

DIVISION II

106 pounds

1. Jacob Decatur, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
2. Tanner Jordan, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Edwin Suber IV, Tallmadge, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Cole McComas, Beaver Local, freshman (Heath)
5. Hunter Olson, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Trey Finnearty, Circleville, freshman (Wilmington)
7. Jimmy Balazy, Padua, sophomore (Mansfield)
8. Gavin Ritter, Wauseon, sophomore (Mansfield)
9. Austin McNamara, Ashland, sophomore (Mansfield)
10. Thane Kaufman, West Holmes, junior (Heath)
11. Sam Price, Lemon Monroe, sophomore (Wilmington)
12. Jason Mayes, Jefferson, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Jed Marlow, Western Brown, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Terry Gatrell, Meadowbrook, sophomore (Heath)
15. Caleb Greenlee, Gallia Academy, junior (Heath)
16. Kyle Rowan, Perry, freshman (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Sube, Olson, Mayes; Rowan

HEA – McComas, Kaufman, Gatrell, Greenlee; Peyton Blasko (Steubenville, sophomore)

MAN – Balazy, Ritter, McNamara, Payton Burgdorf (Firelands, freshman); Corbin Houdeshell (Tiffin Columbian, freshman)

WIL – Jordan, Finnearty, Price, Marlow; Chase Huff (Goshen, freshman)

After Cameron Kelly and Tyler Warner won state titles in 2012 and 2013 as freshman in this weight class, the last three titles have been earned by non-freshmen. It's likely to be another non-freshman striking gold this year, as only three freshmen are ranked in total. In fact three sophomores top the rankings at this weight class.

Leading the way is Decatur, a semifinalist last year in this weight class losing 2-1 to Ben Pasiuk in that match. This season he has a title at North Canton and third place finishes at Ironman and Brecksville. It should be noted that he did not give up a takedown in either loss to Julian Tagg (3-2 ultimate tiebreaker at Ironman in the quarterfinal, 3-2 in the semifinal at Brecksville). Four other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Alliance.

Fellow sophomore Suber won a state tournament match last year, and this season missed placing at the Beast by one match before placing fourth at the Bill Dies and first at the Hepnher. Olson missed placing at the Top Gun by one match before taking third at the Hepnher. Another sophomore in Mayes was runner-up at Perry and the EOWL, while missing placement at the Bill Dies by a match; while the freshman Rowan is an incredible talent, but extremely undersized. On the season, he was champion at the CVC tournament and third in three others.

Ranked second in this weight class is the sophomore Jordan, who was closed out of the lineup last year by eventual state third Jordan Crace. On the season, he missed placing at the Ironman by one match (losing 4-2 to Decatur on the front side), has three tournament titles, and lost to Rini in a dual meet. Three additional ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Wilmington. The freshman Finnearty was

champion at the Hammer & Anvil; the sophomore Price is a returning district placer, and has spent most of this season at 113 pounds; while fellow sophomore Marlow was closed out of the post-season lineup by 2015 placer Lucas, though he didn't make weight at the sectional (this year he was champion at Sheridan and third at the Hammer & Anvil).

The only other state experienced participant in this weight is the junior Kaufman, who placed fifth at the Bill Dies in this weight class and won a pair of titles up at 113. He is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. The freshman McComas placed third at Medina and has won four other tournaments. The sophomore Gatrell was a district placer last year, and has a pair of tournament runner-up finishes this year (including a 12-2 loss to McComas at Beaver Local); while the junior Greenlee has a pair of tournament titles and a runner-up at Nelsonville York.

Rounding it out is a Mansfield district that features three ranked wrestlers in sophomores Balazy, Ritter, and McNamara. Balazy was champion at the North Coast Classic, runner-up at the CIT and NCL meet, and seventh at Brecksville. Returning state alternate Ritter was champion at Maumee Bay, fourth at Perysburg, and missed placing at Brecksville by one match. McNamara has three tournament titles (including 8-4 over Kafuman in his conference tournament) and missed placing at Brecksville by one match.

113 pounds

1. Matthew Cardello, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
2. Brandon Lucas, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
3. Nate Keaton, Circleville, junior (Wilmington)
4. Connor McCrone, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Christian Wayt, West Branch, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Timmy Young, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
7. Dominic Carone, Streetsboro, junior (Alliance)
8. Jake Gentry, Hamilton Ross, junior (Wilmington)
9. Charley Bohls, Napoleon, senior (Mansfield)
10. Brady O'Connor, Indian Valley, sophomore (Heath)
11. Leondre Cooley, Sandusky, senior (Mansfield)
12. Wade Monebrake, Eaton, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Dawson Show, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Abe Frizzell, Meadowbrook, junior (Heath)
15. A.J. Selvaggio, Elida, senior (Mansfield)
16. Kyle Greenlee, Gallia Academy, junior (Heath)

ALL – Cardello, McCrone, Wayt, Carone; Dylan Nicolino (Ravenna Southeast, senior)

HEA – Young, O'Connor, Frizzell, Greenlee, Elijah Ross (Vincent Warren, junior)

MAN – Bohls, Cooley, Selvaggio, David Ocasio (Brookside, sophomore); Connor Eckman (Firelands, junior)

WIL – Lucas, Keaton, Gentry, Monebrake; Show

Seven wrestlers in this weight class (all ranked top eight) have earned a podium finish at the state tournament; however, none of them is a top three state placement finish. Holding the mantle of projected state champ is the junior Cardello, a two-time state placer, including seventh last year up at 120 pounds. This season he was champion at the Grizzly Invitational over Mead, third at the Top Gun

(losing 4-3 to Wayt in the quarterfinal), and fourth at Brecksville (including a win over Lucas in consolation).

Three other ranked wrestlers, all within the top seven, join Cardello at the Alliance district. McCrone placed fourth as a freshman last year at 106; this season he has three tournament titles, missed placing at the Ironman by one match, and injury defaulted to sixth after losing in the semis at Brecksville. The sophomore Wayt placed fourth at North Canton and second at the GMVWA before winning Top Gun and EOWL titles. The junior Carone placed fourth at 106 as a sophomore, and this season has a pair of tournament titles to go with a sixth at the Bill Dies. Also here are district placers Nicolino and Nick Began (Orange).

The two most direct threats to Cardello both exit the Wilmington district. Lucas placed fifth as a freshman at 106, while last year he was among the contenders to win at 106, but failed to make weight at the sectional; on the season he missed placement at Brecksville by one match (losing to Cardello in consolation) and has three tournament titles, including the 5-4 finals victory over Keaton at Hammer & Anvil. Fellow junior Keaton has placed fourth and fifth at state, and this season was seventh at the Ironman before taking runner-up at the Hammer & Anvil. From a historical standpoint, Western Brown has never had a wrestler place above fourth, while Circleville's last state championship came from Mike Linton in 1980.

Three other ranked wrestlers exit this district tournament. Another junior in Gentry placed seventh in this weight last year, and on the season was runner-up at SWOWCA and Eaton. Returning state qualifier Monebrake placed fourth at the GMVWA and seventh at Top Gun, plus has a dual meet win over Gentry. Also here is the sophomore Show, who missed placement at the GMVWA by a match before taking second at Valley View.

The other top eight ranked wrestler is the senior Young, who placed seventh at state last year. This season he has titles at North Canton (beating Wayt in overtime along the way) and the OVAC to his credit. Three other wrestlers join him in the rankings at the Heath district. The sophomore O'Connor was a state qualifier in this weight class last year. The junior Firzzell was a state alternate last year, and runner-up to Young at the OVAC meet along with winning a title at Beaver Local and placing fourth in two other events. Fellow junior Greenlee was third at Nelsonville York and the Hammer & Anvil.

Rounding it out are the three ranked wrestlers at the Mansfield district, including returning state qualifier Bohls and 2015 state qualifier Cooley. Bohls placed sixth at Medina, third at Perrysburg, and runner-up in his league meet; while Cooley was champion at two tournaments and fifth at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Selvaggio was champion at Defiance.

120 pounds

1. Jordan Crace, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Lukus Stricker, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
3. Eric Bartos, Medina Buckeye, senior (Mansfield)
4. Caleb Brooks, Circleville, junior (Wilmington)
5. Addison Fogle, Licking Valley, junior (Heath)
6. Hunter Ryan, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
7. Jacob Johnson, Jonathan Alder, junior (Heath)
8. Dakota McCloskey, Girard, senior (Alliance)
9. Joe Wright, Coventry, junior (Alliance)

10. Reece Wainuskis, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
11. Alex Lucas, Minerva, senior (Heath)
12. Dalton Burcher, Indian Valley, sophomore (Heath)
13. Domenic Carfagna, Columbus DeSales, senior (Heath)
14. Seth Taylor, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
15. Skyler Lasure, Beaver Local, freshman (Heath)
16. Alex Slattman, Wauseon, junior (Mansfield)

ALL – Stricker, Ryan, McCloskey, Wright; Wainuskis

HEA – Fogle, Johnson, Lucas, Burcher; Carfagna, Lasure

MAN – Bartos, Slattman, Andrew Branson (Tiffin Columbian, sophomore), Brad Huhn (Brookside, senior); Brian Shaw (Padua, junior)

WIL – Crace, Brooks, Taylor, Matt Asher (Clinton-Massie, junior); Isaiah Worthman (Dayton CJ, freshman)

When the news came out that Jordan Decatur would be at 126 pounds this season, though he participated in the pre-season Who's Number One all-star match in a 120 pound weight class, the whole of this weight class was very relieved. Not surprisingly this weight class features seven returning state placers and another seven that return with state tournament experience.

After missing major tournaments during the first month of the season (Ironman and GMVWA) due to an appendectomy, the sophomore Crace has come back in excellent form after placing third at state as a freshman. He has a pair of tournament titles, and a 10-6 victory over returning state champion Andonian that jumped him into the back part of the national rankings. Two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district. The junior Brooks was a two-time state placer in Division III at Bishop Ready, and in this season was runner-up at the Hammer & Anvil, including a win over returning DI state qualifier Glassco. Fellow junior Taylor is a returning district placer and has a title at Sheridan to go with a runner-up at New Lexington and fourth at the Hammer & Anvil. Also in this weight is returning state placer Asher.

Along with Crace, the highest returning state placer in this weight is Stricker, who was third at 113 last year after winning a state tournament match at 106 as a sophomore. On the season he missed placing at the Ironman by one match but has since won four tournaments, including the Bill Dies. Four other ranked wrestlers exit the Alliance district, including returning state placer Ryan, who was champion at the CIT and sixth at Brecksville. The senior McCloskey qualified for state three years ago in Division III, and this season was runner-up at Solon and champion at the EOWL meet. The junior Wright is a returning state qualifier and has three runner-up finishes in tournaments this season but failed to place at the Bill Dies. Rounding it out is the senior Wainuskis, runner-up at Top Gun and the EOWL meets.

The deepest of the district tournaments is the one at Heath that features six ranked wrestlers, including five with state tournament experience, which inherently means that one won't return to the Schott. Topping the ladder is two-time state qualifier Fogle, who has three tournament titles to go with the seventh at the Bill Dies and a runner-up at Olentangy Liberty. Fellow junior Johnson was runner-up to Fogle at Nelsonville York and has a pair of tournament titles. The senior Lucas missed the first two-thirds of the season, but has returned in competitive form, losing 2-1 to Lasure and beating Wainuskis in overtime. The sophomore Burcher placed eighth at 106 last year, while returning state qualifier Carfagna was third at the CIT and Olentangy Liberty along with missing placement at Brecksville by one

match. Also in this district is the freshman Lasure, champion at Beaver, runner-up to Fogle at Cambridge, and eighth at Medina.

Concluding things is the district at Mansfield that features just two ranked wrestlers, one of whom is two-time state placer Bartos. On the season he has three tournament titles, a fourth at Medina, and a third at the Bill Dies where he lost 3-0 to Stricker in a rematch of the state tournament consolation final from last year. Returning state alternate Slattman is also ranked, having won a title at Tiffin Columbian and finishing runner-up at Perrysburg. Also in this weight is returning state qualifier Huhn.

126 pounds

1. Jordan Decatur, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
2. Hunter Kosco, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
3. Jeff Thomas, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
4. Errik Gerback, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
5. Maxx Peters, Claymont, junior (Heath)
6. Danny Assaf, Defiance, senior (Mansfield)
7. Caden Blust, Tiffin Columbian, sophomore (Mansfield)
8. Matthew Taylor, Ashland, senior (Mansfield)
9. Casey Ragle, Norwood, junior (Wilmington)
10. Gunner Carpenter, Licking Valley, junior (Heath)
11. Tyliq Stewart, Whitehall, senior (Heath)
12. Joshua Baitt, Jefferson, junior (Alliance)
13. David Massey, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
14. Ben Sherrill, Bellbrook, junior (Wilmington)
15. Mike Clark, Medina Buckeye, junior (Mansfield)
16. Zane Johnson, Jonathan Alder, senior (Heath)

ALL – Decatur, Kosco, Gerback, Baitt; Massey

HEA – Peters, Carpenter, Stewart, Johnson; Jared Stevens (Gallia Academy, senior)

MAN – Assaf, Blust, Taylor, Clark; Skyler Brown (Napoleon, senior)

WIL – Thomas, Ragle, Sherrill, Tyler Matthews (Circleville, junior); Dawson Carter (Hillsboro, junior)

The previously mentioned Decatur is here. Prior to entering high school, he was already a UWW Cadet freestyle All-American and a Cadet freestyle national champion. He was the prohibitive favorite to win state last year at 113 pounds, but he failed to properly weigh-in at the sectional tournament. In the off-season, he was a UWW Cadet freestyle runner-up and won a second Cadet freestyle national title.

During December 2016, he placed fourth at the Ironman (including a win over projected Division I champ Kazimir) along with winning titles at North Canton and Brecksville (11-4 semifinal win over projected Division III champ Mattin). However, there was a 3-1 loss at the Top Gun to three-time state placer Kosco in mid-January. Decatur would go on to win the Grizzly Invitational, and still remains the projected state champion due to overall body of work considerations.

In addition to winning the Top Gun, Kosco was also champion at the Rieman Invitational with a 2-1 victory over Mattin in the final and placed eighth at the Walsh Ironman. These two will anchor an Alliance district that features three other ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Gerback, who was seventh at Top Gun and runner-up at the Hephner. Also ranked is the junior Baitt, who was runner-up at the Bill Dies and champion at Perry and the EOWL; along with returning state qualifier

Massey, champion at Hudson and his conference meet, eighth at the Bill Dies, and missing placement at Brecksville by one match.

Last year Thomas was an unexpected state runner-up in his freshman campaign. This year he finished fifth at the GMVWA before winning titles at Valley View and New Lexington. He's also lost to Kazimir twice on the season (Ironman and dual meet). Two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district, returning state qualifier Ragle and 2015 state qualifier Sherrill. Ragle was champion at Sycamore and up at 132 was runner-up in two tournaments, while Sherrill has a pair of tournament titles along with taking third at the Hammer & Anvil. Also in this weight are returning state qualifiers Cole Houser (Benjamin Logan), Brayden Ploehs (New Richmond), and Carter; state alternate Drew Price (Middletown Madison); and district placer Tanner Donathan (Western Brown). It's a very congested, though not top heavy weight at the district level.

There are five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district, all having state tournament experience, meaning (at least) one will be left at home. Leading the way is 2015 state qualifier Peters, who was state alternate last year in a brutal 138 district tournament. On the season he was champion at Barnesville up a weight, along with third at Medina and sixth at the Top Gun. 2015 state placer Carpenter did not wrestle last season, but this year was champion at Nelsonville York and placed in three other tournaments (including a runner-up at Cambridge). The senior Stewart won a state match last year, and this year was third at Cambridge and runner-up at Licking Hts; fellow senior Johnson was a 2015 state qualifier and was champion at Big Walnut, while finishing second at Marion County; 2014 state qualifier Stevens has been a state alternate the last two years, and has made four tournament finals this season (most notable a runner-up to Carpenter at Nelsonville York).

Four ranked wrestlers at the Mansfield district close out the festivities. Two-time state qualifier Assaf is a combined 0-4 in those appearances, but has a pair of tournament titles this season to go with a runner-up at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Blust won a state tournament match last year, and this season has three tournament titles to go with a fourth place finish at Maumee Bay. The senior Taylor placed sixth at state last year, and has two tournament titles this year to go with a runner-up at the Gorman (5-4 to Blust), and missing out on placing at Brecksville by a match. Returning state alternate Clark has a pair of tournament titles to go with a fourth at Medina and missing out on placing at the Bill Dies by one match. Also here is returning district placer Brown.

132 pounds

1. Mitch Moore, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Leconte Merrell, Mansfield Madison, senior (Mansfield)
3. Luke Wymer, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
4. Ben Pasiuk, Carrollton, sophomore (Heath)
5. Hunter Yackee, Wauseon, junior (Mansfield)
6. Chandler Golec, Claymont, senior (Heath)
7. Angel Granados, Napoleon, sophomore (Mansfield)
8. Cole Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, junior (Alliance)
9. Mitch Skleres, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
10. Drew Crabtree, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Mansfield)
11. Austin Wolcott, Sheridan, senior (Heath)
12. Coleman Manning, Eaton, senior (Wilmington)
13. Jayden Hefner, Wapakonta, senior (Mansfield)
14. Jordan Hamblin, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)

15. Coby Hughes, Miami Trace, junior (Wilmington)
16. Mitchell Miracle, Caledonia River Valley, sophomore (Heath)

ALL – Wymer, Bailey, Skleres, David Genovese (Woodridge, senior); Josh Smith (Canal Fulton Northwest, senior)

HEA – Pasiuk, Golec, Wolcott, Miracle; Sean Dudgeon (Marengo Highland, senior)

MAN – Merrell, Yackee, Granados, Crabtree; Hefner

WIL – Moore, Manning, Hamblin, Hughes; Isaac Bennett (Logan Elm, junior)

Virtually all the journeys to four state titles have come with obstacles as part of the package. For the junior Moore, there was a big one last year with an Ironman champion at two-time state runner-up Tariq Wilson awaiting in the Saturday night state final. However, he cleared that with aplomb in a 5-3 victory. The obstacle this season right now is an injury that has kept him out since before the St. Edward dual meet in mid-January, though a return before the sectional is slated. In two major competitions this fall, the pre-season Super 32 and the Walsh Ironman, Moore finished as runner-up; he is also ranked third nationally.

Three ranked wrestlers join Moore in contention at the Wilmington district. Returning state alternate Manning was eighth at the Top Gun and missed placement by one match at the GMVWA, while he was champion at his home tournament in his senior campaign. Hamblin won a state tournament match last year as a sophomore, and this season was champion at New Lexington, runner-up in two tournaments, and third at the Hammer & Anvil. Fellow junior Hughes is also a returning state qualifier and was champion at Miami Trace, while missing out on placement at the GMVWA by one match. Also in this weight is returning state qualifier Brandon Planck (New Richmond).

The next two highest returning placers in this weight class both exit the district at Heath, one in which they are joined by two other ranked wrestlers. Pasiuk was state runner-up last year as a freshman at 106; jumping up four weight class, he was fourth at North Canton and runner-up at the Top Gun. The senior Golec placed fifth last year, this season he missing placement at Top Gun by one match and won a title up a weight class at Barnesville. The senior Wolcott has four tournament titles and the season and placed third at the Bill Dies, while the sophomore Miracle was champion at Nelsonville York and sixth at Medina. Also here is multi-time state alternate Quentin Bookman (Beaver Local).

The fourth returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Merrell, who placed seventh here last year. On the season he has titles in four tournaments, along with a runner-up finish at the Gorman when he was disqualified while leading against returning state runner-up Chapman. Four other ranked wrestlers at Mansfield make for a congested district weight class. The junior Yackee is 0-4 in a pair of state tournament appearances, but is wrestling well this season starting with going 3-2 at the Ironman and placing seventh at Brecksville in the 138 pound class before dropping to this weight in a tournament win at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Granados is also a returning state qualifier, and this season as fourth at Medina and third at Perrysburg. The senior Crabtree was runner-up at Avon Lake, fourth at the North Coast Classic, and eighth at Medina; while fellow senior Hefner is a returning state alternate placing fifth this year at the GMVWA and missing placement at the Top Gun by one match. Also here is returning district placer Sam LoFaso (Padua) and returning state qualifier Jake Bartinelli (Medina Buckeye), though he's up four weight classes.

Rounding it out is the Alliance district, which features three ranked wrestlers led by the junior Wymer a two-time state qualifier. This season he placed fifth at Medina, third at Top Gun, and first at the

Hephner. Returning state alternate Bailey was runner-up at Smithville and fourth at the Top Gun, while the senior Skleres is a two-time state qualifier and was runner-up at the CIT to go along with sixth at North Canton and eighth at Brecksville. Also here are state alternate Josh Smith (Canal Fulton Northwest) and district place David Genovese (Woodridge).

138 pounds

1. J.D. Stickleby, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Jake Martinez, Licking Valley, senior (Heath)
3. Gage Grunden, Defiance, junior (Mansfield)
4. Eli Yoho, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
5. Justin Shaw, Carrollton, junior (Heath)
6. Dakota Bunting, Claymont, junior (Heath)
7. Anthony Rice, Steubenville, sophomore (Heath)
8. Carson Speelman, Mansfield Madison, senior (Mansfield)
9. Caleb Blake, Tippecanoe, junior (Wilmington)
10. Luke McKeon, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
11. Parker Utley, Alliance, junior (Alliance)
12. Mauricio Barajas, Wauseon, junior (Mansfield)
13. Landon Plank, Ashland, junior (Mansfield)
14. Taylor Steele, Waynesville, senior (Wilmington)
15. Noah Barnett, Sheridan, junior (Heath)
16. Yima Nyamor, Wyoming, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Yoho, McKeon, Utley, Justin West (CVCA, junior); Brody Muir-Johnson (Revere, senior)

HEA – Martinez, Shaw, Bunting, Rice; Barnett

MAN – Grunden, Speelman, Barajas, Plank; Jacob Maslyk (Sandusky Perkins, senior)

WIL – Stickleby, Blake, Steele, Nyamor; Micah Marshall (Dayton CJ, junior)

Not that it needs further mention, but the St. Paris Graham wrestling assembly line is going to continue producing champions for yet another season. Barring some catastrophe, this will be a 17th straight Division II individual state tournament title for the Falcons, and a 19th overall. They also have amassed 84 individual state champions as a school. Some of them are the obvious, others are the less obvious.

The junior Stickleby might qualify as less obvious considering he did not start as a freshman or sophomore at Graham, though he clearly has wrestling in his family with older brothers Eli (4x placer/2014 state champion) and Justin (3x placer) each appearing on multiple state tournament podiums for the Falcons. His junior campaign started with a seventh place finish at the Ironman, keyed by wins over Division III projected state champion Barnet and nationally ranked Shie; though he missed the GMVWA, it continued with titles at Valley View and New Lexington.

Two top returning top three finishers in the state tournament are the direct challengers to Stickleby, which means it is very likely Stickleby will have to beat both of them to win a state title. The senior Martinez is a two-time state placer, including last year's runner-up finish to Brent Moore in this weight class. He placed eighth at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge in this weight class, and on the season has three tournament titles to go with a fourth at Brecksville and runner-up at the Bill Dies. The junior Grunden finished third up a weight class at 145, losing just 3-1 to two-time state champion Rocky Jordan in the semifinal. On this season he was sixth at the Ironman and runner-up at Maumee Bay.

Martinez exist the deepest district of the lot with five state ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Shaw was fourth at North Canton and third at the Top Gun. 2015 state qualifier Bunting was displaced last year in an absolutely loaded sectional tournament, but this season won at Barnesville up a weight class and placed eighth at Medina in this weight class; he has a 6-5 dual meet victory over Shaw. Next in line is Rice, a district placer in this weight class (which was absolutely loaded at Heath) last year. On the season, he placed fifth up a weight at North Canton and third in the OVAC in this weight, as well as beating Bunting 4-3 in a dual meet. Also here is 2015 district placer Barnett, champion at four tournaments along with placing at the Bill Dies.

Grunden exits the Mansfield district, along with three other ranked wrestlers. The senior Speelman is a returning district placer has four tournament titles this year, including a pair of finals victories over returning state placers; 7-4 over Becker at the Gorman, and 4-2 over Murphy (Dover) at the Mike Lewis Invitational. 2015 state qualifier Barajas barely wrestled last season, but this season missed placing at Brecksville by one match and won a title at Perrysburg down a weight class, before flipping spots in the lineup with Yackee. Fellow junior Plank is a returning state alternate, who spent much of the season at 132 before moving up; among those tournaments, he was fifth at the Gorman and Marion County and missed placing at Brecksville by one match.

Stickley is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Wilmington. Fellow junior Blake has three tournament titles this season. The senior Steele is a returning state qualifier, was runner-up at Fairfield, and lost to Blake in the semis at Eaton; while the junior Nyamor has a pair of tournament titles on the season. Also here is returning district placer Marshall.

Rounding it out is the district at Alliance, which features just three ranked wrestlers, all of whom went 1-2 at the state tournament last year. The senior Yoho was third at Hudson and fifth at Brecksville before winning his conference tournament; the junior McKeon placed fifth up a weight class at Solon, while missing podiums at North Canton and Brecksville by one match and placing third at the CIT in this weight class; while fellow junior Utley was champion at East Liverpool and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun, but had to default after losing to Shie. Also in this weight class is returning district placer West.

145 pounds

1. Kevon Freeman, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
2. Sandro Ramirez, Wauseon, junior (Mansfield)
3. Joey Sanchez, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
4. Jashon Hubbard, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
5. Adam Shaw, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
6. Tyler Copeland, Wapakoneta, senior (Mansfield)
7. Miles Mazik, Indian Creek, senior (Heath)
8. Alex Kowal, Bishop Fenwick, senior (Wilmington)
9. Dylan Miller, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
10. Jared Musci, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
11. Trenten Scott, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
12. Greg Brewer, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
13. Justin Mason, Conneaut, senior (Alliance)
14. Zane Nelson, Washington C.H., junior (Wilmington)
15. Derek Spears, Western Brown, sophomore (Wilmington)
16. Ricky Maffett, Ashland, senior (Mansfield)

ALL – Freeman, Miller, Musci, Mason; Austin Hinzman (Coventry, sophomore)
HEA – Hubbard, Shaw, Mazik, Kaleb Crisenberry (Gallia Academy, senior); Briar Cadle (Claymont, junior)
MAN – Ramirez, Copeland, Maffett, Nick Smythe (Bellevue, junior); Justin Schneider (Maumee, junior)
WIL – Sanchez, Kowal, Scott, Brewer; Nelson, Spears

It's all upperclassmen in this weight class, as there is only one sophomore or below in the rankings. Four juniors sit at the top of the ladder, led by the pair of returning state finalists in Freeman and Ramirez. They met in the Brecksville final, with Freeman winning 2-1 on a second period reversal and third period rideout (Ramirez escaped in the second period for his point).

Freeman was state champion last year at 132 pounds after placing sixth the previous year at 126. He has three additional tournament titles, along with missing out on placement at the Ironman by one bout. Ramirez lost 4-0 to Rocky Jordan in the state final in this weight class last year, placing third at 126 the previous year. This season, he also has a title at Maumee Bay and went 2-2 at the Ironman, losing 3-2 to three-time National Prep placer Devaney and 4-2 in overtime to Marsh.

Exiting the deepest district of the lot is the third-ranked Sanchez, who placed fifth at 152 pounds last season. This season he was 2-2 at the Ironman, made the semifinal at the GMVWA before not competing, and came back to win a title at New Lexington. Five other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district, three with state experience and the other two are returning state alternates.

The senior Kowal is a returning state placer, and this season was champion at Bishop Fenwick before taking third at the GMVWA. Fellow senior Scott went two-and-out at state, and this season placed third at Hammer & Anvil before taking second at Benjamin Logan. Another senior Brewer was state alternate in the same weight Kowal and Scott exited, and this season has a runner-up finish at the Hammer & Anvil to his credit. The junior Nelson was a state alternate last year, and has a title at Nelsonville York this year to go with a pair of runner-up finishes. Rounding it out is the sophomore Spears, who qualified for state last year, but results this year have been hard to find (if he's actually competed in the first place).

Freeman is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Alliance district, the first of whom is returning state qualifier Miller. On the season the junior placed third up a weight class at the GMVWA, missed placing at the Top Gun in this weight by one match, before finishing runner-up at the EOWL. Fellow junior Musci missed placing at the Top Gun by a match and was third at the Hephner; while the senior Mason is a returning state qualifier and was third in the EOWL meet (losing 7-0 to Miller in the semifinal). Also in this weight is district placer Nick Loprinzi (Woodridge).

Ramirez is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Mansfield, returning state third Copeland and returning state alternate Maffett. Copeland was runner-up at the GMVWA and a placer at the Top Gun.

A pair of state placers are among three ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. The junior Hubbard is a two-time state medalist, and was champion at the OVAC meet (6-1 over Mazik in the final); while senior Mazik was fifth at state last year and has a pair of tournament runners-up to go with his title at Beaver Local. Also ranked here is the senior Shaw, who was fourth at North Canton and third at the Top Gun.

152 pounds

1. Rocky Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Jake Henderson, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)

3. Luciano Mendicino, Granville, senior (Heath)
4. Anthony D'Alesio, Canfield, freshman (Alliance)
5. Isaac Yoho, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
6. Nick Vespucci, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
7. Quinton Kelley, Akron Hoban, junior (Alliance)
8. Jarrett Munyan, Sheridan, junior (Heath)
9. Beau Smith, Beaver Local, sophomore (Heath)
10. Collin Langer, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
11. Ethan Hernandez, Norwalk, freshman (Mansfield)
12. Caleb Cass, Cloverleaf, junior (Mansfield)
13. Xavier Torres, Wauseon, sophomore (Mansfield)
14. Cameron Cua, Columbus DeSales, senior (Heath)
15. Zach Altman, Napoleon, junior (Mansfield)
16. Blake Wickline, Bloom-Carroll, junior (Heath)

ALL – D'Alesio, Yoho, Vespucci, Kelley; Langer

HEA – Mendicino, Munyan, Smith, Cua; Wickline

MAN – Hernandez, Cass, Torres, Altman; Garrett Coe (Keystone, senior)

WIL – Jordan, Henderson, Braeden Lehman (Urbana, senior), Jesse Younce (Dayton Carroll, senior); Chris Conger (Washington C.H., junior)

The name "Jordan" and Graham wrestling go together like peanut butter and jelly. Jim (1979-1982) and Jeff Jordan (1980-1983) each won four state titles for the Falcons. They were also the anchor figures for the first state title for their school back in 1982, while joined on the podium by Scott Owens (2nd) and Andy Stickley (6th). The 73.5 points scored for that title might not be even one-third of the points amassed by St. Paris Graham this year.

Jim had two sons, Ben (2005, 2006, 2008) and Isaac (2010-2012) each of whom won three state titles. Both went on to earn All-American honors at Wisconsin, with Isaac an outside contender for a national title this year. Jeff's two older sons, Bo (2010-2013) and Micah (2011-2014), have already won four state titles each; both are on the Ohio State team, with Bo already a two-time third place finishers at the national tournament and Micah missing All-American honors by one match. Rocky is the last the sons for Graham head coach Jeff Jordan, and is prohibitively favored to win a second state title with a third state final appearance in this his junior season.

Rocky exits the Wilmington district, which features just one additional contender in the rankings, returning state placer Henderson. On the season he has titles in four tournaments (two each at 152 and 160), and was sixth at Brecksville up at 160. Also here is returning district placer Lehman.

Three returning state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district, which is led by returning state placer Mendicino. While competing at 160, he was champion at Defiance and third at Marion County, but dropped to this weight late in January. Should he finish in the top three, it would be the highest placement in the program's history.

The junior Munyan has three tournament titles on the season and a runner-up finish to Henderson at Sheridan; while Smith won a state match as a freshman last year, and this season has a pair of tournament wins while placing eighth at Medina and runner-up at the OVAC. The senior Cua is a returning district placer, and had a title at Grandview Hts to go with his sixth at the CIT; while the junior

Wickline has four tournament finals this season, including titles at Nelsonville York and East Knox. Also here is sophomore Brandon Daniels (Carrollton), a district placer last year.

The other district with five ranked wrestlers is the one at Alliance. The freshman D'Alesio, a junior high state champ last year, leads the ladder; on the season he was sixth at Brecksville, third at Perry, and runner-up at the Bill Dies. The junior Yoho is one of three returning state qualifiers in this district tournament. On the season, he was fifth at Brecksville, missed placing at the Bill Dies by one match, and won his conference tournament over Vespucci in the final. The senior Vespucci was third at Solon and Kenston, fourth at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at the PTC; while the junior Kelley was champion at Hudson, runner-up at the Hephner and NCL meet, and sixth at the Bill Dies. The fifth ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Langer, who was fifth at Solon, third at North Canton, and runner-up at the CIT.

Four ranked wrestlers, all below tenth, exit the district at Mansfield. The freshman Hernandez heads the class with a pair of tournament titles, runner-up finishes to Ohi at the Gorman and Marion County, and a fourth place finish at Kenston in his debut season of high school. Next is the junior Cass: champion at Lorain, third at the PTC, and seventh at Medina this season. The sophomore Torres missed placing at Brecksville and Maumee Bay by a match but was third at Perrysburg, while the junior Altman was sixth at Perrysburg and missed placing at Medina by a match.

160 pounds

1. Georgio Poullas, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
2. Ryan Thomas, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
3. Ashton Eyler, Claymont, junior (Heath)
4. Noah Clary, Upper Sandusky, junior (Mansfield)
5. Michael McIntire, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
6. Brenton Miller, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
7. Andrew Bailey, Wauseon, senior (Mansfield)
8. Coltyn Myler, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
9. Isaac Ingram, Lima Bath, senior (Mansfield)
10. Connor Dixon, Indian Lake, junior (Wilmington)
11. Isaac Allen, Wilmington, junior (Wilmington)
12. Peter Biery, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
13. Brahm Ginter, Shelby, junior (Mansfield)
14. Patrick Keown, Firelands, senior (Mansfield)
15. Cory Stallings, Cloverleaf, junior (Mansfield)
16. Casey Parsons, Vincent Warren, senior (Heath)

ALL – Poullas, McIntire, Myler, Biery; Khord Moore (Canton South, senior)

HEA – Eyler, Miller, Parsons, Brady Bookless (Warsaw River View, senior); Keegan Vanmeter (Granville, sophomore)

MAN – Clary, Bailey, Ingram, Ginter; Keown, Stallings

WIL – Thomas, Dixon, Allen, Isaac Ilo (Eaton, senior); Ross Lennon (Clinton-Massie, junior)

After a pair of sixth place finishes in the 126 pound weight class, Poullas jumped four weight classes and was one of the breakout starts of 2015-16 in the Buckeye State. It started with placing sixth at the pre-season Super 32 Challenge before winning titles at Brecksville and the Bill Dies, and becoming Canfield's sixth state champ in program history, first since 1999 (Levi Spellman). The Cleveland State signee has

continued that form this season, beating a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers (at the time it was three) to win the Ironman and then beating three-time state champ Lawson to win at Brecksville.

The most direct threat to Poullas repeating as state champ is going to be a Graham wrestler, junior Ryan Thomas, who has already placed third twice at the state tournament. During this season he placed fourth at the Ironman, runner-up at the GMVWA, along with winning titles at Valley View and New Lexington. The Wilmington district that Thomas exits features just two other ranked wrestlers. The junior Dixon was a district placer last year up one weight class, and this season has a pair of tournament titles along with placing fifth at Maumee Bay; while fellow junior Allen was a state alternate in this weight class, and has a pair of titles this season to go with the runner-up finish at the Hammer & Anvil.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Poullas in his district tournament at Alliance, led by returning state placer McIntire, who was fifth at Medina down a weight class before taking fourth at Top Gun in this weight class. Fellow senior Myler was a district placer last year, and this season was runner-up at East Liverpool and third in the EOWL meet. The junior Biery placed fifth at the Hephner and was one match from placing at the Top Gun.

Six ranked wrestlers exit the district at Mansfield, though just one has state tournament experience. That would be the junior Clary, who has three tournament titles (including a 14-11 finals victory over returning Division III runner-up Doherty in the Sally George final) and a third place finish at the GMVWA this season. The senior Bailey placed seventh at Brecksville along with being runner-up Perrysburg and Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Ingram placed fourth at Maumee Bay and won up a weight class at Defiance. The junior Ginter was runner-up at the Gorman and first at Willard. Another senior Keown placed third at Defiance and Perrysburg at 170 before dropping to 160 and winning his conference meet. Rounding it out is another junior Stallings, who has a pair of tournament titles to go with an eighth at Medina and runner-up in his conference meet.

The district tournament at Heath features just three ranked wrestlers, but one of them is returning state placer Eyler, who is seeking a third state bid in this his junior season. Up at 170, he won at Barnesville and was fourth at Medina; while in this weight class he was runner-up at the Top Gun. Two-time state qualifier Miller is 0-4 in those appearances, and during his senior season has placed third at North Canton. The other ranked wrestler in this weight class is 2015 state qualifier Parsons.

170 pounds

1. David Crawford, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
2. Dimitri Williams, New Lexington, senior (Heath)
3. Evan Schenk, Perry, senior (Alliance)
4. Keysean Amison, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Mansfield)
5. David Heath, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
6. Alex Andrews, Napoleon, senior (Mansfield)
7. Tre Terry, Lima Bath, senior (Mansfield)
8. Tarin Rauch, Claymont, senior (Heath)
9. Eric Altman, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
10. Michael Jude, Fairfield Union, senior (Heath)
11. Josh Barr, Bay Village, senior (Mansfield)
12. Colten Winters, London, senior (Heath)
13. Spencer Robinson, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
14. Gunnar Dawson, Middletown Madison, senior (Wilmington)

15. Hayden McGee, Maysville, sophomore (Heath)
16. Ben Davenport, Unioto, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Crawford, Schenk, Heath, Robinson; Juan Rodriguez (Geneva, senior)

HEA – Williams, Rauch, Jude, Winters; McGee

MAN – Amison, Andrews, Terry, Barr; Aidan Ammons (Lexington, senior)

WIL – Altman, Dawson, Davenport, Hunter Hyden (St. Paris Graham, sophomore); Anthony Tissandier (Clinton-Massie, senior)

In the weight class between defending state champion Poullas and a pair of state runners-up (Bowers and Pasiuk), thirteen wrestling with state experience find themselves packed seeking state tournament success. One of those is the junior Crawford, already a two-time state semifinalist (6th/4th place), and one of the lynchpins of a Canfield squad that is seeking a second straight individual state tournament runner-up finish. On the season he was fourth at Brecksville, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and champion at the EOWL meet.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Crawford at the Alliance district, including a pair of returning state qualifiers in Schenk and Heath. The senior Schenk spent most of the season at 182 pounds, where he was champion at the North Coast Classic, third at Perry (losing 4-3 to Canfield wrestler Cooper in the semis), and runner-up at Maumee Bay and the Grizzly Invitational. Dropping down to 170, he was champion at his conference tournament. The junior Heath missed placing at the Ironman by one match, was seventh at Medina, fourth at the Top Gun, and champion at the Hephner. Fellow junior Robinson was a state alternate last year in this weight, but was at 182 for much of this season until coming down to finish runner-up at his conference meet.

2015 state qualifier Williams, who won a state match as a sophomore at 160, is ranked second and anchors five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. Missing virtually all of last season and a significant chunk of this season, Williams has returned to win titles at Athens and New Lexington, where he pinned returning state qualifier Jude in the semifinal. The next two on the ladder are returning state qualifiers, both seniors. Jude was champion at Sheridan, runner-up at Licking Hts, and fourth at New Lexington; while Rauch placed third at Barnesville and missed placing at Medina by one match in the 160 weight class, before placing fifth at the Top Gun in this weight class. 2015 state qualifier Winters was state alternate last year in this weight class, and on the season has titles in three different tournaments; while the sophomore McGee was champion at Nelsonville York, runner-up at Defiance, and third in two other tournaments. Also here is returning district placer Hunter Jacks (Gallia Academy).

Outside of Crawford, the only other wrestler in this weight class to place at the state tournament is the senior Amison, who was eighth last year at 160. On the season he has titles at Avon Lake and Marion County to go with a fifth place finish at Medina. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Mansfield district, all of whom are seniors and returning state qualifiers. Andrews was champion at Perrysburg and his league meet, plus has a dual meet win over returning Division III state runner-up Draper; Terry was champion at Oregon Clay in this weight and runner-up at Defiance up a weight; while Barr was up at 182 until early February, where he was third at the North Coast Classic and Gorman while missing out on placement at Medina by one match.

At the Wilmington district, it's just three ranked wrestlers, two with state tournament experience. The junior Altman qualified for state last year, and this year was seventh at Brecksville, runner-up at Sheridan, champion at the Hammer & Anvil, and third at New Lexington; while the senior returning state

qualifier Dawson was champion at Bishop Fenwick and third at Reading. Also ranked is returning state alternate Davenport, a senior who has titles at four different tournaments and a pair of runners-up on the season.

182 pounds

1. Robbie Bowers, Defiance, senior (Mansfield)
2. Aidan Pasiuk, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
3. Gage Braun, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
4. Dominic Cooper, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
5. Deuce Johnson, Alliance, junior (Alliance)
6. Billy Cooper, Jackson, senior (Heath)
7. Mathieu Holt, Granville, senior (Heath)
8. Matthew Cover, Bay Village, sophomore (Mansfield)
9. Justin Ocheltree, Keystone, junior (Mansfield)
10. Devin Goschinski, Ashland, senior (Mansfield)
11. George Lassnick, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
12. Brad Crislip, Ravenna, senior (Alliance)
13. Cody Neece, Fairfield Union, sophomore (Heath)
14. Nathan Thomas, Indian Creek, senior (Heath)
15. Landon Westover, Field, senior (Alliance)
16. Elliot Clark, Bexley, junior (Heath)

ALL – D. Cooper, Johnson, Lassnick, Crislip; Westover

HEA – Pasiuk, B. Cooper, Holt, Neece; Thomas, Clark

MAN – Bowers, Cover, Ocheltree, Goschinski; Noah Frey (Upper Sandusky, senior)

WIL – Braun, Mitch Current (Benjamin Logan, senior), Hunter Lester (Franklin, junior), Austin Miller (Hillsboro, senior); Jamonte Crossty (Mt. Healthy, junior)

The last two wrestlers to fall victim to Marinelli on the raised stage Saturday night at the state tournament meet in this weight class. Bowers was runner-up to Marinelli in 2015, and went up to 182 last year where he lost 3-2 to Tyler Wiederholt in the state final; while Pasiuk, fourth at state in 2015 at 152, fell by 15-7 major decision to Marinelli in the 170 final. That runner-up finish gave Carrollton nine such placements which is the most in state history of any program without a state title. Presuming each wins a district title, they will be in opposite half brackets.

Bowers is the projected state champion, and the future Ohio Bobcat was also a Junior freestyle All-American last summer. He is undefeated for the season in matches that have been completed, with titles at Defiance and Maumee Bay, while his only loss came via disqualification for an illegal move during his conference meet. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Mansfield district, though none has state experience.

Returning state alternate Cover spent much of the season at 195 pounds, where he placed in fourth tournaments (Avon Lake 1st, North Coast 2nd, Medina 5th, Gorman 3rd); in this weight class, he has a 6-0 win over the junior Ocheltree, who has three tournament titles of his own this season. The senior Goschinski was a district placer last year, and this season was sixth at Brecksville and fourth at the Gorman in this weight class.

Pasiuk anchors a loaded district at Heath in this weight with six ranked wrestlers in total. Two of the others, seniors Cooper and Holt have state experience, both going two-and-out in this weight class last year. Cooper has a pair of tournament titles this year, while Holt was fourth at Defiance and runner-up at New Lexington. The sophomore Neece was champion at Sheridan, runner-up at Licking Hts, and third at New Lexington. The senior Thomas was fifth at the OVAC and Buckeye Local in this weight class, while placing in two tournaments at 195 earlier in the season. The junior Clark rounds it out, and he has a title at Marion Harding along with a third at Licking Hts this season.

The Alliance district also has depth here, as there are five ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Cooper. The junior placed third at Brecksville and the Bill Dies, while taking second at both Perry and the EOWL. State alternate Johnson beat Cooper to win the EOWL title, but failed to place at Brecksville, while also winning the East Liverpool title and placing third at Top Gun. The senior Lassnick placed fourth at Solon and the CIT, third at North Canton, and missed out on placement at Brecksville by one match. Fellow senior Crislip was a state alternate two years ago, and this season placed third at Hudson and (195) the Hephner, fourth at Kenston and Top Gun, and runner-up at his conference meet. Another senior in Westover is a returning district placer, winning his conference meet and finishing seventh at the Top Gun, while placing runner-up in the 195 pound weight class at Kenston.

Lastly it's returning state placer Braun, fifth at state last year beating Cooper in the medal match. On the season he has a trio of tournament titles (GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington), along with a dual meet victory over Stepic. He is the lone ranked wrestler at Wilmington.

195 pounds

1. Kavan Sarver, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Stone Day, Valley View, junior (Wilmington)
3. Tony Banister, Wauseon, senior (Mansfield)
4. Jaret Lester, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
5. Jerrell Martin, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
6. Pete Abraham, Padua, senior (Mansfield)
7. Baden Pinson, Reading, senior (Wilmington)
8. Jud Ramage, Meadowbrook, junior (Heath)
9. Jared Fenner, Miami Trace, senior (Wilmington)
10. David McCullough, Keystone, junior (Mansfield)
11. Tyler Stein, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
12. Josh Bever, Ashland, sophomore (Mansfield)
13. Owen Loughman, Sheridan, sophomore (Heath)
14. Jackson Gear, Cincinnati McNicholas, junior (Wilmington)
15. Alex Eckles, Granville, senior (Heath)
16. Robert Marquez, Hamilton Township, senior (Heath)

ALL – Lester, Martin, Stein, Julian Isom (Warren Howland, senior); Demetrius Mitchell (Painesville Harvey, senior)

HEA – Ramage, Loughman, Eckles, Marquez; Austin Mayfield (East Liverpool, senior)

MAN – Banister, Abraham, McCullough, Bever; Ryan Kelley (Clyde, senior)

WIL – Sarver, Day, Pinson, Fenner; Gear

Even with just three returning state placers, it still figures to be a very robust battle for the state championship. Seven others with state experience make for what is a relatively high placement standard

for an upper-weight. Leading the way at this point is returning state third place winner Sarver, who split matches last season with state runner-up Banister (Sarver won at team state, Banister in the individual quarterfinal). Sarver has also split matches with Day this season, losing in the Valley View final but winning in a dual meet, both those were by one point. Sarver also placed third at the Ironman (Banister DNP), won the GMVWA, and beat projected Division III champ Hoover 7-6 in the New Lexington final.

Joining Sarver at the Wilmington district will be second-ranked Day, a junior who placed seventh down a weight at state last year. In addition to the title at Valley View are five other tournament wins, including a 14-5 finals win over state qualifier Pinson at Eaton. Three others with state experience exit this district, which means one won't make state (and given how tepid – being kind – 182 is at this site, that's kind of convoluted). Pinson has a pair of tournament titles and the runner-up at Eaton; Fenner has three tournament titles and was fifth at the GMVWA; while Gear was seventh at SWOWCA, runner-up (to Pinson) at Madeira, and fourth at the CIT.

Banister anchors a group of four ranked wrestlers at Mansfield. The senior and two-time state placer was runner-up at Brecksville and Perrysburg before winning the title at Maumee Bay. Returning state alternate Abraham has three tournament titles this season, was fifth at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT. Returning district placer and junior McCullough was runner-up at Avon Lake before winning a pair of tournament titles, while the sophomore Bever placed eighth at Brecksville and has a pair of tournament titles (Gorman and conference meet) in calendar year 2017.

Four ranked wrestlers, three with state experience but bereft a state tournament win, exit the district at Heath. Two-time state qualifier Ramage was champion at Beaver Local, third at the OVAC, and fifth at New Lexington; the sophomore Loughman has a pair of tournament titles, was third at Cambridge (losing to Fenner in pool), and sixth at the Bill Dies; while the senior Eckles has three tournament runner-up finishes and a fourth at New Lexington. The senior Marquez occupies the last rankings position, having three tournament titles this season and placing eighth at the GMVWA.

Rounding it out is the district at Alliance, which has three ranked wrestlers. Leading the way is the senior Lester, a two-time state alternate. This season he placed third at the Top Gun. Returning state qualifier Martin was third at East Liverpool, fourth at Brecksville, seventh at the Top Gun, and runner-up at the EOWL; while the sophomore Stein missed placement at Brecksville by a match, was third at Perry and the EOWL, and runner-up at the Bill Dies. Also here is returning district placer Mitchell.

220 pounds

1. Johnny Shafer, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Landon Hall, Wapakoneta, senior (Mansfield)
3. Brandon Phillips, Maumee, junior (Mansfield)
4. Douglas Childers, Firelands, senior (Mansfield)
5. Jack Delgarbino, Girard, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Abdullah Silmi, Norwalk, senior (Mansfield)
7. Connor Johnston, Upper Sandusky, junior (Mansfield)
8. Wyatt Hilliard, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
9. Greg Packard, Brookside, senior (Mansfield)
10. Austin Norris, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
11. Breslin Walker, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
12. Andrew Lorcher, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Mansfield)
13. Austin Weingartner, Caledonia River Valley, senior (Heath)

14. Mikey Addis, Norwood, junior (Wilmington)
15. Garrett Mitchell, Logan Elm, senior (Wilmington)
16. Drone Moore, Steubenville, senior (Heath)

ALL – Delgarbino, Norris, Walker, Kyle Gallagher (West Geauga, senior); Nick Mason (Perry, junior)
HEA – Weingartner, Moore, Trenton Gregg (Sheridan, senior), Lyle Clark (Claymont, junior); Gage Swartz (Philo, junior)

MAN – Hall, Phillips, Childers, Silmi; Johnston, Packard, Lorcher

WIL – Shafer, Hilliard, Addis, Mitchell; Ben Davis (Circleville, sophomore)

Four wrestlers return as state qualifiers, while a fifth has state tournament experience, and the lot of them exit just two district tournaments. The sophomore Shafer has been talked about as a star upper-weight for multiple years, placing fifth last year in a senior laden weight showed the viability of such thought, and now is his chance to shine in what is a relatively barren weight class (13/16 in this state tournament weight class last year graduated). He has two wins this season over primary title challenger two-time state placer Hall, 6-3 in the GMVWA final and 1-0 in a dual meet. Shafer also missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was champion at New Lexington, and lost 8-0 to Division III title contender Human in the semifinal at Valley View.

Hall is the highest returning placer, having finished sixth at 182 and fourth at 195 the last two years. He was also runner-up at the Top Gun and champion of his conference meet. The Mansfield district that he anchors is absolutely loaded, as it features seven ranked wrestlers in all, including two of the other three with state tournament experience. Phillips won a state match in this weight class last year as a sophomore, and has three tournament titles to his credit this season along with a runner-up at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. The senior Childers jumped up three weight classes from last year, and has two tournament titles on the year including a 12-10 win over Packard in the conference final; he also was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Defiance, third at Perrysburg, and has a 7-2 dual meet win over returning state placer Silmi.

The just mentioned senior from Norwalk was champion at Kenston. Returning state alternate Johnston has three tournament titles, a runner-up finish at Marion County and a third at the GMVWA; district placer Packard has three tournament titles (one coming at 285), along with the runner-up to Childers in the conference tournament; while fellow senior Lorcher was runner-up at Avon Lake, champion at the North Coast Classic, before placing seventh at both Medina and Marion County.

Shafer has three ranked contenders in his district at Wilmington, led by 2014 state qualifier Hilliard, who has three tournament titles this season (including the Hammer & Anvil) along with a baffling third place finish at Benjamin Logan. The junior Addis was third at Franklin losing 3-2 to Hilliard, runner-up in overtime at Norwood, and champion in two other tournaments; while returning district placer Mitchell has tournament titles at Miamisburg and Central Crossing.

The district at Alliance features three ranked wrestlers led by the sophomore Delgarbino, who was third at Solon before winning titles at the Hephner and EOWL. Returning state alternate Norris was fourth at the EOWL, champion at Perry, and third at the Bill Dies. Last among the ranked is the freshman Walker, who placed sixth at both North Canton and the Grizzly Invitational, while going 2-2 at Ironman and Brecksville.

Leastly is the Heath district, which features just two ranked wrestlers, and no one in the field even won a pair of district tournament matches last year. The senior Weingartner placed eighth at Medina, was runner-up at Nelsonville York, and third at Marion County; while fellow senior Moore was fifth at both North Canton and the OVAC.

285 pounds

1. Ian Sharp, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
2. Karson Chasteen, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
3. Mason Giordano, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
4. Devin Williams, Shelby, senior (Mansfield)
5. Jamez Young, Sandusky, senior (Mansfield)
6. Trevor Hicks, Washington C.H., senior (Wilmington)
7. Sean Lipscomb, Firelands, junior (Mansfield)
8. Noah Meeker, Elida, senior (Mansfield)
9. Colvin Turner, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
10. Zach Baker, Marengo Highland, senior (Heath)
11. Jack Dawson, Chagrin Falls, senior (Alliance)
12. Travis Kuttler, Minerva, junior (Heath)
13. Trent Wilson, Valley View, junior (Wilmington)
14. Nick Kelly, Revere, senior (Alliance)
15. Brandon Matlock, Warren Howland, junior (Alliance)
16. Tyler Ely, Steubenville, junior (Heath)

ALL – Sharp, Giordano, Dawson, Kelly; Matlock

HEA – Baker, Kuttler, Ely, Scott Harry (McConnellsville Morgan, senior); Dane Black (Hebron Lakewood, sophomore)

MAN – Williams, Young, Lipscomb, Meeker; Jayden Neal (Lima Bath, senior)

WIL – Chasteen, Hicks, Turner, Wilson; Lane Cluff (Hillsboro, sophomore)

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. He qualified for state as a sophomore in 2015. Last year, he was my projected state champ and entered state having won the district title over the eventual state runner-up. However, he succumbed to eventual state champ Matt Adams 2-1 on a takedown very late in the third period; making things worse, Sharp then lost 7-2 in consolation failing to place.

In a weight with just two returning state placers (presuming that Wes Cochran of Buckeye Valley doesn't find the mats all of the sudden) and four other state qualifiers, let's pick Sharp for a second straight year and hope it's right this time. It would be a ninth individual champ for the Warriors, a first since Nathan Sharp repeated as champ in 2007 at (you guessed it) 285. On the season, he has titles at Top Gun and the EOWL, losing just to Frye 3-0 in the final at North Canton.

The highest returning state placer in this weight class is fellow senior Young, who placed fourth at state last year. On the season he was champion at Tiffin Columbian before finishing runner-up at both the Gorman and Maumee Bay, but suffered a 9-7 dual meet loss to Meeker. He exits a district at Mansfield that features three other ranked wrestlers. Actually ranked ahead of Young is fellow senior Williams, a state alternate in 2015 that fell victim to a brutal sectional last year. On the season, Williams beat Young 1-0 to win the Gorman and finished third at Maumee Bay, where he lost to Young in the tiebreaker. The

junior Lipscomb has three tournament titles (including one at Defiance), along with a third place finish at Perrysburg; while the senior Meeker was runner-up to Lipscomb at Defiance and champion over Neal at the WBL meet. Returning state alternate Max Edgerly (Bay) is also in this weight class.

Four additional ranked wrestlers join Sharp to make the Alliance district relatively robust, though only Giordano is truly a state title threat. The senior qualified for state last year long to Young in the opening round in the ultimate tiebreaker then losing to Cochran in the match to place in the tiebreaker. On the season, he missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was fourth at Brecksville, along with runner-up finishes at the Bill Dies (pinned by projected DI champ Vough) and EOWL (1-0 loss to Sharp). The senior Dawson was runner-up at the North Coast Classic before winning titles at Kenston and the CVC; fellow senior Kelly is a returning district placer, and this season placed fifth at the North Coast Classic before taking second in his conference; while the junior Matlock was fourth at the EOWL meet.

The other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Chasteen, who was eighth at 220 pounds last year. On this season he was champion at Franklin, Fairfield (beat Spaulding), and Eaton; while finishing third at SWOWCA and suffering a dual meet defeat against Spaulding. Should Chasteen reach the state final, it would be the first such wrestler to do so in program history for the Rams.

Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district. Returning state qualifier Hicks was runner-up to Chasteen at Franklin, while earning a win over Turner, before winning at Nelsonville York and finishing runner-up at Marion County. Turner is a fellow senior and returning state qualifier, while the junior Wilson is a returning district placer, and this season has a pair of tournament finals appearances to go with another pair of third place finishes.

Rounding things out is the district at Heath, which features three ranked wrestlers, led by the senior Baker who won a state tournament match last year at 195 pounds. On this season, he was champion at his home tournament, fifth at Medina, third at the Grizzly Invitational, and runner-up at New Lexington. Returning district placer Kuttler was runner-up at both Cambridge and Top Gun, while the junior Ely was runner-up at the OVAC meet.

Team Board

1. St. Paris Graham (Wilmington)
2. Canfield (Alliance)
3. Wauseon (Mansfield)
4. Carrollton (Heath)
5. CVCA (Alliance)
6. Akron SVSM (Alliance)
7. Lake Catholic (Alliance)
8. Claymont (Heath)
9. Western Brown (Wilmington)
10. Defiance (Mansfield)