

Division Three – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Drew Mattin, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
2. Hunter Bray, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
3. Sebastian Vidika, Black River, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Shane Johnston, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Joey Bowen, Manchester, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Jake Adkins, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Heath)
7. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Troy)
8. Jordan Burkholder, Crooksville, sophomore (Heath)
9. Gregory Quinn, Shadyside, freshman (Heath)
10. Christian Wellman, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Damon Keister, Milbury Lake, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Damian Demilio, Genoa, sophomore (Bowling Green)
13. Luke Buxton, Dixie, sophomore (Troy)
14. Brandon Neikirk, Cardinal, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
15. Zach Davie, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
16. Alex Rhine, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)

BG – Mattin, Keister, Demilio, Thomas Schnittker (Woodmore, sophomore); Dominic Rosin (Sandusky SMCC, freshman)

GH – Vidika, Johnston, Bowen, Wellman; Neikirk

HEA – Adkins, Burkholder, Quinn, Thomas Campbell (Martins Ferry, junior); Colton Bethel (Ridgewood, freshman)

TROY – Bray, Clemens, Buxton, Davie; Rhine

The 2013 state tournament in the small-school division was one marked by the influence of non-seniors. Seven state champions come back for this year, while six runners-up were eligible to return. Therefore, it is to be expected a lot of state experienced kids will be present across the weight classes. A full eight wrestlers with state experience are back in the opening weight class, which is two more than the number in DI and DII combined (six total).

However, it is a freshman who carries the mantle as favorite. Mattin seeks to be a second straight freshman from Delta (Jake Spiess did it last year) to win this weight class. He beat the second ranked Bray 2-1 in the Brecksville final on a second period turn, and also was champion at Perrysburg; Mattin was runner-up at Oregon Clay, losing 5-4 to projected D2 runner-up Lucas in the tiebreaker. He exits a very shallow district at Bowling Green with just two other ranked wrestlers, neither projected to place. The senior Keister was champion at Toledo St. John's and Woodmore this season; while the sophomore Demilio is expected to drop shortly after spending the season at 113.

Third at state last year, losing 2-0 to Ullinski in the semifinal, Bray anchors a very deep Troy district at this weight with four other wrestlers ranked; that includes another two with state experience. On the season, Bray won three matches at Ironman and was champion at Marion County. Returning state qualifier Clemens has titles at Van Buren and the LCC Thunderbird to his credit, but did lose by major decision to Mattin in dual meet competition. The freshman Buxton was champion at Edgewood and runner-up to Clemens at the LCC Thunderbird. Returning state qualifier Davie was champion at Troy Christian and eighth at the GMVWA, while the group is rounded out by another freshman Rhine, who injured defaulted down to sixth at the LCC Thunderbird after losing 10-6 to Buxton in the semifinals.

Three returning state placers will exit the Garfield Hts district, and they'll be joined by two other wrestlers in the rankings. The senior Vidika placed fourth at state last year, and was runner-up to Lucas (losing 5-1) at Marion Harding before winning the Gorman. Johnston, a junior, finished sixth at state last year; this year he was champion at Milan Edison and second at North Canton. The sophomore Bowen finished seventh at state, and has finished third at Brecksville, the Gorman, and the Bill Dies. Fellow sophomores Wellman – runner-up at Marion County – and Niekirk, third at Aurora, are also ranked here.

Closing it out in this weight is the Heath district, which features two wrestlers with state experience among the three that are ranked. The junior Adkins placed eighth at state and is a two-time state qualifier. One the season he was champion at Mt. Vernon and Sheridan (at 113), and sixth at Oregon Clay. The other returning state qualifier is the sophomore Burkholder. Rounding out the rankings is the freshman Quinn, who was runner-up at the OVAC meet.

113 pounds

1. Jake Spiess, Delta, sophomore (Bowling Green)
2. Christian Clary, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Evan Ullinski, Woodmore, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Kristopher Hill, Bishop Hartley, junior (Heath)
5. Damian Short, Archbold, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Alex Smith, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Brady Barnett, Milan Edison, freshman (Bowling Green)
8. Kolten Martin, DeGraff Riverdale, senior (Bowling Green)
9. John Smith, Mapleton, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Mitch Tikkanen, Jackson Milton, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Jay Uhlenake, Coldwater, sophomore (Troy)
12. Michael Sergent, Troy Christian, freshman (Troy)
13. Anthony Heavilin/Brandon White, Harrison Central, sophomore (Heath)
14. Louis Demarco, Hawken, junior (Garfield Hts)
15. Brysen Mansor, Huron, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Stan Bleich, Elyria Catholic, freshman (Garfield Hts)

BG – Spiess, Ullinski, Short, Smith; Barnett, Martin, Mansor

GH – Smith, Tikkanen, Demarco, Bleich; Brad Trescott (Rootstown, freshman)

HEA – Hill, Heavilin/White, Alex Timko (St. Clairsville, senior), Brandon Carbenia (Sandy Valley, senior); Gavin Stalnaker (Belpre, sophomore)

TROY – Clary, Uhlenake, Sergent, Harrison Gallagher (Greenview, sophomore); Justin Gibbs (Clinton Massie, junior)

Three state finalists are present in this weight class, including last year's 106 pound state champion Spiess, who is undefeated on the season. Spiess was champion at Brecksville, champion up a weight at Perrysburg, and champion at Oregon Clay this season. He anchors an absolutely stacked weight class at the Bowling Green district, which includes his state finals opponent from last year in Ullinski – also a winner of four tournaments this year (Bellevue, Woodmore, Lima Senior, and LCC Thunderbird). Next in line is returning state qualifier Short, who made state last year at 120 and spent a chunk of the season there (placing fourth at Medina). In dual meet competition, Short lost to Spiess 5-4, and in tournament competition at this weight he was third at Marion County (pinned by Clary). Rounding out the projected state qualifiers at this district is returning state placer Smith, who was champ at the Gorman and fourth at Marion County in this weight class; he also won two early season tournaments up at 120.

Additional ranked wrestlers at BG in this weight are the freshman Barnett, champion at Milan Edison and fourth at North Canton. While competing at Marion County, Barnett lost in overtime to state placer Hill and 4-3 to three-time state placer Clary. Returning state qualifier Martin, a senior, was runner-up to Ullinski at Woodmore and a champion at Van Buren. State alternate Mansor, a junior, was third at Marion Harding and has lost by fall to Barnett in dual meet competition.

Three-time state placer Clary (4-3-2) is the other state finalist in this weight class. This season, he placed seventh at Ironman and fourth at Brecksville, before winning the Marion County tournament. Only two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Troy district. The first of those is the freshman Sergent, who was eighth at the GMVWA and fifth at Marion County; while the other is the sophomore Uhlenake, a returning state alternate who was runner-up at Troy and the LCC Thunderbird.

The weight class's fifth and final returning state placer is the junior Hill, who was sixth in this weight class last year. During the present season, he was runner-up at the GMVWA and Marion County (losing 17-3 to Clary), with weight class titles at the CIT and Marion Pleasant. Hill is the anchor in a shallow Heath district weight that features only one other ranked wrestler, the Harrison Central starter (White placed fifth at the OVAC meet).

Rounding out the district compositions is the one at Garfield Hts, which features four ranked wrestlers, including one returning state qualifier. Smith, a sophomore, was champion at Marion Harding this season. He's joined in the rankings by state alternate Tikkanen, who was champion at Hudson and third at the Hephner; the junior DeMarco, who was fifth at the North Coast Classic; and the freshman Bleich, champion at Avon Lake and third at the CIT.

120 pounds

1. Evan Cheek, Milan Edison, junior (Bowling Green)
2. Garrett Hancock, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
3. Kyle Keller, Delta, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Michael May, Dayton Christian, junior (Troy)
5. Tyler Sarreshteh, Liberty-Benton, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Brendan Fitzgerald, Grandview Hts, sophomore (Heath)
7. Carson Mills, Fredericktown, junior (Heath)
8. Jett Heldenbrand, Hillsdale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Joe Newman, Sandy Valley, senior (Heath)
10. Rodney Richter, Monroe Central, junior (Heath)
11. Tyler Rogers, Margareta, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Devon Dunbar, Northwood, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Cory Pucci, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Tyler Wiley, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
15. Tyler Goodpaster, Deer Park, junior (Troy)
16. Kyle Behringer, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)

BG – Cheek, Keller, Sarreshteh, Rogers; Dunbar, Behringer

GH – Heldenbrand, Pucci, Michael Wilson (Waynedale, sophomore), Tony Paolucci (Rootstown, sophomore); Ian Mast (Cardinal, junior)

HEA – Fitzgerald, Mills, Newman, Wiley; Josh Kahl (Shadyside, freshman)

TROY – Hancock, May, Goodpaster, Ruger Goeltzenlechter (Wayne Trace, freshman); McKinley Screetch (Dayton CJ, junior)

Yet another robust weight class of competition here in Division III with twelve wrestlers having state experience, and five already making a podium appearance. The deepest of the districts is at Bowling Green, which has six ranked wrestlers, including projected state champion Cheek. The Cadet freestyle All-American and Super 32 Challenge placer was fourth last year at 106 in Division II, and this season has titles at Milan Edison, North Canton, and Marion County to his credit. Cheek's lone loss on the season is up one weight class, 6-4 to two-time Michigan state champion Lincoln Olson.

Two-time state placer Keller is next in line at the BG district, having placed sixth at Brecksville and winning Oregon Clay in this weight class; he also was champion at Perrysburg while competing at 126. Returning state placer Sarreshteh placed fifth at Medina, while winning titles at Van Buren and the LCC Thunderbird. Two-time state qualifier Rogers was runner-up to Cheek at Milan Edison and runner-up to Alex Smith at Bellevue. The junior Dunbar was a district placer last year, and this year was sixth at Oregon Clay; while the senior Behringer rounds it out, as runner-up at the LCC Thunderbird.

Ranked second in this weight class is its defending champion Hancock. The junior was champion at Troy Christian, won four matches at the Ironman (one from placing), was champion at the GMVWA, champion (at 126) at Marion County, and runner-up to Newhouse at Delaware Hayes. He is joined by two other ranked wrestlers at Troy, which includes two-time Division II state qualifier May, a 2012 state placer. May missed the first half of the year, but upon return, lost an overtime decision to Cheek in the Marion County final. Also ranked here is the junior Goodpaster, a district placer last year.

Returning state qualifier Fitzgerald, champion this year at Marion Pleasant, is among the four state experienced wrestlers at the Heath district, though two are not even among the top five at said site. Movement up in weight could very loom, as the next weight only has two of the top 16 at present. Next in line is the junior Mills, who has won titles at Mt. Vernon, Sparta Highland, and the Gorman (8-5 over Heldenbrand along the way). Returning state qualifier Newman has shared time between 120 and 126 this season; returning state qualifier Richter was fourth at the OVAC meet; while the senior Wiley was a state alternate last year and placed seventh in the OVAC meet.

Closing it out here is an underwhelming Garfield Hts district with just two ranked wrestlers present. Returning state qualifier Heldenbrand was third at the Gorman, while the senior Pucci was a state alternate last year.

126 pounds

1. Jarred Ganger, Covington, junior (Troy)
2. Zack Durbin, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Caleb Ohl, Newark Catholic, senior (Heath)
4. Noah Mattin, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
5. Zach Alvarado, CHCA, senior (Troy)
6. T.J. Malkus, Berkshire, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Matt Mangen, Versailles, senior (Troy)
8. Colton Ullman, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Aric Peters, Bethel Tate, junior (Troy)
10. Tim Mecklenburg, Lutheran West, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Buddy Limes, Otsego, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Gabe Santa-rita, Edgerton, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Francisco Alvarado, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Kyle Case, West Salem Northwestern, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
15. Austin Singleton, Barnesville, senior (Heath)
16. Trenton Macke, Deer Park, junior (Troy)

BG – Mattin, Limes, Santa-rita, F. Alvarado; Alex Neuberger (Milan Edison, freshman)

GH – Durbin, Malkus, Ullman, Mecklenburg; Cayse

HEA – Ohl, Singleton, Evan Offenberger (Sandy Valley, senior), David Forrester (Harrison Central, senior); Tyler Stoneburner (Paint Valley, senior)

TROY – Ganger, Z. Alvarado, Mangen, Peters; Macke

Yet another weight with a defending state champion, as Ganger leads the way here. He had a major off-season injury, and transferred from Troy Christian to Covington. This past weekend was his first major competition back, and he got to the finals before being upended 4-3 by returning state placer Ohl in the LCC Thunderbird final. However, come Columbus in just over four weeks, I feel comfortable that Ganger will be closer to full form and able to repeat as state champion.

With four other ranked wrestlers present at the Troy district, Ganger should get somewhat pushed in that tournament. That group is led by two-time state qualifier Zach Alvarado, champion at Troy Christain and Madeira (at 132), before finishing third at LCC Thunderbird. Next in line is returning state qualifier Mangen, who was sixth at the GMVWA and fourth at Oregon Clay. Division II district placer Peters was champion at Madeira here, after spending the early part of the season down at 120 where he was third at Edgewood and missed placement at SWOWCA by one match. Closing out that group is the junior Macke, who also missed placement at SWOWCA by a match.

Ranked second in this weight class is two-time state placer Durbin, who placed third at state last year after losing 7-3 in the semifinal round to Ganger. This season, Durbin was champion at Marion Harding. He'll lead five ranked wrestlers at the Gafield Hts district. Malkus, who made state in 2012 but missed competing due to injury and failed skin check last year at the sectional tournament, has been in-and-out this year. However –when in – his performances include a fifth at Kenston, and a 3-2 dual meet victory over Mecklenburg. The junior Ullman placed eighth at state last year, and was third at the Gorman this year. Mecklenburg qualified for state two years ago, but lost a go-to-state match last year to Hozan who ended up placing.

Despite the upset over Ganger in the LCC Thunderbird final, the resume for Ohl falls behind that of Ganger and Durbin. Ohl placed fifth at state last year, and this year was runner-up at the Gorman and fourth at the CIT. He anchors the previously mentioned shallow district at Heath with just one other ranked wrestler, the senior Singleton who placed sixth at the OVAC meet.

Finally, it is the Bowling Green district featuring four ranked wrestlers led by the freshman Mattin, who was fourth at Brecksville and fifth up at 132 at Perrysburg. A pair of state alternates, Limes and Santa-rita, along with state qualifier Francisco Alvarado joins Mattin as ranked wrestlers. Limes was runner-up at Tiffin Columbian, third at Perrysburg, and champion at Van Buren; Santa-rita was runner-up at Toledo St. John's, and has a major decision over F. Alvarado in dual meet competition; while Alvarado finished fourth at LCC Thunderbird.

132 pounds

1. Sammy Gross, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Lyle Plummer, Dayton CJ, senior (Troy)
3. Major Moore, Willard, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Dustin Marteney, Delta, sophomore (Bowling Green)
5. Ryan Ford, Covington, sophomore (Troy)
6. Wes Fritz, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Trenton Soto, Otsego, junior (Bowling Green)
8. Evan Francis, Kirtland, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Bobby Bowen, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Austin Lang, Waterford, senior (Heath)
11. Taylor Deatrick, Paulding, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Nate Frye, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Bobby Stewart, Union Local, sophomore (Heath)
14. Mitchell Matheny, DeGraff Riverdale, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Hunter Pizzino, Harrison Central, junior (Heath)
16. Jake Maynard, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Heath)

BG – Moore, Marteney, Fritz, Soto; Deatrck, Matheny
GH – Gross, Francis, Bowen, Frye; Zane Chase (Girard, senior)
HEA – Lang, Stewart, Pizzino, Maynard; Sam Neer (Galion Northmor, junior)
TROY – Plummer, Ford, Daniel Gough (Stivers, senior), Hunter Collier (Blanchester, freshman); Seth Bell (Dayton Christian, junior)

Among the 16 state championships won by Beachwood wrestlers, which is joint 23rd all-time in OHSAA history, only three have earned a pair (David Sternberg, Michael Linsker, and Kevin Lipp). This year, two Bison wrestlers have the chance to earn a second state title. In this weight, Gross could culminate a career track of 3-1-3-1, which would arguably be the best in program history when it comes simply to state tournament placements. During his senior season, Gross placed eighth at the Ironman and first at Kenston.

He is the anchor of four ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. Returning state qualifier Francis spent much of his junior season up at 138 before making a late drop down to here. While at 138, he was runner-up at Willoughby South and Lorain, with a third place finish at Perry mixed in. Another returning state qualifier is the senior Bowen, who was third at the Gorman but failed to place at either Brecksville or the Bill Dies. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers at this site is the senior Frye, who competed at the state tournament in 2012. He was seventh at 126 in the Bill Dies, but will more likely compete here in the state series.

Four of the primary challengers to Gross will exit the Bowling Green district (those ranked third, fourth, sixth, and seventh), along with two others from the top 16 group. Ranked third is returning Division II state qualifier Moore, who has titles at Milan Edison, Medina, and the Gorman on the resume during his senior season. Next in line is Marteney, who placed eighth at state last year as a freshman, and this year was seventh at Brecksville and fifth at Oregon Clay; while winning a title at Perrysburg up one weight class. Returning third in the state Fritz was runner-up at the Gorman and LCC Thunderbird, while finishing a match short of placement at Brecksville. State qualifier Soto has titles at Tifin Columbia and Van Buren to his credit, while finishing third at Perrysburg.

Those outside the state qualification group at BG but ranked include state alternate Deatrck, who has a title at Lima Senior to his credit this year; along with the junior Matheney, a returning state qualifier, who was champion at Woodmore and runner-up at Van Buren (losing 11-1 to Soto).

The remaining two projected state placers will exit the Troy district, led by three-time Division II state qualifier Plummer, who this season was third at the GMVWA and second at the CIT. The sophomore Ford was a state alternate last year, but this year was runner-up at the GMVWA before winning titles at Troy and the LCC Thunderbird (11-3 over Fritz in the final). However, those are the lone ranked wrestlers at the site, which means the last two spots are ripe for the picking.

Rounding it out are the four ranked wrestlers from the Heath district, though none are projected to place at state. Leading the group is the senior Lang, the lone state qualifier in the group, who has won two tournaments this season. Next in line is the sophomore Stewart, who was runner-up at the OVAC meet. He's followed by the junior Pizino, who was third in the OVAC meet. Last in the rankings is the sophomore Maynard, who was a state alternate in Division II last year.

138 pounds

1. Kaleb Romero, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)
2. Brad Wardell, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Josh Weber, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Grant Rathburn, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)
5. Kameron Rayner, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
6. Alex Becker, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
7. Evan Hansel, Newark Catholic, senior (Heath)
8. Chance Marthey, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Kenny Price, Archbold, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Corey Hawk, Dixie, senior (Troy)
11. Max Reeder, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Derek Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, freshman (Bowling Green)
13. Justin Chew, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Dalton Scott, Bishop Ready, senior (Heath)
15. Jacob Spino, Independence, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Grant Fidler, Monroeville, senior (Bowling Green)

BG – Price, Reeder, Gross, Fidler; Mason Robson (Collins Western Reserve, senior)

GH – Wardell, Weber, Marthey, Chew; Spino

HEA – Rathburn, Rayner, Hansel, Scott; Tim Violet (Madison Plains, senior)

TROY – Romero, Becker, Hawk, Cody Ohmeiss (Troy Christian, junior); Chase Mayhubb (Milton Union, sophomore)

The loss of an impact wrestler such as Hoskins, state runner-up last year and champion of a loaded GMVWA in this weight class, would normally cause a profound shift in the dynamic. However, that is not the case this year. Even with three state runners-up in the weight above, and a former state champion in the weight below, nobody is running here. That is because of the presence of an athletic freak named Kaleb Romero. The freshman was the starting quarterback, yes starting quarterback, on a football team that made the state semifinals in Division VI this year. In addition said freshman was also a three-time Junior High state champion and a multi-time grade school state champion before that. Prior to Hoskins' removal from the picture, Romero had upended him 1-0.

Other results for Romero this season are a runner-up finish at Western Brown, losing 2-0 to Fausz, and a dominant title at the LCC Thunderbird last weekend. He anchors a Troy district featuring two other excellent ranked wrestlers and another kid with state tournament experience. The senior Becker is the highest returning state placer in this weight (sixth), and was fifth at Marion County. Fellow senior Hawk was a state qualifier last year, and finished fourth at the LCC Thunderbird.

The two wrestlers directly behind Romero in the rankings exit the Garfield Hts district, 2012 state placer Wardell and returning state placer Weber. The senior Wardell was a state alternate last year, and his year was champion at Marion County; while the junior Weber was seventh last year at state, and this year was champion of the Gorman, eighth at Top Gun, and runner-up at the Hephner. Three other wrestlers are ranked in this weight class from this district field: returning state qualifier Marthey was runner-up at Milan Edison, returning state qualifier Chew was runner-up at the Bill Dies and third at the Hephner, while Spino was champion at North Coast and third at Lorain. As a point of information, Marthey has spent time at both 138 and 145; he could end up at 145 with fellow junior Damion Little competing here, Little pinned state placer Rayner in the regional final of state duals.

Three other projected state placers exit the Heath district. Four wrestlers are ranked, while five carry state experience (all those are mentioned in the composition listing). The senior Rathburn is a two-time state qualifier, was sixth at the GMVWA, runner-up at Marion County and the CIT, and champion at Marion Pleasant. Returning state placer Rayner was champion at Gallia and the OVAC meet. 2012 state qualifier Hansel, a state alternate this past year, was runner-up at the Gorman as well as third in both the CIT and LCC Thunderbird. Returning state qualifier Scott failed to place at the CIT in this weight class, but was champion at Sparta Highland in the 145 weight class earlier this year.

Rounding out the rankings are four wrestlers from the Bowling Green district, none positioned in the top eight. Two-time state qualifier Price was fifth at Marion County and runner-up at LCC Thunderbird here, while finishing sixth up in the 152 weight class at Medina. Two-time district placer Reeder, also a 2011 state qualifier is ranked here. The freshman Gross was sixth at the Gorman and fifth at the LCC Thunderbird (split matches with Hansel); while the senior Fidler has tournament titles at Milan Edison and Woodmore.

145 pounds

1. Logan Day, Archbold, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Logan Lacure, Greeneview, sophomore (Troy)
3. Nick Vestal, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
4. Jamie Baldrige, Galion Northmor, senior (Heath)
5. Jesse Beverly, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
6. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
7. Davey Tunon, Clinton Massie, sophomore (Troy)
8. Joe Ziegler, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
9. Ricky Ratcliff, West Jefferson, senior (Heath)
10. James Handwerk, Lutheran West, freshman (Garfield Hts)
11. Zach Steiner, Norwayne, freshman (Garfield Hts)
12. Bruce Sefert, Beallsville, senior (Heath)
13. Brett Kahl, Shadyside, sophomore (Heath)
14. Riley Henderson, Mariemont, junior (Troy)
15. Tony Rozzi, Woodmore, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Anthony Walden, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)

BG – Day, Beverly, Rozzi, Zach Brodman (Carey, junior); Andrew Caris (Eastwood, sophomore)

GH – Stanely, Handwerk, Steiner, Walden; Damon Little (Tuslaw, junior)

HEA – Baldrige, Ratcliff, Sefert, Kahl; Zac Sowers (Union Local, senior)

TROY – Lacure, Vestal, Tunon, Ziegler; Henderson

Even with three state runners-up in this weight class, there is not a broad depth, as the quality behind the projected state placers is lacking. Despite a loss to Vestal in overtime in the Marion County final, the pick to win this weight class is still the senior Day. Before the season, he was third at the Preseason Nationals with a win over Garcia from Illinois, who has been nationally ranked at times in 2013-14. Then, in-season, he won three matches at the Ironman and was champion at Medina and LCC Thunderbird.

Vestal, as previously mentioned has the head-on win over Day. However, he only went 1-2 at the Ironman, including a loss by major decision to Garcia of Illinois. In addition to beating Day at Marion County, Vestal upended returning state placer Stanley 3-1 in the semifinals. At Brecksville, he took fifth but had a pair of wins over top five in their state tournament division competition (Beverly and Rahmani). Last year, he was state champion for Lake Highland Prep (Fla.) at 126 in small-school.

Lacure was runner-up at 120, including a 6-3 victory over defending state champion Sammy Gross in the semifinals. During the Super 32, he went 4-2, including a win over New York state runner-up Frankie Garcia. He was runner-up at the GMVWA and LCC Thunderbird (losing 2-1 to Day in the final). Lacure is ranked second and Vestal third at this weight, both exit the Troy district, where three other ranked wrestlers also reside.

The sophomore Tunon was a Division II state alternate last year, and this year was third at Fairfield before winning a title at Western Brown. Ziegler, a junior, was fifth at Western Brown and third at the LCC Thunderbird. Henderson, last year a state alternate has spend time at both 138 and 145; however, while in this weight, he was third at Middletown Madison and second at Madeira.

Day anchors the district at Bowling Green, which features freshman sensation Beverly, but only one additional ranked wrestlers for a total of three. Beverly, a Junior High state champ last year, was one match from placing at Brecksville, a runner-up at Oregon Clay (beat state placer Lang 7-4), and was third up a weight at Perrysburg. The junior Brodman is the other ranked wrestler here, and he has placed in four tournaments this season.

The Heath and Garfield Hts district each feature one state placer, and four ranked wrestlers. The senior Baldrige placed fifth in this weight last year at state, and was at 152 prior to last week when won the title at Marion Pleasant. While up a weight class, he was champion at the Gorman and runner-up at Marion County. Joining him at the Heath district are 2012 state placer Ratcliff, state alternate Sefert, and district placer Kahl.

The sophomore Stanley placed seventh in this weight class last year, and was third at Marion County. He's joined in the rankings at the Garfield Hts district by a pair of freshmen, Handwerk and Steiner, as well as the senior Walden. Handwerk was a Junior High state champion and a Cadet Greco-Roman All-American. He wrestled early on at 145, so he has this option still to use. Steiner was champion at Smithville, fourth at the Bill Dies, and has a 4-1 win over Marthey on the resume this season. Walden was champion at Beachwood and Riverside, but also has some moments of inconsistency.

152 pounds

1. Jacob Danishek, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
2. Dakota Mays, Nelsonville York, junior (Heath)
3. Dakota Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Austin Siemon, Deer Park, junior (Troy)
5. Seth King, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Seth Knoll, DeGraff Riverdale, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Jesse Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Kealli Cummings, CHCA, senior (Troy)
9. Daniel Jennings, Covington, senior (Troy)
10. Clayton Davidson, Kirtland, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Jake DeLorge, Lutheran West, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Anthony DeCarlo, Springfield Catholic Central, senior (Troy)
13. Garrett Grime, Archbold, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Deven Taylor, Margaretta, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Derek Gregan, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Patrick Stover, Bishop Ready, senior (Heath)

BG – Knoll, Gross, Grime, Taylor; Seth Gaghen (Woodmore, junior)

GH – Stanley, King, Davidson, DeLorge, Gregan

HEA – Mays, Stover, Cody Dingess (West Jefferson, junior), Chet Bakiewicz (Centerburg, senior); Bryce Coleman (Martins Ferry, junior)

TROY – Danishek, Siemon, Cummings, Jennings; DeCarlo

Along with Micah Jordan, Danishek is the shining star of Ohio high school wrestling in 2013-14. He was champion during this season at the Super 32 Challenge (pre-season), Ironman (second straight year in the finals), and Brecksville (repeat champion). Danishek is prohibitively favored to win a fourth state title, and is ranked No. 2 in the nation at his weight class, and No. 17 overall in the Class of 2014 regardless of weight (Micah Jordan is No. 6).

Four other ranked wrestlers, all within the top 12, join Danishek as exiting from the Troy district. For those of you that know the drill by now, it means at least one won't be moving on to state. The junior Siemon qualified for state last year, and this year was fifth at SWOWCA. Cummings, a senior, was champion at Troy Christian and Madeira, before finishing as runner-up at LCC Thunderbird. Returning state qualifier Jennings was fourth at the GMVWA and LCC Thunderbird, while returning state placer DeCarlo was runner-up at Greenon and third in the CIT.

Ranked second to Danishek is the junior Mays, already a two-time state placer. This season, he has won four tournaments, including an Outstanding Wrestler honor at Marion County. At Brecksville, Mays placed sixth. He exits a soft district weight class, which includes only one other ranked wrestler: the senior Stover, who was champion at Sparta Highland and the CIT this year.

The other returning placer in this state weight class exits from the Garfield Hts district, it's the senior King who was runner-up at 160 in the North Coast Classic before dropping down to here. He's one of five ranked wrestlers at that tournament, whose top-ranked wrestler is returning state qualifier Stanley, who was third at Marion County losing 5-1 to Mays in the semifinal. The junior Davidson was a district placer last year, and this year was champion at Willoughby South and Lorain before taking second at Perry. DeLorge, a senior who was at Avon prior to this year, placed eighth at Medina and third at Perry; while 2012 state qualifier Gregan rounds out the ranked contingent.

Last among the districts is the one at Bowling Green, which features two projected state placers and four ranked wrestlers in all. The senior Knoll was a state qualifier last year, and has three tournament titles to his credit this year; while fellow senior Gross was a state alternate after making state the prior two years, and this year came back from injury to win a title at the LCC Thunderbird. Returning district placer in this weight, the sophomore Grime, was fifth at Marion County and missed placement at the LCC Thunderbird by one match. The junior Taylor is also a returning district placer, and was champion at both Milan Edison and Bellevue this season.

160 pounds

1. Austin Reese, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
2. Kollin Moore, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Tyler Fahrer, Delta, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Zach Ladich, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Chance Sonnenberg, Van Buren, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Rob Mickey, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Heath)
7. Ray Day, Reading, senior (Troy)
8. Jordan Hendrix, Otsego, senior (Bowling Green)
9. Tegan McFadden, Paint Valley, sophomore (Heath)
10. Dylan Hartman, Cory Rawson, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Myliek Green, Bellaire, senior (Heath)
12. Cameron Luther, Springfield Catholic Central, senior (Troy)
13. James Cupan, Girard, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Kyle Ice, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts)
15. Caleb Stockmaster, Margaretta, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Jacob Crosswell, Bishop Hartley, senior (Heath)

BG – Fahrer, Sonnenberg, Hendrix, Hartman; Stockmaster

GH – Moore, Ladich, Cupan, Ice; Drew Braisel (Manchester, junior)

HEA – Mickey, McFadden, Green, Crosswell; Cody Ross (Galion Northmor, senior)

TROY – Reese, Day, Luther, Austin Windle (Ada, junior); Mack Rose (Miami East, junior)

Last year Reese entered the state tournament as favorite to win the 138 pound weight class, having finished third at 103 and second at 120 the prior two years. In fact, he held a 5-0 lead on the undefeated (would be state champ) J.J. Diven with two minutes and 30 seconds left in regulation. A very late second period takedown for Diven, an escape at the start of the third, and then a takedown towards the end of the third forced overtime. Diven got the takedown (and pin) in overtime, which relegated Reese to consolation.

Reese then lost his first match on Saturday morning, but was able to avoid the triple-dip and finish fifth at state. During the summer, he earned a silver at the Disney Duals (only one loss in ten matches against national competition), and that has catapulted into this season. It started with a third place finish at the Super 32 Challenge, and continued with a third place finish at the Ironman. Reese is undefeated on the season, nationally ranked in his weight class, and the future Bobcat is a top 100 senior regardless of weight class.

All that pontification for a state title, for which will be no guarantee at all. The weight class includes two additional wrestlers that have finished second in the state previously. The junior Moore was runner-up last year at 152 pounds, and this year has been dominant in titles won at Smithville at the Bill Dies; while three-time placer Fahrer was a runner-up in 2012 (7-2-3), and has titles at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay to go with a third place finish at Brecksville. Two other state placers are in this weight class as well, Sonnenberg and Ladich.

In terms of district tournament composition, Reese exits the shallowest one at Troy, as it has only two other ranked wrestlers. 2012 state qualifier Day was sixth at SWOWCA, and a champion at Madeira and Reading; while district placer Luther was fourth at the CIT.

Moore exits the Garfield Hts district, which has four ranked wrestlers in all, including Ladich who placed eighth in Division II last year. This year, Ladich pinned state placer Strnad in the semis of the Bill Dies before being majored by Moore in the final. He also placed sixth at Medina and won at Aurora. The senior Cupan was runner-up at Riverside and third at the Hephner.

Fahrer exits the deepest of the four districts, the one at Bowling Green that has five ranked wrestlers. Sonnenberg placed fifth at state last year as a sophomore, and this season was runner-up at Tiffin Columbian, Van Buren, and LCC Thunderbird. The senior Hendrix was fourth at Tiffin Columbian and Perrysburg, before upsetting Sonnenberg to win the title at Van Buren. State alternate Hartman was runner-up at Arcadia, champion at Lima Senior, and third at Van Buren; he tested the waters at 170 at the LCC Thunderbird where he was one match away from placing. Rounding it out is the junior Stockmaster, who won titles at Milan Edison and Bellevue.

Four ranked wrestlers exit the Heath district, including returning state qualifiers in Mickey and McFadden. The senior Mickey was champion at Sheridan, runner-up at Mt. Vernon, and fifth at Oregon Clay. Additional ranked wrestlers include the senior Green, a runner-up at the OVAC meet, and the senior Croswell who was runner-up at Marion County.

170 pounds

1. Ryan Harris, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Zach Sullivan, National Trail, junior (Troy)
3. Hayden Miller, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Bowling Green)
4. Jake Datz, Madison Plains, senior (Heath)
5. Ben Miller, Covington, junior (Troy)
6. Ryan Green, Margaretta, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Todd Miller, Delta, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Brandon Breezley, Blanchester, senior (Troy)
9. Colton Jenkins, Cardington Lincoln, senior (Heath)
10. Leo Herrmann, Steubenville Catholic Central, senior (Heath)
11. Tanner Topp, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Wes Buettner, Delphos St. John's, junior (Troy)
13. Nick Cardiero, Girard, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Devon Bergeron, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Travis Pickering, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Logan Snyder, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)

BG – H. Miller, Green, T. Miller, Bergeron; Jacob Wise (Elmwood, senior)

GH – Harris, Topp, Cardiero, Pickering; Snyder

HEA – Datz, Jenkins, Herrmann, Jared Pack (Centerburg, junior); Drew Lowery (Toronto, sophomore)

TROY – Sullivan, B. Miller, Breezley, Buettner; Alec Gladwell (Columbus Grove, senior)

Like Gross in the 132 section, Harris can become another Bison wrestler to win two state titles during his career, and only the second in program history to win back-to-back titles. He also seeks to become a four-time state placer with a productivity track of 7-3-1-1. The present composition of this weight class makes it one of the weakest I've seen in a long time in this weight range. Outside of Harris, the weight class combines for zero state tournament wins, and only two wrestlers with a single state tournament appearance. Six wrestlers were state alternates last year, while a seventh was a district placer.

Harris anchors the proceedings at the Garfield Hts district, which features five ranked wrestlers. State alternate Topp is next (though he may end up flipping weights with state qualifier Meek). District placer Cardiero, who was fourth at the Hephher follows. State alternate Pickering was fifth at Marion Harding. To round things out, it's the senior Snyder, who did pin Pickering in dual meet competition during the season.

One of the other two in this weight to appear in a state tournament match is Sullivan, who is ranked second, and leads a Troy district with four ranked wrestlers in all. The junior Sullivan won four matches at the Ironman, and was a champion at Tippecanoe. State alternate Miller has third place finishes at Troy (up at 182) and the LCC Thunderbird to his credit. The senior Breezley was champion at Reading, and a runner-up at the LCC Thunderbird; while the junior Buettner won at Marion Harding and fifth in the CIT and LCC Thunderbird.

The third with a state tournament appearance in the present composition of this weight class is the senior Bergeron, who exits a Bowling Green district with four ranked wrestlers. Bergeron had been competing at higher weights until dropping to 170 this past weekend, where he went 0-2 at the LCC Thunderbird. Leading the BG district in the rankings is the junior Hayden Miller, who was seventh at Brecksville, third at the Gorman, and champion at the LCC Thunderbird. State alternate Green was champion at both Milan Edison and Bellevue. The senior Todd Miller finished fifth at Brecksville, third at Perrysburg, and seventh at Oregon Clay.

Rounding it out is a Heath district that features only three ranked wrestlers. The senior Datz was a state alternate last year, and this year finished runner-up at Marion County; fellow senior Jenkins was fifth at the Gorman; while another fellow senior Herrmann was champion at the OVAC meet.

182 pounds

1. Travis Linton, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Armani Robinson, Greeneview, senior (Troy)
3. Wyatt Dye, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Ryan Patchin, Delta, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Dom Johns, Coshocton, junior (Heath)
6. Logan Campbell, Ashland Crestview, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Dylan Williams, Brookville, senior (Troy)
8. Joey Meek, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Devin Bouza, Defiance Tinora, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Tim Hunkley, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Jack Staggs, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
12. Colton Booth, Tri-County North, junior (Troy)
13. Rickey Bruce, Triad, senior (Troy)
14. Ryan Leasure, Girard, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Mitchell Meeks, Newcomerstown, senior (Heath)
16. Blake Cary, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)

BG – Dye, Patchin, Campbell, Bouza; Hunkley

GH – Linton, Meek, Staggs, Leasure; Cary

HEA – Johns, Meeks, Josh Green (Westfall, senior), Robert Miller (Madison Plains, senior); Cole Howes (Harrison Central, senior)

TROY – Robinson, Williams, Booth, Bruce; Brandon Magee (Covington, sophomore)

Linton is the sixth of seven wrestlers in Division III to be going after back-to-back state titles this year. Prior to Garrett Linton winning state at 195 pounds in 2012, the Rootstown program had zero state champions. Garrett was their first, Travis and Jake Moore won titles last year, and a repeat title would make it four for the Rovers in three years; an increase in percentage by a factor of infinity.

Speaking of that track, when Armani Robinson finished as runner-up in 2012, it was the first ever finalist in Greeneview program history. Lacure and Hoskins added runner-up finishes last year. Should Robinson or Lacure win state titles this year, it would be the first in their school's history.

Defending state champ Linton exits a deep district tournament, one that features five ranked wrestlers, though three are outside the top ten. After failing to place at the Ironman in the 170 weight class, Linton has bounced back with titles at Medina and the Bill Dies. Returning state qualifier Meek was a quarterfinalist at 170 at Medina, lost that match, but then defaulted out; while he was champion in this weight class at Nelsonville York.

Robinson exits a district tournament at Troy that includes four ranked wrestlers. During this season, he was runner-up at the GMVWA, losing by fall in the final to Harris; and was also champion at the LCC Thunderbird. District placer Williams, a junior, placed eighth at the GMVWA; he also pinned Meek this past weekend at the SMCC D3 Duals. Fellow junior Booth was third at Tippecanoe at 195, and runner-up in this weight at the LCC Thunderbird; while the senior Bruce rounds out the ranked wrestlers, champion at Bellbrook, second at Marion Harding, and third at the LCC Thunderbird.

The other deep district tournament in this weight class is at Bowling Green, one that features five ranked wrestlers including three with state tournament experience. 2012 state qualifier Dye missed last year due to injury, and this season was third at the Gorman. Fellow 2012 state qualifier Patchin was out the month of December because of his transfer to Delta; and since entering the lineup has performed well, third at Perrysburg and second at Oregon Clay. The returning state qualifier is Campbell, who has titles at Marion Harding and Woodmore to his credit on the season. Bouza was a state alternate in this weight last year, and placed fourth at Perrysburg; while the district placer Hunkley won titles at Milan Edison and Bellevue.

Heath is again the shallow district with only two ranked wrestlers, one being returning state placer Johns.

195 pounds

1. Ryan Weber, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. A.J. Ouelette, Covington, senior (Troy)
3. Kyle Dieringer, Versailles, junior (Troy)
4. Kile Schaefer, West Salem Northwestern, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Glenn Zaller, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jacob Campbell, Dixie, senior (Troy)
7. Jack Huffman, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Troy)
8. Tristan Anderson, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Scott Wohlheter, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Isaac Sanford, Steubenville Catholic Central, senior (Heath)
11. Derek Ebbeskotte, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Jonathan McClellan, Danbury, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Brandon Foughty, Wellston, senior (Heath)
14. Jamie Barrett, Belpre, senior (Heath)
15. Hudson Cole, Sandy Valley, senior (Heath)
16. Dezmond Perkins, Southeastern, senior (Heath)

BG – Ebbeskotte, McClellan, Jacob Widman (Fremont SJCC, senior), Payton Whitticar (Van Buren, sophomore); Mark Francis (Delta, junior)

GH – Weber, Schaefer, Zaller, Anderson; Wohlheter

HEA – Sanford, Foughty, Barrett, Cole; Perkins

TROY – Ouelette, Dieringer, Campbell, Huffman; Nick Clune (Coldwater, junior)

Another group of programs with a shallow history in terms of winning state championships is represented at the top of the rankings in this weight class. Loudonville has won a single state title in program history, that coming from Tyler Scott in 2000, during his junior season after placing fifth at state the year before. Covington has one state title in program history, Logan Brown in 2006 at 189 pounds (the third last weight class at the time). Versailles and West Salem Northwestern both have two state titles in program history, each of them last getting a champ 25 years ago in 1989.

The junior Weber is the projected state champion, after placing fourth at state last year. This year he was second at the Gorman, a Top Gun semifinalist before having to default out, and a champion at the Hephner. Weber also split matches against top contenders for the 220 title in early December. He exits a Garfield Hts district tournament with five ranked wrestlers.

One of them is returning state placer Schaefer, a junior whose season has reflected borderline regression. In the last week, he has two losses to wrestlers in his sectional/district ranked below him. Zaller is a two-time state qualifier whose combined record at the Schott is 1-4. This year, Zaller was second at Perry and third at the Hephner. The sophomore Anderson was champion at Marion County.

Like Weber at 195 last year, Ouelette placed fourth at 182. This year, he has finished third at the GMVWA to go with titles at Troy and LCC Thunderbird. Four overall ranked wrestlers exit his district at Troy. The junior Dieringer qualified for state last year, and this year finished fourth at the GMVWA and seventh at Oregon Clay. The senior Campbell has improved a ton this year, winning a title at Edgewood and finishing as runner-up to Ouelette (5-3 loss) at LCC Thunderbird. Rounding out the ranked group is returning district placer Huffman, who had a title at Allen County to go with third place finishes at the CIT and LCC Thunderbird; he also lost 2-1 to Dieringer in dual meet competition.

The Troy and Garfield Hts districts monopolize the top nine spots here, but the Heath district does have five of the other seven ranked positions. Said group is led by the senior Sanford, who was champion at Sheridan and runner-up at the OVAC. Fellow senior Foughty is next with two titles on the year, those at Vinton County and Athens. Returning district placer Barrett lost 5-4 to Foughty in that Vinton County final, and was also second at Cambridge. Another district placer in this weight at Heath is the senior Perkins, who lost by fall to Sanford in the Sheridan final.

Rounding out the rankings is the Bowling Green district, which has wrestlers ranked in the 11th and 12th positions. The senior Ebbeskotte was champion at Van Buren, while fellow senior McClellan was champion at Woodmore. Two others will make the state tournament, and those spots are rife for the having. This is the district to cross-pair within in the first round at state to say the least for 195 pounds.

220 pounds

1. Jay Nino, Genoa, junior (Bowling Green)
2. Justin Post, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
3. Carter Harris, West Jefferson, senior (Heath)
4. Adrian Harding, Greeneview, junior (Troy)
5. Travis Jaramillo, Archbold, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Dan Jones, Columbus Academy, junior (Heath)
7. Seth Bloor, Wellsville, junior (Garfield Hts)
8. Cameron Conaway, South Central, sophomore (Bowling Green)
9. Cody Carr, Brookville, senior (Troy)
10. Michael Furbee, St. Clairsville, sophomore (Heath)
11. Mitch Murray, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Devon Richard, Delta, sophomore (Bowling Green)
13. Alex Stotter, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Alex Scotton, Independence, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Moises Lopez, Willard, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Alex Fry, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)

BG – Nino, Jaramillo, Conaway, Richard; Lopez, Fry

GH – Bloor, Murray, Stotter, Scotton; Pully Flowers (Beachwood, senior)

HEA – Harris, Jones, Furbee, Mark Clifford (Paint Valley, senior); Schuyler Miller (Westfall, senior)

TROY – Post, Harding, Carr, Michael McKinney (Reading, senior); Justin Daniel (Covington, senior)

A year after seven non-seniors won state titles in Division III, if one was to believe my projections, there will be six non-seniors winning state titles this year. That would be a rather high number to have hold consistent over two years. The last of my projected underclass state champs comes in this weight class from returning state qualifier Nino, who has a 3-1 win over 195 pound projected champ Weber from early December.

Nino exits a loaded district tournament at Bowling Green, that has five ranked wrestlers in addition to him. The senior Jaramillo also won a match at state last year, and during this season placed sixth at Medina and third at both Marion County and LCC Thunderbird; he also lost 3-2 in dual meet action to Nino. The sophomore Conaway is a returning district placer, who was runner-up at Sparta Highland early this season. Next in line is fellow sophomore Richard, who was 3-2 at Brecksville before winning a title at Perrysburg and finishing fifth at Oregon Clay. The senior Lopez was fifth at the Gorman, while fellow senior Gray was fourth at the LCC Thunderbird.

The projected state runner-up in this weight, returning state placer Post, will exit from the Troy district along with two other ranked wrestlers. Those three are ranked ninth or better, which kind of means it's all in for one wide open spot. On the season, Post was champion at Middletown Madison and LCC Thunderbird with a runner-up finish at Troy. The junior Harding finished as runner-up at LCC Thunderbird, beating Jaramillo 6-1 in the semi before losing 3-2 to Post in the final, and he finished fourth at the GMVWA. Returning state qualifier Carr was eight at the GMVWA.

Along with Post, the other state placer in this weight class is the senior Harris, who placed seventh at 182 pounds last season. Joining him at the Heath district in this weight class is the other remaining wrestler with state experience in the sophomore Jones. Only one other wrestler in this weight holds a ranking, and that is the sophomore Furbee, who was runner-up at Nelsonville York and fourth at the OVAC meet.

The Garfield Hts district is bereft of wrestlers with state tournament experience, but it does include four ranked wrestlers starting with state alternate Bloor, who was the OVAC runner-up. The senior Murray is next in line, and he was champ at Smithville and eighth in the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Stotter was runner-up at the North Coast classic, while it is the senior Scotton who rounds out the rankings; last year Scotton was a state alternate, and this year was third at the North Coast Classic.

285 pounds

1. Patrick Garren, Bishop Ready, senior (Heath)
2. Corey Durbin, Fremont SJCC, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Ben Sexton, Garaway, senior (Heath)
4. Jacob Hanzel, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Nathan Jackson, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
6. Cody Buckner, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Chance Vellor, Delta, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Matt Hunter, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Isaac Sexton, Van Buren, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Connor Careless, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Jon Bodkin, Martins Ferry, junior (Heath)
12. Charlie Smith, Hanoverton United, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. A.J. Pinyard, Grandview Hts, senior (Heath)
14. Justin Pfeister, DeGraff Riverdale, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Kelly Barthalow, Ridgewood, junior (Heath)
16. Paul Deely, Independence, junior (Garfield Hts)

BG – Durbin, Buckner, Vellor, I. Sexton; Careless, Pfeister

GH – Hanzel, Hunter, Smith, Deely; Adam Widder (Fairless, junior)

HEA – Garren, B. Sexton, Bodkin, Pinyard; Barthalow

TROY – Jackson, Nate Schroeder (Delphos St. John's, senior), Logan Vandemark (Spencerville, junior), Billy Cadaweller (Williamsburg, junior); Ben Ferguson (Miami East, sophomore)

Hard to believe it's been 15 years since Tommy Rowlands graced the high school mats in the Buckeye State. Arguably the best wrestler in Ohio State history (up to Logan Stieber, obviously), Rowlands was a four-time NCAA All-American and two-time national champion. Competing at the senior international level, Rowlands finished fifth in the 2007 World Championships, but could never make that elusive Olympic team.

However, the journey for Rowlands started at Bishop Ready where he was a two-time state champion at 189 and 215 pounds in 1998 and 1999. Now this year, the Silver Knights are looking for their first two-time champion since then. Heck, prior to Garren winning state last year, Rowlands was the last state champion the illustrious program had. Should Garren win state again, it would be the 30th state champ for Bishop Ready, and tie them with Richmond Hts. for sixth all time (assuming Massillon Perry doesn't surpass them from behind).

This season, Garren was champion at the CIT and a runner-up at Brecksville, losing 5-3 to fellow defending state champion Billy Miller. The Penn commit joined Danishek in winning a Super 32 Challenge title this past October. He is the anchor figure among five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. Also here is returning state four place finisher Ben Sexton, who was champion at Aurora earlier this year. The junior Bodkins was a state alternate last year, and this year has titles at the OVAC and New Lexington. District placer Pinyard, a senior, was runner-up at Marion Pleasant.

The other returning state placers in this weight class, joining Garren and Sexton, both exit from the Bowling Green district, along with four other ranked wrestlers. Durbin was fourth at 220, while this year he has complimented that with titles in three tournaments and a runner-up finish at Perrysburg (losing 7-3 to projected D1 champion Bonner). Careless placed eighth in this weight class, but is currently fifth on the BG ladder, as he has battled injury throughout the season. He was two-and-out at Brecksville, and a semifinalist at LCC Thunderbird, where he lost to Isaac Sexton, but then defaulted the next two bouts. Returning state qualifier Buckner carries a pin over Ironman placer Jackson. State alternate Vellor missed December, while transferring to Delta for his sophomore season, which has started with fourth place finishes at Perrysburg and Oregon Clay. Rounding out the ranked group is the senior Pfeister, who finished second at Woodmore, and third at Van Buren.

Two of the remaining projected state placers exit the Garfield Hts district, both are seniors and returning state qualifiers, as well as being among four ranked wrestlers in that district field. Hanzel was sixth at Brecksville and champion at both the Gorman and Bill Dies. Hunter was sixth at Medina and champion at Nelsonville York. The junior Smith was a state alternate last year, while fellow junior Deely has carried below expected form.

Last among the ranked wrestlers here is Jackson, who is ranked fifth, but is the lone ranked wrestler to exit the Troy district. On this season, Jackson was runner-up at Franklin to Henderson; then flipped that loss to make the semis at the Ironman, but then dropped down to sixth place. At Brecksville, Jackson went 3-2, but he then bounced back to win a title at Marion County.

Team Standings

1. Delta (Bowling Green)
2. Dayton Christian (Troy)
3. Covington (Troy)
4. Waynedale (Gafield Hts)
5. Greeneview (Troy)
6. Mechanicsburg (Troy)
7. Archbold (Bowling Green)
8. Beachwood (Garfield Hts)
9. Loudonville (Garfield Hts)
10. Norwalk St. Paul (Bowling Green)
11. Rootstown (Garfield Hts)
12. Genoa (Bowling Green)