

DIVISION I

106 pounds

1. Cole Skinner, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
2. Pacey Nasdusak, Mason, junior (K. Fairmont)
3. Sean Seefeldt, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
4. *Kollin Howard, Maple Hts., junior (Hoover)*
5. Peyton Fenton, Elyria, freshman (Mentor)
6. Mason Brugh, Wadsworth, freshman (Hoover)
7. Cael Saxton, Avon, sophomore (Mentor)
8. Johnny Novak, St. Ignatius, junior (Hoover)
9. Marlon Yarbrough, Copley, sophomore (Hoover)
10. Pito Castro, Brecksville, freshman (Hoover)
11. C.J. Bell, Solon, senior (Hoover)
12. Jake Vayo-Smith, Sycamore, senior (K. Fairmont)
13. Corey Haney, Medina Highland, freshman (Hoover)
14. Drew Dulcie, Massillon Perry, freshman (Hoover)
15. Dylan Le, Dublin Scioto, sophomore (H. Darby)
16. Thomas Cassetty, Uniontown Lake, freshman (Hoover)
17. Tony Pendergraff, Oregon Clay, junior (Mentor)

HDAR – Le, Jacob Hutsler (Lancaster, sophomore), Spencer Parker-Gordon (Worthington Kilbourne, sophomore), Sky Wisecarver (Tri-Valley, senior); Jake Thomas (Upper Arlington, sophomore)

HOOV – *Howard*, Brugh, Novak, Yarbrough, Castro; Bell, Haney, Dulcie, Cassetty

KF – Skinner, Nasdusak, Vayo-Smith, Nic Schul (Fairfield, senior); A.J. Hurt (Western Brown, sophomore)

MEN – Seefeldt, Fenton, Saxton, Pendergraff; Carlo Santoro (Mayfield, freshman)

Though there is a perception of the opening weight class being one for the freshmen, the last eight years in Division I have seen six non-freshmen win state titles. The lone freshmen to win were Bryce Andonian (St. Edward) in 2016 and Julian Tagg (Brecksville) in 2017. In fact, last year's champion was a senior, Zach Shupp (Fairfield). Most of the primary contenders this year are non-freshmen.

Leading the way is a clear favorite in Skinner, a sophomore who qualified for the Cadet World team in freestyle at 42 kilos (92.5) pounds in the summer before his ninth grade year. Said ninth grade year was rather circuitous with Skinner spending the first semester mostly training out of state, while participating in online classes. He competed in one mid-season event at Middletown Madison (a Division III school), but ended up unable to compete in the post-season due to ECOT going belly up.

Transferring to LaSalle in the spring before the new transfer bylaw went into effect, he sat out the first half of the Lancers' schedule before returning to win championships at the Escape the Rock and Grizzly Invitational tournaments, the latter of which came at 113 pounds. The second ranked wrestler is the junior Nasdusak, who placed seventh in this weight class last year and joins Skinner in exiting the Kettering Fairmont district.

On the season, Nasdusak was runner-up at the Grappler Gold Invitational losing to a nationally ranked wrestler from Michigan, fifth at the Powerade, and champion at Delaware Hayes. Just one other ranked wrestler exits this district, returning state alternate Vayo-Smith, who was runner-up at SWOWCA and has placed top four in three other tournaments.

With Division I being so much about the St. Edward vs. LaSalle battle for the title, turn our attention to the sophomore Seefeldt, a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer. Last year he was on the bench, while fellow Class of 2021 wrestler Delsanter placed fifth for the Eagles in this weight class. On the season he missed placement at the Ironman by one match and was eighth at the Powerade. At the Ironman, Seefeldt picked up a victory over the freshman Fenton, whom is ranked second among wrestlers at the Mentor district. On the season, Fenton failed to place at the Ironman before finishing third at both Brecksville and Maumee Bay.

Two other ranked wrestlers reside at this district, the sophomore Saxton and the junior Pendergraff, each of whom won one district tournament match last year. On the season, Saxton lost twice to Fenton in taking fourth at Brecksville, while winning titles at Bellevue (competing at 113) and the Bill Dies; Pendergraff placed fourth at Fairfield and sixth at Maumee Bay.

The deepest of the district tournaments in this weight class is at Hoover where either eight or nine ranked wrestlers will be present. Potentially leading the list is returning district champion Howard, who went 1-2 at state last year as a sophomore; however he has (almost) exclusively competed at 113 this season. Next on the ladder here is the freshman Brugh, who was one match away from placing at Ironman, was runner-up at North Canton, and finished third at both Medina and the Grizzly Invitational. Returning state alternate Novak won titles at Solon and the North Coast Classic before taking sixth at Brecksville and third at the CIT. Next up is the talented but markedly undersized Yarbrough, the sophomore placed fifth in Cadet freestyle at 88 pounds this past summer; on the season he was fifth at Medina.

Four freshmen – three of them junior high state placers – will be among those seeking to take a state spot away from the above at Hoover. Castro missed the first half of the year due to injury, but has taken second at the Bill Dies and fourth at the Brooke (WV) Classic since returning; Haney was third at Solon, fourth at Olentangy Liberty and Medina, and champion at West Holmes; while Dulcie won the Mike Lewis Invitational before taking third at Top Gun and Delaware Hayes. The senior Bell was runner-up at Solon and the North Coast Classic before taking seventh at Brecksville and (at 113) Maumee Bay, while another freshmen in Cassetty placed at North Canton, Maumee Bay, and the Hephner.

Last but not least is the Hilliard Darby district, which features just one ranked wrestler in this weight class; yes, the lack of depth at this district will be an apparent trend in these weight class overviews. That lone ranked wrestler is the sophomore Le, who went 2-2 at district last year, and this season was champion at Olentangy and Dublin Scioto while placing top four at three other tournaments.

113 pounds

1. Logan Agin, Lancaster, junior (H. Darby)
2. Dustin Norris, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
3. Jacob Moon, Oregon Clay, sophomore (Mentor)
4. Richard Delsanter, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
5. Jack Stanley, Brecksville, senior (Hoover)
6. Pino Dipiero, Berea-Midpark, junior (Hoover)
7. William Doepker, Cincinnati Elder, junior (K. Fairmont)
8. Bailey Suddeth, Vandalia Butler, senior (K. Fairmont)
9. *Kollin Howard, Maple Hts., junior (Hoover)*
10. Colin Roberts, Austintown Fitch, sophomore (Hoover)

11. Mikey Lewarchik, Wadsworth, sophomore (Hoover)
12. Dominic Ditullio, Mason, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
13. Bryce Allison, Elyria, junior (Mentor)
14. Lucas Acuna, Centerville, freshman (K. Fairmont)
15. Cristian Salazar, Gahanna Lincoln, senior (H. Darby)
16. *James Baumann, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (H. Darby)*
17. Andrew Newkirk, Fairfield, junior (K. Fairmont)
18. Chris Rocha, Painesville Riverside, sophomore (Mentor)

HDAR – Agin, Salazar, *Baumann*, Gabe Ohle (Westerville North, sophomore), Zander Graham (Teays Valley, freshman); Muhammed Conteh (Groveport-Madison, junior)

HOOV – Stanley, Dipiero, *Howard*, Roberts, Lewarchik; Jacob Hamad (Nordononia, senior)

KF – Norris, Doepker, Suddeth, Ditullio; Acuna, Newkirk

MEN – Moon, Delsanter, Allison, Rocha; Jerome Scott (John Adams, junior)

The top three wrestlers in this weight class have all had meaningful success at national caliber events within the last eighteen months, and it's hard to differentiate between them. At the Super 32 Challenge this fall, Agin placed fifth with a pin over Moon and two wins over Junior National freestyle champion Cullan Schriever of Iowa; while Moon and Norris both missed placement by one bout (Moon was eliminated 3-0 by a nationally ranked wrestler from California, while Norris lost 3-2 and in overtime to out of state ranked opposition).

Agin is the pick to win here, though he lost 5-3 early on at the Ironman to the eventual fourth place finisher from California and then injury defaulting. He has not lost another match all season, while winning titles at four different tournaments, though there have been some closer than desired matches in terms of the margin. He placed fourth as a freshman and third last year as a sophomore at the state tournament, those both coming at 106, while also placing third at 106 in the 2017 Walsh Ironman.

Last year at the state tournament, it was Norris who upended Agin by a 1-0 score in the state quarterfinals. The Class of 2021 wrestler would finish at state runner-up, and this summer was a Junior National freestyle All-American, placing fourth at 113 pounds. He missed placement at the Ironman by one match losing to a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers, but would reverse one of those losses in the Dvorak final as he beat Colton Drousius 9-2 on that occasion. Norris is joined by five other ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district, though none is a realistic threat.

Ranked third and fourth in this weight are sophomores Moon and Delsanter, who both exit the Mentor district. Moon was a semifinalist last year at the Ironman, and was well-positioned for state tournament success before sustaining an injury during practice the week of the sectional. This season has been a mixed bag with a couple of "bad" losses, by fall to Barnett in mid-December and 4-3 in consolation to Dipiero at Brecksville; while there have also been very narrow losses to nationally ranked opposition, 4-3 to Moran of Indiana in the Brecksville semi and 3-2 in the ultimate tiebreaker to Jacob Decatur in the Maumee Bay final. Delsanter was 1-2 at the Ironman, the first of those losses was 1-0 to Drousius, and eighth at the Powerade; however, he did beat Norris in the December dual meet.

Additional ranked wrestlers here at Mentor are Allison and returning state qualifier Rocha. Allison was a combined 4-4 at the Ironman and Beast, including a 1-0 loss to Norris and a 3-1 loss to a nationally ranked New Jersey wrestler, before missing placement by one match at Brecksville. Rocha was champion at Riverside before taking fifth at Kenston and fourth at the Top Gun.

Circling back to the Kettering Fairmont district, second on the ladder is returning state placer Doepker. He was champion at Delaware Hayes most recently, while beforehand finishing runner-up at SWOWCA and the CIT but failing to place at Brecksville. Returning state alternate Suddeth competed up two weight classes last season, while this season has won three tournament titles in this weight class (most notably at the GMVWA) and was third at SWOWCA losing 3-2 to Doepker. Returning state qualifier Ditullio was third at Grapppler Gold, runner-up at Delaware Hayes, and missed placing at the Powerade by one match. The freshman Acuna was champion at Delaware Hayes, runner-up at Perrysburg, and placed at both SWOWCA and GMVWA; while the senior Newkirk was closed out of Fairfield's lineup last year by state placers at 106 and 113, and this season was fourth at SWOWCA before taking second at Kenston and Fairfield.

Either four or five ranked wrestlers will feature at the Hoover district, led by returning state fourth placer Stanley, who did not wrestle well at either the Ironman or the Beast; however, he bounced back to take third at Brecksville before winning titles at the Bill Dies and Brooke Classic. The junior Dipiero went 1-2 in this state weight class last year, and picked up the above mentioned win over Moon on the way to a fourth place finish at Brecksville; other tournament placements were champion at the North Coast Classic and third at Maumee Bay. Howard, Lewarchik, and Roberts were the top three finishers last year at 106 here at Hoover. Lewarchik missed the first half of the year due to injury, but since returning lost to Stanley 4-1 in a dual meet, and was fourth at the Grizzly Invitational losing to Skinner and Decatur; while Roberts has tournament titles at Beaver Local and the EOWL, and has placed in three other tournaments.

Joining Agin at Hilliard Darby will be one or two other ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Salazar has three tournament titles on the season and was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty to returning Division II state placer Petrella. Also here might be returning state alternate Baumann, though the sophomore has been at 120 exclusively season to date, where he was champion at Big Walnut, runner-up at Delaware Hayes, and fifth at Medina.

120 pounds

1. Lucas Byrd, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (K. Fairmont)
2. Jake Canitano, Solon, senior (Hoover)
3. Mustapha Bal, Fairfield, senior (K. Fairmont)
4. *Jacob Sherman, Olentangy, senior (H. Darby)*
5. Landon Hacker, Wadsworth, sophomore (Hoover)
6. Nate Burnett, Elyria, freshman (Mentor)
7. Kyren Butler, Copley, sophomore (Hoover)
8. Nick Sabin, Mentor, junior (Mentor)
9. Damion Ryan, Centerville, freshman (K. Fairmont)
10. Gavin Sampsel, Massillon Perry, junior (Hoover)
11. Aiden Agin, Lancaster, freshman (H. Darby)
12. *Ricardo Oviedo, Toledo Waite, junior (Mentor)*
13. *James Baumann, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (H. Darby)*
14. Josue Dawson, Princeton, junior (K. Fairmont)
15. Shane Heil, Berea-Midpark, sophomore (Hoover)
16. Josh Suddeth, Vandalia Butler, senior (K. Fairmont)
17. Dante Ditullio, Mason, junior (K. Fairmont)
18. Kyah Patrick, Beavercreek, junior (K. Fairmont)

19. Bo Branson, Pickerington Central, junior (H. Darby)

HDAR – *Sherman*, Agin, *Baumann*, Branson, Cole Jackson (Olentangy Orange, senior); Edgar Cruz (Westland, junior)

HOOV – Canitano, Hacker, Butler, Sampsel; Heil

KF – Byrd, Bal, Ryan, Dawson; Suddeth, Ditullio, Patrick

MEN – Burnett, Sabin, *Oviedo*, Hudson Poole (St. Edward, junior), Case George (Ashland, sophomore); Adam Lough (Amherst, senior)

As the Maryland bound Byrd has matured into his body, the last three seasons have seen him demonstrate his true ability level (heck, one could argue placing seventh as an undersized 106 his freshman year demonstrated that as well). In the 2018-19 year, Byrd was champion of the preseason Super 32 Challenge, runner-up at the Ironman, reversed losses from last year to nationally ranked out of state opposition in the finals of the Dvorak (Surtin from Illinois) and Escape the Rock (Clark from New Jersey), and dominated his way to a Grizzly Invitational title. It would be a mass shock if he did not earn a repeat state gold medal.

Six other ranked wrestlers join Byrd at what is a rather deep Kettering Fairmont district in this weight class. They are essentially battling for three state tournament spots in all reality. Leading that group is returning state placer Byrd, who has earned tournament wins at SWOWCA, Kenston, and Fairfield during his senior season. The freshman Ryan is next, placing third at SWOWCA and GMVWA along with winning at Dublin Scioto before really bursting on the conscience of fans with a quarterfinal win over returning Division II state placer Burgdorf at Perrysburg (he would end up fourth at the tournament losing to Burgdorf in the consolation final). Next is the junior Dawson, who has been excellent this season, losing narrowly to Bal on two occasions (overtime in the SWOWCA final and 11-8 in the Fairfield semi) plus placing fifth at the GMVWA.

2016 state qualifier Suddeth was a go-to-state match loser last year at 113, and placed sixth this year at SWOWCA. Ditullio placed seventh at Grappler Gold and fifth at Delaware Hayes, while fellow junior Patrick was a state alternate in 2017, this season placing eighth at Medina and (at 126) second at Beaver creek.

The most direct threat to Byrd is likely to come from fellow senior Canitano, who finished fifth at 106 as a freshman and third in this weight class last year, mid-season injury cost him a post-season run during his sophomore season. This season includes no losses and tournament titles at Solon, the North Coast Classic, Brecksville, and Maumee Bay; it also features five-plus wins over returning state placers. Four ranked wrestlers will join Canitano at the Hoover district, led by the sophomore Hacker, who placed seventh in this weight class last year. It was an injury riddled start and middle to the season for Hacker, who has returned to place third at the Grizzly Invitational.

Going 1-2 at state last year as a freshman, Butler has been most excellent this year in placing fourth at Medina and winning titles at the Bill Dies and Hephner. Sampsel had been bit by misfortune his first two years of high school, missing weight at district in 2017 when he was a sure fire state qualifier at 106 and missing all of last year with an injury that has went on into this season in terms of recovery; this season does include a title at the Mike Lewis Invitational and a semifinal appearance at Delaware Hayes. Heil went 1-2 at state last year as a freshman at 106; this season was runner-up at Milan Edson, fourth at North Coast, sixth at Maumee Bay, and failed to place at Brecksville.

The district at Hilliard Darby features lots of uncertainty, headlined at the top by returning state placer Sherman, who has yet to wrestle this season but should be back from injury before sectional time. The last two years he was 0-2 and fourth at state in the 113 pound weight class. Impact freshman Aidan Agin, the younger brother of Logan, missed placement at Medina by one match (though he beat Butler in a preliminary round) and has since won three tournament titles. The other ranked wrestlers are Baumann (see notes at 113) and returning state qualifier Branson, who was runner-up at Dublin Scioto (to Ryan) and Hilliard Bradley (to Agin) while placing sixth at GMVWA.

Last but not least in this weight is a depth challenged district at Mentor, where just two state placement contenders reside in the freshman Burnett and returning state placer Sabin. Burnett went 4-4 between Ironman and the Beast before placing fifth at Brecksville and Maumee Bay; he also has a 1-0 dual meet win over Sabin. Sabin this season was third at North Coast and Perry Pin City along with seventh at Medina. Also ranked is 2017 state qualifier Oviedo, who was a state qualifier last year at Perrysburg, but has transferred to Toledo Waite though on the mat competition for him this season has been limited at best.

126 pounds

1. Dylan Shawver, Elyria, junior (Mentor)
2. Angelo Rini, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
3. Jimmy Carmany, Brecksville, junior (Hoover)
4. Antonio Allen, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (K. Fairmont)
5. Logan Heil, Brunswick, senior (Hoover)
6. Jabari Thomas, Fairfield, senior (K. Fairmont)
7. Logan Hoskins, Vandalia Butler, junior (K. Fairmont)
8. Jack Haskin, Toledo Whitmer, sophomore (Mentor)
9. Jack Collins, Cincinnati Elder, junior (K. Fairmont)
10. Jake Williams, Massillon Perry, junior (Hoover)
11. Lucas Uliano, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (H. Darby)
12. Caden Wendling, Berea-Midpark, junior (Hoover)
13. Ismael Ayoub, Dublin Coffman, freshman (H. Darby)
14. Jacob Reed, Lancaster, sophomore (H. Darby)
15. Jacob Dunstan, North Ridgeville, senior (Mentor)
16. Alex Taylor, Centerville, junior (K. Fairmont)

HDAR – Uliano, Ayoub, Reed, Joseph Eckelberry (Tri-Valley, sophomore); *Mitch Herren (Upper Arlington, senior)*, Deacon Sawchuk (Hilliard Bradely, sophomore)

HOOV – Carmany, Heil, Williams, Wendling; Matthew Whipkey (St. Ignatius, senior)

KF – Allen, Thomas, Hoskins, Collins; Taylor

MEN – Shawver, Rini, Haskin, Dunstan; Kyle Maville (Oregon Clay, senior)

On the Sunday before Christmas, just before noon, the junior Shawver sent shockwaves across the country with a 5-4 semifinal win at the Beast of the East over two-time Cadet World team member Robert Howard from New Jersey. Last year a state runner-up and fourth the year before, both at 113, it's been a most excellent season in total to date. He was runner-up at the Beast and fifth at the Ironman with a handful of wins over nationally ranked wrestlers.

The lone blemish this season came at Brecksville, where he lost 6-2 in the semifinal to Carmany despite scoring a takedown in the first period; the match was much closer than the final score. That tournament

also did include three wins over Division II state title contenders; while January competition included a 6-3 dual meet victory over Heil and earning Outstanding Wrestler honors at Maumee Bay with three wins over state medalists.

Ranked second in this weight is two-time state fifth place finisher Rini, who is headed to Columbia next year, and joins Shawver in the Mentor district. On the season, he replicated a consolation semifinal victory from state with a 13-11 December win over Allen, and won the Powerade keyed by an 8-4 semifinal victory over Pennsylvania state runner-up Camacho. While Rini went 1-2 at the Ironman, the opening round win came 9-8 against nationally ranked Schwartz of Colorado; the losses were 9-8 to nationally ranked Murphy of California and 9-7 against two-time Oklahoma state champ Tanner.

The other two ranked wrestlers at the Mentor district are returning state qualifier Haskin and the senior Dunstan. Haskin was champion at Northwood and Perrysburg, third at Grappler Gold, fifth at Maumee Bay, and missed placement by one match at Brecksville in a loaded field. Dunstan was champion at Perry Pin City in this weight class and up a weight at two other tournaments. Also at this district is returning state qualifier Maville.

The previously mentioned Carmany upset Shawver on the way to winning the Brecksville title, also beating a two-time Indiana state placer in the quarterfinal round. At the Beast of the East, he was one match from placing (one of the losses to a wrestler that Shawver beat), plus he was 0-2 up a weight class at the Walsh Ironman. Carmany also has tournament titles at the Bill Dies, where he pinned Heil in the final in the midst of a blowout, and the Brooke Classic. Joining him at the Hoover district are three other ranked wrestlers, headlined by Heil; the two-time state placer has tournament titles on the season at Solon, the North Coast Classic, and Medina. The junior Williams won a state tournament match last year at 113 pounds, and this season was 3-2 at the Beast of the East before placing fourth at Top Gun and second at Delaware Hayes. Wendling was a go-to-state match loser last year as a sophomore and this season was third at the North Coast Classic up a weight class before going 2-2 at Brecksville and placing seventh at Maumee Bay (where he did beat Haskin on the front side).

Two additional state placers viewing themselves as finalist threats are Allen and Thomas, who headline a group of five ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont. The junior Allen has titles at Franklin and the Grizzly Invitational this season to go with third place finishes at the Dvorak and Escape the Rock, plus a 2-2 performance at the Walsh Ironman; while the senior Thomas has tournament titles at SWOWCA, Kenston, and Fairfield. Two-time state qualifier Hoskins was runner-up at SWOWCA (12-8 to Thomas) and GMVWA (overtime against Gavin Brown) after winning at title at Upper Arlington up a weight class to open the season; then in January, he was champion at Central Crossing and fourth at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Collins spent much of the season at 132 where he as 3-2 at Brecksville and sixth at the CIT before dropping into this weight to take third. Fellow junior Taylor placed fifth at SWOWCA, fourth at GMVWA and (at 132) Perrysbug, plus was champion at Dubin Scioto.

Rounding it out is the district at Hilliard Darby, which is lacking in top end talent at this weight class, though there is a modicum of depth. Leading the way is Uliano, who placed third at 106 in Iowa's big-school division last year as a freshman; this season he has a title at DeSales to go with missing placement at Brecksville by one match, and a fifth at the Grizzly Invitational. The freshman Ayoub was champion at Big Walnut up a weight class and fourth at Delaware Hayes. Returning state qualifier Reed has three tournament titles (two of them with finals victories over fellow state qualifier Sawchuk) and top four finishes in three other events (most notably fourth at Medina). Eckelberry and Sawchuk are returning

state qualifiers, while Herren (though he could end up at 120) is a returning state placer, though none is ranked in the top 16.

132 pounds

1. Mick Burnett, Elyria, junior (Mentor)
2. Jordan Ward, Cincinnati Moeller, senior (K. Fairmont)
3. Blake Saito, Perrysburg, junior (Mentor)
4. Casey Wiles, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
5. Jaivon Jones, Nordonia, senior (Hoover)
6. Sam Glassco, Mason, senior (K. Fairmont)
7. Cameron Baird, Harrison, senior (K. Fairmont)
8. Scott Richter, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
9. Caleb Graber, Green, senior (Hoover)
10. Patrick McGraw, St. Ignatius, senior (Hoover)
11. Nate DeBoe, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
12. Charles Chapman, Fremont Ross, senior (Mentor)
13. Mason Kleinberg, Springboro, junior (K. Fairmont)
14. Matt Verdes, Vandalia Butler, junior (K. Fairmont)
15. Jesse Bowers, Upper Arlington, junior (H. Darby)
16. James Bronstrup, Brecksville, sophomore (Hoover)

HDAR – Bowers, Connor Euton (Westerville North, freshman), Rocco Torio (Olentangy Orange, junior), Mitchell Coultas (Licking Heights, senior); Nick Varanelli (Olentangy, senior)

HOOV – Jones, Graber, McGraw, Bronstrup; Jake Bryson (Medina Highland, junior)

KF – Ward, Wiles, Glassco, Baird; Kleinberg, Verdes

MEN – Burnett, Saito, Richter, DeBoe; Chapman

The Elyria junior Burnett, who has placed sixth and second at both the state tournament and Cadet National freestyle tournament the last two years comes from an excellent wrestling family. His father (head coach Erik Burnett) was a four-time state champion at Oberlin from 1984 to 1987, and went on to earn All-American honors at Clarion (fifth at 118 pounds in 1992); while his uncle Scott (head coach at Perrysburg) was a three-time state champion at Elyria Catholic from 1996 to 1998. Mick is trying to earn a state title of his won this season, which has been an excellent one despite not yet winning a tournament; sixth at the Ironman, seventh at the Beast, and second at Brecksville (all very strong fields).

A pair of wrestlers that placed in this weight class last year, and are now both two-time state placers, are the two most direct challengers to Burnett. The senior Ward, whose brother Joey was one of the most clutch state tournament wrestlers you'll ever see, missed the first half-plus of this season with an injury before returning to win the CIT; he placed sixth at this weight last year after finishing seventh at 126 the year before. The junior Saito was eighth last year after placing seventh at 106 the year before. This season, Saito was predominantly at 138 where he was runner-up at Brecksville and Perrysburg before winning at Maumee Bay; he dropped last week before regional duals.

Burnett and Saito both exit the Mentor district, where there are three other ranked wrestlers in the hunt for those last two state tournament spots. Richter missed state last year at 113 pounds despite beating eventual third place finisher Andrew Perelka of Brecksville in both the state duals semifinal and the district quarterfinals. This season, Richter went 2-2 at the Ironman, failed to place at the Powerade, and has lost to multiple very tough dual meet opponents (Wiles, Nick Moore, and three out of state

nationally ranked wrestlers). Fellow state alternate DeBoe was also a state alternate his sophomore year in 2017, and this season features titles at Pin City and Central Crossing along with a sixth at Medina; while the senior Chapman missed placement at Brecksville by one match, placed at Maumee Bay, and was runner-up at Delaware Hayes. Also adding to the congestion at this district tournament are returning state qualifiers Jake Visintine (Ashland, senior) and Mike Daly (Oregon Clay, junior) who are not ranked inside the top 16.

Ward also anchors a very deep district, the one at Kettering Fairmont. It features another legit title threat in Wiles, who had a very hot state tournament to finish third as a freshman. On the season he was champion at Franklin up a weight class, fourth at the Dvorak (beat Glassco along the way), and placed sixth at the Escape the Rock in Pennsylvania. Four other ranked wrestlers are in the hunt for what essentially is two remaining state spots.

Glassco qualified for state as a freshman before being closed out of the lineup his sophomore year and finishing as a state alternate last year. This season he was runner-up at Grappler Gold, fifth at the Dvorak, missed placing at the Powerade by one match, and then broke through with a title at Delaware Hayes. Two-time state qualifier Baird has tournament titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield to go with third place finishes at Medina and the Grizzly Invitational. Returning state qualifier Kleinberg was runner-up at the GMVWA and champion at Watkins; while the junior Verdes won at Upper Arlington up a weight class opening weekend, has top four finishes in four other tournaments this season (most notably runner-up to Baird at SWOWCA), plus beat Kleinberg in overtime in a dual meet.

Four ranked wrestlers find their home at the Hoover district, led by returning state placer Jones and returning state qualifier Graber. On the season Jones has titles at North Coast, Olentangy Liberty, Kenston, and Top Gun; while Graber was champion at the Bill Dies, third at Solon and North Canton, and fifth at Medina. The senior McGraw was champion at Solon, runner-up to Jones at North Coast, sixth at Brecksville, and third at CIT (loss to Ward). The sophomore Bronstrup has two older brothers with state tournament success, two-time state placer Jared and state qualifier Jason; while his season includes going 4-4 between the Ironman and Beast, finishing seventh at Brecksville, third at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at the Brooke Classic.

Rounding it out is a Hilliard Darby district that features just one ranked wrestler in returning state qualifier Bowers, who was champion at Upper Arlington and fourth at Fairfield up two weights along with missing placement at Medina when competing up at 138. Also here is returning state qualifier Torio, while Coultas and Varanelli were state alternates last year.

138 pounds

1. Marco Regalbutto, Brecksville, senior (Hoover)
2. Luke Baughman, Wadsworth, senior (Hoover)
3. Bryce Hepner, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
4. Matt Zuckerman, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
5. Derek Fields, Brunswick, sophomore (Hoover)
6. Jake Niffenegger, Cincinnati LaSalle, freshman (K. Fairmont)
7. Gus Sutton, Austintown Fitch, senior (Hoover)
8. Mitch Collica, Nordonia, senior (Hoover)
9. Connor DeBoe, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
10. Cyle Wells, Tecumseh, junior (K. Fairmont)
11. D.J. Huff, St. Ignatius, senior (Hoover)

12. Zach Williams, Delaware Hayes, senior (H. Darby)
13. Jacob Williams, Teays Valley, senior (H. Darby)
14. Jonah Smith, Findlay, junior (Mentor)
15. Luke Marsh, Lebanon, freshman (K. Fairmont)
16. Tanner Donathan, Western Brown, senior (K. Fairmont)

HDAR – Z. Williams, J. Williams, Zander Ellison (Hilliard Bradley, senior), Joey Orlando (Upper Arlington, senior); Jakob Hurley (Westland, freshman)

HOOV – Regalbuto, Baughman, Fields, Sutton; Collica, Huff

KF – Niffenegger, Wells, Marsh, Donathan; Bartley Thomas (Cincinnati Elder, freshman)

MEN – Hepner, Zuckerman, DeBoe, Smith; Jayden Jones (Ashland, sophomore)

If one thought the previous two weight classes were wide open and bonkers at the top, this one takes it to another level. There are two wrestlers nationally ranked, a third who is a returning state champion, two additional wrestlers that have a single win over each of the top two wrestlers, another who is a Cadet freestyle All-American, and then two others that have state tournament podium appearances.

Needing emphasis in this shuffle is five of those eight wrestlers exit the same district at North Canton Hoover. If someone doesn't move down (or more likely up) in weight, they're going to be watching the state tournament from the stands. The favorite here is two-time state placer Regalbuto, a senior who has four wins over nationally ranked opponents on the season. He missed placement by one match at the Ironman up a weight class, came down to 138 and placed third at the Beast with two wins over nationally ranked out of state competition, and won titles at Brecksville and Brooke Classic (beating a nationally ranked Super 32 placer 10-3 in the latter). Fellow two-time state placer and three-time state qualifier Baughman missed placement by one match at the Ironman despite beating a nationally ranked opponent in the round of 16, and has since won titles at North Canton, Medina (2-1 tiebreaker victory in the final over three-time state champ D'Emilio), and the Grizzly Invitational (5-3 over Alek Martin).

Regalbuto avenged last year's dual meet and state semifinal losses to Baughman in a 9-5 mid-January dual meet victory, though two days later he would get majored 17-7 by Fields in the Bill Dies final. Baughman beat Fields 5-1 in the Medina semifinal, but lost 3-2 to Collica in a mid-January dual meet; Regalbuto has additional dual meet victories over Patten (at 145) and Collica (twice).

Fields qualified for state at 126 last year as a freshman taking Burnett to the brink, losing 5-4 in the opening round before losing by fall later that evening. He would finish fifth in Cadet freestyle in the summer. While this season, he has titles at Solon and the Bill Dies plus a third place finish at Medina (beat Sutton in consolation there). Sutton was an unexpected state semifinalist his sophomore, placing sixth at 120 before finishing a disappointing eighth last year at 126. This season he was champion at EOWL and the Hephner, runner-up at Beaver Local (losing 3-1 to Peyton Hall) and Top Gun (losing to a Pennsylvania big-school state champion in a match that he led in the third period), and then a disappointing seventh at Medina. Finally at this district is the senior Collica, who finished eighth at this weight class last year; this season he was runner-up at the North Coast Classic, champion at Olentangy Liberty (beat Cole Mattin 3-2 when he bumped up a weight) and Kenston), before finishing fourth at Top Gun. Also ranked in this weight class at Hoover is returning district placer Huff, who missed the first half of the season (for yet another time) due to injury, but returned to make the semis of the CIT.

The junior Hepner has merely made state finals each year of his high school career to date, finishing second at 113 as a freshman and winning gold last year over Burnett at 126. He went 2-2 at the

Ironman, losing 1-0 to Lackman from Pennsylvania on the front side before falling 2-0 to Alek Martin to get eliminated. Hepner was also runner-up at Powerade, and his dual meet results include quality wins 4-1 over Niffenegger and by major over a two-time Michigan state placer. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Mentor district, most notably three-time state qualifier Zuckerman (who was seventh in this weight class last year). On the season, Zuckerman missed placement at the Ironman by two bouts (so did Hepner) before finishing third at Brecksville and runner-up at Maumee Bay, while picking up a dual meet victory over Fields in overtime.

Rounding out the ranked lot at Mentor are state qualifier DeBoe and the junior Smith. The senior DeBoe beat Collica 5-4 in the finals of the North Coast Classic, while placing sixth at the Medina Invitational. Smith has titles at the Kilted Klassic and Defiance to go with a second at Findlay, fourth at Maumee Bay, and sixth at the Grizzly Invitational.

The remaining wrestler in our eight person group at the top of this weight class is the freshman Niffenegger, a Cadet freestyle fourth place finisher from this summer. He went 2-2 at the Ironman after beating a former state qualifier two times to win the 145 pound title at Franklin on opening weekend, while tournament placements in January included a sixth at Escape the Rock and a fifth at the Grizzly Invitational (lone loss 4-3 to Baughman). Three other ranked wrestlers join Niffenegger at Kettering Fairmont for district competition. The junior Wells has three tournament titles on the season to go with a third at the GMVWA; the freshman Marsh was a junior high state champ last year and this season has a title at Western Brown after spending the first month down a weight class where he finished fifth at SWOWCA and went 2-2 at Medina; while the senior Donathan qualified for state in 2017, this season finishing runner-up at Franklin and (to Wells) at Central Crossing, third at Western Brown (losing 3-1 to Marsh), and going 2-2 at Brecksville.

Last is a district at Hilliard Darby that features just two ranked wrestlers, none within the top ten. 2017 state qualifier Williams of Delaware Hayes was a go-to-state match loser in this weight class last year; while fellow senior Williams of Teays Valley was a state alternate down a weight class. The Delaware Hayes grappler was champion at his home tournament, runner-up at GMVWA, and third at Olentangy Liberty; while the Teays Valley athlete has titles at West Jefferson and (over Ellison) at Watkins Memorial. Also at this district are 2017 state qualifier Ellison and – though not in the top five listing – returning state qualifier Kuric Buell (Worthington Kilbourne, junior)

145 pounds

1. Bryce Andonian, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
2. Michael North, Wadsworth, senior (Hoover)
3. Chris Donathan, Mason, senior (K. Fairmont)
4. Daniel Patten, Stow, junior (Hoover)
5. Daniel Segura, Dublin Scioto, junior (H. Darby)
6. *Alex Garee, Perrysburg, sophomore (Mentor)*
7. Austin Mullins, Huber Hts. Wayne, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
8. Darnai Heard, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
9. Deshea Pettiford, Fremont Ross, senior (Mentor)
10. Jacob Bernhardt, Harrison, senior (K. Fairmont)
11. Darese Sparkman, Massillon Perry, senior (Hoover)
12. Andrew Knick, Northmont, junior (K. Fairmont)
13. Brady Pethel, Olentangy, senior (H. Darby)
14. A.J. Szigeti, Oregon Clay, senior (Mentor)

15. Andrew Philion, Midview, junior (Mentor)
16. Jayce Fitzpatrick, Olentangy Liberty, sophomore (H. Darby)
17. Adam Nedolast, Copley, senior (Hoover)

HDAR – Segura, Pethel, Fitzpatrick, Luke Deweese (Hilliard Davidson, senior); Shawn Will (Marysville, freshman)

HOOV – North, Patten, Sparkman, Nedolast; Zack Scalf (Barberton, senior)

KF – Donathan, Mullins, Heard, Bernhardt; Knick

MEN – Andonian, *Garee*, Pettiford, Szigeti, Philion; Tommy Sear (Avon, senior)

Win or lose, though almost all the time it's in the course of winning, the Virginia Tech bound Andonian has to be one of (if not) the most entertaining wrestlers to watch in the Buckeye State. He has a score from anywhere mentality that is fun to watch, though can be admittedly stressful one to coach. Bryce won state at 106 as a freshman by pinning Gabe Tagg in the midst of a back-and-forth bout, while last year's state final victory at 138 was 14-10 over Baughman. Keeping him from going for a fourth title is a 3-1 overtime loss in 2017 to Gio DiSabato on Friday night at 120 pounds, an outcome many would view as an upset.

After winning a Junior National freestyle title in Fargo, Andonian started his senior season losing 7-3 in the Ironman semifinal to California super-star Jaden Abas, and would default down to sixth. At the Powerade, he emerged as champion beating Donathan 7-4 in the championship match. He also has an early January dual meet victory over North, the other nationally ranked wrestler in this weight class.

Joining Andonian at Mentor are four other ranked wrestlers, the first of which is the sophomore Garee, who missed state by one match last year in an absolutely loaded district weight class. His current season includes placing sixth at Brecksville before sustaining an injury at Perrysburg, one that he should return from right before sectional. 2017 state qualifier Pettiford missed placement at Brecksville by one match, losing 5-2 to Garee in consolation, before winning a title at the Gorman. Fellow senior Szigeti placed third at Solon, was one match away from placing at Brecksville, and then was fifth at Fairfield and fourth at Maumee Bay; while returning state alternate Philion was fourth at Medina, fifth at the Bill Dies, and runner-up at West Holmes.

Two-time state placer North had an in-season win over Donathan during January 2018. He placed fifth at the Ironman losing to a pair of nationally ranked opponents, while beating a nationally ranked opponent from Illinois (Mayora) 10-3 in the consolation quarterfinal. North also has tournament titles at North Canton (majoring Segura in the semifinal), Medina, and the Grizzly Invitational, though he suffered a surprising 8-6 dual meet loss to Patten in mid-December. Returning state placer Patten is one of three other ranked wrestlers joining North at the Hoover district.

In addition, Patten was champion at Solon beating state champ Burgard 7-4 in the final, and adding to that with titles at Hudson and the Bill Dies. Returning state qualifier Sparkman started the season going 0-2 at the Ironman (consolation loss to Heard) and 2-2 at the Beast; he then missed placement at Brecksville and Top Gun by one match before finishing third at Delaware Hayes. Fellow senior Nedolast was sixth at Medina, third at the Bill Dies, and champion of the Hephner.

Donathan finished runner-up in this weight class last year at state, losing 5-2 to Voinovich in the final after upsetting Dover 7-4 on Friday night with a third period rally. His Ironman entailed a 4-1 quarterfinal loss to Abas before forfeiting his consolation match (which would have been against North);

while a runner-up finish at the Powerade has been augmented by titles at Grappler Gold (at 152), Dvorak, and Delaware Hayes. Donathan joins North in having wins over Mayora (Dvorak) and Segura (Delaware Hayes) on the season, and beat a nationally ranked Michigan opponent to win the Grappler Gold. Four other ranked wrestlers join him at the Kettering Fairmont district.

The first of which is Mullins, who placed seventh at state in this weight last year as a freshman; this season he was fifth at the GMVWA, seventh at Top Gun, plus has titles at Troy and Eaton. Fellow sophomore Heard won a state match last year at 132 pounds, while his present season includes going 2-2 at the Ironman and Escape the Rock, winning a title at 152 at Franklin, along with fourth place finishes in this weight at the Dvorak and Grizzly Invitational. Bernhardt and Knick are also returning state qualifiers, which means someone with state experience is staying home. Bernhardt's season includes titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield, along with a fifth at Medina; for Knick he started at 152, where it was a fourth at North Coast, fifth at GMVWA, and title at Troy before coming to this weight where he was runner-up at Troy losing 8-6 to Mullins.

Rounding it out is the Hilliard Darby district, one that features just three ranked wrestlers, the junior Segura the only one with state experience. Last year he placed fourth as a sophomore at 138, and this season there are three tournament titles at 152 to go with the third at North Canton (21-9 loss to North) and runner-up at Delaware Hayes (12-4 loss to Donathan) in this weigh class. The senior Pethel has tournament titles at Olentangy and the Kilted Klassic to go with a fifth at North Canton and fourth at Medina, while the sophomore Fitzpatrick was third at Olentangy Liberty and sixth at the Grizzly Invitational.

152 pounds

1. Sam Dover, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
2. Victor Voinovich, Brecksville, sophomore (Hoover)
3. Elan Heard, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (K. Fairmont)
4. Walker Heard, Marysville, senior (H. Darby)
5. Enrique Munguia, Elyria, sophomore (Mentor)
6. Logan Messer, Wadsworth, sophomore (Hoover)
7. Gavin Bell, Beavercreek, junior (K. Fairmont)
8. Noah Ewen, Perrysburg, freshman (Mentor)
9. Jestin Love, Vandalia Butler, junior (K. Fairmont)
10. Amar Thomas, Fairfield, senior (K. Fairmont)
11. Connor Liber, Sylvania Northview, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Antoine Holloway, Maple Hts., senior (Hoover)
13. Paul Twarog, North Royalton, senior (Hoover)
14. Brady Linder, Medina Highland, junior (Hoover)
15. Shayne Magda, Madison, senior (Mentor)
16. Seth Lambers, Cincinnati Elder, junior (K. Fairmont)
17. Hunter Barker, Grove City, senior (H. Darby)

HDAR – W. Heard, Barker, Antonio Gonzalez (Dublin Coffman, senior), Mason Sparks (Marion Harding, senior); Dane Fenice (Franklin Hts., senior)

HOOV – Voinovich, Messer, Holloway, Twarog, Linder; Salek

KF – E. Heard, Bell, Love, Thomas; Lambers

MEN – Dover, Munguia, Ewen, Liber; Magda

The returning state champion in this weight class is the sophomore Voinovich, who earned gold last year at 145 pounds, beating Donathan 5-2 in the state final. He was significantly aided by Donathan knocking off Dover on Friday night, as Dover won all three matches the pair wrestled earlier in the year (3-1 in overtime in the Walsh Ironman quarterfinal, 1-0 in the state dual meet semifinal, and 5-1 in the district semifinal). Given the above sentence, the Oklahoma University bound three-time state placer Dover is the weight class favorite; the pair would be protected from meeting prior to the state final should each win their district.

On the season, Dover was champion at the Walsh Ironman upsetting Oklahoma State signee Brevin Balmececa from Florida 5-2 in the Ironman final. At the Powerade, he was runner-up, getting upset 5-2 by three-time Super 32 placer Ryan Vulakh from Pennsylvania. In addition, he was pinned in overtime by Cameron Amine from Michigan last month. Voinovich had an uncharacteristic performance at the Ironman going 1-2, and then sat out the Beast. However, since return it's been "all systems a go" as he finished runner-up at Brecksville and then won titles at the Bill Dies and Brooke Classic (combined championship final match margin, 29 points). Quality wins at Brecksville included avenging his front side Ironman loss with a 6-2 victory over Munguia and then beating a two-time Indiana state placer in the semifinal. The championship match was a 1-0 defeat to Amine with Voinovich unable to get the match-tying escape in the third period.

Dover exits the Mentor district, along with four other ranked wrestlers. The group is led by the sophomore Munguia, who went 1-2 at district last year and 1-2 at the Super 32 this fall, but has made an absurd leap this season; quarterfinalist at the Ironman, placed seventh at the Beast, was third at Brecksville (wins over Fishback, Jax Leonard, and Conley of Indiana), and runner-up at Maumee Bay. The freshman Ewen, who was a Cadet freestyle All-American in the summer and placed in the junior/senior division of Preseason Nationals in the fall, is next in line. His season includes three losses to Munguia, placing sixth at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg (beat Liber), and fourth at Maumee Bay. Next is the sophomore Liber, who went 2-2 in a loaded district 138 weight class last year; this year he has won two tournaments, was runner-up at Findlay, third at Perrysburg, and sixth at Maumee Bay. Rounding it out is returning state qualifier Magda, champion at Perry Pin City and runner-up at the Bill Dies.

Voinovich is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at North Canton. Messer placed fifth last year at state as a freshman down at 132, and this year has placed third at North Canton and Medina with semifinal losses coming to title contenders in the other two divisions; however, he did have to pull out of the Grizzly Invitational and did not wrestle at regional duals. The senior Holloway was champion at Hudson; fellow senior Twarog was a go-to-state match loser in this weight class last year and has titles at Solon, North Coast Classic, and the Hephner along with a third at Hudson (losing 6-3 to Holloway); while returning state qualifier Linder was third at Solon (11-7 loss to Twarog), fourth at Medina, and champion at West Holmes.

Ranked third in this weight class is the junior Elan Heard, who is extraordinarily talented, but good health has not been on his side in any year of his high school career. The University of Illinois verbal commit won at Franklin up a weight class before missing placement at the Ironman by one match, but then in the semifinal of the Dvorak, he had to injury default and has not competed since, though a return for the state series is expected. Four additional ranked wrestlers join Heard at the Kettering Fairmont district.

First in line is fellow junior, two-time returning state qualifier Bell, who missed a chunk of this season but lost 7-3 to Donathan at regional duals this past week. Then it's another junior, returning state

qualifier Love, who dropped into this weight to place fifth at Maumee Bay after spending the first half-plus of the season at 160 where he was fourth at SWOWCA and champion at both GMVWA and Central Crossing. Fellow returning state qualifier Thomas was champion at SWOWCA and Kenston before finishing runner-up at Fairfield, while the junior Lambers was runner-up at SWOWCA, 3-2 at Brecksville, fourth at the CIT, and champion at Delaware Hayes.

Rounding out the districts is Hilliard Darby, which is anchored by the senior Walker Heard, a two-time state placer. He was at 160 for the first half, missing placement at the Ironman by one match, finishing runner-up at SWOWCA, and third at Brecksville; then at 152, he was third at Top Gun. He is joined by just one other ranked wrestler in the district field, returning state qualifier Barker, champion at DeSales and Hilliard Bradley as well as runner-up at Dublin Scioto. Also at Hilliard Darby is two-time state qualifier Sparks.

160 pounds

1. Connor Brady, Olentangy Liberty, senior (H. Darby)
2. Pdraic Gallagher, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
3. Brett McIntosh, Harrison, junior (K. Fairmont)
4. Naeem Russell, Lima Senior, senior (Mentor)
5. Jackson Weissinger, Fremont Ross, junior (Mentor)
6. Dillon Walker, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
7. Drew Newton, Perrysburg, senior (Mentor)
8. Sean Mondello, Oxford Talawanda, senior (K. Fairmont)
9. Sal Perrine, Nordonia, sophomore (Hoover)
10. Troy Murphy, Oregon Clay, senior (Mentor)
11. Aaron Morton, Westerville South, junior (H. Darby)
12. Jaden Hardrick, Huber Hts. Wayne, junior (K. Fairmont)
13. Joe Koplou, Kenston, senior (Hoover)
14. Aidan Corrigan, Twinsburg, sophomore (Hoover)
15. Ethan Silvis, Medina, junior (Hoover)
16. Mason Motter, Vandalia Butler, senior (K. Fairmont)
17. Emmett Cain, Delaware Hayes, junior (H. Darby)

HDAR – Brady, Morton, Cain, Jade Batross (Newark, senior); Eli Williams (Westerville North, junior)

HOOV – Perrine, Koplou, Corrigan, Silvis; Anthony Rizzo (Brecksville, sophomore)

KF – McIntosh, Walker, Mondello, Hardrick, Motter; Coffield

MEN – Gallagher, Russell, Weissinger, Newton; Murphy

Like the weight class before, nationally elite senior Brady has yet to make it to the state final. His losses came 2-1 to Zack Donathan via a penalty point in the opening round his freshman year, 11-4 in the tiebreaker to Corey Shie in the consolation final that same year, and 3-1 in the quarterfinal to David Carr as a sophomore. Last year, Brady suffered injury in an early February dual meet to Carr that precluded his participation in the state series. This scholastic season features titles at the Super 32 prior to the start of the season, in December at the Walsh Ironman, and late last month at the Grizzly invitational.

Brady is currently one of three Ohio wrestlers ranked No. 1 in their respective weight classes nationally. Like Andonian, he is going to be a Virginia Tech Hokie next year, which is news that makes Tony Robie and crew in Blacksburg happy. Should Brady be denied gold yet again, it would likely come via the hand

of the sophomore Gallagher, who was third at state last year as a freshman losing 3-2 to Jake Marsh (now at Princeton) in the state semi.

Gallagher is also a two-time UWW Cadet freestyle All-American and a 2017 Cadet National freestyle All-American. He missed the bulk of this season with injury, returning for the first time in varsity competition at the regional duals. The district at Mentor from which he exits has four other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Russell, who lost to Gallagher 19-4 in the consolation semifinal round at state last year; this season for Russell is bereft a loss and features four tournament titles. Next in line is the junior Weissinger, a state alternate last year in this weight class; this season features a seventh at Brecksville before winning titles at the Gorman, Maumee Bay, and Delaware Hayes. Newton, who placed at district as sophomore before missing most of last year due to injury, placed second at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay; while fellow senior Murphy is a returning state qualifier, this season finishing second at Solon and Fairfield while missing placement at Brecksville and Maumee Bay by one match.

The other congested district is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which features five ranked wrestlers, led by the junior McIntosh. The 2017 Cadet freestyle All-American won at Medina last year, beating eventual Division III state champ Gavin Stika in the quarters but an injury precluded his post-season participation. This season includes titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield, a runner-up finish at Wadsworth, and a third at Medina (the 8-3 semifinal loss to Danals came as a shock).

Walker qualified for state last year in Division III as a freshman before transferring to LaSalle. He won a title in the 170 weight class at Franklin on opening weekend before going 3-2 at the Ironman, including a narrow 3-2 loss on the front side to Brady. The senior Mondello qualified for state in 2017 when his school was in Division II, then went 2-2 last year at district in this weight class; the current season includes titles at Edgewood and Eaton, while finishing third at SWOWCA and second at Sycamore. The junior Hardrick was runner-up at GMVWA and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun, while the senior Motter has a 2-1 dual meet win over Hardrick but went 2-2 at Maumee Bay (losing to Murphy and Jake Mack of Solon) along with up a weight placing at SWOWCA and GMVWA.

The district at Hoover features four ranked wrestlers, though none is a real mid-to-high placement candidate. Leading the way is the sophomore Perrine (last year a go-to-match loser), who has titles at North Coast, Olentangy Liberty, and Kenston to his credit on the season – along with a third place finish at Top Gun, though he was upset 13-7 by Rizzo in the regional dual final. Returning state qualifier Koplou was runner-up at Solon (at 170) and Kenston, champion at the Bill Dies, and fourth at the Grizzly Invitational. The sophomore Corrigan has spent most of the year at 170 where he was third at Solon, champion at North Coast Classic, and a semifinalist at Kenston; however, it's 160 for the state series. Lastly it's the junior Silvis, who was champion of the Kilted Klassic at 182, placed sixth at Medina up at 170, and in this weight class was fourth at Maumee Bay and third at the Hephner.

Joining Brady at Hilliard Darby is just two other ranked wrestlers, a pair of juniors in Morton and Cain. Morton has two tournament titles and was runner-up at Marion Harding, losing 11-8 to Russell; while Cain was third at Olentangy Liberty and Delaware Hayes, with sixth place finishes at GMVWA and Top Gun.

170 pounds

1. Carson Kharchla, Olentangy Liberty, senior (H. Darby)
2. Jacob Lagoa, Ashtabula Lakeside, senior (Mentor)

3. Nevan Snodgrass, Kettering Fairmont, junior (K. Fairmont)
4. Najee Lockett, Shaker Hts., junior (Hoover)
5. Jake Evans, Elyria, sophomore (Mentor)
6. Drew Wiechers, Centerville, senior (K. Fairmont)
7. Kamal Adewumi, Mason, senior (K. Fairmont)
8. Dominic Loparo, Wadsworth, junior (Hoover)
9. Michael O'Horo, Boardman, senior (Hoover)
10. Michael Garcar, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
11. Simon Shirley, Harrison, senior (K. Fairmont)
12. Max Van Fossen, Mt. Vernon, senior (H. Darby)
13. Jacob Meek, Oregon Clay, junior (Mentor)
14. Mason Sutandar, Delaware Hayes, junior (H. Darby)
15. Cole Foor, Watkins Memorial, junior (H. Darby)
16. Matt Lewis, West Clermont, senior (K. Fairmont)

HDAR – Kharchla, Van Fossen, Sutandar, Foor; Josh Halbakken (Big Walnut, senior)

HOOV – Lockett, Loparo, O'Horo, Michael Caniglia (Hudson, senior); Logan Shepherd (Massillon Perry, freshman)

KF – Snodgrass, Wiechers, Adewumi, Shirley; Lewis

MEN – Lagoa, Evans, Garcar, Meek; Jakob Beverly (Ashland, sophomore)

Second of the three national No. 1 ranked wrestlers in the Buckeye State is Brady's high school teammate, and Ohio State signee Kharchla. Unequivocally the best wrestler in Ohio this year, he makes even high end opponents look ordinary. In his Junior National freestyle title run, Kharchla faced four of the next five place-finishers, three of the matches ended by shutout technical superiority and the other was a 7-4 win over multi-time Fargo champ Travis Wittlake. From the last six weeks of the 2017-18 season, he earned 3-1 (dual meet) and 7-2 (state semifinal) victories over returning state champion Emil Soehnlén, who earlier that season was runner-up of the Ironman and Beast of the East.

This season for Kharchla includes championships at the Ironman and Brecksville tournaments, with statement performances in each finals bout. It was a 5-2 win over national No. 2 Julian Ramirez in the Ironman final and a 17-2 technical fall over two-time state champion Jacob Lagoa at Brecksville. Three other ranked wrestlers, all with state experience, join Kharchla at the Hilliard Darby district.

The senior Van Fossen has dual meet wins over Sutandar and Foor this season, while also winning titles in two tournaments to go with a fourth at SWOWCA and sixth at Maumee Bay. The junior Sutandar beat Foor 7-5 in a dual meet this year, while also placing third at Delaware Hayes; and fellow junior Foor has finishes of third at North Canton and eighth at Brecksville on the current season.

Lagoa won state titles each of the previous two years in Division III while competing for Ashtabula St. John. He transferred to his home school district for this his junior season. Prior to the runner-up finish at Brecksville, he was champion at Solon and Riverside. While he has not competed since early January, he should be back by the time the state series commences. Three additional ranked wrestlers, all with a state tournament win from last year, join Lagoa at the Mentor district.

The sophomore Evans has made a significant leap from his freshman season where qualified for state at 160 pounds. He has placed seventh at the Ironman, fourth at the Beast and Brecksville, and runner-up at Maumee Bay; the Maumee Bay performance featured a 1-0 semifinal win over Super 32 runner-up (at

160) River Shettler from Michigan and 3-2 tiebreaker finals loss to Snodgrass. The junior Garcar qualified for state at 170 last year, while this year in tournaments he was 2-2 at the Ironman and one match from placing at Powerade; a couple match results mildly surprise, the losses to Smith of Beaver Local and Rojas from Detroit Catholic Central. Fellow junior Meek advanced to state last year up at 182, where he started this season placing third at Solon before dropping into this weight to go 2-2 at Brecksville then placing second at Fairfield and eighth at Maumee Bay.

The third dynamic talent in this weight is nationally ranked junior Snodgrass, twice fourth at state and a Junior National freestyle All-American this past summer. His first two years were a bit uneven given the talent level and credentials coming in from youth and junior high. Snodgrass has been 100% locked in this year with his only blemishes coming in the Ironman and Brecksville semifinals (6-2 to Ramirez at Ironman, a hotly contested and highly controversial 3-2 against Lagoa at Brecksville). Four other ranked wrestlers join him in a congested district weight class at Kettering Fairmont.

Returning state placer Wiechers has been superb this season in winning titles at SWOWCA, GMVWA, Dublin Scioto, and Perrysburg. Fellow senior Adewumi was a state alternate last year, but looks to have made a leap starting with his placement this fall at the Super 32 Challenge; it continued into the season with runner-up finishes at the Grappler Gold and Dvorak tournaments, a sixth place finish at Powerade, and a championship at Delaware Hayes. Another senior is returning state qualifier Shirley, who was runner-up at SWOWCA and the Grizzly Invitational along with his title at Fairfield, while finishing fifth up a weight at Medina. Finally among the ranked group is another senior Lewis, who missed placing at SWOWCA by a match but beat Division II state placer Williams to win a title at Milford.

Wrapping up the weight class is the Hoover district with just three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Lockett. The junior has titles at Kenston and Top Gun to his credit this season. Next in line is returning state qualifier Loparo, who is also an excellent two-way football player on a team that has went undefeated the last two regular seasons. On the mat this year it's titles at North Canton, Medina, and the Grizzly Invitational. Lastly it's the senior O'Horo, who probably is looking at state qualification and possibly a podium last year if he doesn't fail to make weight at the sectional tournament. He spent most of the current season up a weight class where he was champion at Beaver Local, runner-up at EOWL, and third at Top Gun; in this weight class it's a runner-up finish at the Hephner (7-6 upset loss to Hendershot).

182 pounds

1. Gary Wokojanec, Barberton, senior (Hoover)
2. Trey Sizemore, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (K. Fairmont)
3. Micah Potterf, Westerville North, senior (H. Darby)
4. Lenox Wolak, Dublin Coffman, senior (H. Darby)
5. Hudson Hightower, St. Edward, sophomore (Mentor)
6. Ben Vanadia, Brecksville, sophomore (Hoover)
7. Sebastian Beachler, Miamisburg, senior (K. Fairmont)
8. Jonathan List, Wadsworth, sophomore (Hoover)
9. Ethan Garee, Perrysburg, senior (Mentor)
10. Corbin May, Delaware Hayes, junior (H. Darby)
11. Toby Amburgy, Mason, sophomore (K. Fairmont)
12. Austin Belcher, Cincinnati Elder, senior (K. Fairmont)
13. Josh Nagy, Oregon Clay, senior (Mentor)
14. Drake Smith, Springboro, senior (K. Fairmont)

15. George Rozier, Akron Firestone, junior (Hoover)
16. Cody Wilson, Licking Hts., junior (H. Darby)

HDAR – Potterf, Wolak, May, Wilson; Colton Doup (Olentangy, senior)

HOOV – Wokojance, Vanadia, List, Rozier; Ryan Prusinowski (North Canton Hoover, sophomore)

KF – Sizemore, Beachler, Amburgy, Belcher; Smith

MEN – Hightower, Garee, Nagy, Ben Doehr (Elyria, junior); Clay Carpenter (Amherst, junior)

The first ten weight classes of the big-school division feature high end, national caliber talent as the leading figure (or in some cases figures). On the other hand, the back four weight classes in Division I are lacking in that regard. Compared to the immediate two preceding weights, there is significant intrigue over the state champion and other finalist spot. Four returning state medalists are at the head of the field.

Ranked first is the lone two-time state placer in the group, three-time state qualifier Wokojance, who has placed seventh then sixth the last two years. He was champion at the NHSCA Junior Nationals in the spring, and has continued that positive form into the season where he has four tournament titles (most notably for Division I purposes a technical fall victory in the Bill Dies final).

However, the highest returning placer is fellow senior Wolak, who placed fourth in this weight class last year despite actually losing to Wokojance 10-6 in the state quarterfinal round. The Columbia bound wrestler has been in the finals of four tournaments, two each at 195 and 182; titles coming at Big Walnut (195) and Delaware Hayes, with runner-up finishes at North Canton (195) and Medina. In that Medina final, he lost by technical fall to fellow senior Potterf, who was seventh last year in the state tournament at 170 pounds. On the season, Potterf was also runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and champion at Dublin Scioto. Two other ranked wrestlers join that pair at the Hilliard Darby district, a pair of juniors in May and Wilson. May was third at Olentangy Liberty, seventh at Top Gun, and runner-up at Delaware Hayes; while Wilson was champion at Marion Harding along with second place finishes at DeSales and Olentangy Liberty up a weight class and at Dublin Scioto in this weight class.

Ranked second in this weight is the fourth and final returning state medalist, the Brown University bound Sizemore. He was seventh last year at 160 pounds, and has had a very positive run of production since then. He missed placement at the preseason Super 32 by one match, was champion at Franklin, took fifth at the Ironman, was runner-up at the Dvorak, fourth at Escape the Rock, and champion of the Grizzly Invitational. Four other ranked wrestlers join him at the Kettering Fairmont district.

The first of which is another senior, returning state qualifier Beachler, who has titles at Edgewood and Valley View to go with a sixth place finish at North Canton. Next is the sophomore Amburgy, who was champion at the Grappler Gold Invitational, eighth at the Dvorak, then missing placement at the Powerade by one match. The senior Belcher was third at SWOWCA and Delaware Hayes, eighth at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT; while fellow senior Smith was third at GMVWA and champion at Beaver Creek.

Ranked fifth and sixth in this weight class are a pair of sophomores from Northeast Ohio, Hightower and Vandaia. Hightower was 1-2 last year at the state tournament in the 160 weight class, but sustained an injury during that event which caused him to miss the entire month of December. Despite that, he is the leading figure at the Mentor district, which features just two other ranked wrestlers. The senior Garee has improved significantly from a 1-2 district tournament performance last year, as he has finished sixth

at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysbug, and champion at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Nagy did not even make district last year, but this year won at Solon up a weight class before missing placement in this weight at Brecksville by one match, while following it up with a third at Fairfield and fourth at Maumee Bay.

Vanadia went two-and-out at 152 last year after rallying from behind to upset a returning state qualifier from Ashland in his go-to-state bout. On the season he was 3-2 at both the Ironman and Beast, advancing to the second day of each event; while since then he was third at Brecksville and the Brooke Classic and runner-up at the Bill Dies. Wokojanec and Vanadia are joined by two other ranked wrestlers at the Hoover district. List also went 0-2 at the state tournament last year as a freshman at Medina in the 152 weight class, but transferred to Wadsworth this season; a season in which he went 1-2 at the Ironman, was top eight at North Canton (losing to Beachler in the consolation quarterfinal), finished fourth at Medina, and was runner-up at the Grizzly Invitational; he also lost 13-3 to Vanadia during a mid-January dual meet. Rozier went 2-2 at district last year as a sophomore at 160 pounds, and this season was champion at Clear Fork, third at West Salem Northwestern, and sixth at the Bill Dies.

195 pounds

1. Michael Baker, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (K. Fairmont)
2. Ethan Hatcher, Brecksville, junior (Hoover)
3. Seth Shumate, Dublin Coffman, freshman (H. Darby)
4. Deron Pulliam, Dublin Scioto, junior (H. Darby)
5. Jordan Greer, Avon, junior (Mentor)
6. Micah Clemson, Canton McKinley, senior (Hoover)
7. Jacob Kowalski, Springboro, junior (K. Fairmont)
8. Max Boyle, Harrison, senior (K. Fairmont)
9. Logan Painter, Marysville, senior (H. Darby)
10. Chrisean Merritt, Maple Hts., junior (Hoover)
11. Mitchell Gibson, West Clermont, senior (K. Fairmont)
12. Justin Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, junior (Mentor)
13. Nick Lisco, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
14. Thomas Feldman, Cincinnati Elder, senior (K. Fairmont)
15. Jacob McCloskey, Delaware Hayes, senior (H. Darby)
16. Jack Murphy, Dover, senior (Hoover)

HDAR – Shumate, Pulliam, Painter, McCloskey; Jake Nelson (Groveport-Madison, sophomore)

HOOV – Hatcher, Clemson, Merritt, Murphy; Blake Chrisman (Medina, junior)

KF – Baker, Kowalski, Boyle, Gibson; Feldman

MEN – Greer, Jaeckin, Lisco, Lewis Aguilar (Elyria, senior); Ty Cobb (Oregon Clay, freshman)

Outside of 106, this weight class (along with 220 and 285) features the least state tournament experience of any in Division I this year with just four returning state qualifiers. It's a group led by three-time state qualifier Baker, who finished sixth in this weight class last year after going 1-2 his first two years in the 170 pound state tournament bracket. Other than an overtime loss to Pennsylvania freshman Franklin in the consolation match to place at the Ironman, Baker's other three losses are to nationally ranked opposition (7-2 to Dugan in the Ironman quarters, 10-2 to Christensen in the Dvorak final, and 5-3 to Garcia in the Escape the Rock final).

Ranked second in this state weight is the junior Hatcher, who has qualified for state at 152 and then 170, but went 0-2 on each occasion. Since last year's state tournament, it's been a most excellent string of production: placing at the NHSCA Sophomore Nationals, finishing a rather unexpected sixth at the UWW Cadet Nationals in freestyle, and placing fifth in Cadet freestyle in Fargo during the off-season. The regular season includes placing fifth at the Ironman (beating Franklin in the consolation quarterfinal), third at the Beast of the East, second at Brecksville, and then first at the Bill Dies and Brooke Classic; three of those four losses have come to nationally ranked opposition, the other loss (Brecksville final) was reversed in the Bill Dies semifinal.

A pair of Hilliard Darby district wrestlers are next in the rankings, Shumate and Pulliam. The freshman Shumate placed in both Greco-Roman and freestyle at the Cadet Nationals this summer in the 170 pound weight class, and then was 3-2 in that same weight class at the Super 32 in late October. He started the season at 182, where he was champion at Big Walnut beating two-time state qualifier Vanmeter 13-2 in the final and placing third at North Canton with four wins over state qualifiers/placers. Moving up to 195, he was champion at Medina beating Junior freestyle All-American Cover by a 5-1 decision in the final and also winning gold at Delaware Hayes.

Pulliam is the only additional returning state medalist in this weight class, other than Baker, as he placed seventh last year during his sophomore season at 182 pounds. This season includes titles at North Canton (beating Wolak 7-4 in the final), Marion Harding, and Dublin Scioto before finishing runner-up at Delaware Hayes where he was pinned by Shumate in the final. A pair of ranked wrestlers, both seniors, join Shumate and Pulliam at the district tournament. Returning state alternate Painter has placed fourth at SWOWCA and Top Gun while missing out on placing at Brecksville by a single match; McCloskey has top five finishes in four different tournaments this year, including finishing runner-up at Top Gun. Returning go-to-state match losers Nelson and Andrew Sherman (Westland, senior) are not ranked in the top sixteen.

The fifth primary contender in this weight class is the junior Greer, a state alternate last year in this weight class. On the current season, he beat Cover 3-1 in overtime to win the Cobos Classic during the season's opening weekend, and then followed it up with a Brecksville title beating Hatcher 5-2 in the final. He would lose to Hatcher 5-1 in the Bill Dies semi and then default the consolation final bout. Just two ranked wrestlers join Greer at the Mentor district, both are also juniors. Jaeckin was champion at Olentangy Liberty before placing fourth at Medina and fifth at the Bill Dies; while Lisco went 2-2 at the Powerade before upsetting Michigan state champ Turner 11-9 in a dual meet, it's a result that should be noted even if it is unsustainable.

Last of those with state experience in this weight is the senior Clemson, who was 1-2 last year at the Schott in this weight class. His current season includes titles at the Wayne Invitational up a weight class and at Hudson in this weight class. Clemson is ranked second to Hatcher among those at a Hoover district that features two additional ranked wrestlers in Merritt and Murphy. Merritt was state alternate in this weight last year as a sophomore, while his current season includes a runner-up finish to Clemson at Hudson. Murphy did not qualify for district last year as a junior, but this season has been most excellent winning titles at the Mike Lewis Invitational then beating two-time state qualifier Loughman to win at Sheridan, along with placing sixth at Top Gun.

Baker is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district. It's a group led by state alternate Kowalski and go-to-state match loser Boyle. The junior Kowalski has won titles at GMWA, Beaver creek, and Watkins while also beating Boyle 7-6 at the regional duals. The senior Boyle was

champion at SWOWCA, Fairfield, and the Grizzly Invitational while finishing third at Medina (losing 13-4 to Shumate). Fellow senior Gibson placed third at SWOWCA and first at Milford; while another senior in Feldman was fifth at SWOWCA, missed placing at Brecksville by a match, was runner-up at CIT, and third at Delaware Hayes.

220 pounds

1. Josh Bever, Ashland, senior (Mentor)
2. Seamus O'Malley, St. Edward, senior (Mentor)
3. Jarin Curtis, Massillon Perry, senior (Hoover)
4. Caleb Wood, Fremont Ross, senior (Mentor)
5. Ethan Smegal, Marysville, senior (H. Darby)
6. Lazar Gasic, North Royalton, junior (Hoover)
7. Riley Ucker, Dublin Coffman, freshman (H. Darby)
8. Kaden Tong, Olentangy Liberty, junior (H. Darby)
9. Drew Levis, Elyria, senior (Mentor)
10. Jared Sanders, Uniontown Lake, senior (Hoover)
11. Jake Noon, Findlay, junior (Mentor)
12. Joe Wahl, West Clermont, senior (K. Fairmont)
13. Bryan Heyward, Northmont, senior (K. Fairmont)
14. Jay Thompson, Worthington Kilbourne, junior (H. Darby)
15. Nathan Robinson, Delaware Hayes, junior (H. Darby)
16. Bradley Smith, Beavercreek, senior (K. Fairmont)

HDAR – Smegal, Ucker, Tong, Thompson; Robinson

HOOV – Curtis, Gasic, Sanders, Eddie Sevastos (Brunswick, junior); TBD

KF – Wahl, Heyward, Smith, Jaeden Crowe (Kettering Fairmont, senior); Ivan Pace, Jr. (Colerain, senior)

MEN – Bever, O'Malley, Wood, Levis; Noon

Like the 195 pound weight class, just two state medalists and four total state qualifiers feature among the field. Both state placers exit the Mentor district. Though O'Malley placed higher than Bever last year at state (fourth vs. fifth), it was Bever who earned the district title, which was keyed by a 10-3 semifinal victory over O'Malley. The current season for Bever includes titles at the Gorman and West Holmes, which were preceded by a third place finish at Brecksville. O'Malley missed the Ironman after being a lynchpin at defensive end for the Division I football state champion Eagles. He advanced to the semifinals of the Powerade, where he lost 11-0 Deluca, who is nationally ranked from Pennsylvania; O'Malley would subsequently default down to sixth. Since then his notable results consist of a 1-0 loss to his top five in the country opponent from Blair and a 13-2 defeat against Yatooma from Detroit Catholic Central.

Three other ranked wrestlers join these two at the Mentor district, a group which is led by returning state qualifier Wood; current season performances include runner-up finishes at the Gorman and Delaware Hayes, sixth at Brecksville, and a poor eighth place finish at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Levis missed placement at the Ironman by one match before going 1-2 at the Beast (though the losses were by 3-0 and 3-1 scores), then placing eighth at Brecksville and fifth at Maumee Bay. The junior Noon was champion at the Kilted Klassic before taking fourth at Findlay, sixth at Maumee Bay, and fifth at the Grizzly Invitational.

Ranked third in this weight class is returning state qualifier Curtis, who will be playing running back next year at NCAA Division II Wheeling Jesuit. His current season includes placing eighth at the Ironman, seventh at the Beast, fifth at Brecksville, fourth at Top Gun, and winning the title at Delaware Hayes. The district field at Hoover is extremely limited as there are just two other ranked wrestlers and it was next to impossible to identify a fifth wrestler to list. The junior Gasic was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this season started strong with a title at Solon and runner-up at the North Coast Classic before an injury that following week cost him a month of competition; his return to the mat was in finishing third at the Hephner (beating Sanders 4-3 for bronze). The senior Sanders is a returning state alternate, and his season includes placing third at North Canton, failing to place at Brecksville and Maumee Bay, and taking fourth at the Hephner.

In words that might be stunning to read, the Hilliard Darby district is deep at this weight class with five ranked wrestlers present. Leading the group is returning state qualifier Smegal, who missed the first three weeks of the season before going 2-2 at Brecksville; he then won titles at Dublin Scioto and Watkins, while in between it was a fifth place finish at Top Gun. Next in line is the freshman Ucker, who was seventh in Cadet freestyle this summer and in the current season finished fifth at Big Walnut, fourth at Medina, and third at Delaware Hayes; along with losing 9-2 to Smegal in the regional duals. Tong was a go-to-state match loser in this weight last year as a sophomore, and was champion at Olentangy Liberty, runner-up at the Grizzly Invitational, while missing placement at the Ironman by one match. Fellow junior Thompson was champion at Upper Arlington, runner-up at Dublin Scioto, and sixth at the Top Gun; while another junior Robinson was fourth at Olentangy Liberty, the GMVWA, and Delaware Hayes and eighth at Top Gun.

The district at Kettering Fairmont does not feature a projected state placer, and has just three ranked wrestlers led by the senior Wahl. His season includes third place finishes at SWOWCA and GMVWA along with a title at Milford. Fellow senior Heyward was a state alternate last year, with titles this season at Xenia and Troy along with a third at North Coast and fifth at GMVWA; while another senior Smith was champion at Beavercreek.

285 pounds

1. Jacob Padilla, Huber Hts. Wayne, junior (K. Fairmont)
2. Max Millin, Massillon Perry, junior (Hoover)
3. Michael Mather, Uniontown Lake, senior (Hoover)
4. Daniel Bucknavich, Midview, junior (Mentor)
5. Jack Roesch, Avon, senior (Mentor)
6. Robert Brown, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (K. Fairmont)
7. Brian Kilbane, St. Edward, junior (Mentor)
8. Jake Burns, Wooster, junior (Hoover)
9. Brock Kimble, Austintown Fitch, senior (Hoover)
10. Day'marin Jones, Franklin Hts., senior (H. Darby)
11. Yousef Awad, Lakewood, junior (Hoover)
12. Omari Green, Central Crossing, junior (H. Darby)
13. Jake Bever, Ashland, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Nicholas Nash, Glen Oak, senior (Hoover)
15. Peyton Bartley, Xenia, senior (K. Fairmont)
16. Kevin Stone, Cincinnati Anderson, senior (K. Fairmont)

HDAR – Jones, Green, Rodney Beneker (Hilliard Darby, senior), Eric Feng (Dublin Coffman, senior);
Donovan Hardin (Dublin Scioto, junior)
HOOV – Millin, Mather, Burns, Kimble; Awad, Nash
KF – Padilla, Brown, Bartley, Stone Seth Frantz (Northmont, junior)
MEN – Bucknavich, Roesch, Kilbane, Bever; Tyler Jones (North Olmsted, senior)

Along with 106, this weight class has the least returning state medalists, one in total. That lone individual is a two-time state qualifier in this weight class in Padilla, who placed eighth last year as a sophomore. His current season includes titles at SWOWCA, GMVWA, Top Gun, and Eaton; among those wins are victories over championship finals victories over projected state runners-up (Shafer at GMVWA, Millin at Top Gun).

The lone additional state tournament win among competitors in this weight class comes from fellow junior Millin, who won 3-2 in the opening round last year before losing by fall in the quarters and 3-1 in the tiebreaker against Padilla in the match to place. He placed sixth at the Ironman this season, third at the Beast, second at Top Gun and third at Delaware Hayes. Joining him at Hoover for district are five other ranked wrestlers, a group led by fellow returning state qualifier Mather. The senior has tournament titles at North Canton, Brecksville (overtime decision against Michigan runner-up Kolcheff), Maumee Bay, and the Hephner this season.

Next up is the junior Burns, who was champion at West Salem Northwestern, beating Division III state placer Warren 5-1 in the final. Fellow senior Kimble was fourth at Medina and Top Gun, champion at Youngstown Liberty, fifth at EOWL, and runner-up at the Hephner. The junior Awad was third at Solon before winning titles at Cleveland Central Catholic and Black River, while the senior Nash placed third at Hudson and West Salem Northwestern.

The last remaining state qualifier is the senior Roesch, who was 0-2 last year at 220 pounds. His current season includes a third place finish at Brecksville and a runner-up finish at the Bill Dies. That finals loss at the Bill Dies was to the junior Bucknavich, who has three other tournament titles on the season – those coming at Solon, Medina, and West Holmes. Two other ranked wrestlers will join that pair at the Mentor district, in fact fellow junior Kilbane joins both Roesch and Bucknavich at the Westlake sectional. Kilbane played offensive tackle for the state championship football team at St. Edward; notable for his season is a seventh place finish at Powerade and a 3-2 regional dual meet victory over Kimble. Rounding out that ranked group is the sophomore Bever, whose older brother is the projected 220 pound state champ; his current season includes placing eighth at Brecksville, runner-up at the Gorman, and third at West Holmes.

Joining Padilla at the Kettering Fairmont district is three other ranked wrestlers, including returning state alternate Brown who was champion at Franklin before placing seventh at the Dvorak then sixth at Escape the Rock; he also has a dual meet win over Kilbane from December. The senior Bartley has titles at Western Brown and Milford to go with a third at Xenia, sixth at GMVWA, and fifth at Fairfield; while Stone has titles at Edgewood and Sycamore to go with third place finishes at SWOWCA and Milford.

Stop where you've heard this before, but only two ranked wrestlers exit district competition at Hilliard Darby. The senior Jones was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty before winning titles at Grandview Hts. and Central Crossing, while the junior Green was champion at Olentangy before finishing second at Marion Harding and Delaware Hayes, along with a third at Central Crossing.

Team – based on a state scoring model per ranking position

1. Cincinnati LaSalle (Kettering Fairmont)
2. St. Edward (Mentor)
3. Elyria (Mentor)
4. Brecksville (Hoover)
5. Wadsworth (Hoover)
6. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Olentangy Liberty (Hilliard Darby)
8. Massillon Perry (Hoover)
9. Perrysburg (Mentor)
10. Dublin Coffman (Hilliard Darby)
11. Harrison (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Huber Hts. Wayne (Kettering Fairmont)