

Division II

106 pounds

1. Nate Keaton, Circleville, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Hunter Lucas, Western Brown, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Jordan Crace, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
4. Jacob Decatur, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
5. Ben Pasiuk, Carrollton, freshman (Claymont)
6. Mason Brainard, Field, senior (Alliance)
7. Connor McCrone, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
8. Tyler Capodice, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
9. Timmy Young, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
10. Christian Wayt, West Branch, freshman (Alliance)
11. Clayton Eagle, Ashland, sophomore (Fostoria)
12. Charley Bohls, Napoleon, junior (Fostoria)
13. Dawson Carter, Hillsboro, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Dalton Burcher, Indian Valley, freshman (Claymont)
15. Wade Monebrake, Eaton, freshman (Wilmington)
16. Dominic Carone, Streetsboro, sophomore (Alliance)
17. Edwin Suber, Tallmadge, freshman (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Brainard, McCrone, Wayt; Carone, Suber

CLMT – Pasiuk, Young, Burcher, Thane Kaufman (West Holmes, sophomore); Caleb Greenlee (Gallia Academy, sophomore)

FOS – Capodice, Eagle, Bohls, Gavin Ritter (Wauseon, freshman); Jake Bartinelli (Buckeye, sophomore)

WILM – Keaton, Lucas, Crace, Carter; Monebrake, Cole Hauser (Benjamin Logan, sophomore)

Within the middle-weights of Division I, a discussion ensued about the potential impact of moving parts, unknown which weight class they will end up. In the opening weight class of Division II, such a discussion should be conducted. The top two ranked wrestlers here, as well as returning state champion Josh Venia (who is ranked at 113), have only one tournament appearance in this weight class. It has been indicated to me that Lucas will end up in this weight class, while the status of Keaton and Venia is much murkier.

At this point, the projected state champion is the sophomore Keaton, champion at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman in this weight class; has additional titles at West Jefferson and Western Brown at 113. Last season, he lost in the state semifinal to Justin Stickley before finishing fourth. However, it would not surprise me if either Lucas or (if in this state tournament weight class) Venia are atop the podium at The Schott. Keaton exits the Wilmington district, one that features five ranked wrestlers in all, including the top three.

Fellow sophomore Lucas is a two-time Fargo All-American in Cadet Greco-Roman, and is already the highest state placer in Western Brown history, finishing fifth last year. He is the anchor wrestler for a surging Broncos program that seeks a team state tournament appearance along with a top ten finish at the individual bracket state tournament. On the season he placed third at Brecksville in this weight class, and won a title at Franklin up a weight class. Crace, a junior high state champion last year, has titles at the GMVWA and Valley View tournaments.

Rounding out the quintet at Western Brown is the sophomore Carter, who has titles at Vinton County and Western Brown this season, along with the freshman Monebrake, who placed fifth at the GMVWA.

The deepest district in this weight class is the one at Alliance, which features six ranked wrestlers in all, though the four projected state qualifiers have created a slight gap on the challenge pack. Leading the way is freshman Jacob Decatur, who was champion at North Canton and a semifinalist at Brecksville and Maumee Bay. Next in line is the senior Brainard, a returning state alternate, who placed fourth at the Top Gun. Two freshmen round out the projected state qualifiers. McCrone was third at Solon, runner-up at the Gorman, and champion at the CIT; while Wayt was third at the GMVWA and a quarterfinalist at Top Gun.

Additional ranked wrestlers in this district are the sophomore Carone, who placed fourth at the Bill Dies after missing the early part of the season, while the freshman Suber placed fifth at both the Bill Dies and Hephner tournaments.

Three ranked wrestlers populate the district at Claymont, which includes the freshman Pasiuk, a junior high state runner-up last year. On the season he placed third at both North Canton and the Top Gun. The junior Young was a district placer last year while competing for Division III Steubenville Catholic Central; this season he was fifth at North Canton and champion at the OVAC. Rounding out the ranked lot is the freshman Burcher, who was champion at West Holmes.

Lastly it's the three ranked wrestlers in the Fostoria district, whom are led by the senior Capodice, last year a state alternate. This season, he was champion at Avon Lake before placing at fifth at Medina, third at the Gorman, and sixth at Top Gun. The sophomore Eagle was champion at the Gorman and fifth at Marion County, while the junior Bohls was seventh at Medina and fifth at Perrysburg.

113 pounds

1. Jordan Decatur, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
2. Ana Abduljelil, Whitehall, senior (Claymont)
3. Lukus Stricker, Hoban, junior (Alliance)
4. Josh Venia, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
5. *Nate Keaton, Circleville, sophomore (Wilmington)*
6. Eric Bartos, Buckeye, sophomore (Fostoria)
7. Jeff Thomas, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
8. Hunter Ryan, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Jake Ondash, Crestwood, senior (Alliance)
10. Jake Gentry, Hamilton Ross, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Reese Wainuskis, Alliance, junior (Alliance)
12. Alex Lucas, Minerva, junior (Claymont)
13. Alex Slattman, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
14. Louis LaChapelle, Maumee, senior (Fostoria)
15. Leondre Cooley, Sandusky, junior (Fostoria)
16. Joe Wright, Coventry, sophomore (Alliance)
17. Josh Smith, Canal Fulton Northwest, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Decatur, Stricker, Ryan, Ondash; Wainuskis, Wright, Smith

CLMT – Abduljelil, Lucas, Kyle Greenlee (Gallia Academy, sophomore), Jake Johnson (Jonathan Alder, sophomore); Landin Price (New Lexington, sophomore)

FOS – Venia, Bartos, Slattman, LaChapelle; Cooley

WILM – *Keaton*, Thomas, Gentry, Matt Asher (Clinton Massie, sophomore); Drew Price (Middletown Madison, sophomore)

The Buckeye State has seen 27 four-time state champions, not counting for any to earn that distinction this year, two of them attending CVCA. The Royals have a freshman this year, who is well positioned to take the first step towards becoming yet another member of that club. Jordan Decatur was a Cadet National freestyle champion this summer, and placed fourth in his first high school tournament, the Walsh Ironman. Since then, he's been to the finals of four different tournaments, winning titles at North Canton (120) and Wadsworth, while taking second at Brecksville and Maumee Bay (120).

A very late drop by two-time state placer Abduljelil, who missed the second half of last season due to injury, provides a genuine challenger for Decatur. In his return season from injury, Abduljelil was champion at Licking Heights up at 120 before dropping the last weekend of January to win the Cruiser Invitational.

If not for a phenom like Decatur, and before the drop of Abduljelil, there would have been around four different wrestlers that could win the state title. First among them is the junior Stricker, who joins Decatur in exiting the district at Alliance. On the season, Stricker placed fifth at the Ironman, and has followed that up with titles at Hudson, Bill Dies, and the Hephner. This district tournament features five other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Ryan, who was runner-up at the Gorman and CIT this season. Returning state alternate Ondash was runner-up at Kenston, which was sandwiched by a sixth at Solon and fourth at the Bill Dies. Rounding out the ranked group are Top Gun placers in Wainuskis and Smith, along with North Coast runner-up Wright.

Returning state champion Venia is in the mix behind Decatur and Abduljelil, and he anchors a group of five ranked wrestlers at the Fostoria district. While competing in this weight class, Venia placed third at Solon and Brecksville, with titles at Perrysburg and the CIT. Next in line at this district is Bartos, who placed seventh at state last year as a sophomore; on the season he has a title at West Holmes to go with a sixth at Medina and fifth at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Slattman placed fourth at Perrysburg and sixth at Maumee Bay; returning state alternate LaChapelle was third at Tiffin Columbian, runner-up at Perrysburg, and seventh at Maumee Bay; while returning state qualifier Cooley was fourth at Tiffin Columbian while falling short of placement at Maumee Bay.

The district at Wilmington is very shallow beyond the top two (or if Keaton is here, three) wrestlers. Leading the way, outside of Keaton, is the freshman Thomas, who was champion at the GMVWA. Next in line is returning state qualifier Gentry, who finished runner-up at SWOWCA before taking third at Fairfield. The last one or two spots is open for the taking.

Beyond Abduljelil there is little in top end quality and overall quantity, a situation exacerbated by the season-ending injury suffered by returning district placer Dillen Lewis (Carrollton), who was sixth at both North Canton and the Top Gun. The only other ranked wrestler is returning district placer in Lucas, who was fifth at both those tournaments.

120 pounds

1. Tyler Warner, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
2. Tony Decesare, Padua, senior (Alliance)
3. Seth Beard, Napoleon, senior (Fostoria)

4. Justin Stickle, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
5. Hunter Kosco, Canal Fulton Northwest, junior (Alliance)
6. Nick Berry, Dayton Carroll, senior (Wilmington)
7. Dante Ginnetti, Poland, senior (Alliance)
8. Blaine Hunter, Elida, senior (Fostoria)
9. Matthew Cardello, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
10. Matthew Taylor, Ashland, junior (Fostoria)
11. Addison Fogle, Licking Valley, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Carson Speelman, Mansfield Madison, junior (Fostoria)
13. Zane Johnson, Jonathan Alder, junior (Claymont)
14. Jared Stevens, Gallia Academy, junior (Claymont)
15. Quinton Bookman, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
16. Sammy Southers, Minerva, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Decesare, Kosco, Ginnetti, Cardello; Seth Schroeder (West Branch, sophomore)

CLMT – Warner, Fogle, Johnson, Stevens; Bookman, Southers

FOS – Beard, Hunter, Taylor, Speelman; Danny Assaf (Defiance, junior)

WILM – Stickle, Berry, Jaylin Cameron (Urbana, senior), Jordan Hamblin (Western Brown, sophomore); Ben Sherrill (Bellbrook, sophomore)

Take three-time state champion Tyler Warner out of the equation for a moment. Consider these facts: there are FOURTEEN other returning and/or previous state qualifiers in this weight class, six of whom have stood on the state podium at some point in their career; it includes two returning state finalists, and a third that also has a state finals appearance during his career. And to think this is the “easier” path to win a fourth state title ... tells you what is coming when one reads the 126 pound section.

Warner competed exclusively at 126 pounds through most of the season, before dropping for a tri-meet on the last Saturday of January. Up at 126 pounds, he placed seventh at the Ironman (losses to both Tariq Wilson and Mitch Moore) before winning titles at Medina and the Top Gun (over projected D1 champion Mackall). Five other ranked wrestlers join him at the Claymont district, though all occupy positions 11 through 16 on the ladder.

The rest of the ranked group is led by returning state qualifiers Fogle and Johnson, along with 2014 state qualifier Stevens (last year a state alternate), as well returning state alternates Bookman and Southers. Stevens is the only one of the six who would not have been at this district tournament under last year’s composition.

Two others of the top five exit the district at Alliance, along with two other top nine ranked wrestlers. They are the clear state qualification favorites. Two-time state runner-up DeCesare, who lost to Warner in the 2014 state final, leads the delegation; on the season he was sixth at Ironman, runner-up at Brecksville, and champion at the CIT. Two-time state placer Kosco was a Cadet freestyle All-American this summer, but missed the first half of the season due to injury; however, since return, he was champion at Top Gun. Returning state placer Ginnetti is next, and has sandwiched titles at Kenston and the Hephner around a fourth place finish at the Top Gun. Rounding it out is Cardello, who placed a disappointing eighth at state last year as a freshman at Canfield; after transferring to CVCA he was forced to sit the first half of the season, and since returning placed fifth at Maumee Bay down a weight class before taking third at Wadsworth in this weight. Among the others here is 2014 state qualifier Dalton McCloskey (Girard), who competed in Division III on that occasion.

Three-time state placer Beard was runner-up to Warner back in 2013, losing in the ultimate tiebreaker on that occasion; since then it's been back-slides to third and fifth. This season he was seventh at the Ironman before winning titles at Medina and Perrysburg. Three other ranked wrestlers join him at the Fostoria district, a group led by 2014 placer Hunter, who was runner-up at Allen County and third at Defiance. The junior Taylor is next having a third place finish at the Gorman to go with a runner-up at Marion County; while fellow junior Speelman placed sixth at Medina and fifth at both the Gorman and Marion County. Returning state qualifier Assaf is also here.

Rounding it out is the district at Wilmington, which has just two ranked wrestlers. The duo is anchored by returning state runner-up Stickley, who was champion at the GMVWA after failing to place at the Ironman. Joining him is returning state qualifier Berry, who placed fourth at Medina. Also here is returning state qualifier Cameron.

126 pounds

1. Tariq Wilson, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
2. Mitch Moore, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
3. Rosendo Beltran, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
4. Luke Wymer, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Charlie Nash, Norwalk, senior (Fostoria)
6. Justin Shaw, Carrollton, sophomore (Claymont)
7. Errik Gerback, Marlinton, junior (Alliance)
8. Chandler Golec, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
9. Aaron Kelly, Rocky River, senior (Fostoria)
10. Hunter Deshon, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
11. Taylor Steele, Waynesville, junior (Wilmington)
12. Tra Jones, Sandusky, senior (Fostoria)
13. Mauricio Barajas, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
14. Jayden Hefner, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
15. Logan Ball, Cambridge, junior (Claymont)
16. Casey Ragle, Norwood, sophomore (Wilmington)

ALL – Wymer, Gerback, Deshon, Mitch Skleres (Lake Catholic, junior); David Genovese (Woodridge, junior)

CLMT – Wilson, Shaw, Golec, Ball; Ben Kring (Bishop Watterson, senior)

FOS – Beltran, Nash, Kelly, Jones; Barajas, Hefner

WILM – Moore, Steele, Ragle, Coby Hughes (Miami Trace, sophomore); Coleman Manning (Eaton, junior)

Given that there is no question about St. Paris Graham winning the state title, which would be their sixteenth in a row, there has to be some questions for them to answer along the way. One would be how many individuals win their weight class. The record for state champions and points scored in the state tournament was accomplished by Graham in 2009 (seven champs and 282 points). One of the cogs in the Falcons machine is Mitch Moore, state champion last year as a freshman.

However, he's going to have a very tough battle on his hands if he is to repeat as state champion with two-time state runner-up Wilson standing in his way. The two met in the preseason at the Super 32 Challenge in the match to place. Wilson took a decent sized lead midway through the match; Moore

than ate into the lead, finally going ahead on a toss that ended up in him getting a fall. However, Wilson won the Ironman six weeks later, with Moore finishing in third place.

Since then both have impressively ran through their opposition. Moore with wins over the Ironman runner-up Matthews and returning state champion Hart in dual meets to go with his title at the GMVWA, while Wilson added titles at North Canton and the OVAC. Should each win their district tournament, they would be bracketed to meet on the raised mat at The Schott on Saturday, March 5th.

Ten other returning and/or previous state qualifiers shape the periphery of this weight class, led by four at the Fostoria district among their six ranked wrestlers. Two-time state qualifier Beltran was runner-up at Solon (at 132) and Perrysburg before winning the CIT, while two-time state placer Nash has titles at Milan Edison (at 120), Kenston, and Hamilton Township this season. The other two state qualifiers here are the senior Kelly, champion at three tournaments and a quarterfinalist at the Bill Dies this season; along with the sophomore Barajas, who placed fifth at Maumee Bay. The junior Hefner was a state alternate last year, and placed eighth at the GMVWA; while the senior Jones was champion at Tiffin Columbian and third at Maumee Bay.

Wilson, who signed with North Carolina State, is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at the Clamont district. The group is led by the sophomore Shaw, who placed third at North Canton and fifth at the Top Gun. Next in line is the junior Golec, already a two-time state qualifier; while fellow junior Ball is a returning state qualifier down three weight classes and placed third in the OVAC meet this year.

Moore is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Wilmington, returning state qualifier Steele and returning state alternate Ragle. The junior Steele won a title at Milton-Union, while Ragle was third at Franklin and fifth at SWOWCA.

Rounding it out is the Alliance district, which features just three ranked wrestlers. The group is led by Wymer, who qualified for state as a freshman last year and has won tournaments at Lorain (132) and the Hephner along with a fifth place finish at Medina and third place at the Top Gun. The junior Gerback was a state alternate last year, and this season was runner-up at the Hephner along with lower places at North Canton and Top Gun; while Deshon placed eighth at state as a junior last season and was runner-up at Defiance this season. Also here is 2014 state qualifier Skleres, whose accomplishment came when competing for Division III Pymatuning Valley.

132 pounds

1. Ryan Thomas, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Hunter Bray, Franklin, senior (Wilmington)
3. Lane Peters, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
4. Cory Simpson, Field, senior (Alliance)
5. Collin Adkins, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)
6. Kevon Freeman, Lake Catholic, sophomore (Alliance)
7. Jashon Hubbard, Steubenville, sophomore (Claymont)
8. Eli Yoho, Woodridge, junior (Alliance)
9. Hunter Yackee, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
10. Otha Jones, Toledo Scott, sophomore (Fostoria)
11. Andrew Spicer, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
12. Jacob Kordik, Dayton Oakwood, senior (Wilmington)
13. Isaiah Ngaraingas, Conneaut, senior (Alliance)

14. Jacob Boldman, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
15. Drew Crabtree, Perkins, junior (Fostoria)
16. Beau Smith, Beaver Local, freshman (Claymont)

ALL – Simpson, Freeman, Yoho, Ngaraingas; Dakota McKenzie (Ravenna, senior)
CLMT – Peters, Hubbard, Spicer, Smith; Chance Haynes (Buckeye Local, senior)
FOS – Adkins, Yackee, Jones, Crabtree; Brad Beemer (Wapakoneta, sophomore)
WILM – Thomas, Bray, Kordik, Boldman; Wes Davenport (Unioto, freshman)

The robustness of the lower-weights within Division II continues in this weight class that has seven returning state placers, with at least four others having state tournament experience. Yet another excellent Graham wrestler is here in the sophomore Thomas, who placed third at state last year up a weight class at 138. He's the slight favorite here, and on the season won the GMVWA, but failed to place at the Ironman and lost in overtime to the St. Edward freshman Dover in their dual meet.

The direct challenger to Thomas is three-time state placer Bray, who also exits the Wilmington district. At the Ironman, Bray also lost in overtime to Dover, then his second loss was to 2014 placer Shie; he also has titles at Franklin and Western Brown this season. The other two ranked wrestlers are both seniors; Kordik was runner-up at Tippecanoe, while Boldman has titles at Edgewood and Bellbrook.

Two other returning state placers exit the district at Claymont, including two-time placer Peters, who has been in and out of the lineup this season; he went 2-2 at the Ironman, with his front side loss being to Dover by a 5-4 score. Also here is Hubbard, who was third at 106 last year as a freshman; he missed the first half of the season, but returned to win a title at the OVAC meet. Also ranked here are 2014 state qualifier Spicer and the freshman Smith; Spicer was a quarterfinalist at Medina, while Smith placed fifth at the OVAC.

Another pair of state placers exit the district at Alliance. Three-time state placer Simpson took fourth each of the last two years, and was runner-up at the Top Gun; while the sophomore Freeman placed fourth at Brecksville and second at Brecksville before winning the CIT. The junior Yoho is a returning state alternate, placing third at Hudson and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Ngaraingas qualified for state in 2014 as a sophomore.

Rounding out the returning state placers is the senior Adkins, who placed sixth up a weight last year at 138 pounds. On the season he has titles at Bellevue (at 138) and the Gorman. He is the anchor of the district at Fostoria. Among the others here is Yackee, who made state last year as a freshman, and this year has finished fourth at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. Also here is the sophomore Jones and the junior Crabtree; Crabtree having placed third at the Gorman and also a quarterfinals appearance at the Top Gun.

138 pounds

1. Brent Morore, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Jake Martinez, Licking Valley, junior (Claymont)
3. Cole Woods, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
4. Brett Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
5. Hayden Bullard, Johnstown Monroe, senior (Claymont)
6. Miles Mazik, Indian Creek, junior (Claymont)
7. Adam Shaw, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)

8. Juwan Minnefield, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
9. Tyler Copeland, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
10. Jason Keyes, Beaver Local, senior (Claymont)
11. Dakota Bunting, Sparta Highland, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Greg Briggs, Cloverleaf, senior (Fostoria)
13. Alex Kowal, Bishop Fenwick, junior (Wilmington)
14. Leconte Merrell, Mansfield Madison, junior (Fostoria)
15. Parker Utley, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Greg Brewer, Circleville, junior (Wilmington)

ALL – Bailey, Utley, Luke McKeon (Lake Catholic, sophomore), Chayse Creager (Marlington, junior); Charlie Olson (University School, junior)

CLMT – Martinez, Woods, Bullard, Mazik; Shaw, Keyes, Bunting

FOS – Minnefield, Copeland, Briggs, Merrell; Thurston Dyer (Upper Sandusky, senior)

WILM – Moore, Kowal, Brewer, Kurt Crockett (Indian Lake, senior); Trenton Scott (Franklin, junior)

The robust nature of these Division II weight classes in the lower half continues. Even with a defending state champion (who is nationally ranked) in this field, there still are six other state placers along with five additional wrestlers having state experience. This weight class is absolutely cannibalistic at the Claymont district as seven ranked wrestlers are here, including five of the top seven. When accounting for the unranked Maxx Peters (Claymont), six wrestlers at this district have state experience, while a seventh was a state alternate last year.

When looking at the weight above at this district, it would not be shocking at all to see a couple of kids move up one weight class; especially when considering the climate at the top of both weights is anchored by a St. Paris Graham wrestler who is the defending state champ and a clear favorite to repeat.

The junior Martinez is a returning state placer with but one blemish on the season, in the Brecksville final; he has titles at Cambridge, Olentangy Liberty, and the Bill Dies. Two-time state placer Woods finished second at state two years, and spend most of this season at 145 – including a title at Cambridge and finishing fourth at Top Gun – before making the late drop. Another returning state placer is Bullard, who lost to Woods in a dual meet. The junior Mazik has been most excellent this season with titles at four different tournaments, including the OVAC meet. Returning state alternate Shaw was runner-up at both North Canton and the Top Gun. Keyes placed seventh at state last year as a junior, placing seventh at Medina in the 145 weight class, before finishing second to Mazik in the OVAC meet here. Last among the ranked is the sophomore Bunting, a returning state qualifier, who placed third at Medina.

As mentioned already, the strong favorite here is Brent Moore, state champion last year up at 145 pounds. The Virginia Tech signee was third at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA, along with an 11-3 major decision over Ironman champion Hunter Ladnier in a mid-January dual meet. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, juniors Kowal and Brewer; Kowal was champion at Bishop Fenwick, while Brewer has a title at Western Brown.

The Fostoria district features four ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Copeland along with state qualifiers Minnefield and Copeland. The senior Minnefield leads the way having won titles at Avon Lake (at 145) and the Gorman this season before placing seventh at the Top Gun; Copeland placed fifth at state last year as a sophomore, and was a semifinalist at the GMVWA this year; while the senior

Merrell has been in and out of the lineup. Rounding out the ranked group is fellow senior Briggs, who was sixth at Medina and a champion at Willard. Also at this district is 2013 and 2014 state qualifier Thurston Dyer (Upper Sandusky), who was a state alternate last year.

Rounding it out is the district at Alliance, which features just two ranked wrestlers, including returning state third place finisher Bailey. On the season, he was fifth at Top Gun and champion at the Hephner.

145 pounds

1. Rocky Jordan, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
2. Gage Grunden, Defiance, sophomore (Fostoria)
3. Sandro Ramirez, Wauseon, sophomore (Fostoria)
4. Brennan Joseph, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
5. Sid Ohl, Ashland, junior (Fostoria)
6. C.J. Frost, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
7. Joey Boley, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
8. Hunter McPeak, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
9. Dakotah Goff, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
10. Devin Hessler, River Valley, senior (Claymont)
11. Jake Henderson, Western Brown, junior (Wilmington)
12. Kevin Beal, Fairfield Union, senior (Claymont)
13. David Esarco, Poland, senior (Alliance)
14. Hunter Miles, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
15. Tony Lewis, Ravenna, junior (Alliance)
16. Gavin Pearson, Talawanda, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Joseph, Frost, Boley, McPeak; Esarco, Lewis

CLMT – Goff, Hessler, Beal, Miles; Cameron Cua (Columbus DeSales, junior)

FOS – Grunden, Ramirez, Ohl, Gabe Makin (Elida, junior); Art Clark (Buckeye, junior)

WILM – Jordan, Henderson, Pearson, Mac Altom (Eaton, senior); Cameron Svarda (Middletown Madison, freshman)

The Jordan family is wrestling royalty in the Buckeye State. Jim (now a U.S. Congressman) and Jeff (head coach at St. Paris Graham) were each four-time state champions; Jim a two-time NCAA Division I champion, Jeff earning All-American honors in college. Ben and Isaac, Jim's two sons, were each three-time state champions and earned All-American honors. Bo and Micah, Jeff's two older sons were each four-time state champions; Bo was an All-American last year as a redshirt freshman, while Micah is competing as a redshirt freshman this year. Rocky is the third and final son for Jeff, and the last of the second generation Jordan's.

Rocky was runner-up at state last year, but is a strong favorite to win this coming year. Should he win state the next three years, the second generation Jordan's would have combined for 17 by themselves to go with the eight earned by Jim and Jeff. This one legacy would have 25 state titles, or one less than those earned by the great St. Peter Chanel program before its close; those state titles would be just outside the top ten for any school in Ohio history.

This season Rocky placed fifth at the Ironman and second at the GMVWA. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, both outside the placement positions. The junior Henderson

was champion at Franklin and Western Brown, while the senior Pearson is a returning district placer, placing at both Edgewood and SWOWCA this year.

The two wrestlers ranked behind Rocky are both sophomores who competed at 126 pounds last year. Ramirez placed third at state, while Grunden won two district tournament matches at a loaded weight class before having to bow out of the tournament. Each also entered high school with high-level junior high credentials. Ramirez was champion in the Frosh/Soph division at the USA Wrestling Preseason Nationals this fall, but missed the first month-plus of the season due to injury; he returned at the Maumee Bay Classic, where he placed third after losing a semifinal match to Grunden in overtime. Grunden has won titles at Defiance, Perrysburg, and Maumee Bay this season with his only loss coming to Moises Guillen at the Fricker's Duals.

That pair anchors a district weight at Fostoria that features just one other ranked wrestler, returning state alternate Ohi; on the season he was champion at Marion County up at 152 before dropping to win a title at West Holmes, by major decision over 2014 state runner-up Woods. Should one of these three move up to 152, it turns a shallow district weight into one that is very weak.

Three returning state qualifiers, all seniors, anchor the district at Alliance. Leading the group is returning state placer Joseph, who was runner-up at the Hephner; Frost placed sixth at Brecksville and fifth at the Dies, while in between he was runner-up at Perry; while McPeak was eighth at Top Gun and runner-up at the Hephner up one weight class before dropping here. Three others are ranked at this district tournament, though it's the senior Boley who is the additional projected state qualifier; on the season he was runner-up at Solon, seventh at Brecksville, third at the Gorman, and champion at CIT. Esarco and Lewis have faced each other this year in medal bouts at Kenston, Top Gun, and the Hephner.

The remaining four ranked wrestlers exit the district at Claymont, though they could be joined by some of those ranked at 138 pounds (Keyes and Bunting come immediately to mind as the likely "bump" candidates). The senior Goff is the lone returning state qualifier. He went 1-2 at the Ironman and was a quarterfinalist at North Canton while up at 152 pounds, before dropping to this weight class and finishing second at the OVAC meet. Three seniors in Hessler, Beal, and Miles were all state alternates last year.

152 pounds

1. Georgio Poullas, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
2. Davey Tunon, Clinton Massie, senior (Wilmington)
3. Seth Boggs, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
4. Richard Jackson, Toledo Central Catholic, senior (Fostoria)
5. Justice Avery, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
6. Jack Peura, Tippecanoe, senior (Wilmington)
7. Luciano Mendicino, Granville, junior (Claymont)
8. Michael McIntire, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
9. Tommy King, Huron, senior (Fostoria)
10. Vince Zitiello, Bay, senior (Fostoria)
11. Casey Parsons, Vincent Warren, senior (Claymont)
12. Malachi Marlow, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)
13. Joey Sanchez, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Kobe Chellan, Defiance, senior (Fostoria)
15. Colin Hagenbush, Norton, senior (Alliance)

16. Tyler Young, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Poullas, McIntire, Hagenbush, Isaac Yoho (Woodridge, sophomore); Nick Vespucci (Crestwood, junior)

CLMT – Avery, Mendicino, Parsons, Clayton Glick (New Lexington, junior); Hayden McGee (Maysville, freshman)

FOS – Boggs, Jackson, King, Zitiello; Chellan

WILM – Tunon, Peura, Marlow, Sanchez; Young

Though there is no superstar anchor, there is some breadth with eleven wrestlers having state tournament experience in this weight class. Leading the way is nationally ranked Poullas, who has placed sixth at state in each of his first two high school seasons. He jumped onto the national scene with a sixth place finish in the pre-season Super 32 Challenge, including some high quality wins. There was a slight blemish in going 2-2 at the Ironman; however, he is undefeated since then with titles at Brecksville, Perry, and the Bill Dies.

Only two other ranked wrestlers join Poullas at the Alliance district, both of whom were go-to-state match losers in the junior McIntire and the senior Hagenbush (returning state alternate). On the season, McIntire has tournament titles at Lorain and the North Coast Classic, while finishing seventh at Medina and falling short of placement at the Top Gun.

Two wrestlers in this weight class placed third at state last year, both of whom are seniors, Tunon and Jackson; Tunon did so down in Division III, while Jackson's came up a weight class at 160 pounds.

Jackson is the second best wrestler among the five ranked at the Fostoria district. On the season he was sixth at Brecksville before runner-up finishes at Perrysburg and the CIT. Leading the group at this district is the senior Boggs, who made the state tournament last year; this season he won titles at Avon Lake and Medina before finishing third at the Gorman and runner-up at Top Gun. King qualified for state last year in Division III, and this year was runner-up at Marion County; while Zitiello, who qualified for state as a sophomore in 2014, won the Gorman after finishing runner-up at Lorain and third at the North Coast. Rounding out the ranked lot is fellow senior Chellan, who was champion at Defiance.

Tunon anchors five ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, with his lone blemish being a 4-3 finals loss at the GMVWA to two-time Division I state placer Brusco; he has titles at Fairfield, Western Brown, and Hamilton Township subsequent to that. Another returning state placer in this weight is fellow senior Peura, who was champion at Tippecanoe before making a mid-January drop into this weight. Marlow is a returning state qualifier who was champion at Franklin and runner-up at Western Brown. The sophomore Sanchez failed to place at the GMVWA but was the hero of the Blair dual with a last match upset to win the meet; while Young was a district placer last year and placed third in this weight at Fairfield, while winning an opening week title at Franklin competing at 160.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Claymont, which features just three ranked wrestlers, but all are returning state qualifiers. The senior Avery placed fifth at the Top Gun, the junior Mendicino won titles at the Tilted Kilt and Defiance up one weight class before finishing third at Marion County in this weight class, while the senior Parsons had titles at Vincent Warren and Gallia up a weight class before making the mid-January drop.

160 pounds

1. Garrett Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. David Crawford, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Kyle Myers, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
4. Ashton Eyer, Claymont, sophomore (Claymont)
5. Keysean Amison, Perkins, junior (Fostoria)
6. Zach Bowman, Bishop Hartley, senior (Claymont)
7. Allister Brausch, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
8. David Heath, Akron SVSM, sophomore (Alliance)
9. Bailey Jenkins, Meadowbrook, senior (Claymont)
10. Brenton Miller, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
11. Kade Byland, Salem, senior (Alliance)
12. Dylan Plaugher, Wapakoneta, senior (Fostoria)
13. Jake Badgley, McClain, senior (Wilmington)
14. Marcus Davis, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Derek Schuette, Wauseon, senior (Fostoria)
16. Patrick Keown, Firelands, junior (Fostoria)

ALL – Crawford, Myers, Heath, Byland; Davis

CLMT – Eyer, Bowman, Jenkins, Miller; Anthony Moran (Licking Valley, senior)

FOS – Amison, Plaugher, Schuette, Keown; Garrett Coe (Keystone, junior)

WILM – Jordan, Brausch, Badgley, Drew Moore (Eaton, junior); Isaiah Davis (Indian Lake, senior)

The landscape of this weight class was somewhat shaped by Alex Marinelli, who started the season at 160 pounds, where he won his second straight Walsh Ironman title. However, he moved up to 170 for the GMVWA, flipping weight classes with returning state third place finisher Garrett Jordan. Jordan placed sixth at 160 in the Ironman, and was champion at the GMVWA in this weight class. He is the highest returning placer in this weight class, which has just one other state placer.

That wrestler would be Crawford, who placed sixth last year as a freshman. This year he placed sixth at Brecksville and fourth at the Bill Dies. There are four other ranked wrestlers joining Crawford in the Alliance district at this weight class, a group that is led by returning state qualifier Myers; the senior was runner-up at North Canton, a quarterfinalist at Brecksville, and fourth at the Top Gun. Heath was a state alternate last year as a freshman, and this year was champion at Lorain, third at the North Coast, and fifth at the Hephner. The senior Byland won two district matches last year in this weight class, missing Top Gun placement by a single match; while the sophomore Davis lost two narrow margin bouts at the Top Gun to returning state qualifiers.

Jordan's district at Wilmington is weak with just two other ranked wrestlers, one of whom is returning state qualifier Brausch. On the season he was fourth at Edgewood, sixth at the GMVWA, and champion at Bellbrook. The other ranked wrestler is Badgley, who has titles at Jackson and Hamilton Township on the season.

The remaining four returning state qualifiers in this weight class are featured at the Claymont district, led by the sophomore Eyer, whose season just started in late January after transferring from West Holmes to Claymont. Next in line is the senior Bowman who qualified for state in Division III last year, and this year was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and the CIT, which sandwiched a fourth place finish at the GMVWA. Fellow senior Jenkins was runner-up at both Beaver Local and the OVAC, while the junior Miller was champion at West Holmes after failing to place at either North Canton or Top Gun.

Rounding out the district sites is the one at Fostoria, which is bereft any state experienced wrestlers, and is led by returning alternate Amison. On the season he was champion at Avon Lake, runner-up at the Gorman, and sixth at both Medina and the Top Gun. The senior Plaughter missed placement by a match at both the GMVWA and Top Gun, fellow senior Schuette was fifth at Perrysburg and second at Maumee Bay, while the junior Keown was fourth at Perrysburg.

170 pounds

1. Alex Marinelli, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Shawn Livingston, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
3. Aidan Pasiuk, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
4. Eric Fasnacht, Padua, senior (Alliance)
5. Ben Knaus, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
6. Anthony Audi, Poland, senior (Alliance)
7. Brandon Neuberger, Norwalk, senior (Fostoria)
8. Colten Winters, London, senior (Claymont)
9. Tarin Rauch, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
10. Nate Gissinger, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
11. C.J. Cook, Kenton, sophomore (Fostoria)
12. Connor Dixon, Indian Lake, sophomore (Wilmington)
13. Ethan Fout, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
14. Chase Struna, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
15. Chase Sayers, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
16. Tre Terry, Lima Bath, junior (Fostoria)

ALL – Fasnacht, Knaus, Audi, Gissinger; Struna

CLMT – Livingston, Pasiuk, Winters, Rauch; Fout

FOS – Neuberger, Cook, Terry, Alex Andrews (Napoleon, junior); TBD

WILM – Marinelli, Dixon, Sayers, Ben Davenport (Unioto, junior); Micah Linton (Logan Elm, senior)

For a second straight year, the Buckeye State's best wrestler is the senior Marinelli, who is after his fourth straight title. The future Hawkeye is ranked as the third overall recruit in the Class of 2016. For the season, Marinelli is undefeated (obviously) and dominating the opposition. Furthermore, his presence and/or absence has shifted the landscape in multiple state tournament weight classes within Division II.

When he was at 160 to start the season, there were two returning state runners-up that decided to find their home in this weight class, Wiederholt and Bowers. However, when Marinelli moved up to 170, each has reacted by moving to 182. Though there are five returning state placers, along with two other state qualifiers to augment Marinelli, it's a field that is relatively cleared out. Only two other ranked wrestlers exit the Wilmington district with Marinelli. The sophomore Dixon was sixth at GMVWA before finishing runner-up at Dublin Scioto and winning the title at Maumee Bay; while the senior Sayers was third at Franklin and fourth at SWOWCA in the 182 pound weight class, with a runner-up at Fairfield in this weight.

Two of the additional returning state placers exit the Alliance and Claymont districts respectively, with each district having three other wrestlers in the rankings as well.

Fasnacht and Knaus, both seniors, placed seventh at state last year and lead the rankings in the Alliance district. Fasnacht has runner-up finishes at Brecksville and the CIT this year, while Knaus was champion at Lorain and a semifinalist at Top Gun. Fellow senior Audi is next in the rankings with runner-up finishes at Kenston and Top Gun before a fifth at the Hephner. Another senior Gissinger won two district tournament matches last year at 182, and placed fifth up at 195 at Brecksville; however, he dropped underneath teammate Cox into this weight class for the Top Gun.

The junior Pasiuk is the highest returning state placer other than Marinelli, finishing fourth at 152 pounds last year. This season he won at West Holmes, but failed to place top six at North Canton, losing narrow decisions to the projected runners-up in Division I (Victor Marcelli) and Division II (Livingston). Speaking of Livingston, he placed sixth at state last year; this year it's an eighth at Ironman, third at North Canton, and champion in the OVAC meet. This pair anchors the district at Claymont. Fellow returning state qualifier Winters is next, and he has a title at Dublin Scioto to go with a third place finish at Licking Heights. The junior Rauch went 4-2 at Medina, with a 2-2 mark at Top Gun (including win over Gissinger). Rounding it out is 2014 state qualifier Fout.

Lastly the Fostoria district is paper thin in this weight class with just three ranked wrestlers and a fishing expedition to find the fourth state qualifier and a projected state alternate. Leading the way is returning state placer Neuberger, who has titles in three tournaments along with third place finishes at Kenston and Marion County. Joining him in the rankings are Cook, a district placer last year as a freshman, and the junior Terry who was fourth at Maumee Bay.

182 pounds

1. Tyler Wiederholt, Bellbrook, senior (Wilmington)
2. Tre Campbell, Wauseon, senior (Fostoria)
3. Robbie Bowers, Defiance, junior (Fostoria)
4. Dalton Cox, Canal Fulton Northwest, senior (Alliance)
5. John Szep, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
6. Mason McCane, Washington C.H., senior (Wilmington)
7. Evan Schenk, Perry, junior (Alliance)
8. Jud Ramage, Meadowbrook, sophomore (Claymont)
9. Gage Braun, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
10. Stone Day, Valley View, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Nate Walden, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
12. Garrett Robinson, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
13. Dominic Cooper, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
14. Cole Skaggs, St. Clairsville, senior (Claymont)
15. Deuce Johnson, Alliance, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Billy Cooper, Jackson, junior (Claymont)

ALL – Cox, Szep, Schenk, D. Cooper; Johnson

CLMT – Ramage, Robinson, Skaggs, B. Cooper; Justin Reynolds (Gallia Academy, senior)

FOS – Campbell, Bowers, Dylan Hefner (Wapakoneta, senior), Gabe Smythe (Bellevue, senior); Matthew Cover (Bay, freshman)

WILM – Wiederholt, McCane, Braun, Day; Walden

Three wrestlers in this weight class finished top three in the state last year, which means they would carry "separation criteria" if they were to be district champions. However, two exit the same district,

those being Campbell and Bowers at Fostoria; they're ranked directly behind Wiederholt in this weight class. Furthermore, there are no additional ranked wrestlers at this district tournament.

Campbell has a head-to-head win over Bowers in the final at Perrysburg, a 7-2 victory, though the match was closer than the score. Campbell was one match from placement at Ironman, third at Brecksville, and added a Maumee Bay title to the one at Perrysburg; while Bowers went 1-2 in the Ironman and won the Defiance tournament at 170 before bumping to this class, where he earned a third place at Maumee Bay to compliment the Perrysburg runner-up finish.

Like Bowers, the projected state champ is a returning state runner-up, having lost to a St. Paris Graham wrestler in last year's state final. He joins Bowers in moving up a weight class after Marinelli filtered into 170. While at 170 in the preseason, Wiederholt was one match from placing at the Super 32 Challenge; during the regular season, he placed fifth at the Ironman in this weight class. Since competing at 182, he has titles at the GMVWA, Bellbrook, and Western Brown. He's joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district, though all are from sixth through eleventh.

Fellow senior McCane won a state tournament match in this weight class last year, and has tournament titles at Nelsonville York and Marion County after his runner-up finish at Franklin. Next here is the sophomore Braun who was fourth at the GMVWA and champion at Valley View. Fellow sophomore Day was a state alternate last year, but lost to Braun in the Valley View final in his first competition down at this weight class; he won three tournaments while competing at 195 in December. Closing out this battle for state spots is the senior Walden who placed fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at Bellbrook.

Three additional returning state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers in the Alliance district. They're led by a pair of seniors that won a state match last year in Cox and Szep, who also split matches against one another at Brecksville. Cox also has a title at North Canton, was fifth at Brecksville, and third at the Top Gun; while Szep was sixth at Brecksville, champion at the Gorman, and third at the CIT. The other returning state qualifier is the junior Schenk, who has titles at three tournaments to go with a fifth place finish at Maumee Bay. Sophomores D. Cooper and Johnson are the primary contenders for the last state tournament spot.

Rounding it out is the district at Claymont, which features two returning state qualifiers among the four ranked wrestlers. The sophomore Ramage was champion at Beaver Local and runner-up at the OVAC meet, while the senior Robinson was runner-up at Heath. The senior Skaggs was fifth at the OVAC, while junior Billy Cooper has four tournament finals appearances this season.

195 pounds

1. Jack Harris, Urbana, senior (Wilmington)
2. Kanan Sarver, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
3. Tony Bannister, Wauseon, junior (Fostoria)
4. Jaret Lester, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
5. Landon Hall, Wapakoneta, junior (Fostoria)
6. Justin Sanders, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
7. Chris Cook, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
8. Pete Abraham, Padua, junior (Alliance)
9. Joe Fornaro, West Geauga, senior (Alliance)
10. Tim Albertson, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)

11. Zach Baker, Sparta Highland, junior (Claymont)
12. Xavier Barrow, New Philadelphia, senior (Claymont)
13. Robert Marquez, Hamilton Township, junior (Claymont)
14. Cam Redman, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
15. Jacob Altman, Western Brown, senior (Wilmington)
16. Logan Vannest, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)

ALL – Lester, Sanders, Cook, Abraham; Fornaro

CLMT – Albertson, Baker, Barrow, Marquez; Owen Loughman (Sheridan, freshman)

FOS – Bannister, Hall, Vannest, Ben Ocheltree (Keystone, senior); Russ DeMarco (Port Clinton, junior)

WILM – Harris, Sarver, Redman, Altman; Kevin Melling (Eaton, junior)

Last year Jack Harris became the second ever finalist in the history of Urbana's wrestling program; however, he was unable to become the school's first state champion, as he suffered a 9-3 defeat to Lexington's Drew Kasper. This year, the Kent State signee enters as a stronger favorite after earning All-American honors in Junior freestyle this summer and placing in the Super 32 Challenge during the preseason. During the regular season so far, he was runner-up at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA.

Harris exits the Wilmington district, which features three other ranked wrestlers, including the one whom is ranked directly behind him. The junior Sarver fell one match short of placing at state last year, placing at the Super 32 Challenge this fall, and placing in the Walsh Ironman. He was runner-up to Harris in the GMVWA after beating returning state placer Hall in the semifinal. The senior Redman was champion at Olentangy Liberty and third at Western Brown, while fellow senior Altman was a district placer last year, and this year was runner-up at Franklin before placing fourth at Western Brown.

The other two returning state placers exit the district at Fostoria, where they are joined by only one other ranked wrestler. Both returning state placers are juniors; Hall was sixth down a weight, while Bannister was eighth in this weight. Bannister was fifth at Brecksville before winning titles at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay, while Hall was fourth place finishes at both the GMVWA and Top Gun.

The Alliance district is the deepest here, as it features five ranked wrestlers, all of whom occupy positions between fourth and ninth. Leading the way is Lester, who was a state alternate last year as a junior. This season he has three tournament titles (Lorain, North Coast, and Top Gun) to go with two runner-up finishes (Medina and Hephner). The senior Sanders made the state tournament last year, and this year placed eighth at Brecksville. Cook, Abraham, and Fornaro were district sixth place finishers at 170, 182, and 195 pounds respectively.

Cook was champion at Defiance, runner-up to Lester at North Coast, and third at the Bill Dies; Abraham was champion at the CIT; while Fornaro was a finalist at Kenston and Perry before placing sixth at Top Gun.

Rounding it out is the Claymont district, which features four ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Albertson; he placed fourth at North Canton earlier this season. Next in line is the junior Baker, a returning district placer who finished fourth at Medina after winning the Tilted Kilt up at 220 pounds. The junior Marquez was champion at Hamilton Township, runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Western Brown, with a third place finish at Tippecanoe. Finally, the senior Barrow was champion at Hudson.

220 pounds

1. Garrit Witt, Clyde, senior (Fostoria)
2. Jacob Esarco, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
3. Nick Svarda, Middletown Madison, senior (Wilmington)
4. Tristen Weirich, Ashland, senior (Fostoria)
5. Kordell Chaney, Perkins, senior (Fostoria)
6. Ben Higgins, Marlinton, senior (Alliance)
7. Jared Crowell, Bishop Hartley, senior (Claymont)
8. Johnny Shafer, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
9. Jalen Gowdy, Sandusky, senior (Fostoria)
10. Trey Ellis, Poland, senior (Alliance)
11. Cody Howard, Bloom Carroll, senior (Claymont)
12. Logan Ford, New Philadelphia, senior (Claymont)
13. Steven Major, Indian Lake, senior (Wilmington)
14. Dronne Moore, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
15. Ben Norman, Girard, senior (Alliance)
16. Brandon Phillips, Maumee, sophomore (Fostoria)

ALL – Esarco, Higgins, Ellis, Norman; Brandon Matlock (Warren Howland, sophomore)

CLMT – Crowell, Howard, Ford, Moore; Tommy Moore (Cambridge, junior)

FOS – Witt, Weirich, Chaney, Gowdy; Phillips

WILM – Svarda, Shafer, Major, Mason Todd (Eaton, senior); Mikey Addis (Norwood, sophomore)

A remarkably veteran weight class in terms of graduating year as there are 13 seniors among the 16 ranked wrestlers. While there is a decent amount of state experience here, four returning state placers among eight state qualifiers, it isn't an extreme volume either. The top two wrestlers in this weight class both lost narrow decisions in the state semifinal round last year, Witt in overtime on a penalty point to the at the time undefeated Tyler Dodd, and Esarco 3-2 to eventual state champion Cole Genders; both of those wrestlers were seniors last year, while the two state semifinal losers are now seniors.

Witt was runner-up at Brecksville this year, and is one of but a few of wrestlers to make it into the second period against Stencel this season. He leads the deepest district in this weight class, with four ranked wrestlers joining him at Fostoria. Fellow senior Weirich was a state alternate last year while competing in Division I; this year he has titles at the Gorman and Marion County after taking fifth at Brecksville. Three-time state qualifier Chaney placed in 2013 and 2014; this year he was runner-up at Medina and to Weirich at the Gorman, while winning a title at the Top Gun. Another returning state alternate is Gowdy, who finished third at Maumee Bay losing by second period fall to Stencel in the semifinal round. Last among the ranked is the sophomore Phillips, who was third at Bellevue and runner-up at both Tiffin Columbian and Perrysburg.

Svarda won state last year in Division III at 195 pounds despite entering the state tournament off a fourth place finish at the district level. This year the senior was champion at Bellbrook and Reading. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him in the district at Wilmington. Those being the freshman Shafer and the senior Major. Shafer has major pre-high school credentials, including a junior high state title last year. This year he went 3-2 at the Ironman and was a runner-up at Valley View, losing just 5-4 to a returning state placer. Major was fifth at both GMVWA and Maumee Bay, while taking second at Dublin Scioto.

Esarco is joined by another state placer at the Alliance district tournament in fellow senior Higgins. On the season, Esarco placed fifth at the Ironman, third at Brecksville, first at Perry, and runner-up at the Bill Dies; while Higgins was runner-up at North Canton and the Hephner. Joining them in the rankings are seniors Ellis and Norman. Ellis was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this year was champion at Kenston before taking third at Top Gun and the Hephner; while Norman made state in Division III up at 285 pounds, and this year was runner-up at Howland and sixth at the Hephner.

Rounding it out is the Claymont district, which features two returning state qualifiers among its four ranked wrestlers. Crosswell won a match last year while competing in Division III, and this year has runner-up finishes at the GMVWA and CIT to his credit; while Howard went two-and-out at state, and this year was third at the Tilted Kilt, first at Nelsonville York, and eighth at the Bill Dies. Also ranked here is the senior Ford, who was champion at Hudson, and the junior Moore who took fifth at North Canton and seventh at the OVAC.

285 pounds

1. Ian Sharp, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
2. Mitch Bischoff, Norton, senior (Alliance)
3. Matt Adams, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
4. Michael Furbee, St. Clairsville, senior (Claymont)
5. Shawn Barnes, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
6. Jacqui Vanmeter, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
7. Jared Hoy, Bellevue, senior (Fostoria)
8. Logan Ferrell, Tippecanoe, senior (Wilmington)
9. Devin Williams, Shelby, junior (Fostoria)
10. Bailey Young, Lima Shawnee, sophomore (Fostoria)
11. Wes Cochran, Buckeye Valley, junior (Claymont)
12. Jamez Young, Sandusky, junior (Fostoria)
13. Isaiah Pope, Cleveland Central Catholic, senior (Alliance)
14. Mason Giordano, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
15. Trevor Hicks, Washington C.H., junior (Wilmington)
16. Colvin Turner, Franklin, junior (Wilmington)
17. Colin Shirley, Rocky River, senior (Fostoria)
18. Teague Malone, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Sharp, Bischoff, Barnes, Pope; Giordano, Dom Sciarretti (Akron SVSM, senior)

CLMT – Adams, Furbee, Vanmeter, Cochran; Malone, Jarrett Aubiel (Claymont, senior)

FOS – Hoy, Williams, B. Young, J. Young; Shirley

WILM – Ferrell, Hicks, Turner, Jeremy Rosenblum (Hamilton Ross, senior); Colin Wolfe/Skyler Morris (Miami Trace, sophomore/senior)

Heavyweight can be a very “hit or miss” weight when it comes to overall quality. This year it’s kind of a “hit” in that there are eight wrestlers having state tournament experience; however, it’s a “miss” in that only two of them are returning state place-winners, which is either tied for the lowest or the second lowest of any weight class within Division II.

Wrestler from West Branch, with the last name Sharp, competing at heavyweight. Has to be pretty good, at least that’s what history says. In this case, it seems true, as Ian qualified for the state tournament as a sophomore. This year he has only one loss, that coming in the final at North Canton to

the nationally ranked Teacher. Sharp has won tournaments at the GMVWA and Top Gun, where he beat a Division I state placer in the championship match on each occasion. The second ranked wrestler in this weight class is the highest returning placer, the senior Bischoff, who finished second at Hudson and third at the Bill Dies this season.

Both wrestlers exit the district at Alliance, which has three other ranked wrestlers in the top 18. Also here is returning state qualifier Barnes, though the senior has yet to compete this season as he is trying to descend down from his football-playing weight to the 285 pound maximum. Others ranked are the senior Sharp, a returning district placer, and the junior Giordano. On the season Giordano was sixth at Brecksville and fourth at the Bill Dies.

The other returning state medalist is the senior Furbee, who was seventh at 220 last year in Division III. On the season, he was champion at both the Buckeye 8 and OVAC meets. He's joined by three other state qualifiers at the Claymont district. Among those is two-time state qualifier Vanmeter, who has battled through significant injury to finish second at Cambridge and first at Heath this season. The senior Adams was first at Cambridge and fourth at Medina, while the junior Cochran was fourth at Marion Harding, first at Nelsonville York, and third at the Top Gun. The other ranked wrestler at this site is the senior Malone, who was fifth at Top Gun.

The remaining participant who returns with state experience is the senior Hoy, and he exits a rather strong Fostoria district along with four other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Hoy has titles at Bellevue and the Gorman. Returning state alternate Williams was champion at Marion Harding and runner-up to Hoy at the Gorman. Two other wrestlers were go-to-state match losers, the junior Jamez Young from Sandusky and the sophomore Bailey Young from Lima Shawnee, something that could be a conundrum for agate clerks in Northwest Ohio. Jamez was fourth at Maumee Bay, while Bailey was champion at Allen County and third at Marion Harding. Rounding it out is the senior Shirley who was champion at Avon Lake and has placed in three other tournaments this year.

No returning state qualifiers exit the district at Wilmington, and there are only three ranked wrestlers at the site. Leading the way is the senior Ferrell, who was fifth at Tippecanoe and the GMVWA before taking first at Lima Senior and third at Western Brown. The junior Hicks was champion at Franklin and runner-up at Nelsonville York, while returning state alternate Turner was runner-up at both Franklin and Olentangy Liberty.

Team Board

1. St. Paris Graham (Wilmington)
2. Claymont (Claymont)
3. Canfield (Alliance)
4. Akron SVSM (Alliance)
5. Wauseon (Fostoria)
6. Perkins (Fostoria)
7. Lake Catholic (Alliance)
8. Carrollton (Claymont)
9. Steubenville (Claymont)
10. Toledo Central Catholic (Fostoria)