

Division III

106 pounds

1. Dylan D'Emilio, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
2. Ronnie Pietro, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
3. Cole Mattin, Delta, freshman (Toledo Waite)
4. Jacob Edwards, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
5. Colton Bethel, Ridgewood, junior (Heath)
6. Dylan Burns, Milan Edison, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
7. Jakob Neer, Northmor, junior (Heath)
8. Jared Fahrer, Evergreen, junior (Toledo Waite)
9. Zach Larue, Manchester, freshman (Garfield Hts)
10. Trevor Schaller, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Cameron Neal, Preble Shawnee, junior (Troy)
12. Collin Yinger, Nelsonville York, freshman (Heath)
13. Nick Kortis, Canton Central Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Will Roth, Sandusky SMCC, freshman (Toledo Waite)
15. Klay Reeves, Johnstown Northridge, freshman (Heath)
16. Tyler Bauer, Wayne Trace, freshman (Troy)

GH – Larue, Kortis, Steve Ferguson (Elyria Catholic, freshman), Kyle Keenan (South Range, freshman); John Kumher (Berkshire, junior)

HEA – Bethel, Neer, Yinger, Reeves; Jordan Hoselton (Zane Trace, freshman)

TROY – Pietro, Edwards, Neal, Bauer; Jackson Hugentobler (Madeira, freshman)

TWAI – D'Emilio, Mattin, Burns, Fahrer, Schaller, Roth

Even before entering high school, those in the know about wrestling knew about D'Emilio. He had already represented the United States in the UWW Cadet world freestyle championships at 46 kilograms, and won a Cadet National freestyle title last summer. During his freshman year, D'Emilio has titles at Medina and Perrysburg to go with a runner-up finish at the Ironman.

He anchors the deepest district, the one at Toledo Waite with five other ranked wrestlers. Next on the ladder is fellow freshman Mattin, who placed seventh at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg (3-0 loss to D'Emilio), and third at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Burns is one of just five wrestlers with state tournament experience in this weight class, and on the season he was champion at Milan Edison and runner-up at Marion County. The junior Fahrer was a district placer last year, and this season was champion at Toledo St. John's and fourth at Perrysburg. The sophomore Schaller has titles at Van Buren and Lima CC (January), while the freshman Roth was runner-up at Bellevue and sixth at Marion County.

The lone returning state placer in this weight class is Pietro, who placed fourth last year as a freshman. This season he was runner-up at Brecksville and fifth at the Top Gun. His district at Troy features three other ranked wrestlers, led by returning state qualifier Edwards, who has titles at Tippecanoe and Marion County to go with a fourth at the GMVWA. The junior Neal was runner-up at Edgewood and third at Valley View, while winning titles at Lima CC (December) and Reading. Rounding it out is the freshman Bauer, who was runner-up at Lima CC (December) and Van Buren, while winning at Troy and finishing third at Lima CC (January).

The other two returning state qualifiers exit the district at Heath, which features two additional ranked wrestlers as well. Leading the way is the junior Bethel, who won a match at state last year; while fellow junior Neer has titles at two tournaments this year to go with third place finishes at Marion Harding and Marion County, along with a sixth place finish at the Gorman. The freshman Yinger has a runner-up finish at Nelsonville York and a seventh at Marion County, while fellow freshman Reeves was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty.

There is no state tournament experience present at a Garfield Hts district that has just two ranked wrestlers. The freshman Larue, who was third at the Bill Dies leads the group, while returning state alternate Kortis is also ranked.

113 pounds

1. Tommy Hoskins, Dayton Christian, freshman (Troy)
2. Julian Sanchez, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
3. Graham Shore, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)
4. Tyler Wetzel, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
5. Christian Wellman, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Dalton Leightner, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Evan Guilford, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Connor Ryan, Covington, senior (Troy)
9. Kyle Denier, Blanchester, junior (Troy)
10. Alec Bailey, Manchester, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. John Harris, Margaretta, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Dylan Cook, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Jackson Muldrew, Shadyside, freshman (Heath)
14. Gavin Miglets, Brookfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
15. Carter Wolf, Marion Pleasant, sophomore (Heath)
16. Brendan Williamson, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Wellman, Leightner, Bailey, Miglets; Williamson

HEA – Muldrew, Wolf, Cody Welch (Nelsonville York, senior), Jacob Edwards (Cheshire River Valley, freshman); TBD

TROY – Hoskins, Shore, Wetzel, Ryan; Denier

TWAI – Sanchez, Guilford, Harris, Cook; Ross Rayfield (Delta, senior)

Hoskins won state in this weight class last year, though it was a struggle; the quarterfinal and semifinal victories were earned in the tiebreaker, with the finals match being 1-0 in regulation. Even after a disappointing Super 32 Challenge in the preseason, Hoskins has been on fire this season with his only loss coming to the nation's second ranked wrestler at the Walsh Ironman, where he finished third. Subsequent performances include titles at Brecksville, Top Gun, and Central Crossing.

He anchors the deepest district of them all at Troy with five wrestlers ranked in the top nine, which means that a legitimate state level kid will not make it to the Schott. Two of the other three state placers in this weight class, and three of the other seven with state experience are here. The sophomore Shore placed seventh in the 106 weight class last year, and this year was fourth at Medina, third at Western Brown, along with titles at Troy (120) and Lima CC (January). Wetzel placed eighth in this weight class as a sophomore last year, and this season was fourth at Brecksville before runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January). Ryan was a state alternate two years ago as a

sophomore, and this season place fifth at both the GMVWA and Lima CC (January), with a third place finish at Troy. The final ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Denier, who qualified for state in 2014, and this season he was one match from placing at Lima CC (January). In this weight class, and at many others, the Troy district is going to be cannibalistic.

The other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Wellman, who was sixth at 106 last season. This year he has a title at Marion County and anchors a group of five ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. Returning state qualifier Leightner was runner-up at Hudson, a quarterfinalist at the Bill Dies, and his lone loss at the SMCC Duals was a 1-0 decision to projected 106 pound champ D'Emilio. The sophomore Bailey placed eighth at Brecksville, fifth at the Gorman, and seventh at Bill Dies. The senior Miglets was a district placer last year, this year he has a title at Howland and a sixth at the Hephner. Fellow senior Williamson was fifth at Kenston and runner-up at Perry.

The other two returning state qualifiers exit the district at Toledo Waite, the senior Harris and the junior Guilford. However, the lead figure here is the freshman Sanchez, who placed eighth at the Ironman before earning third at both Medina and Perrysburg. Of note for Guilford this season is a third place finish at Lima CC (January). The fourth projected state qualifier here is the sophomore Cook, who was seventh at the GMVWA.

Last among the districts is the one at Heath, which at present features zero state tournament experience and just two ranked wrestlers in all, so it's really thin. The freshman Muldrew was fourth at the OVAC, while the sophomore Wolf has fourth place finishes at three different tournaments this season. One could see two-time state placer Quinn, Muldrew's teammate, here come the post-season; however, it would not materially change the landscape for the Heath district.

120 pounds

1. Drew Mattin, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
2. Hunter Lucas, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
3. Greg Quinn, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
4. Alex Rhine, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
5. Bruce Hrynciw, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
6. Michael Sergent, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
7. Seth Hayes, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Ruger Goeltzenleuchter, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)
9. Gavin Stika, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Nate Vasquez, Fremont SJCC, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
11. Gavin Grime, Archbold, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
12. Griffin Jenkins, Northmor, senior (Heath)
13. Brandon White, Harrison Central, senior (Heath)
14. Cameron Gessner, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Toledo Waite)
15. Ryan Matthews, Fredericktown, junior (Heath)
16. Terry Stockton, Jackson Milton, senior (Garfield Hts)
17. Trent Mast, Cardinal, junior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Hayes, Stika, Stockton, Mast; Dalton Abfall (Black River, sophomore)

HEA – Quinn, Jenkins, White, Matthews; Matt Seifert (Utica, junior), David Staten (West Jefferson, junior)

TROY – Lucas, Rhine, Sergent, Goeltzenleuchter; Kole Monebrake (Preble Shawnee, senior)

TWAI – Mattin, Hrynciw, Vasquez, Grime; Gessner

One of the key cogs in Delta's hopeful state title winning machine is the junior Mattin, who won state last year at 106 pounds after losing an ultimate tiebreaker bout in the semifinal round the year before. This season he was runner-up at the Walsh Ironman down a weight class before moving up here to win a title at Brecksville, and then finish runner-up at Perrysburg and third at Maumee Bay. While he is the state title favorite, it is no lock. Twelve wrestlers have state tournament experience in this weight class, with seven having appeared on the podium before.

Mattin anchors the district at Toledo Waite, which features five ranked wrestlers. That does not include returning state qualifier Gage Pachlhofer (Swanton), who is out for the season. The junior Hrynciw, who was a state alternate in Division II two years ago, is the second best kid in this district weight class; he was runner-up at Medina. The sophomore Vasquez is next, having placed third at Van Buren and fourth at Lima CC (January) this season. Returning state qualifier Grime was seventh at Maumee Bay and fifth at Lima CC (January), while returning state alternate Gessner was champion at Toledo St. John's, runner-up at the Gorman, and has two other tournament placements along with a 7-6 upset over Hayes at the SMCC Duals.

Three of the other six wrestlers to place on the state podium exit the district at Troy. Two-time state placer Lucas, runner-up last year at 113, leads that list; he has three tournament titles this year, with his only blemish coming in an overtime loss to two-time state runner-up Decesare in the CIT final. The junior Rhine placed third last year, and this season was third at Brecksville, fifth at Maumee Bay, and runner-up to Lucas at Lima CC (January). Sergeant placed fourth at 113 two years ago as a freshman, and this season has a title at Marion County along with a second at Tippecanoe and a fourth at GMVWA. The junior Goeltzenleuchter has been a go-to-state match loser each of his first two years, and this year was champion at Van Buren and third at Lima CC (January).

Four returning state qualifiers, including two state placers, are the ranked wrestlers at the Garfield Hts district. The group is led by Hayes, who placed fifth at 126 last year; this season he was champion at Hudson and fifth at the Bill Dies. The sophomore Stika placed eighth at 106, and this season placed fourth at the Bill Dies after going two-and-out at Medina. The senior Stockton placed sixth at the Hephner, while the junior Mast was third at West Salem Northwestern.

Rounding it out is a Heath district that features just three ranked wrestlers, led by two-time state placer Quinn, who has won the OVAC meet this season; it should be noted that Quinn may end up dropping to 113 for the state series, and that would open up this district. The senior Jenkins was a state alternate last year at 126, and this year finished runner-up at the Sally George, while the junior Matthews was champion at West Salem Northwestern. Also here is returning state qualifier Seifert.

126 pounds

1. John Smith, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Caleb Brooks, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
3. Joey Bowen, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, senior (Troy)
5. Logan Kissell, Garrettsville Garfield, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Damian D'Emilio, Genoa, senior (Toledo Waite)
7. Dylan Mansor, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
8. Alex Isbrandt, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)

9. Noah Mattin, Archbold, junior (Toledo Waite)
10. J.D. Reisinger, Swanton, senior (Toledo Waite)
11. C.J. Leffler, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Tony Paolucci, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Josh Kahl, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
14. Alex Gordy, Chillicothe Southeastern, senior (Heath)
15. Trey Combs, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)
16. Luke Coniker, Steubenville Catholic Central, junior (Heath)

GH – Smith, Bowen, Kissell, Paolucci; Combs

HEA – Brooks, Kahl, Gordy, Coniker; Gavin Stalnaker (Belpre, senior)

TROY – Clemens, Isbrandt, Jay Uhlenake (Coldwater, senior), Jared Ford (Covington, junior); Sam Rozmus (Mechanicsburg, senior)

TWAI – D’Emilio, Mansor, Mattin, Leffler; Reisinger

With a returning champ and runner-up present in the weight below and weight above, this in some ways is a “sandwich weight”. Its composition certainly reflects such a situation: 17 wrestlers have state experience (14 of them from last year), with seven having placed last year, though none in the top three.

Ranked first is the highest returning placer in the weight class, the senior Smith, who finished fourth at state last year. On the season, he is yet to lose with titles at Marion Harding, the Gorman, and West Salem Northwestern. Last year at the state tournament, he entered a district champion, but lost his opening round bout in overtime. Book no certainties with him or any other wrestler in this weight class.

The Garfield Hts district includes projected champion Smith, two other returning state placers ranked in the top five, as well as two other wrestlers who won a match last year at state in the rankings. Bowen, already three times, a state placer lost an overtime match to Smith in the final of the Gorman; he also was fifth at Brecksville, a runner-up at the Bill Dies, and a champion at West Holmes. Kissell placed seventh in this weight last year as a freshman, was fifth at Solon opening weekend up a weight, before dropping here to finish second at Kenston and third at the Bill Dies. Returning qualifier Paolucci was a runner-up at Hudson.

Ranked second is the sophomore Brooks, who placed fifth down at 106 pounds last year. He competed down at 120 for Medina, where he finished third, with virtually everything else up at 126; including two tournament titles, along with runner-up finishes at the CIT and Cruiser Invitational. Returning state qualifiers Gordy and Coniker both won a match at state last year, while the junior Kahl has been a state alternate each of the last two years; this year Kahl was fourth at the OVAC meet. In addition, Gavin Stalnaker qualified for state as a freshman in 2013.

Two more returning state placers are the only two ranked wrestlers at the Troy district, and it’s a rarity to see this district be so thin at a weight class. The senior Clemens made the semis last year and dropped all the way down to sixth after missing placement by one match at state each of his first two years. On the season he has tournament titles at Van Buren and Lima CC (January) in this weight class. Isbrandt placed seventh at state last year as a freshman, and has titles at Tippecanoe and Western Brown to go with a sixth at Medina and runner-up finish at Lima CC (January). Also here is 2014 state qualifier Uhlenake.

The Toledo Waite district features five wrestlers with state tournament appearances during their career, but only the senior Reisinger has a podium finish, eighth last year at 120 pounds. This season, he was sixth at the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) along with second at Van Buren. Leading the rankings at this district is returning state alternate D'Emilio, a 2014 state qualifier who was runner-up at Medina and third at Perrysburg, as well as going undefeated at the SMCC Duals.

The depth of this district is such that Reisinger is ranked behind D'Emilio and three others, which projects him outside of state qualification. Also not ranked is 2014 state qualifier Dominic Rosin (Sandusky SMCC). Those in the rankings between D'Emilio and Reisinger are returning state qualifier Mansor, 2014 state qualifier Mattin, and district placer Leffler.

Mansor qualified for state last year as a sophomore in Division II, and this season was champion at Bellevue, fourth at Medina, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Mattin qualified for state in 2014 at Delta, moved on to Archbold, but missed last year due to injury; he dropped to this weight at the Lima CC (January) event, finished third. Leffler was a go-to-state loser last year for Division I Holland Springfield before transferring to Delta, and this year missed placement at Brecksville by a match before finishing fifth at Perrysburg and seventh at Maumee Bay.

132 pounds

1. Jake Spiess, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Brady Barnett, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Stan Bleich, Elyria Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Josh Clary, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
5. Johnny Wheeler, Northwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Nick Miller, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
7. Chase Moore, Swanton, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
8. Preston Smith, Marion Pleasant, junior (Heath)
9. Colin Hennon, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
10. Kamron Paulus, Milton Union, junior (Troy)
11. Forest Belli, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Heath)
12. Donnie Starkey, Toronto, senior (Heath)
13. Brad Trescott, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Conan Becker, Northmor, sophomore (Heath)
15. Chase Sumner, Ada, sophomore (Troy)
16. Zane Strubler, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)

GH – Bleich, Trescott, Michael Wilson (Waynedale, senior), Michael Yacaparo (Triway, junior); Mason Kidd (West Salem Northwestern, senior)

HEA – Smith, Belli, Starkey, Becker; Damir Pereira (West Jefferson, junior)

TROY – Clary, Miller, Hennon, Paulus; Sumner, Strubler

TWAI – Spiess, Barnett, Wheeler, Moore; TBD

Just a few seconds can ever change the narrative. Unfortunately 2013 state champion Spiess found that out the hard way during the 113 pound state semifinal the next year. Leading 3-1 inside the last thirty seconds of the match, he was tossed on his back for two-and-two to lose 5-3. Spiess came back to finish third on Saturday morning; however, it could have easily been a state title won that Saturday night. Then, last year he won a state title at 120 pounds. Had that Friday night at state his sophomore year went differently, Spiess could be going for a fourth state title this March.

He is the solid favorite in this weight class, having shown excellent form throughout the season; Spiess finished seventh at the Ironman, first at Brecksville, champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Three other ranked wrestlers, all returning state qualifiers join him at the Toledo Waite district. Returning state runner-up Barnett is ranked second having won titles at Milan Edison, on the opening weekend at 138 pounds, and Marion County along with a sixth at Brecksville. The senior Wheeler placed third at Defiance, second at Perrysburg, and fourth at Maumee Bay; while returning state placer Moore was sixth at both the GMVWA and Van Buren (semifinal loss than injury out in the latter).

Seven others with state experience join the four that exit Toledo Waite, which includes the third ranked Bleich, who is the fourth and final returning state placer in this weight class. Bleich has made finals of four different tournaments this season, winning titles at Hudson and the Pariano. He exits the Garfield Hts district, one that features just one other ranked wrestler, returning state alternate Trescott. The fellow junior placed fourth at both Hudson and the Bill Dies.

The deepest district here is the one at Troy, which features six ranked wrestlers, including four of the top ten. Two-time qualifier Clary is the highest ranked, having placed seventh at Brecksville and then tested the waters down at 126 at the Top Gun placing sixth. Miller, who qualified for state in 2014 as a sophomore, placed sixth at Maumee Bay before winning the Lima CC (January) tournament. Fellow senior Hennon is a returning state alternate, and was runner-up at Lima CC for both their December and January tournaments, while winning at title at Lima Senior and placing fourth at the CIT. Returning state qualifier Paulus was champion at Milton Union and runner-up at Eaton. Sumner, only a sophomore, was runner-up at Lima Senior, champion at Van Buren, and third at the Sally George; while fellow sophomore Strubler was third at Tippecanoe and Lima CC (January) with an eighth at Medina and a fifth at Western Brown in between.

Rounding it out is the Heath district with three returning state qualifiers, one of whom (Pereira) falls outside the top 16. The junior Smith is highest ranked here with a tournament title at Marion Harding, which was followed by runner-up finishes at Marion County and the Sally George. Returning state qualifier Belli is next, and he won at Mount Vernon along with a seventh at Maumee Bay. Starkey, also a state qualifier last year, was fourth at the OVAC meet; while returning state alternate Becker has titles at Big Walnut and the Sally George to go with a runner-up at Marion Harding, as well as third place finishes at the Gorman and Marion County.

138 pounds

1. Tanner Smith, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
2. Dustin Marteney, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Ryan Ford, Covington, senior (Troy)
4. Brendan Fitzgerald, Grandview Hts, senior (Heath)
5. Cody Rhoads, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Brian Persinger, Triway, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Riley Smucker, Smithville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. James Limongi, Genoa, freshman (Toledo Waite)
9. Chase Mayhabb, Milton Union, senior (Troy)
10. Trevor Scherf, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Bailey Slattman, Defiance Tinora, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Kolby Rayner, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
13. Henry Danishek, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)

14. Avery Brown, Zane Trace, senior (Heath)
15. Austin Wilson, Archbold, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Tanner Bey, Versailles, junior (Troy)

GH – Rhoads, Persinger, Smucker, Hunter Napier (Fairless, senior); Gavin Chew (Mogadore, senior)

HEA – Fitzgerald, Rayner, Brown, Jake Farley (Northmor, senior); Nic Peecher (Adena, senior)

TROY – Smith, Ford, Mayhabb, Danishek; Bey

TWAI – Marteney, Limongi, Scherf, Slattman; Wilson

There is parity among the top three wrestlers in this weight class, who happen to be the lone returning state placers. Each has a legitimate case for being the projected state champion, with each having a good chance of getting their hand raised on the raised mat come Saturday March 5th. Right now the projected state champion is the junior Smith, who was fifth at 120 pounds last year. This season he went 2-2 at the Ironman, placed eighth at Brecksville, and then won both at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January).

Smith is joined by two-time state third place finisher Ford at the Troy district, along with three other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Ford also went 2-2 at the Ironman, was champion at Troy, and runner-up at both the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) events; it was overtime losses in both of those finals, including to Smith at Lima CC. The senior Mayhabb is a returning state qualifier, and was champion at Milton Union in this weight class. The sophomore Danishek was champion at Sidney, while Bey was a district placer last year as a sophomore; Bey was runner-up at Sidney along with placing fifth at the GMVWA.

Three-time state placer Marteney is the other primary contender in this weight class, and he was the runner-up here last year. This season he missed the Ironman due to injury, fell one match short of placement at Brecksville, was champion at Perrysburg over Brecksville champion Moises Guillen, but then finished fourth at Maumee Bay. Four other ranked wrestlers join Marteney at Toledo Waite, though none have state experience.

The freshman Limongi placed fifth at both Medina and Perrysburg, while going undefeated at the SMCC Duals. The junior Scherf was runner-up at Bellevue, and went 4-2 at Medina while missing placement by one match. Fellow junior Slattman was also undefeated at the SMCC Duals, while placing third at Perrysburg. Returning state alternate Wilson is also a junior. 2014 state qualifier Trevor Reed (New London) is also in this weight class.

Though not among the top three, three-time state qualifier Fitzgerald fits more with that group than he does the group of wrestlers ranked from fifth on down. This season he was fourth at Medina, while he seeks that elusive state podium. Two other state qualifiers join him at the Heath district, though they are the only other ranked wrestlers. Rayner placed fourth at the OVAC meet, while Brown was champion at Vinton County and runner-up at Jackson.

Finally, it's the Garfield Hts district with the remaining two of the ten with state experience in this weight class. Persinger qualified for state two years ago as a freshman in Division II, and this season was champion at West Salem Northwestern before taking third at West Holmes; while the sophomore Smucker was runner-up at both West Salem Northwestern and West Holmes. The lone other ranked wrestler at this district is returning state alternate Rhoads, who was champion at Perry and runner-up at the Hephner.

145 pounds

1. Logan Lacure, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
2. Derek Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Wade Smiddy, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
4. Colt Yinger, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Heath)
5. Rhett Petersen, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Jason Sadler, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Bobby Stewart, Union Local, senior (Heath)
8. Jake Gutierrez, Springfield Catholic Central, senior (Troy)
9. Luke Buxton, Dixie, senior (Troy)
10. Brett Kahl, Shadyside, senior (Heath)
11. Alex Neuberger, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Spencer Seibert, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
13. Brock Zugg, Marion Pleasant, junior (Heath)
14. Ian Maund, Mapleton, senior (Garifield Hts)
15. Travis Barnes, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Adam Bates, Genoa, junior (Toledo Waite)

GH – Sadler, Maund, Kyle Cayse (West Salem Northwestern, senior), Kevin Naim (Lutheran West, senior); Brandon Neikirk (Cardinal, senior)

HEA – Yinger, Stewart, Kahl, Zugg; Dawson Hoselton (Zane Trace, junior)

TROY – Lacure, Smiddy, Gutierrez, Buxton; Seibert

TWAI – Gross, Petersen, Neuberger, Barnes; Bates

The 2015 state final at 145 pounds in Division III: Logan Lacure (Dayton Christian) major dec. Derek Gross (Norwalk St. Paul) 15-6. That was the agate line. This year, one might see that same exact agate line. At least it's possible, as the top two wrestlers here are those same two kids. Both wrestlers are undefeated for the season to date, with Lacure winning titles at the Top Gun and (at 152) Central Crossing; the Top Gun final was the infamous 4-4 ultimate tiebreak rideout over David Carr. Gross counters with four tournament titles, including a 7-6 tiebreaker victory over Smiddy in the final at Lima CC (January).

Lacure is joined by Smiddy and three others with state experience at the Troy district. Smiddy, fifth in Division II at this weight class last year, has a championship at Brecksville to go with runner-up finishes at Maumee Bay and Lima CC (January). Returning state placer Gutierrez was third at the CIT, while the senior Buxton was runner-up at Edgewood, champion at Milton Union, and third at both Miamisburg and Lima CC (January). Rounding it out is 2014 state qualifier Seibert, who was champion at both Lima CC (December) and Troy before taking third at Lima CC (January).

Six others outside of those at the Troy district have state tournament experience in this weight class, two of those exit the Toledo Waite district, which includes second ranked Gross. The senior Petersen won a match in the Division II state tournament at this weight class last year, and this season has a title at Bellevue to go with a third at Medina, runner-up at Perrysburg, and sixth at Maumee Bay. The junior is a returning state alternate, while the other two ranked wrestlers are also juniors in Barnes and Bates.

Three have state experience from the Heath district, though none has placed. Leading the way is the sophomore Yinger, who was runner-up at Brecksville and has tournament titles at Nelsonville York and

Marion County. The senior Stewart was champion of the OVAC meet, while 2014 state qualifier Kahl placed third at the OVAC. Rounding out the ranked wrestlers is the junior Zugg, a returning district placer, who was runner-up at Marion Harding.

Last among the districts is the one at Garfield Hts, which features just two ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Sadler. On the season he was runner-up at Hudson in the 152 pound weight class before taking third at the Bill Dies and going undefeated at the SMCC Duals in this weight. The other ranked wrestler is fellow senior Maund, a returning state alternate, who placed third at Marion Harding, fourth at the Gorman, and second at West Salem Northwestern.

152 pounds

1. Jesse Beverly, Delta, junior (Toledo Waite)
2. Nick Vestal, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Dylan Hall, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
4. Garrett Grime, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Hunter Flinner, Triway, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Logan Stanley, Waynedale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
7. Garrett Hall, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Hobie Howiler, Barnesville, senior (Heath)
9. Dan Stoll, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
10. Josh Tompkins, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Antonio Vasquez, Gibsonburg, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Steele Strout, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Heath)
13. Jake Huston, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
14. Corey Bogan, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
15. Joseph Eisele, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)
16. Anthony Renforth, South Range, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Flinner, Stanley, G. Hall, Tompkins; Renforth

HEA – Howiler, Strout, Leland Hostetler (Tuscarawas Valley, senior), Brennan Alverson (Coshocton, senior); Kasey Bethel (Ridgewood, junior)

TROY – Vestal, Bogan, Eisele, Josh Campbell (Summit Country Day, junior); Brandon Soules (Allen East, senior)

TWAI – Beverly, D. Hall, Grime, Stoll; Vasquez, Huston

Given the presence of two-time state champions in the weight classes immediately above (Romero) and below (Lacure), it is somewhat surprising about the limited quantity of quality in this weight class. There are only two returning state placers, both returning state runners-up, and seven total wrestlers with state tournament experience in the weight class. Beverly was runner-up at 160 pounds last year, moving one weight class above Romero, while Vestal was runner-up to Romero. In last year's Brecksville tournament, Beverly won a consolation match over Vestal.

Projected state champion Beverly anchors six ranked wrestlers at the Toledo Waite district. The junior has had a most excellent season, including arguably the upset of the season; a 9-7 overtime decision in the Brecksville semifinal over two-time state champion Kyle Lawson, one in which he rallied from a 5-0 first period deficit. While at 160 he was runner-up to Romero at Brecksville, sixth at the Ironman, and champion at Perrysburg; the title at Maumee Bay came in this weight class. Returning state qualifier Dylan Hall placed fifth at Medina before winning titles at Perrysburg and Van Buren. Returning state

alternate Grime was fourth at Maumee Bay and champion at Lima CC (January). Fellow senior Stoll was champion at Milan Edison and fifth at Marion County. Yet another senior Vasquez was runner-up at Van Buren, while the junior Huston was champion at Bellevue, fourth at Perrysburg, and eighth at Maumee Bay.

Vestal leads just a trio of ranked wrestlers at the Troy district. On this season, he has a sixth place finish at the Ironman, runner-up finishes at Brecksville and (at 160) Central Crossing, along with a third at Top Gun and a title at Sidney. Returning state qualifier Bogan was runner-up at Lima CC (January), while fellow senior Eisele placed third in that same tournament.

The Garfield Hts district features five ranked wrestlers, including two seniors with state tournament wins in Garrett Hall and Tompkins. Hall was third at the Bill Dies, while Tompkins placed sixth in that same tournament. Returning district placer Flinner, who last year was in Division II, is the top ranked wrestler at this district; on the season he has a title at West Holmes. The sophomore Stanley has shown excellent form as of late, including wins over state qualifiers Garrett and Dylan Hall within the last week, also finishing fourth at Marion County. The last ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Renforth.

Rounding it out is the Heath district, which only has two ranked wrestlers, including returning state qualifier Howiler who was runner-up at the OVAC meet. Also ranked here is the junior Strout, who was seventh at Maumee Bay.

160 pounds

1. Kaleb Romero, Mechanicsburg, junior (Troy)
2. Damion Vitt, Hopewell Loudon, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Chase Fetter, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Lance Miller, Covington, junior (Troy)
6. Jake McCarthy, Purcell Marian, senior (Troy)
7. Josh Doherty, West Jefferson, junior (Heath)
8. Anthony Risley, Harrison Central, senior (Heath)
9. Corey Dieringer, Versailles, senior (Troy)
10. Noah Baker, Elmwood, junior (Toledo Waite)
11. Dalton Burns, Milan Edison, junior (Toledo Waite)
12. Tyler Speelman, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Heath)
13. Billy Johnson, Shadyside, junior (Heath)
14. Bruce George, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
15. Jaret Parker, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
16. Cedro Parise, Steubenville Catholic Central, senior (Heath)
17. Drake Barnett, Galion, senior (Toledo Waite)

GH – Stanley, George, Nick Kusa (Mapleton, senior), Nick Frye (Cuyahoga Hts, junior); Trevor Ullman (Manchester, senior)

HEA – Doherty, Risley, Speelman, Johnson; Parise

TROY – Romero, Miller, McCarthy, Dieringer; Brett Vonderwell (Delphos St. John's, junior)

TWAI – Vitt, Fetter, Baker, Burns; Parker, Barnett

For better or worse, extreme specialization has become the norm within prep sports these days. However, that is not the case for one of the state's prodigal wrestling talents. The junior Romero is a

three-year starter at quarterback and defensive back in football and also played varsity baseball during his freshman season. His Indians' football squad has made the playoffs during each of his three high school seasons; state semifinalists his freshman year, losing a highly controversial 42-41 double OT opening round game to eventual state champions Minster, and then losing a 9-7 classic in the regional final to perennial power Marion Local this past year. Romero was also named all-state first-team on the football field this fall.

Those three playoff losses happen to equal the total amount of losses Romero has had in his high school wrestling career to date; 46-1 as a freshman on the way to a state title, 52-2 as a sophomore (both losses at the Ironman), and 32-0 in his junior season (titles at Brecksville, Maumee Bay, and Lima CC) through the end of January. He is the anchor wrestler for a Mechanicsburg team that has emerged into not only the second best team in Division III, but a legitimately relevant program in Ohio, one that can compete with anyone regardless of division.

Given his presence, one would expect to see a somewhat "cleared out" weight class. Just two other state placers are present here, with seven others possessing state experience, but that group has one win between them at the state tournament. With returning state champion Handwerk reportedly moving out of the 170 pound weight class, we might see someone move up from here to 170.

Those other two state placers both took fifth last year as juniors, Vitt at 152 and Reid Stanley at 145.

Vitt anchors the deepest district of them all, the one at Toledo Waite, which features five other ranked wrestlers. On the season, Vitt has tournament titles at the Gorman and Van Buren, while also having two dual meet wins at 170 pounds over state placer Draper (he also has a dual meet loss at 170 to returning state placer Steiner). Returning state qualifier Fetter is next, having a tournament title at Toledo St. John's to go with a third place finish at the Gorman and a runner-up finish at Marion County. Returning state alternate Baker placed third at Perrysburg and second at Van Buren, while fellow junior Burns was champion at Milan Edison and third at Marion County. Yet another junior in Parker was seventh at both Perrysburg and Maumee Bay, while the senior Barnett won two matches at a Division II district tournament last year.

Stanley is at a Garfield Hts district tournament that features just one other ranked wrestler. He was champion at Marion County earlier this season, a 5-4 win over Fetter in the final. The other ranked wrestler at this district is the junior George, who was second at Hudson while competing at 170, and earned a 3-2 upset over Burns to propel his team to the SMCC Duals title. It should be noted that returning state placer Patrick Jordan (Waterloo) has been nowhere to be found this season, last year he was seventh at 152 pounds.

At the Troy district, Romero is joined by three other ranked wrestlers, while returning state qualifier Vonderwell falls outside the top 17. Second behind Romero at the district is Miller, who made state last year as a sophomore. This season he was runner-up at the GMVWA and Lima CC (January) with a title at Troy mixed in between. Also making state last year was the senior McCarthy, who has a title at Bishop Fenwick this season; while fellow senior Dieringer missed placement by a match at the GMVWA and finished sixth at Maumee Bay.

Rounding it out is the Heath district, which features three wrestlers that went two-and-out at state last year among its five ranked wrestlers. First on the list is the junior Doherty, who has a title at the Sally George; next is the senior Risley, who was third at the OVAC meet; while the sophomore Speelman was

champion at Nelsonville York. The junior Johnson placed fourth at the OVAC meet, while the senior Parise was a state alternate last year, and one match from placing at the OVAC.

170 pounds

1. Zach Steiner, Norwayne, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Luke Sorboro, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Matt McFarland, Union Local, senior (Heath)
4. Jansen Love, Dayton Christian, sophomore (Troy)
5. Cole Draper, Mohawk, junior (Toledo Waite)
6. Kyle Ice, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Andrew Caris, Eastwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
8. Tristin Siemer, Bishop Ready, sophomore (Heath)
9. Teagan McFadden, Paint Valley, senior (Heath)
10. Jacob Thompson, Triad, senior (Troy)
11. David Bell, Archbold, senior (Toledo Waite)
12. Sam Stoll, Milan Edison, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Jordan Birdsall, Montpelier, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Nate Fry, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Toledo Waite)
15. Trenton Bradbury, Alexander, senior (Heath)
16. B.J. Ratcliff, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)

GH – Steiner, Sorboro, Ice, Paul Dies (Manchester, senior); Tom McKale (Newbury, junior)

HEA – McFarland, Siemer, McFadden, Bradbury; A.J. Straight (Madison Plains, junior)

TROY – Love, Thompson, Ratcliff, Dawson Davis (Williamsburg, senior); Tyler Ebbeskotte (Ottawa Glandorf, junior)

TWAI – Draper, Caris, Bell, Stoll; Birdsall, Fry

Though returning state champion Handwerk has competed here the majority of this season, it has been suggested that he is moving up to 182 pounds for the post-season. With that being the case, and Romero in the weight below, this could be a classic sandwich weight. However, there are only seven wrestlers present with state experience, including three returning state placers, none though above fifth. Leading the way here is a pair of juniors in Steiner and Sorboro, both of whom exit the Garfield Hts district.

Steiner, who placed sixth after making the state semifinals at 152 pounds, is the pick at this point. He also went 1-2 at the state tournament as a freshman. On the season, he was champion at Medina with a 5-4 upset over Handwerk in the final; but he finished fifth at the Bill Dies. Steiner was subsequently undefeated at the SMCC Duals with two wins over returning state placers (5-3 Vitt and 14-5 Draper).

Sorboro placed fifth at 160 pounds, which makes him the highest returning state placer (though Vitt, who is right now down at 160, also placed fifth). He outplaced Steiner at the Bill Dies, finishing third, with a win over an opponent that beat Steiner in the consolation final. He was runner-up at Hudson at 182, and (like Steiner) went undefeated at the SMCC Duals. The only other ranked wrestler at Garfield Hts is returning state alternate Ice, who is also a junior; he was a finalist at Marion County earlier this season.

The other returning state placer presently here is fellow junior Draper, who was sixth in this weight class last year. On the season he was fourth at the GMVWA and runner-up at Van Buren, also losing twice at

the SMCC Duals to Steiner and Vitt. Draper leads the strongest district of the four in this weight class, as there are five other ranked wrestlers at Toledo Waite. Returning state qualifier Caris was champion at Lima Senior and Van Buren (pinning Draper in that final), but placed fourth at Lima CC (January). The senior Bell was runner-up at Lima CC (January), the sophomore Stoll was champion at Marion County, the senior Birdsall was champion at Arcadia, while returning district lacer Fry finished third at Lima CC (January).

Two-time state qualifier McFarland, runner-up at the OVAC meet, leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. Next on the ladder there is Siemer, who made state last year as a freshman, and this season was fourth at the CIT and third at the Cruiser Invitational. McFadden made state two years ago as a sophomore, but was a state alternate last year; fellow senior Bradbury was also a state alternate last year, and has three tournament titles on the season.

Lastly the district at Troy features no state tournament experience and just three ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Love, who was eighth at Brecksville, fifth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Central Crossing. The senior Thompson has tournament titles at Marion Harding and Lima CC (January), while returning district placer Ratcliff has titles at Deer Park and Madeira.

182 pounds

1. James Handwerk, Lutheran West, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Kian Thompson, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
3. Tristan Anderson, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Caleb Johnson, Paint Valley, senior (Heath)
5. Gaige Willis, Pymatuning Valley, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
6. Jeffrey Botts, Bethel Tate, senior (Troy)
7. Corbin Bunsold, North Union, senior (Troy)
8. Josh Bialosky, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Daniel Beemer, Ottawa Glandorf, sophomore (Troy)
10. Anthony Italiano, Jackson Milton, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Jacob Campbell, Black River, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
12. Dylan Rogers, Delta, sophomore (Toledo Waite)
13. Chase Carpenter, Sherwood Fairview, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Madison Jaso, Gibsonburg, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Nick Shephard, Fairless, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Jeremy Bresciani, Coshocton, senior (Heath)
17. Brandon Magee, Covington, senior (Troy)

GH – Handwerk, Anderson, Willis, Bialosky; Italiano, Campbell, Shepherd

HEA – Johnson, Bresciani, Ben Smith (Fredericktown, sophomore), Carlos Kusic (Bridgeport, senior); Luke Matusik (Hannibal River, junior)

TROY – Botts, Bunsold, Beemer, Magee; Andrew Nichols (Columbus Grove, senior)

TWAI – Thompson, Rogers, Carpenter, Jaso; Jace Grossman (Elmwood, junior)

Four of the five champions last year from 160 through 220 in Division III are no longer in the division, which has created some barren upper-weights in the division. The late movement of the lone returning champion in this weight range (Handwerk) into this weight class certainly creates some interesting decisions as the end of the season arises. With Handwerk present, this report is projecting four total

state placers and six qualifiers to be present in this weight class (returning state fifth Staggs is projected at 195 in this report, though early indications were he was going to get down to this weight class).

In terms of Handwerk, he has been excellent at 170 this season, outside of the one aberrant loss in the Medina final to Steiner. It includes a fourth place finish at the Ironman and a championship at Perry. During the off-season, he was a Junior National double All-American at this weight class in Fargo, while he was one match from placing at the Super 32 down at 170 (he did beat a nationally ranked Ohio State signee in that tournament though).

Two other top five ranked wrestlers in this weight join Handwerk at the Garfield Hts district, both of whom were on the podium at state last year, as do four other state ranked wrestlers, which makes a total of seven at this jam packed district weight class. Anderson placed seventh last year at 195 after placing fourth in that same weight class the year before as a sophomore; he has tournament runner-up finishes in this weight class at both Coshocton and Marion County. Willis placed eighth at 170 last year as a freshman, and this season was champion at Kenston.

Next is the junior Bialosky, who was a go-to-match loser two years ago, but fell back to 1-2 at the district last year; this season includes a runner-up finish at Kenston, which is his only loss to date. The senior Italiano was a state alternate last year in this weight class, and this year has a fourth at Solon (at 195) and an eighth at the Hephner. Another returning state alternate is Campbell, who was at 170 last year as a freshman, and this season has tournament titles at Marion Harding and Willard, along with a runner-up finish at the Gorman. Concluding the ranked group at this district is the sophomore Shephard, who was third at Hudson.

The lone other returning state placer in this weight class is the senior Johnson, who was fourth in this same weight class last year. He has a title at Big Walnut and was undefeated at the SMCC Duals this season. Only one other ranked wrestler, the senior Bresciani, joins him at the Heath district; on the season Bresciani has a title at West Salem Northwestern.

The other two returning state qualifiers both exit the Troy district, a pair of seniors in Botts and Bunsold. Botts has tournament titles at Deer Park, SWOWCA, and Madeira on the season. Two other ranked wrestlers exit the district as well. The sophomore Beemer who has titles at Lima CC (December), Van Buren, and Lima CC (January); while the senior Magee was champion at Troy and runner-up at Lima CC (January).

There is no state tournament experience at the Toledo Waite district, though there is the second ranked wrestler in this weight class in the junior Thompson, a state alternate last year in Division II. This season has been excellent, as he was champion at Bellevue, third at Perrysburg, and fourth at both Medina and Maumee Bay; four of his five losses are to wrestlers projected to finish top three in either Division I or Division II. The sophomore Rogers was fourth at Perrysburg and missed placement by a match at both Brecksville and Maumee Bay. Jaso was a district placer last year as a sophomore, and this season has a runner-up finish at Van Buren; while the senior Carpenter was runner-up at Defiance.

195 pounds

1. Jordan Leasure, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Troy)
2. Dalton Hoover, Martins Ferry, sophomore (Heath)
3. Jack Staggs, Milan Edison, senior (Toledo Waite)
4. John Kelbly, Smithville, junior (Garfield Hts)

5. Will Bolanz, Waterloo, junior (Garfield Hts)
6. Dylan Thorp, Oak Harbor, junior (Toledo Waite)
7. Kyle Gigandet, Versailles, senior (Troy)
8. Drew Lowery, Toronto, senior (Heath)
9. Corey Taylor, West Muskingum, senior (Heath)
10. Caide Bunfill, Barnesville, junior (Heath)
11. Caleb Rupert, Columbiana, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Jake Burns, West Jefferson, junior (Heath)
13. Kent Petersen, Patrick Henry, junior (Troy)
14. Matt Herrick, Genoa, junior (Toledo Waite)
15. Paul Skye, Mogadore, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
16. Austin Cobb, Caldwell, senior (Heath)

GH – Kelbly, Bolanz, Rupert, Skye; Crawford Hamrick (Tuslaw, sophomore)

HEA – Hoover, Lowery, Taylor, Bunfill; Burns, Cobb

TROY – Leasure, Gigandet, Petersen, Davionne Laney (Summit Country Day, senior); Cade Huston (Blanchester, junior)

TWAI – Staggs, Thorp, Herrick, Jon Racheter (Carey, junior); Zane Zientek (Eastwood, junior)

Three-time state placer Leasure has yet to make the podium in his state tournament career. In addition, his school has yo-yoed between Division III and Division II twice in his career; Amanda Clearcreek competed in Division III during Leasure's freshman year before moving up to Division II the next two years. However, they are now in Division III, and that is likely to Leasure's benefit. This past weekend, he won at New Lexington with a 6-5 championship match victory over the projected Division II runner-up in this weight class.

Leasure exits the Troy district, which has two other ranked wrestlers in this weight class, both of whom also have state tournament experience (a total of ten in this weight have competed in the state tournament previously in their career). Fellow senior Gigandet went 1-2 at last year's state tournament in the 220 pound weight class; this season he was eighth at the GMVWA and third at Maumee Bay. Petersen qualified for state two years ago as a freshman, and has titles at Lima CC in December and January this season.

Two of the three returning state medalists, both of whom are junior, in this weight class exit the Garfield Hts district, one that has four ranked wrestlers in total. Kelbly, eighth last year at 182 pounds, has tournament titles at West Salem Northwestern at West Holmes this season. Bolanz, sixth in this weight last year, lost a 7-4 decision to Kelbly in the final at West Salem Northwestern. Also ranked here is fellow junior Rupert, who went 2-2 at the district level last year, and split matches with Bolanz in December. Rounding it out is the sophomore Skye, who was seventh at the Bill Dies and third at the Hephner.

The other returning state placer is the senior Staggs, who has the highest podium finish in this weight class, fifth last year at 182 pounds. He was out due to injury until late January, but went undefeated at the SMCC Duals. Only two other ranked wrestlers join Staggs at the Toledo Waite district. The junior Thorp did not qualify for district last year, but it was a loaded Division II sectional weight class; this season he was third at Medina and Perrysburg, champion at Bellevue, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Herrick placed fifth at Perrysburg, and missed placement at Medina by a match.

With four returning state qualifiers and six ranked wrestlers, the Heath district is the deepest in this weight class. It is led by Hoover, who won a state match at 182 pounds last year as a freshman; this season he placed seventh at Brecksville (losses to a pair of projected Division I state finalists) and upset an at the time nationally ranked wrestler in the OVAC final. Returning state qualifier Lowery was third at the OVAC meet. The senior Taylor finished third at New Lexington with a win over returning state qualifier Bunfill along the way. Speaking of Bunfill, he won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a sophomore, and finished fourth at the OVAC and fifth at New Lexington. Next among the ranked wrestlers is returning state qualifier Burns, who has a title at the Sally George this season; while returning state alternate Cobb was seventh at the OVAC after winning a title at Gallia.

220 pounds

1. Ben Sullivan, National Trail, junior (Troy)
2. Jerek Cropper, Manchester, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Reece Human, Carlisle, junior (Troy)
4. Cameron Conaway, South Central, senior (Toledo Waite)
5. Devin Richard, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
6. Collin Kelly, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Zach Hackett, Brookfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
8. Clay Poling, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
9. Hunter Bodkin, Martins Ferry, sophomore (Heath)
10. Jonah Ours, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Milan Pozderac, Fredericktown, senior (Heath)
12. Tanner Potts, Monroe Central, senior (Heath)
13. Alex Hinajosa, Defiance Tinora, senior (Toledo Waite)
14. Elijah Price, Purcell Marian, senior (Troy)
15. Marcus O'Flaherty, Carey, senior (Toledo Waite)
16. Donovan McCollister, Nelsonville York, freshman (Heath)

GH – Cropper, Kelly, Hackett, Ours; Jacob Hochstetler (Orrville, senior)

HEA – Poling, Bodkin, Pozderac, Potts; McCollister

TROY – Sullivan, Human, Price, Dylan Hartley (Mechanicsburg, junior); Zach Klosterman (Coldwater, junior)

TWAI – Conaway, Richard, Hinajosa, O'Flaherty; Joey Hatchett (Sherwood Fairview, senior)

In any weight class, especially an upper-weight, it is rare to see five of its placers from the previous year return in the same weight class. That's what we have this year in the Division III 220 pound weight class, the injection of a wrestler that placed in Division II at this weight gives us six returning state placers. This is a group that has separated itself from the rest of the weight class, even one that has five other wrestlers in it that competed at the state tournament last year.

Leading the way here is Sullivan, who has a pair of top three finishes in his first two years of high school. His kryptonite the first two years at the state tournament, Jay Nino, has graduated. Sullivan lost by fall in the state final to Nino as a freshman before losing a 6-1 decision in last year's state semifinal (it should be noted Sullivan entered the 2015 state tournament as a district runner-up). The 2014 state finals appearance made him the heaviest freshman, in terms of weight class, to appear in a state final.

Just two ranked wrestlers join Sullivan in the rankings at the Troy district. One of them is Human, who was fifth in Division II last year; this season he has titles at Valley View and Eaton, with a runner-up finish

to returning state champion Svarda at Reading. Also ranked here is the senior Price, who has fourth place finishes at SWOWCA and the CIT as well as titles at Bishop Fenwick and Madeira.

Two other returning state placers lead four ranked wrestlers at Toledo Waite. Conaway finished fourth as a sophomore before taking fifth last year, and this year has a runner-up finish at the Tilted Kilt before winning a title at Willard; while Richard has finished fifth and sixth the last two years, and this year was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman, seventh at Brecksville, champion at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Hinajosa was sixth at Perrysburg, while returning district placer O'Flaherty has tournament titles at Lima CC (December) and Van Buren to go with a runner-up at Bellevue.

The remaining two returning state placers exit the Garfield Hts district, along with two other ranked wrestlers. Cropper finished fourth at state last year, and was a quarterfinalist at the Ironman before placing sixth at Brecksville, third at the Gorman and Bill Dies, then winning at West Holmes. Fellow senior Kelly was eighth at state last year, and this year has titles at Alexander and the Hephner sandwiched around a fourth at the Bill Dies. Hackett also won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a junior, and this year was champion at Howland before taking fifth at the Hephner; while returning state alternate Ours was sixth at Medina, runner-up at Nelsonville York, and champion at West Salem Northwestern.

Three state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers at the Heath district. However, the lead wrestler here did not make the state tournament last year; the senior Poling went 2-2 at the district in the 195 pound weight class, and this year was runner-up at the OVAC meet. The sophomore Bodkin went two-and-out in last year's state tournament, while this year he was one match from placing at Brecksville, fifth at the OVAC meet, and sixth at New Lexington. Fellow state qualifier Pozderac was runner-up at Mt. Vernon and West Salem Northwestern, along with fourth at the Gorman. The other state qualifier is the senior Potts, who missed placement at the OVAC by one match before winning a title at Miami Trace. Last among the ranked is the freshman McCollister, who was fifth at Nelsonville York and New Lexington sandwiched around a fourth at Marion County.

285 pounds

1. Chance Veller, Delta, senior (Toledo Waite)
2. Brandon Garber, Oak Harbor, senior (Toledo Waite)
3. Brandon Bennett, Patrick Henry, senior (Troy)
4. Ben Ferguson, Miami East, senior (Troy)
5. Blake Sampson, Bluffton, senior (Troy)
6. Chance Rucker, Caldwell, senior (Heath)
7. Brandon Cox, North Union, senior (Troy)
8. Derek Smith, Defiance Tinora, junior (Toledo Waite)
9. Jack Hagemeyer, Elmwood, senior (Toledo Waite)
10. Seth Douglas, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)
11. Justin Kilburn, Monroe Central, senior (Heath)
12. Brayden Phillips, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Austin Mathis, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Cameron Coffman, Dixie, junior (Troy)
15. Francesco Borsellino, Sandy Valley, junior (Heath)
16. Charlie Draucker, Trinity, senior (Garfield Hts)

GH – Phillips, Mathis, Draucker, Jacob Zimmerman (Orrville, senior); Vince Balard (Ashtabula St. John, junior)

HEA – Rucker, Kilburn, Borsellino, Tanner Kunz (Zane Trace, junior); Donnie Meadows (Shadyside, junior)

TROY – Bennett, Ferguson, Sampson, Cox; Douglas, Coffman

TWAI – Veller, Garber, Smith, Hagemeyer; Adam Workman (Collins Western Reserve, senior)

Similar to last year, there is a paucity of state placement experience in this weight class; last year's state bracket featured two that were placers in 2014, one of whom was Veller, while right now there are Veller and two others this year. He is the defending state champion in this weight class and a strong favorite to repeat, which is one of the reasons why Delta is favored to win the individual state tournament title. On the season, he was fourth at the Ironman, champion at Brecksville and Perrysburg, then runner-up at Maumee Bay.

Three other ranked wrestlers join Veller at the Toledo Waite district, including two of the either others to have qualified for the state tournament previously. Fellow senior Garber qualified for the Division II state tournament last year at 220 pounds, and this year placed fifth at Medina, second at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay. Smith was a state alternate two years ago as a sophomore, and this year has been back in form with a third at Perrysburg before going undefeated at the SMCC Duals. Returning state qualifier Hagemeyer rounds it out, and he placed fourth at Perrysburg and second at Van Buren so far this season.

Five wrestlers with state tournament appearances, including the two other than Veller who have previously placed at the Schott, are present in the Troy district; which means that one of them won't be making the state tournament. Bennett placed seventh at state as a junior, and this year has titles at Lima CC in December and January; while Ferguson placed eighth as a junior, and this season was champion at three tournaments before placing fourth at Western Brown and second at Lima CC (January).

Sampson and Cox, both seniors, also won a match at the state tournament last year, while Douglas went two-and-out during his sophomore campaign. Sampson was champion at Van Buren sandwiched around a runner-up at Lima CC (December) and a third at Lima CC (January), while Douglas was runner-up at Centerville, fourth at Tippecanoe, and third at Marion County on the season to date. A sixth wrestler is ranked in this weight class, the junior Coffman; runner-up at Edgewood and Miami Trace, champion at Milton Union, and fourth at Lima CC (January).

One wrestler with state experience is among the three ranked at Heath. The senior Rucker won a match at the Schott in this weight class last year, while this season he was champion at Gallia and runner-up at the OVAC meet. Returning state alternate Kilburn was fourth at the OVAC before winning a title at Miami Trace, while the junior Borsellino went undefeated at the SMCC Duals.

Rounding it out is the Garfield Hts district, which features just three ranked wrestlers, none with state tournament experience. Phillips was a district placer last year as a freshman, the junior Mathis placed third at Perry and fourth at the Hephner, while the senior Draucker was runner-up at the CIT.

Team Board

1. Delta (Toledo Waite)
2. Dayton Christian (Troy)
3. Mechanicsburg (Troy)
4. Oak Harbor (Toledo Waite)

5. Waynedale (Garfield Hts)
6. Rootstown (Garfield Hts)
7. Milan Edison (Toledo Waite)
8. Genoa (Toledo Waite)
9. Miami East (Troy)
10. Manchester (Garfield Hts)