

Division Three – Rankings and Analysis

106 pounds

1. Jacob Speiss, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
2. Alex Smith, Sandusky SMCC, sophomore (Bowling Green)
3. Sebastian Vidika, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Evan Ullinski, Woodmore, junior (Bowling Green)
5. George Clemens, Wayne Trace, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Hunter Bray, Dayton Christain, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Garrett Hall, Chippewa, freshman (Garfield Hts)
8. Devon Dunbar, Northwood, sophomore (Bowling Green)
9. Damon Kesler, Milbury Lake, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Shane Johnston, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Jake Adkins, Johnstown Northridge, sophomore (Philo)
12. Louis DeMarco, Hawken, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Justin Arce, Archbold, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Gabe Santa-Rita, Edgerton, sophomore (Bowling Green)
15. Joey Bowen, Manchester, freshman (Garfield Hts)
16. Nick Orr, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Speiss, Smith, Ullinski, Dunbar; Kesler, Arce, Santa-Rita

Garfield Hts – Vidika, Hall, Johnston, DeMarco; Bowen, Orr

Kettering Fairmont – Clemens, Bray, Jay Uhlenake (Coldwater, freshman), Tregg Keysor (Columbus Grove, senior); Dominik Butler (Mariemont, sophomore)

Philo – Adkins, Collin Wilson (Barnesville), Theodore Zompoulidis (Martins Ferry, sophomore), T.J. Asbury (North Union, sophomore)

This weight class has a whopping three wrestlers with state tournament experience present, which is the least among the 42 weight classes across all three divisions. The other way to get ourselves an interesting weight class field would be to have a batch of young/emerging starts. Quite frankly, that's not the case here either, so we're going to be shallow in this weight class. Which will become an emerging theme within the Division III competition this year, though it's more competitive than last year, which doesn't say that much.

Leading the way here is the freshman Speiss, who has performed well after starting off with a 1-2 record at the Ironman. He bounced back to finish third at the GMVWA, only losing 7-5 to projected Division II champion Eli Stickley, was runner-up in the 113 weight at Perrysburg to Ironman placer Guillen, and won the 106 weight class at Oregon Clay. He leads a loaded district tournament at Bowling Green that features three of the top four wrestlers and seven ranked in all. Ranked second here is Smith, who was 2-2 last year as an undersized freshman in this weight class. Season to date, he was champion at Toledo St John's up a weight class, champion at the Gorman beating Vidika 11-4 in the final, runner-up at Marion County, and undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend.

Ullinski is the lone returning placer in this weight class, having placed fourth last year as a sophomore in his second state tournament appearance. He has two tournament titles up at 113, won Bellevue in this weight, and this past weekend was runner-up at Willard – losing 8-7 to Vidika. That leaves four wrestlers to battle for one state tournament spot at Bowling Green: Dunbar, Keister, Arce, and Santa-rita.

Vidika won a match at the Schott in this weight class last year as a sophomore, and this season has that title at Willard, another title at Marion Harding, and was runner-up at the Gorman. He is the lead figure at a Garfield Hts district that features five other ranked wrestlers to cover the remaining three qualification spots. The freshman Hall has been excellent this year, winning a title at Smithville to go with third place finishes at Chippewa, the Dies, and New Lexington. The other four ranked wrestlers reflect a diverse group in sophomores Johnston and DeMarco, a junior Orr, and the freshman Bowen.

The other returning state qualifier is the sophomore Adkins, who went two-and-out at state last year. This season, he was champion at Mt. Vernon and runner-up at New Lexington. He is the lone ranked wrestler at the Philo district, which is extremely shallow in this weight class.

Last among the districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which features two freshmen as its ranked wrestlers. Clemens has been excellent this season in winning titles at Arcadia, Lima CC over the holidays, Van Buren, and Lima CC this past weekend; while Bray was first at Franklin, including a pin of Division II state qualifier Carter, missed placement at Brecksville by a single match, and took third at Marion County.

113 pounds

1. Jarred Ganger, Troy Christian, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Christian Clary, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Zack Durbin, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Caleb Ohl, Newark Catholic, junior (Philo)
5. Derek Thomas, Westfall, senior (Philo)
6. Spencer White, Black River, junior (Garfield Hts)
7. Tyler Sarreshteh, Liberty Benton, sophomore (Bowling Green)
8. Mason Gallagher, Greenview, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tyler Rogers, Margaretta, junior (Bowling Green)
10. Jarrod Bowman, Arcadia, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Jacob McCoy, Swanton, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Colton Ullman, Loudonville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Jett Heldebrand, Hillsdale, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
14. Austin Singleton, Barnesville, junior (Philo)
15. Kyle Behringer, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Jake Macke, Deer Park, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Sarreshteh, Rogers, Bowman, McCoy; Behringer

Garfield Hts – Durbin, White, Ullman, Heldebrand; Jake Johnson (Tuslaw, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Ganger, Clary, Gallagher, Macke; Colin Ingram (Lima Bath, junior)

Philo – Ohl, Thomas, Singleton, Jordan Burkholder (Crooksville, junior); Carson Mills (Fredericktown, sophomore)

Per OHSAA state tournament bracketing procedure, if multiple district champions were top three finishers in last year's state tournament, they are seeded to assure separation in the bracket. This weight class features three such wrestlers; however two exit the Kettering Fairmont district. That means the match between Ganger and Clary at the district tournament, whenever it is, becomes crucial.

Presuming that Durbin wins the Garfield Hts district, and that's a pretty reasonable assumption to make, the Ganger/Clary loser will have to get past Durbin in order to get a rematch on Saturday night in the

state final. Quite frankly, it is those three wrestlers whom are the authentic contenders for a state title in this weight class.

Two other ranked wrestlers join Ganger and Clary in the Kettering Fairmont district field, state alternate Gallagher and Macke. This season, Ganger placed seventh at the Ironman, fourth at Brecksville, first at Milan Edison and Delaware Hayes. Clary started his season up at 120 pounds, where he won a title at Franklin and was a match away from placement at Ironman; in this weight class, he was sixth at Brecksville and first at Marion County. Gallagher has a fourth place finish at the GMVWA and runner-up finish at Lima CC to his credit, while Macke was third at Milford this past weekend.

During the season, Durbin earned a championship at Marion Harding. His district at Garfield Hts. features three other ranked wrestlers in White, runner-up at Marion Harding (8-1 loss to Durbin) and champion at the Gorman; returning state qualifier Ullman, who has missed the bulk of the season due to injury; and the sophomore Heldebrand who placed third at the Gorman and fifth at Lima CC this past weekend.

The deepest of the districts is the one at Bowling Green featuring five ranked wrestlers, led by the sophomore Sarreshteh, who was a match away from placing at Medina before finishing fourth at Marion Harding, first at Van Buren, and third at Lima CC. Returning state qualifier Rogers is second among wrestlers in this field, followed by returning state alternates Bowman (runner-up at Van Buren) and McCoy (fourth at Lima CC), and lastly the sophomore Behringer (sixth at Lima CC).

Two wrestlers with state experience anchor the Philo district in this weight class, led by Lima CC champ Ohl, who also finished fifth at the CIT. Fellow state qualifier Thomas was champion at Trimble and Greenon before taking fourth at Miami Trace this past weekend. Returning state alternate Singleton, who took seventh in the OVAC is the third and last ranked wrestler in this district weight class. District placer Burkholder is projected for the fourth qualification spot, but falls outside the rankings.

120 pounds

1. Sammy Gross, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Garrett Hancock, Troy Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Dion Perez, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Kyle Keller, Delta, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Chandler Minnard, Bloom Carroll, sophomore (Philo)
6. Allen Seagraves, Miami East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Logan Lacure, Greenview, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Billy Shannon, Amanda Clearcreek, junior (Philo)
9. Mike Hozan, Black River, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Damian Short, Archbold, sophomore (Bowling Green)
11. Frankie Alvarado, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Adam Reed, Cardington Lincoln, senior (Philo)
13. T.J. Malkus, Berkshire, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Zac Tupps, Galion, junior (Bowling Green)
15. Tyler Baker, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. D.J. DeVito, Newark Catholic, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Keller, Short, Alvarado, Tupps; Mitchel Matheney (Riverdale, sophomore)
Garfield Hts – Gross, Perez, Hozan, Malkus; Bobby Bowen (Manchester, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Hancock, Seagraves, Lacure, Baker; Colin Ingram (Middletown Madison, junior)
Philo – Minnard, Shannon, Reed, DeVito; T.J. Wrigley (Madison Plains, junior)

Some might be skeptical about the title won by Beachwood's Gross last year because of the nature of the field that was in front of him. However, if he is to win a title this year, there will be no questions asked. This weight class at present includes 15 wrestlers with state tournament experience, which is the most among the 42 weights to be contested in Columbus February 28th through March 2nd. Other than matches against a single opponent, the freshman Darmstadt from Elyria, he has more or less dominated his competition. That begs the question, is that an isolated matchup thing, or a looming red flag. This report chooses to view it as an isolated event, and sees Gross as the favorite to repeat.

Challenges will come from all fronts, including his own district, which features five other wrestlers with state tournament experience, which means a couple pretty good wrestlers will be going to the Schott with a ticket as opposed to a participant pass. That group is led by two-time state qualifier Perez, who competed most of the year at 126 pounds (Milan Edison title and fourth at Medina) before making the drop and going undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals. Two-time state placer Hozan finished fourth at Marion Harding and won the Gorman. Next in line is returning state qualifier Malkus, who was unable to compete at state due to injury, and this season placed sixth at Solon. Returning state qualifiers Bowen and Tim Mecklenburg (Lutheran West, sophomore) fall outside the rankings.

Hancock, who placed fifth at state as a freshman after losing 4-2 to Gross in the state semis, is ranked second in this weight,. His season to date includes titles at Milan Edison, Brecksville, and Western Brown along with a runner-up finish at Delaware Hayes in which he lost by 12-3 major decision to defending Division I champ David Bavery. He is the anchor figure at the Kettering Fairmont district featuring one other returning qualifier in the senior Seagraves, who was champion at Lima CC this past weekend. Also ranked in this district is the freshman Lacure, who was runner-up at Lima CC after taking third at the GMVWA, along with the senior Baker (Van Buren champion, fourth at Lima CC).

Another state fifth place-finisher, the junior Keller (champion at the GMVWA and Perrysburg, runner-up at Oregon Clay), leads the group from the Bowling Green district, which features two other returning state qualifiers. The second-best wrestler here is neither of those, but instead is the sophomore Short, who was champion at Marion County and third at Lima CC this past weekend. Returning state eighth place finisher Alvarado was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend, while state qualifier Tupps won at Ashland in the opening weekend, was second at the Gorman (overtime loss to Hozan), and sixth at Marion County.

The remaining state placer Minnard, seventh at state last year as a freshman, heads the Philo district that features three other wrestlers with state experience. Already this season, Minnard was champion at the Dies and third at Delaware Hayes. The junior Shannon won a match at state last year, and was champion at the Miami Trace tournament this past weekend with a 6-1 victory over two-time Division II state qualifier Trigg in the final. Reed also won a match at state last year, and this season finished fourth at the Gorman and Marion County tournaments; while fellow senior DeVito went two-and-out at state last year, and this season has placed fourth at the CIT.

126 pounds

1. Zack Nelson, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Andrew Hoskins, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Cole Ziegler, Ridgewood, junior (Philo)

4. Josh Weber, Loudonville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Dustin Marteney, Delta, freshman (Bowling Green)
6. Ryan Ford, Covington, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Chase Griffith, Collins Western Reserve, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Damon Outward, Martins Ferry, senior (Philo)
9. Nate Frye, Cuyahoga Hts, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Trevor Anderson, West Liberty Salem, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Zach Alvarado, CHCA, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Jordan McKnight, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Taylor Deatrick, Paulding, junior (Bowling Green)
14. Stephen Morrow, Miami East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Alvi Ibarra, Madeira, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Wes Fritz, Norwalk St. Paul, sophomore (Bowling Green)

Bowling Green – Marteney, Griffith, Deatrick, Fritz; Zach Smith (Cory-Rawson, senior)

Garfield Hts – Nelson, Weber, Frye, Lewis Roginsky (Brooklyn, junior); Evan Francis (Kirtland, sophomore)

Kettering Fairmont – Hoskins, Ford, Anderson, Alvarado; McKnight, Morrow, Ibarra

Philo – Ziegler, Outward, Joe Newman (Sandy Valley, junior), Mason Gruber (North Union, senior); Aaron Huffman (Westfall, senior)

It is a very interesting thing how these different weight classes profile. The weight below has six returning placers, while the weight above features five, but this weight has just two returning placers. Those are the senior Nelson and the sophomore Hoskins, ranked first and second here, after finishing fourth and fifth at state last year. They did wrestle in the consolation semifinal round last year, with Nelson earning a 6-2 victory.

Nelson won the Marion County tournament in this weight class after spending an earlier chunk of the season up at 132 pounds. He is the anchor figure in an extremely shallow Garfield Hts. district at this weight class. The other two ranked wrestlers being the sophomore Weber, who went two-and-out in this weight last year, and the junior Frye, who went two-and-out after making the state tournament via the Malkus injury. This season, Weber was fifth at the Gorman up a weight class before finishing fifth at the Top Gun in this weight; while Frye won the December Lima CC event in this weight, and took fifth at the Dies down in the 120 weight class.

On the other hand, Hoskins exits the deepest of the districts at Kettering Fairmont with six other ranked wrestlers, two of whom like Hoskins (who was runner-up at both the GMVWA and Lima CC tournaments) have state experience. However, it is a pair of freshmen that rank immediately behind Hoskins in this district field. Ford placed seventh at the GMVWA, first at Troy, and third at Lima CC (losing 5-3 to Hoskins); while Anderson did not finish top four at Troy, but upset Hoskins 7-5 in the Lima CC final this past weekend.

The junior Alvarado qualified for state as a freshman, but lost in the go-to-state round last year at district, and this season includes titles at Madeira (7-3 over Ibarra in the final) and Reading in his weight class to go with a fourth place finish at Lima CC. He was first at Deer Park and third at Barnesville down at 120 before making the move up to this weight. Fellow junior McKnight was second at Valley View and fifth at Lima CC; while the senior Morrow was sixth at Lima CC; and returning state qualifier Ibarra, who was eighth at SWOWCA, second at Madeira, and a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC. Falling

outside the rankings in this weight is returning state qualifier Logan Hartman Mechanicsburg, sophomore).

Ranked third in this weight class is returning state qualifier Ziegler, a junior who won a match at state last year, and has titles at Smithville and Heath to his credit this season. He is the anchor figure in an extremely shallow district at Philo that only has 2011 state qualifier Outward – an OVAC runner-up - joining him in the rankings. Returning state alternate Newman has spent time at both 120 and 126, but it would behoove him to end up here; though not ranked top sixteen, he is projected third in the district.

Finally, the district at Bowling Green features four ranked wrestlers, none of whom possess state tournament experience. The freshman Marteney is ranked fifth based on his third place finish at Oregon Clay, and additional tournament placements up at 132 (5th at GMVWA, 2nd at Perrysburg. The other projected placer from this district is the senior Griffith, who was undefeated at the Ohio D3 duals this weekend, after an earlier third place finish at Milan Edison and title at Bellevue. The junior Deatrack and sophomore Fritz round out the projected state qualifiers here.

132 pounds

1. Jared Van Vleet, Edgerton, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Jason Sandlin, Carlisle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Austin Laney, Hicksville, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Gennar Feucht, West Jefferson, senior (Philo)
5. Joe Ziegler, Mechanicsburg, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Dylan Marthey, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Dakota Mays, Nelsonville York, sophomore (Philo)
8. Brad Wardell, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Keali Cummings, CHCA, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Matt Mangen, Versailles, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Max Reeder, Genoa, junior (Bowling Green)
12. Brayden Leist, Carey, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Zach Campbell, Pymantuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Austin Rush, Miami East, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Mason Robson, Collins Western Reserve, junior (Bowling Green)
16. Alex Becker, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Van Vleet, Laney, Reeder, Leist; Robson

Garfield Hts – Marthey, Wardell, Campbell, Michael Hollingsworth (Clearview, senior); Justin Chew (Mogadore, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Sandlin, Ziegler, Cummings, Mangen; Rush, Becker

Philo – Feucht, Mays, Grant Rathburn (Bishop Hartley, junior), Zac Sowers (Union Local, junior); Jesse Blake (Garaway, junior)

Five wrestlers with a podium finish in their past, and ten with a state tournament appearance, make this an interesting weight that can end up with multiple possible champions. The top two in the rankings met in the final at Lima CC this past weekend, with Van Vleet earning the 5-2 decision victory over Sandlin. Van Vleet finished fifth at state in this weight last year, after placing fourth at 125 as a sophomore in 2011; while comes off a third place finish at 126 as a freshman last year.

Projected champion Van Vleet exits a deep district at Bowling Green with five ranked wrestlers, though there is a clear tier structure. On the plane with Van Vleet is returning state qualifier Laney, who won a match at state in this weight class last year, and earned a title at Perrysburg before finishing fourth at Lima CC this past weekend. The other tier includes three wrestlers after the last two qualification slots: Reeder was a go-to-match loser last season at the district tournament; Leist was a state alternate, who this season won titles at the Lima CC holiday and Van Buren tournaments, but failed to place at Lima CC this past weekend; while Robson was also a go-to-match loser last year, and this year was third at Milan Edison and champion at Bellevue.

Sandlin also exits an extremely deep Kettering Fairmont district that features five other ranked wrestlers, though only one of them is in the upper-half of the rankings. That being the sophomore Ziegler, who was runner-up at Western Brown and third at Lima CC this past weekend, with an additional dual meet victory over returning Division II state placer Tyler Knul. The junior Cummings was fifth at Lima CC after earning a title at Deer Park and runner-up finishes at Barnesville and Madeira. Fellow junior Mangen was a state alternate last year, and placed fourth at the GMVWA tournament; while another junior Rush was a go-to-state match loser last year, and this year won at Tipp City, was third at Troy, and sixth at Lima CC; and lastly it's another junior Becker, who has the upset victory over Sandlin earlier this month but failed to place at Brecksville, and was third at Marion County.

Two returning state placers, Feucht and Mays, exit a shallow Philo district in which they are the only ranked wrestlers. Feucht placed fourth at state last year in the 126 pound weight class, while Mays placed fifth at 106, and has a title at Marion County when he earned a 9-4 decision over Division I state qualifier McDougle to avenge two earlier losses. Returning state qualifier Rathburn is not among the top 16 in this weight class at present.

Finally, it's the Garfield Hts district that includes returning state placer Wardell and two others with state experience. Wardell, seventh at state last year in this weight class, placed fourth at Marion County. The two others with state experience – both seniors – are Campbell, who has been in and out of the lineup this season, and Marthey. Note that fellow senior Casey Johns (Cardinal) is a two-time state qualifier, and placed at state in 2011, but he has not been in the lineup during the second half of the season, so he is not ranked here. There is one open state spot for the taking for a non-ranked wrestler.

138 pounds

1. Austin Reese, Mechanicsburg, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Zane Nelson, Wayendale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Zach Niner, Liberty Center, senior (Bowling Green)
4. Logan Day, Archbold, junior (Bowling Green)
5. Brandon McCormick, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Evan Hansel, Newark Catholic, junior (Philo)
7. Cade Mickley, Danville, senior (Philo)
8. Corey Hawk, Dixie, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Jared Dilley, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Philo)
10. Alex Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Bowling Green)
11. Nick Chuha, Cuyahoga Hts, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Tyler Showalter, Wayne Trace, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Kameron Rayner, Caldwell, junior (Philo)
14. Dalton Scott, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)
15. Sammy Santa-rita, Edgerton, senior (Bowling Green)

16. Jesse Gross, Norwalk St. Paul, junior (Bowling Green)
16A. Chance Marthey, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Niner, Day, Guerra, Santa-rita; Gross
Garfield Hts – Nelson, Chuha, Marthey, Derek Gregan (West Salem Northwestern, junior); Clayton Davidson (Kirtland, sophomore), Graham Montague (Independence, senior)
Kettering Fairmont – Reese, McCormick, Hawk, Showalter, Matt Subler (Versailles, senior)
Philo – Hansel, Mickley, Dilley, Rayner; Scott

Depth is also abound here with an estimated 12 wrestlers having state tournament experience, including a pair of returning state finalists, both of whom are two-time state placers. The junior Reese placed third at 103 in 2011 before finishing second at 120 last year; while the senior Nelson placed eighth at 140 in 2010 before finishing second in this weight, losing 10-6 to Luke Kern (now the starter at Kent State) in a back-and-forth full of action championship match.

Reese is ranked first in this weight, carrying a 5-0 December victory over Nelson to his credit. However, he has lost twice this year, once to McCormick in early January and 6-2 to Richards, third in Michigan's big-school division in the Western Brown final. Two-time state qualifier McCormick joins Reese at the Kettering Fairmont district, and this season he has won both Lima CC tournaments, but was fourth at the CIT with a pair of losses to Hansel. Two other wrestlers – Hawk and Showalter – are ranked, while returning state alternate falls outside the rankings among those at this district tournament. The junior Hawk was runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend to McCormick, while the sophomore Showalter was champion at Van Buren and fifth at Lima CC.

Nelson exits a rather shallow Garfield Hts district in this weight class, which seems to be a pattern as we journey through the middle-weights. Two-time state alternate Chuha, whose state appearance came in 2011 due to a scratch, has been out since mid-December due to injury, and his return is questionable. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Marthey, who was undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend. Returning state qualifier Gregan went two-and-out at 120 last year, and falls outside the rankings, though he is projected to make state for a second time here.

Two-time state placer Niner, fifth in 2011 and fourth last year, leads the way in a rather deep district at Bowling Green. It features five ranked wrestlers, though it's in two clear tiers. The first tier includes the senior Niner and junior Day, while a second tier includes seniors Guerra and Santa-rita along with the junior Gross. Niner was champion at Marion Harding and runner-up at Oregon Clay season to date, while Day is one of the state's most improved wrestlers. Coming off a sophomore season in which he won just a single district match, he has made major noise this season, including a title at Marion County in this weight and one at Lima CC this past weekend up at 145. Day also has a 2-1 dual meet victory over returning Division II state placer Struble.

Guerra, a state qualifier back in 2010, has an 8-4 dual meet victory over Gross this season and went undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend. The senior Santa-rita beat Guerra in the final at Toledo St. John's when both were up at 145 pounds, and in this weight class finished third at Lima CC this past weekend. The junior Gross is a two-time state qualifier, was runner-up at Lorain in late December, and won the Gorman in early January.

Lastly the Philo district is a deep one in this weight with five ranked wrestlers (four with state experience), and a fifth returning state qualifier that falls outside the top sixteen. Leading the way is the

junior Hansel, who won the CIT but was a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC this past weekend. Next in line is returning state qualifier Mickley, who was runner-up at Heath but had a narrow loss to Nelson at the Cardington-Lincoln Duals in late December. The senior Dilley, who won a state tournament match last year, was third at Miami Trace this past weekend.

Rayner, only a junior, was runner-up at Barnesville and fifth at the OVAC; while rounding out the ranked group is a fellow junior Scott, who made state last year, and this season was second at Bishop Ready but missed out on placement at North Canton and the CIT. Yet another junior Fulton is also in this district, made the state tournament last year, but falls outside the top sixteen. It will be a battle to make state out of the Philo district.

145 pounds

1. Jacob Danishek, Dayton Christian, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Tyler Fahrer, Delta, junior (Bowling Green)
3. Ian Baker, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
4. Matt Buxton, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. J.J. Diven, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Jamie Baldridge, Galion Northmor, junior (Philo)
7. Adam Guerra, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Bowling Green)
8. Reid Stanley, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts)
9. Jake Tremoulis, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Patrick Stover, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)
11. Alex Angersola, Beachwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Drew Keenan, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
13. Daniel Jennings, Covington, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Adam Tilley, Mechanicsburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Austin Martin, Delphos St. John's, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Zach Clark, Defiance Ayersville, junior (Bowling Green)

Bowling Green – Fahrer, Guerra, Keenan, Clark; Josh Summers (Collins Western Reserve, junior)

Garfield Hts – Diven, Stanley, Angersola, Kalil Evans (Chanel, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Danishek, Buxton, Tremoulis, Jennings; Tilley, Martin

Philo – Baker, Baldridge, Stover, Devin Talbott (Hannibal River, senior); Andrew Mullen (Johnstown Northridge, senior)

Winning state titles as a freshman and sophomore normally creates a certain aura of stardom. Last year's somewhat uneven regular season, and a state tournament in which there were significant challenges along the way, put a layer of skepticism around Danishek. However, those doubts were quickly eliminated at the Walsh Ironman in early December, where he earned runner-up honors. Along the way, he tore apart one of the nation's top overall juniors in Dylan Milonas from Blair Academy before losing just 3-2 to Edgar Bright in the final. He has followed that up with titles Brecksville and Marion County, and leapt into the 20th position for the Class of 2014 nationally.

Though a strong favorite, three other placers – including a returning state runner-up – join Danishek in this weight class. This group of four anchors each of the district tournaments. In Danishek's case, he leads the Kettering Fairmont district that features one of the other two wrestlers with state experience, and six ranked wrestlers in all. The senior Buxton, who went 1-2 at state up at 152 pounds, is second best in this district; season-to-date, he was champion at Edgewood and runner-up at Lima CC this past

weekend. Fellow senior Tremoulis was a district placer in this weight last season, this season he's placed fourth at the CIT and third at Lima CC. The other projected qualification spots goes to the junior Jennings, who was third at Troy and fourth at Lima CC. Also ranked here are the senior Tilley and the junior Martin (runner-up at Marion Harding at the CIT), both of whom did not finish top six at Lima CC this past weekend.

Returning state runner-up Fahrer is also a junior, and placed seventh at 140 as a freshman. In this season, he placed eighth at the Ironman, won the GMVWA, and was second at Perrysburg (he also took 2nd at Oregon Clay in the 152 weight class). Fahrer leads three other ranked wrestlers in the district field at Bowling Green. Returning state alternate Guerra was undefeated at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend, and was runner-up at the Gorman up at 152 pounds. Fellow senior Keenan was 9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals his only loss coming to Guerra; while rounding out the ranked group is the junior Clark, who was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend.

The senior Baker placed fifth last year at state, and this season was seventh at Brecksville and first at the OVAC. He is the anchor figure in a shallow Philo district that features just two other ranked wrestlers: 2011 state qualifier Baldridge, a junior who was first at Marion Harding, second at the Gorman, and third at Marion County; along with fellow junior Stover, who was fifth at the CIT after in the go-to-state round at district last year.

Finally, it's the senior Diven, who placed seventh at state last year, and is the lone returning state qualifier at the Garfield Hts. district. Yet again, it's a shallow weight class with just two other ranked wrestlers: the freshman Stanley and senior state alternate Angersola.

152 pounds

1. Jordan Marshall, Troy Christian, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Alex Quinn, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
3. Zach Wilson, Bluffton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Jared Mattin, Delta, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Thomas Williams, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Philo)
6. Austin Siemon, Deer Park, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Kollin Moore, Norwayne, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. Seth Batdorf, Ashland Crestview, junior (Bowling Green)
9. Caleb Barnett, South Central, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Tyler Williamson, Madeira, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Sean Szitas, Grand Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Charles Kenner, Upper Sandusky, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Jake Sowers, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Fejes, Genoa, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Jake Staggs, Waynedale, freshman (Garfield Hts)
16. Cole Vencill, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
- 16A. Josh Lyttle, Dayton Northridge, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Mattin, Batdorf, Barnett, Kenner; Fejes, Cody Ramage (Western Reserve, senior)
Garfield Hts – Moore, Szitas, Staggs, Jeff Powell (Tuslaw, senior); Derek Foster (Clearview, junior)
Kettering Fairmont – Marshall, Wilson, Siemon, Williamson; Sowers, Vencill, Lyttle
Philo – Quinn, Williams, Zac Potts (Monroe Central, senior), Colin Visconti (Galion Northmor, senior);
Caleb Horn (Amanda Clearcreek, junior)

Teams seeking the Division III state title tend to come from two different “profile trees”. One centers around having a core few “ace” wrestlers that all place extremely high at state; the other is the death by a thousand cuts approach, which involves five-to-eight wrestlers all doing their part and getting to the 90-to-100 point mark by volume. Waynedale’s run last year followed the latter model, though they did have a couple of aces. If Troy Christian is to win state this year, it will use the first of the models.

One of their core four wrestlers is defending state champion Marshall, a senior who is bound for Old Dominion. Season to date, he was 3-2 at the Ironman (losing 8-3 to projected Division II champion Marinelli, and 1-0 to PA state champion Garrett Hammond), was champion at Milan Edison and Brecksville, before finishing as runner-up at Delaware Hayes. However, a repeat state title will not be easy with a couple authentic challengers right on his heels.

The first of those is the senior Quinn, who placed third in this weight last year, only losing an 8-7 semifinal match to eventual state champion Jordan Cowell. He missed the Brecksville tournament due to injury, but upon his return was champion at the OVAC meet. Second among those is the senior Wilson, who has twice finished fourth in the state meet, is undefeated on the season while more or less dominating through his schedule, and has over 150 career wins.

Marshall and Wilson do exit the same district at Kettering Fairmont. If Marshall can beat Wilson at district, which he did last year, it would place Wilson and Quinn in the same half of the draw (presuming Quinn wins his district as well). After those two wrestlers, it is a group of five ranked wrestlers after the last two qualification spots. At present, the sophomore Siemon and senior Williamson are positioned with them. Siemon made state last year as a freshman, and this season was first at Deer Park and Madeira, second at Reading, and third at SWOWCA and Milford; while Williamson was sixth at SWOWCA, with runner-up finishes coming at Madeira and Lima CC.

That leaves state alternate Sowers (second at Troy, third at Lima CC), the senior Vencill (second at Edgewood up at 160 with a 6-5 win over Division I state qualifier Kersey along the way, and fourth at Lima CC), along with returning state placer Lyttle (fifth at Lima CC) outside of state qualification. Christian, a go-to-match loser last year as a sophomore, is not among the top 16 in this weight. The district tournament in this weight is just brutal at Kettering Fairmont.

Quinn exits a Philo district with just one other ranked wrestler, that being the senior Williams – fourth last year at 138 pounds. This year, he was champion at Mount Vernon and third at New Lexington. Though not ranked in the top sixteen, returning state placer Potts and returning state qualifier Visconti are also here, holding the third and fourth projected state qualification slots.

Last among the state placers is the senior Mattin, fifth last year at state, and he leads the group at the Bowling Green district. Next on the list is Batdorf, who made state in 2011 as a freshman, and this year has placed second at Marion Harding; however, there are recurring questions about his competition status. Returning state qualifier Barnett won a match at the Schott last year as a junior, while the other ranked wrestler is fellow senior Fejes, who went 10-0 at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend.

Lastly, it’s another shallow district weight at Garfield Hts, which is led by Moore – state alternate last year as a freshman at 138 pounds. This season, he was champion at Smithville and the Dies, while also going 9-0 at the Ohio D3 Duals last weekend. The lone state experience wrestler is the senior Szitas, who was fourth at Perry, while the freshman Staggs is also ranked after placing at Marion County. The senior

Powell, who was a go-to-state match loser as a freshman, holds the other projected state qualification spot.

160 pounds

1. Ryan Harris, Beachwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Jimmy Sandlin, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Max Erwin, Mechanicsburg, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Kurt Moore, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Sawyer Temple, Wayne Trace, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Chance Sonnenberg, Van Buren, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Kyler Deeter, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Dakota Stanley, Waynedale, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. D.J. Blair, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Ricky Ratcliff, West Jefferson, junior (Philo)
11. Max McAdoo, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Chase Kinemond, Shadyside, senior (Philo)
13. Nick Miller, Ontario, senior (Bowling Green)
14. Ray Day, Reading, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Aaron Urivez, Defiance Tinora, senior (Bowling Green)
16. Dalton Nolte, St. Clairsville, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Sonnenberg, Miller, Urivez, Cory Fry (Upper Sandusky, senior); Jordan Hendrix (Otsego, junior)

Garfield Hts – Harris, Moore, Stanley, Blair; Seth King (Hawken, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Sandlin, Erwin, Temple, Deeter; McAdoo, Day

Philo – Ratcliff, Kinemond, Nolte, Leon Herrmann (Steubenville Catholic Central, junior)

Nine wrestlers with past podium appearances at the state tournament are featured in this weight class, while an additional three bring about state qualification credentials. Leading the way here is two-time state placer Harris, a junior who is undefeated on the season with titles at Beachwood, Olentangy Liberty, Kenston, and the Dies. Outside a 6-5 final victory over Moore in the Dies final, all his matches have been reflected domination in the outcome. If Harris is to win a state title, he will have to exorcise one last demon, that being the need to avoid a baffling early loss at the state tournament.

In the Garfield Hts district, Harris is joined by three other returning state placers, all ranked inside the top nine overall in this weight class. The previously mentioned Moore placed fifth at state last year as a junior, and has a title at Smithville and a 9-0 run through the Ohio D3 Duals to augment the runner-up finish at the Dies. Stanley placed eighth at 145 last year as a sophomore, and this season won a title at Marion County; while the senior Blair placed sixth at 152 last year, and this season was first at Milan Edison before going 1-2 at Medina.

Four of the other primary challengers to Harris, all in the top seven of the rankings, exit the Kettering Fairmont district along with another pair of ranked wrestlers. That group is led by Sandlin, already a two-time state qualifier as a junior. Though yet to earn a state placement, he did win the Brecksville tournament this year, and augmented that with titles at Edgewood and Lima CC. The senior Erwin was fifth in the 152 weight class two years ago, but was precluded from competing in last year's state series, as a car accident derailed his state title aspirations. This season, he was third at Western Brown, and lost 10-7 to Temple in the semifinals at Lima CC before defaulting back to sixth place. Temple finished

seventh at state last year, and this season won titles at Arcadia and the Lima CC holiday, before finishing third at Van Buren and second at Van Buren (6-1 loss to Sandlin). The fourth placer here is the senior Deeter, who finished third at the GMVWA and Troy before taking fifth at Lima CC.

The other ranked wrestlers from the Kettering Fairmont district area McAdoo and Day. The senior McAdoo was runner-up at 170 pounds in two December tournaments before dropping to this weight class where he won the title at Van Buren (9-6 over Temple in the semis) and finished fourth at Lima CC. Day went two-and-out at state last year as a sophomore.

The two other past state placers exit the Philo district, Ratcliff and Kinemond. Ratcliff placed seventh at 145 last year as a sophomore, and this season lost in the consolation quarterfinals at North Canton. Kinemond placed as a freshman in 2010, but missed the last two seasons due to injury, and season to date was an OVAC champion after finishing one round short of placement at Brecksville. The other ranked wrestler here is the senior Nolte, who won titles at Barnesville and Nelsonville York before losing to Kinemond in overtime of the OVAC final.

The remaining wrestler with state experience is the senior Miller, who won a match last year at state in the 152 weight class, and he exits the Bowling Green district. This season, he placed fourth at the Gorman. However, it's the sophomore Sonnenberg is the highest ranked wrestler competing at this district, working off a resume that includes a runner-up finish at Van Buren and third place at Lima CC in this weight class. The other ranked wrestler is returning state alternate Urivez, who was second at the Lima CC holiday and first at Lima Senior.

170 pounds

1. Travis Linton, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
2. Brenden Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Zach Mays, Nelsonville York, senior (Philo)
4. Tony Reynolds, Fostoria, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Grant Price, Mohawk, senior (Bowling Green)
6. Tate Ankney, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Bowling Green)
7. Kale Rayner, Caldwell, senior (Philo)
8. Zach Gibson, Bloom Carroll, junior (Philo)
9. Jimmy Speith, Liberty Center, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Will Buettner, Delphos St. John's, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Bobby Sunderhaus, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Wyatt Dye, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Bowling Green)
13. Zach Sullivan, National Trail, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ryan Patchin, Evergreen, sophomore (Bowling Green)
15. Nick Svarda, Carlisle, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
16. J.J. Tipton, Amanda Clearcreek, senior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Reynolds, Price, Ankney, Speith; Dye, Patchin

Garfield Hts – Linton, Stanley, Joey Meek (West Salem Northwestern, junior), Logan Studer (Norwayne, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Buettner, Sunderhaus, Sullivan, Svarda; Alex Vencill (Dixie, senior)

Philo – Mays, Rayner, Gibson, Tipton; Brad Tomolonis (Bridgeport, junior)

Even with a returning state finalist almost assuredly out of the picture due to injury, Garrettsville Garfield junior Aaron Yonker suffered a shoulder injury at Brecksville and has not returned since, this is a rather deep weight class. It features wrestlers that finished first, second, third, sixth, seventh, and eighth in the state tournament last year – plus five others with state qualifications on their resume.

Despite losing a tight 4-3 semifinal match to eventual state champion Mays, it's the junior Linton who is the favorite in this weight class at present. After placing third at state he went on to win a title at the NHSCA Sophomore Nationals and earn a silver medal at the AAU Scholastic Duals this summer in Orlando. During the course of this season, Linton placed seventh at the Ironman and second at Medina while competing in the 182 weight class. Since dropping to 170, he was champion at the Dies.

Joining Linton at the Garfield Hts. district is 152 pound state runner-up Stanley, who carries a first period pin over Mays in the Marion County final earlier this season. However, it is an extremely lean district behind these two.

Defending champion Mays was runner-up at Marion County, fourth at Brecksville, but also has titles at Olentangy Liberty, Nelsonville York, and New Lexington to his credit this season. He is the lead figure in a Philo district that features three other ranked wrestlers. Fellow senior Rayner placed eighth at state last year, and this year was runner-up at Barnesville and the OVAC tournament. The junior Gibson made state as a freshman in 2011, was just a state alternate this year, and he placed fourth at the Dies with losses coming to Linton and returning Division I state placer Quentin Hiles. Rounding out the ranked group in this district is the senior Tipton, who also was a state alternate last year, and was champion this past weekend at Miami Trace.

Another state placer Reynolds, sixth in this weight last year, exits the Bowling Green district, where he is joined by four other wrestlers having state tournament experience and another who was a state alternate. All six of these wrestlers are ranked, which means it'll be an entertaining (though somewhat sadistic) district weight class. During this season, Reynolds was second at the Lima CC holiday and Perrysburg tournaments before winning a title at Van Buren. Fellow senior Price, a two-time state qualifier, was champion at Tiffin Columbian and third at Perrysburg. Next in line is returning state alternate Ankney, who is last among the projected state placers from this district. This past weekend, he was champion at Lima CC with a pin over Sunderhaus in the final.

Occupying the last projected state qualifier position is 2011 state qualifier Speith, who was champion at Marion Harding and finished fourth at Oregon Clay. The junior Dye, a returning state qualifier, was fourth at Toledo St. John's and third at Marion County; while fellow returning state qualifier Patchin, who went two-and-out last year as a freshman, placed second at Toledo St. John's.

Last among the returning state placers is the senior Sunderhaus, who was seventh at state last year, and exits the Kettering Fairmont district. During this season, he won the Lima CC holiday, finished sixth at the CIT, and was second at Lima CC this past weekend. Three other ranked wrestlers join Sunderhaus in exiting this district tournament. Fellow senior Buettner was a state alternate last year, and this season finished first at Lincolnview, second at Marion Harding, third at Allen County and Lima CC, and fourth in the CIT. The sophomore Sullivan won titles at Tipp City and Eaton with victories over returning state placers in each championship bout, while the freshman Svarda was seventh at Brecksville and second at Valley View.

182 pounds

1. B.J. Toal, Troy Christian, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Sam Groff, Sandy Valley, senior (Philo)
3. Armani Robinson, Greenview, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Lincoln Stansberry, Carey, senior (Bowling Green)
5. Brandon Brenes, Waterloo, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Rickey Bruce, Triad, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Kile Schaefer, West Salem Northwestern, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
8. Jacob Worthington, Keystone, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Logan Horn, Plymouth, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Jared Leasure, Caldwell, senior (Philo)
11. K.C. Hale, New London, senior (Bowling Green)
12. Cody Ellis, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Jacob Campbell, Dixie, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jacob Reisinger, Swanton, senior (Bowling Green)
15. Josiah Conley, Bluffton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Nathan Smith, Coshocton, senior (Philo)
- 16A. Grant Criblez, Allen East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Stansberry, Horn, Hale, Reisinger; Nick Metcalf (Gibsonburg, senior)

Garfield Hts – Brenes, Schaefer, Worthington, Ellis; Brad Simon (Berkshire, senior)

Kettering Fairmont – Toal, Robinson, Bruce, Campbell; Conley, Criblez

Philo – Groff, Leasure, Smith, Mitchell Meeks (Newcomerstown, junior); Jordan Leasure (Amanda-Clearcreek, freshman), Ty Barlow (Marion Pleasant, senior)

The fourth member of Troy Christian's core group is the favorite to repeat as champion in this weight class. Prior to the start of the season, he was runner-up at the Super 32 Challenge, while during the season he was runner-up at the Ironman (losing to Eric Morris, who is ranked No. 1 nationally) and Delaware Hayes (upset by Gunner Lay in a 3-2 match). The younger brother of three-time state champion Zach Toal, B.J. will join Zach as a Missouri Tiger in the fall.

Toal exits the toughest of the four districts with five other ranked wrestlers, though none is a true threat to him. That challenge group is led by the junior Robinson, a returning state runner-up, who was second at the GMVWA and first at Lima CC season to date. Fellow junior Bruce was a state alternate last year, yet another junior Campbell was third at Edgewood, while the second Conley was third at Lima CC (also fourth at Allen County and sixth at Van Buren), and fellow senior Criblez finished sixth at Lima CC (also second at Milan Edison to Toal, third at Allen County, and fourth at Marion Harding).

Ranked second at this weight class is the senior Groff, who is seeking a fourth state tournament appearance this year, though last year's third place finish was his maiden podium appearance. Groff has competed at both 182 and 195, and has seemed to settle in on this weight class. During last year's state tournament, he lost a 3-2 semifinal match to Toal, so he feels that the state title can be had. Groff leads a shallow district at Philo with just two other ranked wrestlers. Returning state qualifier Leasure went two-and-out at 152 pounds last year as a junior, and this year finished runner-up at both the Barnesville and OVAC tournaments; while the senior Smith was a go-to-match loser last year, but has been injured for the bulk of this season.

There is only a single wrestler with state experience in each of the Garfield Hts and Bowling Green district tournaments, though each site has four in the rankings. Leading the way at Garfield Hts is the

senior Brenes, who went 1-2 last year at 220 pounds at the Scott. Two sophomores in Schaefer (district placer) and Worthington (state alternate), along with the senior Ellis (State alternate) join Brenes as ranked.

The senior Horn, 1-2 last year in the 170 pound weight class is the lone wrestler with state experience at Bowling Green. It's been a mixed season for Horn, placing fourth at Lima CC this past weekend, after spending earlier parts of the season down at 170, where he was second at Arcadia and fifth at Marion Harding. The top ranked wrestler at Bowling Green is returning state alternate Stansberry, who was champion at the Lima CC holiday and Van Buren, and runner-up at Bellevue and Lima CC. Also ranked here are the senior Hale, who was fifth at Lima CC this past weekend, and the senior Reisinger who has a title at Toledo St. John's and was a consolation quarterfinal loser at Lima CC. Not in the rankings is returning district placer Metcalf.

195 pounds

1. Dalton Ishmael, North Baltimore, senior (Bowling Green)
2. Daniel Kwiat, Tiffin Calvert, senior (Bowling Green)
3. Tyler Beck, Galion Northmor, senior (Philo)
4. Ryan Weber, Loudonville, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Evan Brettrager, Kirtland, senior (Garfield Hts)
6. Travis Jaramillo, Archbold, junior (Bowling Green)
7. Gunner Loughman, Heath, senior (Philo)
8. Brian Olson, Covington, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Marcus Smith, Carlisle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Colin McConnahea, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Kyle Dieringer, Versailles, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Glenn Zaller, Grand Valley, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Phil Eisenhauer, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Carter Harris, West Jefferson, junior (Philo)
15. Adrian Harding, Greenview, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Joe Dilbert, Reading, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

Bowling Green – Ishmael, Kwiat, Jaramillo, Drake Reed (Margaretta, sophomore); Jacob Widman (Fremont SJCC, junior)

Garfield Hts – Weber, Brettrager, Zaller, Eisenhauer; Austin Kuchta (Elyria Catholic, junior)

Kettering Fairmont – Olson, Smith, McConnahea, Dieringer; Harding, Dilbert

Philo – Beck, Loughman, Harris, Mack White (Amanda Clearcreek, junior); Dan Jones (Columbus Academy, sophomore)

The ultimate goal in the sport of wrestling is to pin the opponent. Though most matches end up being decided by points, the objective is still to earn the fall, and no one has done that more often in the history of Ohio high school wrestling than Dalton Ishmael. This young man already has 150-plus pins in his career, an amount that is absurd on its face. Though one can be skeptical about the level of competition he has faced, still to pin 150-plus over a four year career is sheer madness.

Ishmael placed third at state last year, and is favored to earn the state title this year. Already on the season, he has titles at Arcadia and Perrysburg. His primary challenge will come in the form of fellow senior Kwiat, who placed fifth at state last year, and joins Ishmael in exiting the Bowling Green district. The lone other ranked wrestler in this district is returning state qualifier Jaramillo, who is a junior and

was runner-up at Marion County. Unfortunately, he had to default out of the Lima CC tournament last weekend in the quarterfinal round, and we hope he is able to compete during the state series.

Ranked third in this weight class is two-time state qualifier Beck, who was eighth at state as a sophomore in 2011. This season, he was second at the Gorman (overtime win over Weber along the way) and champion at Marion County (8-1 over Jaramillo in the final). He leads a shallow Philo district, which features just two other ranked wrestlers, none with state experience. Fellow senior Laughman was third at Marion County, and also has a dual meet win over Division II state alternate Presley; while the junior Harris was a district placer last year.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings both exit the Garfield Hts district, which features four total in the rankings. Ranked fourth is the junior Weber, who was third at both the Gorman and Top Gun tournaments; while in fifth is returning state placer Brettrager, a senior who was champion this season at Lorain and Perry. Returning state qualifier went two-and-out at the Schott last year as a sophomore, and this season finished third at Perry; while the other ranked wrestler is the senior Eisenhauer, champion at Smithville, Chippewa, and New Lexington along with a fifth place finish at the Dies.

Deepest of the four districts is the one at Kettering Fairmont, which features six ranked wrestlers, though none is positioned above eighth. Leading that group is returning state placer Olson, sixth last year as a junior at 182 pounds. This season, he was fifth at the GMVWA and Troy before winning a title at Lima CC. Next on the ladder is the senior Smith, a state alternate last year who was one match away from placing at Brecksville, fourth at Troy, champion at Valley View, and second at Lima CC. Fellow senior, and returning state alternate, McConnahea is next with titles at four tournaments this season to his credit.

Rounding out that group at Kettering Fairmont is the sophomore Dieringer, a district placer who finished seventh at the GMVWA; the sophomore Harding, who took third at Lima CC; and the senior Dilbert, who went 8-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals and was runner-up at Reading and Madeira earlier this season.

220 pounds

1. Jake Moore, Rootstown, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Travis Boyd, Blanchester, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Corey Ginn, West Jefferson, senior (Philo)
4. Justin Post, Coldwater, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Corey Durbin, Fremont SJCC, junior (Bowling Green)
6. Jay Nino, Genoa, sophomore (Bowling Green)
7. Brady Gump, Garaway, senior (Philo)
8. Quinton Wessell, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Tyler Ash, Paulding, senior (Bowling Green)
10. Seth Bloor, Wellsville, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
11. Adam Kuchta, Elyria Catholic, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Caleb Fry, Cardinal, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Cody Carr, Brookville, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Joseph Dotson, Hannibal River, senior (Philo)
15. Darren Milligan, Carlisle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Tyler Shank, Mapleton, senior (Garfield Hts)

Bowling Green – Durbin, Nino, Ash, Griffin Friesner (Defiance Ayersville, senior); Ryan Wilfer (Buckeye Central, senior)

Garfield Hts – Moore, Bloor, Kuchta, Fry; Shank

Kettering Fairmont – Boyd, Post, Wessell, Carr; Milligan

Philo – Ginn, Gump, Dotson, Zach Coole (Martins Ferry, senior); Drake Colbree (Marion Pleasant, senior)

It's a whopping four wrestlers with state experience in this weight class, only two with state placements on the resume. Those two wrestlers, both of whom are seniors, are the top two ranked here. The key determinant of the top ranking was the consolation semifinal result from last year's state tournament, where Moore upended Boyd 3-2. Moore would go onto place fourth at state, and has spent much of this season up at 285 pounds where he placed fifth at Ironman and second at Medina; however, he made the drop to 220 in early January. Boyd would take fifth at state, and this season has a title at Madeira along with second place finishes at Reading and Western Brown.

Both wrestlers also exit district tournaments with five ranked wrestlers. For Moore it's at Garfield Hts, while Boyd exits the Kettering Fairmont district. The Garfield Hts district features the sophomore Bloor, who finished third at the OVAC meet; the junior Kuchta, a go-to-match loser last year, and was undefeated this season prior to his fourth place finish at the CIT; returning state alternate Fry, who was second at Aurora; and fellow senior Shank, who was first at Bucyrus and third at Marion Harding.

State alternate Post, only a junior, is the primary challenger to Boyd at Kettering Fairmont, and has titles at Lima CC holiday (pinning Ash in the final) and Lima CC this past weekend (8-5 over Durbin in the final) on the season. The senior Wessell was champion at Allen County and Lima Senior (7-4 over Ash in the final); while juniors Carr (9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals this past weekend) and Milligan (third at Lima CC) round out the ranked group.

One of the other two returning state qualifiers is the junior Ginn, who went 1-2 in this weight class last year. He leads a trio of ranked wrestlers in the Philo district. State alternate Gump is a senior, and was champion at Aurora, while the senior Dotson was second at Barnesville and fifth at the OVAC.

The other returning state qualifier is the senior Ash, who exits the Bowling Green district. For the season, he was second at both the Lima CC holiday and Lima Senior tournaments. Three other ranked wrestlers exit this district: the junior Durbin, a state alternate last year, who was champion at Van Buren, third at Perrysburg, and runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend; the sophomore Nino, who was 9-1 at the Ohio D3 Duals; and the senior Freisner, a district placer last year, who was fourth at Lima CC.

285 pounds

1. Patrick Garren, Bishop Ready, junior (Philo)
2. Zack Srock, Chippewa, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Joe Newsome, Tuscarawas Valley, senior (Philo)
4. Austin Cary, Loudonville, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Corey Ernest, St. Clairsville, senior (Philo)
6. Geoff Ketcham, Delphos Jefferson, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Jacob Hanzel, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts)
8. Anthony Verhovec, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Philo)
9. Chance Vellor, Swanton, freshman (Bowling Green)
10. Kody Bray, Reading, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Ryan Fessler, Bishop Fenwick, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)

12. Jeremiah Koah, Westfall, junior (Philo)
13. Isaac Sexton, Van Buren, sophomore (Bowling Green)
14. Andrew Smith, Versailles, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Hunter Overholtz, Dixie, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Ben Sexton, Garaway, junior (Philo)

Bowling Green – Veller, I. Sexton, Alex Fry (Defiance Ayersville, junior), Ian Ramos (Collins Western Reserve, senior); Colton Hossler (Hopewell Loudon, senior)
Garfield Hts – Srock, Cary, Hanzel, Deion Arnold (Clearview, senior)
Kettering Fairmont – Ketcham, Bray, Fessler, Smith; Overholtz
Philo – Garren, Newsome, Ernest, Verhovec; Koah, B. Sexton

Last of the 42 weight classes to be written is yet another shallow weight here in Division III with just two returning state placers, and two additional returning state qualifiers among the present field composition. Those returning state placers occupy the top two positions, and again these wrestlers met in the consolation semifinals at state last year. In that match, it was Garren upending Srock 7-5, and each wrestler would then win their subsequent medal match (Garren for third, Srock for fifth).

After that third place finish, Garren would go onto earn a runner-up finish at the NHSCA sophomore nationals, and in the preseason finish fifth at the Super 32 Challenge. He is undefeated for this season with titles at North Canton, Bishop Ready, and the CIT. Likewise, the senior Srock is undefeated this season with titles at Smithville, Chippewa, the Dies, and New Lexington on the record. These two wrestlers are on a collision course for a great semifinal or final bout at the Schott.

Garren exits the deepest of the four districts at Philo, where he is joined by the other two returning state qualifiers in seniors Newsome and Verhovec. Newsome won a match last year at state, and this year was champion at Barnesville; while Verhovec went two-and-out, and this year has a title at Mount Vernon and fourth place finish at New Lexington on the resume. Fellow senior Ernest, a state alternate last year, is the other projected state qualifier – and this season has titles at Nelsonville York and the OVAC to his credit. Rounding out the ranked group is a pair of juniors – district placer Koah, who won a title at Greenon to go with second place finishes at Trimble and Miami Trace, along with Sexton who was second at Aurora.

Srock exits the Garfield Hts. district, which has two other projected state placers, but behind those three is a total vacuum. The senior Cary was champion at both the Gorman (overtime victory over Hanzel) and the Top Gun, where he had the 5-3 upset special over returning Division II state placer Connor Sharp in the semifinal. Hanzel, winner of two district tournament matches in this weight class as a sophomore last year, was runner-up at the Gorman and third at the Dies.

The Kettering Fairmont district in this weight class features five ranked wrestlers in this weight class, though only the senior Ketcham is projected to place. Ketcham finished third in his opening tournament at Lincolnview, but has followed that up with titles at Allen County, Lima CC holiday, Lima Senior, and Van Buren with an obscene pin rate. Next in the rankings is state alternate Bray, who had a late start to his season, and district placer Fessler. While the senior Smith went 3-2 at the GMVWA and fellow senior Overholtz was runner-up at Lima CC this past weekend.

Finally, it's an extremely shallow Bowling Green district in this weight class, featuring just two ranked wrestlers. For the prior four years, it was Mimmo Lytle manning this weight class for Swanton. He won

two state titles, was third as a sophomore, and eighth as a freshman. This season, another freshman is occupying the weight class for Swanton, and at present Vellor is ranked ninth here, after his title at Lima CC this past weekend. The other ranked wrestler here is the sophomore Isaac Sexton, who was second at Van Buren and third at Arcadia and Lima CC.

Team Projection

1. Waynedale/Garfield Hts. District
2. Troy Christian/Kettering Fairmont District
3. Delta/Bowling Green District
4. Greenview/Kettering Fairmont District
5. Dayton Christian/Kettering Fairmont District
6. Mechanicsburg/Kettering Fairmont District
7. Beachwood/Garfield Hts. District
8. Loudonville/Garfield Hts. District
9. Rootstown/Garfield Hts. District
10. Tuslaw/Garfield Hts. District