Division II

103#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: DAVID TAYLOR (GRAHAM)

Top Contenders

2 Papesh (Aurora)
3 Cribari (West Geauga)
4 Quickle (Hillsboro)
5 McClure (Tri-Valley)
6 Ditcher (Claymont)
7 Gilchrist (Jefferson)
8 Turnbull (Buckeye Local)
9 Keller (Dayton Carroll)
10 Westfall (Lake Catholic)
11 Garringer (Miami Trace)
12 Inghram (University School)
13 Smith (Eastwood)
14 Corpus (Wauseon)
15 Ferris (Jackson)
16 Weisman (Bexley)
17 Rumple (Galion)
18 Minnard (Fairfield Union)
19 Dennis (Holy Name)
20 Shaw (Minerva)
21 Munafo (Perkins)
22 Majoy (Edison)
23 Alsip (Norwood)
24 Risdon (Harrison Central)
25 Morris (Ravenna Southeast)

David Taylor was, perhaps, the greatest youth wrestler in Ohio history. He was a three-time junior high champion who ended every bout in less than 4 ½ minutes, and has been a many time national champ. He is saddled with incredible expectations, but he is an incredible talent. He is a very small 103-pounder and has had to adjust his style to compensate for the size differential he will face nearly every week. Nonetheless, he has won the GMVWA, Beast and Ironman, and was 2nd at Graham, losing a close bout to Sergent the first week. That bout was avenged the following week and it has been clear sailing since then. It's difficult to imagine how good he'll be when he is the same size as everyone else. Unless he gets careless (and I've seen no sign of such a trait), the one real obstacle he likely faces in collecting his first state title is Johnny Papesh. Papesh is a very tall 103# who will dwarf Taylor in height. He is also very good, finishing 4th at this weight class last year. He is undefeated so far, but has wrestled a far easier schedule than Taylor. Nonetheless, his increased aggressiveness has resulted in total domination of his opponents. I suspect he would like bracketing that puts him away from Taylor until the final round, thus making his size advantage even more pronounced.

Taylor should have little trouble at the Goshen District. The only returning state qualifier is Kyle Quickle who Taylor pinned at the GMVWA. Still, Quickle is second-best here and hopes to better his 1-2 record he compiled at Columbus last year. The next two spots are far more problematical. Junior high state place winner, Garringer, may be next best after winning at Groveport and was 4th at the GMVWA – including losing by fall to Quickle. Keller was a finalist at the CIT, including a win over state placer Alex Weaver. Ferris returns at this weight class after winning over 40 bouts last year and

upsetting a sectional champ in the first round. Other possibilities are Alsip and Johnson (Logan Elm).

Papesh will face a somewhat sterner test at Firestone. Cribari is a returning state qualifier who has missed almost the entire year due to injury. He was 2nd at DeSales and has tremendous potential. If healthy, he will push Papesh and certainly has strong state placement potential. Also here is Gilchrist who won the Dies over the excellent Lang and pinned Cruz to win at Southview. The little freshman Inghram is already good, finishing 6th at Brecksville and 4th at the Top Gun. He failed to place at the Ironman, drawing Taylor and Weaver back-to-back. Maybe, even a better freshman is Westfall, who won the CIT, after failing to place at Medina. This is a nice, solid quintet. Morris and Shaw are other possibilities.

I'm not seeing a lot at Galion. Smith is probably the best here, but will not be a huge threat outside this district. He was 5th at the Top Gun, but failed to place at Brecksville losing to Inghram 9-2. One of his biggest contributions was holding Taylor to a major in the state dual final, thus saving two critical points. Had he been pinned, Graham would have won on criteria. Corpus is likely next in line after winning at Van Buren, while Gorman champ Rumple, Dennis, and Munafo are possible threats. The freshman Young also has potential here.

State qualifier McClure heads a relatively weak Watkins District. I also like Ditcher, a finalist at the Top Gun and 6th at Medina. Turnbull, winner at the OVAC, and Risdon, his last round victor, are possible qualifiers. Weisman seems clearly the best in the Central District, and won two district matches last year. Minnard has won several small tournaments and would be a dark horse candidate.

112#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: DENNIS ROCHE (UNIVERSITY SCHOOL)

Top Contenders

2 Tinnel (Eastwood)
3 Penny (Milton Union)
4 Bernard (Geneva)
5 Meyer (Ravenna)
6 Klein (River View)
7 Chapman (Kenmore)
8 Campbell (Perkins)
9 Lay (Greenon)
10 Rose (Cambridge)
11 Knotek (Walsh)
12 Danielson (New Lexington)
13 Nycz (Holy Name)
14 Vaughn (Columbus DeSales)
15 Hildenbrand (Franklin)
16 McClintock (Galion)
17 Allen (Benjamin Logan)
18 Humenik (Revere)
19 Cisco (St. Marys Memorial)
20 Jameson (Indian Hills)
21 Garrabrandt (Claymont)
22 Palladino (Padua)
23 Nakama (Big Walnut)
24 Rowe/Longstreet (Graham)
25 Payne (Orange)
26 Sofoulis (Bryan)

This initiates a run of four very strong and deep weight classes that should be of substantial interest to everyone. The top quartet at 112# is all returning state place winners and, in something of an oddity, all school classifications are represented. Tinnel was the 119# runner-up in Division III. Bernard was 4th in Division I, and Roche and Penny were both 3rd in Division II.

Tinnel, now a junior, transferred from Edison to Eastwood and then moved down a weight class as well. Last year he defeated Opfer for the district title, but then dropped an 8-7 decision to him in the state finals. He got a late start this year, but then was 2nd at Brecksville (to Fields), finishing ahead of Roche, but never meeting him. He was terrific in the state duals, pinning both Knotek and Rowe in under a minute, then at the Top Gun he got caught by Roche and lost a 6-1 decision. Hmm. I wonder if the weight cut is becoming a problem.

Penny has now been 3rd twice losing tough quarterfinal bouts each time (10-8 and 11-9). Last year he split a pair of bouts with Aaron Hart (winning at the Sectional and losing at the District), proving he can compete with anyone. He has won at the GMVWA and Edgewood, and is poised to make a real run in this his senior year.

Roche was a state semi-finalist last year, losing to Pelton in overtime. Also a senior, he crushed all opposition at North Canton and lost only to Fields at Brecksville, while finishing 3rd. Also on his Chapel Hill resume is a 5th place finish at the Ironman in what was a difficult weight class. Then at the Top Gun he outclassed Tinnel and took home a big title. Compact and strong, he has gotten much better on his feet, and will be a real factor.

Bernard lost his district semi-final last year to eventual champ Kevin Hardy, and dropped to 4th. Then he reached the state semi-final again losing to Hardy and once again finishing 4th. I expect him to be a real critical element at Columbus, but I was disappointed in his runner-up finish at Kenston, losing to Peskar 6-1. He'll need to step it up in February.

The bracketing should be good. If the districts play out as anticipated, Tinnel should be bracketed away from Penny and Roche or Bernard, with that loser moving up with Tinnel. However, there are plenty of good 112's who could impact that process.

Tinnel should have a relatively easy time at Ontario. State placer Kidd, who was at 112# for a week, has moved to (apparently) 130#, leaving Spencer Campbell as second best at this location. Campbell won at Tiffin and sparkled at the SBC Duals. It will be a crowded field behind this duo. The Highland Sectional has Nycz, Palladino, and Hermann (Vermillion), with the first two squarely in the picture when it comes to qualification. Nycz was 2nd at the CIT and Wadsworth, and won at Avon Lake, while Palladino was the state alternate at 103# last year. McClintock just won at the Gorman, while Cisco took the Marion Harding tournament. Don't overlook Sofoulis and Corpus (Wauseon) from the far west, who both have previous district experience. These last two qualifying spots will be fiercely contested.

The Goshen District is a little thinner after Penny. The sophomore Lay was a finalist at Medina, losing to Palmer in the title bout. Hildenbrand beat Lay by a point last year and this season was 2nd at Franklin. Allen is also competitive here and this trio might be mild favorites for the last state berths. I don't want to forget Rowe or Longstreet from Graham, who wrestled enormously difficult schedules that wounded their records, but built their abilities. Reeser (Miami Trace)and Jameson look like two other options.

Roche and Bernard will head the crew at Firestone. The sophomore Meyer is now firmly in place at 112#, and he is very good. A state qualifier last year, he went 3-2 finishing a solid 7th. This year he was 4th at the Top Gun, losing badly to Roche, but it was a major step upward after a shaky Brecksville performance. Chapman missed qualification at this class by three points last year, but may well do better this time. He beat Zamaria to win the Dies and was 2nd at 119# at Wadsworth. I really like the freshman Knotek, but this is a tough district at his weight class. He was 4th at Solon and 2nd at Mayfield. Humenik, Delpra (West Geauga), and Payne are other possibilities.

I think low and, maybe, middle state places are within reach of the 112's at Watkins, but not much more. Klein, a three-time state qualifier, has seniority rights and he has been exercising them this year--winning, for example, the Chertow Classic. He is 1-6 in state bouts and has had some very tough first round draws. State qualifier Rose won at Sheridan and Barnesville, and won five bouts at Brecksville to finish 7th (included was a win over Meyer). Danielson fought his way back to 7th after being the #2 seed at Medina and drawing Collin Palmer in the first round. I really like the freshman Vaughn, and he should qualify. He was 5th at DeSales, 6th at Brecksville, 3rd at the CIT, and 1st

at Mayfield. The young Garrabrandt and Nakama (Big Walnut) are people to watch as well.

119#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: AARON HART (GRAHAM)

Top Contenders

2 Pelton (Bellevue)
3 Ulinski (Eastwood)
4 Morton (Canal Winchester)
5 Dean (Akron St. Vincent)
6 Stone (University School)
7 Daugherty (Cambridge)
8 Romeo (Lake Catholic)
9 Silvers (Eaton)
10 Baxter (Perkins)
11 Roth (Norwalk)
12 Martin (Liberty
13 Von Neumann (Dayton Carroll)
14 Dynes (Claymont)
15 Walters (West Geauga)
16 Chappalear (Indian Lakes)
17 Sully (Van Wert)
18 King (Benedictine)
19 Canty (Columbus DeSales)
20 Becker (Minerva)
21 Armstrong (Miami Trace)
22 Hughes (Bexley)
23 McQuillen (Lexington)
24 Van Wey (John Glenn)
25 Leonard (Fostoria)

Probably it's just coincidence, but is seems that we have seen many more serious injuries to top performers this year than is generally the case. So many people have missed large segments of the schedule, while others like Kuhar, Tymosczcuk, and Olds may miss the entire season. At 119# injuries could play a major role in the outcome at Columbus. State qualifier Ulinski, after a brilliant summer season, started the year at 119# for Eastwood, moving state champion Llanas to 125#. A broken ankle suffered right before Christmas may keep him sidelined the remainder of the season – or at least until sectionals. Llanas has since certified at 119#, as has Ulinski, making it uncertain as to who will show up at these next two weight classes. My guess, and that is all it is, has Ulinski at this weight class with Llanas staying at 125#.

The brilliant Hart is again the favorite. A three-time state placer (4-1-2) he was upset last year by Llanas when he did not look to be 100%. A rare three-time winner at the Ironman, he faces formidable competition at this weight class heavy with returning qualifiers. He is a fierce competitor who can win the big bout with everything on the line. Just look at his performance in the GMVWA where he pinned state champion Kolodzik in the final round after defeating state champ Gambill handily, 8-4, in the semis. One place he shouldn't face many difficulties is at the district level. Silvers is a returning state qualifier who made the quarterfinals at Columbus before being run over by Llanas. He met Hart at the district level and suffered a second period fall. This year he was 4th at the GMVWA behind the three state champs, Kolodzik beat him 6-4. He had no trouble winning at Xenia and has placement potential. The rest of this district is a step (or maybe two) behind this twosome. Von Neumann was 4th at the CIT, while

Chappalear and Armstrong have had some wins. Maybe, Turner, with two titles this year, can get to the Schott in this wide-open contest.

The Ontario District is very strong. State runner-up Pelton returns and he is very rugged, especially in the top position. He was 3rd at Brecksville in an absolutely hellacious weight class. He shut out --in succession--Dean, Thome, and Rini on his way to the consolation final. Bellevue has a good back-up. State placer Kidd certified at 119#, but will probably wrestle at 130#. I have Ulinski back for sectionals at this weight class. I didn't see him before his injury, but he was garnering rave reviews after a sparkling summer season. A two time state qualifier he gives Eastwood a great line-up in the lower middleweights. State qualifier Baxter is next best after reaching the district finals last year. He was 3rd at Tiffin. He is not safe. State alternate Roth, Sully, McQuillen, and Leonard all have winning credentials.

It looks like pretty much a two-man competition at Watkins between Seth Morton and Dustin Daugherty. Morton, the 112# district champ last year, had an excellent state tournament. He beat Michaels 14-12 in the first round and upset Jeff Penny in the second 10---two great slam-bang bouts. Llanas cooled him off, but he still finished 4th in an extremely tough weight class. This year he won at Tiffin over McQuillen (by fall) and Baxter and dominated at Watterson. He has finalist potential. Daugherty won at Groveport and the OVAC and is a past state qualifier, too. At that time he caught Hart in the first round. The rest of this district is not particularly strong. Dynes was a state alternate last year who has gotten a late start, but is rounding into shape. Canty was most recently 6th at Mayfield and the CIT and his tough schedule should have him battle hardened by district time. After that, maybe, a Hughes or a Van Wey can make inroads.

Look for some solid performances out of Firestone. Dean looked very good at Solon, beating state runner-up Freeman and losing to Boing by a point. He was 7th at Brecksville losing to state champion Jameson and state runner-up Pelton, but beating state champion Llanas. At the CIT he defeated Von Neumann, King, and Romeo consecutively to win the title. Romeo was champ at Medina beating Birt and Nighman and was 2nd to Dean at the CIT. The wild card here is Stone. After failing to place at the Ironman and finishing 6th at North Canton, he blazed through Brecksville beating Llanas, Arnold, and Rini to reach the finals. Who will show up the dynamo Stone, or the ordinary Stone, is a very pertinent question. At the Top Gun it was the dynamo with a 3rd place finish. State alternate Zach Martin returns, as do the peppery Ricky King, Walters, and Stephen Becker. WIT runner-up Graham could be an important factor at this district.

125#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: BEN JORDAN (GRAHAM)

Top Contenders

2 Keyes (Walsh Jesuit)
3 Llanas (Eastwood)
4 Manfull (Carrollton)
5 Kapper (Canal Fulton NW)
6 McGovern (Columbus DeSales)
7 Salyer (Willard)
8 Espinoza (Rossford)
9 Sulzer (Holy Name)
10 Sheppard (Kenmore)
11 Melillo (Padua)
12 Johnson (Milton Union)
13 Androsko (St. Clairsville)
14 Fraley (Miami Trace)
15 Hogue (Ravenna Southeast)
16 Kovach (Claymont)
17 McHugh (Bellbrook)
18 Riedy (Bellvue)
19 Aleshire (Buckeye Valley)
20 Leonard (Norton)
21 McDole (Tiffin Columbian)
22 Osterloh (McClain)
23 Ray (Cambridge)
24 Goodrich (Chagrin Falls)
25 Carrisalez (Defiance)

A terrific trio of wrestlers is likely to face off at another outstanding weight class. Two are state champions, while the third could easily have won the past two years. There is also substantial history within this group of two seniors and a precocious sophomore.

I guess I shouldn't have been surprised by Ben Jordan's brilliant stretch run. Just the previous year I saw him at Junior High States upset the heavy favorite, defending champ Chase Skonieczny, to take the title. Last year was more of the same. After a narrow first round win he met Keyes in the semi-finals and won an exciting 11-10 victory in a bout that could have gone either way. Then, in an almost exact replay, he entered as an underdog against the defending champ, and won 8-4. This year, getting a lot more attention from opponents, he was 2nd at the Ironman (to Sulzer) and won easily at the GMVWA. At Graham Thome gave him a solid battle before succumbing 7-5.

We'll rate Llanas at 125#, which is "Hartless" in both aspects of the word. At any rate, Llanas was 3rd two years ago and then upended state champion Aaron Hart in last year's final, 6-5, in a match that didn't seem quite that close. It was an electric performance. This year Llanas looked a little shaky early at 125#, and then dropped to 119# for Brecksville. It was an absolutely brutal weight class and Llanas failed to place, losing to the red-hot Stone and Dean. He gave Hart, however, a terrific battle at the Ohio Duals, losing 4-3. Then back at 125# he took the Top Gun against a representative field. They need to choose a weight class for him so he can focus totally on wrestling.

Keyes always loses some bouts early in the year, but comes on strong at tourney time. Two years ago he was 2nd at 112#, losing a tough 3-1 decision to Kriwinsky. Then last year he beat Kriwinsky in the district final only to lose that 9-8 semi-final to Jordan and finish 3rd. After winning at Solon (over state runner-up Freeman) he was 4th at the

Ironman, losing again to Jordan in the semis. He can't let that become a mental thing for him with Jordan. He is primed to become a four-time state placer (4-2-3), but this year only first place will do.

I see Jordan winning again. If the districts go as expected Jordan will be away from both Llanas and Keyes. In that battle, a high scoring one, I think Keyes, every bit as athletic and strong, will squeak out a win over Llanas. However, in the final Keyes will have to overcome the defensive style of Jordan and remain very patient. Instead, a mistake or two will happen and doubt will creep in, and Jordan will have won again.

Keyes should have few problems at Firestone. State qualifier Kapper is the principal threat, but I think Keyes will again handle him. Don't shortchange Kapper, however. He was a state semi-finalist and finished 4th, losing to Keyes 6-1. Sheppard, Hogue, and Leonard all have a chance here with Goodrich probably in that group as well. Freshman Mike Fee may not be quite ready for state action, but I'm often wrong.

There is a lot of depth at Ontario after Llanas. Three returning state qualifiers dot the field (four if Mitchell competes here), but that will not guarantee a return trip. Salyer was a district runner-up, but went 0-2 at Columbus. He was a finalist at Medina, losing to Sulzer (the St. Edward version). Willard has had a bit of a "down" spell, but Salyer has continued to win. Espinoza and Sulzer (the Holy Name sophomore) are both solid with Espinoza picking up an 8th in Columbus. Sulzer was 3rd at Wadsworth and 1st at the CIT beating the excellent Padua newcomer, Anthony Melillo. Melillo also got a 3rd at Brecksville, and is a significant threat here. Factor in Riedy, McDole, and Rogers champion Carrisalez and it is a very strong field.

Jordan had things pretty much his own way last year winning his district title and we can anticipate that again this year. Fraley was a state qualifier at 103# last year, but had an absolutely terrible draw, getting state champion Earley and Papesh back-to-back. This year, up three weight classes, he was 5th at the GMVWA, 1st at Groveport, and second to Llanas, 7-1, at Western Brown. McHugh also qualified (at 112#), but like Fraley was gone after two bouts. He won at Xenia and was 2nd and 3rd respectively at Edgewood and Bellbrook. Johnson finished ahead of Fraley at the GMVWA and might be second best at this district. State alternate Osterloh is also here along with Harmon.

If anybody is ready to challenge my top trio it's state qualifier Matt Manfull. At the Top Gun he crushed Nakama and Lybarger and lost in the finals to Llanas 5-4. Injuries slowed him down last year, but this wrestler is the real deal. McGovern should be second best here. He was 5th at Columbus last year, losing to Jordan in the championship round by six. He has vacillated between 125# and 130#, but I think he'll chose to compete here. I had state qualifier Caudill certified at this class, but I may have been in error. He has competed at 130# in all the results that I have, so I have ranked him there. Androsko, Kovach, and Ray lead the OVAC type competitors, while Aleshire or Nakama might be best in Columbus after McGovern.

130#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ADAM KRIWINSKY (UNIVERSITY SCHOOL)

Top Contenders

2	Saxton (Buckeye Local)	14	Wagers (Williard)
3	Boyd (Graham)	15	Kidd (Bellevue)
4	Skonieczny (Walsh Jesuit)	16	Brassfield (Hebron Lakewood)
5	Reedy (Ravenna)	17	Gifford (Logan Elm)
6	Caudill (Beaver Local)	18	Schenk (Milton Union)
7	Milner (Aurora)	19	Clark (Lexington)
8	Fondale (New Lexington)	20	Cunningham (Miami Trace)
9	Sigurdson (Oak Harbor)	21	Brown (Norwalk)
10	Cozad (Hamilton Ross)	22	Robbe (Batavia)
11	McLaughlin (Canal Fulton NW)	23	Cintron (Alliance)
12	Pusateri (Perkins)	24	Ray (Cambridge)
13	Taylor (Eastwood)	25	Pendleton (Indian Creek)

If you're looking for terrific competition then the Division II tournament outshines the other two. There are more marvelous weight classes and more outstanding match-ups than I can ever remember in the past. This is the fourth consecutive weight that is just loaded with tremendous wrestlers. I count six placers and another half dozen returning state qualifiers setting up some exceptional match-ups.

Leading the way is former state champ Adam Kriwinsky. He won two years ago at 112#, finishing ahead of Keyes, Llanas and Reedy. Last year it was more of the same until the final round where Jordan gained the upset, 8-4. Still, I thought Kriwinsky was the better boy for most of the bout attacking time after time only to be frustrated by Jordan's defense. Kriwinsky had a half dozen good shots he just could not finish. Jordan, somehow, I'm not sure how, escaped probably deserved stalling warnings, and got a couple of other refereeing breaks. Take nothing away from Jordan. He was ablaze that weekend, but there was little to choose between the two. This year Kriwinsky has been devastating. He was 4th at the Ironman, losing to the #1 rated Billy Murphy, 10-9, in a semi-final where he dominated the last two minutes. He tore through North Canton, Brecksville, and the Top Gun in an even more aggressive mode and that will be needed to beat the star-studded group challenging at this class.

A top challenger in his own district is the sophomore Chase Skonieczny. Twice a finalist in the Junior High States (2-1), he was 4th at 125# last year, finishing with a flourish after absorbing some tough early season losses. He was a semi-final loser to Ryan Cubberly 4-2, and then fell to Saxton by three in the battle for 3rd. He was great at Solon, defeating state champion Kevin Hardy for the title. At the Ironman he got caught by Coby Boyd early, but came back to take 3rd beating several state champs--including Koballa and Kriwinsky in overtime. He took the Powerade – beating Hardy again, and then was undefeated at the Ohio Duals. He'll win a couple of titles in his career, maybe starting this year. Also returning is state qualifier Matt Reedy, currently a junior at

Ravenna. Now at 130# he beat state qualifiers Pajestka, Gardella, and McGovern on his way to the finals at Brecksville before losing 15-5 to Kriwinsky. He was 3rd at the Top Gun, losing again to Kriwinsky, but narrowing the margin to 6-3. At most weight classes Reedy would have little problem placing, but it may not be that easy here. Also at Firestone is state placer Milner--7th last year at 125#, and a difficult boy to wrestle. He beat the excellent Mencini, 15-0, earlier in the year, to win at Hudson, but was only 3rd at Aurora against a small field. I also like state qualifier McLaughlin, Cintron, and Richmond Hts. champion Lucas. It's a tremendous district field with lots of potential surprises.

While Kriwinsky and Skonieczny stand out at Firestone, they must know that Saxton out of Watkins is an equal. A three-time state qualifier, I expected that he might have been a finalist long before this. Two years ago he lost to eventual finalist Ryan Cubberly 10-8 in overtime, while last year he drew Doggett in the semi-finals and ended up 3rd. This year he has dominated the Eastern District once again defeating, for example, the excellent Caudill, 18-6 in the finals. He also won the Midwest Classic over a strong field defeating state champion Kevin Hardy, 17-6. His only loss was on a disqualification to Ciccarello at Kent State. Caudill and Fondale both went 1-2 at Columbus last year, but need to be in top form to place at this tough class. Brassfield was undefeated until just recently and could grab a qualifying spot, but Ray, Pendleton, and Huffman could well intervene.

Coby Boyd fills out the quartet of superstars at this class. As a freshman at this weight class last year Boyd cruised into the district semi-finals last year with a 36-5 record, but then lost two of the next three (by a total of three points) to get a 4th. He drew my choice, district champ Jordan Lipp, in the first round and pulled the upset. Friery defeated him in the semis and he fell to 6th. This year he was 5th at the Ironman, losing to former state champ Kriwinsky 5-4, and beating former state champ Koballa. He won the GMVWA, was undefeated in the Ohio Duals and beat Gonsor in the St. Ed's dual. He is a devastating pinner with tremendous upside potential. State qualifiers Gifford and Robbe are in the field, but I'm not so sure that they will even qualify this year. I like Cozad, Schenck, and Cunningham, all of whom have put together excellent seasons. For example, Cunningham won at Groveport (up a weight), placed 6th at the GMVWA, and was 3rd at Western Brown. Schenck has a win over Cunningham, while Cozad won at Edgewood. Factor in Stevenson and Thompson, and there will be a real battle here--for 2nd place.

There are no superstars at Ontario. I had Danny Michaels rated on top here, but a dislocated elbow has apparently sidelined him for the rest of the year. Wagers and Kidd have state experience (Kidd placed at 112#), but they face real obstacles for a return trip. State qualifier Pusateri is also present, but he seems to run hot and cold. He can be very good (2nd at Tiffin), or not so good (5th at North Canton). It looked like he was on the down cycle at the SBC Duals. That leaves Sigurdson and Taylor as potentially on top here, but Clark and Brown are both good. Throw in Shiff or Gregor and anything can happen. If Melillo shows up here that will further complicate things.

The big four here are Kriwinsky, Saxton, Skonieczny and Boyd. Assuming the districts are as projected--problematic at Firestone-- Kriwinsky and Saxton should be apart, with Skonieczny away from Kriwinsky and Boyd, who knows where. That sets up some titanic match-ups that boggle the mind.

135#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: RYAN CUBBERLY (EASTWOOD)

Top Contenders

2	McLemore (Padua)	14	Hilbert (Revere)
3	Andrews (New Albany)	15	Pencil (Springfield NW)
4	Morrison (Miami Trace)	16	McKibben (Claymont)
5	Christensen (Greenon)	17	Stroh (Canal Fulton NW)
6	Tanzillo (Watkins Memorial)	18	Zimmer (River View)
7	Putnam (Norwalk)	19	Shanholtz (Akron St. Vincent)
8	Connelly (Lake Catholic)	20	Siemer (Hamilton Ross)
9	Gayheart (Willard)	21	Szucs (Holy Name)
10	Mahley (Cambridge)	22	Stine (Edison)
11	Brown (Columbus DeSales)	23	Suggett (Norton)
12	Newland/Thomusseit (Graham)	24	Stalder (Athens)
13	Pressley (Oak Harbor)	25	Tubbs (Walsh Jesuit)

The level of high school wrestling in Ohio has advanced so far that just qualifying for the state tournament is an exceptional achievement--and should be recognized as such. Becoming a state finalist is now the result of at least a decade of tremendous work and a dedication that is rarely matched in most other endeavors. That is why it is unusual that we have four competitors at this weight class who have already wrestled late on Saturday for a state title. It is my expectation that one of them will win at this class, but there are at least two other competitors who could derail that outcome.

Ryan Cubberly has already placed three times (3-2-2) and I think it's his time to win one. He has twice been runner-up at 125#, losing both times to three-time champ Cameron Doggett. Frankly, I thought he should have moved to the easier 130# class rather than challenge Doggett a second time. His only losses were at the Beast, where he was 5th, but he won at Brecksville, and the Top Gun – both times winning by huge scores (16-2 and 17-1). More worrisome, have been some very close bouts against wrestlers we would have expected him to beat more easily (Tubbs, Brownlee, etc.). Every year there are a number of wrestlers who have paid their dues and seem deserving of a title (Percival, Horne, Enright in past years); this year Cubberly falls into that category.

Pat McLemore won a state title as a freshman at 103# three years ago, getting off his back to win big. As a sophomore he failed to place at the tough 119# class, and last year was one of frustration. Sidelined with a broken hand, he watched Trevor Bowers

(who he has twice majored) run off with the title. This year he defeated state champion Richie Spicel to win at Avon Lake, finished 3rd at the Ironman, was 3rd at 140# at Brecksville, and then won handily at the CIT. While he certified at 135#, I would not be overly surprised to see him challenge Kyle at the somewhat easier 140# class.

Andrews was a tough luck loser to Scaletta in Division III last year, losing in the second overtime. He ended up with a sparkling 54-2 record, but moves to Division II in 2006. He won at Upper Arlington, New Albany, and beat Dong to take the Midwest Classic in fine style. He was 4th at Medina, losing by fall to Straughn in the semi-finals. Morrison was a surprise (at least to me) finalist at 135#, defeating Rendinell, E. Cubberly, and Kyle in the process before losing 14-10 to Bowers. Miami Trace has an excellent team with Morrison the prime mover, winning at GMVWA and Groveport. He surprised some people last year, but that luxury has now passed.

Never a state finalist, Kevin Christensen is another possible candidate at 135#. Already a three-time state qualifier, he was 4th last year at 130#. A true oddity is that in each of the past three years he has lost in the championship bracket to a Padua wrestler. By this time he must despise the color brown. He'll want to be bracketed away from McLemore. Morrison and Christensen both exit Goshen. State qualifier Pencil is back and sharp as ever. He went 1-2 at states losing to Manfull in the first round. He won at Bellefontaine, up a weight class over the tough Gutierrez. However, I think Newland is probably third best here. His recent 8-4 loss to state champion Harris shows he is competitive with the best. State qualifier Thomusseit could also be here having set a school record, I'm sure, for most different weight classes wrestled. I've got Siemer, Stephens and Stalder on my lists, showing a definite preference for the letter "S".

Cubberly and McLemore both emerge from Ontario and these two great seniors deserve to be bracketed apart there. State qualifier Putnam could be a finalist if that fails to happen. A district semi-finalist last year, he went 1-2 in Columbus. Gayheart and, I guess, Pressley might be next best here, but it's difficult to tell. Szucs could also play a role here and, maybe, Shoch (Avon) as well.

There is some real depth at Watkins. We've already talked about Andrews, but there is much more. State qualifier Tanzillo is extremely dangerous. He has pinned dozens of good wrestlers with that "zilla thrilla" and I'm sure there'll be more victims. Not only is he good, but he'll be wrestling on his home mats as well. Cambridge has really built a great program with a good wrestler at almost every weight class – and a sprinkling of excellent ones. Mahley was a state qualifier last year and pulled off a huge first round upset, dumping Robbie Michaels. This year he was 2nd at the OVAC and was a Brecksville quarter-finalist before being shut out by Cubberly. He was 3rd at Brecksville and may have passed all but Andrews at this district. Also here is Top Gun runner-up McKibben, who is making a late season run at qualification. Was Top Gun a fluke, or is he ready to do battle with the best at this district? I also like Zimmer, Stine, and Bragg (Morgan), but there won't be room for all of them.

The Firestone District is uncharacteristically weak. Hilbert and Connelly are former state qualifiers, but that does not give them a big edge here. State alternate Stroh is a possibility, but I have not seen his name in the results recently. I think Shanholtz is good, but he seems to have gotten off to a slow start this year. Suggett and Tubbs have wrestled well lately and they could potentially qualify. The other possibility is that one or two of the 130's move up hoping to improve their qualification chances.

140#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: JAKE KYLE (GRAHAM))

Top Contenders

2 Cavello (Willard)
3 Collett (West Holmes)
4 Myers (Indian Creek)
5 Fisher (Morgan)
6 Dukeshire (Port Clinton)
7 Wells (Greenon)
8 Triplett (Claymont)
9 Teter (Triway)
10 Horne (Hillsdale)
11 Brown (Walsh Jesuit)
12 Aona (Clyde)
13 Neff (Miami Trace)
14 Hoffman (Eastwood)
15 Paul (Tallmadge)
16 Yackey (Dover)
17 Zofkie (Wapakoneta)
18 England (Aurora)
19 Dennis (Defiance)
20 Grisham (Tipp City)
21 Neill (Vincent Warren)
22 Severance (Sheridan)
23 Windom (CVCA)
24 Giachetti (Oak Harbor)
25 Sills (New Albany)
26 Fetrow (Louisville)
27 Burger (Fairview Park)

You ever give a party and have almost no one show up. That's what it seems happened at 140#. Jake Kyle is there, but people like Friery, Lamancusa, and Robbie Michaels are all at 145#. I suppose there is a chance one of the 135's might move up, but as of the moment Kyle has to be accorded the favorite role. It will certainly be viewed as a plus for Graham in the team competition, but sometimes what seems like good fortune can easily go awry.

Kyle would certainly be an excellent champ. He was 2nd two years ago at 130#, losing to Lashaway, 1-0, in the final. Last year he finished 3rd in his district and got what looked like a bad draw, but then beat Triplett and upset Lipp to make the semi-finals whence a narrow 5-4 loss to Morrison eventually dropped him to 4th. He specializes in tight, low-scoring bouts where his defensive skills become paramount. This year he has had some injury problems, missing some time. He did not place at the Ironman, losing to Lerer and Weinkam, but won at the GMVWA and was perfect at the Ohio Duals, wrestling up a weight class and defeating Lovell and Eric Cubberly. He is a stubborn wrestler who doesn't give in and is just plain difficult to beat.

McLemore has an interesting decision to make. At 135# he would be away from Cubberly at States (they exit the same district), but probably with Andrews and/or Morrison. I believe he can beat both of them so he'd meet Cubberly on Saturday night

as a slight underdog. At 140# he and Kyle could well be in the same half of the draw, but it's a toss-up as to which one would win.

For a variety of reasons many of the wrestlers I thought might challenge Kyle at Goshen at 140# are not competing there--Brownlee and Nichols, for example, moved to Division I. I think Wells is next best after finishing 5th at Medina, pinning Triplett and Dotson in the process. State qualifier Bret Horne certified at this class, but has not competed in some time. If healthy he would be a significant addition to this district. Neff might be fourth best after winning at Western Brown and taking a 4th at the GMVWA. Grisham, Hammoor (Roger Bacon), and Neill are capable back-ups for this top foursome.

It will be a ferocious competition at Watkins, featuring four returning state qualifiers and some exciting new talent. It may well be that the best wrestler is one who has not yet qualified for Columbus. Collett has had some excellent weekends this year, but also at least one mediocre one. He was first at the WIT, pinning Teter and was 3rd at the Top Gun ahead of Triplett, Yackey and Windom (who he pinned), and losing to Bodnar, 9-8. However, at Medina he failed to place and lost to Triplett and Windom. Myers, a two-time state qualifier, was 5th two years ago at 103#, but drew Kriwinsky early last year and failed to place. He won the OVAC at this weight and in the past two years has never lost a district bout (8-0). That record will be tested this year. And let's not forget about Fisher. He roared through the 135# district last year snaring the championship with his closest bout a 9-2 decision. He pinned Tanzillo and Triplett in the last two rounds to punctuate his domination. He opened with two falls at Columbus before losing successive bouts (18-3, 12-3, and 8-2), the last to Kyle. He's been great this year again. He gets on a roll and, maybe, he's a finalist.

There may be some big surprises at Ontario this year, too. However, Cavello won't be one of them. A district 3rd last year, he went 1-2 in Columbus after drawing eventual champ Bowers in the first round. He was a solid 3rd at Medina losing only to Lance Palmer, and the only wrestler to go six minutes with him. The surprise package here might be Dukeshire who has been devastating in recent weeks. He won at Clyde – beating Aona – and starred at the SBC, including a fall over Aona. Watch for him. If Putnam moves up to this class he'll be a major factor, but otherwise state qualifier Aona is probably third best. Other possibilities are Hoffman, Zofkie, Dennis, Giachetti, and Burger. That's a long list, but this is a deep district at this weight class (and many others).

I don't see either the same quantity or quality at Firestone. Teter, Paul, and Brown were also state qualifiers last year, but went 1-6 at the state meet. Teter is probably best after beating Paul 18-7 to win the Dies. He was 2nd at Wadsworth and the WIT (to Collett) and is an experienced competitor. Brown, tall and lanky, likes low scoring bouts where his leg wrestling pays off. He was 6th at Mayfield and perfect at the Ohio Duals where he was able to turn Aona several times on top. England might find this field to his liking, while Windom, Fetrow, and Finlaw (Ashtabula Edgewood) are possibilities.

145#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ANDY LAMANCUSA (WEST BRANCH)

Top Contenders

2	Friery (Padua)	14	Christman (Indian Lakes)
3	Michaels (Clyde)	15	Bordner (Wapakoneta)
4	Schuller (St Clarsville)	16	Coleman (Benjamin Logan)
5	Tank (Oak Harbor)	17	Komaromy (Dover)
6	Lovell (Columbus DeSales)	18	Mann (Orange)
7	E. Cubberly (Eastwood)	19	Teague (Cambridge)
8	Erdman (University School)	20	Steele (Chillicothe)
9	Harris (Kenmore)	21	Whitten (Tipp City)
10	Dukes (Ravenna)	22	Buras (Benedictine)
11	Mannier (Graham)	23	Hartsock (Bryan)
12	Clark (Louisville)	24	Cook (New Lexington)
13	Lorenz (New Philadelphia)	25	Moore (Geneva)

This is easily the best weight class at the state tournament, with an abundance of high-grade talent. As I mentioned in the last essay, I fully expected some of this group to head for 140#, but it did not happen, leaving eight excellent contenders for a finalist showcase. Interestingly they all come from three districts with the Goshen District looking to be cannon fodder at this class. While there is an embarrassment of riches in the field, the corollary is that choosing a winner will be a complex and difficult task.

It's absolutely crazy at Ontario. Look at this district field. Defending state champion Shane Friery will move up three weight classes after spending part of the year at 140#. He wrestled a wonderful State Tournament last year, the only bout in doubt being the quarter-final struggle with Christensen. This year he was 4th at the Ironman, but won at Avon Lake, Brecksville, and the CIT. I have Michaels with over 150 career wins and yet, maddeningly, he has never placed at the state level. A superior performer, it has just never worked out for this two-time qualifier. This is his last chance and he has battled injuries this year, but he won big at Clyde and the SBC Duals so he is ready for that final push. Both Tank and Eric Cubberly are exceptional sophomores. They met last year in the district finals with Cubberly winning 7-2 and only he placed at States. This year Tank won at Oak Harbor and was a solid 2nd at Medina, losing to state champion Nemec in the finals. He has mixed into all that winning a couple of strange losses that will have to be eliminated at this fierce district. Cubberly was 2nd at Brecksville and 1st at Western Brown. A concern here is Cubberly going to his back and being pinned by Kyle and Dukes. I worry about the district pairing since Tank and Michaels are at the same sectional. Also here is Bordner, a state alternate last year, who may not quite have the firepower of this top quartet. He could qualify out of any other district, but he may need to pull an upset to do it here. Hartsock and Swartz are other possibilities.

Lamancusa is capable of defeating anyone here. I thought he might be at 140#, but he has remained at this crowded field. He ended the year with a 40-1 record, losing only in the state semi-finals to the marvelous Sponseller, 9-6, easily, Sponseller's toughest bout in the tournament process. Other than that, Lamancusa won handily. This year he is again undefeated to this point, winning the Dies on a technical fall and defeating Thatcher to win at Riverside. He, however, has not wrestled the same difficult schedule as some of the other top boys. The sophomore Dukes is up three weight classes after being a state qualifier at 130# last year. He was 7th at Brecksville, but won the Top Gun in a flourish, pinning his last two opponents. State qualifier Clark was 4th at Wadsworth, but did not place at North Canton. Instead look for Erdman, who had a great early season start (semi-finalist at the Ironman), and state qualifier Harris to move ahead at this district. Mann, a state alternate, and Buras are also possibilities here, along with Moore. I particularly like the powerful Harris at this class.

There are two very good competitors at Watkins. Schuller was the district champ at this class last year and then wrestled an excellent tournament, finishing 3rd behind seniors Quallich and Pelton. Normally, that would make you the favorite the next year, but not at this weight class. He missed the early part of the year, but won at St. Clairsville (on a TF over Komaromy), and defeated Nicola, 3-2, to win the OVAC. I have him at 26-1 right now. The junior Lovell is also excellent. A great junior high wrestler he is starting to cash in on the expectations many had for him. A state qualifier last year, he has been even better in 2006. He was 3rd at DeSales (behind Straughn), and 3rd at Brecksville (losing a close bout to Friery). He has missed the last few weeks. They should dominate this district. Lorenz is probably third best with Komaromy, Teague, and Lentz (Sheridan) next in line here.

The Goshen District qualifiers are likely to get some tough draws in Columbus. The young Mannier is really improving. He was 3rd at the GMVWA, losing only to the Kentucky state champ and battled Nemec to a 12-7 score at their dual. He also beat Croasmun, Shroyer, and Teague at the Ohio Duals. The latter up a weight class. After him I believe Christman is next best after finishing as the state alternate last year at 140#. After this twosome, Coleman, Steele, and Whitten might have the best chances here.

152#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: COLT SPONSELLER (WEST HOLMES)

Top Contenders

2 Rohler (Akron St. Vincent)
3 Kusar (Revere)
4 Witt (Oak Harbor)
5 Terry (New Albany)
6 Schwartz (Clyde)
7 Van Fossen (New Philadelphia)
8 Hupp (Bellevue)
9 Brooks (Harrison Central)
10 Shroyer (Eastwood)
11 Luster (Graham)
12 Tharp (Fairfield Union)
13 Archer (Padua)
14 Foor (Miami Trace)
15 Cheatham (Walsh Jesuit)
16 Croasmun (Columbus DeSales)
17 Gilson (Napoleon)
18 Wright (Indian Lakes)
19 Mills (University School)
20 Brackett (Bellbrook)
21 Hamad (Perkins)
22 Haddox (Canal Fulton NW)
23 Egan (New Richmond)
24 Eggleston (Minerva)
25 Whitely (Benedictine)

There are two titanic match-ups that will draw incredible attention at the Value City Arena. One is the Falk-Lipp confrontation in Division III and the other, probably even more anticipated, is at this weight class. It brings together two of the most talented grapplers in Ohio in what should be an epic struggle.

Rohler, already signed by Penn State, is probably the second best 152-pounder in the country--or so say the national experts. Yet, he has never won a state title as unlikely as that seems. Two years ago he wrestled a strange final round bout against Ryan Morgan, losing 5-3, and giving up two critical points on penalties. It looked like the pressure had, maybe, gotten to him. Then last year, after beating Rella twice and Erwin once, he rolled to an early lead against unheralded Lance Esch. Again, he seemed to lose focus, get unsteady, and allow Esch to rally for a 9-8 win. It was the most unbelievable bout in the tournament. This year he was out late for football and probably was under-prepared for the Ironman. He lost in the finals to Eric Medina, who was a step quicker on his feet and rolled to three first period takedowns. At the Beast Rohler injured his knee and has not returned to action. I am assured that he will wrestle shortly. Superb in the top position he needs two good legs to work his arsenal of takedowns.

I thought Colt Sponseller might go at 145#, but I think he relishes the prospect of matching up with Rohler. He dominated on his way to the 140# title last year, crushing everyone, but Lamancusa, who kept it reasonably close. This year it's been more of the same – effortless win after effortless win. I'm not sure that's good given that at least with Rohler he'll need six minutes of all out effort. Only a junior, he is one of the best athletes in the state and should be prime recruiting material next year. His only loss the last two years is to Nemec when he was a sophomore. He has won at Medina, the WIT, and the Top Gun, with only Weisenstein going the distance.

I think Sponseller will win, though this choice will undoubtedly motivate Rohler. There are three critical factors. It's been more than a month now and Rohler must still have issues with that knee that "no more than two weeks out" now rings as very optimistic. Second, I think Sponseller is better on his feet--a half-step quicker and a great finisher. Third, I wonder about Rohler's reaction in these big bouts. He's wrestled a lot of them in life, but twice now he has struggled at a crucial moment in the state tournament process. This tendency could be exacerbated if his knee is not 100%.

Last year as a freshman the extremely strong Kusar qualified for Columbus at 145# and went 1-2 at that level. A junior high state champion, he'll win some state titles, but not this year at this weight. Still he has high placement potential. He was 3rd at Solon, losing to Rohler, 16-5, and 2nd at Brecksville, losing to Pycraft. He won at the Dies against a good field. Cheatham has just returned at this class, finishing 4th at Mayfield and beating Schwartz and Croasmun at the Ohio Duals. The freshman Mills is someone to really watch. He has been gaining confidence every week. He was the runner-up at the Top Gun and won four bouts at Brecksville after losing 3-1 to Haxton in the first round. Haddox was 2nd at the Dies, while Eggleston is also a contender. However, one wrestler to watch closely may be Whitely. He has district experience and was a solid 5th at the CIT.

Sharp stands virtually alone at Firestone – particularly since state qualifier Xylon Purkiss will apparently not compete. The major threat will likely be the 215-pounder Scott Weber, up a weight class if Griffin ends up competing at the lower weight. Weber was 3rd at the Dies, 1st at Northwest, and 1st at Medina at 215#. A state qualifier last year, he'll need all his savvy and experience to win while giving up fifty pounds. Other solid possibilities are Duraine, a sectional champ with two district wins, and Horvath, a Division I district qualifier. Other thoughts are Donze (Tallmadge) and Rousher (Canfield), but I'm really struggling here.

There will be no shortage of challengers at Watkins. The district bracket sheet last year at heavyweight had only four seniors, so almost everyone is coming back a year older, a year wiser, and much bigger and stronger. The top-rated man, however, wasn't one of the 12 underclassmen in that bracket sheet. Jimmy Bowersock was, in fact, the state alternate at 215#, losing a one-point decision in his go-to-state bout. This year he has only the "loss" to Guhn on his record and defeated a very strong field to win the OVAC. At about 250 pounds he is not a small heavyweight. I like Hiles next best as this sophomore continues to mature. He beat the excellent Becker to win the CIT, but then finished 5th behind Becker at Mayfield. He was 3rd at Brecksville, losing only to state champ Cameron Wade, and won at DeSales. Nicolozakes was a semi-finalist at Brecksville and was the #2 seed at the OVAC, but was injured and had to default. Three other OVAC heavyweights are very good. State qualifier Petrella has struggled a little more this year than anticipated; while Hinerman and Diagosta join with the others taking turns beating one another. The one to watch is Ickes who has a very successful campaign.

In contrast to Watkins, only four underclassmen were on the heavyweight bracket sheet at Goshen. They're all back and they all could qualify. Sizemore was 1st at Franklin and 4th at Medina. He is a big, tall, strong-looking wrestler who can often overcome mistakes with strength. Parker, substantially smaller, won at Carlisle and Bellbrook, while finishing 2nd to Wagner at the GMVWA. Davis, only a junior, was a state qualifier and went 1-2 at states. He dropped a recent decision to Ickes in overtime at Sheridan. Factor in Kerns (or Hess), Walls, and Taylor and that's solid competition. In Cincinnati Giltz, Calhoun, and Steele (Norwood) were all undefeated into January. I think only the first name can compete with Dayton area boys.

TEAMS

1. Graham — They are looking for their sixth consecutive team championship and eighth overall, but it will not come easily. They have already surrendered the dual meet title, and it will be very close at this venue. Taylor, Hart, Jordan, and Kyle are relatively high probability finalists, but Boyd and Thompson have to be in the top four at their weight classes. The lack of depth at their district may allow them to augment these six with wrestlers like Mannier, Luster, or Newland who can score a few points at the state level.

2. Eastwood — A great team that could easily win the title, but has some tough questions to answer. Ryan Cubberly, Foster, and Nachtrab have the look of finalists and must score big in Columbus. However, Llanas must revert to 2005 form at 125#. Tinnel must stay comfortable at 112#, Eric Cubberly must get through the brutal district at 145#, and Ulinski needs to be healthy and productive at 119#. Get positive answers to those concerns and maybe, some help from Shroyer and Schulte and Graham's long reign will be over – at least for a year.

3. Walsh Jesuit — They have some great individual point-scoring power in Keyes, Skonieczy and Rella, but their backup strength is suspect. The freshman Knotek is going to be a star, while Brown, Cheatham, and Tubbs are back, but it's questionable how many points this quartet can score.

4. Oak Harbor — The brilliant sophomore trio of Magrum, Tank, and Witt should begin to generate substantial point scoring at the state level. They have good back-up with Sigurdson, McCune, Maloney, Giachetti, and Scherf, but how many of this quintet can navigate the brutal Oak Harbor District.

5. Columbus DeSales — The trio of Meyers, Hile, and Lovell is starting to pick up momentum, but two of them are in very difficult weight classes. Brown, Kuechler, Croasmun, and Vaughn probably can reach the States, but can they score there. A key element must be to get McGovern healthy and at the right weight class.

6. Akron St. Vincent — Rohler and Srock should be finalists and score heavily, but they need McMullen and Dean to do some heavy lifting as well. Caponi and Shanholz are the only other possibilities.

7. Clyde — This is a team with plenty of upside, but two big issues – competing in the most difficult district and inconsistent performances by some of their stars. Guhn needs to be totally on track, while Michaels has to wrestle the state tournament of his life. If the two Schwartz boys are in peak form and Aona, Dencer, and Thurn can make it out, they could really move up.

8. University School — Roche and Krwinsky are potential finalists who have looked great all year. If the mercurial Stone wrestles like he did at Brecksville, that's a bushel load of points, too. Then it's up to Erdman, and the freshmen, Mills and Inghram to try and help out.

9. Padua — When you have two state champs in your line-up you can expect a lot of points. Still, they have to get McLemore ideally located in terms of strategy and performance, while Friery has that tough 145-pound class to contend with. If this goes well and Pinzone and Melillo can help, they move up. Another big plus would be if the awkwardly placed Archer can get hot at 152#.

10. West Branch — They have but two state caliber wrestlers, but both have finalist possibilities and could potentially score up to 50 points. However, Sharp and Lamancusa have no margin for error.

11. Miami Trace — A beautifully balanced dual meet team – and why weren't they at the Ohio Duals – that may lack the firepower for the higher reaches of the state tournament. We know Morrison can be a finalist, while Moore (at a tough weight class) and Fraley (up three weight classes) are looking for a second trip to Columbus. They need Neff, Garringer, Foor, and all the rest to all score some state points to put them in the top ten.

12. Willard — This is a team that may have under-performed during the season, but can rectify that with a big state tourney. Cavello, Salyer, Wagers, and Thornton all can score at Value City, while Gayheart needs to help. They have to find the right spot for the talented Rodriguez.

13. Cambridge — This is a long shot candidate, but they have four returning state qualifiers, all of whom should score at the state level. If Wetherell and one of the Ray brothers can get out so much the better. A key element would be a healthy and smiling Nicolozakes getting out at that very tough heavyweight class at Watkins.