

DIVISION II

106 pounds

1. Kyle Rowan, Perry, junior (Alliance)
2. Kenneth Crosby, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Nolan Gessler, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
4. Brendan McCrone, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
5. Nick Barber, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Gabe Alda, Bellevue, sophomore (Norwalk)
7. Robbie Sagaris, Aurora, sophomore (Alliance)
8. Drake Cerney, Caledonia River Valley, freshman (Heath)
9. Damon Molina, Wauseon, sophomore (Norwalk)
10. Max Orpzadek, Perkins, sophomore (Norwalk)
11. Caiden Hart, Salem, sophomore (Alliance)
12. David Woolever, Carrollton, freshman (Heath)
13. Drake Decker, Minerva, senior (Heath)
14. Jaymin Salsberry, Beaver Local, freshman (Heath)
15. Caleb Thomas, Lemon Monroe, sophomore (Wilmington)
16. Andrew Stachler, Greenville, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Rowan, Crosby, McCrone, Barber; Sagaris, Hart

HEA – Cerney, Woolever, Decker, Salsberry; Alexander Crane (Sheridan, freshman)

NOR – Alda, Molina, Orpzadek, Shayne Bianchi (Padua, sophomore); Colin Mellott (Wapakoneta, sophomore)

WIL – Gessler, Thomas, Stachler, Brandon Sauter (Batavia, freshman); Malachi O’Leary (Wyoming, freshman)

Back in eighth grade, Rowan won a Junior High state title at 78 pounds, which was an indication of his ability level. The next year the fact he was able to earn a state alternate spot as an undersized 106 at the loaded Alliance district further demonstrated said ability. The summer of 2017 saw him place fourth in Cadet freestyle at 94 pounds. Then in 2017-18, Rowan was state runner-up at 106, losing 7-3 to Jacob Decatur in the state final. Subsequently, he would finish runner-up at the UWW Cadet Nationals at 106 pounds and earn a second straight Cadet freestyle All-American finish.

All this is a prelude to his current junior season where as a full sized 106, he has cleared past all challengers and is a top five wrestler in the country. Rowan has titles at Ironman, Brecksville, Maumee Bay, and the Grizzly Invitational while winning two tournaments up in weight class (113 at Willoughby South and 120 at the CVC where he weighed-in at 113). Yet again, Alliance at 106 is extraordinarily deep with four of the top five and six of the top eleven ranked wrestlers present.

Projected to finish second is Crosby, who was fourth at this weight class in Colorado last year and a Cadet Greco-Roman runner-up over the summer. His season includes placing eighth at the Beast, runner-up at Medina and the Grizzly Invitational, and earning a title at the Top Gun. Next in line is the freshman McCrone, who was champion at North Canton and CIT while finishing fifth at Solon, Brecksville, and the Grizzly Invitational; he also beat Crosby 6-4 in overtime at the regional duals. The sophomore Barber was stuck at 113 last year due to Fletcher’s presence at 106; his current season includes finishing fourth at Solon (splitting bouts with McCrone), third at the Bill Dies, plus winning titles at the EOWL and Hephner. Fellow sophomore Sagaris went 1-2 last year at district in the 113 weight

class; while this year he was a match from placement at Brecksville and Top Gun at 113 before finishing sixth at the Grizzly Invitational in this weight. Yet another sophomore Hart was 2-2 at district in this weight last year, while the current season includes a title at Beaver Local.

The Graham brigade starts out yet again with an excellent opening weight wrestler in the freshman Gessler, who was runner-up at Junior High state last year. The current season includes a runner-up finish at the GMVWA, winning the Valley View title, and placing fourth at the Grizzly Invitational (2-1 win over McCrone). Just two ranked wrestlers will join Gessler at the Wilmington district, the sophomore Thomas and the junior Stachler. Thomas was fourth at SWOWCA, champion at Logan Elm, and runner-up at Milford; while returning state alternate Stachler was champion at Edgewood, runner-up at Sidney and Miami Trace, along with taking third at Troy.

There's a group of three ranked wrestlers at the Norwalk district, led by the sophomore Alda, who placed seventh at Junior High state in 2017 before mid-season injury precluded him from state qualification contention last year. This season includes titles at the Cobos Classic, Bellevue, and the Gorman along with missing placement at Brecksville by one match. Returning go-to-state match loser Orpzadek won two tournament title at 113, while in this weight class he was sixth at Medina and one match short of placing at Maumee Bay. Lastly it's another sophomore in Molina, who was 1-2 at district last year in this weight class, but did pick up a 3-2 dual meet win over Orpzadek last week; other season highlights include being one match away from placing at Brecksville, finishing second at Perrysburg, and seventh at Maumee Bay.

Rounding it out is a quartet of ranked wrestlers at Heath, led by the freshman Cerney, who was seventh at Medina before winning titles at Nelsonville York and Watkins Memorial. Another freshman Woolever finished top eight at North Canton, was champion at Licking Valley, and then runner-up at Top Gun. The senior Decker has been at both this weight and 113 on the season; in this weight, there is a runner-up finish at Licking Valley and fifth at Top Gun, while up a weight it's a second at Cambridge and sixth at North Canton. Lastly there is another freshman in Salsberry who was runner-up at Beaver Local and EOWL before winning the OVAC title; in the regional dual final he beat Barber 6-4 despite losing to him on two earlier occasions.

113 pounds

1. Jacob Decatur, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Cael Woods, West Holmes, senior (Heath)
3. Dierre Clayton, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Jake Manley, Otsego, junior (Norwalk)
5. Nic Willingham, Aurora, freshman (Alliance)
6. Michael Petrella, Bishop Hartley, junior (Heath)
7. Trace Braun, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
8. Blake Sheppard, New Lexington, junior (Heath)
9. Howard Williams, East Liverpool, sophomore (Heath)
10. Rico Cunningham, Sandusky, junior (Norwalk)
11. Caleb Hernandez, Napoleon, senior (Norwalk)
12. Ethan Fletcher, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Jake Hamulak, Chardon, junior (Alliance)
14. Josh Dunn, Goshen, junior (Wilmington)
15. Brendan Dawes, Washington C.H., freshman (Wilmington)
16. Justin Mills, Valley View, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Decatur, Clayton, Willingham, Fletcher; Hamulak

HEA – Woods, Petrella, Sheppard, Williams; Mark Emmerling (Beaver Local, freshman)

NOR – Manley, Cunningham, Hernandez, Noah Alda (Bellevue, junior); Eddie Pinc (Medina Buckeye, sophomore)

WIL – Braun, Dunn, Dawes, Mills; Kaleb Ream (Springfield Shawnee, senior)

Just last season, there were a pair of two-time state champions that I did not to pick to win a third state title (Brendon Fenton and Kevon Freeman); Fenton ended up finishing second, while Freeman upset Ryan Thomas on Saturday night to earn gold. In this weight class, two-time state champion Decatur ended the 2017-18 season ranked first nationally at 106 pounds; however, his present year form is clearly not up to that standard. In placing sixth at the Ironman, he was 3-0 in matches that went past regulation (two of those victories were against nationally ranked out-of-state opponents); while the losses came by 3-0 and 4-0 score to top ten national out-of-state opponents.

Also on the ledger for Decatur is losses to the wrestlers ranked second and third in this weight class. He lost 2-1 in the tiebreaker to two-time state placer Woods in the North Canton final, while it was a 5-2 loss (3-2 until the last five-to-ten seconds of the bout) against Clayton in the Grizzly Invitational semifinal. However, there are also wins over nationally ranked Moran of Indiana in the Brecksville final and an ultimate tiebreaker win over the very talented Moon to earn gold at Maumee Bay. When all is said and done, I see Decatur channeling that ability level into a formula that yields him a third state title.

The sophomore Clayton, who lost 5-4 to Fletcher last year in his district consolation semifinal at 106, has found a new gear this season. Since going a combined 5-4 at Ironman and Beast, it's been extremely positive. There was the third at Medina (only losing 4-3 to Agin in a preliminary round), a Top Gun title where he beat three state qualifiers, and then a runner-up finish at the Grizzly Invitational. Three additional ranked wrestlers join Decatur and Clayton at Alliance, including Willingham, who was a junior high state champ last year. This season has been spent in part trying get down to 106 unsuccessfully, while on the mat include a pair of losses to Clayton (Grizzly Invitational prelim and regional dual final) and a win over Braun (Grizzly Invitational fifth place match). Next is essentially a two-person battle for one spot between returning state qualifier Fletcher and Hamulak, a returning state eighth in this weight class. Fletcher went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing second at the EOWL and third at both the Bill Dies and Hephner; while Hamulak was champion at Solon, fourth at Kenston and Perrysburg, and second at Top Gun.

Woods placed eighth at 113 as a freshman before placing third last year at 106 pounds, a tournament run that included an 8-2 quarterfinal loss to Decatur. The current season includes tournament titles at four events, most notably those at North Canton (beating Decatur) and opening weekend at Cambridge where he went 120 and beat two-time state placer Wayt 12-4 in the final. Three additional ranked wrestlers will join Woods at Heath. Returning state placer Petrella has titles at Olentangy Liberty and the CIT to go with a seventh at Brecksville and second at Licking Valley. The junior Sheppard was a state alternate last year, and this year has titles in four tournaments (including a 3-2 finals win over Petrella at Licking Valley) to go with a seventh at Medina and third at New Lexington. while Williams went 1-2 at state last year as a freshman; while this year he has tournament titles at the Gorman (at 120) and OVAC in addition to placing fourth at Barnesville and missing out on placement at Medina by one match, both those at 120.

A trio of returning state qualifiers find themselves as the three ranked wrestlers at the Norwalk district. Two-time state qualifier Manley was runner-up at Medina before winning titles at Perrysburg and Van Buren, fellow junior Cunningham was champion at Defiance and the Gorman before placing fifth at Maumee Bay, while two-time state qualifier Hernandez was fourth at Medina and third at Perrysburg.

The four ranked wrestlers at Wilmington include two that each won a state tournament bout last year. The sophomore Braun was second at GMVWA, champion at Valley View, and sixth at the Grizzly Invitational; while the junior Dunn has been in-and-out this season, including a finals appearance against his teammate Huff up a weight class at Western Brown. Next is the freshman Dawes, who was runner-up to Sheppard (3-1 loss) at his home event in December before winning at Nelsonville York and Washington C.H. in January. The junior Mills was a go-to-state match loser up at 120 last year, but this year was runner-up at Franklin and Valley View before taking titles at Sycamore and Eaton. Not ranked in the top sixteen is returning state qualifier Ream.

120 pounds

1. Logan Ours, Beaver Local, freshman (Heath)
2. Christian Wayt, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
3. Garrett Lautzenheiser, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Payton Burgdorf, Firelands, junior (Norwalk)
5. Gavin Ritter, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
6. Jimmy Balazy, Padua, senior (Norwalk)
7. Jason Mayes, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
8. *Terry Gatrell, Meadowbrook, senior (Heath)*
9. Koen Kish, St. Clairsville, sophomore (Heath)
10. Tyler Masters, West Holmes, junior (Heath)
11. Chase Huff, Goshen, junior (Wilmington)
12. Bret Minnick, Tiffin Columbian, freshman (Norwalk)
13. Joey Dima, Valley View, senior (Wilmington)
14. Dawson Show, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
15. Brandon Brown, Carrollton, sophomore (Heath)
16. Caden Scarbrough, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
17. Anthony Trivisonno, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)

ALL – Wayt, Lautzenheiser, Mayes, Scarbrough; Trivisonno

HEA – Ours, *Gatrell*, Kish, Masters, Brown; Jarrett Warrington (Claymont, senior)

NOR – Burgdorf, Ritter, Balazy, Minnick; Jordan Holt (Perkins, senior)

WIL – Huff, Dima, Show, Gaige Reeves (Bellefontaine, senior); Chanston Moll (Westfall, junior)

Two years running Wayt has found himself in the state semifinal against an opponent from Beaver Local (Cole McComas both times), with it ending unkindly both times. In 2017 it was a 4-3 loss, while last year he was unable to hold on to a late third period lead then lost 4-2 in the tiebreaker. This year it's a different Beaver Local wrestler that could be matched up with Wayt deep in the tournament.

That would be the freshman Ours, who was a Junior High state champion at 120 last year. Though indications point to him beating McComas in practice, he's the one that has dropped in weight class to stretch the Beavers very talented lineup. While at 126, he won Cambridge with two victories over state medalists, went 2-2 at the Ironman, and was runner-up at the EOWL. Down at 120, he was champion at OVAC and pinned returning state placer Lautzenheiser in the regional dual final.

Wayt and Lautzenheiser both placed fourth at state last year, and are among five ranked wrestlers at the Alliance district (stop me where we've heard that before, and you'll keep on hearing about five-plus ranked wrestlers in a weight class at this district site). The current season for Wayt includes a runner-up finish at Cambridge before he won titles at Barnesville, Pin City, and Top Gun; while for Lautzenheiser he went 113 at Ironman and missed weight the second day before moving up to 120 where he won titles at North Canton and the EOWL, while placing second at Brecksville and Maumee Bay (beating Ritter in both semifinals then losing to Canitano in each final).

The senior Mayes was expected to make state last year, but lost on Friday night at district to Fletcher 9-2, whom he had beaten two times earlier in the season; that put him against Lautzenheiser to go, where he fell by the score of 5-3. This season has been most excellent, as he was champion at Riverside before finishing second at Perry Pin City (beat DI state placer Sabin in the semis), EOWL, and the Bill Dies. The sophomore Scarbrough was backup to Decatur and Williams in the opening two weights, while this season he placed sixth at North Canton, eighth at Maumee Bay, and fourth at the Grizzly Invitational along with falling one match short of the podium at Brecksville. Fellow sophomore Trivisonno did beat Scarbrough to place fifth at North Canton, but lost to Scabrough in placing seventh at the Grizzly Invitational, along with placing second at the CIT.

Two other title threats reside at the Norwalk district, returning state placers Burgdorf and Ritter. The junior Burgdorf has twice competed at 106, and if he gets to Saturday night at the Schott, he would be the first state finalist for Firelands' program. He was champion at Medina before placing third at Perrysburg and Milan Edison. The senior Ritter has been to state twice as well, and this season includes a third place finish at Brecksville, second at Perrysburg, and fourth at Maumee Bay. Burgdorf beat Ritter 8-4 at Maumee Bay, while Ritter beat Burgdorf 1-0 at the regional duals. Also ranked from this district are two-time state qualifier Balazy and the freshman Minnick. Balazy was runner-up at North Coast, eighth at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT; while junior high state runner-up Minnick missed placement by one match at Brecksville and was third at the Gorman.

Circling back to Ours at Heath, there will be three or four other ranked wrestlers in that district. The senior Gatrell is a two-time state alternate, and has competed both at 120 and 126 this season. Up one weight he was champion at Union Local and Barnesville, finishing second at Beaver Local; while at the OVAC, he was runner-up in this weight class. Climactical considerations will be at the heart of his decision, and it's a tough one. Fellow returning state alternate Kish, who was runner-up at NHSCA Freshman Nationals last spring lost 12-11 to Gatrell in the OVAC semis on the way to a third place finish, while he was runner-up at North Canton (beating Masters) and the Brooke Classic. Returning state placer Masters has titles at the Wayne Invitational and West Holmes to go with third place finishes at North Canton and (at 126) Cambridge where he lost to Ours. Rounding out the ranked group is returning state qualifier Brown, who was fourth at North Canton before finishing second at Top Gun and West Holmes. Also here is 2017 state qualifier Warrington.

The Goshen district features the three remaining ranked wrestlers headlined by the junior Huff, who was eighth at 106 last year, and this year was finalist at Western Brown. 2017 state qualifier Dima was a state alternate last year, and this season features a runner-up finish at Franklin to go with titles at Valley View, Sycamore, and Eaton; while the senior Show was a state alternate two years ago and missed last year with injury, with this season including a seventh at the GMVWA, runner-up finish at Valley View, and fifth place at the Grizzly Invitational.

126 pounds

1. Cole McComas, Beaver Local, junior (Heath)
2. Connor McCrone, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
3. Peyton Kellar, Vincent Warren, sophomore (Heath)
4. Peyton Blasko, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
5. Davin Rhoads, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
6. Chris Kelly, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
7. Nolan Ray, Wauseon, junior (Norwalk)
8. Matthew Williams, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Pierce Taylor, Cincinnati McNicholas, freshman (Wilmington)
10. *Terry Gatrell, Meadowbrook, senior (Heath)*
11. Collin Koenig, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
12. Andrew Branson, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Norwalk)
13. Matt Kaufmann, Fairview, junior (Norwalk)
14. Dominick Speelman, Carrollton, freshman (Heath)
15. Sam Van Sickle, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Keegan Kohler, Fairfield Union, junior (Wilmington)
17. Anthony Ashley, Medina Buckeye, sophomore (Norwalk)

ALL – McCrone, Rhoads, Williams, Koenig; Van Sickle

HEA – McComas, Kellar, Blasko, *Gatrell*, Speelman; Deven Factor (Sheridan, junior)

NOR – Ray, Branson, Kaufmann, Ashley; Zane Hull (Napoleon, senior)

WIL – Kelly, Taylor, Kohler, Tyler Woods (Franklin, sophomore); Tyler Harkins (Norwood, junior)

This is truly a wide open weight class. There are six wrestlers here that on any given weekend could win state gold; furthermore, a bad tournament for any of these athletes could mean a finish off the podium. Even with there being no “protection” present within the state draw, it should be noted that district tournament performance and the subsequent state draw could influence the complexity of paths to a state title.

On a total whim of intuition, the pick to win state gold is the junior McComas, who was runner-up at state the last two years. The ability to win multiple matches at the Schott on the front side is a skill and experience that cannot be replicated. His season started in the 132 weight class, where he won titles at Cambridge and Beaver Local, while going 3-2 at the Ironman in between (beating Carmany 5-1 while losing to two nationally ranked out-of-state opponents. Dropping into this weight saw him place fourth at Brecksville, where he beat McCrone in overtime and Rhoads 4-3, but was upset by Williams in the tiebreaker in the semi and was pinned by Shawver; then he lost the OVAC final to Blasko 6-5 in the tiebreaker, an opponent he went 3-0 against last year.

Kellar and Blasko join McComas at the Heath district. Kellar placed fifth last year as a freshman at 106 pounds before placing at the Flo Nationals in April; while this season started with a runner-up finish at Cambridge losing in OT to Ours and then going 2-2 at the Ironman beating Ours 4-2 on the backside (losses were to a pair of nationally ranked out-of-state wrestlers). Subsequent results include titles at three tournaments. The senior Blasko placed seventh at state competing at 113 last year after qualifying at 106 the year before. This season includes a fifth place finish at North Canton in the 132 weight class, the OVAC title in this weight class, a 6-4 dual meet loss to Ours, before pinning Rhoads at the regional duals.

Either one or two other ranked wrestlers will be here. Gatrell, who was mentioned in the 120 discussion, and the freshman Speelman. Speelman's season includes a sixth place finish at North Canton, runner-up finish at Licking Valley (losing to Kellar), fifth at Top Gun, and third at West Holmes.

Another "gut play" is ranking three-time state qualifier McCrone second in this weight class. The future Ohio Bobcat placed fourth then fifth at state before a poor state tournament last year in this weight class where he went 1-2. Going into the tournament at the Schott, McCrone had an outside shot of winning after losing the district final 3-2 in the ultimate tiebreaker to eventual champion David Massey; however Thursday afternoon was not pretty, losing 8-2 to Wortham, and then he was eliminated on Friday morning with a 4-2 overtime loss. This season started with a runner-up finish at Solon, includes titles at North Canton (beating Rhoads in the semifinal) and CIT, a fourth place finish at Brecksville, and a third at the Grizzly Invitational (was pinned in the semifinal by Kelly when leading 6-2 late in the second period).

Yet again, the Alliance district is absolutely congested, as four ranked wrestlers join McCrone in the field. Said group is led by Rhoads, who needed a 4-3 win over two-time state placer Hunter Ryan to merely make the state tournament, where he would go on to place seventh. In the summer, the sophomore was a Cadet Greco-Roman national champion; this season includes a 3-2 performance at the Ironman (beating state placer Allen in overtime), third place finishes at North Canton and Maumee Bay (where he took Shawver to overtime in a quarterfinal loss), a sixth at Brecksville, and beating Ours to win the EOWL.

Williams – state alternate last year as a freshman – performed out of his mind to finish second at Brecksville beating two returning state placers before the semifinal win over McComas, along with placing fourth at North Canton and the Grizzly Invitational plus eighth at Maumee Bay. Fellow sophomore Koenig was a go-to-state match loser last year, while this season includes third place finishes at North Coast and Perry Pin City, championships at Willoughby South and the CVC, and an eighth at Brecksville. Fellow sophomore Van Sickle went 2-2 at district last year, eliminated with losses to Hunter Ryan and Rhoads; he was 0-4 between the Ironman and Beast before taking third at Medina, seventh at the Top Gun, and eighth at the Grizzly Invitational.

Last in the group of six is Graham junior Kelly, a two-time state finalist in Arizona. He won multiple matches at the preseason Super 32, including one over an Indiana state champion but then went 0-2 at the Ironman with losses to a pair of unheralded out-of-state opponents. Follow-up performances were a third at the GMVWA, first at Valley View, and second at the Grizzly Invitational. His district at Wilmington features just two other ranked wrestlers, junior high state champion Taylor and returning state qualifier Kohler. Taylor was champion up a weight class at Williamsburg before placing third at SWOWCA and second at Madeira in this weight class; while the junior Kohler was champion at Logan and West Jefferson before placing second at Sheridan and third at New Lexington.

Rounding out the district tournaments is a group of four ranked wrestlers at Norwalk led by returning state placer Ray. The junior placed sixth last year after advancing to the state semifinals in this weight class; this season features missing placement at Brecksville by one match up at 132. The senior Branson qualified for state two years ago, and this season includes missing placement by one match at two tournaments (up at 132 in the Gorman and in this weight at Maumee Bay). Kaufmann went 1-2 last year at the state tournament as a sophomore, while this year includes titles at Lorain and Hudson, a third at Kenston and failing to place at Maumee Bay (eliminated with an 8-2 loss to Branson). Ashley also went 1-2 at the state tournament, doing so last year at 113 as a freshman. His season features titles at the

Mike Lewis Invitational and West Holmes, missing placement at Medina and the Gorman by one match, and advancing to the Bill Dies semis. Returning state qualifier Jameson Mullins (Port Clinton, sophomore) is not ranked, but is in this district field as well.

132 pounds

1. Jordan Decatur, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Nick Moore, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Jack Gorman, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
4. Isaiah Wortham, Dayton C-J, junior (Wilmington)
5. Brady O'Connor, Indian Valley, senior (Heath)
6. Miles Knuckles, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
7. Brandon Reeves, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
8. Michael Kelley, Norton, junior (Alliance)
9. Cody Matthews, Marengo Highland, freshman (Heath)
10. Logan Schoen, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)
11. Alex Delgarbino, Girard, junior (Alliance)
12. Jonathan Potts, Beaver Local, sophomore (Heath)
13. Tyler Muldrew, Steubenville, sophomore (Heath)
14. Shaun Pletcher, Philo, sophomore (Heath)
15. Hayden Martin, Warsaw River View, junior (Heath)
16. Nick Coreno, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Gorman, Knuckles, Reeves; Kelley, Delgarbino, Coreno

HEA – O'Connor, Matthews, Potts, Muldrew; Pletcher, Martin

NOR – Schoen, Carter Kroll (Ontario, sophomore), Elijah Hunter (Sandusky, sophomore), Cameron Pollard (Otsego, senior); Corbin Houdeshell (Tiffin Columbian, junior)

WIL – Moore, Wortham, Jordan Hoselton (Zane Trace, senior), A.J. Lewandowski (Dayton Oakwood, junior); TBD

Two-time state champion Jordan Decatur has two career state series loss, one that matters and one that doesn't. The one of consequence was to the scale his freshman year at the sectional tournament, when he failed to successfully make weight. The other was in the district final as a sophomore to Hunter Kosco, a result that was reversed in a 7-6 state finals match. Decatur's other seven state tournament bouts have been bonus point victories (three major decisions, two technical falls, and two pins).

The Ohio State signee is as high end as it can get, qualifying for Cadet Worlds in freestyle in 2017, and winning Fargo freestyle titles on three different occasions (2015 and 2016 as a Cadet, 2018 as a Junior). His only loss in the current season came to national No. 2 Shayne van Ness of Blair Academy, 11-5 in the Ironman semifinal, the last five points for van Ness coming when Decatur had to force action trailing 6-5. Decatur has five wins over nationally ranked wrestlers, including three-time state champ D'Emilio in the consolation final at Ironman; he also has won titles at four tournaments this year (North Canton, Brecksville over Burnett, Maumee Bay over Mattin, and Grizzly Invitational).

While Decatur is clearly favored, the sophomore Moore showed the ability to challenge Decatur in the final of the Grizzly Invitation when Decatur needed a late takedown to earn a 3-1 victory. Nick is the younger brother of three-time state champion Brent and four-time state champion Mitch. This season he upset Beau Bartlett (the wrestler that beat van Ness last month) 2-1 in the Ironman round of 16 before losing his next two bouts to nationally ranked opponents, and was champion at GMVWA and

Valley View. Only returning state placer Wortham, eighth last year at 126, joins Moore as a ranked wrestler at Wilmington. On the season, Wortham has titles at Findlay (at 138) and Eaton to go with a third at GMVWA and runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and CIT. Two-time state qualifier Hoselton is also at this district.

Yet again the Alliance district is absurdly loaded with six ranked wrestlers in the hunt for the three qualifying spots outside of Decatur. Said group is led by two-time state placer Gorman, who missed the first month of the season but returned to finish second at Top Gun and fourth at the Grizzly invitational. Returning state qualifier Knuckles was champion at Defiance, while fellow senior Reeves was a go-to-state match loser two years ago but had to go this weight last year as his teammate won state at 126. The current season for Reeves features a championship at Hudson with runner-up finishes at Central Crossing and the Bill Dies.

The junior Kelley qualified for state last year at Division I Barberton before transferring to Norton, where his season includes a title at the Wayne Invitational, finishing fourth at the Gorman, then failing to place at the Bill Dies. Another junior Delgarbino was a state alternate two years ago before going 1-2 last year at district; his season features runner-up finishes at four tournaments and a fifth at Top Gun. Rounding things out is fellow junior Coreno; he finished runner-up at Riverside down a weight, top eight at North Canton in this weight, and went 3-2 at Brecksville before placing top six at both CIT and the Grizzly Invitational.

Last of the returning Ohio state placers in this weight is three-time state qualifier O'Connor, who was sixth last year at 120 pounds. His present season includes two tournament titles, most notably beating a returning state qualifier in the West Holmes final; a third at Beaver Local up a weight (losing 4-3 to Sutton in the semis); and finishing eighth at Brecksville. He anchors a group of six ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. Next up is the freshman Matthews, who was champion at Licking Valley, fourth at Marion Harding up a weight, and third at two additional tournaments. The sophomore Potts was third at the EOWL and runner-up at the OVAC (beating Muldrew 2-1 in the semifinal); while fellow sophomore Muldrew is a returning state qualifier, and has a title at Nelsonville-York to go with the fourth place finish at the OVAC. Another sophomore is Pletcher, who was runner-up at Cambridge, Nelsonville-York, and New Lexington to go with a title at Barnesville; while the junior Martin was third at Cambridge and Licking Valley before winning gold at Utica.

Rounding out the districts at Norwalk is a field that features just one ranked wrestler in Schoen, who went 1-2 at state last year as a junior at 126. His season includes finishing second at Lorain and first at West Salem Northwestern up a weight, while missing placement by one bout at Medina and Maumee Bay in this weight. Returning state qualifier Kroll is not ranked in the top 16, but in this district field.

138 pounds

1. Alek Martin, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Micah Norwood, sophomore, Bishop Hartley (Heath)
3. *Wade Monebrake, senior, Eaton (Wilmington)*
4. Caden Blust, Tiffin Columbian, senior (Norwalk)
5. Jackson Muldrew, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
6. Hunter Olson, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
7. Dalton Burcher, Indian Valley, senior (Heath)
8. Jared Wright, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
9. Brayden Ploehs, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)

10. Ethan Mueller, Minerva, junior (Heath)
11. Carter Mickley, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
12. Kyle Petersen, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
13. Gabe Steyer, Van Wert, junior (Norwalk)
14. Danny Sinchok, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
15. Isaiah Smith, Field, senior (Alliance)
16. Ayyoub Muhammed, Thurgood Marshall, senior (Wilmington)
17. Eian Sherman, Sandusky, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Olson, Mickley, Petersen, Sinchok, Smith

HEA – Norwood, Muldrew, Burcher, Wright; Mueller

NOR – Blust, Steyer, Sherman, Bailey Gibson (Kenton, senior); TBD

WIL – Martin, *Monebrake*, Ploehs, Muhammed, McKale Callahan (Miami Trace, sophomore); Bryce Stamps (Kenton Ridge, junior)

While Martin was a known commodity entering high school in the 2017-18 season, with also having a positive season up to the state tournament, it was a 6-5 semifinal victory over projected state champion Matthew Cardello that further cemented his place as a high end talent. This season started with finishing one match short of placement at the Ironman, both losses coming to nationally ranked opponents from out of state, though he picked up a 2-0 victory over returning state champion Hepner in consolation. Since then he added titles at the GMVWA and Valley, along with a runner-up finish at the Grizzly Invitational.

One of his direct challengers could come from his own district at Wilmington should the senior Monebrake (smartly) choose to make the drop into this weight class. Monebrake last year was runner-up to Decatur at 132 pounds, and has competed exclusively at 145 season to date with runner-up finishes at both GMVWA and Top Gun. At the GMVWA, he was pinned by Jordan Crace in the final, while he forfeited to Crace in the Top Gun final after beating Division III state champ Burgard in the semifinal. Two other wrestlers appear in the rankings, 2016 state qualifier Ploehs and returning state qualifier Muhammed.

Ploehs was competing at 145 until the regional duals last week. At 145, he was runner-up at four tournaments where he lost to Division I opposition on each occasion (state qualifier Bernhardt and SWOWCA and Fairfield, freshman Niffenegger at Franklin, and state placer Mullins at Eaton). Fellow senior Muhammed has won titles at four tournaments this season.

A group of five wrestlers with state tournament experience is present at Heath, led by the sophomore Norwood who was a quarterfinalist last year when competing for Division I Lancaster before losing 4-1 to Burnett and then 6-3 in the tiebreaker to affirm Gio DiSabato as a four-time state placer. He competed in this weight class at Brecksville, where he finished fifth keyed by wins over Blust and Michigan state champ Edmond. The rest of the season has been at 152, while weighing in at 145 for those competitions after Brecksville.

Two-time state placer Muldrew went 2-2 at the Ironman with a win over Olson before winning at Nelsonville-York and finishing runner-up at the OVAC meet. Three-time state qualifier Burcher, a 2016 state placer, was one match from placing at Brecksville though he had a consolation win over Wright and picked up a tournament title at West Holmes. Fellow senior Wright qualified for state last year at 152, but had to drop two weights this year due to congestion in the Beaver Local lineup (two-time state

placer Lasure at 145 and not being able to beat Krulik at 152, lost to him 2-1 in the final at Cambridge); at this weight class he went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing runner-up at the EOWL and fourth at Brecksville. The sophomore Mueller qualified last year for state at 126, and this year was champion at Cambridge and Licking Valley, while placing fourth at North Canton and sixth at the Top Gun.

Two-time state placer and three-time state qualifier Blust anchors a field at Norwalk that features just two other ranked wrestlers. The present season for Blust includes a sixth at Brecksville, winning the Gorman, and placing third at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Steyer won a state bout at 132 last year as a sophomore, while this season features a pair of tournament runner-up finishes, those coming at Sidney (up at 145) and Marion Harding. The senior Sherman went 0-2 at state in this weight last year, and has runner-up finishes at Defiance and the Gorman to go with finishing one match short of placing at Maumee Bay.

Wrapping up this weight class is an Alliance district that features five ranked wrestlers, three of whom have made state tournaments before. 2017 state qualifier Olson was a state alternate last year, eliminated with losses to returning state placers McCrone and Joe Wright. This year started with a two-and-out at the Ironman, but then it was going 3-2 at the Beast, fifth place finishes at Medina and Top Gun, before a third at the Grizzly Invitational. He's the class of the field, which leaves four in the hunt for the last three spots.

The junior Mickley went 1-2 at district last year, but started strong with a runner-up finish at North Canton, before missing out on placement by one bout at both Brecksville and Maumee Bay, along with finishing third at the EOWL and Hephner. Returning state placer finished eighth at 120 pounds last year, while this season includes missing out on placement at Brecksville by one match, finishing seventh at Top Gun, and not placing at Wadsworth with narrow losses to Sinchok and Olson. Fellow senior Sinchok lost twice to Smith last year at the district, 9-3 in the opening round and 11-6 in overtime in the consolation semifinal. This season for Sinchok features missing placement at North Canton (top eight finish), Brecksville, and Maumee Bay by one match before finishing eighth at the Grizzly Invitational; while the senior Smith was third at Kenston and eighth at the Top Gun.

145 pounds

1. Jordan Crace, Bellefontaine, senior (Wilmington)
2. Andrew Garr, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
3. *Wade Monebrake, Eaton, senior (Wilmington)*
4. Skyler Lasure, Beaver Local, junior (Heath)
5. Douglas Terry, Granville, sophomore (Heath)
6. Jake Potok, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
7. Brody Conley, Tiffin Columbian, freshman (Norwalk)
8. Antwaun Burns, London, freshman (Heath)
9. Ethan Turnbaugh, Ontario, freshman (Norwalk)
10. Adam Lenhoff, Indian Valley, senior (Heath)
11. Sam LoFaso, Padua, senior (Norwalk)
12. Austin Pownall, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Isaiah Bretz, Van Wert, senior (Norwalk)
14. Walker Uhl, West Holmes, junior (Heath)
15. Keegan Moran, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
16. Jordan Barnett, Sheridan, sophomore (Heath)
17. Jakob Koleszar, Vermillion, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Garr, Potok, Pownall, Jeff Dunfee (Ravenna, senior); Daniel Kennedy (Louisville, senior)
HEA – Lasure, Terry, Burns, Lenhoff; Uhl, Moran, Barnett
NOR – Conley, Turnbaugh, LoFaso, Bretz; Koleszar
WIL – Crace, *Monebrake*, Peyton Bennett (Logan Elm, junior), Logan Raney (Franklin, senior), Casey Washburn (New Richmond, senior); Sean Beltran (Hamilton Ross, sophomore)

It's been a circuitous last fifteen months for Crace to say the least. The 2017 state champion entered the 2017-18 season off an eighth place finish at the Super 32 Challenge in an absolutely loaded 132 pound weight class. He then started the season for Graham competing at 126 pounds, where he won the Ironman, catalyzed by a 2-1 tiebreaker victory over Jordan Decatur in the semifinal round. Crace would subsequently leave Graham and move on to Elyria after disagreement with the coaching staff over what weight class he would wrestle.

Going to Elyria, was ineligible to compete the remainder of 2017-18 due to transfer bylaws. His off-season was excellent including an undefeated run at the Junior Duals in freestyle and a run to the semifinals in Junior freestyle where he racked up something like five wins over state champions. It continued into the fall where he placed third at 138 in the Super 32 Challenge, lone loss being 3-2 to eventual champion Jaden Abas from California. Before the start of the season he left Elyria and headed home to Bellefontaine. During the present season, he is undefeated with titles at four tournaments including victories over his most direct challengers at GMVWA (*Monebrake*, fall) and Top Gun (Garr, 4-3).

As discussed in the 138 commentary, it would be prudent for *Monebrake* to make the drop down. Those two exit the same district at Wilmington, where there are no other ranked wrestlers present.

The senior Garr placed fifth at state losing 6-4 to eventual state runner-up Mike Clark and 9-3 in the consolation semifinal to 2017 state champion J.D. Stickley. Headed to Columbia, Garr was one match from placing at the Ironman and picked up some excellent wins along the way (beating National Prep champion Connor Kievman and Super 32 placer Manzona Bryant both in overtime); he also placed third at Brecksville and Top Gun (4-3 semifinal loss to Crace), and lost 8-5 to nationally ranked North in the Grizzly Invitational final. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at Alliance. Fellow senior Potok is a two-time state qualifier, and second half of his season features a sixth place finish at Top Gun and a third place finish at the Grizzly Invitational. Pownall finished his freshman season last year as a state alternate at 138 pounds, and has continued into this year with three tournament placements (fourth at North Canton, third at Maumee Bay, and fifth at the Grizzly Invitational).

It's really congested at the Heath district with seven ranked wrestlers, three of whom are returning state qualifiers and have won state matches. The junior Lasure has placed seventh and fourth so far in his high school career; while this season features titles at Cambridge and the EOWL along with runner-up finishes to West Virginia state champions at Beaver Local and the OVAC meet (Lasure flipped that 7-1 loss to Cook from the Beaver Local final with a 7-3 semifinal victory at the OVAC meet). Terry qualified for state last year at 126 as a sophomore, and has been most excellent up three weight classes with titles at four different tournaments (most notably beating Caprella to win gold at Defiance) along with a fifth place finish at Top Gun (beating Potok twice). Two-time state qualifier Lenhoff has finished runner-up to Beaver Local wrestlers at two tournaments, was seventh at Brecksville, and has titles in two tournaments on the season.

Impact freshman Burns was a Junior High state runner-up last year, while this season features championships at West Jefferson, North Union, and the Sally George. Uhl was state alternate down at 126 last year as a sophomore, and started this season at 152 where the results weren't great (fourth at Cambridge, fifth at the Wayne Invitational, and failing to place at North Canton) before moving into this weight and placing third at West Holmes. The senior Moran was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and went 3-2 at Brecksville before third place finishes at Licking Valley and the CIT; Finally the sophomore Barnett started the season at 160 where he won a title at Big Walnut before dropping to 152 where he was sixth at Marion Harding and champion at Sheridan; then at this weight class he was runner-up at the Bill Dies and champion at Watkins Memorial.

There's also solid depth at the Norwalk district with five ranked wrestlers present, though that field is led by a pair of freshmen in Conley and Turnbaugh. Conley was a junior high state champion with Turnbaugh third in the same weight class last year, and the pair have split bouts this season. On the season Conley was fourth at Brecksville, third at the Gorman, and champion at Maumee Bay; while Turnbaugh was fifth at Findlay (losing to Crace) with runner-up finishes to follow at Marion Harding, the Gorman, and Maumee Bay. The senior LoFaso placed eighth in this state weight class last year, while this season includes a title at the North Coast Classic, an eighth at Brecksville, and a runner-up finish at the CIT. Fellow senior Bretz is a returning state qualifier, while another senior Koleszar was a state alternate last year; this year Koleszar was runner-up at the Cobos Classic and eighth at the Gorman up at 152 before dropping to this weight and finishing eighth at Maumee Bay.

152 pounds

1. Jax Leonard, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
2. Anthony Rice, Steubenville, senior (Heath)
3. Dylan Fishback, Aurora, freshman (Alliance)
4. Jeff Thomas, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
5. Logan Krulik, Beaver Local, sophomore (Heath)
6. Dylan Dodson, Licking Valley, sophomore (Heath)
7. Dakota Ryan, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
8. Colton Turnbaugh, Ontario, junior (Norwalk)
9. Derrick Coleman, Clyde, junior (Norwalk)
10. John McNulty, Padua, senior (Norwalk)
11. Nicholas Machuca, Dayton C-J, junior (Wilmington)
12. Kaleb Dohse, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
13. Dalton Duvall, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Zayne Lehman, Revere, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Josh Colvin, London, senior (Heath)
16. Nathan Welsh, Fairfield Union, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Leonard, Fishback, Ryan, Dohse; Duvall, Lehman

HEA – Rice, Krulik, Dodson, Colvin; Connor Harlan (Claymont, sophomore)

NOR – Turnbaugh, Coleman, McNulty, Ethan Phillips (Norwalk, sophomore); TBD

WIL – Thomas, Machuca, Welsh, Sam Price (Lemon Monroe, senior); Chris Weadick (Eaton, senior)

The joint favorites in this weight class each come from schools that have not had an individual win state in thirty-plus years. Despite having a state finalist in three of the last four years, and top finishes in the standings each of those years, Steubenville has not had an individual win state since 1989 when Shawn McGhee (125) and Dunyasha Yetts (145) stood on top of the podium. Like the Big Red, Louisville is an

excellent team this year in its own right, but its last state champion was Daryl Mickley in 1986 at the 167 pound weight class.

Louisville's Leonard and Steubenville's Rice are the lone wrestlers in this weight class to have placed at state last year. The junior Leonard earned his second state podium by finishing third at 145 pounds, while the senior Rice was on the podium for the second time placing seventh at 138 one year after finishing fourth in that same weight class.

They have split matches this season, with Rice rallying for a 5-3 win in the North Canton final and Leonard winning 7-5 in the regional duals final. Additional resume highlights for Leonard are a fifth place finish at Brecksville and titles at the EOWL and Maumee Bay, while Leonard was one match from placing at the Ironman and champion at the OVAC.

Leonard anchors what is yet another super deep district weight class at Alliance, one with five additional ranked wrestlers present (i.e. a total of six). Leading that group is the freshman Fishback, who has had an excellent season with titles at the Top Gun and Grizzly Invitational as well as an eighth place finish that included a 3-1 win in consolation over nationally ranked Austin Boone from Michigan. Returning state alternate Ryan was runner-up at Solon and CIT along with placing third at the Grizzly Invitational (losing there by technical fall to Fishback). 2017 state alternate Dohse was third at the Wayne Invitational and Hephner, second at Kenston and fourth at the Top Gun; the sophomore Duvall missed placement at Maumee Bay by one match before taking fourth at the Grizzly Invitational; while fellow sophomore Lehman was fourth at Kenston and third at the Bill Dies.

Rice is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Heath district, most notably the sophomore Krulik, who was a go-to-state match loser last year up at 160 pounds. Krulik's season includes titles at Cambridge (beating Dodson in the semis) and Beaver Local, missing placement at Brecksville by one match, along with runner-up finishes at EOWL and OVAC (finals match losses coming to Leonard and Rice). Fellow sophomore Dodson qualified for state last year at 138 pounds, and this year has titles at Licking Valley and Alexander to go with runner-up finishes at Olentangy Liberty (up at 160) and the Brooke Classic. Lastly the senior Colvin was champion at West Jefferson, runner-up at North Union, and fourth at the Sally George.

The other wrestler with state podiums in this weight is the senior Thomas, who was second at 113 as a freshman and third at 126 as a sophomore before missing the entirety of last season due to injury. This season started by going 2-2 down in the 145 weight class at the Walsh Ironman, then winning titles at the GMVWA and Valley View in this weight class, and an overtime loss to Fishback in the Grizzly Invitational final despite getting the match's only takedown. Just two other ranked wrestlers join Thomas at Wilmington, a pair of juniors in Machuca and Welsh. Machuca started his season up at 170, where he was runner-up at Findlay and seventh at the GMVWA; then he dropped to 160, placing seventh at Perrysburg, before finishing fifth at the CIT and second at Eaton in this weight. Welsh's season includes titles at Logan and New Lexington, as well as a runner-up finish to Colvin at West Jefferson.

Last is a Norwalk district that also features just three ranked wrestlers, and is quite frankly limited when it comes to a fourth state qualifier and contenders for potential go-to-state match participants. It's led by returning state qualifier Turnbaugh, whose season includes a title at Findlay, finishing third at Marion Harding and the Gorman, before taking seventh at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Coleman was runner-up at Bellevue up two weight class before dropping to 160 where he beat a returning Division III state

qualifier in a dual meet, and then he beat returning state alternate McNulty 4-3 at the regional duals. The senior McNulty was runner-up at the North Coast Classic and third at the CIT, while going 2-2 at Brecksville.

160 pounds

1. Ben Pasiuk, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
2. Ethan Hernandez, Norwalk, junior (Norwalk)
3. Will McGhee, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
4. Justin Mayes, Bellevue, sophomore (Norwalk)
5. Brenden Severs, Beaver Local, freshman (Heath)
6. Hayden Danals, Caledonia River Valley, sophomore (Heath)
7. David Reinhart, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
8. Layne Talbot, New Lexington, junior (Heath)
9. Isaiah Stickley, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
10. James Munro, Miami Trace, senior (Wilmington)
11. Chris Anderson, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
12. Richie Eyre, Tallmadge, senior (Alliance)
13. Sean O'Dwyer, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
14. Ethan Pappas, Steubenville, sophomore (Heath)
15. Liam Fagan, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
16. Zach Dunn, Goshen, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – McGhee, Reinhart, Anderson, Eyre; O'Dwyer, Fagan

HEA – Pasiuk, Severs, Danals, Talbot; Pappas

NOR – Hernandez, Mayes, Kaeden Hatley (Tiffin Columbian, senior), Tommy Mabry (St. Mary's Memorial, junior); Austin Willard (Padua, senior)

WIL – Stickley, Munro, Dunn, Steele Boyssel (Benjamin Logan, junior); Trenton Randall (Dayton Carroll, senior)

Two times previously to my knowledge has a wrestler finished as state runner-up during his freshman, sophomore, and junior years (if there's another situation like this, I apologize for the omission). On the first occasion, Josh Horne of Pickerington (Central) won the 140 pound weight class in 2005 with a finals victory over Mikey Davis; his finals losses had come to Brendon Luce as a freshman and Jason Johnstone the following two years. Then, in 2008 Ryan Fields of Lakota West lost in the semifinals at 130 to Brad Squire, having also lost to him in overtime the year before in the state final; Squire had lost in the district final to Seth Horner, and would lose to Horner in the state final, while Fields lost in the consolation final to Nick Sulzer. As a freshman and sophomore, Fields lost to Tony Jameson and Lance Palmer respectively.

In this case, Carrollton's Ben Pasiuk has made the state final and lost on Saturday night each of the last three years. The last two years, he has fallen short against Mitch Moore, the four-time state champion from St. Paris Graham now starting at 141 as a true freshman at Virginia Tech; those came by a 2-0 score at 132 in 2017 and 3-2 in the 145 weight class last year. Back in 2016, it was a 2-0 loss for Pasiuk at 106 against Josh Venia.

Outside of a totally aberrant loss to DeBerry from Michigan in the North Canton final, a match in which Pasiuk led by a significant margin in the third period and got caught to be pinned at the 5:02 mark, it has been total domination. It would be a significant surprise if Pasiuk did not get the gold medal that eluded

him, and in so doing he would join older brother Aidan as a state champion for Carrollton; that title in 2017 was the first (and only) individual champion for the Warriors in program history.

Four additional ranked wrestlers will join Pasiuk at the Heath district, a group that is led by the freshman Severs, a Junior High state champion last year at 164. Severs has tournament titles this year at Cambridge, EOWL, and OVAC; went 3-2 at the Ironman; was a match from placing at Brecksville; and was runner-up at Beaver Local. Danals was a state alternate last year at 145 as a freshman, and this season has been most excellent featuring a runner-up finish at Medina and a title at Nelsonville-York. The junior Talbot was at 170 for the vast majority of this season where he won titles at Washington C.H. and New Lexington, and placed in three others (including fifth at Medina); dropping to this weight class, he beat returning state qualifier Brady Oberdier (Vincent Warren, junior). Finally, it's the sophomore Pappas who made it to state last year up at 170; this season includes placing fourth at North Canton, third at Nelsonville-York, and second at the OVAC.

As noted in previous paragraph, Oberdier is not ranked but at this district as well. Unfortunately, when one looks up to 170 at Heath, it's also hotly contested, so there's not exactly "amnesty" in that direction.

Four wrestlers other than Pasiuk in this weight class placed at state last year, with two of them exiting the Norwalk district, where they also happen to be the only two ranked wrestlers. The junior Hernandez was third at state last year in this weight class. He started the season at 170 where championships at Findlay and the Gorman were sandwiched by missing placement at Brecksville by one match; dropping down to 160, he earned a tournament title at West Holmes. Mayes placed seventh last year in this weight class as a freshman, and won tournaments the first two weekends of the season (up at 170 for the Cobos Classic and in this weight at Bellevue); since then it was missing placement at Brecksville by one match, and taking second at the Gorman.

The senior McGhee placed fifth at state in the 152 weight class and anchors what is yet against a brutal district weight class at Alliance, as there are six ranked wrestlers present. Notable results this season for McGhee include missing placement by a match at Brecksville, finishing fourth at the Top Gun, and a 3-2 tiebreaker loss to a nationally ranked Blair Academy wrestler on the front side at Ironman. Fellow senior Reinhart won a state match last year, but has been a very "hot and cold" wrestler for the second straight season. For instance, after suffering three losses to Severs during the course of the season, Reinhart earned a 10-5 victory in the regional duals final. Additional results include a sixth at Brecksville, runner-up at the EOWL, fifth at the Bill Dies, and winning the Hephner.

Yet another senior, Anderson has been excellent most of this season in winning at Clear Fork, taking third at North Canton, and finishing fourth at the Bill Dies; this includes three wins over state qualifiers. Next is Eyre, who was state alternate last year at 170 as a junior; up at that 170 weight class he was third at North Coast, then runner-up at Kenston and the Bill Dies before dropping to this weight and losing 11-7 to Reinhart in the Hephner final. Fellow senior O'Dwyer was a go-to-state match loser last year in overtime at 145 pounds, while this season includes titles at Solon and the CIT along with fifth place finishes at North Canton and the Grizzly Invitational. Finally it's another senior Fagan, whose year-to-date includes a runner-up finish at the North Coast Classic.

Last among the returning state placers is Stickley, who was eighth as a sophomore last year at 132 pounds. His season includes placing third at the GMVWA and Grizzly Invitational as well as a title at Valley View. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district. Munro went two-and-

out at this weight class last year at the state tournament as a junior, while this season includes titles at Logan Elm and Miami Trace; while fellow senior Dunn rounds out the ranked group.

170 pounds

1. Cole Hivnor, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
2. Xavier Torres, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
3. Hank Carey, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
4. Beau Smith, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
5. Brandon Daniels, Carrollton, senior (Heath)
6. Lucas Salmon, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)
7. John Mark Williams, Indian Hill, senior (Wilmington)
8. Jake Armstrong, Indian Valley, junior (Heath)
9. Hayden McGee, Maysville, senior (Heath)
10. Ben Cutrer, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
11. Brice Parks, Jackson, junior (Heath)
12. David Federick, Dayton C-J, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Ethan Anderson, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
14. Wesley Pauley, McConnellsville Morgan, senior (Heath)
15. Gage Johnson, Franklin, junior (Wilmington)
16. Trevor Stewart, Urbana, freshman (Wilmington)

ALL – Hivnor, Carey, Cutrer, Anderson; Brody Stallings (Cloverleaf, junior)

HEA – Smith Daniels, Armstrong, McGee; Parks, Pauley

NOR – Torres, Salmon, Lawrence Slygh (Elida, senior), Michael Bentley (Shelby, senior); Carson Smith (Port Clinton, senior)

WIL – Williams, Frederick, Johnson, Stewart; Scott Mulkey (Westfall, senior)

Another deep field shows itself here as six returning state placers are among the eleven wrestlers with state tournament experience; however, none has placed in the top three at state. The pick from this corner to win what is a wide open weight class is Hivnor, who was a semifinalist last year at this weight class before sliding all the way back to sixth. Most of his season was up at 182 pounds, where he placed second at Solon, fourth at North Canton and Brecksville, while going 2-2 at the Ironman; he dropped to 170 at the CIT, where he won the title.

The highest returning state placer is three-time state qualifier Smith, an Edinboro signee who placed fourth last year at 145. On the season Smith has four tournament titles, finished seventh at Brecksville, and missed placement at Brecksville by one match. Two other returning state placers join him at the Heath district, fellow seniors Daniels and Pauley who were fifth and eighth respectively at 160 last year. On the season, Daniels was fifth at North Canton and Top Gun, champion at Licking Valley and West Holmes, while also picking up a quality win over Loparo in the regional dual final by a 7-5 score. Pauley's season includes a runner-up finish to Armstrong at Cambridge before finishing third at Vincent Warren (despite losing twice) and second at Nelsonville-York.

Three additional ranked wrestlers are among the contenders at what is a congested group of middle-weights at Heath. Armstrong was a state alternate last year as a sophomore, and has built upon that this season in winning gold at Cambridge; finishing second up a weight at Barnesville and Beaver Local, second to Daniels in this weight at West Holmes; plus taking fifth at Brecksville. Returning state qualifier McGee has three tournament titles on the season, along with finishing second at Defiance and fourth at

West Holmes; while the junior Parks has titles in four tournaments this year plus a second at Vincent Warren and a third at Nelsonville-York.

Ranked second in this weight is the Kent State commit Torres, who placed fifth at 160 last year as a junior. His current season includes placing sixth at Brecksville then third at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay. The lone ranked wrestler to join him at Norwalk is fellow senior Salmon, who won a state tournament bout in this weight class last year. The current season for Salmon includes a runner-up finish at Lorain, placing third at Medina and the Gorman, then finishing fourth at Maumee Bay.

Circling back to Alliance, there are three additional ranked wrestlers that will join Hivnor in the district field, most notably 2017 state qualifier Carey who suffered a late season injury last year that cost him the post-season. It's been a most excellent return to the mats for Carey, who has been runner-up at North Canton and champion at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Cutrer was a go-to-state match loser last year at 160 pounds, and this season went 2-2 at Brecksville before placing third at the EOWL, Bill Dies, and Hephner tournaments. Rounding out the group is Anderson of Aurora, who went 1-2 at district last year in the 160 weight class when competing for Lima Shawnee; the current season includes 2-2 performances at both Ironman and Brecksville before taking seventh at Top Gun and third at the Grizzly Invitational.

Last year as a junior Williams earned just the third state medal by a wrestler at Indian Hill, as he took seventh in this weight class; should he reach the finals, he would become the first Braves wrestler to do so. His season to date includes a third at SWOWCA, winning Madeira, and taking second at Milford. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at Wilmington, including two that made state last year. The sophomore Frederick started the season at 160 placing fourth at Findlay before finishing second at GMVWA and CIT, fourth at Perrysburg, and winning CIT (all those were in this weight class). The junior Johnson was third at Franklin, first at West Jefferson, and runner-up at Eaton to Frederick. Rounding out the ranked group is Stewart, last year a Junior High state runner-up; this year features a runner-up finish at 182 at Valley View before winning the title at Benjamin Logan in this weight class.

182 pounds

1. Anthony D'Alesio, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
2. Hunter Johns, Dayton C-J, senior (Wilmington)
3. Gabe Phillips, Norwalk, junior (Norwalk)
4. David Tuttle, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
5. Keegan Vanmeter, Granville, senior (Heath)
6. Alex Carrothers, Carrollton, junior (Heath)
7. Evan Anderson, Aurora, freshman (Alliance)
8. Neil Ginnetti, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
9. Austin Hinzman, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
10. Trent Davis, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
11. Joey Simcoe, Tiffin Columbian, junior (Norwalk)
12. Tai Carter, Perkins, junior (Norwalk)
13. Cody Mies, Ontario, junior (Norwalk)
14. Logan Iams, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
15. Jesse Kanatzar, Tallmadge, junior (Alliance)
16. Ryan Gear, Cincinnati McNicholas, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – D'Alesio, Anderson, Ginnetti, Hinzman; Kanatzar

HEA – Tuttle, Vanmeter, Carothers, Cooper Graham (Caledonia River Valley, sophomore); Kiah Smith (Athens, junior)

NOR – Phillips, Davis, Simcoe, Carter; Mies

WIL – Johns, Iams, Gear, Austin Carroll (Zane Trace, senior); Jared Kremer (Franklin, junior)

Placing inside the top four in the back half of the weight classes as a freshman and sophomore is a pretty clear demonstration of potential upside. In the case of D'Alesio he was fourth as a freshman at 152 and third last year at 170, while also being a key contributor as an undersized defensive tackle for a football program that has reached the Division III state quarterfinals each of the last two years. Placing fourth at the Ironman with a pair of wins over out-of-state opponents who are/were nationally ranked served to raise his name on the radar of many a Division I college coach.

He is the pick to make it two years in a row for a Canfield wrestler to win gold in this weight class, as last year David Crawford (who is now wrestling at Pitt) won this weight class to earn his second state title. In addition to the Ironman, D'Alesio was runner-up at Brecksville and champion at the EOWL. Four additional ranked wrestlers will be in the hunt for the three remaining state spots at Alliance.

It is a group led by the freshman Anderson, who is the third of three Junior High state champions starting for Aurora this year as freshmen. His season includes placing fifth at Brecksville and the Grizzly Invitational, advancing to the semifinals at the Top Gun, and going 2-2 at the Ironman. The senior Ginnetti placed third at Cambridge, Barnesville, and EOWL while placing second at Perry Pin City and fourth at Top Gun. Fellow senior Hinzman was runner-up at North Coast and sixth at Defiance; while the junior Kanatzar was third at North Coast and the Bill Dies, along with winning titles at Hudson and the Hephner.

The senior Johns is the second highest returning placer in this field, placing fourth last year at this weight class. His season includes titles at four tournaments (most notably GMVWA) and a third place finish at Perrysburg. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Wilmington district. Iams was state alternate last year at 152 as a junior; this season he was champion at North College Hill before taking second at SWOWCA, Fairfield, and Eaton. The junior Gear was champion at Williamsburg and Madeira, while placing fifth at SWOWCA and fourth at CIT. Also in this field is 2017 Division III state qualifier Carroll.

The other deep district in this weight class is the one at Norwalk, which is anchored by Phillips, who placed last year at state in this weight as a sophomore. His current season includes a runner-up finish to Johns at Findlay, finishing one match short of placing at Brecksville, then winning the Gorman and finishing second at West Holmes. Two additional wrestlers at this district are returning state qualifiers, the junior Simcoe and the senior Davis.

This season for Davis includes placing seventh at Brecksville, first at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay; while for Simcoe it includes missing placement at Brecksville by one match, a runner-up finish at the Gorman, and an eighth at Maumee Bay. Two other wrestlers competing at the Norwalk district are also ranked. The junior Carter was champion at West Salem Northwestern and has placed in four other tournaments, most notably finishing as runner-up at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Mies placed third at Findlay and Marion Harding while taking fifth at Maumee Bay.

Three returning state tournament participants competing at the Heath district wrap the group of ranked wrestlers in this weight class. Tuttle placed eighth at state last year as a sophomore at 170 pounds, while this season features a title at Nelsonville-York and runner-up at the OVAC after failing to place at

North Canton. The senior Vanmeter has runner-up finishes at four tournaments, including Top Gun, and a third place finish at Defiance; while the junior Carrothers was a quarterfinalist at North Canton, champion at Licking Valley and West Holmes, and placed eighth at Top Gun.

195 pounds

1. Matthew Cover, Bay Village, senior (Norwalk)
2. Nick Crawford, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
3. Griffin Rathburn, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
4. Brent Paulus, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
5. Colin McNamara, Aurora, senior (Alliance)
6. Owen Loughman, Sherian, senior (Heath)
7. Bowen McConahay, Logan Elm, senior (Wilmington)
8. Mitch Miracle, Caledonia River Valley, senior (Heath)
9. Trevor Plaugher, Wapakoneta, senior (Norwalk)
10. Kenny Marra, West Branch, sophomore (Alliance)
11. Nathan Snyder, Springfield Northwestern, senior (Wilmington)
12. Brodey Parsons, Indian Valley, senior (Heath)
13. Keith Bodnar, Steubenville, junior (Heath)
14. Nate Amato, Tallmadge, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Garrett Gross, Bellefontaine, junior (Wilmington)
16. Will Mannier, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)

ALL – Crawford, Paulus, McNamara, Marra; Amato

HEA – Rathburn, Loughman, Miracle, Parsons; Bodnar

NOR – Cover, Plaugher, Wesley Jeffries-Babcock (Napoleon, junior), Nick Hickman (Keystone, sophomore); Drew Krall (Wauseon, junior)

WIL – McConahay, Snyder, Gross, Mannier; Will Striet (Lemon Monroe, senior)

Bay Village has had five state champions over the years, though they all came back in the 1970's, two of them were in 1972 when Jeff Schoenmann and Mark Totten enabled the Rockets to share the Class AAA title with Valley Forge; then the other three were earned by Mike DeAnna from 1974-1976, who would go on to be a four-time NCAA All-American for Iowa, finishing runner-up in both 1979 and 1981. Since that time, success for the Rockets on the mat has been scattered at best, though they have a state title hopeful this year in Princeton commit Matthew Cover.

Cover qualified for state in 2017 as a sophomore, and then would go on to earn All-American honors in both freestyle and Greco-Roman at the Cadet Nationals that summer. Then last year he lost in the state semifinal at this weight class before going on to place third, and then in the summer he placed eighth in Junior freestyle. Cover has been a finalist in four tournaments this year, winning titles at the North Coast Classic and Gorman, while placing second at the Cobos Classic (3-1 overtime loss to Greer) and Medina (losing 5-1 to Shumate).

Just two other returning state placers appear in this field, those being Crawford and Rathburn, who were fifth and eighth at this same weight class last year. Each of those two wrestlers exits a district tournament that features four other ranked wrestlers.

Nick Crawford is the younger brother of two-time state champion David, and was on the podium last year as a sophomore. He's joined at the Alliance district by two other returning state qualifiers, the

senior McNamara and the sophomore Marra. McNamara placed eighth at Brecksville before taking third at Top Gun and the Grizzly Invitational, while Marra has runner-up finishes in four tournaments this year (including to Crawford at the EOWL) and a seventh at the Top Gun. The junior Paulus All-American honors in both styles at the Cadet Nationals this summer, and has wrestled well this season; third place at North Canton and the EOWL, seventh at Brecksville, and finally earning a title at Maumee Bay. Amato was a go-to-state match loser last year as a freshman at 182 (getting pinned by Marra), and this year was third at the North Coast Classic.

The senior Rathburn was second at Olentangy Liberty up at 220 pounds before placing fifth at Brecksville (beating Paulus and Crawford along the way), and then winning titles at Licking Valley and the CIT. Two-time state qualifier Loughman and returning state qualifier Parsons join him at the Heath district. Loughman's senior season includes winning the 220 weight class at Cambridge and Big Walnut before finishing runner-up at three tournaments in this weight class as well as third at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Parsons was third at Barnesville, missed placing at Brecksville by one match, then finished second at West Holmes. Also ranked here is Miracle, who qualified for state at 132 pounds as a sophomore in 2017, as well as returning state alternate Bodnar. Miracle missed placing at Medina by one match, while Bodnar was fifth at North Canton and the OVAC along with winning a title at Nelsonville-York.

Circling back to Cover, he is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at the Norwalk district, that being fellow senior Plaughter, who was third at the GMVWA in late December.

The Wilmington district features four ranked wrestlers, two of whom advanced to state last year as juniors. McConahay won a state tournament match in this weight class, and this year has tournament titles at West Jefferson and Logan Elm along with finishing second at Miami Trace; while Snyder was third at Marion Harding, champion at North Union, and runner-up at Benjamin Logan. Gross lost in the go-to-state match last year as a sophomore, and this year was champion at Findlay, missed placing at Top Gun by a match, and took fifth at Miami Trace. Rounding things out is the sophomore Mannier, who was fourth at the GMVWA, champion at Valley View, and fifth at the Grizzly Invitational.

220 pounds

1. Tyler Stein, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
2. Blake Robbins, Louisville, junior (Alliance)
3. Alec Maloney, Norwalk, junior (Norwalk)
4. Sam McNulty, Perkins, junior (Norwalk)
5. Breslin Walker, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
6. Kole Aubiel, Claymont, senior (Heath)
7. Bruno Pattison, Bellefontaine, senior (Wilmington)
8. Justice McCamick, St. Clairsville, senior (Heath)
9. Tom Coleman, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
10. Trey Pence, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
11. Max Fausnaugh, Bowling Green, junior (Norwalk)
12. Garrett Givens, Beaver Local, senior (Heath)
13. Dalton Cunningham, River View, junior (Heath)
14. Skylor Wooley, East Liverpool, junior (Heath)
15. Kevin Mici, Bay Village, junior (Norwalk)
16. Aaron Harris, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Stein, Robbins, Walker, Lucas Pritchett (Ravenna, senior); Dante Leone (Aurora, senior)

HEA – Aubiel, McCamick, Givens, Cunningham; Wooley

NOR – Maloney, McNulty, Fausnaugh, Mici; Harris

WIL – Pattison, Coleman, Pence, Kade Rawlins (McClain, sophomore); Nathaniel Armstrong (Kettering Alter, senior)

Multi-sport participation and success can be viewed as both a blessing and a curse. It is clearly a blessing under the premise that success in one sport creates a culture and a confidence that carries over into success in another sport. The core group of upper-weights at Canfield serves as an excellent example. They've been part of three straight runner-up finishes in the individual state tournament in wrestling, while the last four years in football include three playoff appearances (the last two of which were advancements to the state quarterfinals) and a cumulative record of 38-9.

Winning state last year in this weight class after going 1-2 at state in 2016 competing at 195 pounds as a sophomore, Stein has also played linebacker on the Cardinals' football team. State playoff runs in football the last two years took him out of the Ironman in 2017 and left him not 100 percent prepared for this year's Ironman, an event in which he none the less placed seventh. Since then it's been three tournament wins, each of which involved wins over high caliber opposition in the finals; at Brecksville and the EOWL it was Robbins, while it was an overtime victory over Boyle at the Bill Dies.

Only two other ranked wrestlers join Stein at the Alliance district, but they are both of a high caliber. Robbins was kind of a surprise state qualifier last year in this weight class as a sophomore, but he did win a state tournament match in consolation. It has propelled him into this season where he has been a runner-up at all five of his tournaments: North Canton, Brecksville and EOWL (losing to Stein), Maumee Bay (losing to Michigan placer Stanton), and the Hephner (losing to Boyle); his most notable wins came at Brecksville over projected Division I state champ Bever and at Maumee Bay in overtime over a returning Michigan state runner-up. Fellow junior Walker is a two-time state qualifier in this weight, but is after his first championship bracket win at the Schott; his season to date includes a seventh at Brecksville, a quarterfinal appearance at Maumee Bay, and a runner-up finish at 285 in the Grizzly Invitational.

The only other wrestler with a state tournament win in this weight class is Maloney, who went 1-2 at state last year as a sophomore competing at 195. His current season includes a title at Findlay, missing placement at Brecksville by one match, then placing third at the Gorman and second at Maumee Bay. He is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Norwalk district. Fellow junior McNulty has taken a leap this year in his performance level, and it's shown through in winning titles at three tournaments including the North Coast Classic, along with a third at Medina and fourth at Maumee Bay. Fausnaugh is another junior, and he was champion at Milan Edison, third at Findlay and Bill Dies, along with taking second at Defiance. Fellow junior Mici was runner-up at the Cobos Classic before taking fourth at the North Coast Classic and Gorman; while the senior Harris missed placement at Brecksville by one match before taking second at Perrysburg and seventh at Maumee Bay.

Two others in this weight were qualifiers in this state weight class last year, both Aubiel and Pattison went 0-2 as juniors. Pattison beat Aubiel in the Top Gun semifinal before losing by technical fall to Boyle in the final; he also has titles at GMVWA and Miami Trace to go with a runner-up finish to Maloney at Findlay. Joining Pattison at the Wilmington district are just two other ranked wrestlers. Coleman was state alternate last year in this weight class as a junior, and his current season includes titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield to go with a runner-up finish at Eaton; while fellow senior Pence was runner-up at GMVWA, champion at Valley View, and third at the Grizzly Invitational.

Aubiel has a second at Barnesville and a championship at Tri-Valley to go with that third place finish at the Top Gun, as well as missing placement at Brecksville by one match despite beating Walker in the round of 16. He is joined by four additional ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. The senior McCamick was fourth at North Canton, fifth at OVAC, and third at the Brooke Classic; another senior Givens was champion at Youngstown Liberty, third at EOWL, and fourth at OVAC (beating McCamick 3-2 along the way); returning state alternate Cunningham was second at Cambridge and fourth at Licking Valley in the 195 weight class before moving up here to win the title at Utica; while fellow junior Wooley was third at Barnesville and the OVAC, as well as placing sixth at Medina and fifth at the Gorman.

285 pounds

1. Jack Delgarbino, Girard, senior (Alliance)
2. Johnny Shafer, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
3. Brenan Knueve, Wapakoneta, senior (Norwalk)
4. Jonah Schlegel, Defiance, senior (Norwalk)
5. Tiche Leroux, Norwalk, senior (Norwalk)
6. Alex Coleman, Hamilton Ross, junior (Wilmington)
7. Jacob Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, junior (Norwalk)
8. Cole Potts, Columbus DeSales, junior (Heath)
9. Jacob Petit, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
10. Sammy Sosa, Wauseon, junior (Norwalk)
11. Lane Cluff, Hillsboro, senior (Wilmington)
12. Kyler Capizzi, Perkins, senior (Norwalk)
13. Jarrett Burress, Minerva, sophomore (Heath)
14. Nate Jackson, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
15. Riley Brendle, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
16. Noah Dehainaut, Fairfield Union, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Delgarbino, Petit, Brendle, Deonte Williams (Canton South, senior); David Hooks (Akron SVSM, junior)

HEA – Potts, Burress, N. Jackson, Daniel Wirth (Beaver Local, junior); Jacob Danielson (New Lexington, sophomore)

NOR – Knueve, Schlegel, Leroux, J. Jackson; Sosa, Capizzi

WIL – Shafer, Coleman, Cluff, Dehainaut, Seth Bowman (Eaton, senior)

There's another strong wrestling/football combination athlete from the Mahoning Valley here in Girard's Jack DelGarbino. Playing left tackle on the gridiron in front of Mr. Football Mark Waid, the Indians finished as state runners-up this year in Division IV, and over the last two years have gone a combined 23-4. When he pinned his state finals opponent in the first period, it marked Girard's first state wrestling champion. His season to date has been limited by the football success and a recent illness, but he did win titles at Jackson-Milton and the EOWL.

If there is going to be someone to deny DelGarbino a repeat state title, it would most likely be three-time state placer Shafer, who came into high school with a very strong track record but has yet to put it together at the Schott. Last year he came in as kind of a joint favorite, but a 5-3 quarterfinal loss to Warren Howland's Brandon Matlock derailed things. Shafer placed fifth at the Ironman, losing to a pair

of nationally ranked wrestlers (one of them in the tiebreaker); lost to projected Division I state champ Padilla in the finals at GMVWA; and then won the Grizzly Invitational.

Three ranked wrestlers join Shafer at the Wilmington district, including one of the remaining two returning state tournament participants. That would be Cluff, who went 0-2 in this weight class last year as a junior. His season includes a title at Vinton County before taking third at West Jefferson and second at Western Brown. The more direct threat in this district would be Coleman, state alternate last year as a sophomore and a Cadet National champion in Greco-Roman this summer. His season includes runner-up finishes at Franklin, SWOWCA, and Eaton; a championship at Fairfield; and a total stunner of a first period pin against nationally ranked Loudon Haga from Parkersburg South. Also ranked here is the senior Dehainaut, who was fifth at West Jefferson, champion at Sheridan, and runner-up at New Lexington.

Last of the returning state qualifiers is the senior Knueve, whose season includes a third place finish at GMWA where he lost 3-2 to Shafer in the semifinal and a 5-1 dual meet victory over Schlegel. Knueve is one of six top 12 ranked wrestlers at the Norwalk district and one of four within the top seven.

Fellow senior Schlegel has built upon a 2-2 district tournament run in this weight class last year to win at Defiance and take second at Perrysburg, both of those coming over high quality fields. Leroux was a go-to-state match loser last year at 195 as a junior competing at Division III Monroeville, but took a liking to Norwalk during their state semifinal football run, and has found further success on the wrestling mat in placing fourth at Brecksville, winning the Gorman, and finishing runner-up at West Holmes. Jackson was state alternate in this weight last year as a sophomore, and this season features a third place finish at Northwood (losing 4-3 to projected Division III champ Price in the semis), runner-up to Schlegel at Defiance, fifth at Perrysburg, and winning the CIT. Fellow junior Sosa placed sixth at Brecksville, seventh at Perrysburg, and fourth at Maumee Bay; while the senior Capizzi was champion at Lorain, seventh at North Coast, runner-up at Medina and Maumee Bay, but lost by fall to Sosa in the regional dual final.

Turn the attention back to Alliance, where it's just two ranked wrestlers present along with DelGarbino, both of whom lost go-to-state matches last year as juniors. Petit was at 220 last year, and has taken kindly to this weight class with a title at Hudson before taking third at Defiance and the Bill Dies; while Brendle was state alternate in this weight class and has had much more of an uneven season to say the least.

Lastly it's the Heath district, one that features just three ranked wrestlers, though two are returning state alternates (Potts and Jackson). Potts competed last year in this weight class as a sophomore, and has been excellent this season winning three tournament titles along with placing third at Olentangy Liberty and the CIT; while Jackson was at 220 last year as a junior, with results this season including a fourth at Olentangy Liberty, going 1-2 at Brecksville, and taking third at Licking Valley. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Burress, who beat returning district placer Daniel Wirth (Beaver Local, junior) to win the title at Cambridge, placed third at North Canton, was runner-up at Licking Valley (beating Jackson of Hartley 3-2 in the semifinal), and fifth at Top Gun.

Team – based on a state scoring model per ranking position

1. Graham (Wilmington)
2. Aurora (Alliance)
3. Beaver Local (Heath)

4. Canfield (Alliance)
5. Louisville (Alliance)
6. CVCA (Alliance)
7. Lake Catholic (Alliance)
8. Norwalk (Norwalk)
9. Steubenville (Heath)
10. SVSM (Alliance)
11. Carrollton (Heath)
12. Wauseon (Norwalk)
13. Bishop Hartley (Heath)

It should be noted that teams ranked 3, 4, 5, and 9 were put together in one dual team regional, and all of those squads are doing it with rather balanced lineups as well (i.e. not “stars and scrubs”). The top ten features SIX teams from the Alliance district, though that may not hold as there is going to be displacement of some key kids for some of the teams due to the absolute strength and depth of the district.