

DIVISION III

106 pounds

1. Oscar Sanchez, Genoa, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
2. Ethan Turner, Troy Christian, freshman (Troy)
3. Ray Adams, Milan Edison, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
4. Jared Fahrer, Evergreen, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Colton Bethel, Ridgewood, senior (Coshocton)
6. Collin Yinger, Nelsonville-York, sophomore (Coshocton)
7. Chase Caprella, Allen East, freshman (Troy)
8. John Kumher, Berkshire, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Jordan Crist, Amanda-Clearcreek, junior (Coshocton)
10. Wyatt Riddle, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
11. Jake Manley, Otsego, freshman (Toledo Waite)
12. Antonio Lecki, Milbury Lake, freshman (Toledo Waite)
13. Devan Hendrix, Greeneview, sophomore (Troy)
14. Jacob Kuhlins, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
15. Gage Griffith, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Toledo Waite)
16. Gavin Weaver, Newcomerstown, freshman (Coshocton)

COSH – Bethel, Yinger, Crist, Weaver; Matt Kuhn (Crooksville, senior)

GHTS – Kumher, Kuhlins, Zach LaHood (Black River, sophomore), Jake White (Manchester, freshman); Brandt Virden (Columiana, sophomore)

TROY – Turner, Caprella, Riddle, Hendrix; Cael Bey (Versailles, freshman)

TWAI – Sanchez, Adams, Fahrer, Manley; Lecki, Griffith

One of the somewhat clichéd sayings across sports is, “we want to make practice harder than the games.” While in some ways that literally was the case last year for sophomore Oscar Sanchez, who was blocked out of the Genoa lineup by fellow freshman D’Emilio, the eventual state champion in this opening weight class. Now given the chance to be the full-time varsity starter, Oscar has taken it and run. He was 2-2 at the Ironman, both losses coming narrowly to the wrestlers ranked second in Division I and Division II; and then finished runner-up at Medina and champion at Perrysburg.

There will be an interesting battle behind Sanchez for state spots at Toledo Waite, as five other wrestlers appear in the rankings for a possible three spots. Next on the ladder is Adams, who was state alternate last year at 113 while teammate Burns earned a podium finish at 106. This season, Adams was champion at Milan Edison while missing placement at Brecksville by a single match. Fellow state alternate Fahrer is a senior, and has a pair of tournament titles on the season to go with a runner-up finish to Sanchez at Perrysburg. The freshman Manley was third at Northwood, fifth at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Van Buren. Fellow freshman Lecki was runner-up at Northwood, where he beat Manley but lost to Fahrer; while the senior Griffith is a returning district placer and this year finished third at Milan Edison and second at Bellevue.

In all the weight class features only four state qualifiers, two of whom actually have state tournament wins. A pair of those exit the Coshocton district in Bethel (who has went 1-2 each of the last two years) and Crist (who was two-and-out last year). On this season, Bethel was runner-up at Barnesville and champion at Heath up at 113 before dropping to this weight to finish second at New Lexington, while Crist failed to place at New Lexington. The sophomore Yinger was a district placer last season, while this

year he has titles at Nelsonville York and Athens to go with a runner-up finish at Marion County and fifth at New Lexington. The freshman Weaver has a pair of tournament wins to go with a fourth at Buckeye Local.

The other pair exits the district at Garfield Hts, Kumher won his opening match against Bethel, while Kuhlins went two-and-out. On the season, Kumher was champion at East Liverpool, third at Kenston, and runner-up in his conference meet; while Kuhlins failed to place at North Canton and took eighth at Top Gun. No other wrestler is ranked out of this district tournament.

Lastly is the district at Troy, which is anchored by the freshman Turner, who has titles at Barnesville and Tiptecanoe along with a third place finish at the GMVWA (losing 3-1 to the second-ranked wrestler in Division II along the way). Three others populate the rankings at this district. The freshman Captrella has four tournament titles on the season, including the Lima CC title in overtime over Hendrix, while falling to Manley in the Van Buren final. Fellow freshman Riddle was third at Olentangy Liberty and eighth at the Dvorak in Illinois, while Hendrix placed at district last year as a freshman, and on the season was runner-up at the GMVWA and Lima CC along with a pair of tournament titles.

113 pounds

1. Dylan D'Emilio, Genoa, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
2. Greg Quinn, Shadyside, senior (Coshocton)
3. Jacob Edwards, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
4. Dylan Burns, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
5. Cameron Neal, Preble Shawnee, senior (Troy)
6. Zach Larue, Manchester, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
7. Kobe Cunningham, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
8. Jacob Edwards, Bidwell River Valley, sophomore (Coshocton)
9. Jordan Bowers, Defiance Tinora, junior (Toledo Waite)
10. Cameron Dickman, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Klay Reeves, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Coshocton)
12. David Staten, West Jefferson, senior (Coshocton)
13. Peyton Lane, National Trail, freshman (Troy)
14. Kaleb Nickels, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
15. Jordan Hoselton, Zane Trace, sophomore (Coshocton)
16. Ben Ruegg, Fairless, senior (Garfield Hts)

COSH – Quinn, Edwards (River Valley), Reeves, Staten; Hoselton

GHTS – Larue, Ruegg, Joe Gabbard (Tuslaw, senior), J.P. Hlifka (Hawken, junior); Daniel Forbes (Loudonville, junior)

TROY – Edwards (Troy Christian), Neal, Cunningham, Lane; Nickels

TWAI – D'Emilio, Burns, Bowers, Dickman; Wil Roth (Sandusky SMCC, sophomore)

With five of the six finalists returning from the opening three weight classes of the small-school division, there is going to be a lot of angling for a place in which an optimal path for state tournament success can be achieved. That is the conundrum in hand for three-time state placer Quinn, who made the late drop down to this weight class from 120 pounds, and did such for a second straight season. So far Quinn has finished “even” at all three state tournaments – sixth, fourth, and second – the latter two coming at this weight class (113). In this season, he was champion at Barnesville and Brecksville, along with runner-up at the OVAC meet, up a weight class; while winning at Buckeye Local in this weight.

Dropping into this weight class for Quinn means having to deal with both returning finalists from the 106 pound weight class, including one of the nation's best in the sophomore D'Emilio, a runner-up in both UWW Cadet and Fargo Junior freestyle this past off-season. This projected state champion was fourth at the Ironman before winning titles at Medina and Perrysburg

The other returning finalist here is the sophomore Edwards, who it was kind of forgotten did make the 106 final last year. On this season, he has three tournament titles, including the GMVWA; while in a dual meet setting he has an overtime win over D'Emilio's teammate, Oscar Sanchez. Four other ranked wrestlers join Edwards at the Troy district, making things a bit congested. Returning state placer Neal is next in line, and has a trio of tournament titles (including at Lima CC) to go with a seventh place finish at the GMVWA. Fellow senior Cunningham is also a returning state qualifier, and he was third at Defiance and alley View before finishing second at both the CIT and Lima CC.

A pair of freshmen in Lane and Nickels are theoretically battling for the last spot; Lane was champion at Valley View and a semifinalist at Eaton, while Nickels has three tournament wins (including at Miami Trace, where he beat Hoselton), along with a third at Lima CC and a fourth at Hammer & Anvil. Also in this weight class is returning state alternate J.C. Fox (Dixie).

A second state placer in the junior Burns joins D'Emilio at the Toledo Waite district. On the season he was runner-up at Milan Edison, champion at Marion County, and missed out on placement at Brecksville by one match. Another pair of wrestlers are ranked at this site, the junior Bowers and the sophomore Dickman. Bowers placed fourth at Perrysburg, along with earning a win over Edwards in a dual meet; while Dickman was fourth at Medina, fifth at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay.

Joining Quinn at Coshocton is a second state placer in the sophomore Reeves, who placed fourth at Maumee Bay and runner-up at New Lexington. Another trio of ranked wrestlers exit this district in state alternate Edwards (River Valley), 2015 state alternate Staten, and returning state qualifier Hoselton. This Edwards has four tournament titles on the season, including a 16-10 win over Staten in the Nelsonville York final; the senior Staten also won the title at Upper Arlington up a weight class and was third at the Sally George in this weight class; while the sophomore Hoselton has a pair of tournament titles to go with a runner-up finish at Miami Trace.

Returning state placer Larue anchors the Garfield Hts district, which features just two ranked wrestles. On the season, Larue missed placement at Brecksville by a single match before finishing third at the Bill Dies. Also ranked is the senior Ruegg, who was a district placer back in 2015. Additionally this district weight class features returning district placer Hlifka.

120 pounds

1. Tommy Hoskins, Legacy Christian, junior (Troy)
2. Graham Shore, Miami East, junior (Troy)
3. Julian Sanchez, Genoa, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
4. Cole Mattin, Delta, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
5. Dalton Leightner, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Evan Guilford, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Dalton Blanton, South Central, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
8. Jakob Neer, Galion Northmor, senior (Coshocton)
9. Carter Wolf, Marion Pleasant, junior (Coshocton)
10. Jackson Muldrew, Shadyside, sophomore (Coshocton)

11. Trevor Schaller, Swanton, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Kyle Denier, Blanchester, senior (Troy)
13. Drew Whaley, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
14. Ryan Fulwider, Madison Plains, senior (Troy)
15. Kalib Patterson, Morral Ridgedale, junior (Troy)
16. Andrew Foust, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Troy)

COSH – Neer, Wolf, Muldrew, Ryley Crall (Union Local, sophomore); Levi Pemberton (Caldwell, junior)
GHTS – Leightner, Brier Marthey (Tuslaw, freshman), Andrew Zairns (Brooklyn, junior), Luke Hopkins (Cuyahoga Hts, sophomore); Nicholas Ciancola (Canton Central Catholic, sophomore)
TROY – Hoskins, Shore, Denier, Whaley; Fulwider, Patterson, Foust
TWAJ – Sanchez, Mattin, Guilford, Blanton; Schaller

Like Graham wrestler Mitch Moore in Division II, Hoskins sits halfway to becoming one of the four-time state champions in Ohio scholastic history. Neither of the first two years were easy titles; losing in the district final last year, and navigating three one-point matches at state as a freshman. It is likely to again be a test against a field that features thirteen others with state experience, including five that have stood on the podium.

During his truncated junior season due to transfer, Hoskins was runner-up at the Dvorak, third at the Escape the Rock in Pennsylvania, and champion at the JVH; both losses coming to wrestlers ranked within the top ten nationally. The Junior freestyle All-American also picked up three wins over a pair of Super 32 placers in finishing third at ETR. His most direct challenge will come from two-time state placer Shore (7th/3rd), who earned an upset victory in overtime of the district final last year. On this season, Shore is undefeated with six tournament titles, most notably at Medina where he beat nationally ranked 113 pound wrestler Kamali from Michigan in the final; he also has an 11-10 dual meet victory over Wetzel, who is ranked second in this division in the next weight class.

With those two taking a pair of spots at Troy, the other five ranked wrestlers are in a blood-bath for the other pair of state spots. 2014 state qualifier Denier was champion at Madeira and took fourth at Lima CC; fellow senior Whaley, last year a state alternate was runner-up at both Barnesville and Tippecanoe; fellow senior Fulwider is a returning state qualifier; the junior Patterson placed at district last year and this year has runner-up finishes to Wolf at both Marion Harding and North Union; while another senior Foust has a pair of tournament titles to go with a third at Van Buren.

Three of the remaining four returning state placers exit the Toledo Waite district. Sanchez placed sixth last year as a freshman at 113, and has been excellent this season, including a fifth place finish at the Ironman and a third at Medina; fellow sophomore Mattin was fourth at 106 last year, and this season won at Perrysburg, finished runner-up at Maumee Bay and the Rieman, along with missing placement at Brecksville by a match; while the senior Guilford was runner-up to Shore at Lima CC.

Another pair of wrestlers won a state tournament match last year in this district weight class, which means somebody that is pretty good will be displaced prior to the state tournament. The sophomore Blanton was fourth up a weight at Sparta Highland before winning at Willard in this weight class, while the junior Schaller was champion at Van Buren and third at Lima CC (losing to Guilford).

The remaining returning state placer is the senior Leightner, who was seventh at 113 last year. On this season he was second up a weight at Hudson before placing eighth at the Bill Dies and winning the PTC

in this weight class. No other ranked wrestler exits the Garfield Hts district. Other contenders include returning state qualifier Hopkins, state alternate Steve Ferugson (Elyria Catholci), and district placer Ciancola.

A trio of state qualifiers, though they account for one win among the group, exit the district at Coshocton. They are also the three ranked wrestlers. The senior Neer is a two-time qualifier, and has placed in three tournaments (Gorman 4th, Marion County 5th, Sally George 2nd); the junior Wolf has three tournament titles on the season, including the Sally George over Neer, but lost 9-4 to him in a subsequent dual meet; while the sophomore Muldrew was champion at Buckeye Local in his debut at this weight class after placing third at 126 at both Barnesville and the OVAC.

126 pounds

1. Drew Mattin, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Tyler Wetzel, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
3. Bruce Hrynciw, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
4. Ruger Goeltzenleuchter, Wayne Trace, senior (Troy)
5. Michael Sergent, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
6. A.J. Warner, Legacy Christian, senior (Troy)
7. Dustin Morgillo, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
8. Niko Chilson, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Matt Seifert, Utica, senior (Coshocton)
10. Dylan Cook, Swanton, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Jackson Hugentobler, Madeira, sophomore (Troy)
12. Jevyn Pratt, Carey, senior (Toledo Waite)
13. Dominic Rosin, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Josh Kahl, Shadyside, senior (Coshocton)
15. Zane Peterson, Liberty Center, senior (Toledo Waite)
16. Jimmy Bowen, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)

COSH – Seifert, Kahl, Ryan Matthews (Fredericktown, senior), Tyler Antonacci (Bridgeport, sophomore); Cody Thomas (Huntington, sophomore)

GHTS – Chilson, Bowen, Derek Unkefer (Smithville, senior), Seth Majewski (Brooklyn, sophomore); Brandon Nevison (Cardinal, senior)

TROY – Wetzel, Goeltzenleuchter, Sergent, Warner; Hugentobler

TWAI – Mattin, Hrynciw, Morgillo, Cook; Pratt, Rosin, Peterson

While it's just Lawson and Romero seeking fourth state titles in this senior class, Mattin is but fractions away from being in that position himself. Take yourself back to the 2014 state semifinal at 106 pounds, which was scoreless through regulation, sudden victories, and the tiebreakers. Both wrestlers rode out their opponents in their choice period of regulation and the tiebreakers, while in the ultimate tiebreaker Hunter Bray would emerge with the 2-0 victory (the pair split matches between Brecksville and team state, Mattin winning the first of them). Mattin would go on to place third on Saturday morning, while Bray was upset 7-5 in the Saturday night state final.

Last year's state final was a hotly contested 2-1 tiebreaker decision for Mattin, while the title his sophomore year was mostly a coronation. On this season he has titles at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay with a third at Brecksville and runner-up at the Rieman, both losses coming to nationally ranked competitors (Decatur and Kosco).

This year's tournament is relatively congested with five other state placers and four additional state experienced contenders. No further is this exhibited than at the Toledo Waite district, where six ranked wrestlers join Mattin in contending for state spots. Returning state third Hrynciw was champion at Medina, third at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Maumee Bay where he lost by fall to Mattin. The freshman Morgillo entered high school as a junior high state champ, while this season he has placed seventh at Medina and fourth at Perrysburg with a trio of losses to Hrynciw along the way.

The sophomore Cook was third at Lima CC, while the senior Pratt is a returning state alternate, and has a title at Bellevue to go with a runner-up at Van Buren and fifth at Lima CC. Another senior and returning state alternate is 2015 state qualifier Rosin, who was runner-up to Pratt at Bellevue before taking third at the Gorman and fourth at Marion County; while returning state qualifier and fellow senior Peterson was champion at the Sally George after placing rather low at Marion Harding.

Ranked second at this weight class is two-time state placer Wetzel, who was runner-up at Brecksville with slightly unexpected wins over Division I contenders Breeding and Fields, then complimented that with a tournament title over returning state placer Goeltzenleuchter at Lima CC. He's joined by four other ranked wrestlers at Troy, including the just mentioned Goeltzenleuchter who has five tournament titles (between 126 and 132) to go with that 4-3 loss to Wetzel in the Lima CC final. Two-time state placer Sergent is next in line with tournament titles at Barnesville and Tippecanoe to go with a third place finish at the GMVWA; while two-time Division I state qualifier Warner missed placement at the Dvorak by a single match and went 2-2 at ETR. It looks like the sophomore Hugentobler will be the victim of a loaded district weight class, as he's been excellent this season, including the fourth place finish at Lima CC.

The highest ranked wrestler outside the Toledo Waite and Troy districts is the sophomore Chilson, who was a state runner-up in Delaware last season before moving to Ohio. His debut season for the Rovers includes a third at the Bill Dies and a runner-up at the PTC, along with dual meet wins over Sergent and Elliott (projected lacer at 132). The senior Bowen, who was fourth at the Gorman, is the lone wrestler to join Chilson in the rankings at Garfield Hts; while returning district placer Unkefer is also in this weight class.

Last of the districts is the one at Coshocton, which features just a trio of ranked wrestlers, with only the senior Seifert a returning state qualifier. On this season, he was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty before winning titles at Tri-Valley and Utica. Two-time state alternate Kahl will be making a late drop into this weight class after runner-up finishes Barnesville and the OVAC, along with a title at Buckeye Local, up a weight. Also ranked here is returning state alternate Matthews, who was runner-up at Mt. Vernon, fifth at the Gorman, and champion at North Union.

132 pounds

1. Logan Kissell, Garrettsville Garfield, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Alex Rhine, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
3. Alex Isbrandt, Miami East, junior (Troy)
4. Isaac Elliott, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Trevor Scherf, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Michael Yacaparo, Triway, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Brad Trescott, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Sawyer Caprella, Allen East, senior (Troy)

9. Damir Pereira, West Jefferson, senior (Coshocton)
10. Gavin Grime, Archbold, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Reilly Heater, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Tanner Krotzer, Rossford, senior (Toledo Waite)
13. Joey Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, sophomore (Troy)
14. Nate Vasquez, Fremont SJCC, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Richie Stalnaker, Newark Catholic, junior (Coshocton)
16. Aaron Kitts, Galion Northmor, junior (Coshocton)

COSH – Pereira, Stalnaker, Kitts, Mason Kuneff (Bridgeport, sophomore); Hunter Gilbert (Belpre, sophomore)

GHTS – Kissell, Elliott, Yacaparo, Trescott; Trent Mast (Cardinal, senior)

TROY – Rhine, Isbrandt, S. Caprella, J. Caprella, Dallas Scott (Centerburg, junior)

TWAI – Scherf, Grime, Heater, Krotzer; Vasquez

When there are sixteen wrestlers with state experience, none placing above sixth last year (and only one doing so at any point), there's no great "protocol" for how to sort things through. The projected champ for purposes of this forecast – if using it to make a friendly wager in this weight class, please don't – is two-time state placer Kissell (7th and 6th at 126 in his first two years of high school). In the current season he was runner-up at Solon in the 138 weight class before finishing second at the Bill Dies and champion of his league meet in this one.

Three other projected state placers join Kissell in the district at Garfield Hts. The senior Elliott was a semifinalist last year at 120 before sliding back to sixth, while this season he finished runner-up at North Canton and sixth at the Top Gun. Fellow senior Yacaparo won his state opener in this weight last year before losing in overtime and then 6-5 to fall short of placement. In the current season he has three tournament titles along with a third at the Gorman (losing 6-4 to projected Division II runner-up Merrell). Returning state qualifier Trescott placed third at Aurora, won the title at Hudson, fell short of placing at the Bill Dies by a match, before finishing runner-up to Kissell at the PTC. Also in this weight are 2015 state qualifier Mast and returning state alternate Josh Newman (Columbia).

Ranked second and third in this weight are a pair of wrestlers from the Troy district. The senior Rhine placed third at 106 two years ago, while going 1-2 last year at 120 pounds. This season, he was runner-up at Brecksville and champion at both Lima Senior (at 138) and Lima CC with victories over state placers in each final. The junior Isbrandt has twice placed seventh at the state tournament and has a pair of tournament runners-up this season, Hammer & Anvil and Lima CC (8-3 to Rhine); while also winning two titles and placing fifth at Medina up at 138. These two wrestlers have split matches on the season, as Isbrandt beat Rhine 5-3 in a dual meet.

Two other ranked wrestlers exit this district in Caprella squared, one is from Allen East and the other from Lima CC; it would be sadistic to an agate desk should they meet at the sectional and/or district levels. Sawyer from Allen East has three tournament titles on the season and placed third at Lima CC, while Joey has three tournament runner-up finishes and was fourth at Lima CC. Also in this weight are returning state qualifier along with and a pair of district placers in Andrew Halko (Bishop Ready) and Dylan Hammond (Columbus Grove).

The fifth and final wrestler to appear on a state podium in this weight is the senior Scherf, who was seventh up at 138 last year. On this season he has runner-up finishes at Perrysburg (138) and Maumee

Bay, along with missing placement at Medina by one match up at 138. Four other ranked contenders join Scherf at Toledo Waite. Grime qualified for state two years ago as a freshman, and this season placed third at Maumee Bay; the senior Heater was state alternate two years ago, and this year was third at Defiance with dual meet wins over returning state qualifiers Price and Krotzer; the senior Krotzer won a state match last year down three weight classes at 113 and this season was a semifinalist at Marion Harding; while the junior Vasquez as runner-up at Northwood (138) and Van Buren before taking fifth at Lima CC. Others in this weight include returning state qualifier Daniel Price (Mohawk), 2015 state qualifier Gage Pachlhofer (Swanton), and returning district placer Connor Emch (Woodmore).

A trio of ranked wrestlers appear at Coshocton, and all have state tournament experience. Leading the way is 2015 qualifier Pereira, who has a titles at Upper Arlington (at 145) and the Sally George on the season; while the junior Stalnaker won a state match last year, but this year placed sixth at Lima CC; while fellow junior Kitts finished fourth at the Gorman, seventh at Marion County, and runner-up at the Sally George. Also in this weight is returning district placer Kuneff.

138 pounds

1. Brady Barnett, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Conan Becker, Galion Northmor, junior (Coshocton)
3. Gavin Stika, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Noah Mattin, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Kamron Paulus, Milton-Union, senior (Troy)
6. Chase Sumner, Ada, junior (Troy)
7. Zane Strubler, Miami East, junior (Troy)
8. Trey Combs, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Luke Coniker, Steubenville Catholic Central, senior (Coshocton)
10. Wyatt Place, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Troy)
11. Jared Ford, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
12. Brennan Shirley, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Nick Burgard, Ashtabula St. John, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
14. Austin Eick, Rossford, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Robbie Cobb, Elyria Catholic, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Preston Smith, Marion Pleasant, senior (Coshocton)

COSH – Becker, Coniker, Smith, Billy Luft (Newark Catholic, sophomore); Christopher Knaup (West Muskingum, senior)

GHTS – Stika, Combs, Shirley, Burgard; Cobb

TROY – Paulus, Sumner, Strubler, Place; Ford

TWAI – Barnett, Mattin, Eick, Colin Hoffmann (Delta, senior); Chet Margraf (Mohawk, senior)

Another one of those hated sports clichés is “it’s time.” In some ways, one can use that with the senior Barnett, a three-time state placer that has lost in the state finals each of the last two years; those losses came to wrestlers winning their third state title (Jarred Ganger and Jake Spiess). Nothing in the results this season suggests that he isn’t ready to strike gold. He was champion at Milan Edison and Marion County, while placing third at Brecksville (losing 1-0 to Shie in the semifinal). Other losses on the season include overtime to Dover and being pinned by Stickley (at the Ironman) and a 5-2 dual meet loss to Guillen; while he also has wins over the second and third ranked wrestlers in Division II (4-2 dual meet over Grunden, tiebreaker over Martinez in the consolation final at Brecksville).

Ten others with state experience are among the contenders, with just three of those having a past podium finish. One of those exits each of the other three districts: Becker at Coshocton, Stika (2015 placer) at Garfield Hts, and Sumner at Troy. Just two other ranked wrestlers join Barnett at the Toledo Waite district. The senior Mattin has twice made the state tournament, this season placing third at Maumee Bay and (up at 145) second at Medina); while returning district placer Eick placed fifth at Marion Harding and has two dual meet wins over Granados. Also in this weight class is 2015 state qualifier Hoffman.

Projected state runner-up Becker placed fifth last year, losing to Barnett 10-2 in the opening round. On the season he was runner-up at Medina and the Gorman, while finishing third at Marion County and winning the Sally George. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at Coshocton, with the senior Coniker having earned state tournament wins each of the last two years. Also ranked is the senior Smith, fourth at Marion Harding and Marion County before winning at North Union and taking runner-up honors at the Sally George.

Two-time state qualifier Stika, who placed eighth at 106 in 2015 as a freshman, leads five ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. This season he was third at Medina and the Bill Dies, along with winning a title at Smithville and beating Mattin 3-0 in a dual meet. Two-time state qualifier Combs missed placement at Brecksville by a match, lost by fall to Stika in placing sixth at the Bill Dies, and has titles in three tournaments. Sophomores Shirley and Burgard were both state alternates last year, though Burgard has also spent some time down at 132 this season; both wrestlers fell short of placement at the Top Gun by a single match. Also ranked is the senior Cobb, who has a pair of tournament titles and a runner-up finish at the CIT to his credit this season.

Sumner, who placed fourth at state last year as a sophomore, is one of five ranked wrestlers at the Troy district. On this season he has a pair of tournament titles, including one at Van Buren. The highest ranked wrestler at the district is two-time state qualifier Paulus, champion at the GMVWA and Milton Union before taking second at Eaton. Third among those at the district is returning state qualifier Strubler, who has three runner-up finishes in tournaments this season to go with titles at Troy (145) and Lima CC. The senior Place is a returning state alternate, and was champion at Lincolnview before finishing second at Van Buren and his conference meet, while the junior Ford rounds out the group having gone 2-2 at the district each year so far.

145 pounds

1. Tanner Smith, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
2. Derek Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Stan Bleich, Elyria Catholic, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Brian Persinger, Triway, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Dylan Mansor, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Alex Neuberger, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Cody Rhoads, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Tanner Bey, Versailles, senior (Troy)
9. Chase Moore, Swanton, junior (Toledo Waite)
10. Hugo Villarreal, Gibsonburg, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Adam Bates, Genoa, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Conor Becker, Galion Northmor, freshman (Coshocton)
13. Thomas Forbes, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Devin Crum, Union Local, senior (Coshocton)

15. Mark Johns, Richmond Edison, senior (Coshocton)
16. Kyle Ryder, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

COSH – Becker, Crum, Johns, Jonas Proffitt (Westfall, junior); Cody Hawthorne (Shadyside, senior)
GHTS – Bleich, Persinger, Rhoads, Forbes; Ryder
TROY – Smith, Bey, Cody Dickson (Spencerville, senior), Josh Sowers (Covington, senior); Luke Brown (Allen East, junior)
TWAI – Gross, Mansor, Neuberger, Moore; Villarreal, Bates

The purveyor of this report also picked Smith to win his state tournament weight class last season, but he lost by fall in the 138 pound semifinal. That being said, the two-time state placer has had an excellent season with titles at Lima Senior and Lima CC to go with a third place finish at Brecksville; Smith also has an 8-6 dual meet victory over Michigan state champion Cameron Amine. This is a rare “nothing” weight at Troy, with just returning state placer Bey also appearing in the rankings. On the season he has three tournament titles to go with a fourth at the GMVWA and fifth at Maumee Bay. Also here is returning district placer Dickson.

The challenge pack to Smith is robust, including seven with a podium finish in their past at the state tournament, plus four others with a state tournament appearance. That pack is most robust at the Toledo Waite district, which is anchored by three-time state placer Gross (4th/2nd/4th), who also was an all-state first-team player in football. On the season he does not have a reported loss, including titles at Kenston, the Gorman, and West Salem Northwestern. Five other ranked wrestlers, all with state experience are fighting for spots.

Two-time state qualifier Mansor was champion at Bellevue and Perrysburg, along with a fourth at Medina and second at Maumee Bay; returning state placer Neuberger went 1-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville before winning a title at Marion County; 2015 state placer Moore was champion at Van Buren, runner-up at Lima CC, and missed placing at the GMVWA by one match; returning state placer Villarreal beat Bates 5-3 in a dual meet and lost 3-2 to Moore in the Van Buren final; while returning state placer Bates took eighth at Medina and was runner-up at Perrysburg.

It’s also a strong group of contenders at Garfield Hts, with five in the rankings, three having state tournament experience. The senior Bleich is already a two-time state placer, and on the season has three titles to go with a runner-up at the CIT (beat Murphy, lost to Freeman); fellow senior Persinger was a district champion last year at 138, but missed out on state due to injury, and this season has a pair of titles to go with a pair of runner-up finishes to Gross (7-4 at Gorman, overtime at West Salem Northwestern); while another senior Rhoads placed sixth at 138, and has titles at Perry and the EOWL to go with a fourth at the Top Gun this season. Fellow senior Forbes has shown good form with two tournament titles, including one at Columbiana over returning placer Mazik, as well as a fourth at the Gorman and third at West Salem Northwestern. The sophomore Ryder placed fifth at North Canton.

Putting a wrap on this weight class is three ranked wrestlers at Coshocton led by the freshman Becker, who took third at the Gorman and Marion County, missed placement at Medina by a match, and was champion at the Sally George. The senior Crum placed at district last year up one weight class, while this year was fourth at the OVAC and champion at Buckeye Local; while fellow senior Johns was runner-up at Beaver Local, fifth at the OVAC, and fourth at Buckeye Local. Also here is returning state qualifier Hawthorne and 2015 district placer Brock Zugg (Marion Pleasant).

152 pounds

1. Colt Yinger, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
2. Jacob Lagoa, Ashtabula St. John, freshman (Garfield Hts)
3. Luke Sorboro, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Riley Smucker, Smithville, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Jake Huston, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Josh Campbell, Summit Country Day, senior (Troy)
7. Santino Kusic, Bridgeport, sophomore (Coshocton)
8. Ian Maund, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. J.D. McNett, Otsego, junior (Toledo Waite)
10. Forest Belli, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Coshocton)
11. Austin Wilson, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Elvis Conkle, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Tanner Petite, Garaway, senior (Coshocton)
14. Dylan Schenk, Milton-Union, sophomore (Troy)
15. Derek DuVall, West Salem Northwestern, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Brylan Clouse, Barnesville, sophomore (Coshocton)
17. Bailey Slattman, Defiance Tinora, senior (Toledo Waite)

COSH – Kusic, Belli, Petite, Clouse; Matthew Ross (Galion Northmor, senior)

GHTS – Lagoa, Sorboro, Smucker, Maund; Conkle, DuVall

TROY – Yinger, Campbell, Schenk, Wyatt Lefker (Williamsburg, junior); Jesse Mitchell (Charleston Southeastern, junior)

TWAI – Huston, McNett, Wilson, Slattman; Jacob Near (Sandusky SMCC, senior)

Already well positioned heading into the pre-season to be favorites for the Division III state title, the addition of returning state third place medalist Yinger made it almost fait accompli. The Indians now have five wrestlers that are projected to be extremely high state placers, along with a couple other potential state medalists. When the core pieces of this team all perform optimally, this is an elite team, as shown by their runner-up finish at Brecksville.

The junior Yinger was runner-up at Brecksville and champion at Lima CC after an excellent off-season that included very productive runs in both styles at Fargo and a pre-season title at the Grappler Fall Classic. Only two other wrestlers join him in the rankings at the Troy district. The senior Campbell was state alternate last year in the weight class, while this season he was fourth at SWOWCA along with runner-up finishes at Sycamore and Lima CC; while the sophomore Schenk is a returning district placer, was champion at Milton Union, and missed placement at the GMVWA by one match.

The three most direct threats to Yinger all exit the Garfield Hts district, at least as weight classes are presently constituted. The freshman Lagoa has had a phenomenal season with his losses only coming to a trio of elite competitors; Marsh and nationally ranked Brady in a fourth place run at Brecksville, and Carr in a third place run at the Top Gun. He also was champion at Solon, and picked up one decisive win over a state qualifier in each of those tournaments. Next is two-time state placer Sorboro, who was third last year at 170 pounds. He was champion at Hudson and his conference meet at 160, while placing third at the Bill Dies in this weight class; let it be known for the record that Sorboro would be the projected state champ at 160 should he choose that route. The junior Smucker placed fifth at 138 last year, and this season has a pair of tournament titles to go with a runner-up finish at the Grizzly

Invitational to Brady. Should he (or Kelbly) make the state final, they would be the first ever Smithies wrestler to do so.

Three other state ranked wrestlers are in the hunt for one (or two) state spots at this district. Returning state qualifier Maund was champion at the Mike Lewis, Marion Harding, and West Salem Northwestern, while finishing third at the Gorman; the senior Conkle missed a top six finish at North Canton by one match; while the junior DuVall was a state alternate last year, and on the season was third at both Nelsonville York and his home tournament.

The fourth, and last, returning state placer in this weight is the senior Huston. This season he was runner-up at Medina and Maumee Bay, along with champion at Perrysburg, after going 2-2 at the Ironman. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at Toledo Waite. The junior McNett is a returning state qualifier, winning a title at Northwood in this weight class, while taking third down a weight at Perrysburg; 2015 state qualifier Wilson was one match from placing at Medina and took seventh at Maumee Bay; and fellow senior Slattman placed fifth at Perrysburg.

Four ranked wrestlers exit the Coshocton district, anchored Kusic who won a state tournament bout at 138 pounds as a freshman last year. On the present season, he was runner-up to Smucker at East Livepool, while placing third at the OVAC and Buckeye Local. 2015 state qualifier Belli placed second at Olentangy Liberty, fourth at Maumee Bay, and his titles at Olentangy Liberty (160) and New Lexington. The senior Petite is a returning state alternate, while Clouse placed at district last year as a freshman; this season Clouse was fourth at Barnesville and New Lexington. Also in this tournament is returning district placer Ross.

160 pounds

1. Kyle Ice, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Josh Doherty, West Jefferson, senior (Coshocton)
3. David Cumberledge, Ashtabula St. John, freshman (Garfield Hts)
4. Lance Miller, Covington, senior (Troy)
5. Tyler Speelman, Nelsonville York, junior (Coshocton)
6. James Limongi, Genoa, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
7. Steele Strout, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Coshocton)
8. Parker Brown, Mohawk, junior (Toledo Waite)
9. Dalton Burns, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
10. Bailey Blair, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Corey Bogan, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
12. Javon Merrill, Ridgewood, senior (Coshocton)
13. Connor Kwiat, Tiffin Calvert, junior (Toledo Waite)
14. Hunter Stoffer, Sandy Valley, senior (Coshocton)
15. Gavin Davis, Loudonville, freshman (Garfield Hts)
16. Anthony Scurry, Warrensville Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)

COSH – Doherty, Speelman, Strout, Merrill; Stoffer

GHTS – Ice, Cumberledge, Blair, Davis; Scurry

TROY – Miller, Bogan, Grant Goecke (Ottawa Glandorf, junior), Seth Henderson (Miami Valley Christian, sophomore); Charlie Williams (West Liberty-Salem, senior)

TWAI – Limongi, Brown, Burns, Kwiat; Ty Hussar (Rossford, junior)

For the presence that looms in the weight class immediately above, there aren't a ton of state placers (3 or 4) or state experienced (9 or 10) wrestlers. Based on the composition used for this report – see the note in the 152 pound section – the top two contenders are returning state placer Ice and returning state runner-up Doherty. Each exits a district with five ranked wrestlers in total.

The projected state champion is the senior Ice, who lost a 6-4 overtime match in the state semifinal last year at 170 pounds before losing one match in consolation and injury forfeiting the second. At present four other ranked wrestlers populate the Garfield Hts district (a number that could become five with Sorboro). The freshman Cumberledge, a junior high state champ last year, heads that challenge pack. On the season he was third at Solon, fourth at Brecksville, and seventh at the Top Gun. Returning state alternate Blair has a pair of tournament titles along with third place finishes at East Liverpool and the Grizzly Invitational. The freshman Davis was champion at Loudonville, runner-up at West Salem Northwestern (beating Scurry along the way), and third in two other tournaments. Returning state qualifier Scurry was fourth at Beaver local and third at West Salem Northwestern.

Returning state runner-up Doherty rallied to force overtime against Reid Stanley (Ice's high school teammate last year), before winning 16-10 in the tiebreaker in that semifinal at 160 pounds. He would subsequently lose by 15-0 technical fall to Romero in the state final. Another quartet of ranked wrestlers join him at Coshocton. 2015 state qualifier Speelman was eighth at Brecksville and runner-up at Nelsonville York, Marion County, and New Lexington this season. The senior Strout won a state match last year, and on this season was third at both Maumee Bay and New Lexington. Fellow senior Merrill was fourth at Barnesville and champion at Heath, while returning state qualifier Stofer was fifth at Barnesville. Also in this weight class is 2015 district placer Jake Dempsey (Liberty Union).

The remaining wrestler with a state podium finish in this weight class is the senior Bogan, who on the season won a title at Lima Senior and missed a top six finish at Lima CC by a single bout. The other ranked wrestler in this weight class at Troy is 2015 state qualifier Miller, who surprisingly missed out on the state tournament last year; this season he placed sixth at the GMVWA, finished second up a weight class at Troy, while adding titles at Miami Trace and Lima CC.

Rounding it off is the district at Toledo Waite, which features four ranked wrestlers, but just Brown as having state experience; this season he was seventh at the GMVWA, first at Van Buren, and has lost a pair of dual meet matches against Limongi. The just mentioned sophomore was a state alternate last year at 138 pounds, and has been in-and-out of the lineup this season. Another returning state alternate is the senior Burns, who was third at Milan Edison and fifth at Marion County; while the junior Kwiat was champion at Tiffin Columbian up a weight before finishing second at Van Buren and third at Lima CC in this weight class. Also here is returning district placer Hussar.

170 pounds

1. Kaleb Romero, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
2. Cole Draper, Mohawk, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Chris Langguth, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
4. Logan Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Brett Vonderwell, Delphos St. John's, senior (Troy)
6. Trevor Mack, Northwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Noah Baker, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
8. Jonathan Moorman, Versailles, senior (Troy)
9. Manuel Garza, Rittman, senior (Garfield Hts)

10. Bradley Mendoza, Gibsonburg, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Gage DeHart, Covington, junior (Troy)
12. Bret Posey, Zane Trace, junior (Coshocton)
13. Chad McDaniel, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Chris Miller, Wellington, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Billy Johnson, Shadyside, senior (Coshocton)
16. Kasey Bethel, Ridgewood, senior (Coshocton)

COSH – Posey, Johnson, Bethel, Grant Hershberger (Garaway, senior); Hunter Corbin (Johnstown Northridge, senior)

GHTS – Langguth, Stanley, Garza, McDaniel; Miller

TROY – Romero, Vonderwell, Moorman, DeHart; Jordan Newberry (Bethel-Tate, senior)

TWAI – Draper, Mack, Baker, Mendoza; Rick Thomas (Clear Fork, senior)

Even in this modern era of sport specialization, many try and participate in multiple high school sports. Some-to-many do so successfully, but few are truly great in the pair of sports that they participate. One of the exemplars of multi-sport success is this three-time state champion, who was a four-year starter at quarterback for his small-school state power, a team that made the playoffs all four years and advanced to the regional final or better on three occasions. Ranked first in his weight class nationally, Romero is also a two-time selection for first-team all-state honors at the quarterback position; he also was a starter at safety on a team that went 43-8 over four years.

Even with the multitude of returning wrestlers across Division III, only one other state placer plus five additional state qualifiers have joined Romero in this state tournament weight class. Romero has not lost a match since the Ironman of his sophomore year, and this year's success includes titles at Brecksville, Lima Senior, and Lima CC. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Troy district.

The senior Vonderwell is 0-4 for a pair of state tournament qualifications, and this season has titles at Troy and the CIT to go with a runner-up finish at Lima CC and third place at Sidney. Fellow senior Moorman was a state alternate last year, and has placed in four tournaments, including fifth at the GMVWA; while the junior DeHart missed placement at the GMVWA by a single match.

Joining Romero as a returning state placer is the senior Draper, who lost 6-2 to Steiner in last year's state final in this weight class. Should he win a district title, he would be positioned to meet Romero on Saturday night, March 11th. This season includes a third place finish at the GMVWA. Three additional ranked wrestlers appear at the Toledo Waite district, including the seniors Mack and Baker, who both were state qualifiers last year. Mack has a pair of tournament titles as well as a fourth place at Maumee Bay, while Baker was sixth at Medina to go with runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and Van Buren. The sophomore Mendoza upended Baker in that Van Buren final.

Life is again tough at the Garfield Hts district in this middle-to-upper weight class with five ranked wrestlers present. The sophomore Langguth is on top of the ladder here, winning titles at Hudson and his conference tournament in this weight, while placing fifth at the Bill Dies along with picking up a dual meet victory over state placer Bialosky up a weight class. Returning state qualifier Stanley was runner-up at Marion Local, while fellow returning qualifier Garza was champion at Mapleton. Returning district placer McDaniel was runner-up at his conference meet after spending the rest of the season up two weight classes, while fellow senior Miller was champion at two tournaments and missed placing at Medina by a single match.

The Coshocton district has three ranked wrestlers, but not a one with state tournament experience. The junior Posey was champion at Miami Trace, the senior Johnson was runner-up at the OVAC meet, while fellow senior Bethel was third at Barnesville and champion at Heath. Also in this field is returning district placer Jason Binkiewicz (Buckeye Local).

182 pounds

1. James Handwerk, Lutheran West, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Zach Steiner, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Josh Bialosky, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Kian Thompson, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Jace Grossman, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Madison Jaso, Gibsonburg, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Dylan Rogers, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Tom McKale, Newbury, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Caleb Rupert, Columbiana, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Jacob Campbell, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Josh Pearson, Columbus Academy, junior (Troy)
12. Jackson Dunn, Tuscarawas Valley, junior (Coshocton)
13. Joey Kasper, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Jerome Bey, Versailles, senior (Troy)
15. Damon Beatty, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
16. Tanner May, Carey, freshman (Toledo Waite)

COSH – Dunn, Austin Carroll (Zane Trace, sophomore), Mason Burger (Galion Northmor, senior), Garrett Duncan (Bridgeport, junior); Joven Householder (Toronto, senior)

GHTS – Handwerk, Steiner, Bialosky, McKale; Rupert, Campbell

TROY – Pearson, Bey, Beatty, Dustin Knapp (Mechanicsbug, junior); Tyler Ebbeskotte (Ottawa-Glandorf, senior)

TWAI – Thompson, Grossman, Jaso, Rogers; Kasper, May

Seeing one state champ vs. state champ showdown in a state tournament is not common, but to see two or three in the same year has to be rare. Handwerk was the state champion in this weight class last year, while Steiner won the weight class immediately below. There's also nowhere to move as Romero is the weight immediately below, and both state finalists from the weight class above return. The pair of wrestlers met in the Medina final, Handwerk winning on that occasion 11-5. If both win their sectional, they'll be positioned to meet in the district final at Garfield Hts due to the new protocol.

Handwerk augmented the title at Medina with wins at Lorain, Perry, and his conference tournament; while Steiner was champion at Smithville and runner-up at the Bill Dies. Four other ranked wrestlers appear at this Garfield Hts district, though for Rupert and Campbell, they could end up at 195 as well (but that could be harder). Returning state placer Bialosky finished fifth at Solon before winning three tournaments, including at Kenston. Fellow senior McKale was a state alternate last year, and this season placed third at both Kenston and the EOWL meet. Campbell was a district placer last year at 195 after earning state alternate at 170 as a freshman in 2015; this season he was runner-up at the Gorman and West Salem Northwestern in this weight class, while earning runner-up finishes in two tournaments at 195. The senior Rupert was state alternate last year at 195; this season he was fifth in the EOWL at this weight class, while placing third at Kenston and fourth at the Bill Dies up at 195.

The other four projected state placers exit a very strong Toledo Waite district. That group is led by returning qualifier Thompson, a district champion in this weight last year; fellow senior Grossman placed eighth at Medina despite losing 10-7 to Thompson before winning titles at Perrysburg (3-2 over Rogers) and Van Buren (6-5 overtime over Jaso). The junior Rogers qualified for state last year, and this year was runner-up at Perrysburg along with missing placement at Brecksville and Maumee Bay by one match; while the senior Jaso placed eighth at state in this weight class last year, and was runner-up at Van Buren this season. Also ranked here are the senior Kasper and the freshman May; Kasper was champion at Milan Edison and runner-up at Marion County, while May was runner-up at Bellevue, fourth at Van Buren, and champion at Lima CC.

Returning state qualifier Dunn is the lone ranked wrestler at the Coshocton district, while the junior Pearson is the lone state qualifier at the Troy district (unless Brinkley of Delphos Jefferson all of a sudden shows up). Two other ranked wrestlers are present at the Troy district, the senior Bey and the junior Beatty. Bey has placed at four tournaments this season, including fourth at the GMVWA; while Beatty was runner-up at Barnesville, champion at Tippecanoe, and missing placement at GMVWA by a single match.

195 pounds

1. Dalton Hoover, Martins Ferry, junior (Coshocton)
2. Gaige Willis, Pymatuning Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Will Bolanz, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. John Kelbly, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Sam Stoll, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
6. Daniel Beemer, Ottawa Glandorf, junior (Troy)
7. Dylan Hinton, Elmwood, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Logan Hall, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Hudson Jump, Grandview Hts, sophomore (Troy)
10. Jake Burns, West Jefferson, senior (Coshocton)
11. Deandre Nasser, Bluffton, sophomore (Troy)
12. Matt Herrick, Genoa, senior (Toledo Waite)
13. Caleb Carpenter, Liberty Center, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
14. Jacob Rismiller, Versailles, senior (Troy)
15. Nick Shepard, Fairless, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Wyatt O'Neill, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)

COSH – Hoover, Burns, Dalton Rice (Shenandoah, sophomore), Ryan Williams (Nelsonville York, senior); Hunter Foster (Crooksville, senior)

GHTS – Willis, Bolanz, Kelbly, Hall; Shepard

TROY – Beemer, Jump, Nasser, Rismiller; O'Neil

TWAI – Stoll, Hinton, Herrick, Carpenter; Zane Zientek (Eastwood, senior)

With two state champs in the weight below and a returning state champ that has placed three times inside the top three in the weight immediately above, there is a big hunk of congestion in this field. Eight returning state placers are present, plus another three that qualified for last year's state tournament. The defending state champ in this weight is Bolanz, who beat Hoover 3-2 in the state final last season. On this season, Bolanz lost in the ultimate tiebreaker to another state runner-up in Willis at Jackson-

Milton, while losing to state placer Skye when bumping up a weight class in a dual meet. He also has titles at West Salem Northwestern and the PTC.

Willis was runner-up to Handwerk at the state tournament, and on this season does not have a recorded loss. It includes titles at Kenston and the EOWL along with the result at Jackson-Milton. Bolanz and Willis would be bracketed opposite at the Garfield Hts district should each win sectional titles. Three other ranked wrestlers populate this district weight class as presently constituted. Two-time state placer Kelbly has tournament titles at Smithville and the Grizzly Invitational, as well as a runner-up to Perrine at East Liverpool and a 4-0 dual meet victory over Stoll on the season; while fellow senior Hall was champion at North Canton and fourth at the Top Gun; and the junior Shepard was state alternate last year at 182 behind a quartet of top six placers (Handwerk, Willis, Bialosky, and Garrett Anderson), while this season includes a runner-up to Kelbly at Smithville and a title at Loudonville.

My projected state champ, playing on total gut instinct, is going to be returning state runner-up Hoover. He will be joined by returning state fourth place finisher Burns at the Coshocton district. Last year's district final between the pair was a 7-4 victory for Hoover. This season Hoover was champion at the OVAC and Buckeye Local, while losing a 7-6 finals match to Sarver at New Lexington; while Burns was champion at Nelsonville York and runner-up at the Sally George. That's it for ranked wrestlers at Coshocton.

Five ranked wrestlers, including a pair of returning state placers feature at the Troy district. The junior Beemer placed fifth at 182 last year, which was the highest placement in school history; while this year he has tournament titles at Van Buren, Lima CC, and his conference meet. Jump placed seventh at 182 as a freshman last year, and this year has three tournament titles; that includes major decisions over state qualifier Carpenter and state placer Burns to win his title at the Sally George. Nasser won two district tournament matches in this weight class last year as a freshman, while this year he was third at Defiance, fifth at Van Buren, and runner-up at Lima CC; the senior Rismiller has placed third at three tournaments, fourth at the GMVWA, and missed placement at Maumee Bay by one match; while fellow senior O'Neal was fifth in this weight at Madeira after placing sixth at SWOWCA up one weight.

Four ranked wrestlers, including three that made the state tournament last year appear at the Toledo Waite district. Leading that group is the junior Stoll, who placed fourth at state last year in the 170 weight class and was the state offensive player of the year in Division VI football as a tailback this fall. He has tournament titles at Milan Edison and Marion County, a sixth at Brecksville, and fell short of placement at the Ironman by one bout. Fellow junior Hinton was a district placer in this weight class last year, and on the season finished third at Medina, first at Perrysburg, and second at Van Buren. The senior Herick is a returning state qualifier, while Carpenter advanced to state last year as a freshman, and this year placed third at the Sally George.

220 pounds

1. Dylan Thorp, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Ben Sullivan, National Trail, senior (Troy)
3. Reece Human, Carlisle, senior (Troy)
4. Paul Skye, Mogadore, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Kent Petersen, Patrick Henry, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Donovan McCollister, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Coshocton)
7. Hunter Bodkin, Martins Ferry, junior (Coshocton)
8. Caide Bunfill, Barnesville, senior (Coshocton)

9. Kade Marker, Newbury, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Jason Newlan, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Griffin Sperry, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Zach Klosterman, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
13. Jon Racheter, Carey, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Tyler Tudor, Eastwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
15. Crawford Hamrick, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Ryan Boyle, Rootstown, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

COSH – McCollister, Bodkin, Bunfill, Austin Smith (Amanda-Clearcreek, junior); James Kedigh (Ridgewood, senior)

GHTS – Skye, Marker, Newlan, Hamrick; Boyle

TROY – Sullivan, Human, Petersen, Klosterman; Dylan Hartman (Mechanicsburg, senior)

TWAI – Thorp, Sperry, Racheter, Tudor; Chris Kuhn (Sandusky SMCC, junior)

Given the lack of true prime talent at 285 pounds, it is interesting how this weight class has shaped up to be one of extreme quality. The prime figure heading into the season was the West Point commit Sullivan, who won state last year after finishing second and third his first two years, all three coming at this weight class. He would advance to the semifinal at the Walsh Ironman before sliding back to a sixth place finish, two of those losses coming against nationally ranked opposition.

However, it was the last of those losses on the semi slide that set napalm on pre-season thoughts in this weight class. The senior Thorp, who went 1-2 at the state tournament last year at 195 pounds after finishing third at the district, beat Sullivan 6-4 in overtime in the fifth place bout. Since then, it's been a total assault on the competition for Thorp; titles coming at Medina, Perrysburg, and Maumee Bay with all victories via bonus points except for 5-2 win over Phillips in the Perrysburg final.

Thorp anchors a group of four ranked wrestlers at the Toledo Waite district, where fellow senior Tudor is the only other wrestler to make the state tournament. On this season, he has titles at Lima Senior and Van Buren before finishing fourth at Lima CC. The senior Sperry placed at district in 2015, with this season including a fifth at Medina and fourth at Perrysburg; while fellow senior Racheter was runner-up at Bellevue and Van Buren before placing third at Lima CC.

The third prime contender in this weight class is fellow senior Human, who has made state in this weight class every year of high school career. He went 1-2 and placed fifth while in Division II before placing fourth last year despite upending eventual state champ Sullivan 6-1 in overtime in the district semifinal last year. In this season, he does not have a reported loss, including titles at Valley View (beating projected Division II champ Shafer 8-0 along the way) and Lima CC. Another pair of ranked wrestlers join Sullivan and Human at Troy, the third of which is two-time state qualifier Petersen, who was runner-up to Thorp at Maumee Bay earlier this season. Last is returning state alternate Klosterman, who has runner-up finishes at both Troy and Lima CC this season.

Garfield Hts again has the most ranked wrestlers with five, though only two are returning state qualifiers, including the junior Skye who was sixth at 195 last year. In this season, he has titles at the Bill Dies and PTC tournaments. The senior Marker went two-and-out at 195 last year, while this season he has third place finishes at both Kenston and the EOWL tournaments. Fellow senior Newlan was a district placer at 182 last season, and this year has a pair of tournament titles to go with the fourth place finish at the Grizzly invitational; the junior Hamrick placed fourth at North Canton, and has an 11-9 win over

Boyle in a dual meet; while the sophomore Boyle was a state alternate in this weight last year, and has a trio of runner-up finishes this season along with a fifth place finish at the Bill Dies. Also in this weight is returning district placer Ben Farrar (Waynedale).

Lastly is the Coshocton district, which features three ranked wrestlers, two of whom were on the state podium last year. The senior Bunfill was seventh at 195, while the junior Bodkin was eighth in this weight class. Bunfill was runner-up at Barnesville before finishing fourth at the OVAC and New Lexington; while Bodkin was champion at Barnesville, fifth at Brecksville, and runner-up at the OVAC, New Lexington, and Buckeye Local. McCollister was state alternate in this weight class last year as a freshman, and this season placed third at Brecksville and New Lexington, along with titles in three other tournaments. Also in this weight is returning district placer Kedigh.

285 pounds

1. Francesco Borsellino, Sandy Valley, senior (Coshocton)
2. Derek Smith, Defiance Tinora, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Brian Stears, Williamsburg, junior (Troy)
4. Cameron Coffman, Dixie, senior (Troy)
5. Dylan Hartley, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
6. Dom Wallace, Martins Ferry, senior (Coshocton)
7. Tanner Kunz, Zane Trace, senior (Coshocton)
8. Austin Mathis, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Brayden Phillips, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Joe Moore, Milbury Lake, senior (Toledo Waite)
11. Lyle Watters, Huntington, senior (Coshocton)
12. Tim Davin, Columbiana, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Thomas Schwieterman, Coldwater, junior (Troy)
14. Tommy Lytle, Swanton, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Alex White, Westfall, junior (Coshocton)
16. Kermit Beckworth, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)

COSH – Borsellino, Wallace, Kunz, Watters; White

GHTS – Mathis, Phillips, Davin, Tyson Miller (Waynedale, junior); Vince Balard (Ashtabula St. John, senior)

TROY – Stears, Coffman, Hartley, Schwieterman; Beckworth

TWAI – Smith, Moore, Lytle, Wes Bok (Sherwood Fairview, senior); Dakota Klotz (Lakota, junior)

Even though Borsellino entered the state tournament last year with just one loss, which came in the district final, it was still the biggest upset of the whole state tournament when he pinned defending state champion Chance Veller in the quarterfinal. However, Sandy Valley would remain without a state champion in program history, when he fell to defeat 5-2 in the semifinal. He'll enter this year's post-season as the favorite to win his school an elusive state title, after avenging that district loss in the fifth place final bout.

The senior will exit a Coshocton district that feature four other ranked wrestlers. Fellow senior Wallace qualified for state last year, and on the season has titles at Barnesville and New Lexington; while finishing third at the OVAC and seventh at Brecksville; another senior in Kunz was state alternate last year at this weight class, while this season includes three tournament titles and a fourth at the GMVWA;

the senior Watters was a district placer last year and has a pair of tournament titles this year; while the junior White placed third at Barnesville and Vinton County before winning at Athens.

Only one wrestler among the rest in this tournament bracket has a state tournament win, and that would be the senior Smith, who won his first round bout last year. On the season he has titles at Perrysburg and Clyde without a recorded loss. Just two others join Smith among the ranked at Toledo Waite, those being returning state alternate Moore and the junior Lytle. Moore has a pair of tournament titles to go with a third place finish at the Sally George, while Lytle was champion at Van Buren and fifth at Lima CC.

One of the other returning state qualifiers is the senior Mathis, who was third at Perry and the EOWL as well as fourth at the Top Gun. He exits a district tournament at Garfield Hts that features just two other ranked wrestlers. One is returning state alternate Phillips, who was fourth at North Canton and missed placement at the Top Gun by a match; while the other is returning district placer Davin, who was runner-up at Columbiana, along with third at Kenston and the Bill Dies.

Wrapping up the 42 weight classes of analysis is the district tournament at Troy, which features five ranked wrestlers in this weight class, including returning state qualifier Hartley. The senior placed fifth at Brecksville, runner-up at Lima CC, and has a quality win over Michigan state champ Nick Jenkins from mid-December. The junior Stears is highest ranked in this district, with his fourth place finish at the SWOWCA (both losses coming by one point) and a runner-up finish at the GMVWA. Returning state alternate Coffman has five tournament wins this season, including the 3-1 finals victory over Hartley at Lima CC. The junior Schweiterman was runner-up at Troy and third at Lima CC, while returning district placer Beckworth was champion at Deer Park and seventh at SWOWCA.

Team Board

1. Mechanicsburg (Troy)
2. Oak Harbor (Toledo Waite)
3. Genoa (Toledo Waite)
4. Milan Edison (Toledo Waite)
5. Rootstown (Garfield Hts)
6. Troy Christian (Garfield Hts)
7. Miami East (Troy)
8. Delta (Toledo Waite)
9. Martins Ferry (Heath)
10. Tuslaw (Garfield Hts)