Alex Marinelli, who started the season at 160 pounds, where he won his second straight Walsh Ironman title. However, he moved up to 170 for the GMVWA, flipping weight classes with returning state third place finisher Garrett Jordan. Jordan placed sixth at 160 in the Ironman, and was champion at the GMVWA in this weight class. He is the highest returning placer in this weight class, which has just one other state placer.

That wrestler would be Crawford, who placed sixth last year as a freshman. This year he placed sixth at Brecksville and fourth at the Bill Dies. There are four other ranked wrestlers joining Crawford in the Alliance district at this weight class, a group that is led by returning state qualifier Myers; the senior was runner-up at North Canton, a quarterfinalist at Brecksville, and fourth at the Top Gun. Heath was a state alternate last year as a freshman, and this year was champion at Lorain, third at the North Coast, and fifth at the Hephner. The senior Byland won two district matches last year in this weight class, missing Top Gun placement by a single match; while the sophomore Davis lost two narrow margin bouts at the Top Gun to returning state qualifiers.

Jordan's district at Wilmington is weak with just two other ranked wrestlers, one of whom is returning state qualifier Brausch. On the season he was fourth at Edgewood, sixth at the GMVWA, and champion at Bellbrook. The other ranked wrestler is Badgley, who has titles at Jackson and Hamilton Township on the season.

The remaining four returning state qualifiers in this weight class are featured at the Claymont district, led by the sophomore Eyer, whose season just started in late January after transferring from West Holmes to Claymont. Next in line is the senior Bowman who qualified for state in Division III last year, and this year was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and the CIT, which sandwiched a fourth place finish at the GMVWA. Fellow senior Jenkins was runner-up at both Beaver Local and the OVAC, while the junior Miller was champion at West Holmes after failing to place at either North Canton or Top Gun.

Rounding out the district sites is the one at Fostoria, which is bereft any state experienced wrestlers, and is led by returning alternate Amison. On the season he was champion at Avon Lake, runner-up at the Gorman, and sixth at both Medina and the Top Gun. The senior Plaughter missed placement by a match at both the GMVWA and Top Gun, fellow senior Schuette was fifth at Perrysburg and second at Maumee Bay, while the junior Keown was fourth at Perrysburg.

### *170 pounds*

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Shawn Livingston, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
3. Aidan Pasiuk, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
4. Eric Fasnacht, Padua, senior (Alliance)
5. Ben Knaus, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
6. Anthony Audi, Poland, senior (Alliance)
7. Brandon Neuberger, Norwalk, senior (Fostoria)
8. Colten Winters, London, senior (Claymont)
9. Tarin Rauch, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
10. Nate Gissinger, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
11. C.J. Cook, Kenton, sophomore (Fostoria)
12. Connor Dixon, Indian Lake, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Ethan Fout, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
14. Chase Struna, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
15. Chase Sayers, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
16. Tre Terry, Lima Bath, junior (Fostoria)

ALL – Fasnacht, Knaus, Audi, Gissinger; Struna

CLMT – Livingston, Pasiuk, Winters, Rauch; Fout

FOS – Neuberger, Cook, Terry, Alex Andrews (Napoleon, junior); TBD

WILM – Marinelli, Dixon, Sayers, Ben Davenport (Unioto, junior); Micah Linton (Logan Elm, senior)

For a second straight year, the Buckeye State's best wrestler is the senior Marinelli, who is after his fourth straight title. The future Hawkeye is ranked as the third overall recruit in the Class of 2016. For the season, Marinelli is undefeated (obviously) and dominating the opposition. Furthermore, his presence and/or absence has shifted the landscape in multiple state tournament weight classes within Division II.

When he was at 160 to start the season, there were two returning state runners-up that decided to find their home in this weight class, Wiederholt and Bowers. However, when Marinelli moved up to 170, each has reacted by moving to 182. Though there are five returning state placers, along with two other state qualifiers to augment Marinelli, it's a field that is relatively cleared out. Only two other ranked wrestlers exit the Wilmington district with Marinelli. The sophomore Dixon was sixth at GMVWA before finishing runner-up at Dublin Scioto and winning the title at Maumee Bay; while the senior Sayers was third at Franklin and fourth at SWOWCA in the 182 pound weight class, with a runner-up at Fairfield in this weight.

Two of the additional returning state placers exit the Alliance and Claymont districts respectively, with each district having three other wrestlers in the rankings as well.

Fasnacht and Knaus, both seniors, placed seventh at state last year and lead the rankings in the Alliance district. Fasnacht has runner-up finishes at Brecksville and the CIT this year, while Knaus was champion at Lorain and a semifinalist at Top Gun. Fellow senior Audi is next in the rankings with runner-up finishes at Kenston and Top Gun before a fifth at the Hephner. Another senior Gissinger won two district tournament matches last year at 182, and placed fifth up at 195 at Brecksville; however, he dropped underneath teammate Cox into this weight class for the Top Gun.

The junior Pasiuk is the highest returning state placer other than Marinelli, finishing fourth at 152 pounds last year. This season he won at West Holmes, but failed to place top six at North Canton, losing narrow decisions to the projected runners-up in Division I (Victor Marcelli) and Division II (Livingston). Speaking of Livingston, he placed sixth at state last year; this year it's an eighth at Ironman, third at North Canton, and champion in the OVAC meet. This pair anchors the district at Claymont. Fellow returning state qualifier Winters is next, and he has a title at Dublin Scioto to go with a third place finish at Licking Heights. The junior Rauch went 4-2 at Medina, with a 2-2 mark at Top Gun (including win over Gissinger). Rounding it out is 2014 state qualifier Fout.

Lastly the Fostoria district is paper thin in this weight class with just three ranked wrestlers and a fishing expedition to find the fourth state qualifier and a projected state alternate. Leading the way is returning state placer Neuberger, who has titles in three tournaments along with third place finishes at Kenston and Marion County. Joining him in the rankings are Cook, a district placer last year as a freshman, and the junior Terry who was fourth at Maumee Bay.

#### *182 pounds*

1. Tyler Wiederholt, Bellbrook, senior (Wilmington)
2. Tre Campbell, Wauseon, senior (Fostoria)
3. Robbie Bowers, Defiance, junior (Fostoria)
4. Dalton Cox, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
5. John Szep, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
6. Mason McCane, Washington C.H., senior (Wilmington)
7. Evan Schenk, Perry, junior (Alliance)
8. Jud Ramage, Meadowbrook, sophomore (Claymont)
9. Gage Braun, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
10. Stone Day, Valley View, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Nate Walden, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
12. Garrett Robinson, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
13. Dominic Cooper, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Cole Skaggs, St. Clairsville, senior (Claymont)
15. Deuce Johnson, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Billy Cooper, Jackson, junior (Claymont)

ALL – Cox, Szep, Schenk, D. Cooper; Johnson

CLMT – Ramage, Robinson, Skaggs, B. Cooper; Justin Reynolds (Gallia Academy, senior)

FOS – Campbell, Bowers, Dylan Hefner (Wapakoneta, senior), Gabe Smythe (Bellevue, senior); Matthew Cover (Bay, freshman)

WILM – Wiederholt, McCane, Braun, Day; Walden

Three wrestlers in this weight class finished top three in the state last year, which means they would carry "separation criteria" if they were to be district champions. However, two exit the same district,



those being Campbell and Bowers at Fostoria; they're ranked directly behind Wiederholt in this weight class. Furthermore, there are no additional ranked wrestlers at this district tournament.

Campbell has a head-to-head win over Bowers in the final at Perrysburg, a 7-2 victory, though the match was closer than the score. Campbell was one match from placement at Ironman, third at Brecksville, and added a Maumee Bay title to the one at Perrysburg; while Bowers went 1-2 in the Ironman and won the Defiance tournament at 170 before bumping to this class, where he earned a third place at Maumee Bay to compliment the Perrysburg runner-up finish.

Like Bowers, the projected state champ is a returning state runner-up, having lost to a St. Paris Graham wrestler in last year's state final. He joins Bowers in moving up a weight class after Marinelli filtered into 170. While at 170 in the preseason, Wiederholt was one match from placing at the Super 32 Challenge; during the regular season, he placed fifth at the Ironman in this weight class. Since competing at 182, he has titles at the GMVWA, Bellbrook, and Western Brown. He's joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, though all are from sixth through eleventh.

Fellow senior McCane won a state tournament match in this weight class last year, and has tournament titles at Nelsonville York and Marion County after his runner-up finish at Franklin. Next here is the sophomore Braun who was fourth at the GMVWA and champion at Valley View. Fellow sophomore Day was a state alternate last year, but lost to Braun in the Valley View final in his first competition down at this weight class; he won three tournaments while competing at 195 in December. Closing out this battle for state spots is the senior Walden who placed fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at Bellbrook.

Three additional returning state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers in the Alliance district. They're led by a pair of seniors that won a state match last year in Cox and Szep, who also split matches against one another at Brecksville. Cox also has a title at North Canton, was fifth at Brecksville, and third at the Top Gun; while Szep was sixth at Brecksville, champion at the Gorman, and third at the CIT. The other returning state qualifier is the junior Schenk, who has titles at three tournaments to go with a fifth place finish at Maumee Bay. Sophomores D. Cooper and Johnson are the primary contenders for the last state tournament spot.

Rounding it out is the district at Claymont, which features two returning state qualifiers among the four ranked wrestlers. The sophomore Ramage was champion at Beaver Local and runner-up at the OVAC meet, while the senior Robinson was runner-up at Heath. The senior Skaggs was fifth at the OVAC, while junior Billy Cooper has four tournament finals appearances this season.

#### *195 pounds*

1. Jack Harris, Urbana, senior (Wilmington)
2. Kanan Sarver, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
3. Tony Bannister, Wauseon, junior (Fostoria)
4. Jaret Lester, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
5. Landon Hall, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
6. Justin Sanders, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
7. Chris Cook, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
8. Pete Abraham, Padua, junior (Alliance)
9. Joe Fornaro, West Geauga, senior (Alliance)
10. Tim Albertson, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)

11. Zach Baker, Sparta Highland, junior (Claymont)
12. Xavier Barrow, New Philadelphia, senior (Claymont)
13. Robert Marquez, Hamilton Township, junior (Claymont)
14. Cam Redman, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
15. Jacob Altman, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)
16. Logan Vannest, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)

ALL – Lester, Sanders, Cook, Abraham; Fornaro

CLMT – Albertson, Baker, Barrow, Marquez; Owen Loughman (Sheridan, freshman)

FOS – Bannister, Hall, Vannest, Ben Ocheltree (Keystone, senior); Russ DeMarco (Port Clinton, junior)

WILM – Harris, Sarver, Redman, Altman; Kevin Melling (Eaton, junior)

Last year Jack Harris became the second ever finalist in the history of Urbana's wrestling program; however, he was unable to become the school's first state champion, as he suffered a 9-3 defeat to Lexington's Drew Kasper. This year, the Kent State signee enters as a stronger favorite after earning All-American honors in Junior freestyle this summer and placing in the Super 32 Challenge during the preseason. During the regular season so far, he was runner-up at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA.

Harris exits the Wilmington district, which features three other ranked wrestlers, including the one whom is ranked directly behind him. The junior Sarver fell one match short of placing at state last year, placing at the Super 32 Challenge this fall, and placing in the Walsh Ironman. He was runner-up to Harris in the GMVWA after beating returning state placer Hall in the semifinal. The senior Redman was champion at Olentangy Liberty and third at Western Brown, while fellow senior Altman was a district placer last year, and this year was runner-up at Franklin before placing fourth at Western Brown.

The other two returning state placers exit the district at Fostoria, where they are joined by only one other ranked wrestler. Both returning state placers are juniors; Hall was sixth down a weight, while Bannister was eighth in this weight. Bannister was fifth at Brecksville before winning titles at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay, while Hall was fourth place finishes at both the GMVWA and Top Gun.

The Alliance district is the deepest here, as it features five ranked wrestlers, all of whom occupy positions between fourth and ninth. Leading the way is Lester, who was a state alternate last year as a junior. This season he has three tournament titles (Lorain, North Coast, and Top Gun) to go with two runner-up finishes (Medina and Hephner). The senior Sanders made the state tournament last year, and this year placed eighth at Brecksville. Cook, Abraham, and Fornaro were district sixth place finishers at 170, 182, and 195 pounds respectively.

Cook was champion at Defiance, runner-up to Lester at North Coast, and third at the Bill Dies; Abraham was champion at the CIT; while Fornaro was a finalist at Kenston and Perry before placing sixth at Top Gun.

Rounding it out is the Claymont district, which features four ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Albertson; he placed fourth at North Canton earlier this season. Next in line is the junior Baker, a returning district placer who finished fourth at Medina after winning the Tilted Kilt up at 220 pounds. The junior Marquez was champion at Hamilton Township, runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Western Brown, with a third place finish at Tippecanoe. Finally, the senior Barrow was champion at Hudson.

### *220 pounds*

1. Garrit Witt, Clyde, senior (Fostoria)
2. Jacob Esarco, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
3. Nick Svarda, Middletown Madison, senior (Wilmington)
4. Tristen Weirich, Ashland, senior (Fostoria)
5. Kordell Chaney, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
6. Ben Higgins, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
7. Jared Crowell, Bishop Hartley, senior (Claymont)
8. Johnny Shafer, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
9. Jalen Gowdy, Sandusky, senior (Fostoria)
10. Trey Ellis, Poland, senior (Alliance)
11. Cody Howard, Bloom Carroll, senior (Claymont)
12. Logan Ford, New Philadelphia, senior (Claymont)
13. Steven Major, Indian Lake, senior (Wilmington)
14. Dronne Moore, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
15. Ben Norman, Girard, senior (Alliance)
16. Brandon Phillips, Maumee, sophomore (Fostoria)

ALL – Esarco, Higgins, Ellis, Norman; Brandon Matlock (Warren Howland, sophomore)

CLMT – Crowell, Howard, Ford, Moore; Tommy Moore (Cambridge, junior)

FOS – Witt, Weirich, Chaney, Gowdy; Phillips

WILM – Svarda, Shafer, Major, Mason Todd (Eaton, senior); Mikey Addis (Norwood, sophomore)

A remarkably veteran weight class in terms of graduating year as there are 13 seniors among the 16 ranked wrestlers. While there is a decent amount of state experience here, four returning state placers among eight state qualifiers, it isn't an extreme volume either. The top two wrestlers in this weight class both lost narrow decisions in the state semifinal round last year, Witt in overtime on a penalty point to the at the time undefeated Tyler Dodd, and Esarco 3-2 to eventual state champion Cole Genders; both of those wrestlers were seniors last year, while the two state semifinal losers are now seniors.

Witt was runner-up at Brecksville this year, and is one of but a few of wrestlers to make it into the second period against Stencel this season. He leads the deepest district in this weight class, with four ranked wrestlers joining him at Fostoria. Fellow senior Weirich was a state alternate last year while competing in Division I; this year he has titles at the Gorman and Marion County after taking fifth at Brecksville. Three-time state qualifier Chaney placed in 2013 and 2014; this year he was runner-up at Medina and to Weirich at the Gorman, while winning a title at the Top Gun. Another returning state alternate is Gowdy, who finished third at Maumee Bay losing by second period fall to Stencel in the semifinal round. Last among the ranked is the sophomore Phillips, who was third at Bellevue and runner-up at both Tiffin Columbian and Perrysburg.

Svarda won state last year in Division III at 195 pounds despite entering the state tournament off a fourth place finish at the district level. This year the senior was champion at Bellbrook and Reading. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Wilmington. Those being the freshman Shafer and the senior Major. Shafer has major pre-high school credentials, including a junior high state title last year. This year he went 3-2 at the Ironman and was a runner-up at Valley View, losing just 5-4 to a returning state placer. Major was fifth at both GMVWA and Maumee Bay, while taking second at Dublin Scioto.

Esarco is joined by another state placer at the Alliance district tournament in fellow senior Higgins. On the season, Esarco placed fifth at the Ironman, third at Brecksville, first at Perry, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Higgins was runner-up at North Canton and the Hephner. Joining them in the rankings are seniors Ellis and Norman. Ellis was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this year was champion at Kenston before taking third at Top Gun and the Hephner; while Norman made state in Division III up at 285 pounds, and this year was runner-up at Howland and sixth at the Hephner.

Rounding it out is the Claymont district, which features two returning state qualifiers among its four ranked wrestlers. Crosswell won a match last year while competing in Division III, and this year has runner-up finishes at the GMVWA and CIT to his credit; while Howard went two-and-out at state, and this year was third at the Tilted Kilt, first at Nelsonville York, and eighth at the Bill Dies. Also ranked here is the senior Ford, who was champion at Hudson, and the junior Moore who took fifth at North Canton and seventh at the OVAC.

### *285 pounds*

1. Ian Sharp, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
2. Mitch Bischoff, Norton, senior (Alliance)
3. Matt Adams, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
4. Michael Furbee, St. Clairsville, senior (Claymont)
5. Shawn Barnes, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
6. Jacqui Vanmeter, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
7. Jared Hoy, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)
8. Logan Ferrell, Tippecanoe, senior (Wilmington)
9. Devin Williams, Shelby, junior (Fostoria)
10. Bailey Young, Lima Shawnee, sophomore (Fostoria)
11. Wes Cochran, Buckeye Valley, junior (Claymont)
12. Jamez Young, Sandusky, junior (Fostoria)
13. Isaiah Pope, Cleveland Central Catholic, senior (Alliance)
14. Mason Giordano, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
15. Trevor Hicks, Washington C.H., junior (Wilmington)
16. Colvin Turner, Franklin, junior (Wilmington)
17. Colin Shirley, Rocky River, senior (Fostoria)
18. Teague Malone, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Sharp, Bischoff, Barnes, Pope; Giordano, Dom Sciarretti (Akron SVSM, senior)

CLMT – Adams, Furbee, Vanmeter, Cochran; Malone, Jarrett Aubiel (Claymont, senior)

FOS – Hoy, Williams, B. Young, J. Young; Shirley

WILM – Ferrell, Hicks, Turner, Jeremy Rosenblum (Hamilton Ross, senior); Colin Wolfe/Skyler Morris (Miami Trace, sophomore/senior)

Heavyweight can be a very “hit or miss” weight when it comes to overall quality. This year it’s kind of a “hit” in that there are eight wrestlers having state tournament experience; however, it’s a “miss” in that only two of them are returning state place-winners, which is either tied for the lowest or the second lowest of any weight class within Division II.

Wrestler from West Branch, with the last name Sharp, competing at heavyweight. Has to be pretty good, at least that’s what history says. In this case, it seems true, as Ian qualified for the state tournament as a sophomore. This year he has only one loss, that coming in the final at North Canton to

the nationally ranked Teacher. Sharp has won tournaments at the GMVWA and Top Gun, where he beat a Division I state placer in the championship match on each occasion. The second ranked wrestler in this weight class is the highest returning placer, the senior Bischoff, who finished second at Hudson and third at the Bill Dies this season.

Both wrestlers exit the district at Alliance, which has three other ranked wrestlers in the top 18. Also here is returning state qualifier Barnes, though the senior has yet to compete this season as he is trying to descend down from his football-playing weight to the 285 pound maximum. Others ranked are the senior Sharp, a returning district placer, and the junior Giordano. On the season Giordano was sixth at Brecksville and fourth at the Bill Dies.

The other returning state medalist is the senior Furbee, who was seventh at 220 last year in Division III. On the season, he was champion at both the Buckeye 8 and OVAC meets. He's joined by three other state qualifiers at the Claymont district. Among those is two-time state qualifier Vanmeter, who has battled through significant injury to finish second at Cambridge and first at Heath this season. The senior Adams was first at Cambridge and fourth at Medina, while the junior Cochran was fourth at Marion Harding, first at Nelsonville York, and third at the Top Gun. The other ranked wrestler at this site is the senior Malone, who was fifth at Top Gun.

The remaining participant who returns with state experience is the senior Hoy, and he exits a rather strong Fostoria district along with four other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Hoy has titles at Bellevue and the Gorman. Returning state alternate Williams was champion at Marion Harding and runner-up to Hoy at the Gorman. Two other wrestlers were go-to-state match losers, the junior Jamez Young from Sandusky and the sophomore Bailey Young from Lima Shawnee, something that could be a conundrum for agate clerks in Northwest Ohio. Jamez was fourth at Maumee Bay, while Bailey was champion at Allen County and third at Marion Harding. Rounding it out is the senior Shirley who was champion at Avon Lake and has placed in three other tournaments this year.

No returning state qualifiers exit the district at Wilmington, and there are only three ranked wrestlers at the site. Leading the way is the senior Ferrell, who was fifth at Tippecanoe and the GMVWA before taking first at Lima Senior and third at Western Brown. The junior Hicks was champion at Franklin and runner-up at Nelsonville York, while returning state alternate Turner was runner-up at both Franklin and Olentangy Liberty.

#### *Team Board*

1. St. Paris Graham (Wilmington)
2. Claymont (Claymont)
3. Canfield (Alliance)
4. Akron SVSM (Alliance)
5. Wauseon (Fostoria)
6. Perkins (Fostoria)
7. Lake Catholic (Alliance)
8. Carrollton (Claymont)
9. Steubenville (Claymont)
10. Toledo Central Catholic (Fostoria)

## Division III

### *106 pounds*

1. Dylan D'Emilio, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
2. Ronnie Pietro, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
3. Cole Mattin, Delta, freshman (Toledo Waite)
4. Jacob Edwards, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
5. Colton Bethel, Ridgewood, junior (Heath)
6. Dylan Burns, Milan Edison, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
7. Jakob Neer, Northmor, junior (Heath)
8. Jared Fahrer, Evergreen, junior (Toledo Waite)
9. Zach Larue, Manchester, freshman (Garfield Hts)
10. Trevor Schaller, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Cameron Neal, Preble Shawnee, junior (Troy)
12. Collin Yinger, Nelsonville York, freshman (Heath)
13. Nick Kortis, Canton Central Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Will Roth, Sandusky SMCC, freshman (Toledo Waite)
15. Klay Reeves, Johnstown Northridge, freshman (Heath)
16. Tyler Bauer, Wayne Trace, freshman (Troy)

GH – Larue, Kortis, Steve Ferguson (Elyria Catholic, freshman), Kyle Keenan (South Range, freshman); John Kumher (Berkshire, junior)

HEA – Bethel, Neer, Yinger, Reeves; Jordan Hoselton (Zane Trace, freshman)

TROY – Pietro, Edwards, Neal, Bauer; Jackson Hugentobler (Madeira, freshman)

TWAI – D'Emilio, Mattin, Burns, Fahrer, Schaller, Roth

Even before entering high school, those in the know about wrestling knew about D'Emilio. He had already represented the United States in the UWW Cadet world freestyle championships at 46 kilograms, and won a Cadet National freestyle title last summer. During his freshman year, D'Emilio has titles at Medina and Perrysburg to go with a runner-up finish at the Ironman.

He anchors the deepest district, the one at Toledo Waite with five other ranked wrestlers. Next on the ladder is fellow freshman Mattin, who placed seventh at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg (3-0 loss to D'Emilio), and third at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Burns is one of just five wrestlers with state tournament experience in this weight class, and on the season he was champion at Milan Edison and runner-up at Marion County. The junior Fahrer was a district placer last year, and this season was champion at Toledo St. John's and fourth at Perrysburg. The sophomore Schaller has titles at Van Buren and Lima CC (January), while the freshman Roth was runner-up at Bellevue and sixth at Marion County.

The lone returning state placer in this weight class is Pietro, who placed fourth last year as a freshman. This season he was runner-up at Brecksville and fifth at the Top Gun. His district at Troy features three other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Edwards, who has titles at Tippecanoe and Marion County to go with a fourth at the GMVWA. The junior Neal was runner-up at Edgewood and third at Valley View, while winning titles at Lima CC (December) and Reading. Rounding it out is the freshman Bauer, who was runner-up at Lima CC (December) and Van Buren, while winning at Troy and finishing third at Lima CC (January).

The other two returning state qualifiers exit the district at Heath, which features two additional ranked wrestlers as well. Leading the way is the junior Bethel, who won a match at state last year; while fellow junior Neer has titles at two tournaments this year to go with third place finishes at Marion Harding and Marion County, along with a sixth place finish at the Gorman. The freshman Yinger has a runner-up finish at Nelsonville York and a seventh at Marion County, while fellow freshman Reeves was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty.

There is no state tournament experience present at a Garfield Hts district that has just two ranked wrestlers. The freshman Larue, who was third at the Bill Dies leads the group, while returning state alternate Kortis is also ranked.

### *113 pounds*

1. Tommy Hoskins, Dayton Christian, freshman (Troy)
2. Julian Sanchez, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
3. Graham Shore, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)
4. Tyler Wetzel, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
5. Christian Wellman, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Dalton Leightner, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Evan Guilford, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Connor Ryan, Covington, senior (Troy)
9. Kyle Denier, Blanchester, junior (Troy)
10. Alec Bailey, Manchester, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. John Harris, Margaretta, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Dylan Cook, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Jackson Muldrew, Shadyside, freshman (Heath)
14. Gavin Miglets, Brookfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Carter Wolf, Marion Pleasant, sophomore (Heath)
16. Brendan Williamson, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Wellman, Leightner, Bailey, Miglets; Williamson

HEA – Muldrew, Wolf, Cody Welch (Nelsonville York, senior), Jacob Edwards (Cheshire River Valley, freshman); TBD

TROY – Hoskins, Shore, Wetzel, Ryan; Denier

TWAI – Sanchez, Guilford, Harris, Cook; Ross Rayfield (Delta, senior)

Hoskins won state in this weight class last year, though it was a struggle; the quarterfinal and semifinal victories were earned in the tiebreaker, with the finals match being 1-0 in regulation. Even after a disappointing Super 32 Challenge in the preseason, Hoskins has been on fire this season with his only loss coming to the nation's second ranked wrestler at the Walsh Ironman, where he finished third. Subsequent performances include titles at Brecksville, Top Gun, and Central Crossing.

He anchors the deepest district of them all at Troy with five wrestlers ranked in the top nine, which means that a legitimate state level kid will not make it to the Schott. Two of the other three state placers in this weight class, and three of the other seven with state experience are here. The sophomore Shore placed seventh in the 106 weight class last year, and this year was fourth at Medina, third at Western Brown, along with titles at Troy (120) and Lima CC (January). Wetzel placed eighth in this weight class as a sophomore last year, and this season was fourth at Brecksville before runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January). Ryan was a state alternate two years ago as a

sophomore, and this season place fifth at both the GMVWA and Lima CC (January), with a third place finish at Troy. The final ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Denier, who qualified for state in 2014, and this season he was one match from placing at Lima CC (January). In this weight class, and at many others, the Troy district is going to be cannibalistic.

The other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Wellman, who was sixth at 106 last season. This year he has a title at Marion County and anchors a group of five ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. Returning state qualifier Leightner was runner-up at Hudson, a quarterfinalist at the Bill Dies, and his lone loss at the SMCC Duals was a 1-0 decision to projected 106 pound champ D'Emilio. The sophomore Bailey placed eighth at Brecksville, fifth at the Gorman, and seventh at Bill Dies. The senior Miglets was a district placer last year, this year he has a title at Howland and a sixth at the Hephner. Fellow senior Williamson was fifth at Kenston and runner-up at Perry.

The other two returning state qualifiers exit the district at Toledo Waite, the senior Harris and the junior Guilford. However, the lead figure here is the freshman Sanchez, who placed eighth at the Ironman before earning third at both Medina and Perrysburg. Of note for Guilford this season is a third place finish at Lima CC (January). The fourth projected state qualifier here is the sophomore Cook, who was seventh at the GMVWA.

Last among the districts is the one at Heath, which at present features zero state tournament experience and just two ranked wrestlers in all, so it's really thin. The freshman Muldrew was fourth at the OVAC, while the sophomore Wolf has fourth place finishes at three different tournaments this season. One could see two-time state placer Quinn, Muldrew's teammate, here come the post-season; however, it would not materially change the landscape for the Heath district.

#### *120 pounds*

1. Drew Mattin, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
2. Hunter Lucas, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
3. Greg Quinn, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
4. Alex Rhine, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
5. Bruce Hrynciw, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
6. Michael Sergent, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
7. Seth Hayes, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Ruger Goeltzenleuchter, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)
9. Gavin Stika, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Nate Vasquez, Fremont SJCC, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Gavin Grime, Archbold, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
12. Griffin Jenkins, Northmor, senior (Heath)
13. Brandon White, Harrison Central, senior (Heath)
14. Cameron Gessner, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Toledo Waite)
15. Ryan Matthews, Fredericktown, junior (Heath)
16. Terry Stockton, Jackson Milton, senior (Garfield Hts)
17. Trent Mast, Cardinal, junior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Hayes, Stika, Stockton, Mast; Dalton Abfall (Black River, sophomore)

HEA – Quinn, Jenkins, White, Matthews; Matt Seifert (Utica, junior), David Staten (West Jefferson, junior)

TROY – Lucas, Rhine, Sergent, Goeltzenleuchter; Kole Monebrake (Preble Shawnee, senior)



TWAI – Mattin, Hrynciw, Vasquez, Grime; Gessner

One of the key cogs in Delta's hopeful state title winning machine is the junior Mattin, who won state last year at 106 pounds after losing an ultimate tiebreaker bout in the semifinal round the year before. This season he was runner-up at the Walsh Ironman down a weight class before moving up here to win a title at Brecksville, and then finish runner-up at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. While he is the state title favorite, it is no lock. Twelve wrestlers have state tournament experience in this weight class, with seven having appeared on the podium before.

Mattin anchors the district at Toledo Waite, which features five ranked wrestlers. That does not include returning state qualifier Gage Pachlhofer (Swanton), who is out for the season. The junior Hrynciw, who was a state alternate in Division II two years ago, is the second best kid in this district weight class; he was runner-up at Medina. The sophomore Vasquez is next, having placed third at Van Buren and fourth at Lima CC (January) this season. Returning state qualifier Grime was seventh at Maumee Bay and fifth at Lima CC (January), while returning state alternate Gessner was champion at Toledo St. John's, runner-up at the Gorman, and has two other tournament placements along with a 7-6 upset over Hayes at the SMCC Duals.

Three of the other six wrestlers to place on the state podium exit the district at Troy. Two-time state placer Lucas, runner-up last year at 113, leads that list; he has three tournament titles this year, with his only blemish coming in an overtime loss to two-time state runner-up Decesare in the CIT final. The junior Rhine placed third last year, and this season was third at Brecksville, fifth at Maumee Bay, and runner-up to Lucas at Lima CC (January). Sergeant placed fourth at 113 two years ago as a freshman, and this season has a title at Marion County along with a second at Tippecanoe and a fourth at GMVWA. The junior Goeltzenleuchter has been a go-to-state match loser each of his first two years, and this year was champion at Van Buren and third at Lima CC (January).

Four returning state qualifiers, including two state placers, are the ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. The group is led by Hayes, who placed fifth at 126 last year; this season he was champion at Hudson and fifth at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Stika placed eighth at 106, and this season placed fourth at the Bill Dies after going two-and-out at Medina. The senior Stockton placed sixth at the Hephner, while the junior Mast was third at West Salem Northwestern.

Rounding it out is a Heath district that features just three ranked wrestlers, led by two-time state placer Quinn, who has won the OVAC meet this season; it should be noted that Quinn may end up dropping to 113 for the state series, and that would open up this district. The senior Jenkins was a state alternate last year at 126, and this year finished runner-up at the Sally George, while the junior Matthews was champion at West Salem Northwestern. Also here is returning state qualifier Seifert.

### *126 pounds*

1. John Smith, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Caleb Brooks, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
3. Joey Bowen, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, senior (Troy)
5. Logan Kissell, Garrettsville Garfield, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Damian D'Emilio, Genoa, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Dylan Mansor, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Alex Isbrandt, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)

9. Noah Mattin, Archbold, junior (Toledo Waite)
10. J.D. Reisinger, Swanton, senior (Toledo Waite)
11. C.J. Leffler, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Tony Paolucci, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Josh Kahl, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
14. Alex Gordy, Chillicothe Southeastern, senior (Heath)
15. Trey Combs, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Luke Coniker, Steubenville Catholic Central, junior (Heath)

GH – Smith, Bowen, Kissell, Paolucci; Combs

HEA – Brooks, Kahl, Gordy, Coniker; Gavin Stalnaker (Belpre, senior)

TROY – Clemens, Isbandt, Jay Uhlenake (Coldwater, senior), Jared Ford (Covington, junior); Sam Rozmus (Mechanicsburg, senior)

TWAI – D’Emilio, Mansor, Mattin, Leffler; Reisinger

With a returning champ and runner-up present in the weight below and weight above, this in some ways is a “sandwich weight”. Its composition certainly reflects such a situation: 17 wrestlers have state experience (14 of them from last year), with seven having placed last year, though none in the top three.

Ranked first is the highest returning placer in the weight class, the senior Smith, who finished fourth at state last year. On the season, he is yet to lose with titles at Marion Harding, the Gorman, and West Salem Northwestern. Last year at the state tournament, he entered a district champion, but lost his opening round bout in overtime. Book no certainties with him or any other wrestler in this weight class.

The Garfield Hts district includes projected champion Smith, two other returning state placers ranked in the top five, as well as two other wrestlers who won a match last year at state in the rankings. Bowen, already three times, a state placer lost an overtime match to Smith in the final of the Gorman; he also was fifth at Brecksville, a runner-up at the Bill Dies, and a champion at West Holmes. Kissell placed seventh in this weight last year as a freshman, was fifth at Solon opening weekend up a weight, before dropping here to finish second at Kenston and third at the Bill Dies. Returning qualifier Paolucci was a runner-up at Hudson.

Ranked second is the sophomore Brooks, who placed fifth down at 106 pounds last year. He competed down at 120 for Medina, where he finished third, with virtually everything else up at 126; including two tournament titles, along with runner-up finishes at the CIT and Cruiser Invitational. Returning state qualifiers Gordy and Coniker both won a match at state last year, while the junior Kahl has been a state alternate each of the last two years; this year Kahl was fourth at the OVAC meet. In addition, Gavin Stalnaker qualified for state as a freshman in 2013.

Two more returning state placers are the only two ranked wrestlers at the Troy district, and it’s a rarity to see this district be so thin at a weight class. The senior Clemens made the semis last year and dropped all the way down to sixth after missing placement by one match at state each of his first two years. On the season he has tournament titles at Van Buren and Lima CC (January) in this weight class. Isbrandt placed seventh at state last year as a freshman, and has titles at Tippecanoe and Western Brown to go with a sixth at Medina and runner-up finish at Lima CC (January). Also here is 2014 state qualifier Uhlenake.

The Toledo Waite district features five wrestlers with state tournament appearances during their career, but only the senior Reisinger has a podium finish, eighth last year at 120 pounds. This season, he was sixth at the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) along with second at Van Buren. Leading the rankings at this district is returning state alternate D'Emilio, a 2014 state qualifier who was runner-up at Medina and third at Perrysburg, as well as going undefeated at the SMCC Duals.

The depth of this district is such that Reisinger is ranked behind D'Emilio and three others, which projects him outside of state qualification. Also not ranked is 2014 state qualifier Dominic Rosin (Sandusky SMCC). Those in the rankings between D'Emilio and Reisinger are returning state qualifier Mansor, 2014 state qualifier Mattin, and district placer Leffler.

Mansor qualified for state last year as a sophomore in Division II, and this season was champion at Bellevue, fourth at Medina, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Mattin qualified for state in 2014 at Delta, moved on to Archbold, but missed last year due to injury; he dropped to this weight at the Lima CC (January) event, finished third. Leffler was a go-to-state loser last year for Division I Holland Springfield before transferring to Delta, and this year missed placement at Brecksville by a match before finishing fifth at Perrysburg and seventh at Maumee Bay.

#### *132 pounds*

1. Jake Spiess, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Brady Barnett, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Stan Bleich, Elyria Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Josh Clary, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
5. Johnny Wheeler, Northwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Nick Miller, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
7. Chase Moore, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
8. Preston Smith, Marion Pleasant, junior (Heath)
9. Colin Hennon, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
10. Kamron Paulus, Milton Union, junior (Troy)
11. Forest Belli, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Heath)
12. Donnie Starkey, Toronto, senior (Heath)
13. Brad Trescott, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Conan Becker, Northmor, sophomore (Heath)
15. Chase Sumner, Ada, sophomore (Troy)
16. Zane Strubler, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)

GH – Bleich, Trescott, Michael Wilson (Waynedale, senior), Michael Yacaparo (Triway, junior); Mason Kidd (West Salem Northwestern, senior)

HEA – Smith, Belli, Starkey, Becker; Damir Pereira (West Jefferson, junior)

TROY – Clary, Miller, Hennon, Paulus; Sumner, Strubler

TWAI – Spiess, Barnett, Wheeler, Moore; TBD

Just a few seconds can ever change the narrative. Unfortunately 2013 state champion Spiess found that out the hard way during the 113 pound state semifinal the next year. Leading 3-1 inside the last thirty seconds of the match, he was tossed on his back for two-and-two to lose 5-3. Spiess came back to finish third on Saturday morning; however, it could have easily been a state title won that Saturday night. Then, last year he won a state title at 120 pounds. Had that Friday night at state his sophomore year went differently, Spiess could be going for a fourth state title this March.

He is the solid favorite in this weight class, having shown excellent form throughout the season; Spiess finished seventh at the Ironman, first at Brecksville, champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Three other ranked wrestlers, all returning state qualifiers join him at the Toledo Waite district. Returning state runner-up Barnett is ranked second having won titles at Milan Edison, on the opening weekend at 138 pounds, and Marion County along with a sixth at Brecksville. The senior Wheeler placed third at Defiance, second at Perrysburg, and fourth at Maumee Bay; while returning state placer Moore was sixth at both the GMVWA and Van Buren (semifinal loss than injury out in the latter).

Seven others with state experience join the four that exit Toledo Waite, which includes the third ranked Bleich, who is the fourth and final returning state placer in this weight class. Bleich has made finals of four different tournaments this season, winning titles at Hudson and the Pariano. He exits the Garfield Hts district, one that features just one other ranked wrestler, returning state alternate Trescott. The fellow junior placed fourth at both Hudson and the Bill Dies.

The deepest district here is the one at Troy, which features six ranked wrestlers, including four of the top ten. Two-time qualifier Clary is the highest ranked, having placed seventh at Brecksville and then tested the waters down at 126 at the Top Gun placing sixth. Miller, who qualified for state in 2014 as a sophomore, placed sixth at Maumee Bay before winning the Lima CC (January) tournament. Fellow senior Hennon is a returning state alternate, and was runner-up at Lima CC for both their December and January tournaments, while winning at title at Lima Senior and placing fourth at the CIT. Returning state qualifier Paulus was champion at Milton Union and runner-up at Eaton. Sumner, only a sophomore, was runner-up at Lima Senior, champion at Van Buren, and third at the Sally George; while fellow sophomore Strubler was third at Tippecanoe and Lima CC (January) with an eighth at Medina and a fifth at Western Brown in between.

Rounding it out is the Heath district with three returning state qualifiers, one of whom (Pereira) falls outside the top 16. The junior Smith is highest ranked here with a tournament title at Marion Harding, which was followed by runner-up finishes at Marion County and the Sally George. Returning state qualifier Belli is next, and he won at Mount Vernon along with a seventh at Maumee Bay. Starkey, also a state qualifier last year, was fourth at the OVAC meet; while returning state alternate Becker has titles at Big Walnut and the Sally George to go with a runner-up at Marion Harding, as well as third place finishes at the Gorman and Marion County.

#### *138 pounds*

1. Tanner Smith, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
2. Dustin Marteney, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Ryan Ford, Covington, senior (Troy)
4. Brendan Fitzgerald, Grandview Hts, senior (Heath)
5. Cody Rhoads, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Brian Persinger, Triway, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Riley Smucker, Smithville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. James Limongi, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
9. Chase Mayhabb, Milton Union, senior (Troy)
10. Trevor Scherf, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Bailey Slattman, Defiance Tinora, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Kolby Rayner, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
13. Henry Danishek, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)

14. Avery Brown, Zane Trace, senior (Heath)
15. Austin Wilson, Archbold, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Tanner Bey, Versailles, junior (Troy)

GH – Rhoads, Persinger, Smucker, Hunter Napier (Fairless, senior); Gavin Chew (Mogadore, senior)

HEA – Fitzgerald, Rayner, Brown, Jake Farley (Northmor, senior); Nic Peecher (Adena, senior)

TROY – Smith, Ford, Mayhabb, Danishek; Bey

TWAI – Marteney, Limongi, Scherf, Slattman; Wilson

There is parity among the top three wrestlers in this weight class, who happen to be the lone returning state placers. Each has a legitimate case for being the projected state champion, with each having a good chance of getting their hand raised on the raised mat come Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Right now the projected state champion is the junior Smith, who was fifth at 120 pounds last year. This season he went 2-2 at the Ironman, placed eighth at Brecksville, and then won both at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January).

Smith is joined by two-time state third place finisher Ford at the Troy district, along with three other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Ford also went 2-2 at the Ironman, was champion at Troy, and runner-up at both the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) events; it was overtime losses in both of those finals, including to Smith at Lima CC. The senior Mayhabb is a returning state qualifier, and was champion at Milton Union in this weight class. The sophomore Danishek was champion at Sidney, while Bey was a district placer last year as a sophomore; Bey was runner-up at Sidney along with placing fifth at the GMVWA.

Three-time state placer Marteney is the other primary contender in this weight class, and he was the runner-up here last year. This season he missed the Ironman due to injury, fell one match short of placement at Brecksville, was champion at Perrysburg over Brecksville champion Moises Guillen, but then finished fourth at Maumee Bay. Four other ranked wrestlers join Marteney at Toledo Waite, though none have state experience.

The freshman Limongi placed fifth at both Medina and Perrysburg, while going undefeated at the SMCC Duals. The junior Scherf was runner-up at Bellevue, and went 4-2 at Medina while missing placement by one match. Fellow junior Slattman was also undefeated at the SMCC Duals, while placing third at Perrysburg. Returning state alternate Wilson is also a junior. 2014 state qualifier Trevor Reed (New London) is also in this weight class.

Though not among the top three, three-time state qualifier Fitzgerald fits more with that group than he does the group of wrestlers ranked from fifth on down. This season he was fourth at Medina, while he seeks that elusive state podium. Two other state qualifiers join him at the Heath district, though they are the only other ranked wrestlers. Rayner placed fourth at the OVAC meet, while Brown was champion at Vinton County and runner-up at Jackson.

Finally, it's the Garfield Hts district with the remaining two of the ten with state experience in this weight class. Persinger qualified for state two years ago as a freshman in Division II, and this season was champion at West Salem Northwestern before taking third at West Holmes; while the sophomore Smucker was runner-up at both West Salem Northwestern and West Holmes. The lone other ranked wrestler at this district is returning state alternate Rhoads, who was champion at Perry and runner-up at the Hephner.

*145 pounds*

1. Logan Lacure, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
2. Derek Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Wade Smiddy, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
4. Colt Yinger, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Heath)
5. Rhett Petersen, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Jason Sadler, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Bobby Stewart, Union Local, senior (Heath)
8. Jake Gutierrez, Springfield Catholic Central, senior (Troy)
9. Luke Buxton, Dixie, senior (Troy)
10. Brett Kahl, Shadyside, senior (Heath)
11. Alex Neuberger, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Spencer Seibert, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
13. Brock Zugg, Marion Pleasant, junior (Heath)
14. Ian Maund, Mapleton, senior (Garifield Hts)
15. Travis Barnes, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Adam Bates, Genoa, junior (Toledo Waite)

GH – Sadler, Maund, Kyle Cayse (West Salem Northwestern, senior), Kevin Naim (Lutheran West, senior); Brandon Neikirk (Cardinal, senior)

HEA – Yinger, Stewart, Kahl, Zugg; Dawson Hoselton (Zane Trace, junior)

TROY – Lacure, Smiddy, Gutierrez, Buxton; Seibert

TWAI – Gross, Petersen, Neuberger, Barnes; Bates

The 2015 state final at 145 pounds in Division III: Logan Lacure (Dayton Christian) major dec. Derek Gross (Norwalk St. Paul) 15-6. That was the agate line. This year, one might see that same exact agate line. At least it's possible, as the top two wrestlers here are those same two kids. Both wrestlers are undefeated for the season to date, with Lacure winning titles at the Top Gun and (at 152) Central Crossing; the Top Gun final was the infamous 4-4 ultimate tiebreak rideout over David Carr. Gross counters with four tournament titles, including a 7-6 tiebreaker victory over Smiddy in the final at Lima CC (January).

Lacure is joined by Smiddy and three others with state experience at the Troy district. Smiddy, fifth in Division II at this weight class last year, has a championship at Brecksville to go with runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January). Returning state placer Gutierrez was third at the CIT, while the senior Buxton was runner-up at Edgewood, champion at Milton Union, and third at both Miamisburg and Lima CC (January). Rounding it out is 2014 state qualifier Seibert, who was champion at both Lima CC (December) and Troy before taking third at Lima CC (January).

Six others outside of those at the Troy district have state tournament experience in this weight class, two of those exit the Toledo Waite district, which includes second ranked Gross. The senior Petersen won a match in the Division II state tournament at this weight class last year, and this season has a title at Bellevue to go with a third at Medina, runner-up at Perrysburg, and sixth at Maumee Bay. The junior is a returning state alternate, while the other two ranked wrestlers are also juniors in Barnes and Bates.

Three have state experience from the Heath district, though none has placed. Leading the way is the sophomore Yinger, who was runner-up at Brecksville and has tournament titles at Nelsonville York and

Marion County. The senior Stewart was champion of the OVAC meet, while 2014 state qualifier Kahl placed third at the OVAC. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the junior Zugg, a returning district placer, who was runner-up at Marion Harding.

Last among the districts is the one at Garfield Hts, which features just two ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Sadler. On the season he was runner-up at Hudson in the 152 pound weight class before taking third at the Bill Dies and going undefeated at the SMCC Duals in this weight. The other ranked wrestler is fellow senior Maund, a returning state alternate, who placed third at Marion Harding, fourth at the Gorman, and second at West Salem Northwestern.

### *152 pounds*

1. Jesse Beverly, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
2. Nick Vestal, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Dylan Hall, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
4. Garrett Grime, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Hunter Flinner, Triway, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Logan Stanley, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
7. Garrett Hall, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Hobie Howiler, Barnesville, senior (Heath)
9. Dan Stoll, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
10. Josh Tompkins, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Antonio Vasquez, Gibsonburg, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Steele Strout, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Heath)
13. Jake Huston, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
14. Corey Bogan, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
15. Joseph Eisele, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
16. Anthony Renforth, South Range, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Flinner, Stanley, G. Hall, Tompkins; Renforth

HEA – Howiler, Strout, Leland Hostetler (Tuscarawas Valley, senior), Brennan Alverson (Coshocton, senior); Kasey Bethel (Ridgewood, junior)

TROY – Vestal, Bogan, Eisele, Josh Campbell (Summit Country Day, junior); Brandon Soules (Allen East, senior)

TWAI – Beverly, D. Hall, Grime, Stoll; Vasquez, Huston

Given the presence of two-time state champions in the weight classes immediately above (Romero) and below (Lacure), it is somewhat surprising about the limited quantity of quality in this weight class. There are only two returning state placers, both returning state runners-up, and seven total wrestlers with state tournament experience in the weight class. Beverly was runner-up at 160 pounds last year, moving one weight class above Romero, while Vestal was runner-up to Romero. In last year's Brecksville tournament, Beverly won a consolation match over Vestal.

Projected state champion Beverly anchors six ranked wrestlers at the Toledo Waite district. The junior has had a most excellent season, including arguably the upset of the season; a 9-7 overtime decision in the Brecksville semifinal over two-time state champion Kyle Lawson, one in which he rallied from a 5-0 first period deficit. While at 160 he was runner-up to Romero at Brecksville, sixth at the Ironman, and champion at Perrysburg; the title at Maumee Bay came in this weight class. Returning state qualifier Dylan Hall placed fifth at Medina before winning titles at Perrysburg and Van Buren. Returning state

alternate Grime was fourth at Maumee Bay and champion at Lima CC (January). Fellow senior Stoll was champion at Milan Edison and fifth at Marion County. Yet another senior Vasquez was runner-up at Van Buren, while the junior Huston was champion at Bellevue, fourth at Perrysburg, and eighth at Maumee Bay.

Vestal leads just a trio of ranked wrestlers at the Troy district. On this season, he has a sixth place finish at the Ironman, runner-up finishes at Brecksville and (at 160) Central Crossing, along with a third at Top Gun and a title at Sidney. Returning state qualifier Bogan was runner-up at Lima CC (January), while fellow senior Eisele placed third in that same tournament.

The Garfield Hts district features five ranked wrestlers, including two seniors with state tournament wins in Garrett Hall and Tompkins. Hall was third at the Bill Dies, while Tompkins placed sixth in that same tournament. Returning district placer Flinner, who last year was in Division II, is the top ranked wrestler at this district; on the season he has a title at West Holmes. The sophomore Stanley has shown excellent form as of late, including wins over state qualifiers Garrett and Dylan Hall within the last week, also finishing fourth at Marion County. The last ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Renforth.

Rounding it out is the Heath district, which only has two ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Howiler who was runner-up at the OVAC meet. Also ranked here is the junior Strout, who was seventh at Maumee Bay.

#### *160 pounds*

1. Kaleb Romero, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
2. Damion Vitt, Hopewell Loudon, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Chase Fetter, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Lance Miller, Covington, junior (Troy)
6. Jake McCarthy, Purcell Marian, senior (Troy)
7. Josh Doherty, West Jefferson, junior (Heath)
8. Anthony Risley, Harrison Central, senior (Heath)
9. Corey Dieringer, Versailles, senior (Troy)
10. Noah Baker, Elmwood, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Dalton Burns, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Tyler Speelman, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Heath)
13. Billy Johnson, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
14. Bruce George, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
15. Jaret Parker, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Cedro Parise, Steubenville Catholic Central, senior (Heath)
17. Drake Barnett, Galion, senior (Toledo Waite)

GH – Stanley, George, Nick Kusa (Mapleton, senior), Nick Frye (Cuyahoga Hts, junior); Trevor Ullman (Manchester, senior)

HEA – Doherty, Risley, Speelman, Johnson; Parise

TROY – Romero, Miller, McCarthy, Dieringer; Brett Vonderwell (Delphos St. John's, junior)

TWAI – Vitt, Fetter, Baker, Burns; Parker, Barnett

For better or worse, extreme specialization has become the norm within prep sports these days. However, that is not the case for one of the state's prodigal wrestling talents. The junior Romero is a



three-year starter at quarterback and defensive back in football and also played varsity baseball during his freshman season. His Indians' football squad has made the playoffs during each of his three high school seasons; state semifinalists his freshman year, losing a highly controversial 42-41 double OT opening round game to eventual state champions Minster, and then losing a 9-7 classic in the regional final to perennial power Marion Local this past year. Romero was also named all-state first-team on the football field this fall.

Those three playoff losses happen to equal the total amount of losses Romero has had in his high school wrestling career to date; 46-1 as a freshman on the way to a state title, 52-2 as a sophomore (both losses at the Ironman), and 32-0 in his junior season (titles at Brecksville, Maumee Bay, and Lima CC) through the end of January. He is the anchor wrestler for a Mechanicsburg team that has emerged into not only the second best team in Division III, but a legitimately relevant program in Ohio, one that can compete with anyone regardless of division.

Given his presence, one would expect to see a somewhat "cleared out" weight class. Just two other state placers are present here, with seven others possessing state experience, but that group has one win between them at the state tournament. With returning state champion Handwerk reportedly moving out of the 170 pound weight class, we might see someone move up from here to 170.

Those other two state placers both took fifth last year as juniors, Vitt at 152 and Reid Stanley at 145.

Vitt anchors the deepest district of them all, the one at Toledo Waite, which features five other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Vitt has tournament titles at the Gorman and Van Buren, while also having two dual meet wins at 170 pounds over state placer Draper (he also has a dual meet loss at 170 to returning state placer Steiner). Returning state qualifier Fetter is next, having a tournament title at Toledo St. John's to go with a third place finish at the Gorman and a runner-up finish at Marion County. Returning state alternate Baker placed third at Perrysburg and second at Van Buren, while fellow junior Burns was champion at Milan Edison and third at Marion County. Yet another junior in Parker was seventh at both Perrysburg and Maumee Bay, while the senior Barnett won two matches at a Division II district tournament last year.

Stanley is at a Garfield Hts district tournament that features just one other ranked wrestler. He was champion at Marion County earlier this season, a 5-4 win over Fetter in the final. The other ranked wrestler at this district is the junior George, who was second at Hudson while competing at 170, and earned a 3-2 upset over Burns to propel his team to the SMCC Duals title. It should be noted that returning state placer Patrick Jordan (Waterloo) has been nowhere to be found this season, last year he was seventh at 152 pounds.

At the Troy district, Romero is joined by three other ranked wrestlers, while returning state qualifier Vonderwell falls outside the top 17. Second behind Romero at the district is Miller, who made state last year as a sophomore. This season he was runner-up at the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) with a title at Troy mixed in between. Also making state last year was the senior McCarthy, who has a title at Bishop Fenwick this season; while fellow senior Dieringer missed placement by a match at the GMVWA and finished sixth at Maumee Bay.

Rounding it out is the Heath district, which features three wrestlers that went two-and-out at state last year among its five ranked wrestlers. First on the list is the junior Doherty, who has a title at the Sally George; next is the senior Risley, who was third at the OVAC meet; while the sophomore Speelman was

champion at Nelsonville York. The junior Johnson placed fourth at the OVAC meet, while the senior Parise was a state alternate last year, and one match from placing at the OVAC.

*170 pounds*

1. Zach Steiner, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Luke Sorboro, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Matt McFarland, Union Local, senior (Heath)
4. Jansen Love, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
5. Cole Draper, Mohawk, junior (Toledo Waite)
6. Kyle Ice, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Andrew Caris, Eastwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
8. Tristin Siemer, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
9. Teagan McFadden, Paint Valley, senior (Heath)
10. Jacob Thompson, Triad, senior (Troy)
11. David Bell, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Sam Stoll, Milan Edison, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Jordan Birdsall, Montpelier, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Nate Fry, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Toledo Waite)
15. Trenton Bradbury, Alexander, senior (Heath)
16. B.J. Ratcliff, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)

GH – Steiner, Sorboro, Ice, Paul Dies (Manchester, senior); Tom McKale (Newbury, junior)

HEA – McFarland, Siemer, McFadden, Bradbury; A.J. Straight (Madison Plains, junior)

TROY – Love, Thompson, Ratcliff, Dawson Davis (Williamsburg, senior); Tyler Ebbeskotte (Ottawa Glandorf, junior)

TWAI – Draper, Caris, Bell, Stoll; Birdsall, Fry

Though returning state champion Handwerk has competed here the majority of this season, it has been suggested that he is moving up to 182 pounds for the post-season. With that being the case, and Romero in the weight below, this could be a classic sandwich weight. However, there are only seven wrestlers present with state experience, including three returning state placers, none though above fifth. Leading the way here is a pair of juniors in Steiner and Sorboro, both of whom exit the Garfield Hts district.

Steiner, who placed sixth after making the state semifinals at 152 pounds, is the pick at this point. He also went 1-2 at the state tournament as a freshman. On the season, he was champion at Medina with a 5-4 upset over Handwerk in the final; but he finished fifth at the Bill Dies. Steiner was subsequently undefeated at the SMCC Duals with two wins over returning state placers (5-3 Vitt and 14-5 Draper).

Sorboro placed fifth at 160 pounds, which makes him the highest returning state placer (though Vitt, who is right now down at 160, also placed fifth). He outplaced Steiner at the Bill Dies, finishing third, with a win over an opponent that beat Steiner in the consolation final. He was runner-up at Hudson at 182, and (like Steiner) went undefeated at the SMCC Duals. The only other ranked wrestler at Garfield Hts is returning state alternate Ice, who is also a junior; he was a finalist at Marion County earlier this season.

The other returning state placer presently here is fellow junior Draper, who was sixth in this weight class last year. On the season he was fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at Van Buren, also losing twice at

the SMCC Duals to Steiner and Vitt. Draper leads the strongest district of the four in this weight class, as there are five other ranked wrestlers at Toledo Waite. Returning state qualifier Caris was champion at Lima Senior and Van Buren (pinning Draper in that final), but placed fourth at Lima CC (January). The senior Bell was runner-up at Lima CC (January), the sophomore Stoll was champion at Marion County, the senior Birdsall was champion at Arcadia, while returning district lacer Fry finished third at Lima CC (January).

Two-time state qualifier McFarland, runner-up at the OVAC meet, leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. Next on the ladder there is Siemer, who made state last year as a freshman, and this season was fourth at the CIT and third at the Cruiser Invitational. McFadden made state two years ago as a sophomore, but was a state alternate last year; fellow senior Bradbury was also a state alternate last year, and has three tournament titles on the season.

Lastly the district at Troy features no state tournament experience and just three ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Love, who was eighth at Brecksville, fifth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Central Crossing. The senior Thompson has tournament titles at Marion Harding and Lima CC (January), while returning district placer Ratcliff has titles at Deer Park and Madeira.

#### *182 pounds*

1. James Handwerk, Lutheran West, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Kian Thompson, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Tristan Anderson, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Caleb Johnson, Paint Valley, senior (Heath)
5. Gaige Willis, Pymatuning Valley, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Jeffrey Botts, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)
7. Corbin Bunsold, North Union, senior (Troy)
8. Josh Bialosky, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Daniel Beemer, Ottawa Glandorf, sophomore (Troy)
10. Anthony Italiano, Jackson Milton, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Jacob Campbell, Black River, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
12. Dylan Rogers, Delta, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Chase Carpenter, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Madison Jaso, Gibsonburg, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Nick Shephard, Fairless, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Jeremy Bresciani, Coshocton, senior (Heath)
17. Brandon Magee, Covington, senior (Troy)

GH – Handwerk, Anderson, Willis, Bialosky; Italiano, Campbell, Shepherd

HEA – Johnson, Bresciani, Ben Smith (Fredericktown, sophomore), Carlos Kusic (Bridgeport, senior); Luke Matusik (Hannibal River, junior)

TROY – Botts, Bunsold, Beemer, Magee; Andrew Nichols (Columbus Grove, senior)

TWAI – Thompson, Rogers, Carpenter, Jaso; Jace Grossman (Elmwood, junior)

Four of the five champions last year from 160 through 220 in Division III are no longer in the division, which has created some barren upper-weights in the division. The late movement of the lone returning champion in this weight range (Handwerk) into this weight class certainly creates some interesting decisions as the end of the season arises. With Handwerk present, this report is projecting four total

state placers and six qualifiers to be present in this weight class (returning state fifth Staggs is projected at 195 in this report, though early indications were he was going to get down to this weight class).

In terms of Handwerk, he has been excellent at 170 this season, outside of the one aberrant loss in the Medina final to Steiner. It includes a fourth place finish at the Ironman and a championship at Perry. During the off-season, he was a Junior National double All-American at this weight class in Fargo, while he was one match from placing at the Super 32 down at 170 (he did beat a nationally ranked Ohio State signee in that tournament though).

Two other top five ranked wrestlers in this weight join Handwerk at the Garfield Hts district, both of whom were on the podium at state last year, as do four other state ranked wrestlers, which makes a total of seven at this jam packed district weight class. Anderson placed seventh last year at 195 after placing fourth in that same weight class the year before as a sophomore; he has tournament runner-up finishes in this weight class at both Coshocton and Marion County. Willis placed eighth at 170 last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Kenston.

Next is the junior Bialosky, who was a go-to-match loser two years ago, but fell back to 1-2 at the district last year; this season includes a runner-up finish at Kenston, which is his only loss to date. The senior Italiano was a state alternate last year in this weight class, and this year has a fourth at Solon (at 195) and an eighth at the Hephner. Another returning state alternate is Campbell, who was at 170 last year as a freshman, and this season has tournament titles at Marion Harding and Willard, along with a runner-up finish at the Gorman. Concluding the ranked group at this district is the sophomore Shephard, who was third at Hudson.

The lone other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Johnson, who was fourth in this same weight class last year. He has a title at Big Walnut and was undefeated at the SMCC Duals this season. Only one other ranked wrestler, the senior Bresciani, joins him at the Heath district; on the season Bresciani has a title at West Salem Northwestern.

The other two returning state qualifiers both exit the Troy district, a pair of seniors in Botts and Bunsold. Botts has tournament titles at Deer Park, SWOWCA, and Madeira on the season. Two other ranked wrestlers exit the district as well. The sophomore Beemer who has titles at Lima CC (December), Van Buren, and Lima CC (January); while the senior Magee was champion at Troy and runner-up at Lima CC (January).

There is no state tournament experience at the Toledo Waite district, though there is the second ranked wrestler in this weight class in the junior Thompson, a state alternate last year in Division II. This season has been excellent, as he was champion at Bellevue, third at Perrysburg, and fourth at both Medina and Maumee Bay; four of his five losses are to wrestlers projected to finish top three in either Division I or Division II. The sophomore Rogers was fourth at Perrysburg and missed placement by a match at both Brecksville and Maumee Bay. Jaso was a district placer last year as a sophomore, and this season has a runner-up finish at Van Buren; while the senior Carpenter was runner-up at Defiance.

#### *195 pounds*

1. Jordan Leasure, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Troy)
2. Dalton Hoover, Martins Ferry, sophomore (Heath)
3. Jack Staggs, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
4. John Kelbly, Smithville, junior (Garfield Hts)

5. Will Bolanz, Waterloo, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Dylan Thorp, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
7. Kyle Gigandet, Versailles, senior (Troy)
8. Drew Lowery, Toronto, senior (Heath)
9. Corey Taylor, West Muskingum, senior (Heath)
10. Caide Bunfill, Barnesville, junior (Heath)
11. Caleb Rupert, Columbiana, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Jake Burns, West Jefferson, junior (Heath)
13. Kent Petersen, Patrick Henry, junior (Troy)
14. Matt Herrick, Genoa, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Paul Skye, Mogadore, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Austin Cobb, Caldwell, senior (Heath)

GH – Kelbly, Bolanz, Rupert, Skye; Crawford Hamrick (Tuslaw, sophomore)

HEA – Hoover, Lowery, Taylor, Bunfill; Burns, Cobb

TROY – Leasure, Gigandet, Petersen, Davionne Laney (Summit Country Day, senior); Cade Huston (Blanchester, junior)

TWAI – Staggs, Thorp, Herrick, Jon Racheter (Carey, junior); Zane Zientek (Eastwood, junior)

Three-time state placer Leasure has yet to make the podium in his state tournament career. In addition, his school has yo-yoed between Division III and Division II twice in his career; Amanda Clearcreek competed in Division III during Leasure's freshman year before moving up to Division II the next two years. However, they are now in Division III, and that is likely to Leasure's benefit. This past weekend, he won at New Lexington with a 6-5 championship match victory over the projected Division II runner-up in this weight class.

Leasure exits the Troy district, which has two other ranked wrestlers in this weight class, both of whom also have state tournament experience (a total of ten in this weight have competed in the state tournament previously in their career). Fellow senior Gigandet went 1-2 at last year's state tournament in the 220 pound weight class; this season he was eighth at the GMVWA and third at Maumee Bay. Petersen qualified for state two years ago as a freshman, and has titles at Lima CC in December and January this season.

Two of the three returning state medalists, both of whom are junior, in this weight class exit the Garfield Hts district, one that has four ranked wrestlers in total. Kelbly, eighth last year at 182 pounds, has tournament titles at West Salem Northwestern at West Holmes this season. Bolanz, sixth in this weight last year, lost a 7-4 decision to Kelbly in the final at West Salem Northwestern. Also ranked here is fellow junior Rupert, who went 2-2 at the district level last year, and split matches with Bolanz in December. Rounding it out is the sophomore Skye, who was seventh at the Bill Dies and third at the Hephner.

The other returning state placer is the senior Staggs, who has the highest podium finish in this weight class, fifth last year at 182 pounds. He was out due to injury until late January, but went undefeated at the SMCC Duals. Only two other ranked wrestlers join Staggs at the Toledo Waite district. The junior Thorp did not qualify for district last year, but it was a loaded Division II sectional weight class; this season he was third at Medina and Perrysburg, champion at Bellevue, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Herrick placed fifth at Perrysburg, and missed placement at Medina by a match.

With four returning state qualifiers and six ranked wrestlers, the Heath district is the deepest in this weight class. It is led by Hoover, who won a state match at 182 pounds last year as a freshman; this season he placed seventh at Brecksville (losses to a pair of projected Division I state finalists) and upset an at the time nationally ranked wrestler in the OVAC final. Returning state qualifier Lowery was third at the OVAC meet. The senior Taylor finished third at New Lexington with a win over returning state qualifier Bunfill along the way. Speaking of Bunfill, he won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a sophomore, and finished fourth at the OVAC and fifth at New Lexington. Next among the ranked wrestlers is returning state qualifier Burns, who has a title at the Sally George this season; while returning state alternate Cobb was seventh at the OVAC after winning a title at Gallia.

### *220 pounds*

1. Ben Sullivan, National Trail, junior (Troy)
2. Jerek Cropper, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Reece Human, Carlisle, junior (Troy)
4. Cameron Conaway, South Central, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Devin Richard, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Collin Kelly, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Zach Hackett, Brookfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Clay Poling, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
9. Hunter Bodkin, Martins Ferry, sophomore (Heath)
10. Jonah Ours, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Milan Pozderac, Fredericktown, senior (Heath)
12. Tanner Potts, Monroe Central, senior (Heath)
13. Alex Hinajosa, Defiance Tinora, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Elijah Price, Purcell Marian, senior (Troy)
15. Marcus O'Flaherty, Carey, senior (Toledo Waite)
16. Donovan McCollister, Nelsonville York, freshman (Heath)

GH – Cropper, Kelly, Hackett, Ours; Jacob Hochstetler (Orrville, senior)

HEA – Poling, Bodkin, Pozderac, Potts; McCollister

TROY – Sullivan, Human, Price, Dylan Hartley (Mechanicsburg, junior); Zach Klosterman (Coldwater, junior)

TWAI – Conaway, Richard, Hinajosa, O'Flaherty; Joey Hatchett (Sherwood Fairview, senior)

In any weight class, especially an upper-weight, it is rare to see five of its placers from the previous year return in the same weight class. That's what we have this year in the Division III 220 pound weight class, the injection of a wrestler that placed in Division II at this weight gives us six returning state placers. This is a group that has separated itself from the rest of the weight class, even one that has five other wrestlers in it that competed at the state tournament last year.

Leading the way here is Sullivan, who has a pair of top three finishes in his first two years of high school. His kryptonite the first two years at the state tournament, Jay Nino, has graduated. Sullivan lost by fall in the state final to Nino as a freshman before losing a 6-1 decision in last year's state semifinal (it should be noted Sullivan entered the 2015 state tournament as a district runner-up). The 2014 state finals appearance made him the heaviest freshman, in terms of weight class, to appear in a state final.

Just two ranked wrestlers join Sullivan in the rankings at the Troy district. One of them is Human, who was fifth in Division II last year; this season he has titles at Valley View and Eaton, with a runner-up finish

to returning state champion Svarda at Reading. Also ranked here is the senior Price, who has fourth place finishes at SWOWCA and the CIT as well as titles at Bishop Fenwick and Madeira.

Two other returning state placers lead four ranked wrestlers at Toledo Waite. Conaway finished fourth as a sophomore before taking fifth last year, and this year has a runner-up finish at the Tilted Kilt before winning a title at Willard; while Richard has finished fifth and sixth the last two years, and this year was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman, seventh at Brecksville, champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Hinajosa was sixth at Perrysburg, while returning district placer O'Flaherty has tournament titles at Lima CC (December) and Van Buren to go with a runner-up at Bellevue.

The remaining two returning state placers exit the Garfield Hts district, along with two other ranked wrestlers. Cropper finished fourth at state last year, and was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman before placing sixth at Brecksville, third at the Gorman and Bill Dies, then winning at West Holmes. Fellow senior Kelly was eighth at state last year, and this year has titles at Alexander and the Hephner sandwiched around a fourth at the Bill Dies. Hackett also won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a junior, and this year was champion at Howland before taking fifth at the Hephner; while returning state alternate Ours was sixth at Medina, runner-up at Nelsonville York, and champion at West Salem Northwestern.

Three state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. However, the lead wrestler here did not make the state tournament last year; the senior Poling went 2-2 at the district in the 195 pound weight class, and this year was runner-up at the OVAC meet. The sophomore Bodkin went two-and-out in last year's state tournament, while this year he was one match from placing at Brecksville, fifth at the OVAC meet, and sixth at New Lexington. Fellow state qualifier Pozderac was runner-up at Mt. Vernon and West Salem Northwestern, along with fourth at the Gorman. The other state qualifier is the senior Potts, who missed placement at the OVAC by one match before winning a title at Miami Trace. Last among the ranked is the freshman McCollister, who was fifth at Nelsonville York and New Lexington sandwiched around a fourth at Marion County.

### *285 pounds*

1. Chance Veller, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Brandon Garber, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Brandon Bennett, Patrick Henry, senior (Troy)
4. Ben Ferguson, Miami East, senior (Troy)
5. Blake Sampson, Bluffton, senior (Troy)
6. Chance Rucker, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
7. Brandon Cox, North Union, senior (Troy)
8. Derek Smith, Defiance Tinora, junior (Toledo Waite)
9. Jack Hagemeyer, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
10. Seth Douglas, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
11. Justin Kilburn, Monroe Central, senior (Heath)
12. Brayden Phillips, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Austin Mathis, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Cameron Coffman, Dixie, junior (Troy)
15. Francesco Borsellino, Sandy Valley, junior (Heath)
16. Charlie Draucker, Trinity, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Phillips, Mathis, Draucker, Jacob Zimmerman (Orrville, senior); Vince Balard (Ashtabula St. John, junior)

HEA – Rucker, Kilburn, Borsellino, Tanner Kunz (Zane Trace, junior); Donnie Meadows (Shadyside, junior)

TROY – Bennett, Ferguson, Sampson, Cox; Douglas, Coffman

TWAI – Veller, Garber, Smith, Hagemeyer; Adam Workman (Collins Western Reserve, senior)

Similar to last year, there is a paucity of state placement experience in this weight class; last year's state bracket featured two that were placers in 2014, one of whom was Veller, while right now there are Veller and two others this year. He is the defending state champion in this weight class and a strong favorite to repeat, which is one of the reasons why Delta is favored to win the individual state tournament title. On the season, he was fourth at the Ironman, champion at Brecksville and Perrysburg, then runner-up at Maumee Bay.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Veller at the Toledo Waite district, including two of the either others to have qualified for the state tournament previously. Fellow senior Garber qualified for the Division II state tournament last year at 220 pounds, and this year placed fifth at Medina, second at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay. Smith was a state alternate two years ago as a sophomore, and this year has been back in form with a third at Perrysburg before going undefeated at the SMCC Duals. Returning state qualifier Hagemeyer rounds it out, and he placed fourth at Perrysburg and second at Van Buren so far this season.

Five wrestlers with state tournament appearances, including the two other than Veller who have previously placed at the Schott, are present in the Troy district; which means that one of them won't be making the state tournament. Bennett placed seventh at state as a junior, and this year has titles at Lima CC in December and January; while Ferguson placed eighth as a junior, and this season was champion at three tournaments before placing fourth at Western Brown and second at Lima CC (January).

Sampson and Cox, both seniors, also won a match at the state tournament last year, while Douglas went two-and-out during his sophomore campaign. Sampson was champion at Van Buren sandwiched around a runner-up at Lima CC (December) and a third at Lima CC (January), while Douglas was runner-up at Centerville, fourth at Tippecanoe, and third at Marion County on the season to date. A sixth wrestler is ranked in this weight class, the junior Coffman; runner-up at Edgewood and Miami Trace, champion at Milton Union, and fourth at Lima CC (January).

One wrestler with state experience is among the three ranked at Heath. The senior Rucker won a match at the Schott in this weight class last year, while this season he was champion at Gallia and runner-up at the OVAC meet. Returning state alternate Kilburn was fourth at the OVAC before winning a title at Miami Trace, while the junior Borsellino went undefeated at the SMCC Duals.

Rounding it out is the Garfield Hts district, which features just three ranked wrestlers, none with state tournament experience. Phillips was a district placer last year as a freshman, the junior Mathis placed third at Perry and fourth at the Hephner, while the senior Draucker was runner-up at the CIT.

#### *Team Board*

1. Delta (Toledo Waite)
2. Dayton Christian (Troy)
3. Mechanicsburg (Troy)
4. Oak Harbor (Toledo Waite)



5. Waynedale (Garfield Hts)
6. Rootstown (Garfield Hts)
7. Milan Edison (Toledo Waite)
8. Genoa (Toledo Waite)
9. Miami East (Troy)
10. Manchester (Garfield Hts)