

2022 Boro Fan Almanac



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Introduction

Fans & Readers:

Thank you for coming back another year and reading what is officially the 12th Annual Boro Fan Almanac. It goes without saying, but this is served as a prediction report. As you may or may not know, I release weekly rankings on my website, borofanohio.net, and have been doing so since 2011. When reading the report, please remember that I have not seen every result. Also, when reading the report, keep in mind that head- to- head results do count, but the overall rankings are amongst “the field” and not focused on one particular head-to-head win/loss. I hope that you guys enjoy reading this as much as I do in putting it together. Thank you for the continuous support and attention that you guys show for The Almanac and website year in and year out, it means a lot. Remember to follow me on Twitter @BoroFan_OH_WRST. I would also like to give a special thanks to my good friend and editor, Dominic Petrella. It seems as though we are getting ready to witness another great postseason in OHSAA Wrestling. Hope everyone enjoys!

Yours in Wrestling,

Billy Schaefer

Statistics

Projected State Placers (Ranked Top 8 and Finished Top 8)

| | Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Overall |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2021 | 82/112 = 73.2 | 79/112 = 70.5% | 73/112 = 65.1% | 234/336 = 69.6% |
| 2020 | CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 | | | |
| 2019 | 80/112 = 71.4% | 82/112 = 73.2 % | 83/112 = 74.1 % | 245/336 = 72.9 % |
| 2018 | 91/112 = 81.3% | 74/112 = 66.1% | 71/112 = 63.4 % | 236/336 = 70.2 % |
| 2017 | 77/112 = 68.8% | 78/112 = 69.6% | 83/112 = 74.1% | 238/336 = 70.8% |
| 2016 | 76/112 = 67.9% | 76/112 = 67.9% | 75/112 = 67% | 227/336 = 67.6% |
| 2015 | 69/112 = 61.6% | 73/112 = 65.1% | 81/112 = 72.3% | 223/336 = 66.4% |
| 2014 | 81/112 = 72.3% | 77/112 = 68.75% | 83/112 = 74.1% | 241/336 = 71.7% |
| 2013 | 68/112 = 60.7% | 74/112 = 66.1% | 72/112 = 64.2% | 214/336 = 63.7% |
| Average | 78/112 = 69.6% | 76.6/112 = 68.4% | 77.6/112 = 69.3% | 232.3/336 = 69.1% |

Projected State Finalists (Ranked Top 2 and Made the State Finals)

| | Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Overall |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2021 | 14/28 = 50% | 18/28 = 64.3% | 18/28 = 64.3% | 50/84 = 59.5% |
| 2020 | CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 | | | |
| 2019 | 18/28 = 64.3 % | 13/28 = 46.4% | 17/28 = 60.7% | 48/84 = 57.1% |
| 2018 | 16/28 = 57.1% | 18/28 = 64.3% | 13/28 = 46.4% | 47/84 = 56 % |
| 2017 | 16/28 = 57.1% | 20/28 = 71.4% | 20/28 = 71.4% | 56/84 = 66.6% |
| 2016 | 15/28 = 53.6% | 13/28 = 46.4% | 16/28 = 57.1% | 44/84 = 52.4% |
| 2015 | 16/28 = 57.1% | 20/28 = 71.4% | 17/28 = 60.7% | 53/84 = 63.1% |
| 2014 | 14/28 = 50% | 14/28 = 50% | 15/28 = 53.6% | 43/84 = 51.2% |
| 2013 | 19/28 = 67.9% | 14/28 = 50% | 17/28 = 60.7% | 50/84 = 59.5% |
| Average | 16/28 = 57.1% | 16.3/28 = 58.2% | 16.6/28 = 59.3% | 48.9/84 = 58.2 % |

Projected State Champions (Ranked #1 and Won State Title)

| | Division 1 | Division 2 | Division 3 | Overall |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2021 | 6/14 = 42.9% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 11/14 = 78.6% | 26/42 = 61.9% |
| 2020 | CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 | | | |
| 2019 | 7/14 = 50 % | 7/14 = 50 % | 7/14 = 50 % | 21/42 = 50 % |
| 2018 | 8/14 = 57.1% | 7/14 = 50 % | 6/14 = 42.9% | 21/42 = 50 % |
| 2017 | 8/14 = 57.1% | 8/14 = 57.1% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 25/42 = 59.5% |
| 2016 | 8/14 = 57.1% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 11/14 = 78.6% | 28/42 = 66.7% |
| 2015 | 6/14 = 42.9% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 10/14 = 71.4% | 25/42 = 59.5% |
| 2014 | 5/14 = 35.7% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 11/14 = 78.6% | 25/42 = 59.5% |
| 2013 | 11/14 = 78.6% | 8/14 = 57.1% | 9/14 = 64.3% | 28/42 = 66.7% |
| Average | 7.4/14 = 52.9% | 8.3/14 = 59.3% | 9.3/14 = 66.4% | 24.9/42 = 59.3% |

Selections are only correct, if the wrestler places at the correct weight class

DIVISION 1

Districts

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Perrysburg = PB | North Canton Hoover = NCH |
| Kettering Fairmont = KF | Hilliard Darby = HD |

106

- Projected Champion: Gunner Havens (Teays Valley) Junior – HD1
2. Brett Stanley (Brecksville) Sophomore – NCH1
 3. Cole Evans (Perrysburg) Freshman – PB1
 4. Adam Butler (St. Edward) Freshman – PB2
 5. Jack Dinwiddie (Wadsworth) Freshman – NCH2
 6. Ryan Kennedy (North Olmsted) Freshman – PB3
 7. Konner Lambers (Elder) Freshman – KF1
 8. Zachary Bergman (Anthony Wayne) Sophomore – PB4
 9. Emeric McBurney (Massillon Perry) Freshman – NCH3
 10. Chloe Dearwester (Harrison) Sophomore – KF2
 11. Neal Krysty (Olentangy Liberty) Freshman – HD2
 12. Greyson Clemens (Uniontown Lake) Freshman – NCH4
 13. Jayshawn Eggleton (Maple Heights) Junior – PB5
 14. Brock Blankenhorn (Mount Vernon) Sophomore – HD3
 15. Becan Hahn (Mentor) Junior – NCH5
 16. Adom Sharpley (Solon) Freshman – NCH6
 17. Candio DeLuna (Oregon Clay) Junior – PB6
 18. Bryce Estep (Fremont Ross) Freshman – PB7
 19. Nate Montgomery (Madison) Freshman – NCH7
 20. Marsel Sabirdjanov (Mason) Sophomore – KF3
 21. Adam Gelman (Sycamore) Sophomore – KF4
 22. Nathan Hamman (LaSalle) Senior – KF5
 23. Zayvier Jordan-Bradley (Huber Heights Wayne) Senior – KF6
 24. Eddie Skiba (Brunswick) Freshman – PB8
 25. Giovanni Duniec (St. Ignatius) Freshman – PB9
 26. Joey Franz (Springboro) Sophomore – KF7
 27. Toby Gentry (Lebanon) Sophomore – KF8
 28. Samson St. Germain (Marion Harding) Junior – HD4
 29. Nick Lawrensen (Dublin Coffman) Sophomore – HD5
 30. Julian Kleiv (Hilliard Bradley) Senior – HD6

31. Shea Jordan (Whitehall Yearling) Senior – HD7
32. Bryce Jennings (Toledo Waite) Freshman – PB10
33. Keegan Prothero (Medina Highland) Freshman – NCH8
34. Gavin Long (Barberton) Freshman – NCH9
35. Caleb Vickers (Nordonia) Freshman – NCH10
36. VanAnthony Trunzo (Amherst Steele) Sophomore – PB13
37. Isaac Green (Elyria) Sophomore – PB11
38. Gage Baribeau (Midview) Freshman – PB12
39. Jarred Moyer (Green) Freshman – NCH11
40. Zach Gregan (Walsh Jesuit) Freshman – NCH12

Outstanding freshman Jay'veon Clinton (Elyria) had been the top ranked wrestler at this weight all season, but I recently heard he will likely not be competing in the postseason. Havens, the only returning state placer or qualifier at this weight class, looks like the slight favorite now without Clinton here. Havens will be seeking to become Teays Valley's second state champ in school history and the first Viking since Mike Wilson in 1975. Top challenger Stanley has a notable win over third ranked Evans, 4-3, in the finals at the Ashland Holiday Invitational. Stanley did, however, recently lose to St. Edward's reserve 106, Ethan Timar, so I ultimately wouldn't be surprised if anyone in the Top 5 reaches the state finals.

Perrysburg looks like the strongest district here by far. The northwest district leads the way with four projected state placers and 13 total ranked wrestlers. Despite having the projected state champ exit Darby, I would still consider it the thinnest district of the four. The central district has only three wrestlers in the Top 25 and the least amount of wrestlers ranked (7).

113

- Projected Champion: Marcus Blaze (Perrysburg) Freshman – PB1
2. Jaxson Rosselli (Olentangy Liberty) Sophomore – HD1
 3. Holden Huhn (LaSalle) Freshman – KF1
 4. Wyatt Richter (St. Edward) Senior – PB2
 5. Jared Johnston (Moeller) Sophomore – KF2
 6. Kevin Grunzweig (Solon) Senior – NCH1
 7. Micah Medina (Oregon Clay) Junior – PB3
 8. Jacob Ferguson (Austintown Fitch) Senior – NCH2
 9. Kaiyon McKinney (Elyria) Freshman – PB4
 10. Nate Dulcie (Massillon Perry) Sophomore – NCH3
 11. Rahul Raghuram (Dublin Coffman) Junior – HD2
 12. Joey Thamman (Elder) Freshman – KF3
 13. Cam Carter (Walsh Jesuit) Freshman – NCH4
 14. Vann Riordan (Massillon Jackson) Freshman – NCH5
 15. Jack Deboe (Mentor) Freshman – NCH6
 16. Michael Gosselin (Springboro) Sophomore – KF4
 17. Tommy Couch (Harrison) Senior – KF5
 18. Andrew Myers (Upper Arlington) Sophomore – HD3
 19. Bryce Williams (Mason) Senior – KF6
 20. Jacob Lentz (Fairfield) Junior – KF7
 21. James Harrison (Madison) Junior – NCH7
 22. Carlo Santoro (Mayfield) Senior – NCH8
 23. Adam Andrews (Hilliard Davidson) Freshman – HD4
 24. John Foye (Avon) Sophomore – PB5
 25. Bakari Scott (Fremont Ross) Junior – PB6
 26. Toby Hutsler (Lancaster) Junior – HD5
 27. Dylan Hartman (Mount Vernon) Senior – HD6
 28. Gavyn Louks (Watkins Memorial) Junior – HD7
 29. Nick Piontkowski (Olentangy) Freshman – HD8
 30. Ethan Skiles (Marysville) Junior – HD9
 31. Conner Haney (Medina Highland) Freshman – NCH9
 32. Cameron Chaney (Trenton Edgewood) Senior – KF8
 33. Loudon Maxwell (Vandalia Butler) Freshman – KF9
 34. Mateo Mack (Toledo St. John's Jesuit) Sophomore – PB7
 35. Zack Short (Midview) Senior – PB8
 36. Josh Strong (Kings) Senior – KF10
 37. Colton McHale (Lebanon) Freshman – KF11
 38. Nathan Wiley (Milford) Senior – KF12
 39. Chase Morgan (Westlake) Freshman – PB9

Like 106, the favorite here is also an outstanding freshman. Blaze, my top rated wrestler in the 2025 class, has been absolutely brilliant this year. He started off the season by winning the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, which many consider the toughest in-season tournament in the country. Blaze also has won tournament titles at the Ashland Holiday Invitational, Perrysburg Invitational, Maumee Bay Classic, and will take his perfect 43-0 record into the postseason. I like returning state placer, Rosselli, or Huhn, another outstanding freshman, to meet Blaze in the finals. Rosselli and Huhn met a month ago at Wadsworth, a match Rosselli won 7-5 in overtime.

Perrysburg looks very strong once again. The northwest district has three projected state placers and four wrestlers ranked in the top nine. Despite being loaded at the top, Perrysburg is tied with Darby for having the least amount of total ranked wrestlers (9). Another name to watch at the Northwest district is Braker (Anthony Wayne). Hoover also looks very strong here with two projected state placers and six wrestlers in the Top 15. Quite a few other names to watch there are Pluhar (Brecksville), Mellino (Nordonia), Clemens (Uniontown Lake), Pasek (North Canton Hoover), and Rankin (Boardman). This doesn't seem to be one of the tougher weights at Darby, as the central district has one projected state placer and only two wrestlers ranked in the Top 15. A few other names to watch at Darby are McCaa (Newark), Eads (Central Crossing, Tong/Lopez (Olentangy Orange), May (Delaware Hayes), Storts (Licking Heights), Fowler (Grove City), and Davis (Canal Winchester).

120

Projected Champion: Jaxon Joy (Wadsworth) Sophomore – NCH1

2. Ryan Avalos (Perrysburg) Junior – PB1
3. Peyton Fenton (Elyria) Senior – PB2
4. Kade Brown (St. Edward) Sophomore – PB3
5. Austin McBurney (Massillon Perry) Junior – NCH2
6. Damion Ryan (Centerville) Senior – KF1
7. Nick Molchak (Solon) Senior – NCH3
8. Tanner Spalding (LaSalle) Sophomore – KF2
9. Jayden Cochran (Miamisburg) Sophomore – KF3
10. Noah Moreland (Vandalia Butler) Junior – KF4
11. Nick Rodriguez (Oregon Clay) Senior – PB4
12. William Zaborski (Toledo Start) Senior – PB5
13. Bryce Sears (Colerain) Sophomore – KF5
14. Johnathan Campbell (Walsh Jesuit) Sophomore – NCH4
15. Graham Mercurio (Moeller) Sophomore – KF6
16. Joey Vazsonyi (Medina Highland) Junior – NCH5
17. Dominc Artman (Uniontown Lake) Senior – NCH6
18. Adam Makour/Joey Baumann (Dublin Coffman) – HD1
19. Brayden Biedermann (Anthony Wayne) Senior – PB6

20. William Maghes (Massillon Jackson) Senior – NCH7
21. Mannix Wasco (North Royalton) Freshman – PB7
22. Salvatore Palmisano (Mayfield) Sophomore – NCH8
23. Logan Besecker (Beavercreek) Junior – KF7
24. Hayden Hollis (Springboro) Senior – KF8
25. Brent Stahl (Elder) Senior – KF9
26. Gage Ross (Fremont Ross) Junior – PB8
27. Hayden Chase (Toledo Whitmer) Senior – PB9
28. Will Jolliff (Findlay) Freshman – PB10
29. Hamzah Abdelrahim (Akron Firestone) Senior – NCH9
30. Jibreel Smith (Newark) Junior – HD2
31. Braxton Sheets (Grove City) Junior – HD3
32. Evan Metzger (Harrison) Junior – KF10
33. Josh Niemann (Watkins Memorial) Senior – HD4
34. Kadin Walls (Teays Valley) Senior – HD5
35. Nathan Miller (Nordonia) Sophomore – NCH10
36. Joey Novak (St. Ignatius) Senior – PB11
37. Diego Stropko (Mentor) Sophomore – NCH11

Returning state runner-up, Joy, looks like the clear favorite here. He has two wins this season over returning state placer and top challenger Avalos. Joy won the first match by fall and the second by decision, 10-5. Joy also has a notable win over 2019 state champion, Fenton, 7-3. He actually beat both Avalos and Fenton, opening weekend in a double dual at Elyria. Avalos and Fenton didn't wrestle opening weekend, but they have met twice this season. Fenton won the first match, 8-7, in the finals at the Ashland Holiday Invitational. Avalos was then able to get revenge a few weeks later in the finals at the Maumee Bay Classic, knocking off Fenton, 5-3, in overtime. I expect Avalos and Fenton to meet again at Perrysburg.

Perrysburg and Hoover both look very strong at this weight with each having three projected state placers and 11 total ranked wrestlers. Darby looks to be the thinnest district here by far with only one wrestler in the Top 20 and a total of just five ranked wrestlers. A few other names to watch at the central district are Slubowski (Hilliard Darby), Piontowksi (Olentangy), and Parks (Olentangy Liberty).

126

- Projected Champion: Omar Ayoub (Dublin Coffman) Sophomore – HD1
2. Brennen Cernus (Pickerington Central) Senior – HD2
 3. Vinnie D'Alessandro (Mayfield) Junior – NCH1
 4. Kaden Jett (Brecksville) Junior – NCH2
 5. Mason Brugh (Wadsworth) Senior – NCH3
 6. Nathan Perry (Avon Lake) Junior – PB1
 7. Luke Acuna (Centerville) Senior – KF1
 8. Londen Murphy (Moeller) Freshman – KF2
 9. Nolan Frye (Walsh Jesuit) Senior – NCH4
 10. Drake Cerny (Marion Harding) Senior – HD3
 11. Aidan Agin (Lancaster) Senior – HD4
 12. Ryan Bennett (St. Edward) Sophomore – PB2
 13. Charles Curtis (Massillon Perry) Sophomore – NCH5
 14. Colton Spurgeon (Mount Vernon) Senior – HD5
 15. Nick Blackburn (Mentor) Sophomore – NCH6
 16. Cole McKinley (Sylvania Northview) Senior – PB3
 17. Corey Haney (Medina Highland) Senior – NCH7
 18. Zachary Orseno (North Ridgeville) Senior – PB4
 19. Kenneth Lambert (Strongsville) Senior – PB5
 20. Malakhi Sharpley (Solon) Junior – NCH8
 21. Parker Lee (Vandalia Butler) Junior – KF3
 22. Cohl Wandsnider (Harrison) Sophomore – KF4
 23. Bryson Clinger (Beavercreek) Senior – KF5
 24. Bryton Miller (Kettering Fairmont) Junior – KF6
 25. Jaymar Brown (Colerain) Senior – KF7
 26. Brandon Mitchell (Oak Hills) Senior – KF8
 27. Emilio Arellano (Toledo Whitmer) Senior – PB6
 28. Logan Steiner (Lebanon) Senior – KF9
 29. Brett Hogan (Loveland) Senior – KF10
 30. Vaughn Fowler (Olentangy) Senior – HD6
 31. Joey DiTullio (Elder) Freshman – KF11
 33. Gavin Greathouse (Uniontown Lake) Junior – NCH9
 34. T.J. Barnes (Findlay) Senior – PB7
 35. Lincoln Gardner (Olentangy Liberty) Freshman – HD7
 36. Ty Wynn (St. Xavier) Junior – KF12
 37. Dean Russo (Olmsted Falls) Senior – PB8
 38. Liam Foye (Avon) Senior – PB9
 39. Charlie Erickson (Thomas Worthington) Senior – HD8
 40. Emilio Guerrero (Marysville) Senior – HD9

This has been my favorite weight class to follow all season in Division 1 and I fully expect this to be one of the better weight classes to watch in Columbus come March. The field here features a whopping 10 returning/previous state placers! I found out recently that returning state runner-up, Hudson Goebel (Findlay), and returning state placer, Diego Chavez (Perrysburg), will both likely miss the postseason. They would have boosted the returning state placer total to 12. Returning state runner-up, Ayoub, is my pick here, but I ultimately think this weight is wide open. I wouldn't be surprised if anyone in the Top 10 reaches the state finals. It is important to note Ayoub, Jett, Brugh, and returning state champ Bennett all meet seeding criteria.

Darby is very strong at the top with both projected state finalists exiting the central district. Hoover also looks very strong here with three wrestlers in the Top 5 and looks to have very good depth with eight wrestlers in the Top 20. Perrysburg has only one projected state placer, which makes this one of the thinner weights at the northwest weight district. Goebel and Chavez would have obviously made a huge impact there.

132

Projected Champion: Ty Wilson (Dublin Scioto) Sophomore – HD 1

2. Jeremy Ginter (Toledo Whitmer) Sophomore – PB1
3. Wyatt Moore (Hilliard Davidson) Junior – HD2
4. Evan Butcher (Westerville North) Junior – HD3
5. Allenson Denkins (Perrysburg) Senior – PB2
6. Jared Goldberg (St. Edward) Freshman – PB3
7. Chase Pluhar (Brecksville) Junior – NCH1
8. Robert Davis (Stow-Munroe Falls) Sophomore – NCH2
9. Kaden Mellon (Wadsworth) Sophomore – NCH3
10. Marshall Geckler (Massillon Perry) Freshman – NCH 4
11. Nick Gerome (Solon) Senior – NCH5
12. Ty Daugherty (Avon) Senior – PB4
13. Antonio Shelley (Mentor) Sophomore – NCH6
14. Jayden Colon (Parma) Senior – PB5
15. Khaled Askar (Westlake) Senior – PB6
16. Thomas Cassetty (Uniontown Lake) Senior – NCH7
17. Elijah Marengo (LaSalle) Sophomore – KF1
18. Jack McCall (Lebanon) Junior – KF2
19. Drew Magness (Elder) Senior – KF3
20. David Gelman (Moeller) Senior – KF4
21. Simon Taylor (Centerville) Senior – KF5
22. Arthur Croom (Austintown Fitch) Junior – NCH8
23. Matt Hamad (Nordonia) Sophomore – NCH9
24. Alex Boske (North Canton Hoover) Sophomore – NCH10
25. Jared Counts (North Ridgeville) Senior – PB7

26. Jackson Collins (Berea-Midpark) Junior – PB8
27. Joshua Ramirez (Central Crossing) Freshman – HD4
28. Andrew Connelly (Olmsted Falls) Sophomore – PB9
29. Channing Thornton (Thomas Worthington) Senior – HD5
30. Jack Valerino (Avon Lake) Freshman – PB10
31. Jayce Frymire (Fremont Ross) Freshman – PB11
32. Jayden Little (Harrison) Freshman – KF6
33. Caden Walton (Watkins Memorial) Sophomore – HD6
34. Ty Harter (Loveland) Junior – KF7
35. Sam Mizuwaka (Cincinnati Anderson) Junior – KF8
36. Micah Cottrell (Princeton) Sophomore – KF9
37. Braeden Shanklin (Fairfield) Sophomore – KF10
38. Kyser Kristoff (Colerain) Freshman – KF11
39. Tyler Epstein (Lakota East) Sophomore – KF12
40. Emmett Cunningham (Barberton) Sophomore – NCH11

After hearing recently that two-time state runner-up Niffenegger will likely wrestle up at 138, Wilson looks like the new favorite at this weight class. He won the state crown last year as a freshman, all the way down at 113. Wilson beat my projected state champ at the previous weight, Omar Ayoub, 3-0. Ginter, another outstanding sophomore, looks like Wilson's toughest challenger. Ginter finished third last year at 126, which means he and Wilson both meet seeding criteria. This weight has had a ton of changes in the Top 20 over the past few weeks, so I definitely expect this to be a fun one to watch in Columbus.

Darby and Perrysburg both look very strong at the top with each having three projected state placers. Perrysburg does, however, have much better depth with 11 total wrestlers ranked above, while Darby has only five. A few other names to watch at the central district are Giordano (Big Walnut), Baumann/Makour (Dublin Coffman), Waller (Grove City), Edmonds (Lancaster), and Deifallah (Hilliard Darby). Fairmont looks very thin at the top, as the southwest district doesn't have one wrestler ranked in the Top 15. Despite that, Fairmont still somehow leads the way with 12 total ranked wrestlers. With the rumor that Niffenegger will be staying at 138, I expect Marengo to go 132 after recently beating returning state placer McCall, 15-4. As I stated already, with how crazy this weight has been all year with everyone having wins and losses against each other, I honestly think anyone in the Top 20 has the ability to reach the podium in Columbus.

138

- Projected Champion: Jake Niffenegger (LaSalle) Senior – KF1
2. Nate Burnett (Elyria) Senior – PB1
 3. Dy'vaire VanDyke (Walsh Jesuit) Junior – NCH1
 4. Ismael Ayoub (Dublin Coffman) Senior – HD1
 5. Bradley Eaton (St. Edward) Freshman – PB2
 6. Conner Kleinberg (Springboro) Junior – KF2
 7. Ethan Mitchell (Findlay) Junior – PB3
 8. David Shue (Wadsworth) Senior – NCH2
 9. Israel Petite (Nordonia) Sophomore – NCH3
 10. Landen Johnson (Massillon Perry) Freshman – NCH4
 11. Edwin White (Westerville North) Senior – HD2
 12. David Zambounis (Brecksville) Sophomore – NCH5
 13. Chase Crutchley (Medina Highland) Sophomore – NCH6
 14. Dominic Mudry (North Royalton) Senior – PB4
 15. Mahdi Shoman (North Olmsted) Senior – PB5
 16. Jacob Castillo (Middletown) Junior – KF3
 17. Tanner Beerman (Fairfield) Junior – KF4
 18. Payton Fichter (Canton GlenOak) Junior – NCH7
 19. Spencer Meng (Centerville) Senior – KF5
 20. Kaden Soto (Toledo St. John's Jesuit) Freshman – PB6
 21. Stone Busler (Moeller) Sophomore – KF6
 22. Maddox Carter (Harrison) Junior – KF7
 23. Ayden Boothby (Upper Arlington) Senior – HD3
 24. Parker Frederick (Anthony Wayne) Senior – PB7
 25. Ricky Berns (Solon) Senior – NCH8
 26. David Shannon (Austintown Fitch) Senior – NCH9
 27. Brody Chase (Lancaster) Senior – HD4
 28. Ian Cho (Dublin Jerome) Sophomore – HD5
 29. Mahdi Numan (Dublin Scioto) Senior – HD6
 30. Lincoln Witt (Marysville) Senior – HD7
 31. Jaiden Sarabia (Toledo Whitmer) Freshman – PB8
 32. Scott Speakman (Watkins Memorial) Freshman – HD8
 33. Roman Younger (Teays Valley) Freshman – HD9
 34. Cooper Westfall (N. Canton Hoover) Sophomore – NCH10
 35. Joey Minick (Uniontown Lake) Senior – NCH11
 36. Gavin Richner (Painesville Riverside) Senior – NCH12
 37. Santino Humphrey (Lorain) Junior – PB9
 38. Micah Bentley (Stow-Munroe Falls) Junior – NCH13

I think this will be the year Niffenegger captures his state crown after falling just short twice at this weight class. The two-time state runner-up and future Merchyhurst Laker will definitely be

challenged along the way. He has a win this season already over top challenger Burnett that came in the finals at the Ashland Holiday Invitational, 3-2. Niffenegger also beat fourth-ranked Ayoub by the same score in the previous round. As just mentioned, two-time state placer and future Clarion Golden Eagle, Burnett, looks to be the top challenger here. He has twice finished fifth in his career, losing both years in the championship semifinals and consolation semifinals, before bouncing back to win the placement match. His best win this season came at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, where he beat returning Division 3 state champ, Camron Lacure (Legacy Christian), 3-2, in overtime. Burnett went on to finish fourth at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, placing higher than many other ranked wrestlers at this weight. Niffenegger and returning third place finisher, VanDyke, both meet seeding criteria.

Like most weights, Perrysburg is very strong from top to bottom. The northwest district has three projected state placers and five wrestlers in the Top 15. A wrestler to watch closely at Perrysburg is returning state qualifier Eggleton (Maple Heights). He has spent time at 138 and 144, but I recently heard he will be at 144 for the postseason. Hoover is also very strong here with six wrestlers in the top 16 and leads the way with 13 total ranked wrestlers. Darby looks to be the thinnest district here with only one projected state placer.

144

- Projected Champion: Joey Blaze (Perrysburg) Junior – PB1
2. Ethan Birden (Dublin Coffman) Sophomore – HD1
 3. Maclain Morency (Cincinnati Anderson) Junior – KF1
 4. Eugene Harney (Sycamore) Sophomore – KF2
 5. Matthew Szczepaniak (Lakota West) Junior – KF3
 6. Niko Gonzalez (Olentangy Berlin) Senior – HD2
 7. Creed Hill (Medina Highland) Junior – NCH1
 8. Manny Scordos (Brecksville) Senior – NCH2
 9. Vince Randall (Stow-Munroe Falls) Senior – NCH3
 10. Nick Humphrys (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH4
 11. Connor Holm (Elyria) Sophomore – PB2
 12. Zander Graham (Teays Valley) Senior – HD3
 13. Zam Tckhovrebov (Kings) Senior – KF4
 14. Liam Schram (Lebanon) Junior – KF5
 15. Wyatt Brock (LaSalle) Freshman – KF6
 16. Gino Perrine (Nordononia) Sophomore – NCH5
 17. Andrew Supers (Medina) Junior – NCH6
 18. Daniel Eggleton (Maple Heights) Senior – PB3
 19. Cooper McKinney (Massillon Jackson) Sophomore – NCH7
 20. Triston Beane (Grove City) Senior – HD4
 21. Joey Nowosielski (Eastlake North) Senior – NCH8
 22. Braeden Beck (Mayfield) Junior – NCH9

23. Mark Sobonya (Painesville Riverside) Junior – NCH10
24. London Settles (Brush) Senior – NCH11
25. Joshua Melms (Marysville) Senior – HD5
26. Nathan Morris (Hilliard Darby) Senior – HD6
27. Carson Atkins (Olmsted Falls) Senior – PB4
28. John Paul Smith (Findlay) Sophomore – PB5
29. Josh Jordan (Uniontown Lake) Sophomore – NCH12
30. Hatem Zayed (Westlake) Senior – PB6
31. Bobby Hopkins/Lucan O'Brien (St. Edward) – PB7
32. Brenden Allberry (Watkins Memorial) Junior – HD7
33. Austin Neel (Walsh Jesuit) Senior – NCH13
34. Ashton Labelle (Boardman) Senior – NCH14
35. Jaiden Reed (Franklin Heights) Senior – HD8
36. Tyler Deericks (Olentangy Liberty) Sophomore – HD9
37. Paolo Sferella (Delaware Hayes) Senior – HD10
38. Drennen Landenberger (Pickerington North) Sophomore – HD11
39. Christian Giltz (Massillon Perry) Junior – NCH15
40. Ethan Leu (Canton GlenOak) Freshman – NCH16

Returning state champ and my top-rated wrestler overall in the 2023 class, Blaze, looks like the favorite to capture another state title. The Purdue commit is currently 43-2. Both of his losses came to out-of-state competitors at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, where he ended up finishing fifth. Blaze beat top challenger Birden in the placement match, 5-1. Blaze has since beaten Birden three more times throughout the season (6-3, 3-2, 6-2). Joey's younger brother, Marcus, is also favored to win the state crown down at 113.

Fairmont looks very strong at the top, leading the way with three projected state placers. The southwest district does, however, lack overall depth with only six ranked wrestlers above. A couple other names to watch at Fairmont are Thamman (Elder) and Burkle (Centerville). This is definitely one of the thinner weights at Perrysburg. The northwest district has only three wrestlers in the Top 25 and a total of seven wrestlers ranked above. Perrysburg looked even less crowded before hearing Eggleton planned on moving back up to 144. A few other names to watch at the northwest district are McCallister (Anthony Wayne), Turner (Toledo St. John's Jesuit), and Anderson (Midview).

150

- Projected Champion: Quentin Whitehill (Medina) Senior – NCH1
2. Wynton Denkins (Perrysburg) Junior – PB1
 3. Christopher Earnest (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH2
 4. Ethan Smith (Eastlake North) Senior – NCH3
 5. Keegan Knapp (Olentangy Orange) Senior – HD1
 6. Flint Guerra (Lebanon) Junior – KF1
 7. Ty Miller (St. Edward) Freshman – PB2
 8. Tim Smith (Colerain) Senior – KF2
 9. Sam Thompson (Massillon Perry) Senior – NCH4
 10. Jack Golla (Marysville) Senior – HD2
 11. Izzak Pedraza (Elyria) Senior – PB3
 12. Michael Frenk (Solon) Junior – NCH5
 13. Anthony Grecol (Strongsville) Senior – PB4
 14. Anthony Monacchino (Brunswick) Senior – PB5
 15. Luke Conway (St. Xavier) Junior – KF3
 16. Iain Escobar (Worthington Kilbourne) Senior – HD3
 17. Broc Fitzpatrick (Olentangy Liberty) Sophomore – HD4
 18. David Jordan (Grove City) Senior – HD5
 19. Michael Blain (Thomas Worthington) Senior – HD6
 20. Zisi Giatis (Medina Highland) Freshman – NCH6
 21. Jack Willen (LaSalle) Sophomore – KF4
 22. Tyler Weseman (Oregon Clay) Senior – PB6
 23. Joe Marconi (Avon Lake) Junior – PB7
 24. Gavin Miner (Olmsted Falls) Senior – PB8
 25. Nate Booth (Green) Senior – NCH7
 26. Aaron Bowsher (Lima Senior) Senior – PB9
 27. Aric Smith (Austintown-Fitch) Junior – NCH8
 28. Logan Smalley (Reynoldsburg) Junior – HD7
 29. Hunter Randolph (Walsh Jesuit) Junior – NCH9
 30. Matthew Huffman (Stow-Munroe Falls) Senior – NCH10
 31. James Johnson (Willoughby South) Senior – NCH11
 32. Vincent Schiavone (Nardon) Junior – NCH12
 33. Gabe Droesch (Watkins Memorial) Senior – HD8
 34. Elijah Simms (Fremont Ross) Sophomore – PB10
 35. Rhys Fairall (Newark) Senior – HD9
 36. Caleb Heilman (Loveland) Freshman – KF5
 37. Austin Holman (Milford) Sophomore – KF6
 38. Liam Lloyd (Mentor) Freshman – NCH13
 39. Frank Gallo (Brecksville) Freshman – NCH14
 40. Jake Taylor (Mount Vernon) Freshman – HD10

Whitehill is my pick here, but this definitely looks like one of the more wide open weights in Division 1. Whitehill will be seeking to become Medina's third state champ in school history and the first Bee since Mark Balog in 1996. Whitehill missed the first couple months, but he recently made his season debut on February 10th. I think Denkins, Earnest, and Smith are all serious contenders here as well. Denkins and Earnest have split bouts so far this season with Denkins winning the more recent of the two. Whitehill, Earnest, and Smith all exit Hoover, so there is a chance that the district winner is placed on the opposite side of the other three wrestlers in the top four.

Hoover looks very strong from top to bottom at this weight. The northeast district has three wrestlers in the top four and six wrestlers in the Top 20. Fairmont looks the thinnest here with only six ranked wrestlers. Some other names to watch at the southwest district are returning state qualifier Moyer (Northmont), Smith (Springboro), Hoskins (Vandalia Butler), Mink (Beavercreek), Bennett (Stebbins), Wood (Trenton Edgewood), Allen (Lakota West), Winfield (Centerville), West (Mason), and Freeman (Lakota East). Freeman has a notable win over ranked Gallo, but he also has a few losses against unranked foes.

157

Projected Champion: Connor Euton (Westerville North) Senior – HD1

2. James Scavuzzo (Medina Highland) Senior – NCH1
3. Jarrel Miller (St. Edward) Freshman – PB1
4. Noah Ewen (Perrysburg) Senior – PB2
5. Tyler Lintner (Austintown Fitch) Junior – NCH2
6. Mason Valenica (Barberton) Senior – NCH3
7. Erich Trinski (Elyria) Junior – PB3
8. Aiden Ashburn (Westlake) Senior – PB4
9. Jack Marconi (Avon Lake) Junior – PB5
10. Evan Rizzo (Brecksville) Freshman – NCH4
11. Luke Marsh (Lebanon) Senior – KF1
12. Erryl Will (Marysville) Senior – HD2
13. Caleb Ridgely (Nordonia) Junior – NCH5
14. Greg Siambo (Mayfield) Senior – NCH6
15. Zach Kraus (Oregon Clay) Junior – PB6
16. AJ Dolph (North Canton Hoover) Freshman – NCH7
17. Adam Ryder (Wadsworth) Senior – NCH8
18. Brad Hornback (Moeller) Senior – KF2
19. Brian Crevar (Walsh Jesuit) Junior – NCH9
20. Carson Thomas (LaSalle) Freshman – KF3
21. Mitchell Allen (Massillon Perry) Senior – NCH10
22. Fletcher Rose (Miamisburg) Sophomore – KF4
23. Frank Aquila (Solon) Freshman – NCH11

24. Isaiah Perry (Medina) Senior – NCH12
25. Idell Ferguson (Olentangy Orange) Junior – HD3
26. Seth Kroeger (Colerain) Senior – KF5
27. Tommy Naser (Kettering Fairmont) Senior – KF6
28. Hayden Randolph (Beavercreek) Junior – KF7
29. Colten Buckner (Vandalia Butler) Senior – KF8
30. Kody Goffin (Olentangy Berlin) Senior – HD4
31. Devin Halliday (Delaware Hayes) Junior – HD5
32. Will Allen (Lakota West) Junior – KF9
33. Joshua Henderson (Hilliard Davidson) Junior – HD6
34. Lawrence O'Malley (Big Walnut) Senior – HD7
35. Donavyn Watts (Pickerington North) Sophomore – HD8
36. Trevor Carl (Newark) Senior – HD9
37. Lawson Hampton (Pickerington Central) Junior – HD10
38. Garret Widman (Upper Arlington) Senior – HD11
39. Aiden Stuczynski (Twinsburg) Sophomore – NCH13

Returning state champ and future Iowa State Cyclone, Euton, is the favorite to capture his second state title. He was perfect last season, going 28-0 and standing atop the podium. I think returning state placer Scavuzzo is Euton's toughest challenger, but I also think the outstanding freshman, Miller, has the ability to reach the finals after recently beating fourth-ranked and 2019 state placer, Ewen, 7-4 at state duals. Scavuzzo also has a win this season over Ewen, 7-3, in the quarterfinals at the Perrysburg Invitational Tournament.

Perrysburg is very strong at the top here with four projected state placers and five wrestlers in the top nine. However, the northwest district does lack overall depth with only six wrestlers ranked above. A couple other names to watch at Perrysburg are Mason (North Royalton) and Yates (Avon). Hoover definitely has best depth here with an impressive 13 wrestlers ranked above. Fairmont is probably the thinnest of the four districts with zero projected state placers, but the southwest district did get a recent boost when three-time state qualifier Marsh dropped down from 165.

165

- Projected Champion: Myles Takats (Perrysburg) Junior – PB1
2. Dez Gartrell (Dublin Coffman) Senior – HD1
 3. Evan Bennett (St. Edward) Senior – PB2
 4. William Scavuzzo (Medina Highland) Senior – NCH1
 5. Aidan McStay (Hudson) Senior – NCH2
 6. Cole Yuhás (Westlake) Senior – PB3
 7. Brixton Bright (Mentor) Senior – NCH3
 8. Jakob Hurley (Westland) Senior – HD2
 9. J.R. Reed (Stow-Munroe Falls) Senior – NCH4
 10. Ronnie Dimmerling (Canton GlenOak) Senior – NCH5
 11. Nick Hollerbach (Willoughby South) Senior – NCH6
 12. Kyle Sandborn (North Royalton) Junior – PB4
 13. Ben DiMarco (Kenston) Junior – NCH7
 14. Jeremy Olszko (Nardonía) Junior – NCH8
 15. Matthew Kowalski (Springboro) Freshman – KF1
 16. Aydan George (Centerville) Sophomore – KF2
 17. Evan Thompson (Kettering Fairmont) Senior – KF3
 18. Braxton Lawson (Huber Hts. Wayne) Junior – KF4
 19. Lane Abrams (Fairfield) Senior – KF5
 20. Dominico Migliori (Oregon Clay) Senior – PB5
 21. Blaine Chrisman (Medina) Sophomore – NCH9
 22. Colton Brandenburg (Mayfield) Senior – NCH10
 23. Isaiah Schlegel (Toledo Whitmer) Junior – PB6
 24. Caiden Hooks (Olentangy Berlin) Senior – HD3
 25. Storme Beane (Grove City) Sophomore – HD4
 26. David Cochran (Mifflin) Senior – HD5
 27. George Sauter (Upper Arlington) Senior – HD6
 28. Gabe Pence (Olentangy Liberty) Junior – HD7
 29. Ryan Zentkovich (Massillon Washington) Senior – NCH11
 30. Bruce Beskur (Walsh Jesuit) Sophomore – NCH12
 31. Tyler Hall (Barberton) Senior – NCH13
 32. AJ Jardine (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH14
 33. Bryce Chase (Lancaster) Senior – HD8
 34. Bishop Fryson (Amherst Steele) Junior – PB7
 35. Maceo Powell (Princeton) Senior – KF6

Takats is the obvious choice here, as he has wins this season over the second, third, and fourth ranked wrestlers. Takats is actually 1-2 against Gartrell and a combined 2-0 against Bennett and Scavuzzo. Takats won the most recent meeting with Gartrell, 1-0. Since Gartrell has two head-to-head wins over Takats, I decided to put him second. Takats was a state qualifier all the way down at 126 last year, which would make winning the state crown even more incredible. It is

important to note that Takats and Bennett both exit Perrysburg, so they will likely be on opposite sides in Columbus. I ultimately wouldn't be surprised if Takats, Bennett, or Gartrell are standing atop the podium Sunday night.

Once again, Perrysburg and Hoover look very strong at the top with three projected state placers each. Hoover, however, has the better depth with 14 total ranked wrestlers, while Perrysburg has only half (7). A couple other names to watch at Perrysburg are Fogarty (Elyria) and Hinman (Berea-Midpark). Fairmont is definitely the thinnest district here. The southwest district has zero projected state placers and only one wrestler in the Top 15. A boatload of other names to watch at Fairmont are Crauder (Talawanda), James (Cincinnati Anderson), Sanchez (Moeller), Duvall (St. Xavier), Martin (Beavercreek), Jones (Colerain), Nguyen (Lakota West), Rader-Nagel (Trenton Edgewood), Bullard (Hamilton), Miller (Little Miami), Butler (Xenia), and Waldon (Mason).

175

Projected Champion: Luke Geog (St. Edward) Senior – PB1

2. Luke Vanadia (Brecksville) Junior – NCH1
3. Mitchell Broskie (Dublin Coffman) Senior – HD1
4. Nathan Urry (Olmsted Falls) Senior – PB2
5. Brandon Batson (Canton GlenOak) Junior – NCH2
6. Chase Stein (LaSalle) Senior – KF1
7. Kurt Thompson (Moeller) Senior – KF2
8. Sean O'Horo (Boardman) Senior – NCH3
9. Kayden Kralik (Fremont Ross) Junior – PB3
10. Wyatt Ferguson (Oak Hills) Junior – KF3
11. Colton Powers (Marysville) Junior – HD2
12. Jarell Young (St. Ignatius) Junior – PB4
13. Taedon Beasley (North Olmsted) Senior – PB5
14. Louie Schaefer (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH4
15. Jack Romanini (Walsh Jesuit) Senior – NCH5
16. Griffin McKinney (Massillon Jackson) Senior – NCH6
17. Matt Hamula (Medina) Senior – NCH7
18. Luke Tucholski (Elyria) Sophomore – PB6
19. Jackson Hawker (Perrysburg) Senior – PB7
20. Brayden Benson (Grove City) Senior – HD3
21. Aidan Wiemar (Springboro) Freshman – KF4
22. Austin O'Malley (Big Walnut) Senior – HD4
23. Tyler Hicks (Beavercreek) Junior – KF5
24. Jake Badgeley (Upper Arlington) Senior – HD5
25. Corey Howlett (Westerville North) Junior – HD6
26. Javon Lewis (Gahanna Lincoln) Sophomore – HD7

27. Zach Thomas (Mount Vernon) Senior – HD8
28. Jacob Robinett (Teays Valley) Senior – HD9
29. Brady Quillin (Olentangy Liberty) Sophomore – HD10
30. Kody Huffman (Lancaster) Junior – HD11
31. Maddox Edwards (Delaware Hayes) Senior – HD12
32. Jaden Fields (Thomas Worthington) Junior – HD13
33. Ethan Stofel (Westerville South) Senior – HD14
34. Othman Taha (Dublin Jerome) Senior – HD15
35. Ben Romano (Hudson) Senior – NCH8
36. JT Hill (Stow-Munroe Falls) Junior – NCH9
37. Caleb Stepp (West Clermont) Junior – KF6
38. Joe Roesch (Avon) Senior – PB8

Returning state runner-up and future Ohio State Buckeye, Geog, is one of the heavier favorites in all of Ohio. Recently at state duals he beat top challenger Vanadia via tech fall, 17-2. Geog will likely amass tons of bonus points along the way, which will be huge in making sure the Eagles capture another team state title. As I previously stated, Vanadia looks like the next best wrestler here, but with the blind draw in bracketing, he could unfortunately face Geog in the semifinals instead of the finals.

Hoover looks very strong here with three projected state placers and six wrestlers in the Top 16. Fairmont has two projected state placers, which is more than Darby (1), but Fairmont also has the least amount of wrestlers ranked above (6). Quite a few other names to watch at the southwest district are Daniel (Vandalia Butler), Mirzaev (Kettering Fairmont), Abdul (Colerain), Headington (Lebanon), Amegadzie (Princeton), and Huxsoll (Fairfield).

190

- Projected Champion: Seth Shumate (Dublin Coffman) Senior – HD1
2. Camden McDanel (Teays Valley) Junior – HD2
 3. Jonny Slaper (St. Edward) Sophomore – PB1
 4. Myles Johnson (Springboro) Junior – KF1
 5. Jonathan Sanchez (Moeller) Senior – KF2
 6. Brentan Simmerman (Little Miami) Junior – KF3
 7. Coen Grimm (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH1
 8. Ajay Locke (Lancaster) Senior – HD3
 9. Gunnar Pool (Centerville) Junior – KF4
 10. Payton Lupton (Northmont) Junior – KF5
 11. Kamarrie Harden (Cincinnati Northwest) Senior – KF6
 12. Gavin Beasley (North Olmsted) Junior – PB2
 13. Nick Hartzell (Perrysburg) Junior – PB3
 14. Tavier Lugo-Flowers (Princeton) Senior – KF7
 15. Dominic Konopka (Medina Highland) Senior – NCH2
 16. Ben Bickerstaff (Marysville) Senior – HD4
 17. Shawn Earle (Brecksville) Senior – NCH3
 18. Will Edmondson (Stow-Munroe Falls) Senior – NCH4
 19. Dom Zemko (Austintown Fitch) Senior – NCH5
 20. Ricky Legg (Kent Roosevelt) Senior – NCH6
 21. Dean Hetrick (Fremont Ross) Senior – PB4
 22. Trent Thomas (Bedford) Junior – PB5
 23. Omarion Dotson (Toledo Bowsher) Senior – PB6
 24. Darion Thompson (Cleveland Heights) Junior – PB7
 25. Andrew Osagie-Erese (Willoughby South) Senior – NCH7
 26. Dalton Bickhart (Strongsville) Junior – PB8
 27. Colton Crabiel (Medina) Senior – NCH8
 28. Matt Kirsop (Olentangy Berlin) Senior – HD5
 29. Wyatt Lenz (Big Walnut) Senior – HD6
 30. Cannon Cavazos (Delaware Hayes) Senior – HD7
 31. Zachary Leonard (Olentangy Orange) Senior – HD8
 32. Ralph Scott (Massillon Perry) Senior – NCH9
 33. Jamar Barsic (Canton McKinley) Junior – NCH10
 34. Justin Mustard (Logan) Senior – HD9
 35. Cody Fair (Massillon Washington) Sophomore – NCH11
 36. Brock Sherman (Walsh Jesuit) Sophomore – NCH12
 37. Josh Brewer (Hudson) Senior – NCH13

Like 175, the favorite here, Shumate, is also a future Ohio State Buckeye. The two-time state champ committed to Ohio State way back in August of 2019. Shumate was absolutely dominant last year in capturing his second state title, winning two matches by pin and two matches by

tech fall. Cadet Fargo Freestyle Champ and returning state runner-up, McDanel, will have the tall task of trying to end Shumate's state title streak. Both meet seeding criteria, but they both exit Darby, so it's likely they will be on opposite sides of the bracket in Columbus.

This is definitely one of the stronger weights at Darby. The central district has three projected state placers. Darby did take a recent hit with Donahue (Olentangy Liberty) supposedly being out for the season. Prior to that, the top three wrestlers all exited Darby. This looks like one of the thinner weights at Perrysburg, as the northwest district has only one projected state placer. Like Darby, Perrysburg also took a hit with two-time state qualifier Liber (Toledo St. Francis) not being able to compete in the postseason due to transferring from Sylvania Northview in the fall. He was ranked in the Top 5 prior to his season ending early.

215

Projected Champion: Logan Shephard (Massillon Perry) Senior – NCH1

2. Dylan Russo (Olentangy Liberty) Junior – HD1
3. Matthew Howard (Dublin Scioto) Senior – HD2
4. Roosevelt Andrews (Barberton) Junior – NCH2
5. Max Vanadia (Brecksville) Junior – NCH3
6. Zach Delsanter (St. Edward) Junior – PB1
7. Ty Cobb (Oregon Clay) Senior – PB2
8. Lukas Stiles (Medina Highland) Junior – NCH4
9. Cole Dickerson (Lancaster) Sophomore – HD3
10. Wyatt Walker (Trenton Edgewood) Sophomore – KF1
11. Brayden Jamison (Thomas Worthington) Senior – HD4
12. Laveall Trimble (St. Xavier) Senior – KF2
13. Jamell Smith (Xenia) Junior – KF3
14. Maverick Blackburn (Wadsworth) Junior – NCH 5
15. Nate Depuy (Massillon Washington) Senior – NCH6
16. Gage Yackee (Toledo St. John's Jesuit) Sophomore – PB3
17. William Adkins (Moeller) Freshman – KF4
18. CJ Crawford (Beavercreek) Sophomore – KF5
19. Collin Ansel (Upper Arlington) Junior – HD5
20. Zyair Anderson (Colerain) Senior – KF6
21. Adahm Shalash (Oak Hills) Senior – KF7
22. Kevin Kornau (Lakota East) Senior – KF8
23. Tanner Smith (Lebanon) Sophomore – KF9
24. Tyler Duff (North Ridgeville) Senior – PB4
25. Clay Broadhurst (Avon Lake) Sophomore – PB5
26. Donovan Jackson (Solon) Junior – NCH7
27. Connor Garren (Olentangy Orange) Junior – HD6
28. Andrew Oster (North Royalton) Senior – PB6

29. Benjamin Holzopf (Massillon Jackson) Junior – NCH8
30. Deacon Heather (North Canton Hoover) Senior – NCH 9
31. Mackey Keenan (Westlake) Senior – PB7
32. Aidan Ritacco (Mentor) Senior – NCH10
33. Kent Albert (North Olmsted) Senior – PB8
34. Isaac Carter (Grove City) Junior – HD7
35. Jacob Mullens (Westland) Senior – HD8
36. Jason Spangler (Springboro) Senior – KF10
37. Antonio Bottiggi (Painesville Riverside) Sophomore – NCH11
38. Cameron Allen (Akron Ellet) Junior – NCH12

Shephard, a Bucknell commit, is the slight favorite here after beating top challenger and defending state champ, Russo, 9-5, in a dual meet on January 28th. Shephard avenged a 5-3 overtime-loss to Russo that came in last year's state semifinals. Shephard actually won last year in their dual meet bout, but then lost to Russo at the state tournament, which makes me wonder if history will be repeat itself? Russo and Shephard both meet seeding criteria, which means they will likely be on opposite sides of the bracket in Columbus.

Hoover is absolutely loaded at this weight. The northeast district leads the way with four projected state placers and 12 total ranked wrestlers above. Darby and Perrysburg look strong at the top with each having two projected state placers, but both are tied for having the least amount of ranked wrestlers above (8). A few other names to watch at each district are Behnfeldt (Anthony Wayne) and Hobson (Lima Senior) at Perrysburg and also Takatch (Big Walnut), Garcia (Marysville), Monroe (Hilliard Davidson), Beal (Delaware Hayes), and Turner (Marion Harding) at Darby.

285

- Projected Champion: Aidan Fockler (Massillon Perry) Sophomore – NCH1
2. Aaron Ries (Wadsworth) Sophomore – NCH2
 3. Ethan Green (Fremont Ross) Senior – PB1
 4. Josh Padilla (Huber Hts. Wayne) Junior – KF1
 5. Michael Kilbane (St. Edward) Senior – PB2
 6. Maliek Williams (Brush) Senior – NCH3
 7. Brady Sullivan (North Canton Hoover) Sophomore – NCH4
 8. Radical Rothermel (Trenton Edgewood) Senior – KF2
 9. Evan Sevastos (Brunswick) Senior – PB3
 10. Makarrie Harden (Cincinnati Northwest) Senior – KF3
 11. Logan Moody (Toledo Whitmer) Senior – PB4
 12. Joey Thurston (Teays Valley) Junior – HD1
 13. Robert Snyder (Hilliard Bradley) Junior – HD2
 14. Riley Ucker (Dublin Coffman) Senior – HD3
 15. Tyler O'Reilly (Westerville South) Senior – HD4
 16. Skyler Horn (Mason) Senior – KF4
 17. Colten Arnold (Massillon Jackson) Junior – NCH5
 18. Micah Wilson (Lebanon) Junior – KF5
 19. Nate Stradley (Mount Vernon) Senior – HD5
 20. Sawyer Bowin (Loveland) Senior – KF6
 21. Braeden Denlinger (Kettering Fairmont) Senior – KF7
 22. Colin Barhorst (Beavercreek) Senior – KF8
 23. Lucas Stuerenberg (Moeller) Freshman – KF9
 24. Joey Scally (Medina Highland) Senior – NCH6
 25. Tommy Ling (Anthony Wayne) Junior – PB5
 26. Cale Doyle (Kenston) Senior – NCH7
 27. Anthony Miller (Uniontown Lake) Sophomore – NCH8
 28. Evan Hathcock (Medina) Sophomore – NCH9
 29. Nico Traczyk (Mayfield) Sophomore – NCH10
 30. Trevor Banks (Chillicothe) Junior – HD6
 31. Ethan Taylor (Tecumseh) Senior – KF10
 32. Luke Fleet (Olentangy Liberty) Junior – HD7
 33. Timothy Lewellen (Lancaster) Senior – HD8
 34. Mason Fry (Canal Winchester) Junior – HD9
 35. Mustafa Woodi (Shaker Heights) Sophomore – PB6
 36. Caleb Bowen (Toledo St. John's Jesuit) Freshman – PB7
 37. Daniel Cooper (Oregon Clay) Senior – PB8
 38. Corey Parker (Nordonia) Senior – NCH11
 39. Othman Awad (Lakewood) Senior – PB9
 40. Austin Dye (Midview) Sophomore – PB10

The top contenders at 215 have a lot of history, and this weight is no different. Returning state runner-up Fockler and the much improved Ries have split bouts this season. Ries won the first bout in the finals at the Grizzly Invitational Tournament, 3-1, in overtime. Fockler then was able to get revenge a few weeks later at state dual regionals, pinning Ries late in the third period. Fockler also has a notable win over third ranked Green. That one came last year in the state semifinals, 9-4. Green went on to finish third, which means he is the only other wrestler besides Fockler to meet seeding criteria. Green's size (6'7", 255 lbs.) and athleticism are a very rare combo. He will be playing football in college at Cincinnati.

Just like 215, Hoover is absolutely loaded here as well. The northeast district has four projected state placers and also leads the way with 11 total ranked wrestlers. All four districts have pretty good depth with each having at least nine ranked wrestlers; I would have to tab Darby as the thinnest of the four. The central district has zero projected state placers but does have five wrestlers in the top 16. Although Darby doesn't have a projected state placer, I think anyone in the Top 15 has the ability to reach the podium in Columbus, so I ultimately wouldn't be too surprised if the central district ends up with multiple placers here.

Team Projections

| Finish | School | Nickname | Points | Champs | Placers | Qualifiers |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1 | St. Edward | Eagles | 169 | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| 2 | Perrysburg | Yellow Jackets | 157 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 | Dublin Coffman | Shamrocks | 126 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 | Wadsworth | Grizzlies | 103 | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| 5 | Brecksville | Bees | 81 | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | Massillon Perry | Panthers | 76 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | LaSalle | Lancers | 54 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 8 | Elyria | Pioneers | 49 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | Teays Valley | Vikings | 47 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 10 | Medina Highland | Hornets | 46 | 0 | 4 | 5 |

DIVISION 2

Districts

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Norwalk = NO | Perry = PE |
| Wilmington = WI | Gallia Academy = GA |

106

Projected Champion: Beric Jordan (Graham) Sophomore – WI1

2. Javaan Yarbrough (Copley) Sophomore – PE1
3. Jacob Ohl (Ontario) Sophomore – NO1
4. Colyn Limbert (Medina Buckeye) Sophomore – NO2
5. Johnny Green (Aurora) Freshman – PE2
6. Brady Smith (West Holmes) Senior – GA1
7. Logan Dean (Bethel-Tate) Sophomore – WI2
8. Austin Shutsa (Norton) Sophomore – PE3
9. Alex Gonzales (Napoleon) Sophomore – NO3
10. Tate Hisey (St. Mary's Memorial) Freshman – NO4
11. Zavian LaFountain (Wauseon) Freshman – NO5
12. Riley Rowan (Perry) Sophomore – PE4
13. Ty Boze (West Geauga) Senior – PE5
14. Parker Pikor (Lake Catholic) Sophomore – PE6
15. Lacy Harvey (Louisville) Junior – PE7
16. Ethan Burkhart (New Lexington) Junior – GA2
17. Owen Nelson (CVCA) Junior – PE8
18. Christian Osborne (Akron STVM) Sophomore – PE9
19. Tommy Conway (Hoban) Junior – PE10
20. Landon Jenkins (Carrollton) Sophomore – GA3
21. Cody Miller (Canton South) Sophomore – PE11
22. Dane Fawcett (Claymont) Freshman – GA4
23. Mark Mueller (Minerva) Sophomore – GA5
24. Joshua Cornell (Port Clinton) Freshman – NO6
25. Anthony Rocco (Bay) Sophomore – NO7
26. Tristan Eckles (East Liverpool) Freshman – GA6
27. Mason Kelsch (Norwood) Sophomore – WI3
28. Jordan Miller (Hamilton Ross) Junior – WI4
29. Arthur Cain (Shelby) Freshman – NO8
30. Caden Mellott (Wapakoneta) Freshman – NO9
31. Cory Cole (Ravenna) Junior – PE12
32. Aidan Carone (Streetsboro) Sophomore – NO10

33. Nathan Moser (Monroe) Freshman – WI5
34. Joe Slatzer (Fairless) Sophomore – PE13
35. Collin Eckman (Firelands) Freshman – PE14

Defending state champ Jordan is the obvious pick here. In his four wins last year at the state tournament as a freshman, he won two matches via decision, one match via major decision, and the other via pin. Jordan already beat top challenger and returning state placer, Yarbrough, 17-2 at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman this season. Based on that, I wouldn't be surprised if Jordan racks up bonus points in every match along the way while capturing his second consecutive state title.

Perry is very strong at this weight. The northeast district has three projected state placers and a whopping 14 total ranked wrestlers. Gallia and Wilmington seem to be on the opposite end of the spectrum. Gallia has only six wrestlers ranked above, which is one more than Wilmington (5). Some other names that will likely be in the mix at Gallia are Dickerson (Miami Trace), Venon (Unioto), Holzschuh (Logan Elm), Martin (Athens), Clouse (Sheridan), Bucklew (Vinton County), Bowersock (Beaver Local) and Craft (Jackson). Craft took first at the OHSWCA Girl's State Championships this past weekend down at 100. At Wilmington, I also expect a few unranked wrestlers to be right there on the second day. Those names include Hornfeck (Licking Valley), Moore (Bloom-Carroll), Conyers (Bishop Watterson), Blaney (Marengo Highland), Torres (Hebron Lakewood), Thacker (Caledonia River Valley), and Costa (Granville).

113

Projected Champion: Brogan Tucker (Graham) Freshman – WI1

2. Billy Smith (Sandusky Perkins) Senior – NO1
3. Codie Cuerbo (Aurora) Senior – PE1
4. Tyler Hisey (St. Mary's Memorial) Senior – NO2
5. Collin Twigg (Wauseon) Junior – NO3
6. Joey Romano (Lake Catholic) Sophomore – PE2
7. Kolten Barker (Louisville) Sophomore – PE3
8. Braden Hahlen (CVCA) Junior – PE4
9. Brady Fisher (London) Senior – WI2
10. Mason Ducat (Defiance) Freshman – NO4
11. Gannon Kazmirski (St. Clairsville) Senior – GA1
12. Mason Taylor (West Holmes) Junior – GA2
13. AJ Kimble (Licking Valley) Senior – WI3
14. Kail Snair (Carrollton) Sophomore – GA3
15. Connor Norris (Minerva) Sophomore – GA4
16. Isaac Meese (Indian Valley) Sophomore – GA5
17. Jovanni Greco (Hamilton Ross) Sophomore – WI4
18. Harrison Bohls (Napoleon) Sophomore – NO5
19. Korbyn Jones (Ashland) Junior – NO6
20. Tyler Ratliff (New Lexington) Senior – GA6
21. Dominic Ciolli (Perry) Junior – PE5
22. Gage Anderson (Franklin) Senior – WI5
23. JR Carman (Clear Fork) Senior – NO7

24. Blake Niehaus (Batavia) Senior – WI6
25. Gatlin Newkirk (Clinton-Massie) Sophomore – WI7
26. Hunter Smith (Blanchester) Junior – WI8
27. Leo Riley (Athens) Sophomore – GA7
28. James Worthington (Fairfield Union) Sophomore – GA8
29. John Brown (Philo) Freshman – GA9
30. E.J. McCarthy (Hubbard) Senior – PE6
31. Daniel Castro (Bowling Green) Senior – NO8
32. Chris Thomas (Canfield) Junior – PE7
33. Dylan Newhouse (Salem) Senior – PE8
34. Gavin Malone (Jackson) Senior – GA10
35. Austin Ware (Norwalk) Sophomore – NO9
36. Jaydin Depinet (Tiffin Columbian) Sophomore – NO10
37. Braylen Williams (Huron) Senior – NO11
38. Skyler Kirk (Elida) Sophomore – NO12
39. Landin Wallace (Celina) Senior – NO13
40. Ethan Cuarenta (Triway) Freshman – PE9

Outstanding freshman Tucker is the favorite here. He has wins this season over top challenger Smith and third ranked Cuerbo. Tucker pinned Smith in the championship bracket at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman. Smith went on to catch fire on the backside and finished sixth, while Tucker did not place. Tucker seemed to have a slightly tougher time with Cuerbo recently at state duals, winning 3-1. Based on those results, you would think Cuerbo would beat Smith right? WRONG! Smith beat Cuerbo in the consolation bracket at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman, 4-3, during his aforementioned blazing hot run. Cuerbo is the only wrestler that meets seeding criteria after the future Pitt Panther finished second at 106, so this will essentially be a blind draw in Columbus.

Perry and Norwalk lead the way at this weight. Perry is stronger at the top with four projected state placers compared to Norwalk's three. That being said, Norwalk's three are ranked in the Top 5. The northwest district also has the better depth of the two. Norwalk has 13 ranked wrestlers, while Perry has only nine. A few other names to watch at the northeast district are Stanley (Marlington), Cash (Canton South), and Brinker (Revere). Gallia has zero projected state placers, which makes it obviously look the thinnest of the four districts at this weight.

120

- Projected Champion: Brendan McCrone (Lake Catholic) Senior – PE1
2. Anthony Perez (CVCA) Junior – PE2
 3. Brody Saccoccia (Steubenville) Freshman – GA1
 4. Zach Bellissimo (Perry) Senior – PE3
 5. Ruben Pina-Lorenzana (Firelands) Junior – PE4
 6. Alexander Crane (Sheridan) Senior – GA2
 7. Aiden King (Bishop Hartley) Freshman – WI1
 8. Malachi O’Leary (Wyoming) Senior – WI2
 9. Trevor Hisey (St. Mary’s Memorial) Senior – NO1
 10. Levi Pidgeon (Carrollton) Sophomore – GA3
 11. Colt Ryan (Graham) Junior – WI3
 12. Roman Parobek (Ashland) Junior – NO2
 13. Leroy Steagall (Indian Valley) Sophomore – GA4
 14. Roman Cordoba (Napoleon) Sophomore – NO3
 15. Tommy Gast (Maumee) Junior – NO4
 16. John Martinez (Wauseon) Senior – NO5
 17. Wyatt Nemitz (Sandusky Perkins) Sophomore – NO6
 18. Riley Kleshinski (Ontario) Senior – NO7
 19. Jimmy Lalezas (Taylor) Junior – WI4
 20. Wyatt Hinton (Norwood) Sophomore – WI5
 21. Joe Perkins (Licking Valley) Senior – WI6
 22. CJ Fisher (Clyde) Sophomore – NO8
 23. Xavier Pierce (Jonathan Alder) Junior – WI7
 24. Corbin Melvin (Miami Trace) Sophomore – GA5
 25. Michael Thomas (Madison Comprehensive) Sophomore – NO9
 26. Gavin Hoover (Logan Elm) Freshman – GA6
 27. Champ Delancy/Peyton Hoskins (Clear Fork) – NO10
 28. Christian Gomez-Sanchez (Dover) Sophomore – GA7
 29. Kaleb Ruhl (Norwalk) Senior – NO11
 30. Andy Strader (Minerva) Senior – GA8
 31. Jaiden Earls (Hamilton Ross) Junior – WI8
 32. Tucker Campbell (Monroe) Freshman – WI8
 33. Jayden Stephenson (Valley View) Senior – WI9
 34. Gavino Martinez (Defiance) Senior – NO12
 35. Kiddren Clark (Galion) Junior – NO13
 36. Matthew Viri-Donahue (Buckeye Valley) Senior – WI10

McCrone, a returning state runner-up and future Ohio State Buckeye, surprised quite a few people (including myself) when he wrestled 120 at the Solon Comet Classic. He would have been considered a pretty heavy favorite at 126 as well. He beat top challenger Perez last year in the district finals by a score of 8-1. Perez just recently made his season debut after missing the first couple months. If he isn’t near 100 percent, I think anyone in the top eight also has the ability to reach the state finals.

I would have to tab Perry as the toughest and the thinnest district (if that’s possible). Like most weights, Perry is very strong at the top. The northeast district has four projected state placers. However, those

are the only four ranked wrestlers exiting there. Obviously that means quite a few unranked guys will be in the mix on day two. A boatload of other names to watch at Perry are Dorris (West Branch), Mason (Alliance), Novosel (Louisville), Burt (Salem), Green (Aurora), Casterline (Woodridge), and Wolfe (Canal Fulton Northwest). Wolfe has a notable win over ranked Gomez-Sanchez, but he also has a few losses against unranked foes.

126

Projected Champion: Brandon Sauter (Batavia) Senior – WI1

2. Cameron Deiter (Bowling Green) Senior – NO1
3. Te'Andre Allen (Orange) Senior – PE1
4. Matt Ellis (Waynesville) Senior – WI2
5. Cooper Rathburn (Bishop Hartley) Sophomore – WI3
6. Bryce Skinner (Akron STVM) Junior – PE2
7. Milan Parobek (Ashland) Junior – NO2
8. Bryce Kohler (Graham) Freshman – WI4
9. Zack Lopez (Columbus DeSales) Sophomore – WI5
10. Kaden McGohan (Aurora) Senior – PE3
11. Jesse Badiu (Medina Buckeye) Junior – NO3
12. Josh Carman (Carrollton) Sophomore – GA1
13. Liam Hatgas (Holy Name) Junior – NO4
14. Adam Heckman (Warren Howland) Sophomore – PE4
15. Dylan Rhoads (Louisville) Junior – PE5
16. Rubyn Semedo (Cleveland CC) Senior – NO5
17. Larry Moreno (Wauseon) Junior – NO6
18. Michael Crites (St. Mary's Memorial) Junior – NO7
19. Treven Rittenhouse (Defiance) Junior – NO8
20. Brycen Miracle (Celina) Senior – NO9
21. Turner Garber (Napoleon) Senior – NO10
22. Tyler Scharrer (Canfield) Freshman – PE6
23. Cal Beadling (Steubenville) Sophomore – GA2
24. Branton Dawes (Washington CH) Senior – GA3
25. Pedro Garcia (Dover) Junior – GA4
26. Colton Smitley (Maysville) Senior – GA5
27. Evan Wilcox (Valley View) Junior – WI6
28. Hunter Albright (Indian Valley) Junior – GA6
29. Frank Depinet (Upper Sandusky) Senior – NO11
30. Jaxon Swank (Clear Fork) Junior – NO12
31. Isaac Ratliff (New Lexington) Sophomore – GA7
32. Jacob Householder (Sheridan) Freshman – GA8
33. Kaydon Bobby (Beaver Local) Junior – GA9
34. Joey Brocklehurst (Minerva) Sophomore – GA10
35. Adam Porterfield (Athens) Senior – GA11
36. Oliver Murry (Tippecanoe) Junior – WI7
37. Carter Hill (Marlington) Sophomore – PE7
38. Tobey Baranek (Hoban) Senior – PE8

Two-time state placer and future Franklin & Marshall Diplomat, Sauter, is the slight favorite here in what I consider one of the more wide open weights in all of Division 2. Sauter has been perfect this season with a 41-0 record. He finished third last season and seventh as a freshman. If Sauter is able to win it all, he would become Batavia's first state champ in school history. I think Deiter, who finished fourth last year at 120 is next best here, but this weight looks pretty wide open as I already mentioned. Sauter is the only wrestler that meets seeding criteria, which makes it sort of a moot point.

Wilmington is absolutely loaded at this weight. The southwest district has four projected state placers and five wrestlers in the top nine. The 132 class also looks very strong at Wilmington, so I think 120 is the better option if anyone is considering moving out of 126. Gallia is probably the thinnest district here with zero projected state placers despite having a very respectable total of 11 ranked wrestlers.

132

Projected Champion: Pito Castro (Louisville) Senior – PE1

2. David McClelland (Columbus DeSales) Junior – WI1
3. Logan Cravatas (Medina Buckeye) Senior – NO1
4. Jaymin Salsberry (Beaver Local) Senior – GA1
5. Alijah Stevens (Licking Valley) Senior – WI2
6. Caleb Kennington (Kenton Ridge) Senior – WI3
7. Garrett Montgomery (Shelby) Junior – NO2
8. Ky Emmerson (Caledonia River Valley) Senior – WI4
9. Zaden Torres (Wauseon) Junior – NO3
10. Landon Engle (Celina) Senior – NO4
11. Shane Cheatham (Aurora) Junior – PE2
12. Brock Christian (Perry) Junior – PE3
13. Zane Van Voorhis (Copley) Senior – PE4
14. Donovan Paes (Streetsboro) Junior – NO5
15. William Stanley (Clyde) Freshman – NO6
16. Braden Dunlap (Akron STVM) Freshman – PE5
17. Mason Turnbaugh (Ontario) Freshman – NO7
18. Carson Hibbs (Wilmington) Junior – WI5
19. Coltyn Reedy (Sheridan) Freshman – GA2
20. Quake Beatty (Indian Valley) Sophomore – GA3
21. Elijah Parrish (Claymont) Junior – GA4
22. Ryan Foster (Hamilton Ross) Sophomore – WI6
23. Aydan Reyes (Galion) Sophomore – NO8
24. Austyn Adams (Cleveland CC) Junior – NO9
25. Antonio Hobbs (Benedictine) Freshman – NO10
26. Hunter Long (Field) Senior – PE6
27. Austin Ogle (Revere) Junior – PE7
28. Kevin Williams (Firelands) Sophomore – PE8
29. Zach Oprzadek (Sandusky Perkins) Junior – NO11
30. Caleb Wetzel (Marengo Highland) Junior – WI7
31. Caleb Clary (Upper Sandusky) Junior – NO12

32. Ayden Shank (Napoleon) Sophomore – NO13
33. Aiden Fenter (Bryan) Senior – NO14
34. Tate Bein (Batavia) Junior – WI8
35. Riston LeBeau (Miami Trace) Junior – GA5
36. Levi Kline (Bloom-Carroll) Sophomore – WI9

Returning state runner-up at this weight, Castro, is the slight favorite here, but I ultimately see this as a two-man race (with McClelland). Castro, a future Kent State Golden Flash, outperformed McClelland, a transfer from Lake Highland Prep in Florida, at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman earlier this season. Castro finished seventh, while McClelland did not place. That was the only event both wrestlers attended, which is why they have been ranked one and two all season. Like Castro, Stevens was also a state runner-up (at 126) and also meets seeding criteria. I wouldn't technically count Stevens out here, but he did lose to McClelland by major decision and a slightly lower ranked Emmerson earlier this season.

As I stated at 126, Wilmington is very strong here as well. The southwest district has four projected state placers. Norwalk is also very strong here with four wrestlers in the Top 10 and 11 in the Top 30. A sleeper exiting there could be Turnbaugh. He has a recent win over Top 10 ranked Emmerson this past weekend at their conference tournament, but he also lost to a much lower ranked Long earlier in the season. I decided to rank him in between both wrestlers. Also like 126, Gallia looks to be the thinnest district at this weight class with only five total ranked wrestlers. Some other names to watch there are Bennett (Carrollton), Osborn/Ramirez (Dover), Fletcher (Minerva), Kaiser (Athens), Cottrell (Washington CH), and Elliot (Gallia Academy).

138

Projected Champion: Dominic Hoffarth (Louisville) Junior – PE1

2. Bret Minnick (Tiffin Columbian) Senior – NO1
3. Elliot Alessia (Akron STVM) Senior – PE2
4. Lance Overmyer (Clyde) Sophomore – NO2
5. Lawson Grime (Wauseon) Senior – NO3
6. Jack Sparent (West Geauga) Senior – PE3
7. Tristin Greene (Keystone) Sophomore – PE4
8. Conner Roback (Licking Valley) Senior – WI1
9. Jake Dolan (Benedictine) Junior – NO4
10. Luke Radwany (Woodridge) Senior – PE5
11. Tristan Craddock (Cloverleaf) Sophomore – PE6
12. Corey Newark (Firelands) Senior – PE7
13. Egidio DiFazio (Dover) Junior – GA1
14. Mark Emmerling (Beaver Local) Senior – GA2
15. Nathan Kulbe (Batavia) Junior – WI2
16. Hayden Hughes (Graham) Sophomore – WI3
17. Griffin Adkins (Ashland) Senior – NO5
18. Dylan Strouse (West Holmes) Senior – GA3
19. Thane McCoy (Wilmington) Junior – WI4
20. Kyle Bizjak (Aurora) Junior – PE8
21. Aidan Rush (Columbus DeSales) Sophomore – WI5

22. Carter Mottley (Sheridan) Senior – GA4
23. Gaven Hostetler (Indian Valley) Junior – GA5
24. Clay Alley (Bellevue) Junior – NO6
25. Rian Spangler (Warren Howland) Senior – PE9
26. Kaden Miller (Marengo Highland) Senior – WI6
27. Domanick Speelman (Carrollton) Senior – GA6
28. Nick Brunst/Danny Beckett (Medina Buckeye) – NO7
29. Gage Bolt (Circleville) Sophomore – GA7
30. Leo Pavell (Bishop Watterson) Senior – WI7
31. Grant Moorman (Clinton-Massie) Senior – WI8
32. Cohen Bunting (John Glenn) Sophomore – GA8
33. Logan Thatcher (Greenville) Senior – WI9
34. Aiden Johnson (Miami Trace) Junior – GA9
35. Joel Hancock (Wyoming) Freshman – WI10
36. Deaven Balmer (Springfield Northwestern) Senior – WI11
37. Tyjuan Jackson (London) Senior – WI12
38. Eli Trbovich (Jonathan Alder) Junior – WI13
39. Ben Donathan (Western Brown) Senior – WI14
40. Nick Devol (Bellbrook) Junior – WI15

Hoffarth became the slight favorite at this weight class about a month ago when he beat previous number one and current top challenger Minnick, 4-3, in the finals at the Maumee Bay Classic. Hoffarth also has beaten third ranked Alessia this season, 6-1, in the semifinals at the Hoover Holiday Tournament. Hoffarth surprisingly has yet to wrestle at the state tournament in his career. He didn't compete last year in the postseason and like everyone else in 2020, the state tournament was canceled due to COVID. Although Minnick, Alessia, Grime, and Sparent are all returning state placers, neither of them meet seeding criteria.

Perry and Norwalk are both very strong at this weight class. Perry has four projected state placers while Norwalk has three. The other state placer exits Wilmington. Even though the southwest district has only one projected state placer, it does have great depth with a whopping 15 total ranked wrestlers. Gallia once again looks like the thinnest district with zero projected state placers. Another name to watch there is Spencer (Morgan).

Projected Champion: Mitchell Younger (Bishop Watterson) Freshman – WI1

2. Nolan Gessler (Graham) Senior – WI2
3. Tucker Kaufman (West Holmes) Senior – GA1
4. Bo DiJulius (Aurora) Senior – PE1
5. Maddox Simcoe (Tiffin Columbian) Junior – NO1
6. Weston Melvin (Miami Trace) Senior – GA2
7. Isaiah Armstrong (Tri-Valley) Senior – GA3
8. Owen Eagan (Columbus DeSales) Junior – WI3
9. Justin Smythe (Bellevue) Senior – NO2
10. Mason Gruic (Akron STVM) Freshman – PE2
11. Calvin Rowan (Perry) Senior – PE3
12. Cade Cass (Cloverleaf) Senior – PE4
13. Devyn Boyd (Licking Valley) Junior – WI4
14. Owen Crabtree (Jonathan Alder) Senior – WI5
15. Tyler Beckley (Indian Valley) Senior – GA4
16. Dorian Jackson (Beaver Local) Senior – GA5
17. CJ Spencer (Indian Creek) Junior – GA6
18. Luke Snider (Sheridan) Senior – GA7
19. Sam Wegesin (Galion) Senior – NO3
20. James Simms (Fostoria) Sophomore – NO4
21. Benicio Torres (Wauseon) Sophomore – NO5
22. Kyle Biller (Ashtabula Edgewood) Senior – PE5
23. Ian Hull (Canfield) Senior – PE6
24. Carter Mock (Warren Howland) Junior – PE7
25. Joshua Greenwood (Beachwood) Junior – NO6
26. Owen Kyser (Vermilion) Junior – NO7
27. Deondre Smith (Painesville Harvey) Senior – PE8
28. Shareef Williams (Benedictine) Senior – NO8
29. Leon Harrison (Cleveland CC) Sophomore – NO9
30. Brayden Hull (Napoleon) Junior – NO10
31. Michael Bixler (Marlington) Senior – PE9
32. Ashden Maffett (Ashland) Senior – NO11
33. Kody Arntz (Coventry) Senior – PE10
34. Gabe Perz (Chardon) Junior – PE11
35. Garytt Schwall (Gallia Academy) Senior – GA8
36. Ripley Szanati (Buckeye Valley) Junior – WI6
37. Ezekiel Williams (New Philadelphia) Sophomore – GA9
38. Owen Thomas (Ottawa-Glandorf) Senior – NO12
39. Alex Francis (Defiance) Junior – NO13
40. Sterling Turchin (Norton) Senior – PE12

A lot like 132, I think this is a two-man race for the title, but after that the weight looks wide open when looking at podium contenders. Younger, a freshman phenom, made a huge splash in September when he won the IndianaMat Hoosier Preseason Open. He beat three 2021 state placers from Ohio along the way. Younger beat Grime (Wauseon) in the quarterfinals, Hart (Graham) in the semifinals, and Kleinberg

(Springboro) in the finals. Returning state champ Gessler is the other title contender here in my eyes. He won the state crown all the way down at 126. Like Younger, Gessler also has a notable win over Kleinberg in the 2021-22 cycle, beating him opening weekend at the Marysville Duals, 8-4. Younger and Gessler both exit Wilmington, so it's likely they meet in the finals back-to-back weekends in March. If Younger is able to win it all in Columbus, he would be the sixth wrestler from Bishop Watterson to accomplish the feat and the first Eagle since Joe Ghezzi in 1983.

This one of the rare occasions where Wilmington and Gallia look like the strongest districts, especially at the top. Both have an impressive three projected state placers each. Wilmington does, however, have the least amount of wrestlers ranked above (6). Some other names to watch at the southwest district are Cunningham (Dayton Oakwood), Brady (Valley View), Weiss (Bellbrook), Collins (Waynesville), Kelly (Tippecanoe), and Hartzell (Greenville). Perry and Norwalk are in the bottom half at this weight but not by much. Both districts have only one projected state placer, but both districts also have very good depth. Norwalk leads the way with 13 ranked wrestlers and Perry is right behind the northwest district with 12.

150

Projected Champion: Edward Neitenbach (Medina Buckeye) Sophomore – NO1

2. Ethan Turnbaugh (Ontario) Senior – NO2
3. Jack Lee (John Glenn) Sophomore – GA1
4. Caden Stout (St. Clairsville) Senior – GA2
5. Dominic Pattera (Indian Creek) Junior – GA3
6. Eli Jacks (Graham) Sophomore – WI1
7. Nic Willingham (Aurora) Senior – PE1
8. Alex Pitsch (Monroe) Senior – WI2
9. Nicholas Abounader (Benedictine) Senior – NO3
10. Conner Douglass (Elida) Senior – NO4
11. Oliver Byerly (Jonathan Alder) Junior – WI3
12. Sam Partain (Chagrin Falls) Senior – PE2
13. Justin Artino (West Geauga) Sophomore – PE3
14. Niko Poullas (Canfield) Junior – PE4
15. Tomas Simmons (Alliance) Senior – PE5
16. Zavier Campsey (Athens) Junior – GA4
17. Jake McIntire (Tri-Valley) Junior – GA5
18. Zach Myers (Valley View) Senior – WI4
19. Keegan Schoen (Sandusky Perkins) Senior – NO5
20. Riley Gould (Heath) Senior – WI5
21. Zach Olechnowicz (Revere) Sophomore – PE6
22. Gus Fortseras (Tallmadge) Senior – PE7
23. Cohen Klimak (Streetsboro) Freshman – NO6
24. Nolan Rudesill (Warren Howland) Junior – PE8
25. Savva Dirienzo (Poland Seminary) Freshman – PE9
26. Wyatt Smith (Louisville) Freshman – PE10
27. Domenick LaMacchia (Perry) Sophomore – PE11
28. Braden Rolf (Clinton-Massie) Senior – WI6

29. Brodyn Butcher (Galion) Junior – NO7
30. Porter Rick (Caledonia River Valley) Sophomore – WI7
31. Keegan Finley (Granville) Junior – WI8
32. Sam Longhenry (New Lexington) Junior – GA6
33. Savier Faulks (Steubenville) Sophomore – GA7
34. Charlie Gibbs (New Philadelphia) Senior – GA8
35. Conner Varnes (West Holmes) Senior – GA9
36. Bryar Miller (Fairfield Union) Senior – GA10
37. Manny Gante (Wauseon) Junior – NO8
38. Corbin Mitchell (Wapakoneta) Junior – NO9
39. Diego Morales (Keystone) Junior – PE12
40. Elijah Kiser (Fostoria) Sophomore – NO10

Returning state placer Neitenbach took over the top spot here in early January and hasn't given it up since. The sensational sophomore beat then-number one ranked and returning state runner-up Turnbaugh, 14-6, in the finals at the J.C. Gorman Invitational. As a freshman, Neitenbach finished fifth last year down at 138. I still think Turnbaugh is Neitenbach's toughest challenger here. If Turnbaugh is able to pull off the upset, he would be Ontario's first state champ since his father and current Ontario head coach, Wes Turnbaugh, accomplished the feat in 1999. Neitenbach and Turnbaugh both exit Norwalk, so it's likely they could meet in the finals back to back weekends.

Like 144, Gallia has three projected state placers at this weight as well. All three wrestlers are ranked in the Top 5. It's hard to tab the thinnest district here, but I would say Wilmington and Perry are definitely in the bottom half here. Wilmington has more state placers (2), while Perry has more ranked wrestlers (12).

157

- Projected Champion: Logan Ours (Beaver Local) Senior – GA1
2. Gunner Cramblett (Graham) Sophomore – WI1
 3. Antwaun Burns (London) Senior – WI2
 4. Cody Matthews (Marengo Highland) Senior – WI3
 5. Mike Kinzel (Bowling Green) Junior – NO1
 6. John Metzger (Ashland) Junior – NO2
 7. Shane Michael (Ravenna) Senior – PE1
 8. Ashton Smith (Aurora) Senior – PE2
 9. Connor Twigg (Wauseon) Senior – NO3
 10. Brenden Severs (Louisville) Senior – PE3
 11. Khail Louive (Minerva) Senior – GA2
 12. Hank Williams (Bethel-Tate) Senior – WI4
 13. Remington Myers (Indian Valley) Junior – GA3
 14. Kaz Rajko (Chardon) Junior – PE4
 15. Jaden King (Celina) Senior – NO4
 16. Andrew Barford (Columbus DeSales) Freshman – WI5
 17. Ryan Brubaker (Perry) Junior – PE5
 18. Hunter Rose (New Lexington) Junior – GA4
 19. Michael Eckelberry (Sheridan) Senior – GA5
 20. Reese Spencer (Indian Creek) Senior – GA6
 21. Ethan Gugliemi (Granville) Senior – WI6
 22. Devonn Nixon (Copley) Sophomore – PE6
 23. Calvin Gwinn (Akron STVM) Junior – PE7
 24. Luc Busdecker (Tiffin Columbian) Senior – NO5
 25. Preston DiMarco (Medina Buckeye) Senior – NO6
 26. Jason Patterson (Tri-Valley) Junior – GA7
 27. Devin Shaw-Mason (Padua Franciscan) Freshman – PE8
 28. Noah Frank (Canfield) Junior – PE9
 29. Christopher Maloney (Benedictine) Freshman – NO7
 30. Gavin Schoolcraft (St. Clairsville) Freshman – GA8
 31. Nick Holmes (Akron Springfield) Junior – PE10
 32. Anthony Lahoski (Woodridge) Junior – PE11
 33. Pryce Watson (Jonathan Alder) Senior – WI7
 34. Alex Shaffer (Streetsboro) Senior – NO8
 35. Ethan Bartlett (West Geauga) Sophomore – PE11
 36. Carter Jacks (Heath) Senior – WI8
 37. Alex Faulkner (Bexley) Sophomore – WI9
 38. Mitchell King (Fairfield Union) Junior – GA9
 39. Brody Tait (Vincent Warren) Senior – GA10
 40. Taevin Alldred (Valley View) Senior – WI10

Ours is considered one of the heavier favorites in Division 2 - and all of Ohio for that matter. The future Wyoming Cowboy was a state runner-up last season and also finished sixth in 2019. I think returning state placers Cramblett, Burns, and Matthews all have the ability to reach the state finals. All three also exit the Wilmington district; Ours and Burns both meet seeding criteria. It is important to note that if

Ours and Burns both win their respective district, while Cramblett and Matthews also finish second and third at Wilmington, Burns automatically would be on the opposite side of the bracket as Ours, Cramblett, and Matthews in Columbus.

Wilmington is absolutely loaded at this weight. The southwest district has three of the top four ranked wrestlers. Top ranked Ours exits Gallia, but he is the only Top 10 wrestler to do so. Like Wilmington, Gallia also has a respectable 10 ranked wrestlers. One thing to keep an eye on at Gallia is if Myers moves up to 165 or stays down here at 157. He has wrestled at both weights within the past few weeks and would actually be ranked a few spots higher at 165. A few other names to watch at Gallia are Summar (Unioto), Davis (Gallia Academy), Day (Philo) and Porter (West Holmes).

165

- Projected Champion: Tyler Lillard (Aurora) Senior – PE1
2. Dylan Newsome (Bishop Hartley) Junior – WI1
 3. Max Ray (Tiffin Columbian) Junior – NO1
 4. Max Kirby (Fairless) Senior – PE2
 5. Luke James (Graham) Freshman – WI2
 6. Lincoln Shulaw (Columbus DeSales) Freshman – WI3
 7. Drew Lincicome (Philo) Junior – GA1
 8. Leo Hess (Mansfield Senior) Junior – NO2
 9. Thad Stuckey (Wilmington) Junior – WI4
 10. Angelo Seitz (Ashland) Sophomore – NO3
 11. Steven Duffy (Woodridge) Sophomore – PE3
 12. Ethan Hicks (Perry) Senior – PE4
 13. Cade Carroll (Clyde) Senior – NO4
 14. Carvie Jones (Sandusky) Junior – NO5
 15. Ryan Price (Akron STVM) Junior – PE5
 16. Nick Chaddock (Minerva) Senior – GA2
 17. Landon Froehlich (Buckeye Valley) Sophomore – WI5
 18. Ryan Blanton (Caledonia River Valley) Senior – WI6
 19. Garret Donovan (St. Mary's Memorial) Senior – NO6
 20. Connor Nagel (Wauseon) Senior – NO7
 21. Seth Enos (Ashtabula Edgewood) Sophomore – PE6
 22. Eli Grandstaff (Marengo Highland) Senior – WI7
 23. Nate Ostendorf (Badin) Sophomore – WI8
 24. Anthony Kroninger (Jonathan Alder) Freshman – WI9
 25. Cody Greene (Keystone) Senior – PE7
 26. Alex Weinberg (University School) Senior – NO8
 27. Mason Stanley (Firelands) Senior – PE8
 28. Evan Brickman (Padua Franciscan) Senior – PE9
 29. Adam Taylor (Taylor) Junior – WI10
 30. Cole Hines (Gallia Academy) Sophomore – GA3
 31. Aiden Strahler (Vincent Warren) Freshman – GA4
 32. Travin Berry (River View) Junior – GA5
 33. Vince Munro (Miami Trace) Junior – GA6

34. Henry Eggers (Napoleon) Sophomore –NO9
35. Bubba Darnell (Bethel-Tate) Senior –WI11
36. Alvin Forte (Centennial) Senior –WI12
37. Spencer Thompson (Defiance) Junior –NO10
38. Gavin Brown (Celina) Junior –NO11

Lillard, a future Indiana Hoosier, is back at Aurora after transferring from Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania. This is actually Lillard's third time transferring in his high school career. He previously attended St. Edward as a freshman and Aurora as a sophomore. Lillard has notable wins this season over the two other projected state champs in Ohio. He beat Takats, 12-1, and Slone, 8-4, in the semifinals and finals at the Perrysburg Invitational Tournament. Returning state runner-up Newsome looks like Lillard's toughest challenger. He has been perfect this season with a blemish-free record of 31-0.

Like 165, Wilmington is stacked at this weight. The southwest district is very strong at the top and also has great depth. Wilmington has three projected state placers, four wrestlers in the top nine and leads the way with 12 total ranked wrestlers. Gallia looks like the complete opposite, with only one projected state placer and six total ranked wrestlers. A couple other names to watch there are Carman (Carrollton) and Rasp (Jackson).

175

Projected Champion: Brody Conley (Tiffin Columbian) Senior –NO1

2. Braden Welch (Ashland) Senior –NO2
3. Zack Burroughs (Graham) Senior –WI1
4. Caden Kenworthy (Cambridge) Senior –GA1
5. Zaidan Kessler (Wauseon) Junior –NO3
6. Reid Beddow (Norton) Senior –PE1
7. Noah Peterson (Louisville) Senior –PE2
8. Brandon Kiser (Dover) Senior –GA2
9. Bryce Wheatley (NDCL) Sophomore –PE3
10. Dominic Tracy (Defiance) Senior –NO4
11. Ryan Iams (Hamilton Ross) Junior –WI2
12. Zane Panetta (Blanchester) Senior –WI3
13. Kylan Knapp (Miami Trace) Senior –GA3
14. Gabe Morgan (Beaver Local) Sophomore –GA4
15. Brennan Stout (St. Clairsville) Sophomore –GA5
16. Ethan Llewellyn (Indian Creek) Freshman –GA6
17. Jaxon Burcher (Indian Valley) Freshman –GA7
18. Jonathon Bailey (East Liverpool) Freshman –GA8
19. Caden Kohout (Canfield) Junior –PE4
20. Dominic Schuler (Rossford) Senior –NO5
21. Stashu Patterson (St. Mary's Memorial) Senior –NO6
22. Landon Eberle (Napoleon) Senior –NO7
23. Cameron Hickey (Granville) Senior –WI4
24. Josh Stanley (Clyde) Senior –NO8
25. Conner Rogers (Firelands) Junior –PE5

26. Jacob Ramey (Sheridan) Junior – GA9
27. Zach Savage (Philo) Junior – GA10
28. Tyler Carlin (Celina) Junior – NO9
29. Karson Alban (Upper Sandusky) Junior – NO10
30. Marshall Froehlich (Columbus DeSales) Junior – WI5
31. Ezekial Lucas (Ashtabula Edgewood) Sophomore – PE6
32. James Nespeca (Cloverleaf) Junior – PE7
33. Trenton Dugan (Eaton) Junior – WI6
34. Jace Knous (Wapakoneta) Sophomore – NO11
35. Qwintin Hancox (Marlington) Sophomore – PE8

Returning undefeated state champ and West Virginia commit, Conley, is favored to capture another state crown. He is currently 43-0 and also has an impressive 108 match winning streak (dating back to his sophomore season). That is the longest current winning streak in all of Ohio. Conley already has a 3-2 win over top challenger and future Appalachian State Mountaineer, Welch, this season; they met at Fricker's Duals way back in December. Ashland beat Tiffin Columbian in one of the D2 state dual regional finals, but due to team strategy purposes Welch was up at 190. Conley and Welch exit the same sectional and district, so they will likely see each other back-to-back-to-back weekends. Conley beat Welch last year in the sectional finals, 5-1. That ended up being Welch's last match of the season, as he was not healthy enough to wrestle at districts.

Norwalk is definitely the strongest district at this weight. The northwest district has three wrestlers in the Top 5 and four in the Top 10. Norwalk also leads the way with 12 total ranked wrestlers. Wilmington looks like the thinnest weight here with only one projected state placer and the least amount of ranked wrestlers above (6). A bunch of other names to watch at the southwest district are Short (Bishop Watterson), Jallaq (Bexley), Britch (Bloom-Carroll), Grigsby (Johnstown-Monroe), and Shellhammer (Tipppecanoe).

- Projected Champion: Dylan Fishback (Aurora) Senior – PE1
2. Blake Schaffer (Louisville) Senior – PE2
 3. Austin Starr (Indian Creek) Senior – GA1
 4. Carson Miller (Granville) Junior – WI1
 5. Dillon Smith (Poland Seminary) Senior – PE3
 6. Evan Lykins (Graham) Senior – WI2
 7. Hunter Hutcheson (Madison Comprehensive) Junior – NO1
 8. Caleb Chippus (Medina Buckeye) Senior – NO2
 9. Angelo Gonzalez (Napoleon) Senior – NO3
 10. Landon Campbell (Galion) Sophomore – NO4
 11. Brayden Easton (Gallia Academy) Senior – GA2
 12. Dillon Davidson (Taylor) Senior – WI3
 13. Jayden LeBeau (Miami Trace) Senior – GA3
 14. Justin Duncan (Wauseon) Junior – NO5
 15. Kaiden Starks (Badin) Junior – WI4
 16. Manny Aller (Tiffin Columbian) Sophomore – NO6
 17. Ben Zinda (Carrollton) Junior – GA4
 18. Brandon Kinney (Steubenville) Senior – GA5
 19. Garrett Hilliard (Minerva) Senior – GA6
 20. Ethan Paladino (Tri-Valley) Senior – GA7
 21. Hunter Zizek (Sheridan) Junior – GA8
 22. Tristan Murphy (Beaver Local) Senior – GA9
 23. Owen Grear (Vermilion) Senior – NO7
 24. Hayden Flynn (Ashland) Senior – NO8
 25. Easton Cook (Indian Valley) Junior – GA10
 26. Logan Niceswanger (Morgan) Junior – GA11
 27. Jace Schaefer (St. Mary's Memorial) Junior – NO9
 28. Clay Dozer (Bloom-Carroll) Senior – WI5
 29. Aiden Gallant (Upper Sandusky) Senior – NO10
 30. Jack Leiher (Dayton C-J) Senior – WI6
 31. Will Heisler (Jonathan Alder) Senior – WI7
 32. Evan Jackson (Bishop Hartley) Junior – WI8
 33. Matt Michael (Eaton) Senior – WI9
 34. Jude Hess (Hamilton Ross) Senior – WI10
 35. Colten Hultgren (Milton-Union) Junior – WI11
 36. Jacob Heath (Akron STVM) Freshman – PE4
 37. Kenyon Cole (Lexington) Senior – NO11
 38. Grant Miller (West Holmes) Sophomore – GA12
 39. Jacob Walker (St. Clairsville) Junior – GA13
 40. Mike Molloy (Bethel-Tate) Senior – WI12

Returning state champ and NC State commit, Fishback, is the clear and obvious choice here. He was dominant last year in his state title run, winning two matches via pin and another via tech fall. Fishback became the #1 ranked wrestler in the country after beating Gavin Nelson (Minnesota) at Who's Number One in September. Prior to that, Fishback also notably won a freestyle title in Fargo over the summer,

where he pinned two-time Division 1 state champ Shumate (Dublin Coffman) in the finals. Fishback is 31-0 this season and has a career record of 149-9. He is also currently riding a 91 match winning streak. I think Schaffer and Starr both have the ability to reach the state finals. Schaffer exits Perry along with Fishback, and Starr meets seeding criteria after finishing third last season, so it's likely Starr and Schaffer are on the opposite side of Fishback in the bracket come Columbus. There would also be a chance of Schaffer and Starr meeting in the quarterfinals.

Like 120, Perry looks like the strongest and the thinnest district. The northeast district has three wrestlers in the Top 5 but only one more ranked wrestlers after that. I am also not quite sure what weight Heath will be at. I originally heard 175 was the plan for the postseason but 190 seems to be the much better option at Perry. A few other names that will likely be in the mix there are Bell (Orange), Atha (Field) and Cable (Revere).

215

Projected Champion: Max Shulaw (Columbus DeSales) Sophomore – WI1

2. Carter Neves (Graham) Sophomore – WI2
3. Kyle Snider (CVCA) Junior – PE1
4. Bryson Getz (Akron STVM) Junior – PE2
5. Elijah Emmons (Badin) Senior – WI3
6. Steven Marra (West Branch) Senior – PE3
7. Evan Straub (Bellevue) Senior – NO1
8. Mekhi Bradley (Mansfield Senior) Junior – NO2
9. Gavin Dondzilla (Indian Creek) Senior – GA1
10. Elisha Baldrige (West Holmes) Junior – GA2
11. Bryce Bennett (Miami Trace) Senior – GA3
12. Cruz Mobley (River View) Junior – GA4
13. Kaiden Haines (Minerva) Junior – GA5
14. Antonio Burns (London) Senior – WI4
15. Davian Greenlee (Akron Buchtel) Junior – NO3
16. Uzonna Nzekwe (Beachwood) Junior – NO4
17. Jeffery Blair (Dayton C-J) Freshman – WI5
18. James Bechter (Dayton Carroll) Freshman – WI6
19. Cayden Spotts (Ashland) Sophomore – NO5
20. Joe Maitland (Medina Buckeye) Senior – NO6
21. Brandon Ridenour (Cloverleaf) Senior – PE4
22. Zach Hagedorn (Monroe) Senior – WI7
23. Lane Schulz (Clinton-Massie) Senior – WI8
24. Cody Kidd (Blanchester) Junior – WI9
25. Elijah Perkins (Huron) Junior – NO7
26. Kenneth Walker (Perry) Junior – PE5
27. Paul McKnight (Wilmington) Sophomore – WI10
28. Aiden Mozden (Alliance) Sophomore – PE6
29. Jimmy Scharrer (Canfield) Junior – PE7
30. Jakob Baxter (Warren Howland) Junior – PE8
31. Brayden Pirone (Poland Seminary) Junior – PE9

32. Quinn Gorman (Aurora) Junior – PE10
33. Sam Murray (Salem) Senior – PE11
34. Chance Snow (Wauseon) Junior – NO8
35. Zach Starowesky (Bay) Senior – NO9
36. Taishawn Allen (Hughes Center) Sophomore – WI11

Returning state placer Shulaw is the obvious pick here after beating top challenger Neves, 11-3, at the Walsh Jesuit Ironman. Neves, the state runner-up last year at 182, then beat third ranked and returning state champ, Snider, 5-2. That was actually Neves' second win over Snider on the weekend; he also won the first match by the same score, 5-2. Getz, who Snider beat last year in the state finals, 8-2, is also here. It is important to remember that Shulaw, Neves, Snider, and Getz all meet seeding criteria. However, with two of them each exiting the same district, only the district winners will be separated. That means we could see something crazy like a Neves-Snider match in the state quarterfinals.

Wilmington and Perry both have three projected state placers and 11 total ranked wrestlers each. Wilmington, however, does look a little stronger, as both projected state finalists exit the southwest district. A few other names to watch in the already deep district are Halenar (Bishop Hartley), Randall (Bishop Watterson), Willet (Bloom-Carroll), Kroninger/Braithwaite (Jonathan Alder), and Schaffer (Eaton). Gallia has zero projected state placers and only five ranked wrestlers above, which makes it the thinnest district at this weight. A few other names to watch there are Tristano (Dover), Souther (Washington CH), King (Steubenville), and Green/Adkins (Waverly).

285

Projected Champion: Nolan Neves (Graham) Senior – WI1

2. Gauge Samson (Maysville) Senior – GA1
3. Todd Allen (Medina Buckeye) Junior – NO1
4. Thadd Huff (London) Senior – WI2
5. Gage Gibson (Warren Howland) Senior – PE1
6. Alistar Larson (Woodridge) Senior – PE2
7. Cameron Brazek (Louisville) Senior – PE3
8. Mason Mustain (Washington CH) Senior – GA2
9. Alex Griffith (Galion) Sophomore – NO2
10. Brock Nunez (Bellevue) Senior – NO3
11. Cael Rostorfer (Wapakoneta) Senior – NO4
12. Wellington Lowe (Trotwood-Madison) Senior – WI3
13. Keegan Jacks (Hebron Lakewood) Sophomore – WI4
14. Brett Brooks (Wilmington) Senior – WI5
15. Bruce Wagers (Wyoming) Senior – WI6
16. Chris Reber (Monroe) Senior – WI7
17. Peyton Tuttle (Steubenville) Senior – GA3
18. Nicholas Bowser (Hubbard) Sophomore – PE4
19. Dominic Burch (Bowling Green) Junior – NO5
20. Troy Peterson (Ashtabula Edgewood) Senior – PE5
21. Lucas Sadler (West Geauga) Senior – PE6
22. Alex McDonald (Chardon) Senior – PE7

23. Joey Black/Korbin Dearing (Bethel-Tate) Junior – WI8
24. Cameron Weil/Nathaniel Royse (Western Brown) – WI9
25. Derek Caswell (Bishop Watterson) Senior – WI10
26. Brandon Hunter (Hamilton Township) Senior – WI11
27. Landon Pedigo (Marengo Highland) Junior – WI2
28. TJ Fulgham (Circleville) Junior – GA4
29. Damon Hay (Jonathan Alder) Junior – WI13
30. Isaac Asiedu (Bishop Hartley) Junior – WI14
31. Tyler Jackson/Michael Cannings (Toledo CC) – NO6
32. Zain Bell (Bryan) Junior – NO7
33. Zane McCoy (Beaver Local) Junior – GA5
34. Noah Tristano (Dover) Senior – GA6
35. Ryan Kamperman (Salem) Junior – PE8
36. Braden Saeler (St. Mary's Memorial) Junior – NO8
37. Hayden Hensel (Ashland) Junior – NO9
38. Samari Smith (Port Clinton) Junior – NO10
39. Billy Foster (New Richmond) Senior – WI15

This will definitely be one of the more exciting weights to watch unfold in Columbus. Returning third place finisher Neves is the slight favorite here, but I think anyone in the top three has ability to win it all. The future Columbia Lion has missed some action lately, but I hear he should be good to go for the postseason. He has wins this season over the top two ranked wrestlers in Division 1, Fockler (Massillon Perry) and Ries (Wadsworth). Neves also beat top challenger Samson last year in the state quarterfinals, 4-3. As I previously stated, I think Samson and returning state champ Allen should also be considered serious title contenders. Samson beat Allen earlier this season, 2-1. It is important to note that only Neves and Allen meet seeding criteria.

Perry is very strong at the top here with three projected state placers. Wilmington has the best depth by far with an eye-opening 15 total ranked wrestlers above. Gallia has a respectable two projected state placers but does lack overall depth with only six ranked wrestlers. A few of other names to watch there are Gardner (West Holmes), Dillon-Rine (New Philadelphia), and Pletcher (New Lexington).

Team Projections

| Finish | School | Nickname | Points | Champs | Placers | Qualifiers |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Graham | Falcons | 189 | 3 | 11 | 13 |
| 2 | Aurora | Greenmen | 113 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 3 | Louisville | Leopards | 94 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | Medina Buckeye | Bucks | 79 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | Tiffin Columbian | Tornadoes | 74 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 6 | Columbus DeSales | Stallions | 62 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Akron STVM | Irish | 44 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | Beaver Local | Beavers | 43 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | CVCA | Royals | 42 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 10 | Ashland | Arrows | 40 | 0 | 3 | 5 |

DIVISION 3

Districts

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Rossford = RO | Garfield Heights = GH |
| Troy = TR | Heath = HE |

106

- Projected Champion: Hunter Lacy (Seneca East) Senior – RO1
2. Cole Schulke (Columbia) Junior – GH1
 3. Casper Caizzo (Norwalk St. Paul) Sophomore – RO2
 4. Adam Mattin (Delta) Freshman – RO3
 5. Abe Hermes (Milan Edison) Freshman – RO4
 6. Tristen Rossiter (Shenandoah) Sophomore – HE1
 7. Kyle Schroer (Troy Christian) Junior – TR1
 8. Gage Murphy (Reading) Freshman – TR2
 9. Branden Boggs (Sandy Valley) Junior – HE2
 10. Caiden Heller (Waynedale) Senior – GH2
 11. Hunter Newell (South Range) Junior – GH3
 12. Corbin Kimmel (Wayne Trace) Freshman – TR3
 13. Kyan Hendricks (Greeneview) Freshman – TR4
 14. Will McEwuen (Rootstown) Sophomore – GH4
 15. Carson Taylor (Covington) Sophomore – TR5
 16. Cameron Wagers (Plymouth) Sophomore – RO5
 17. Adan Miller (Gibsonburg) Sophomore – RO6
 18. Kiyran Elsby-Kershner (Bucyrus) Junior – RO7
 19. Hayden Jones (Brookville) Freshman – TR6
 20. Will Pask (Liberty-Benton) Freshman – RO8
 21. C.J. Graham (Fairland) Freshman – HE3
 22. Nolan Fraley (Mechanicsburg) Freshman – TR7
 23. Brandon Day (Springfield Shawnee) Sophomore – TR8
 24. Gaige Denson (Greenon) Senior – TR9
 25. Jose Gutierrez (Springfield Catholic Central) Sophomore – TR10
 26. Brayden Orick (Carlisle) Sophomore – TR11
 27. Ian Reynolds (Eastwood) Sophomore – RO9
 28. Joe Dennis (Black River) Junior – GH5
 29. Jonathan Huntsman (Barnesville) Sophomore – HE4
 30. Justin Sampson (Harrison Central) Senior – HE5
 31. Jace Mahoney (Martins Ferry) Freshman – HE6
 32. Mason Simms (Wellsville) Junior – GH6

33. Tanner Allen (Alexander) Sophomore – HE7
34. Grady Nekoranec (Elmwood) Junior – RO10
35. Thayne Kleman (Bluffton) Junior – RO11
36. Quintin Burns (Youngstown Liberty) Junior – GH7
37. Owen Martin (Ravenna Southeast) Senior – GH8
38. Colin Hering (Berkshire) Sophomore – GH9

Senior and returning state qualifier Lacy is my pick here. He qualified for the state tournament up at 113. Lacy will be seeking to become Seneca East's first state champ in school history. Schulke looks like Lacy's top challenger here. He is the only returning state placer at this weight. Schulke was ranked #1 for most of the season at this weight, but he has missed a few events lately after injury defaulting out of the Grizzly Invitational Tournament. That is ultimately what made me decide to swap Lacy and Schulke. I obviously wouldn't be surprised if either won it all. If Schulke isn't near 100 percent, Ciazzo would be considered second best here. He has a notable win this season over fourth ranked Mattin, 5-0, in the third place match at the Perrysburg Invitational Tournament.

Rossford is by far the strongest district here from top to bottom. The northwest district has four projected state placers and is tied with Troy for the most ranked wrestlers (11). Heath looks like the thinnest district here with only one projected state placer and seven total ranked wrestlers. Quite a few other names to watch there are Dentz (Buckeye Local), Vasey (Bellaire), Booth (Newcomerstown), Cantrell (West Union), Marshall (Amanda-Clearcreek), and Hardesty (Ridgewood). Across the state, I think anyone ranked or mentioned in the dialogue has the ability to qualify for the state tournament.

113

Projected Champion: Max Hermes (Milan Edison) Junior – RO1

2. Cooper Shore (Miami East) Junior – TR1
3. Eli Campbell (Legacy Christian) Sophomore – TR2
4. Trevor Wilcox (Otsego) Sophomore – RO2
5. Jericho Quinter (Covington) Sophomore – TR3
6. Zachary Laplante (Toledo Christian) Senior – RO3
7. Kyle Miller (Garaway) Senior – HE1
8. Lane Bergman (Versailles) Sophomore – TR4
9. Dylan Ward (Martins Ferry) Junior – HE2
10. Rylee Hanefeld (Delta) Senior – RO4
11. Nick Roberts (Plymouth) Senior – RO5
12. Eli Guyton (Millbury Lake) Senior – RO6
13. Cowin Becker (Northmor) Freshman – HE3
14. Brady Funk (Mogadore) Senior – GH1
15. Vince Monnin (Tinora) Senior – RO7
16. Trace Williams (North Union) Junior – HE4
17. Brodie Setmire (Evergreen) Sophomore – RO8
18. Lane Thacker (Lakota) Freshman – RO9
19. Kaylor Reynolds (Tiffin Calvert) Junior – RO10
20. Kyler Walsh (Carlisle) Junior – TR5
21. Drew Spreng (Loudonville) Sophomore – GH2

22. Dominic Leone (Youngstown Liberty) Senior – GH3
23. Owen McDevitt (Jackson-Milton) Junior – GH4
24. Kayden Welker (South Range) Freshman – GH5
25. Tony Hoty (Westfall) Junior – HE5
26. Hunter Sidle (Allen East) Senior – TR6
27. RJ Coldren (Liberty-Benton) Junior – RO11
28. Nyah Hodge-Miller (Spencerville) Junior – TR7
29. Gavin Grubb (Convoy Crestview) Sophomore – TR8
30. Cody Ricker (Lincolnview) Freshman – TR9
31. Dominic Devault (Waynedale) Junior – GH6
32. Grant Driskill (Springfield Shawnee) Sophomore – TR10
33. Breyden Hill (Utica) Freshman – HE6
34. Jacob Durr (Amanda-Clearcreek) Sophomore – HE7
35. Diton Farnsworth (South Central) Freshman – RO12

Returning state champ Hermes is the favorite to capture his second consecutive crown in as many tries. The outstanding junior is currently 48-3 this season and has an impressive career record of 161-9 so far. Last year in the state finals, Hermes beat third ranked Campbell in the finals, 1-0; Hermes rode Campbell out for the entire third period. He also dominated Campbell from the top position when they met the first time last season in the D3 state dual finals. Additionally, Hermes was favored at 106 back in 2020 as well, but the state tournament was obviously canceled due to COVID. Top challenger and returning state runner-up, Shore, was ranked third that season at the same weight. If the 2020 state tournament had occurred, my choice here would likely be much easier. Fourth ranked Wilcox is the only other returning state placer at this weight after finishing fourth last year at 106. However, only Hermes, Shore, and Campbell meet seeding criteria.

Troy and Rossford are both very strong here. Troy has four projected state placers, while Rossford has three. Rossford has the slightly better depth though with 12 ranked wrestlers compared to Troy's 10. Half of those 12 wrestlers are ranked in the top 12. Garfield is definitely the thinnest district here by far. This is probably one of the thinner weights overall at the northeast district. A handful of other names to watch at Garfield are Oleksiak (Columbia), Kubicki (Independence), Sword (Mapleton), Fryer (Waterloo), and Shanks (Pymatuning Valley).

120

Projected Champion: Dillon Campbell (Legacy Christian) Sophomore – TR1

2. Landen Duncan (Chalker) Junior – GH1
3. Gavin Caprella (Lima CC) Senior – TR2
4. Dakota King (Barnesville) Sophomore – HE1
5. Patrick Reineke (Hawken) Senior – GH2
6. Phoenix Contos (Genoa) Freshman – RO1
7. Ramakrishna Gandhi (Reading) Senior – TR3
8. Nathan Parks (Seneca East) Sophomore – RO2
9. Michael Hagan (Covington) Sophomore – TR4
10. Gavin Pahanish (South Range) Senior – GH3
11. Trent Sigler (W.S. Northwestern) Junior – GH4
12. Markell Mitchell (New London) Sophomore – RO3
13. Ethan Dixon (Coshocton) Senior – HE2
14. Brian Luft (Newark Catholic) Sophomore – HE3
15. Trevor Herbert (Buckeye Local) Senior – HE4
16. Nick Malek (Rootstown) Freshman – GH5
17. Grayson Hoover (Garrettsville Garfield) Junior – GH6
18. Mason Daniels (Crestwood) Senior – GH7
19. Evan Kusmits (Akron Manchester) Freshman – GH8
20. Haedyn Parman (Johnstown Northridge) Junior – HE5
21. Czar Dickson (Indian Lake) Freshman – TR5
22. Drew Matthews (Liberty Center) Sophomore – RO4
23. Evan Hanefeld (Delta) Junior – RO5
24. Evan Natale (Sandy Valley) Sophomore – HE6
25. Andrew Miller (Plymouth) Junior – RO6
26. Sam Knouse (Tuslaw) Sophomore – GH9
27. Conner Burns (Youngstown Liberty) Junior – GH10
28. Ryan Ramser (Ravenna Southeast) Senior – GH11
29. Hayden Herman (Edgerton) Senior – RO7
30. Lukus Schaub (Woodmore) Senior – RO8
31. Vince Barton (Millbury Lake) Sophomore – RO9
32. Evan Carpenter (Benjamin Logan) Sophomore – TR6
33. Jacob Bishop (Tinora) Freshman – RO10
34. Damian Moler (Brookville) Junior – TR7
35. Slayde Merriman (West Liberty-Salem) – TR8

Sensational sophomore and returning state champ, Campbell, is one of the heavier favorites in all of Ohio. At the state tournament last year, he won two matches by tech fall and the other two by major decision. Campbell definitely played a huge role in the Knight' team title and I expect nothing different this year, as the Knights are favored in the team race once again. One of Campbell's major decisions last year came over top challenger Duncan. Duncan, Caprella, King, and Reineke all placed last year at 113, and all of them have at least one previous win and loss amongst each other. I think everyone in the top six has the ability to reach the finals here.

Like a lot of the lower weights, Troy looks very strong here. The southwest district has three projected state placers and four wrestlers in the top nine. As I stated at 113, Garfield looks very thin, so I would highly suggest anyone considering moving down a weight class to do so. Heath is the thinnest district here with only one projected state placer and six total ranked wrestlers. Another name to watch there is Pickerrell (Zane Trace).

126

Projected Champion: Max Shore (Miami East) Senior – TR1

2. Logan Attisano (Legacy Christian) Senior – TR2
3. Caden Schmeltzer (Waynedale) Freshman – GH1
4. Chase Vanderhorst (Covington) Sophomore – TR3
5. Reese Stephen (Barnesville) Sophomore – HE1
6. Carson Chiesa (Delta) Senior – RO1
7. Wesley Wydick (Utica) Senior – HE2
8. Jesse Stroud (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR4
9. JP Wrobel (Crestwood) Sophomore – GH2
10. Johnny Heiden (Berkshire) Junior – GH3
11. Brock Durbin (Mapleton) Sophomore – GH4
12. Mason Amodio (Ravenna Southeast) Senior – GH5
13. Drake Kanyuch (Shenandoah) Junior – HE3
14. Carder Miller (Spencerville) Junior – TR5
15. Reece Butler (South Gallia) Junior – HE4
16. Christian Browning (Crooksville) Freshman – HE5
17. Clayton Kramer (South Range) Senior – GH6
18. Grant Bomer (Lakota) Freshman – RO2
19. Connor Robbins (Willard) Senior – RO3
20. Lee Woods (Liberty-Benton) Sophomore – RO4
21. Devon Luellen (Tinora) Freshman – RO5
22. Jackson Bartels (Liberty Center) Freshman – RO6
23. Nathan Lee (Rootstown) Freshman – GH7
24. Michael Betz (Fairview-Sherwood) Junior – RO7
25. Lincoln Guthrie (Norwayne) Sophomore – GH8
26. Noah Tipton (Genoa) Sophomore – RO8
27. Trevor Johnson (Ayersville) Senior – RO9
28. Treven Angus (Johnstown Northridge) Freshman – HE6
29. Gabe Hansen-Jackson (North Union) Senior – HE7
30. Jared Pierce (Wayne Trace) Junior – TR6
31. Caedan Henderson (Otsego) Junior – RO10
32. Micah Boyer (Dalton) Sophomore – GH9
33. Isaac Wittel (Loudonville) Sophomore – GH10
34. Hunter O’Dell (Greenon) Freshman – TR7
35. Ryder Brown (West Jefferson) Junior – HE8

For the third weight in a row, the favorite here is also a returning state champ. Shore has reached the finals at both state tournaments he’s wrestled in. He lost in the state finals in 2019 at 113 before

winning it all last year at 120. Returning state placer Attisano looks like Shore's toughest challenger here, but Shore pinned him twice last year in the postseason, so I would say Shore is pretty heavily favored to capture another state title.

This is yet another weight where Troy looks like the strongest district. Three out of the top four wrestlers exit the southwest district. Garfield also looks pretty strong here. The northeast district has only one projected state place but also has five wrestlers ranked in the top 12. One thing to watch there is whether Boyer decides to drop to 120 or stay here. He has spent time at both weights lately. It's hard to tab the thinnest district here, but Rossford and Heath are in the bottom half. Heath has more placers (2), but Rossford has more ranked wrestlers (11).

132

Projected Champion: Hunter Long (Wayne Trace) Senior – TR1

2. Will Davidson (Kirtland) Senior – GH1
3. Ray Cmil (South Range) Senior – GH2
4. Trey Allen (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR2
5. Brayden Brown (Legacy Christian) Sophomore – TR3
6. Jason Shaffer (Troy Christian) Junior – TR4
7. Hayden Kuhn (Ashland Crestview) Junior – RO1
8. Alec Homan (Monroeville) Senior – RO2
9. Daxton Chase (Marion Pleasant) Sophomore – HE1
10. Jeremiah McKee (Wellington) Senior – GH3
11. Cristian Lecki (Millbury Lake) Senior – RO3
12. Jake Sundberg (Waynedale) Senior – GH4
13. Joey Manley (Otsego) Junior – RO4
14. Anden Ankney (Tinora) Sophomore – RO5
15. Ashtan Hendricks (Greeneview) Junior – TR5
16. Griffen Stephen (Barnesville) Senior – HE2
17. Payton Platfoot (Versailles) Junior – TR6
18. Michael Fister (Johnstown Northridge) Junior – HE3
19. Nehemiah Sanderfer (Lutheran West) Sophomore – GH5
20. Lance Crawford (Hopewell-Loudon) Senior – RO6
21. Luke Herron (Amanda-Clearcreek) Senior – HE4
22. Jesse Maple (Ridgewood) Junior – HE5
23. TJ Wilson (Tuscarawas Valley) Sophomore – HE6
24. Konner Samson (West Muskingum) Junior – HE7
25. Nate Tipton (Genoa) Sophomore – RO7
26. Shane Kruger (Delta) Senior – RO8
27. Emmett Perry (Liberty Center) Senior – RO9
28. Harley Stoll (Norwalk St. Paul) Senior – RO10
29. Will Bischoff (Seneca East) Sophomore – RO11
30. Antonio Salazar (Gibsonburg) Freshman – RO12
31. Braeden Stallworth (Columbiana Crestview) Junior – GH6
32. Bryce Brown (Carlisle) Junior – TR7
33. Nathan Opichka (Madeira) Junior – TR8

34. Riley Holmes (Dayton Northridge) Senior – TR9
35. Aaron Mills (Miami East) Freshman – TR10
36. Caiden Maize (Eastwood) Sophomore – RO13

This is probably the deepest weight overall in Division 3, as there are a whopping eight returning state placers here. One of those returning state placers is Long, who is my pick here, but I honestly think anyone in the Top 10 could win it all on any given weekend. It is important to note that only second-ranked Davidson, fourth-ranked Allen, and ninth-ranked Kuhn meet seeding criteria. Having someone ranked ninth that meets seeding criteria is a perfect example of how deep this weight really is.

Troy has four projected state placers and is clearly the strongest district at this weight. Garfield and Heath look to be in the bottom half when comparing the overall strength among four districts. Garfield is pretty strong at the top with four wrestlers in the top 12, but the northeast district has only six total ranked wrestlers. A handful of other names to watch at Garfield are Zaleski (Dalton), Moore (Norwayne), Wazil (Jefferson Area), Snyder (Tuslaw), and Wise (Rootstown). Heath has one more ranked wrestler than Garfield with seven. A few other names to watch there as well are Aberts (Bridgeport), Bender (Caldwell), Boni (Malvern), and Miller (Newcomerstown).

138

Projected Champion: Camron Lacure (Legacy Christian) Senior – TR1

2. Gavin Owens (Eastwood) Senior – RO1
3. Ashton Homan (Monroeville) Sophomore – RO2
4. Anwar Alli (Marion Pleasant) Junior – HE1
5. Michael Markulin (South Range) Senior – GH1
6. Arlie Benson (Greenon) Senior – TR2
7. Skyler King (Barnesville) Sophomore – HE2
8. Zach Lyons (Tuslaw) Senior – GH2
9. Andrew Huck (Bidwell River Valley) Junior – HE3
10. Troy Kennedy (Troy Christian) Senior – TR3
11. P.J. Murphy (Reading) Sophomore – TR4
12. Owen Miller (Oak Harbor) Junior – RO3
13. Amari Bowers (Conneaut) Junior – GH3
14. Jeff Camp (Patrick Henry) Junior – RO4
15. Andrew Sas (Mapleton) Senior – GH4
16. Brock Wygle (Utica) Senior – HE4
17. Connor Mitchell (S.C. Southeastern) Junior – TR5
18. Bobby Pieratt (Amanda-Clearcreek) Senior – HE5
19. Caden Canning (Newark Catholic) Senior – HE6
20. Tyson Clear (Malvern) Freshman – HE7
21. Dominique Millender (Newcomerstown) Freshman – HE8
22. Kaden Russell (Dalton) Freshman – GH5
23. Marcus Cortez (Northmor) Senior – HE9
24. Layton Hughes (Miami East) Sophomore – TR6
25. Owen Ashworth (Brookville) Senior – TR7
26. Owen England (Mohawk) Senior – RO5

27. Tygh Byington (Sandusky SMCC) Sophomore – RO6
28. Aiden Naseman (Norwalk St. Paul) Senior – RO7
29. Gabe Chapa (Archbold) Junior – RO8
30. Robby Bennett (Fairview-Sherwood) Junior – RO9
31. Cody Biddle (Lakota) Sophomore – RO10
32. Xavier Arriaga (Genoa) Freshman – RO11
33. Hunter Grunden (Tinora) Senior – RO12
34. Dustin Kattler (Cuyahoga Heights) Senior – GH6
35. Anthony Vangelos (Lutheran West) Junior – GH7
36. Tyler Paulus (Rootstown) Sophomore – GH8
37. Drake Rennecker (Crestwood) Sophomore – GH9

Returning state champ Lacure is favored to capture his second consecutive state title. The future Campbell Camel won the state crown down at 132, where he beat previous state champ Zach Mattin (Delta) in the finals, 7-2. Lacure has missed quite a bit of action this season, but I hear he should be good to go for the postseason. Returning state placers Owens and Homan both exit Rossford and both look like Lacure's toughest challengers. It is important to note that only Lacure and Homan meet seeding criteria at this weight. That means if Homan wins Rossford, he would automatically be on the opposite side of the bracket of Lacure and Owens.

This one of those rare occasions where all four districts have two projected state placers each. Rossford does seem to have the best depth here with 12 total ranked wrestlers. Troy might be the thinnest with only seven total ranked wrestlers, but I think the top four exiting there all have a legitimate chance to reach the podium in Columbus. I would put anyone in the top 12 in that group of serious podium contenders.

144

Projected Champion: Pierce Taylor (McNicholas) Senior – TR1

2. Brodie Dominique (Archbold) Sophomore – RO1
3. Jarrett Hornish (Wayne Trace) Senior – TR2
4. Hunter Vogus (Monroeville) Junior – RO2
5. Michael Harris (Smithville) Senior – GH1
6. Colby Johnson (Clermont Northeastern) Junior – TR3
7. Jace Margraf (Mohawk) Junior – RO3
8. Boede Campbell (Legacy Christian) Junior – TR4
9. Kade Wireman (Allen East) Junior – TR5
10. Ayden King (Barnesville) Freshman – HE1
11. Alex Munn (Berkshire) Sophomore – GH2
12. Luke Bischoff (Seneca East) Senior – RO4
13. Xavier Escobedo (Eastwood) Senior – RO5
14. Cade Petersen (Oak Harbor) Senior – RO6
15. Ezekial Burkholder (Lima Bath) Senior – TR6
16. Collin Wonner (Columbiana Crestview) Senior – GH3
17. Landon Emch (Woodmore) Senior – RO7
18. Luke Dolan (Brookville) Sophomore – TR7
19. Dustin Simon (Dixie) Senior – TR8
20. Keagon Henry (Millbury Lake) Senior – RO8
21. Brody Marks (Sandy Valley) Senior – HE2
22. Quinten Harrison (Marion Elgin) Freshman – HE3
23. Skyler Wolf (Marion Pleasant) Sophomore – HE4
24. Ridge Barkley (Ridgedale) Sophomore – HE5
25. Clayton Smith (Utica) Junior – HE6
26. Montrayel Christy (Trimble) Senior – HE7
27. David Stumpff (Troy Christian) Senior – TR9
28. Chance Rust (Miami East) Senior – TR10
29. Dustin Mortimer (Bluffton) Senior – RO9
30. Austin Fancher (Reading) Sophomore – TR11
31. Brennan Moore (Pymatuning Valley) Freshman – GH4
32. Robert Krajewski (Cuyahoga Heights) Senior – GH5
33. Gaetano Savelli (Kirtland) Junior – GH6
34. Robert McCrork (Waynedale) Freshman – GH7
35. Jake Richardson (South Range) Junior – GH8
36. Brian Youngblood (Rootstown) Freshman – GH9
37. Maxwell Cooper (Tuslaw) Junior – GH10
38. Bram McCourt (Dalton) Sophomore – GH11
39. Dom Governale (Columbia) Senior – GH12
40. Andrew Osman (Shadyside) Sophomore – HE8

Future Ohio Bobcat and returning state placer, Taylor, is the slight favorite at this weight. He was third last year at 138, losing a close semifinal bout in overtime to eventual state champ Casey Barnett (Milan Edison), 4-2. Taylor will be seeking to become McNicholas' first state champ in school history. Returning state placer Dominique and returning state champ Hornish look to be Taylor's toughest challengers.

Dominique beat Hornish earlier this season, 4-3, in a dual meet at Archbold. Taylor and Hornish both meet seeding criteria, but they both also exit the same district (Troy).

Troy and Rossford are both very strong at this weight. Troy has four projected state placers, while Rossford has three. Troy also has a whopping 11 wrestlers ranked in the Top 30. I think we could see Wireman and Gatchell swap weights for Allen East. A couple other names to watch at the already crowded southwest district are Stover (Mechanicsburg) and Bodine (Delphos Jefferson). Like Troy, Rossford also could have a few non-ranked wrestlers in the mix as well. A boatload of other names to watch at the northwest district are Paul (Lakota), Pennington (Evergreen), Lentz (Sandusky SMCC), Materni (Genoa), Cisco (Milan Edison), Blair (Elmwood), Villarreal (Gibsonburg), and Haven (Delta). Heath looks to be the thinnest district here with only one wrestler in the Top 20 and the least amount of ranked wrestlers above (8). A few other names to watch there are Pyle (Bridgeport), Owens (Tuscarawas Valley), Ramos (Northmor), and Smith (Huntington Ross). I also think we could see Millender (Newcomerstown) move here from 138, as he wrestled 144 at his conference tournament this past weekend.

150

Projected Champion: Gavin Brown (Legacy Christian) Senior – TR1

2. Westyn Moyer (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR2
3. Nathan Cadle (Bidwell River Valley) Senior – HE1
4. Will Stieber (Norwalk St. Paul) Senior – RO1
5. Josh Brown (Berkshire) Junior – GH1
6. Duke Hermes (Milan Edison) Junior – RO2
7. A.J. Coppersmith (Columbiana Crestview) Junior – GH2
8. Greyson Siders (Dalton) Sophomore – GH3
9. Aiden Helmke (Tinora) Freshman – RO3
10. Xander Myers (Liberty Center) Sophomore – RO4
11. Sam Mentzer (Marion Pleasant) Freshman – HE2
12. Lane Cline (Waterford) Junior – HE3
13. Lee Borders (Otsego) Junior – RO5
14. Hayden Buhro (Oak Harbor) Junior – RO6
15. Tristen McKibben (Rootstown) Freshman – GH4
16. Ethan Strahan (Crestwood) Senior – GH5
17. Jacob Hlifka (Hawken) Senior – GH6
18. Kasen Wellman (Ayersville) Sophomore – RO7
19. Jake Lyons (Tuslaw) Sophomore – GH7
20. Chance Wooley (Southern Local) Senior – GH8
21. Logan Tague (Barnesville) Junior – HE4
22. Shae Sparks (Plymouth) Junior – RO8
23. Tyler Bruer (Shenandoah) Senior – HE5
24. Caylan LeMaster (Centerburg) Sophomore – HE6
25. Preston Tirey (Bishop Ready) Freshman – HE7
26. Grant Guiler (Amanda-Clearcreek) Senior – HE8
27. Dakota Sintobin (Delta) Senior – RO9
28. Ian Grime (Archbold) Sophomore – RO10

29. Bam Moyer (Sandy Valley) Junior – HE9
30. Owen Fagan (Greenon) Sophomore – TR3
31. Montana Pierce (McComb) Junior – RO11
32. Jack Caldwell (Woodmore) Sophomore – RO12
33. Trenton Gatchell (Allen East) Sophomore – TR4
34. Evan England (Mohawk) Sophomore – RO13
35. Case Paul (Lakota) Sophomore – RO14
36. DJ Ornlef (Gibsonburg) Senior – RO15
37. Michael Osborne (Versailles) Sophomore – TR5
38. Sammy Moore (Wayne Trace) Junior – TR6
39. Caleb Zimmerman (Waynedale) Senior – GH9
40. Kyle Langdon (Deer Park) Sophomore – TR7

Two-time state champ and future Ohio State Buckeye, Brown, is the favorite to win it all once again. He would likely be attempting to capture his fourth state title if it weren't for the state tournament in 2020 being canceled. In Brown's four matches last year at the state tournament, he completed the wrestling cycle (if that is even a real thing.) He won one match by fall, one by tech fall, one by major decision, and the other by decision. Moyer looks to be next best here. He beat third-ranked Cadle last year at the state tournament, 11-8, in the consolation quarterfinals.

Troy, Garfield, and Rossford are pretty strong at this weight. Both projected state finalists exit Troy, three state placers exit Garfield, and Rossford leads the way with a whopping 14 total ranked wrestlers above. Troy does lack overall depth though, as the southwest district has the least amount of wrestlers ranked above (8). Garfield has slightly better depth with nine total ranked wrestlers, but I also think a few other unranked wrestlers could also be in the mix there. Those names include Wittel (Loudonville), Sparks (Garrettsville Garfield), Starkey (South Range), Vivo (Columbiana), Pinkerton (Conneaut), and Cathcart (Ashtabula St. John). I would have to tab Heath as the weakest district here with only one wrestler in the Top 10. A few other names to watch there are Rust (Coshocton), Luikart (Marion Elgin) and 2019 state qualifier McFee.

- Projected Champion: Tate Geiser (Dalton) Senior – GH1
2. Jake Hurst (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR1
 3. Connor Smith (Gibsonburg) Junior – RO1
 4. David Davis (Miami East) Senior – TR2
 5. Remington Bauer (Milan Edison) Senior – RO2
 6. Kane Epperly (Versailles) Junior – TR3
 7. Ethan Cooper (Legacy Christian) Junior – TR4
 8. Cody Coontz (Rootstown) Junior – GH2
 9. Justin Fox (Waterloo) Junior – GH3
 10. Jake Starkey (South Range) Junior – GH4
 11. Evan Perry (Delta) Senior – RO3
 12. Niko Christo (Northmor) Senior – HE1
 13. Grant Heuing (Coldwater) Senior – TR5
 14. Devyn Vanest (Tuslaw) Junior – GH5
 15. Brayden Doran (Preble Shawnee) Junior – TR6
 16. Dickie Engel (Reading) Freshman – TR7
 17. Brendan Sheehan (Newark Catholic) Junior – HE2
 18. Justin Stump (Bidwell River Valley) Junior – HE3
 19. Brandon Rollin (Black River) Senior – GH6
 20. Brandon Mulvaine (Marion Pleasant) Junior – HE4
 21. AJ Keyt (West Jefferson) Senior – HE5
 22. Jacob Robinson (Plymouth) Senior – RO4
 23. Josh Ripley (Cardinal) Junior – GH7
 24. Cayden Conrad (Wellington) Senior – GH8
 25. John Vetter (Lucas) Senior – RO5
 26. Jarrod Johnston (Marion Elgin) Junior – HE6
 27. Peyton Beavers (Amanda-Clearcreek) Freshman – HE7
 28. Connor Sindelir (Covington) Senior – TR8
 29. Landon Schroeder (Columbus Grove) Junior – TR9
 30. Braxton Quaintance (Lakota) Freshman – RO6
 31. Jack Zeitzheim (Oak Harbor) Senior – RO7
 32. Brencyn Evans (Monroeville) Freshman – RO8
 33. Dalton Wolfrum (Tinora) Junior – RO9
 34. Luke DeLano (Ayersville) Senior – RO10
 35. Johnny McFarland (Martins Ferry) Junior – HE8
 36. Alex Theis/Kael Margraf (Mohawk) – RO11
 37. Collin Wagner (Van Buren) Sophomore – RO12
 38. Lance Rickle (Carey) Junior – RO13
 39. Paul Martello (Bishop Ready) Senior – HE9
 40. Kyle Basil (Bluffton) Sophomore – RO14

Returning state runner-up Geiser is slightly favored to capture Dalton's first state title in school history. He beat top challenger Hurst, 3-1, in overtime in the state quarterfinals last season. Hurst later on beat Smith, 4-3, in the third place match; Smith is the third ranked wrestler at this weight. With how close the

top three look here based on their previous head-to-head matches, I wouldn't be surprised if any of them are standing atop the podium in Columbus.

This is another weight where Troy is absolutely loaded once again with four projected state placers. Garfield and Rossford are also both pretty strong with two projected state placers each. Rossford, however, has the better depth with an eye-opening 14 total ranked wrestlers compared to Garfield (8). That said, all eight wrestlers ranked from the northeast district are all in the top 26. Another wrestler to watch at Garfield is Karliak (Fairview). Heath looks like the weakest district once again with zero projected state placers and no one ranked in the Top 10. I do, however, consider returning state placer Christo a serious podium contender even though he is ranked 12th. A boatload of other names to watch at Heath are Lamneck (Ridgewood), (Westfall), Ross (Alexander), McFadden (Buckeye Local), and Milhoan (Barnesville). Also, I think we could see Guiler and Beavers swap weights for Amanda-Clearcreek at Heath.

165

- Projected Champion: Shadrick Slone (Willard) Senior – RO1
2. Hunter Andel (Garrettsville Garfield) Junior – GH1
 3. Nick Alvarez (Legacy Christian) Senior – TR1
 4. Carter Chase (Marion Pleasant) Senior – HE1
 5. Carson Bey (Versailles) Senior – TR2
 6. Chase Miller (Allen East) Senior – TR3
 7. Justin Hershberger (Waynedale) Senior – GH2
 8. Logan Cormell (South Range) Senior – GH3
 9. Bryce Hesselbart (Eastwood) Junior – RO2
 10. Matt Gentry (Sandy Valley) Senior – HE2
 11. Isaac Gray (Adena) Senior – HE3
 12. Jacob Groeber (Clermont Northeastern) Senior – TR4
 13. Cannon Endicott (Elmwood) Junior – RO3
 14. Camren Foster (Liberty Center) Senior – RO4
 15. Gus Kyser (Madeira) Junior – TR5
 16. Louka Babic (Kirtland) Junior – GH4
 17. Derrick Andolsek (Wellington) Senior – GH5
 18. Dylan Starnes (Brookville) Senior – TR6
 19. Michael Conkle (Bidwell River Valley) Junior – HE4
 20. Tigran Bdoyan (Columbus Academy) Junior – HE5
 21. Hunter Randall (Miami East) Sophomore – TR7
 22. Awsom Mitchell (Triad) Freshman – TR8
 23. Kyler Blair (Fairview-Sherwood) Junior – RO5
 24. Carson Greiner (Indian Lake) Junior – TR9
 25. Syllas Reiheld (Rootstown) Junior – GH6
 26. Evan Daniels (Crestwood) Senior – GH7
 27. Garrett Szuch (Columbia) Junior – GH8
 28. Lucas Oswald (Dalton) Senior – GH9
 29. Vinny Sanderfer (Ravenna Southeast) Senior – GH10
 30. Connor Morse (Ashland Crestview) Senior – RO6

31. Blake Rasner (Reading) Sophomore – TR10
32. Evan Montgomery (Bishop Ready) Freshman – HE6
33. Gage Summit (Carey) Junior – RO7
34. Nolan Deppe (Lima Bath) Sophomore – TR11
35. Maddox Jurek (Spencerville) Sophomore – TR12
36. Parker Cook (Mechanicsburg) Junior – TR13
37. Matt Adams (W.S. Northwestern) Senior – GH11
38. Jose Luna (Archbold) Senior – RO8
39. Gabe Garlick (Lakota) Sophomore – RO9
40. Brandon Smith (South Central) Junior – RO10

Returning state runner-up and three-time state qualifier, Slone, looks like the favorite this time around. He will be wrestling in college at Campbellsville University. Slone just recently picked up his 200th career win at the Caleb Stockmaster Memorial Tournament on February 12th. Returning state placer Andel is the top challenger here, but I honestly think everyone in the top six has the ability to meet Slone in the state finals.

Garfield and Troy are both very strong at this weight, as both have three projected state placers. Troy does have the slightly better depth with 13 total ranked wrestlers above. Rossford and Heath are in the bottom half at this weight, but still look pretty strong. Both have only one projected state placer, but each also have a respectable three wrestlers ranked in the top 13. A bunch of other names to watch at Rossford are Crow (Hopewell-Loudon), Obregon (Fremont St. Joseph CC), McCance (Patrick Henry), Blank (Pandora-Gilboa), Green (Hicksville), Barnes (Delta), and Margraf/Theis (Mohawk). I would have to tab Heath as the thinnest district here with only six total ranked wrestlers above. Like Rossford, I think there are also a bunch of unranked wrestlers to watch at Heath as well. Those names include Krupinski (Buckeye Local), Sayre (Caldwell), Stewart (Chillicothe Southeastern), Matheney (Amanda-Clearcreek), Nixon (Barnesville), Hulsey (Martins Ferry), Postlwait (Tuscarawas Valley), Queen (West Union) and Garland (Newcomerstown). Garland wrestled up at 175 at his conference tournament, so we might see him try his luck up there.

175

- Projected Champion: Peyton Lemon (Waynedale) Senior – GH1
2. Bryce Keckley (West Jefferson) Senior – HE1
 3. Keegan Sell (Garrettsville Garfield) Sophomore – GH2
 4. Connor Havill (Troy Christian) Junior – TR1
 5. C.J. Smith (Marion Pleasant) Senior – HE2
 6. Anthony Gencarelli (Kirtland) Senior – GH3
 7. Tabor Lackey (Trimble) Senior – HE3
 8. Owen Berner (Ayersville) Junior – RO1
 9. Ronnie Thomas (Mechanicsburg) Freshman – TR2
 10. Izaiah Sherman (Covington) Freshman – TR3
 11. Mason Vonderwell (Delphos St. John's) Senior – TR4
 12. Kaden Basil (Bluffton) Senior – RO2
 13. Colton Sparks (Plymouth) Junior – RO3
 14. Caden Conner (Reading) Senior – TR5
 15. Charlie Wells (Black River) Junior – GH4
 16. Grady Kline (Mapleton) Senior – GH5
 17. Lane McKenzie (Rootstown) Junior – GH6
 18. Dominick Whetsel (Gibsonburg) Senior – RO4
 19. Neil Miller (Chippewa) Sophomore – GH7
 20. Brent Dietrich (Jefferson Area) Senior – GH8
 21. Luke Torgerson (Cuyahoga Heights) Senior – GH9
 22. Caleb Kaiser (Versailles) Senior – TR6
 23. Clint Finnen (Milan Edison) Junior – RO5
 24. Gavin Gillig (Liberty-Benton) Junior – RO6
 25. Broch Mansor (Oak Harbor) Junior – RO7
 26. Wyatt Ripke (Archbold) Sophomore – RO8
 27. Dalton Hesselbart (Eastwood) Junior – RO9
 28. Owen Burge (Van Buren) Senior – RO10
 29. Cameron Urivez (Tinora) Sophomore – RO11
 30. Gage Wireman (Allen East) Junior – TR7
 31. Kyle Stillberger (Mohawk) Junior – RO12
 32. Riley Stevenson (Preble Shawnee) Sophomore – RO13
 33. Nathan Brown (Bidwell River Valley) Senior – HE4
 34. Ethan Wilson (National Trail) Senior – TR8
 35. Blake Flower (Edgerton) Junior – RO14
 36. Tyler O'Brien (Otsego) Sophomore – RO15
 37. Dylan Bowyer (Lincolnview) Junior – TR9
 38. Cale Parkins (Cory-Rawson) Junior – TR10
 39. Carson Roberts (Spencerville) Junior – TR11
 40. Kyle Lathrop (Columbus Grove) Sophomore – TR12

This year's state tournament will likely be Lemon's last wrestling event of his career; he has committed to play college football at Ashland University. Lemon looks like the clear favorite here after beating top challenger Keckley last season, 3-0, in the state semifinals. I think returning state placers Sell, Havill, and

Smith also have the ability to reach the finals. It is important to note that only Lemon and Keckley meet seeding criteria.

Garfield and Heath lead the way here with three projected state placers each. Garfield has much better depth though, as Heath has only one other wrestler ranked above. A few other names that will likely be in the mix at Heath are Watson (Malvern), Evans (Reedsville Eastern), Pasma (Marion Elgin), and Hoeflich (Fredericktown). I would have to tab Troy as the thinnest district here. Both Troy and Rossford have only one projected state placer, but Rossford has five more ranked wrestlers.

190

Projected Champion: Lucas Stoddard (Berkshire) Senior – GH1

2. Jaidyn Sapp (Ravenna Southeast) Senior – GH2
3. Tyler Knight (Mogadore) Senior – GH3
4. Logan Lloyd (Milan Edison) Senior – RO1
5. Trevor Slider (Malvern) Senior – HE1
6. Abe DeLano (Ayersville) Sophomore – RO2
7. Will Hash (Bidwell River Valley) Senior – HE2
8. Brennon Braud (Kirtland) Senior – GH4
9. Donovan Weddell (Marion Elgin) Senior – HE3
10. Blake Elliott (East Knox) Freshman – HE4
11. Garrett George (Mount Gilead) Junior – HE5
12. Kaleb Steinmetz (Amanda-Clearcreek) Senior – HE6
13. Owen Pummel (Indian Lake) Freshman – TR1
14. Owen Johnson (Liberty Center) Senior – RO3
15. Jackson Dougherty (Akron Manchester) Junior – GH5
16. Jonah Bibler (Marion Pleasant) Senior – HE7
17. Sean Gast (Mapleton) Senior – GH6
18. Sean Geiser (Dalton) Senior – GH7
19. Spencer Franks (Lakota) Senior – RO4
20. Lee Burkett (Troy Christian) Junior – TR2
21. Kenyon Adkinson (Oak Harbor) Junior – RO5
22. Hayden Dickman (Archbold) Junior – RO6
23. Shan Swank (North Union) Senior – HE8
24. Caleb Stammen (Coldwater) Senior – TR3
25. Jensen Wagoner (Covington) Senior – TR4
26. Drake Bennett (Miami East) Sophomore – TR5
27. Connor Whitt (Benjamin Logan) Junior – TR6
28. Brogan Paxson (Allen East) Sophomore – TR7
29. Zane Hitchcock (Mechanicsburg) Junior – TR8
30. Ashton Simison (Greenon) Senior – TR9
31. Gavan Morris (Waynedale) Senior – GH8
32. Tyler Shaffer (Otsego) Junior – RO7
33. Eli Wolph (Woodmore) Junior – RO8
34. Brady Conine (Arcadia) Senior – RO9
35. John Edwards (Lehman Catholic) Senior – TR10

36. Preston Sellers (Dayton Christian) Junior –TR11
37. Gavin White (Jackson-Milton) Junior –GH9
38. Alex Berry (Norwayne) Sophomore –GH10

Returning state placer and future Army Black Knight, Stoddard, is the obvious choice here after besting top challenger Sapp opening weekend, 3-0. Stoddard finished third last season at 182, losing in the state semifinals to eventual state champ Carson Meyer (Archbold), 3-2. I wouldn't be surprised if it's Sapp or Knight wrestling against Stoddard in the finals. Knight beat Sapp two matches to one when they faced off last season, but this season has gone a little differently so far. Sapp and Knight met in late January, with Sapp coming out on top, 5-4. It is important to note that Stoddard, Sapp, and Knight all exit Garfield, so the district winner will likely have the easier path in Columbus.

Garfield is absolutely loaded here! The top three wrestlers in this class all exit the northeast district. Garfield also very good depth with seven wrestlers in the top 18. Heath has six wrestlers in the top 12, which makes this definitely one of the tougher weights in the district. A couple ranked wrestlers to keep a close eye on there are Weddell and Steinmetz. Weddell has been up at 220 lately and Steinmetz has missed the entire season so far, but I heard there is still a chance we see him back for the postseason. Troy is probably the thinnest district here with only one wrestler in the Top 15. The southwest district does, however, have a respectable 11 total wrestlers ranked above. Another wrestler to watch at Troy is Henry (Greeneview).

215

- Projected Champion: Trevor Stewart (Greenon) Senior –TR1
2. Brett Ogborn (Liberty-Benton) Senior –RO1
 3. Preston Brown (Middletown Madison) Senior –TR2
 4. Zak Dobson (Martins Ferry) Senior –HE1
 5. Lucas Thomas (Harrison Central) Sophomore –HE2
 6. Wyatt Moyer (Sandy Valley) Senior –HE3
 7. Brayden Keihl (Versailles) Senior –TR3
 8. Austin Ryder (Dalton) Senior –GH1
 9. Spencer Mesaros (Ravenna Southeast) Senior –GH2
 10. Michael Lowe (Mogadore) Senior –GH3
 11. Christopher Colucci (South Range) Junior –GH4
 12. Jacob Thompson (Milan Edison) Senior –RO2
 13. Alek Winner (Allen East) Senior –TR4
 14. Caleb Cunningham (Ashland Crestview) Sophomore –RO3
 15. Bryant Pfeifer (Bucyrus) Senior –RO4
 16. Isaac Carmen (Carey) Senior –RO5
 17. Zane Finley (Lucas) Senior –RO6
 18. Bronson Stacy (Brookville) Junior –TR5
 19. Zane Adams (Preble Shawnee) Junior –TR6
 20. Matthew Creamer (Benjamin Logan) Senior –TR7
 21. Charlie Sargent (Centerburg) Sophomore –HE4
 22. Jonathan Rosas (Lakota) Junior –RO7
 23. Andrew Schafer (Columbus Grove) Junior –TR8

24. Micah May (Otsego) Senior – RO8
25. Jonathon Hundsza (Garrettsville Garfield) Senior – GH5
26. Payne Brereton (Hanoverton United) Senior – GH6
27. Dylan Aeschliman (Archbold) Junior – RO9
28. Ryland Ernest (Arcadia) Junior – RO10
29. Zach Babiczuk (Malvern) Sophomore – HE5
30. Landen Sword (Mapleton) Junior – GH7
31. Cooper McKean (Black River) Sophomore – GH8
32. Luke Raines (Smithville) Junior – GH9
33. Nate Morris (Chippewa) Junior – GH10
34. Wade Woodworth (Jefferson Area) Junior – GH11
35. Jacob MacLean (Liberty Union) Senior – HE6
36. Aiden Greene (Bidwell River Valley) Senior – HE7
37. Cohen Hickman (Greeneview) Junior – TR9
38. Adam Waller (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR10
39. Laurence Pugh (Akron Manchester) Junior – GH12
40. Andrew Tucholski (Cardinal) Junior – GH13

Returning state runner-up and two-time state placer, Stewart, is my pick here. He will be seeking to become Greenon's first state champ in school history. Stewart finished second last year at 182 and eighth at 170 in Division 2 back in 2019 while attending Urbana. This will be one of my favorite weights to watch unfold in Columbus, as I think everyone in the top 12 has the ability to reach the state finals. That group looked a tad bigger last week, but I recently heard returning state placer Griffith (Marion Pleasant) will likely miss the postseason. It is important to note that only Stewart meets seeding criteria here.

Heath and Troy are both very strong here with three projected state placers. That puts Rossford and Garfield in the bottom half. Both districts have only projected state placer, but Garfield has more total ranked wrestlers (13). Rossford could get a slight boost if Wolph (Woodmore) decides to stay at 215 for the postseason. He has spent most of the season at 190, but he recently beat Top 15-ranked Carmen here at 215. A few other names to watch at Rossford are Huffman (Liberty Center), Kirtz (Swanton), Schroer (Van Buren), Howard (Bluffton), Schiets (Oak Harbor), Robinson (Delta), and Crawford (Genoa). I think a few unranked wrestlers could also be in the mix at Garfield as well. Those names include Tucholski (Cardinal), Pugh (Akron Manchester), and Camarata (Tuslaw). Camarata wrestled 285 at his conference tournament, so we might see him try his luck there for the postseason instead.

285

- Projected Champion: Eli Criblez (Allen East) Junior – TR1
2. Austin Kohlhofer (Delta) Senior – RO1
 3. Javen Gaines (Tinora) Junior – RO2
 4. Travis Owen (Black River) Senior – GH1
 5. Ryan Elrod (Ashtabula St. John) Senior – GH2
 6. Taran Tyo (Versailles) Senior – TR2
 7. Gyvnn Mendenhall (Columbus Academy) Senior – HE1
 8. Austin Skinner (Middletown Madison) Senior – TR3
 9. Dustin Winner (Miami East) Junior – TR4
 10. Cody Sheller (Evergreen) Junior – RO3
 11. Jackson Berardi (Milan Edison) Senior – RO4
 12. Owen Box (Liberty Center) Junior – RO5
 13. Joe Shoup (Mapleton) Senior – GH3
 14. Seth Stanley (Margaretta) Junior – RO6
 15. Will Fox (Coldwater) Senior – TR5
 16. Brock Bushong (Carey) Junior – RO7
 17. Jacob Wetzel (Fremont St. Joseph CC) Sophomore – RO8
 18. Logan Johnson (Spencerville) Junior – TR6
 19. Tyler Ulrey (Lincolnview) Junior – TR7
 20. Mitch Cline (Ashland Crestview) Junior – RO9
 21. Spencer Simon (Archbold) Senior – RO10
 22. Roman Debolt (Greenon) Sophomore – TR8
 23. Seth Barringer (Elmwood) Senior – RO11
 24. Ayden Fetro (Hopewell-Loudon) Sophomore – RO12
 25. Ethan Bauer (Liberty-Benton) Junior – RO13
 26. Kaleb Surmaceviz (Mechanicsburg) Senior – TR9
 27. Drew St. John (Woodmore) Senior – RO14
 28. Quinton Smith (Fairview-Sherwood) Junior – RO15
 29. Kaden Woolbright (Wayne Trace) Junior – TR10
 30. Ethan Courtaway (Ayersville) Sophomore – RO16
 31. Monte Treesh (Montpellier) Senior – RO17
 32. Marshal Bier (Hannibal River) Junior – HE2
 33. Will Greenberg (Hawken) Freshman – GH4
 34. Dallas McCracken (Hanoverton United) Sophomore – GH5
 35. Michael Lally (South Range) Senior – GH6
 36. Daren Christine (Conneaut) Junior – GH7
 37. John Avalon (Cardinal) Senior – GH8
 38. Kip Stewart (Columbiana) Junior – GH9
 39. Tyler Shellenbarger (Mogadore) Junior – GH10
 40. Landen Thomas (Harrison Central) Freshman – HE3

This is definitely a two-man race in my eyes. I think Criblez is the very slight favorite here over Kohlhofer. Criblez has been perfect this season with a current record of 38-0. Both Criblez and top challenger Kohlhofer were state finalists last year. Criblez fell in the state finals match at this weight, while Kohlhofer won it all down at 220. If Criblez is able to end his junior campaign with a title, he would be

Allen East's first state champ in school history. Owen is the only other returning state placer at this weight after finishing eighth last year. That means only Criblez and Kohlhofer meet seeding criteria here.

As I have mentioned multiple times before, Troy is the strongest district here as well. The southwest district leads the way with three projected state placers and also has eight wrestlers in the top 22. Rossford is also very strong here, with two wrestlers in the top three and 17 wrestlers in the top 31. Another name to watch at each district is Robinson (Plymouth) at Rossford and Rutherford (Carlisle) at Troy. Both wrestlers each have a notable win over Top 20 ranked Cline, but they also have a few losses against non-ranked foes. Robinson has spent some time this season at 215, which could be where he ends up for the postseason. Garfield is tied with Troy for the second most wrestlers ranked here (10). A few other names to watch at the already deep northeast district are Stanley (Wellsville), Ott (W.S. Northwestern) and Pawlowski (Jefferson Area). Heath is definitely the thinnest district here with only one projected state placer and three total ranked wrestlers. Mendenhall is also the only ranked wrestler in the Top 25 to exit there. A boatload of other names that will likely be in the mix at Heath are Fancher (Toronto), Goheen (Bidwell River Valley), Bruney (Martins Ferry), Freeman (Paint Valley), Temple (Huntington Ross), Burns (Chesapeake), Smith (Fort Frye), and Fisher (Mount Gilead). A lot like 106, I think everyone ranked or mentioned at this weight has the ability to qualify for the state tournament. With that said, I also wouldn't be surprised if anyone in the Top 40 reaches the podium in Columbus.

Team Projections

| Finish | School | Nickname | Points | Champs | Placers | Qualifiers |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Legacy Christian | Knights | 147 | 3 | 9 | 9 |
| 2 | Milan Edison | Chargers | 72 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | Miami East | Vikings | 63 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | Mechanicsburg | Indians | 62 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | Waynedale | Golden Bears | 53 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | Delta | Panthers | 47 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | Marion Pleasant | Spartans | 45 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | South Range | Raiders | 44 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | Wayne Trace | Raiders | 43 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10 | Versailles | Tigers | 41 | 0 | 5 | 5 |