

## **Division Two – Rankings and Analysis**

### 106 pounds

1. Eli Stickley, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)
2. Alex Mackall, Walsh Jesuit, freshman (Alliance)
3. Michael May, Eaton, sophomore (Goshen)
4. Evan Cheek, Milan Edison, sophomore (Bowling Green)
5. John Martin, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Seth Beard, Napoleon, freshman (Bowling Green)
7. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, freshman (Heath)
8. Tyler Warner, Claymont, freshman (Heath)
9. Alex Merrell, Mansfield Madison, sophomore (Bowling Green)
10. Corey Simpson, Field, freshman (Alliance)
11. Hunter Lucas, Lima Shawnee, freshman (Bowling Green)
12. Josh Portillo, Toledo Central Catholic, freshman (Bowling Green)
13. Paul Petras, Padua, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Brandon Carter, Hillsboro, senior (Goshen)
15. Noah Jay, Whitehall, junior (Heath)
16. Josiah Hrusch, Minerva, junior (Heath)

Alliance – Mackall, Simpson, Dakota Oliver (Louisville, senior), Alec Schopfer (West Branch, sophomore)

Bowling Green – Cheek, Martin, Beard, Merrell; Lucas, Portillo, Petras

Goshen – Stickley, May, Carter, Levi Congelton (Vincent Warren, sophomore); Skyler St. Peter (Athens, junior)

Heath – Wilson, Warner, Jay, Hrusch; Alex Potts (East Liverpool)

This opening weight of Division II has kind of a caste system between the “newbies” and the “returnees”. Normally in this opening weight, the newbies are totally dominant; however, as is the case in Division I, the opening weight does not have the least kids with state experience among the division’s fourteen classifications. Leading the way here is a returnee who placed fifth at state last season, placed at the Super 32 in October, and is undefeated for the season. The sophomore Stickley was champion at the Ironman, GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments, and rallied for a crucial 5-4 victory over L.J. Bentley in St. Paris Graham’s upset dual meet victory over St. Edward two weekends ago.

Ranked second in this weight is a freshman, Mackall from Walsh Jesuit, who was a junior high state champion last year. This season, he has a title at Solon to go with third place finishes at Powerade and Top Gun, along with a fourth place finish at the Ironman. He is the lead figure in an extremely shallow Alliance district at this weight class, which is the exception to the rule within the first half to two-thirds of the weight classes in this district. The lone other ranked wrestler is fellow freshman Simpson, who placed third at Wadsworth and fifth at Top Gun.

Two other wrestlers with state experience join Stickley at the Goshen district, but those three are the lone ranked wrestlers at this weight class in the district. The sophomore May placed sixth at state last year, and just returned the mats when he won his home tournament at Eaton this past weekend. Joining them is the senior Carter, who has won titles the last two weekends at Western Brown and Milford after third place finishes at Fairfield and Bellbrook earlier this season.

The bulk of the rankings in this weight class come from the Bowling Green district, which has absurd depth here with seven ranked wrestlers, including three of the ranked freshmen. Leading the way here is the sophomore Cheek, who was stuck up at 120 pounds last post-season, and he still won a sectional title before going 1-2 at the district. This past summer he earned Cadet freestyle All-American honors at 100 pounds, and during the season he was third at Brecksville and won titles at Milan Edison and Marion County. The senior Martin is a two-time state qualifier, but yet to place at state, and this season was fourth at Brecksville before winning the Top Gun where he collected a 5-4 victory over Mackall in the quarterfinal round. Finally among the projected placers is the freshman Beard, whose only loss this season comes off a 113 weigh-in when he wrestled up at 120 pounds; he has a quality 5-3 win over Cheek's teammate Jude Michel up at 113, and was champion at Perrysburg in the 106 weight class.

Four ranked wrestlers at Bowling Green seek that last qualifying spot. The sophomore Merrell was champion at Tiffin Columbian, third at the J.C. Gorman and Oregon Clay, and was fourth at North Canton; Lucas was a junior high state champion last year, and this season won at Allen County, was third at Marion Harding, and fourth at Oregon Clay; fellow freshman Portillo beat Cheek 1-0 in a December dual meet, but then finished eighth at Brecksville, though he followed it up with a CIT title; while Petras was seventh at Brecksville, and then saw his medal match win over Portillo flipped in a 5-4 CIT finals loss.

The Heath district has four ranked wrestlers, and befitting the lede, two are freshman and two are juniors. The freshman Wilson was runner-up at North Canton, champion at the OVAC, and beat Warner 6-5 in a dual this past weekend; while fellow freshman Warner has runner-up finishes at Medina and Top Gun to go with a Barnesville title. The lone returning state qualifier here is the junior Jay, who has a title at Bishop Ready to his credit; while state alternate Hrusch was sixth at the GMVWA and seventh at Top Gun.

#### 113 pounds

1. Cameron Kelly, Bellbrook, sophomore (Goshen)
2. Eli Seipel, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)
3. Dustin Warner, Claymont, junior (Heath)
4. Ryan Bennett, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Jake Zemaitis, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
6. Trent Duffy, Miami Trace, junior (Goshen)
7. Brad Taton, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
8. Jude Michel, Milan Edison, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Matt Pool, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Korey Frost, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
11. Collin Dees, Perry, junior (Alliance)
12. Josh Henderson, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
13. Shawn Murphy, Washington C.H., sophomore (Goshen)
14. Cory Parsons, Vincent Warren, senior (Goshen)
15. Forrest Brewer, Franklin, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Zach Bussard, Valley View, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Bennett, Zemaitis, Taton, Frost; Dees

Bowling Green – Michel, Pool, Brewer, Bussard; Ben Tepper (Bay, senior)

Goshen – Kelly, Seipel, Duffy, Murphy; Parsons

Heath – Warner, Henderson, Raymond Raimo (River Valley, junior), Slade Tyson (Tri-Valley, junior); Mike Stewart (Sparta Highland, sophomore)

Depth is abundant in this weight class with thirteen wrestlers having state tournament experience, including eight that have appeared on the podium before at the Schott. Defending state champion Kelly became the first to win state from his school last year when he upset returning finalist Cody Burcher 7-2 in the 106 pound championship match. This season the sophomore failed to place at the Ironman, but has bounced back with titles at the GMVWA, Bellbrook, and Eaton. He is the lead figure in a deep Goshen district with four other ranked wrestlers.

Next in the rankings is fellow sophomore Seipel, who was fourth at this weight class, and placed sixth at the Ironman. However, he lost 5-0 to Kelly in the GMVWA final. Since then, he was champion at Valley View and New Lexington, and sandwiched those two titles with a match-sealing major decision in the upset over St. Edward. The junior Duffy was sixth in this same weight class last year, and this season lost a pair of one-point decisions in falling a match short of placement at the Top Gun, and was champion at Miami Trace with wins over the two other ranked wrestlers in this district.

The sophomore Murphy went 2-2 in this weight class at last year's district tournament, and this season placed eighth at the GMVWA, seventh at Top Gun, and third at Miami Trace with a 2-0 loss to Duffy in the semifinal. The senior Parsons qualified for state last year, but went two-and-out at 106 pounds, and placed second with an 8-3 loss to Duffy in this past weekend's Miami Trace tournament.

Ranked third in this weight is the junior Warner. He has been stuck at sub-optimal weight classes the last two years as Burcher has finished second at the opening weight class, while Class of 2012 wrestler Luke Langdon placed at the second weight. None the less, he managed to make state last year at 120. Now in an optimal weight class, he has been excellent this year with an upset win over projected DI state champ Aaron Assad in the opening weekend, followed by titles at Barnesville and Top Gun, and a third place finish at Medina. He heads a Heath district with only one other ranked wrestler, and that is returning state qualifier Henderson, who was champion at Lorain and runner-up at the OVAC tournament.

Ranked fourth in this weight is the sophomore Bennett, who was fourth at state last year in the 106 class as a freshman. He heads a deep district at Alliance with five ranked wrestlers, including two others that placed at 106 last year. Zemaitis placed seventh last year, and this year has titles at Solon and Hudson to go with a runner-up finish at Kenston; while Taton placed eighth, and this year was runner-up at Solon, fourth at the CIT, and one match away from placing at Brecksville. Also with state experience are two more juniors in Dees and Frost. Dees was runner-up at the North Coast Classic and one match away from placing at Brecksville up at 120, before dropping to 113 where he has a title at Perry and runner-up finish at Oregon Clay. Frost made state last year at 113, has yet to compete this year, though his return is expected before sectionals.

Last is the Bowling Green district, which features a pair of senior wrestlers who placed in 2011, but fell short of state placement last season. Michel has a dual meet victory over Pool, was runner-up at Milan Edison to projected Division III champion Jared Ganger, and was one match short of placement at Brecksville. Like Michel, Pool was also one match short of placement at Brecksville. Joining them as ranked wrestlers from this district is a pair that placed sixth at the Goshen district last year. The senior Brewer won at Franklin, was runner-up at Marion County and Western Brown, fifth at Olentangy Liberty, and a match short of placement at the GMVWA; while the sophomore Bussard has runner-up finishes at

three tournaments (including one to Brewer at Franklin, where he lost by tech fall), and third place finishes at two more.

#### 120 pounds

1. Nathan Tomasello, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Anthony Tutolo, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
3. Brent Moore, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Goshen)
4. Kole Trigg, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
5. Joey Miller, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
6. Nathan Smith, Minerva, senior (Heath)
7. Lyle Plummer, Dayton CJ, junior (Goshen)
8. Connor Nemeč, Crestwood, junior (Alliance)
9. Dalton Howard, Milan Edison, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Josh Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Tony Becker, Padua, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Garrett Carter, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Zach Morrow, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Major Moore, Willard, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Jared Patterson, Meadowbrook, senior (Heath)
16. Cole Tawney, Gallia Academy, sophomore (Goshen)

Alliance – Tomasello, Tutolo, Nemeč, Carter; Walker Chieffe (University School, junior)

Bowling Green – Howard, Mossing, Becker, Morrow; M. Moore

Goshen – B. Moore, Trigg, Plummer, Tawney; Aric Peters (Bethel-Tate, sophomore)

Heath – Miller, Smith, Patterson, Ben Crabtree (River Valley, senior); Kollin Clark (Claymont, junior)

Number one in America at this weight class, three times a state champion, and twice a Junior National freestyle champion ... one wonders why anyone would take their chances against Tomasello. If not for a late drop from returning runner-up Tutolo, who lost 8-5 to Tomasello in the final last year, there would be no returning state placer in this weight class. Validating that number one ranking, Tomasello won his third Ironman title, and also earned titles at the Beast of the East, Medina, and Top Gun tournaments.

Tutolo joins Tomasello in this weight class at the Alliance district. In December – while competing at 126 – Tutolo won titles at Solon and Brecksville, also finishing eighth at the Ironman. He dropped for the CIT, where he emerged as champion with a 6-2 finals victory over two-time state qualifier Plummer. This duo is joined by two other ranked wrestlers in this district. Nemeč qualified for state as a freshman in 2011 before falling short last year, but this year won Kenston up at 126, was third at Solon in this weight and champ at Hudson. The sophomore Carter was fifth at Solon and the CIT, and seventh at Brecksville. State alternate Chieffe is just outside the rankings, but could poach a qualification spot from Nemeč or Carter; in fact, he beat Nemeč in last year's state alternate medal match.

Coming into high school as a junior high state champ, it has been an interesting season for Moore from St. Paris Graham. Starting at the Ironman with a draw of two state champions from power states in three matches is certainly an unpleasant welcome to high school wrestling. However, things have stabilized, as he took second at the GMVWA with a pair of quality wins, was first at Valley View and New Lexington, and sandwiched that with a major decision up a weight over his St. Edward opponent. Moore is ranked third statewide, and leads a Goshen district that features three other ranked wrestlers.

The senior Trigg is a two-time state qualifier, who this season placed sixth in the GMVWA, including a loss by fall to Moore in the semifinal round; then he bumped up to 126 and fell a match short of placement at the Top Gun, before dropping back to this weight and taking second at Miami Trace. Fellow two-time state qualifier Plummer is a junior, who placed fourth at the GMVWA, but lost to Trigg 3-1 in the quarterfinal, and was runner-up at the CIT. Rounding out the ranked group is the sophomore Tawney, who has won three tournaments this year and was runner-up at Western Brown. Returning state alternate Peters beat Tawney at district last year, but right now is positioned just outside the rankings.

Two multi-time state qualifiers who finished on the podium in years prior to last year, but not last year, head the district at Heath. The senior Miller is seeking a fourth state tournament appearance, placed at state in 2010 and 2011, and finished fifth at the Top Gun this year. Fellow senior Smith placed in 2011, and this year finished fifth at the Top Gun (including a 6-5 win over Trigg) and sixth at the Top Gun (losing 1-0 to Miller). The lone other ranked wrestler at this district is the senior Patterson, who was champion at Barnesville and the OVAC in this weight class.

Though no projected placers are present at the Bowling Green district, five of the wrestlers in the back half of the rankings are here. That group is led by returning state qualifier Howard, who has dual meet wins over state qualifier Bryson Laytart, as well as Mossing. Up at 126, he was second at Milan Edison at Marion County; while in this weight class, he was one match away from placement at Brecksville, going 1-2 against wrestlers with state qualifiers. The sophomore Mossing placed fifth at Brecksville with three wins over state qualifiers. Next in the rankings is the junior Becker, who earned a win over Morrow at the Ironman, but failed to place at Brecksville, and did place third at the CIT with a 5-4 win over Brecksville placer Carter along the way. The senior Morrow was a state alternate in this weight class last year, placed eighth at Brecksville, and fourth at Perrysburg. Finally, the junior Moore was a district placer last year, and this year finished fourth at Medina before beating two-time Division III placer Mike Hozan to win the title at Willard.

#### 126 pounds

1. Cody Burcher, Claymont, junior (Heath)
2. Michael Kostandaras, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Alliance)
3. Michael Rix, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Josh Decatur, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
5. Wade Hodges, Wauseon, sophomore (Bowling Green)
6. Payton Ott, Eaton, senior (Goshen)
7. Nate Hagan, Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. D.J. Schoeppner, Canton South, senior (Alliance)
9. Anthony Craig, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
10. Brian Carter, Bethel-Tate, senior (Goshen)
11. Tyler Knul, Circleville, junior (Goshen)
12. Trace Plaughter, Lima Shawnee, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Elijah Cochran, Kenton Ridge, junior (Goshen)
14. Kyle Moffitt, Indian Creek, senior (Heath)
15. Joey Baitt, Jefferson, junior (Alliance)
16. Jamie Balboa, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Kostandaras, Rix, Decatur, Schoeppner; Baitt

Bowling Green – Hodges, Hagan, Plaughter, Balboa; Matt Middleton (Franklin, senior)

Goshen – Ott, Carter, Knul, Cochran; Bryson Laytart (Miami Trace, sophomore)  
Heath – Burcher, Craig, Moffitt, Bret Yutzy (Jonathan Alder, junior); Christian Price (Granville, soph)

Well gang, we hit a “sandwich” weight class, and we have a deep sandwich filled with thirteen wrestlers having state experience (joint-most in Division II), nine of those having a podium appearance. Above this weight is two-time state champion Micah Jordan, and below this is three-time state champion Tomasello. It’s always tough to pick a champion in this type of weight class; however, two-time state runner-up Burcher sits as the slight favorite at the moment. During the course of this season, he was champion at Barnesville up a weight class, champion at the Top Gun, runner-up at Medina, and came up with a crucial pin against Craig in this past weekend’s dual meet against Steubenville.

The next three wrestlers in the rankings all exit the Alliance district. In fact, this district has four projected state placers, and all are have multiple podium trips to date. The junior Kostandaras spent the first month of the season up at 132 pounds, where he lost a pair of overtime matches in failing to place at the Ironman, won a title at Solon, and was fourth at the Powerade. However, seeking an elusive state title, he dropped to 126 for the Top Gun, where he placed eighth. It was an uncharacteristic poor performance for him, one that I think he recovers from and proves to be the lead challenger in this weight.

Three-time state placer Rix beat Burcher in 2011 to win a state title. During this season, he was third at Brecksville, champion at the CIT and Hephner, and has four wins against three of the projected placers in this weight. Fellow senior Decatur, already twice a state placer – including eighth last year at 132, also made the move down here for the Top Gun; where he finished second, losing 6-2 to Burcher in the final. Up at 132, he was fourth at the King of the Mountain and went 2-2 at the Ironman. Two-time state placer Schoeppner was champion at North Canton and the Bill Dies, before losing 3-0 to Rix in the Hephner final. Also ranked here is Bill Dies runner-up Baitt, who was champion at Riverside and Lorain; while state alternate Alex Cornicelli (Warren Howland, senior) falls outside the rankings.

Two other projected state placers, both sophomores that finished seventh in Columbus last year, head a group of four wrestlers at the Bowling Green district. Hodges failed to place at the Ironman, but did have a win there over projected 132 pound placer Nolan Whitely; finished fourth at Brecksville; and was second at Oregon Clay. Fellow projected placer Hagan was sixth at Brecksville, and lost to Rix 1-0 in the CIT final. The senior Plaughner was a state qualifier in 2011, and this year has a title at Allen County, was runner-up at Marion Harding, and fourth at Oregon Clay; while fellow senior Balboa placed eighth at Medina and fourth at Perrysburg.

Rounding out the projected placers is returning state qualifier Ott, who heads the Goshen district contingent, having finished third at the GMVWA, fourth at the Top Gun (including a 5-0 win over Kostandaras), and first at Eaton. Three other ranked wrestlers exit this district, including Knul, who placed eighth in this weight last year. However, he lost to Carter 7-6 in the Miami Trace final this past weekend. Earlier in the season up at 132, Carter was first at Edgewood, but failed to place at SWOWCA. The junior Cochran placed sixth at the GMVWA, but failed to place at the Top Gun. Returning state qualifier Laytart is not ranked at present, coming off a fourth place finish at Miami Trace.

The Heath district headed by Burcher has just two other ranked wrestlers in Craig and Moffitt. Craig, a two-time state qualifier placing sixth at the opening weight in 2011, finished third at North Canton and won the OVAC tournament; while the senior Moffitt placed third at the OVAC, his only loss being 3-2 to Craig.

### 132 pounds

1. Micah Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (Goshen)
2. Preston Bowshier, Kenton Ridge, junior (Goshen)
3. Aaran Gessic, Perry, junior (Alliance)
4. Nolan Whitely, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Alliance)
5. Andy Dobben, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Josh Hillier, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
7. Jimmy Kubitza, Field, junior (Alliance)
8. Walter Gibson, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
9. Anthony Parada, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
10. Drew Dillon, Claymont, senior (Heath)
11. Derik Kopp, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Jacob Whitcomb, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Chip Ratcliff, Bethel-Tate, senior (Goshen)
14. Kane Plaughter, Lima Shawnee, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Nick Wrobel, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Nathan Kirk, Buckeye Local, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Gessic, Whitely, Dobben, Hillier; Kubitza, Gibson, Wrobel

Bowling Green – Kopp, Whitcomb, Plaughter, Alec Bowlick (Oak Harbor, senior); Nick Pauff (Elida, senior)

Goshen – Jordan, Bowshier, Ratcliff, Dillon Hunick (Hillsboro, junior); Stewart Oehlers (Fairfield Union, senior)

Heath – Parada, Dillon, Kirk, Isaac Hammonds (Dover, senior); Ron Foster (Beaver Local, senior)

Bo Jordan is considered by many to be the best senior in the nation this year, and arguably the best wrestler pound-for-pound overall as well. His younger brother by one grade, Micah, is pretty good in his own right. Only a junior, he has already won two state titles, and is on track for two more. He dominates virtually all opposition, and has two statement wins this year over Dean Heil, using late takedowns to win both matches. Those two wins avenged four losses to Heil during his first two years of high school.

While there is little doubt to who will win the state title in this weight, probably the most interesting dynamic here will be the competition at the Alliance district, which has seven ranked wrestlers. This includes six that are projected to place. Leading this group is the lone state placer, the junior Gessic. However, he has not competed since mid-December when he lost to Rix in a dual meet, and before that was champion of the North Coast Classic; so, fair to say, his status is unknown. Next in line is the junior Whitely, who was down at 126 in December, where he placed third at Solon, seventh at the Powerade, and went 2-2 at the Ironman with a pair of narrow losses. In his time at this weight class, he has a win over returning Division I state qualifier Brandon Egnor, and placed fourth at the Top Gun.

The sophomore Dobben was a state alternate last year, and this year placed fifth at both Medina and the Top Gun. The senior Hillier qualified for state last year, and spent the first month of the season at 145 pounds (teammate Dylan Kager is at 138), where he finished runner-up at Solon and Hudson before placing sixth at Kenston. The junior Kubitza placed sixth at Brecksville (including a 6-2 win over Gibson), was first at Wadsworth this past weekend, but has a recent dual meet loss to Hillier. Fellow junior Gibson was a state qualifier in 2011, was third at Solon, eighth at Brecksville, champion at the Gorman, fourth at the CIT (including a loss to Wrobel), and just beat Division I state qualifier Zac Carson to win the Hephner. Last in the ranked group is Wrobel, a district placer in this weight last year as a freshman,

who this season failed to place at Solon and Brecksville, was third at Olentangy Liberty, and second at the CIT.

However, ranked second in this weight is fellow junior Bowshier, a two-time state placer who joins Jordan at the Goshen district. This season Bowshier was runner-up to Jordan at the GMVWA and runner-up at Top Gun. State alternate Ratcliff is the other ranked wrestler at this district tournament, having won titles at Miami Trace and Madeira at this weight class, while placing second at Edgewood and seventh at SWOWCA up one weight. State qualifiers Hunick and Oehlers, both of whom went two-and-out last year in Columbus, fall outside the rankings at the moment and seek that last state spot from this district.

Featuring three ranked wrestlers, including those in the ninth and tenth positions, is the Heath district. Leading the way is the senior Parada, who won a match last year at the state tournament, and this year was third at North Canton and the OVAC tournaments. State alternate Dillon finished one match short of placement at the Top Gun losing 4-1 to Bowshier and 5-2 to Dobben, and lost 13-9 to Parada in this past weekend's dual meet. Joining them as a ranked wrestler in this weight from the district is the senior Kirk, a state alternate last year who placed fifth at the North Coast Classic, fourth at the OVAC (splitting matches with Parada), and third at Wadsworth. State qualifier Hammonds and 2011 state qualifier Foster fall outside the rankings and seek the last state spot.

Finally, it is the Bowling Green district, which is rather shallow here with three ranked wrestlers positioned outside of placement. The lone kid with state experience is the senior Kopp, who made state in 2011 at the opening weight class, and this year was second at Clyde and third at Oregon Clay in this weight class; while at the weight above, he was champion at Tiffin Columbian. Fellow senior Whitcomb was runner-up in December at Lima Central Catholic, third at Perrysburg, and champion at Oregon Clay. Yet another senior Plaughner has titles at Marion Harding and Lima Senior to his credit this season.

### 138 pounds

1. Alex Mossing, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Bowling Green)
2. Dylan Kager, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
3. Ryan Skonieczny, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
4. Kade Kowalski, Tri-Valley, sophomore (Heath)
5. Justin Smith, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
6. Kyle Kaminski, Padua, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Cordell Byrd, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
8. Braycen Shelton, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
9. Drew Avery, Claymont, senior (Heath)
10. Heath Lange, Indian Lake, junior (Goshen)
11. Ricky Simonelli, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
12. Ashden Gibson, Whitehall, senior (Heath)
13. Nathan Henkle, St. Paris Graham, junior (Goshen)
14. Kendrick Maple, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
15. Nathan Salmon, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Austin Yarnell, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Kager, Skonieczny, Smith, Shelton; Simonelli, Maple

Bowling Green – Mossing, Kaminski, Salmon, Yarnell; Dakota Flores (Clyde, senior)

Goshen – Byrd, Lange, Henkle, Cory Abdella (Athens, senior); Drew Stebelton (Sheridan, senior)



Heath – Kowalski, Avery, Gibson, Jake McKittrick (Steubenville, senior); Dylan Napier (Hamilton Township, junior)

Three wrestlers, all who placed last year at 132 pounds, have slightly separated from the field in this weight class. Leading the way is the junior Mossing, who placed third at state, is a past Fargo All-American, and was runner-up at the Preseason Nationals this fall. He was runner-up at Brecksville and champion at the CIT, and has a pair of close wins over Skonieczny (3-1 in overtime and 4-3) season to date. Nipping on his heels is the senior Kager, who placed sixth at state, including a loss by fall to Mossing in the consolation semifinals. This season Kager beat Skonieczny 5-1 to win at title at Solon, and followed it up with titles at Hudson and Kenston. Skonieczny, already a two-time state placer heading into his junior state series run, had had a positive season taking third at Solon, eighth at Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, and second at the CIT.

Kager and Skonieczny lead the delegation from the Alliance district, which is clearly the deepest with six ranked wrestlers in this weight class, including four projected to place. The senior Smith was a state alternate last year, and this season has third place finishes at North Canton and the Top Gun on his resume. Fellow senior Shelton was sixth at the Gun, and up a weight class placed second at Riverside and third at Kenston (which included a win over Hillier). Returning state placer Simonelli is also here, having placed seventh at Medina and eighth at Top Gun season to date; while the senior Maple is an excellent wrestler with runner-up finishes at Riverside and the Dies sandwiching a title at Lorain, but unfortunately exits the wrong district.

Projected champ Mossing exits the next deepest district at Bowling Green with three other ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Kaminski, who was champion of the CIT up at 145 pounds and third at Brecksville in this weight class. The senior Salmon, a state qualifier in 2011, placed third at Olentangy Liberty, sixth at Medina, and fourth at Marion County; while fellow senior Yarnell was a match away from placement at Brecksville before winning at Perrysburg and taking third at Oregon Clay.

Ranked fourth in this weight class is sophomore sensation Kowalski, who entered high school as a junior high state champ and finished as a NHSCA freshman national champion this past April. He won his maiden state tournament match last year before hitting Micah Jordan in the quarterfinal and cross-bracketing into Kostandaras to end up short of placement. This season, he went 2-2 at the Ironman, including an 8-5 win over Kaminski. He is joined by two other ranked wrestlers at the Heath district, state alternate Avery and state qualifier Gibson.

The senior Avery beat district placer McKittrick in the crucial penultimate match of the Claymont vs. Steubenville dual meet this past weekend, finished fifth at Medina, and was champion at Barnesville up at 145 pounds. Gibson, just a junior, has earned titles at Bishop Ready and Licking Heights this season.

Last is a Goshen district that features just three ranked wrestlers, two of whom do have state experience in Byrd and Lange. The senior Byrd was unsure about wrestling this season, coming to the fray late, but his body of work does include a third at Fairfield and a title at Eaton. The other ranked wrestler is the junior Henkle, who was a state alternate last year, and this year won a title at Valley View with third place finishes at the GMVWA and New Lexington also on the docket.

#### 145 pounds

1. Max Rohskopf, West Holmes, senior (Heath)
2. Jeff Hojnacki, CVCA, junior (Alliance)

3. Gabe Stark, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
4. Sheldon Struble, Bryan, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Joseph Jones, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
6. Kyle Harris, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
7. Zach Ladich, Field, junior (Alliance)
8. Dominic Monaco, University School, senior (Alliance)
9. Nate Valentine, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Beau Minnick, Clyde, junior (Bowling Green)
11. Michael Belknap, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
12. John Gershom, Hebron Lakewood, senior (Heath)
13. Dalton Hartshorn, Minerva, sophomore (Heath)
14. Tyler Sowards, Kenton Ridge, sophomore (Goshen)
15. Tye Smith, Washington C.H., sophomore (Goshen)
16. Hunter Gresh, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Hojnacki, Stark, Harris, Ladich; Monaco, Belknap

Bowling Green – Struble, Valentine, Minnick, Gresh; Byron Logan (Sandusky Perkins, senior)

Goshen – Jones, Sowards, Smith, Dallas Lazear (Athens, junior); Clay Loadman (New Richmond, senior)

Heath – Rohskopf, Gershom, Hartshorn, Cade Herron (Claymont, junior); Charles Parkham (Marion Franklin, seniorr)

Deprived a state finals appearance last year by the bracket, as he was the second best wrestler in the weight but drew Nate Skonieczny in the semifinal, the N.C. State bound Rohskopf is in excellent position to make his third state placement a state championship. In the preseason he won a title at the Grappler Fall Classic, and during the season has titles at Smithville and Top Gun to go with a runner-up finish at Medina.

Despite this weight class featuring a joint-most for Division II 13 state qualifiers, the challenge group to Roshkopf seems kind of blah. Five of the other projected placers, and six overall ranked wrestlers, exit the Alliance district. With the shallow nature of the 152 pound weight class above, and the crop of six ranked wrestlers at 138 not being as high a quality, one might see some defections from this weight class. The junior Hojnacki, who placed eighth in this weight last year, leads the rankings for this contingent. This year, he went 2-2 at the Ironman, but earned a pair of quality wins in that event, and placed fifth at Medina.

The senior Stark is the highest returning placer in this weight class other than Roshkopf, finishing fifth at 138 last year. This year, he was first at Hudson up a weight class, was pinned by DeGroff in a dual meet, and finished second at Wadsworth keyed by a 4-1 victory over Ladich in pool competition. Fellow returning placer Harris was third at North Canton, and defaulted out of the Top Gun after an early unexpected loss due to injury. The junior Ladich did not compete in the first half of the season, but finished as runner-up at Top Gun in his debut competition, with a pin over DeGroff and 4-1 victory over returning state placer Marcelli before falling 8-2 to Roshkopf despite having the match's first takedown. Monaco, a state qualifier in 2011 before missing last year due to injury, was runner-up at Ashland in the 152 weight class, with a fifth at North Canton, title at Kenston, and third at Wadsworth in this weight. Finally, it's the senior Belknap, who qualified for state last year and this year has titles at Hudson and Chippewa before placing fourth at the Dies.

Last among the returning state placers is Struble, the anchor figure at Bowling Green coming off a seventh place finish in Columbus. This season, he was first at the Gorman up at 152, before losing 9-2 to Danishek in the championship final at Marion County in this weight class. Three other ranked wrestlers join him in this district, led by state alternate Valentine, who placed eighth at Brecksville and fourth at the Top Gun. Two-time state qualifier Minnick was champion at Clyde, while the senior Gresh was sixth at Medina. Not ranked at present but with state tournament experience are seniors Logan and Kyle Lang (Norwalk).

The other projected placer in this weight class is the senior Jones, who went 1-2 at state last year, and anchors the Goshen district grouping. This season Jones has titles at SWOWCA, Fairfield, and Eaton to go with a runner-up finish to Danishek at Franklin. Sophomores Sowards, who placed seventh at the Top Gun and GMVWA, and Smith join Jones as ranked wrestlers in this district. Last year a state alternate, this year Smith failed to place at the GMVWA and Top Gun, before earning a 1-0 victory over returning state qualifier Lazear in the Miami Trace final.

Rohskopf heads an extremely shallow district at Heath with just two other ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Gershom was second at the Dies and champion at New Lexington, while the sophomore Harsthorn placed third at the GMVWA and was one match away from placing at Top Gun. Present at this district, but not ranked top sixteen overall in this weight, is returning state qualifier Herron.

#### 152 pounds

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Goshen)
2. Seth Williams, Tiffin Columbian, junior (Bowling Green)
3. Kordell Ford, Hillsboro, junior (Goshen)
4. David Brian Whisler, Warren Howland, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Michael Snyder, Sandusky Perkins, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Benjamin Schram, Bellbrook, sophomore (Goshen)
7. Sawyer Leppla, Cambridge, senior (Heath)
8. Tom McNulty, Padua, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Blake Miller, Clyde, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Brad Ward, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)
11. Nick Weininger, Dover, senior (Heath)
12. Jared Chambers, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Matt Dobben, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
14. Dain Steffeny, Granville, junior (Heath)
15. Russell Miller, Miami Trace, sophomore (Goshen)
16. Jimmy Van Dyke, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
- 16A. Seth Brock, Tri-Valley, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Whisler, Ward, Dobben, Garrett Gerardi (Crestwood, senior); Tyler Shephard (Fairless, senior)  
Bowling Green – Williams, Snyder/INJ, McNulty, Miller; Chambers, Alex Doughty (Norwalk, senior)  
Goshen – Marinelli, Ford, Schram, Miller; Van Dyke  
Heath – Leppla, Weininger, Steffeny, Brock; Alec Mills (Mifflin, senior)

Every couple of years it seems that some extremely superlative middle-to-upper-weight freshman wrestler comes to the forefront, and it is certainly one of those years when discussing Marinelli in this weight class. Twice a junior high state champion, Marinelli made his dent onto the high school scene finishing as runner-up at the Walsh Ironman, which was his initial high school competition. Since then,

he has titles at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments – only losing a narrow 9-7 decision to returning Division I runner-up Markus Scheidel in the mid-January dual meet. He is the obvious favorite to win this weight class.

His primary challenge will come from the junior Williams, who has already placed sixth and third at the state tournament. At the Ironman, he was one match away from placement, losing tight matches against the champion and fourth place finisher. Since then, Williams has titles at Tiffin Columbian, Clyde, and Oregon Clay. Four other ranked wrestlers join Williams at the Bowling Green district, though only three will actually be able to compete. Though ranked fifth due to an excellent senior season, Snyder is almost assured to miss the post-season due to an unfortunate injury that occurred in mid-January; while healthy he was second at Olentangy Liberty, fourth at Medina, and won a title at Marion County.

In position to capitalize on that for the other three qualification spots are ranked wrestlers McNulty, Miller, and Chambers. The senior McNulty has yet to make the state tournament but is now a two-time Brecksville runner-up, and added a CIT title in January to that resume. The junior Miller was a state alternate last year at 126, and qualified for state at 112 in 2011, but has transitioned well to the higher weight class – placing third at Brecksville, losing just 7-4 to Division III state champ Jordan Marshall, and then was runner-up at Clyde losing 4-1 to Williams. The senior Chambers also brings state tournament experience to the table, he made state last year at 160 pounds, and this year placed fifth at Medina and second at Perrysburg.

Joining Marinelli at the Goshen district are four ranked wrestlers, including returning state fourth placer Ford, who this season has titles at Franklin, Bellbrook, and Milford with a runner-up finish at Western Brown also on the resume. The sophomore Schram qualified for state last year as a freshman, won a match, and earned a NHSCA freshman nationals title in Virginia Beach. This season, he placed fourth at the GMVWA, second at Bellbrook, and first at Eaton. Fellow sophomore Miller placed sixth at Top Gun, and won the Miami Trace tournament with a 13-4 major decision over Van Dyke in the final. The just mentioned Van Dyke qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season also missed placement by a match at the GMVWA and went 2-2 at the Top Gun.

The third returning state placer and the remaining two others with state experience are three of the four ranked wrestlers from the Heath district. The senior Leppla, who placed fifth last year at 145 pounds, has a title at Marion Harding and a runner-up finish at the OVAC in this weight class to complement his third place finish at Riverside up at 160. Returning state qualifiers Weininger and Steffeny both won matches last year at the Schott. During this season Weininger was third at Clyde, losing a 4-3 match to Miller along the way, and was one match away from placement in the Top Gun at 160 losing both matches by a single point as well; while Steffeny was champion at Licking Heights. District placer Brock is fourth among the ranked wrestlers, and this season placed seventh at Brecksville, with a notable win over Division I state qualifier Lucas Staten.

Last among the districts is the one at Alliance, which has just three ranked wrestlers present, led by sophomore Whisler, who also won a NHSCA freshman nationals title last spring. This season, he won Hudson up at 160, and just this past weekend earned a title at Wadsworth in this weight class. The senior Ward placed third at the Top Gun in this weight class, including a 4-2 win over Dobben, and won at Solon in the opening weekend up at 160. Dobben, a senior who placed at state in 2011, has placed seventh at Medina and fifth at the Top Gun this season.

### 160 pounds

1. Bo Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Goshen)
2. Chris Wilson, Lemon Monroe, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Jerald Spohn, New Lexington, senior (Goshen)
4. Aaron Schuette, Wauseon, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Alec Schenk, Perry, junior (Alliance)
6. Logan Reaser, Ravenna, senior (Alliance)
7. Tony Didion, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
8. Casey Flores, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Jacob Wright, Franklin, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Alonzo Turner, Painesville Harvey, junior (Alliance)
11. Connor Johnston, Hillsboro, senior (Goshen)
12. Kevin Deal, Clear Fork, senior (Bowling Green)
13. L.J. Henderson, Indian Lake, junior (Goshen)
14. Ian Brown, Dayton Carroll, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Travis Grooms, Miami Trace, sophomore (Goshen)
16. Andrew Odell, Steubenville, senior (Heath)

Alliance – Schenk, Reaser, Turner, Ricky Kollman (Crestwood, sophomore); Michael Meadows, CVCA, junior)

Bowling Green – Wilson, Schuette, Didion, Flores; Wright, Deal, Brown

Goshen – Jordan, Spohn, Johnston, Henderson; Grooms

Heath – Odell, Will Navin (Granville, junior), Noah Young (Whitehall, senior), John Lutes (Minerva, senior)

Thirty years ago St. Paris Graham head coach Jeff Jordan won his fourth state title, and would then go on to twice finish fourth at the NCAA tournament while competing for Wisconsin. His oldest son Bo is prohibitively favored to join him as a four-time state champion during this year's state tournament, and will likely become the 25<sup>th</sup> such wrestler in Ohio history to earn four titles. Ranked number one nationally at this weight class, and overall in the Class of 2013, Bo Jordan won a third Ironman title with a 4-2 victory over Isaiah Martinez from California – the nation's number two wrestler in this weight. Subsequent to that, Jordan has titles at the GMVWA, Valley View, and New Lexington tournaments in absolutely dominant fashion.

In fact this past weekend, Jordan earned a 22-7 technical fall victory over the number three ranked wrestler in this weight class at New Lexington. That wrestler, returning state qualifier Spohn was champion at Medina and runner-up at Western Brown earlier this season. Jordan and Spohn are the key figures in a Goshen district that features three other wrestlers ranked 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> hunting after the remaining pair of qualification spots. The senior Johnston went two-and-out at state last year, and this year was champion at Bellbrook, fourth at Western Brown, and second at Milford. The junior Henderson was a district placer last year, while the sophomore Grooms was champion at Miami Trace this past weekend.

Ranked second in this weight is the lone returning state placer other than Bo Jordan present in this weight class – and I mean who can blame them for staying away from this weight class – in the senior Wilson, who placed seventh in this weight last year at state. For the season, he was second at Fairfield up at 170 before dropping here and finishing first at Middletown. Wilson heads a Bowling Green district that features six other ranked wrestlers. Leading that cast is Brecksville runner-up Schuette, who was a

district placer last year as a sophomore. During that Brecksville run, Schuette pinned Division I state placer Chase Boyd in the semifinal round; and since Brecksville, he was first at Perrysburg and fourth at Oregon Clay. Fellow junior Didion has been solid placing fifth at Olentangy Liberty, third at Medina, and second at Marion County. Flores, state alternate last year as a junior at 145, lost 9-6 to Didion at the SBC Duals in mid-January, was a match away from placing at Brecksville, and avenged that consolation loss in an 8-2 Clyde finals victory.

Fellow senior Wright qualified for state last year at 145 in the Goshen district, but went two-and-out, so we'll have a "test case" of sorts for the district composition question within Division II here (and in other places as well). This season, he was fifth at the GMVWA, and third at Marion County losing by fall to Didion in the semifinal round. Yet another senior is Deal, who was third at the Gorman and sixth at the Top Gun; while another senior Brown was state alternate in this weight at the Goshen district last year, took third at Franklin and won a title at Eaton.

The remaining state qualifier Turner, who went two-and-out after making state as a sophomore 145, exits the Alliance district. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers, both of whom were state alternates last year. Fellow junior Schenk lost to Turner in the go-to-state last match after multiple previous victories, and has also avenged that loss this season in a 4-3 victory at the Perry tournament final; while the senior Reaser has runner-up finishes at Kenston and the Top Gun to his credit season to date. Additional credential on Turner's resume is a fourth place finish at Riverside, while for Schenk one can add a runner-up finish at the North Coast Classic (3-1 finals loss to Powerade runner-up Zach Voytek from PA), a seventh at Brecksville, and a third place finish at Oregon Clay. The other spot is wide open in what is an extremely shallow weight at the district level.

Finally, the Heath district in this weight class takes the word shallow to a new level. Only one wrestler is ranked here, and that is the senior Odell, who is positioned in the sixteenth slot. Season to date, he placed sixth at North Canton and seventh at the OVAC. No wrestler in the present district composition won more than one district tournament match last year.

#### 170 pounds

1. Luke Cramer, Oak Harbor, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Chris Moore, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Wyatt Running, Clinton Massie, senior (Goshen)
4. Brandon James, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
5. Mark Barrow, New Philadelphia, junior (Heath)
6. John Poullas, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
7. Tyler McClellan, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
8. Ian Ferguson, Columbus DeSales, senior (Heath)
9. Matt Dennis, Claymont, junior (Heath)
10. Holden Hengstler, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Mike Audi, Poland, junior (Alliance)
12. Ryan Sill, Perry, senior (Alliance)
13. Drew Kasper, Lexington, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Daniel Lattanzio, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
15. Owen Shoemaker, London, junior (Heath)
16. Nick Rumble, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Alliance)

Alliance – James, Poullas, McClellan, Audi; Sill, Rumble  
Bowling Green – Cramer, Moore, Hengstler, Kasper; Randy Caris (Eastwood, senior)  
Goshen – Running, Lane Thomas (St. Paris Graham, junior), Kevin Reid (New Richmond, senior), Adrien Henderson (Trotwood Madison, senior); Tyler Claybaker (Eaton, senior)  
Heath – Barrow, Ferguson, Dennis, Lattanzio; Shoemaker

The top two wrestlers in this weight are both seniors and from rival schools in Northwest Ohio. Interestingly Cramer is up four weight classes from last year's fourth place finish at 138 pounds, while Moore was state champion in this same weight class. Already this season, Cramer has a 3-0 victory over Moore at the SBC Duals. The wrestlers will likely meet again this weekend in their league tournament, thankfully are in different sectionals, before exiting the same Bowling Green district tournament.

Season to date, Cramer placed eighth at the Ironman, second at Medina, and third at Perrysburg; while Moore was second at Brecksville and first at Clyde. One cautionary tale with Moore is that previous history means little to him in the state final, as he had multiple earlier losses to Brandon O'Neil last season before upending him 4-2 on that Saturday night at the Schott.

Two other wrestles join them in the rankings from this district. The senior Hengstler placed fifth at Brecksville, but failed to place at the Top Gun; while the sophomore Kasper competed down at 160 in December, where he placed sixth at Medina, before sensing the district climates and sliding up to this weight where he was first at the Gorman and second at Clyde.

One of the other returning state placers, the senior James who was eighth at 152 last year – and this season finished third at the Top Gun before earning Outstanding Wrestler honors at the Hephner, exits a deep Alliance district that features six ranked wrestlers in all. Next on the list is the senior Poullas, who has been impressive in winning a title at Perry and finishing fifth at the Dies. McClellan, state alternate last year as a sophomore, placed sixth at Medina and fifth at the Top Gun. Fellow junior Audi went 2-2 at the district level last year, and this season was third at Kenston and runner-up at the Top Gun, including a 7-6 upset over James in the semifinal. Also ranked here is district placer Sill, who was runner-up at Perry and Oregon Clay but failed to place at Brecksville; and returning state qualifier Rumble, runner-up at Solon, but failed to place at Top Gun.

The fourth returning state placer in this weight is the senior Running, sixth at state last year and played a key role on his Division IV state championship winning football team. He carries a big-move style that creates a lot of wins, and a few isolated losses, for him. Season to date, he won a title at Fairfield with a tech fall over returning state placer Wilson, was champion at Western Brown, and had a seemingly out of the blue loss by major decision in the final at Eaton last weekend. Running is also the lone ranked wrestler in the Goshen district field at this weight class.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Heath, which is led by Barrow, who won a match at state last year as a sophomore. He was champion at Willard in this weight class, and while up at 182 won a title at Smithville, with a runner-up finish coming at Hudson. Four other wrestlers present themselves behind Barrow in the rankings after the other three qualifying spots. The senior Ferguson was a district placer in this weight class last year, placed sixth at Brecksville up at 182, and was runner-up at CIT – including a win over Division III state placer Sunderhaus - after dropping to this weight. Top Gun champion Dennis is only a junior, and also on the season he beat returning Division III state placer Rayner to win a title at Barnesville, with also missing placement at Medina by one match and losing by fall in this past weekend's dual meet to Mark Cole (Steubenville, senior). OVAC champion Lattanzio is a senior, but also

placed fourth at Lorain earlier this season; while the junior Shoemaker was champion at Bishop Ready winning all his matches by fall.

### 182 pounds

1. Jacob Kasper, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Brad Smith, Clyde, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Stephen Suglio, Revere, senior (Alliance)
4. Aaron Adkins, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
5. Jack Harris, Urbana, freshman (Goshen)
6. Dylan Hermes, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Brandon Rogers, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Goshen)
8. Austin Jones, Tri-Valley, senior (Heath)
9. Nate McCown, Licking Valley, senior (Heath)
10. R.J. Waugh, Sheridan, senior (Goshen)
11. Kyle Patterson, Eastwood, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Colt Crall, Claymont, junior (Heath)
13. Josh Teasley, Miami Trace, senior (Goshen)
14. Gabe Archer, Batavia, senior (Goshen)
15. Jason Huelskamp, Geneva, junior (Alliance)
16. Josh Couchman, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Goshen)

Alliance – Suglio, Adkins, Huelskamp, Kenny Jackson (Crestwood, junior)

Bowling Green – Kasper, Smith, Hermes, Patterson; Tyler Smith (Elida, junior)

Goshen – Harris, Rogers, Waugh, Teasley; Archer, Couchman

Heath – Jones, McCown, Crall, J.R. King (Hebron Lakewood, senior); Mitchell Wells (Richmond Edison, sophomore)

For consecutive weights a Clyde Flyer is positioned second in the rankings to a fellow northwest district senior based on a head-to-head result from this season, despite having placed higher than them at last year's state tournament. Yet again, the wrestlers do exit a different sectional tournament before converging at the Bowling Green district. Kasper, bound for Duke next year placed fourth at state in the 170 weight class last year, and season to date was third at Medina with titles at the Gorman and Clyde. Smith, an all-state tailback in football, placed third at state in this weight last year, and during this season has runner-up finishes at both Brecksville and Clyde (that loss coming 4-2 to Kasper).

Two other wrestlers join them in the rankings at the district tournament. The junior Hermes was a state alternate last year at this weight class, but this season placed second at Medina, fifth at Medina, and was champion at Marion County. Returning state placer Patterson, who was eighth in this weight as a junior, lost in overtime to Hermes earlier this season during the Marion County championship match.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings, third and fourth respectively, both won a match at state last year and exit the Alliance district. The senior Suglio has an upset victory to his credit over two-time Division I state placer Adam Kluk in a mid-season dual meet up one weight class, was a match away from placement at the Ironman, and won a title at the Dies. Adkins, a junior, was an excellent defensive player on the Division III state champions in football this fall; since his return to the mat placed fourth at Brecksville, while finishing second at the Gorman and CIT. This is an extremely shallow district behind those two, with just fellow junior Huelskamp – third at Kenston this year – appearing in the rankings.



Three returning state qualifiers exit a deep Goshen district, which features an additional three wrestlers also in the rankings. However, the leader of the pack in this district is a freshman. Harris, now undefeated with more than 30 wins – including titles at the GMVWA, Troy, and Eaton – comes as no surprise to those who follow the youth scene. He entered high school as a junior high state champion, and was always competing against the nation’s best in major events (i.e. Ohio TOC, Super 32 MS). His most notable win on the season was a 5-2 victory over Division III state runner-up Armani Robinson in the GMVWA final.

Next on the ladder is the senior Rogers, who went 2-2 at this weight while competing at the northwest district tournament last year (another one of our district composition “test cases”). During this season, he was third at North Canton and champion at Marion Harding. Fellow senior Waugh placed fifth at state last year up in the 195 pound weight class, while this season he placed third at the GMVWA and first at Miami Trace with a 7-3 win over state qualifier Teasley in the final. Just mentioned before, Teasley went two-and-out at state last year in this weight class exiting the Goshen district, and also placed fifth in the Top Gun this season. Fellow senior Archer also made state out of the Goshen district last year in this weight class, and also went two-and-out; he placed third just this past weekend at Eaton. Finally, in the ranked group it’s the sophomore Couchman, who was fourth at the GMVWA with narrow losses to Harris and Waugh before winning at New Lexington.

Finally it’s the Heath district, which has three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier McCown who carries a head-on win over Waugh from December. Jones, a 2011 state placer, missed the first month of the season recovering from a late season football injury; while the junior Crall was first at Barnesville, one match away from placement at Medina, and fourth at the Top Gun (including a 5-0 win over Teasley). Returning state alternate King falls just outside the rankings, but projected to qualify from this district, after losing 9-3 to Couchman in the New Lexington final just this past weekend.

#### 195 pounds

1. Josh Lehner, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Jimmy Szep, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
3. Charlie Keenan, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
4. Sam Harris, Urbana, senior (Goshen)
5. Tyler Bridwell, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
6. Evan Nichols, Perry, senior (Alliance)
7. Harrison Hoppel, Minerva, junior (Heath)
8. Nick Havener, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
9. Alec Brown, Wapakoneta, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Cameron Shaw, Washington C.H., senior (Goshen)
11. Austin Miller, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
12. Jerek Cropper, Coventry, freshman (Alliance)
13. John Workman, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Bowling Green)
14. Darren Scott, Sheridan, senior (Goshen)
15. Alexander Presley, Maysville, senior (Heath)
16. Michael Crockett, Franklin, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Szep, Nichols, Havener, Cropper; Matt Hettick (Field, senior)

Bowling Green – Lehner, Brown, Workman, Crockett; Nickoli Sackinger (Elida, senior)

Goshen – Harris, Bridwell, Shaw, Scott; Zack Weekly (Springfield Northwestern, senior)

Heath – Keenan, Hoppel, Miller, Presley; Blake Owens (Licking Valley, junior)

Four matches at the state tournament last year, all four ended with technical fall victories, as the future North Carolina Tar Heel gave Lexington their second state champion of that evening. Lehner was also the second state champion in program history, after Jake Faust got the Minutemen off the state championship schneid earlier that evening. This season, that dominance has continued with a title at Medina that included a 9-3 victory and pin over the top two ranked Division I wrestlers in this weight class. It also included victories at the Gorman and Clyde for this Junior National Greco-Roman All-American.

Lehner exits the Bowling Green district, which features three other ranked wrestlers – and in a rare symmetry, each of the four districts has four ranked wrestlers. Second to Lehner at the district is the senior Brown, who placed seventh at both Brecksville and the Top Gun. The junior Workman was a state alternate last year in this weight class, and this season was second at Olentangy Liberty, eighth at Medina, and fifth at Marion County. Fellow state alternate Crockett, who earned his in the Goshen district last year as a freshman, finished fourth at Olentangy Liberty and Marion County, was one match away from placement at the GMVWA, and third at Western Brown.

In another symmetry, each district is also represented by a top four wrestler, who also reflect the wrestlers that finished first through fourth in this state tournament bracket last year as juniors (though the order differs slightly). Ranked second here, but third at state last year after a semifinal loss to Lehner, is Szep who won at Solon and the CIT, was third at the Ironman, and fifth at Brecksville. Fellow senior Nichols, who won a match at state last year, is next from the Alliance district. This season, he took eighth at Brecksville, second at Perry, and third at Oregon Clay. Havener, yet another senior, was a state alternate last year, and in this season placed fifth at Medina and the Top Gun. Last among the ranked here is the freshman Cropper, a junior high state placer, who finished fourth at North Canton in this weight and lost a pair of overtime matches at the Dies while falling one match short of placement at 182 pounds.

Returning state runner-up Keenan is Kent State bound, ranked third in this weight, and heads the Heath district field. For the season, he was third at North Canton and an OVAC champion. The other wrestler with state experience in this district is the senior Miller, who was 1-2 at state last year. Joining them in the rankings are the junior Hoppel, who placed fourth at both the GMVWA and Top Gun, along with returning state alternate Presley.

Fourth at state last year, and fourth ranked in this weight, is Harris. He leads the Goshen district having placed third at the GMVWA and Troy tournaments, both losses coming to Hardrick from Huber Hts. Wayne, before winning a title at Eaton. That title came by major decision over fellow state qualifier Bridwell, a senior that went two-and-out in Columbus. However, the rest of this season has been positive for him; a pair of wins over 2011 Division I state placer Thornberry in taking third at SWOWCA, beating Division I state placer Scales to win the title at Fairfield, and an additional tournament title at Franklin.

Joining these two is a third state experience wrestler at the Goshen district in fellow senior Shaw, who placed seventh at state last year. This season has brought about a runner-up finish at the GMVWA, finishing one match short of placement at the Top Gun, and a perplexing 7-6 loss to Scott in the Miami Trace final. The just mentioned Scott is the other ranked wrestler here, also bringing a 3-2 record at the GMVWA to the table.

## 220 pounds

1. Zane Krall, Wauseon, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Greg Moray, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
3. Frank Hiemkreiter, Hamilton Ross, senior (Goshen)
4. Sean Rutherford, Norton, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Mickey Crum, Hamilton Township, junior (Heath)
6. Garrett Harding, Claymont, junior (Heath)
7. Bailey Faust, Lexington, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Dustin Baker, Sparta Highland, sophomore (Heath)
9. Chaz Price, Mansfield Madison, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Chris Overfield, Port Clinton, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Logan Sharp, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
12. Sam Oakes, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Goshen)
13. Austin Bentley, Carrollton, junior (Heath)
14. Lane Breyer, Kettering Alter, junior (Goshen)
15. Wes Yoder, Fairless, senior (Alliance)
16. Anthony Welty, St. Paris Graham, senior (Goshen)

Alliance – Rutherford, Sharp, Yoder, Billy Post (Conneaut, senior); Mason Hilling (Woodridge, junior)

Bowling Green – Krall, Faust, Price, Overfield, Beau Swank (Benjamin Logan, junior)

Goshen – Hiemkreiter, Oakes, Breyer, Welty; Nathan Dixon (New Richmond, senior)

Heath – Moray, Crum, Harding, Baker; Bentley

With just four wrestlers having made a state tournament appearance, this weight class is inherently shallow. However, three of the four state experienced wrestlers placed last year, while the other won a match. Leading the way here is returning state runner-up Krall, a senior who seeks to become the third state champion in Wauseon program history after losing 6-1 in last year's championship match. This season he placed sixth at the Ironman before winning titles at Brecksville, Perrysburg, and Oregon Clay.

His prime challenge will come from fellow senior Moray, who placed fourth at state after losing by 15-0 technical fall to the eventual state champion in the semifinal round. An impressive physical talent, he has been absolutely dominant in winning titles at North Canton and the OVAC tournament. Moray does exit the deepest district at Heath, which has four other ranked wrestlers, including another returning state qualifier in the junior Crum. Crum has been in-and-out of the lineup this year; however, when he did compete, it was in a dominant title at Licking Heights. Fellow junior Harding is next on the ranking ladder, and this season he was first at Barnesville, fourth at Medina, and third at the Top Gun. Baker placed sixth at the district tournament last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Heath and New Lexington, with a 3-2 loss to Division I state qualifier Mowery in the Marion Harding final. Last in the ranked group is the junior Bentley, who was fifth at North Canton and eighth at the Top Gun.

The other state experienced wrestler is Rutherford, who was seventh at 182 pounds last year as a freshman. This season, he was second at both Hudson and the Dies to top four wrestlers in the Division I rankings. He is the lead figure at an Alliance district that features just two other ranked wrestlers. The junior Sharp, whose older brother placed third at 285 pounds last year, had to drop a hefty sum of weight to fit into this weight class. In his first major competition here, he placed sixth at the Top Gun, including a semifinal victory over the district's other ranked wrestler. The senior Yoder placed first at Perry before the seventh place finish at the Top Gun.

Back to Krall, he exits a Bowling Green district including three other ranked wrestlers. That group is led by the sophomore Faust, who is bound to get better being tortured on a daily basis in practice by his teammate Lehner. This season, he was runner-up at Medina and champion at the Gorman and Clyde, so that torment has borne fruit in positive match results. State alternate Price placed second at the Gorman, losing by fall to Faust in the final, but failed to place at Oregon Clay. Rounding out the ranked group here is the senior Overfield, who was champion at Avon Lake and Tiffin Columbian.

Last among the districts is the one at Goshen, which is led by the senior Hiemkreiter, a district placer last year. He has been impressive this year in runner-up finishes at Franklin, SWOWCA, and Fairfield (the first and third of which had 3-2 losses in the finals to the much hyped Austin Myers); and he finally won a title at Eaton this past weekend. Fellow senior Oakes was runner-up at North Canton and sixth at Marion Harding; the junior Breyer was a state alternate last year; while the senior Welty was sixth at the GMVWA, second at Valley View and New Lexington, and registered the big injury default victory over Parker Knapp in the St. Edward dual.

### 285 pounds

1. Billy Miller, Perry, junior (Alliance)
2. Connor Sharp, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
3. Beau Harmon, Benjamin Logan, senior (Bowling Green)
4. J.R. Forsee, New Richmond, senior (Goshen)
5. Drek Brumley, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Mark Castillo, New Philadelphia, senior (Heath)
7. Alex Farrow, Whitehall, senior (Heath)
8. Travis Gosnell, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
9. Dustin Kuhlwein, Jonathan Alder, senior (Heath)
10. Chase Henderson, Franklin, junior (Bowling Green)
11. Gavin Peacock, Hamilton Ross, junior (Goshen)
12. Alonzo Jewell, Hamilton Township, junior (Heath)
13. Kostas Parrish, University School, junior (Alliance)
14. Cody Hawkins, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
15. Hayden Bottorff, Miami Trace, junior (Goshen)
16. Ravyn Workman, Lexington, senior (Bowling Green)

Alliance – Miller, Sharp, Brumley, Gosnell; Parrish, Hawkins

Bowling Green – Harmon, Henderson, Workman, Tevin Contreras (Van Wert, senior); Jervaughn Eppse (Sandusky Perkins, senior)

Goshen – Forsee, Peacock, Bottorff, Ryan Lewis (New Lexington, senior); Kevin Phelps (Wilmington, senior)

Heath – Castillo, Farrow, Kuhlwein, Jewell; Ryan Wood (Steubenville, senior)

26 placers, 7 state runners-up, yet zero champions. That is the lineage of the Perry Pirates wrestling program up in Lake County. Those placer and runner-up numbers are state highs. However, this weight class with the junior Miller may finally get that program its missing state champion. Last year a sophomore he placed fourth at state, and this year he has to have pins in over 90 percent of his matches. That body of work includes titles at the North Coast Classic, Perry, and Oregon Clay, while finishing second at Brecksville in a 5-4 loss to projected Division I state champ Travis Gusan.

The prime contender to derail that Perry Pirate state title also exits the Alliance district in the senior Sharp, yet another in the line of excellent Sharp family members that have occupied the heavyweight class for West Branch. This one placed third at state last year, beating Miller in the consolation final, but Miller did beat him in the district semifinal. Sharp won at Riverside, placed second at Kenston, and had an extremely baffling semifinal loss during his third place finish at Top Gun. It is an excellent district behind these two, with another four wrestlers populating the rankings.

That group is led by the sophomore Brumley, who won a match in Columbus at this weight class last year as a freshman. Season to date, he was a champion at Solon, one match away from placing at the Ironman, and semifinalist at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT and Hephner tournaments. The senior Gosnell finished third at North Canton and second at the Dies. Parrish, just a junior, placed third at Ashland and Kenston, along with fourth at North Canton and Wadsworth. Finally, it is fellow junior Hawkins who was fifth at Kenston (losing 7-3 to Parrish in consolation), fourth at the Top Gun, but winning the Hephner in an upset over Brumley.

The Bowling Green district features a trio of wrestlers with state experience, including eighth at state last year Harmon, who is ranked third this year after titles at GMVWA, Madeira, and Franklin. The 3-1 victory over Forsee at Madeira reversed the seventh place match result of last season. Meanwhile, the junior Henderson placed second at Franklin and Olentangy Liberty before taking third at GMVWA (8-2 loss to Harmon), Marion County, and Western Brown. The other wrestler with state experience is the senior Contreras, who falls outside the top sixteen after failing to place at the GMVWA, but is projected to qualify from this district. Third on the district ladder is the senior Workman, who was a district placer in Division III last year for Collins Western Reserve, and this season has a title at Clyde to his credit.

The aforementioned Forsee is one of two state qualifiers at the Goshen district. This season, he placed sixth at SWOWCA, second at Madeira, and has titles at Western Brown and Milford. The other returning qualifier is the junior Bottorff, who was eighth at Top Gun and first at Miami Trace. The other ranked wrestler – only three total are ranked – at the Goshen district is Peacock, who placed at district last year as a sophomore, and this year was third at Franklin and Fairfield, fourth at SWOWCA, and champion at Eaton.

Rounding out the districts is the group at Heath, where four wrestlers are ranked, three having state tournament experience. That group is led by the senior Castillo, who won a match last year at state, and this year was champion at Hudson. Fellow senior Farrow went two-and-out at 220 last year, but this year finished second at Bishop Ready losing 5-3 to projected Division III champ Garren and first at Licking Heights. Third in that group is fellow senior Kuhlwein, who was second at Nelsonville York and won the Marion County tournament with a 4-3 victory over Henderson. The fourth ranked wrestler is the junior Jewell, who was fifth at Brecksville and second at both Licking Heights and Wadsworth.

#### Team Projection

1. St. Paris Graham/Goshen District
2. CVCA/Alliance District
3. Claymont/Heath District
4. Akron SVSM/Alliance District
5. Clyde/Bowling Green District
6. Lexington/Bowling Green District
7. Perry/Alliance District; 8. Walsh Jesuit/Alliance District; 9. Crestwood/Alliance District
10. Hamilton Ross/Goshen District