

## DIVISION II

### *106 pounds*

1. Jacob Decatur, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
2. Kyle Rowan, Perry, sophomore (Alliance)
3. Payton Burgdorf, Firelands, sophomore (Norwalk)
4. Garrett Lautzenheiser, Louisville, freshman (Alliance)
5. Cael Woods, West Holmes, sophomore (Claymont)
6. Peyton Kellar, Vincent Warren, freshman (Claymont)
7. Jake Manley, Otsego, sophomore (Norwalk)
8. Caleb Greenlee, Gallia Academy, senior (Claymont)
9. Howard Williams, East Liverpool, freshman (Claymont)
10. Dierre Clayton, Akron SVSM, freshman (Alliance)
11. Blake Sheppard, New Lexington, sophomore (Claymont)
12. Jason Mayes, Jefferson, junior (Alliance)
13. Chase Huff, Goshen, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Ethan Fletcher, Canfield, freshman (Alliance)
15. Caleb Hernandez, Napoleon, junior (Norwalk)
16. Trace Braun, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)

ALL – Decatur, Rowan, Lautzenheiser, Clayton; Mayes, Fletcher

CLMT – Woods, Kellar, Greenlee, Williams; Sheppard

NOR – Burgdorf, Manley, Hernandez, Max Orpzadek (Sandusky Perkins, freshman); Rico Cunningham (Sandusky, sophomore)

WIL – Huff, Braun, Ethan Mayo (Valley View, senior), Caleb Thomas (Lemon Monroe, freshman); Jarman Hargrove (Cincinnati Aiken, freshman)

Why not start out our Division II analysis with a discussion of the absolutely loaded and cannibalistic district tournament at Alliance. Last year the tournament featured four teams among the top eight at the state tournament (Canfield, CVCA, Lake Catholic, and SVSM). From a statistical standpoint, it had the most placers among the Division II districts, and by a significant margin had the highest winning percentage and least wrestlers go two-and-out. So, for this year, it adds a pair of very solid teams in Aurora and Louisville from Division I.

This opening weight is illustrative of said landscape at Alliance with three of the top four wrestlers in the rankings, and six in total (as we all know only four can make state). Leading the way here is returning state champion Jacob Decatur, who is also the top ranked wrestler in the country at this weight class. The Ohio State commit has four tournament titles on the season, including those at Ironman and Brecksville. Also here is Cadet freestyle All-American Rowan, who was a state alternate last year as a freshman, as he fell victim to this district's quality depth and being an undersized 106. This season he has three losses, two being to Decatur (semifinal at Brecksville, final at Wadsworth) and one to Moon (final at Maumee Bay), along with four tournament titles.

The third top four wrestler in this weight at Alliance is the freshman Lautzenheiser; he has titles at North Canton, Top Gun, and the Hephner while his lone loss came 9-4 to Burgdorf in the Medina final. Fellow freshman Clayton leads the group of three wrestlers seeking that last state spot; on the season he missed placement at Medina by a match, was third at the Top Gun, fourth at Wadsworth, and has a dual meet win over state placer Woods. The junior Mayes was second at Perry and champion at the EOWL,

and has two wins over the freshman Fletcher; Fletcher was third at Solon, missed placing at Brecksville by a match, fourth at Perry, and second at the EOWL.

Finishing fourth in this state weight last year, the sophomore Burgdorf is ranked second to Decatur. On the season he has titles at Medina and Perrysburg in this weight class. At the Norwalk district, he is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers, both of who qualified for state last year. The sophomore Manley has three tournament titles, and was runner-up to Burgdorf at Perrysburg; while the junior Hernandez has two tournament titles, placed fifth at Perrysburg and sixth at Medina.

Leading the way among five ranked wrestlers at the Claymont district is the sophomore Woods, who placed eighth at state last year. This season he has three tournament titles. Next in line is the freshman Kellar, last year's junior high state champion at 102 pounds; he has spent most of the season up at 113, but will be here for the state series, where he went two-and-out at the Ironman (losing narrowly to fellow freshman Steen from Pennsylvania 2-1 in consolation). The senior Greenlee has four tournament titles, and has split matches with returning state placer Collin Yinger this season (Athens final win, Nelsonville-York finals loss). The freshman Williams placed third at 96 at junior high state last year; while this season he was runner-up at Barnesville and first at the OVAC.

Wrapping it up is the district at Wilmington, which is the shallowest here with just two ranked wrestlers. Despite the presence of St. Paris Graham at this site, that is going to be something of a trend. In the recent past, Wilmington has been a shallow district (last year seeing 21 qualifiers go two-and-out at state is a clear indicator of that), but it is exacerbated this year with Western Brown moving up to Division I. The sophomore Huff was a district placer last year, and this year was runner-up at both SWOWCA and Western Brown; while the freshman Braun was fourth at the GMVWA and champion at Valley View.

#### *113 pounds*

1. Tanner Jordan, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Christian Wayt, West Branch, junior (Alliance)
3. Cole McComas, Beaver Local, sophomore (Claymont)
4. Gavin Ritter, Wauseon, junior (Norwalk)
5. Trey Finnerty, Circleville, sophomore (Wilmington)
6. Jarrett Warrington, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
7. Ryan Jakubiak, Louisville, senior (Alliance)
8. Peyton Blasko, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
9. Sean Neff, Streetsboro, junior (Alliance)
10. Nick Began, Orange, senior (Alliance)
11. Jimmy Balazy, Padua, junior (Norwalk)
12. Jake Hamulak, Chardon, sophomore (Alliance)
13. Josh Dunn, Goshen, sophomore (Wilmington)
14. Matthew Williams, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
15. Koen Kish, St. Clairsville, freshman (Claymont)
16. Jordan Crist, Amanda-Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Waty, Jakubiak, Neff, Began; Hamulak, Williams

CLMT – McComas, Warrington, Blasko, Kish; Crist

NOR – Ritter, Balazy, Noah Alda (Bellevue, sophomore), Tristan Villarreal (Defiance, sophomore); Ty Spencer (Ontario, sophomore)

WIL – Jordan, Finnerty, Dunn, Joey Dima (Valley View, junior); Cameron Smart (Wilmington, senior)

Think back to March 10, 1979 on a Saturday at St. John Arena in Columbus. Back then, St. Paris Graham had never had an individual state champion in wrestling. On that day, Jim Jordan beat Scott Keil of Aurora 5-4 in the 98 pound state final to become the first state champion. Now a full 29 years later on March 10, 2018 ... the first state title won by the Falcons will be state title number NINETY-ONE for this dynasty.

This report suggests that it will come from the junior Tanner Jordan in this weight class. Last year he placed third at 106 pounds, losing 6-4 to Wayt in the quarterfinal; Wayt would lose 4-3 to eventual runner-up McComas in the semifinal before placing fifth. Should Jordan and McComas win district titles, they will be in opposite half brackets at the state tournament, with it being 50-50 as to which one draws Wyatt in a likely semifinal.

On the season Jordan placed fourth at the Ironman and beat a very talented wrestler from Georgia to win the GMVWA. His district at Wilmington features just two other state ranked wrestlers plus returning state qualifier Dima. The sophomore Finnerty placed eighth at state last year; this season he has three tournament titles at 120 pounds, including the Brooke Classic, but will come down here to accommodate returning state champion Keaton. Fellow sophomore Dunn was third at Western Brown and champion at Wapakoneta.

The junior Wayt is the lone wrestler with state experience at the Alliance district, but it is a tournament that features five other ranked wrestlers. During this season, Wayt was champion at the Top Gun and beat McComas 8-1 to win at Cambridge during December; those both came at 120, but he will be at this weight class. The senior Jakubiak leads that group of five, as he has three runner-up finishes on the season (Hephner, EOWL losing 5-4 to McComas, and North Canton) along with a fourth at Medina.

Returning district placer Neff is a junior, who was champion at Hudson. That was where he beat the senior Began, who has titles at Solon and North Coast to his credit. The sophomore Hamulak is next, and was champion at Kenston to go with third place finishes at Solon and North Coast, plus a seventh at Top Gun where he beat Jakubiak. Rounding it out is the sophomore Williams, who was fourth at Maumee Bay and third at Wadsworth.

McComas is joined by three additional state tournament participants at Claymont plus another ranked wrestler. He has three tournament titles in this weight class, including a win over Blasko in the OVAC final, and also placed fourth up a weight class at Medina. Both Warrington and Blasko won state tournament matches as sophomores at 106 last year, while Crist won a state match in Division III last year as a junior.

Warrington placed sixth at Top Gun, and has a 3-2 dual meet victory over Blasko; while Blasko has titles at two tournaments, was runner-up at the OVAC, and missed a top six finish at North Canton by one bout. Crist won a title at Logan Elm early, but there are questions as to his availability. The freshman Kish was fifth at North Canton and third at the OVAC.

Rounding it out is a Norwalk district that features just two ranked wrestlers, both of whom are juniors and returning state qualifiers. Ritter placed sixth at Brecksville, won the title at Perrysburg over state champion Oscar Sanchez, and was runner-up at Maumee Bay; plus he has a major decision dual meet

victory over Balazy, who was runner-up at North Coast before missing placement by a match at Brecksville, and then winning titles at the CIT and his conference meet.

### *120 pounds*

1. Matthew Cardello, CVCA, senior (Alliance)
2. Alek Martin, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
3. Nate Keaton, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
4. Hunter Ryan, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
5. Dominic Carone, Streetsboro, senior (Alliance)
6. Jake Gentry, Hamilton Ross, senior (Wilmington)
7. Joe Wright, Coventry, senior (Alliance)
8. Kyle Petersen, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
9. Brady O'Connor, Indian Valley, junior (Claymont)
10. Jacob Johnson, Jonathan Alder, senior (Claymont)
11. Alex Slattman, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
12. Davin Rhoads, Louisville, freshman (Alliance)
13. Sam VanSickle, Akron SVSM, freshman (Alliance)
14. Bryce Davis, Kenton Ridge, senior (Wilmington)
15. Thayne Kaufman, West Holmes, senior (Claymont)
16. Crae Muzykowski, Licking Valley, freshman (Claymont)

ALL – Cardello, Ryan, Carone, Wright; Petersen, Rhoads, Van Sickle

CLMT – O'Connor, Johnson, Kaufman, Muzykowski; Terry Gatrell (Meadowbrook, junior)

NOR – Slattman, Josh Lyons (Mansfield, sophomore), Matt Kaufmann (Fairview, sophomore), Jimmy Pelland (Napoleon, senior); David Ocasio (Brookside, junior)

WIL – Martin, Keaton, Gentry, Davis; Sean Conway (Dayton Carroll, junior)

Seniors Keaton and Cardello have been in common state tournament weight classes twice, with Keaton placing higher on both occasions. As freshmen, Keaton placed fourth at 106 to Cardello's eight, while last year Keaton beat Cardello 4-2 in the 113 pound semifinal on the way to his state title (Cardello bouncing back to place third). Interestingly on both occasions I had ranked Cardello higher in the state tournament forecast (2017: Cardello champ, Keaton third; 2015: Cardello third, Keaton 14<sup>th</sup>).

Stupid old me, and I'm going to fall prey to it again. Cardello, a three-time state placer headed to the Naval Academy has been excellent this season but for basically one match. That was in the consolation round of 12 at the Ironman where he was pinned by Pacheco from Colorado, which came one round after losing in the tiebreaker to Melendez from Illinois, who is currently ranked third nationally in this weight class. Since then Cardello beat two-time state placers McCrone and Mattin to win the title at North Canton (at 126), was third at Brecksville losing late in the bout to nationally ranked Kamali, and picked up a title at Wadsworth.

His district tournament at Alliance is – stop me where you've heard it before – absolutely brutal in this weight class presently composted. Four OTHER wrestlers possess state tournament experience, plus there are two high caliber freshmen in the weight; in addition returning state qualifier Kelley has spent time in this weight, though I am projecting him to find a landing spot at 126.

Ryan is a three-time state qualifier, placing at state the last two years; he placed third at Solon and North Canton, fifth at Brecksville, and won the CIT. Fellow senior Carone is last year's state runner-up,

having upset McCrone in the semifinal; this season he has titles at Clear Fork and Hudson. Another senior Wright placed eighth in this state weight last year, winning the Hephner in this weight class after winning titles at North Coast and Defiance up at 126. The junior Petersen qualified for state at 106 in Division I last year, and this season was runner-up at Wadsworth and the Suburban League in this weight while missing out on placing at Brecksville by one match up at 126.

Now to the freshmen. Rhoads placed fifth at North Canton up a weight class before finishing fourth at Top Gun, second at the Hephner, and champion of the EOWL. Van Sickle went 2-2 at both the Ironman and the Beast, missed placement at Medina by a match (like Rhoads did at 126), was third at Top Gun, and seventh at Wadsworth; however, in the Top Gun consolation final Rhoads was winning late prior to losing by defensive fall.

Both the freshman Martin (a junior high state champion last year) and returning state champion Keaton exit the district at Wilmington, where they are joined by two other ranked wrestlers. Martin placed eighth at the Ironman, most notably beating returning state placer Josh Heil 5-3 in the match to place. He missed the GMVWA due to injury but did win at Valley View. Keaton finished third in this weight at Olentangy Liberty, while he has three tournament titles at 126, most notably at the Brooke Classic where he majored returning state placer Fogle in the semifinal; at the Ironman, he went 1-2 competing up at 126, losing both matches by a point.

Those other two ranked wrestlers are two-time state seventh Gentry and returning state qualifier Davis, both seniors. Gentry was runner-up at both Franklin and SWOWCA before winning titles at Fairfield and Eaton, while Davis has two tournament titles to go with a second at Tippecanoe and a third at Delaware Hayes.

Four state ranked wrestlers exit the district at Claymont, including three that won a match at last year's state tournament. The junior O'Connor was fifth at Wadsworth in this weight, and has a pair of tournament titles up a weight class; the senior Johnson is down at this weight class, though he has been at 126 for most of the year; while fellow senior Kaufman finished third at Cambridge and second at West Holmes on the season. Rounding it out is the freshman Muzykowski who split matches with Keaton in taking fourth at Olentangy Liberty, and placed third in two other tournaments on the season.

As is an emerging pattern, the Norwalk district is underwhelming with its lower-weights, only one wrestler is even ranked in the top 16. That would be the senior Slattman, who went 2-2 at district last year in the 126 weight class; he finished runner-up at Maumee Bay in this weight after spending December up at 126.

#### *126 pounds*

\*\*Jordan Decatur, CVCA, junior (Alliance)

1. Caleb Brooks, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)
2. Addison Fogle, Licking Valley, senior (Claymont)
3. David Massey, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
4. Connor McCrone, Lake Catholic, junior (Alliance)
5. Hunter Olson, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
6. Dalton Burcher, Indian Valley, junior (Claymont)
7. Nick Moore, St. Paris Graham, freshman (Wilmington)
8. Jake Bartinelli, Medina Buckeye, senior (Norwalk)
9. Douglas Terry, Granville, freshman (Claymont)

10. Isaiah Wortham, Dayton C-J, sophomore (Wilmington)
11. Brian Shaw, Padua, senior (Norwalk)
12. Damani Williams, Mansfield, senior (Norwalk)
13. Luke Hewitt, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
14. Nolan Ray, Wauseon, sophomore (Norwalk)  
*Mason Downs, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)*
15. Zane Minella, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
16. Isaiah Smith, Field, junior (Alliance)

ALL – **\*\*Decatur\*\***, Massey, McCrone, Olson, Hewitt; Smith

CLMT – Fogle, Burcher, Terry, Minella; Jonathan Potts (East Liverpool, freshman)

NOR – Bartinelli, Shaw, Williams, Ray; Andrew Branson (Tiffin Columbian, junior)

WIL – Brooks, Moore, Wortham, *Downs*, Sam Price (Lemon Monroe, junior); Kody Beal (Fairfield Union, freshman)

The next two weights will end up being shaped by the decision of returning state champion Jordan Decatur, one of the nation's best overall juniors, and a Cadet World team member this past offseason. Decatur has spent time at both 126 and 132, though those events at 126 came in December (4<sup>th</sup> at Ironman, champion at Brecksville). It is not clear which weight class Decatur will pick, though these rankings are anticipating that 132 is his choice; I would project him as the clear favorite in either weight class.

There is one individual who would really like to know where Decatur is going to end up, and that is three-time state placer Brooks. His intention is to "mirror" Decatur and pick the opposite weight class. Should Decatur choose 132, Brooks would be the favorite in this weight. While at 126, Brooks was champion at Olentangy Liberty with an overtime win over returning state placer Fogle; while at 132, he went 2-2 at the Ironman (eliminated in overtime by Gabe Tagg) and won a pair of tournaments.

Brooks leads the way at Wilmington, a district that features two additional ranked wrestlers in the freshman Nick Moore and returning state qualifier Wortham. Moore is the younger brother of three-time state champion Mitch Moore and Virginia Tech starting 141 Brent Moore, a two-time state champion. Last year a junior high state champion, Nick was champion at Valley View in this weight class, while failing to place at the GMVWA up at 132. The sophomore Wortham was seventh at the GMVWA and champion at Bellbrook up at 132, while finishing runner-up at CIT and champion at Eaton in this weight class.

The 126 pound weight class sans Decatur at Alliance is certainly a relatively open one, with just three placement contenders among the five ranked wrestlers. Leading the way would be returning state placer Massey and two-time state placer McCrone. The senior Massey was champion at Hudson and Central Crossing and fifth at Brecksville, while the junior McCrone won titles at Solon and the CIT to go with a third place at North Canton, and missing out on placement at Brecksville by a match (losing to Poynter 9-8, whom Massey beat for fifth). Also a placement contender is the junior Olson, a returning state qualifier; he placed seventh at Medina, third at Top Gun, and first at Wadsworth (McCrone pinned Olson in a January dual meet).

Also here are returning state qualifier Hewitt - though he has competed at 120 – and the junior Smith, who was runner-up at Kenston and seventh at Top Gun. If this weight is known to be without Decatur, I

could see another one of the 120 pound contenders move up and try to pounce on the fourth state spot here.

Two wrestlers that have previously placed at the state tournament are among the four ranked wrestlers at Claymont. The senior Fogle placed fifth in this weight last year, and has two tournament titles to go with a pair of runner-up finishes this year (one title and runner-up finish each at 126 and 132). The junior Burcher placed two years ago when competing at 106, while this season he has a pair of tournament titles up at 132; in this weight he was fourth at Wadsworth and missed out on placement at Brecksville by one round. The freshman Terry entered high school as a junior high state runner-up; this season he was champion at Big Walnut and runner-up at Defiance, while also finishing second up a weight class at New Lexington. Rounding it out is the junior Minella, who was fourth at Nelsonville-York and third at the OVAC.

Lastly among the districts is the one at Norwalk, which features four ranked wrestlers, with 2016 state qualifier Bartinelli leading the way in eighth. On the season he was champion at Milan Edison and (at 132) the Mike Lewis Invitational, while placing eighth at Medina and second at West Holmes. Fellow senior Shaw is a returning state qualifier and was fifth at the CIT and North Coast Classic. Another senior Williams placed sixth at the Top Gun while finishing fourth at the Gorman and West Holmes; with the sophomore Ray placing third at Maumee Bay. Also here is returning state qualifier Branson.

#### *132 pounds*

1. Jordan Decatur, CVCA, junior (Alliance)
2. Hunter Yackee, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
- \*\*Caleb Brooks, Circleville, senior (Wilmington)\*\*
3. Wade Monebrake, Eaton, junior (Wilmington)
4. Skyler Lasure, Beaver Local, sophomore (Claymont)
5. Jack Gorman, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
6. Edward Suber, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
7. Caden Blust, Tiffin Columbian, junior (Norwalk)
8. Jackson Muldrew, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
9. Casey Ragle, Norwood, senior (Wilmington)
10. Gabe Steyer, Van Wert, sophomore (Norwalk)
11. Isaiah Stickley, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
12. James Davis, West Carrollton, senior (Wilmington)
13. Adam Lenhoff, Indian Valley, junior (Claymont)
14. Josh Baitt, Jefferson, senior (Alliance)
15. Carter Mickley, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Isaac Bennett, Logan Elm, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – Decatur, Gorman, Suber, Baitt; Mickley, Miles Knuckles (Coventry, junior)

CLMT – Lasure, Muldrew, Lenhoff, Jerome Tucker (Claymont, senior); Landin Price (New Lexington, senior)

NOR – Yackee, Blust, Steyer, Logan Schoen (Sandusky Perkins, junior); Angel Granados (Napoleon, junior)

WIL - \*\*Brooks\*\* Monebrake, Ragle, Stickley, Davis; Bennett

Since this is Decatur's more likely destination, let's discuss his season to date here. Decatur placed fourth at the Ironman losing narrow overtime/tiebreaker matches to fellow state champion Jordan

Crace (who has since left the Graham program) and National Prep champion Bartlett from Pennsylvania, who is ranked second nationally; also at 126 pounds, he was champion at Brecksville dominating 2016 Indiana state champ Garcia 14-5 in the final. Up at 132, he has titles at North Canton, Maumee Bay (over Breeding), and Wadsworth. Last year's state champion is likely failing to make weight at the sectional two years ago from being on track for four state titles.

The district tournament at Alliance has four ranked wrestlers in addition to Decatur, including a pair that have previously placed at the state tournament. The junior Gorman placed eighth at 106 two years ago in Division I, while this season he was fourth at Wadsworth (beating Suber 6-5) and runner-up at the Suburban League. Fellow junior Suber placed seventh at 106 last year, and since missing the first half of the season due to transfer finished second at Top Gun and fifth at Wadsworth. The senior Baitt was a state alternate last year, and in the present season was champion at Riverside to go with runner-up finishes at Perry and the EOWL; while the sophomore Mickley was fifth at North Canton, seventh at Medina and Top Gun, third at the EOWL, and champ at the Hephner.

Returning to the 132 pound weight class for a fourth straight year is Yackee, who placed third last year at state after qualifying the previous two years. He made the drop late in the season after winning titles at Maumee Bay and Perrysburg, along with placing fifth at Brecksville, in order to make his team's overall lineup stronger. Two other ranked wrestlers feature at Norwalk, along with 2016 state qualifier Granados. The junior Blust is a returning state placer, and has three tournament titles on the season (132/138) along with a fourth place finish at Maumee Bay; while Steyer was a state alternate last year as a freshman and this season was champion at Marion Harding.

Even without Brooks, the Wilmington district is very deep in this weight class with five ranked wrestlers, three of whom have state tournament experience. Leading the way is Monebrake, who made state in 2016 as a freshman; this season he was fourth at the GMVWA to go with titles at Top Gun and Eaton. Next is fellow 2016 state qualifier Ragle, who also was a state alternate last year; the senior has titles at Franklin and Norwood to go with a fourth at SWOWCA this season. The sophomore Stickley was runner-up at Valley View and registered a high quality win in beating Messer 8-7 in a recent dual meet. Another returning state alternate is the senior Davis, who competed in Division I last year; this year he has two tournament titles to go with a fourth place finish at Fairfield. Returning state qualifier rounds out this group, as the senior has runner-up finishes at Logan Elm and Central Crossing to his credit.

The Claymont district features three ranked wrestlers, each a returning state qualifier, including returning placers Lasure and Muldrew. The sophomore Lasure has titles at Cambridge and the EOWL, third place finishes at Top Gun and the OVAC, along with a fourth at Medina (two losses to Messer there); while the junior Muldrew placed in Division III last year for Shadyside, fifth at 120, and this year was champion at Nelsonville-York. Fellow junior Lenhoff was sixth at Wadsworth and missed placement by a bout at Brecksville in this weight class; while placing in three tournaments up at 138 (runner-up at West Holmes and third at Barnesville, both losses coming to state qualifiers).

#### *138 pounds*

1. J.D. Stickley, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Andrew Garr, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
3. Luke Wymer, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Maxx Peters, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
5. Anthony Rice, Steubenville, junior (Claymont)
6. Ben Sherrill, Bellbrook, senior (Wilmington)

7. Mike Clark, Medina Buckeye, senior (Norwalk)
8. Mauricio Barajas, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
9. Cole Bailey, Ravenna Southeast, senior (Alliance)
10. Skyler Curry, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
11. Dylan Dodson, Licking Valley, freshman (Claymont)
12. Ryan Wolf, New Richmond, senior (Wilmington)
13. Cole Houser, Benjamin Logan, senior (Wilmington)
14. Austin Pownall, CVCA, freshman (Alliance)
15. Tim Tusick, Padua, senior (Norwalk)
16. Louis Dytko, Columbus DeSales, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Garr, Wymer, Bailey, Curry; Pownall

CLMT – Peters, Rice, Dodson, Dytko; Noah Smith (Beaver Local, senior)

NOR – Clark, Barajas, Tusick, Mason Haas (Maumee, senior); Muhammed Mahdi (Toledo Central Catholic, senior)

WIL – Stickley, Sherrill, Wolf, Houser; Brayden Ploehs (Hamilton Ross, junior)

After being closed out of the lineup as a freshman and sophomore, J.D. Stickley used the 2016 Ironman as a launching point to become known to everyone in the Buckeye State. He placed seventh at 138 in that event, and would go on to win the state title in said weight class with decisive wins over returning state runner-up Jake Martinez (9-1) and returning state third Grunden (8-1) in the semifinal and final.

This year's Ironman served as a different type of launching point for Stickley. Coming off a Super 32 where he missed placement by a match, an accomplishment in and of itself, he won the title at the Ironman. Along the way he knocked off three-time National Prep placer Robinson from New Jersey, Elan Heard, and then it was an 11-7 victory over national top five wrestler Abas from California in the final. Stickley has subsequently missed some time due to injury, and did lose to Andonian in last month's dual meet, but it's still been a breakthrough senior season for him.

Behind Stickley there's a group of four wrestlers that have not necessarily separated themselves in any true fashion. Ranked second is the junior Garr, who qualified for state as a freshman in Division I at 120, but injury precluded him from a state series run last year. On the season he was 2-2 at the Ironman losing to a pair of nationally ranked wrestlers, placed fourth at Brecksville, and finished runner-up to Baughman at both Wadsworth and the Suburban League (semifinal wins over state placers Wymer and Regalbutto on those occasions).

Next in line is the senior Wymer, a returning state placer and three-time state qualifier. Like Garr, he'll exit the district at Alliance. He went 3-2 at the Ironman and placed seventh at the Beast before finishing third at Medina, champion at Top Gun, and fourth at Wadsworth. Three other ranked wrestlers will exit the Alliance district.

The senior Bailey was champion at Smithville beating state placer Baker in the 145 weight class before coming to this weight to make the semis at the Top Gun and then win the Hephner. Fellow senior Curry has two tournament titles, a fourth at the Top Gun, and missed placing at Brecksville by one match; while the freshman Pownall was a junior high state champion last year and this year has placed at North Canton, Maumee Bay, and Wadsworth.

The other two members of the four person challenge group exit from the district at Claymont. Two-time state qualifier Peters beat returning state placer Rice 6-5 in a regional semifinal dual meet. This season Peters was champion at Barnesville, runner-up at Brecksville, and fifth at the Top Gun (losing to Wymer in the semi). Rice has titles in three tournaments, including the OVAC over Powerade placer Martin from West Virginia; while up at 145, he went 1-2 at the Ironman, with his win coming in overtime over two-time National Prep placer Crane from Pennsylvania.

Two other ranked wrestlers exit the Claymont district. The freshman Dodson was champion at Cambridge and Heath, runner-up at Olentangy Liberty, and missed placing at Brecksville by a match; while the senior Dytko was third at Olentangy Liberty and New Lexington and second at Marion Harding.

Three ranked wrestlers will join Stickley at the Wilmington district, returning state qualifiers Sherrill and Wolf along with 2016 state qualifier Houser, while 2016 state qualifier Ploehs is also present for a relatively deep district weight class. The senior Sherrill was third at the GMVWA, while winning titles at Eaton and (at 145) Bellbrook; Wolf was champion at Milford; and Houser has tournament titles at Sidney and Benjamin Logan to go with a pair of tournament runner-up finishes and a seventh at the GMVWA.

Closing it out is a Norwalk district that features just three ranked wrestlers, with only seniors Clark and Barajas possessing state tournament experience. Clark has four tournament titles, including finals victories over state qualifiers at the Gorman and West Holmes, along with a seventh place finish at Medina; while 2015 state qualifier Barajas has spent most of the season at 145 where he was champion at Perrysburg and seventh at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Tusick was runner-up at North Coast and champion of his conference meet.

#### *145 pounds*

1. Mitch Moore, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Gage Grunden, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
3. Ben Pasiuk, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
4. Jax Leonard, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
5. Dakota Bunting, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
6. Micah Marshall, Dayton C-J, senior (Wilmington)
7. Beau Smith, Beaver Local, junior (Claymont)
8. Caleb Blake, Tippecanoe, senior (Wilmington)
9. Jake Potok, Akron SVSM, junior (Alliance)
10. Collin Mell, Lima Bath, senior (Norwalk)
11. Noah Barnett, Sheridan, senior (Claymont)
12. Bret Baker, Norton, senior (Alliance)
13. Justin Schneider, Maumee, senior (Norwalk)
14. Zach Dunn, Goshen, junior (Wilmington)
15. Hayden Danals, Caledonia River Valley, freshman (Claymont)
16. Michael Gray, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)

ALL – Leonard, Potok, Baker, Sean O’Dwyer (University School, junior); Justin West/Dalton Duvall (CVCA, senior/freshman)

CLMT – Pasiuk, Bunting, Smith, Barnett; Danals, Gray

NOR – Grunden, Mell, Schneider, Calvin Brown (Elida, senior); Sam LoFaso (Padua, junior)

WIL – Moore, Marshall, Blake, Dunn; Jonas Proffitt (Westfall, senior)

Winning state titles in 1976-1979, Mark Zimmer from Columbus DeSales became the first in Ohio history to win four state titles. In total that number is now 29. Should Tommy Hoskins win the Division III title at 126 pounds, that number would be 30 by the time Mitch Moore is possibly in position to win his fourth state title on Saturday night, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Out of that group, six wrestlers have won all four in a Graham singlet, while Dustin and C.P. Schlatter each won two of their titles in the Black & Gold.

Along with Moore, this weight class features a pair of returning state runners-up in Grunden (who lost to Stickley last year) and Pasiuk (who lost 2-0 to Moore in last year's 132 final and 2-0 to Josh Venia in 2016 at 106). Each wrestler exits a different district, so it would theoretically yield a Grunden vs. Pasiuk semifinal with Moore in the opposite half bracket.

Along with those four possible state titles, Moore is also a four-time placer at the Super 32 Challenge (something that's pretty rare in and of itself) and a four-time placer at the Ironman. He did sputter a bit in placing eighth at the Ironman this year; his round of 16 win came in overtime against a nationally ranked wrestler, his two losses in consolation came in overtime to nationally ranked opposition, while the quarterfinal loss was on a defensive fall rather late in a tight bout. However, Moore came through in a big way for his team to beat Dover 4-2 in a winner take all match during the St. Edward dual; he did lose the subsequent week 5-4 to North in a dual meet.

Three ranked wrestlers will join Moore at the Wilmington district, a group led by fellow seniors Blake and Marshall, both returning state qualifiers. Blake has been runner-up in three tournaments this season, including losses to Marshall in two of those finals; while Marshall was runner-up at the GMVWA losing to Moore by fall, runner-up at two other tournaments (Bellbrook and CIT), and beat Blake in the final at both Tippecanoe and Eaton. The other ranked wrestler is the junior Dunn, who was champion at Western Brown. Also present is returning Division III state qualifier Proffitt.

Two-time state runner-up Pasiuk – only a junior – went 2-2 at the Ironman before winning tournament titles at Licking Valley, Top Gun (three wins over returning state qualifiers/placers), and West Holmes. Five other ranked wrestlers join him at Claymont to make this a very deep and congested district. Next in line is the senior Bunting, a returning state placer who was champion at Barnesville, sixth at Brecksville, and missed placing at the Top Gun by one match (loss to Leonard in consolation). Two-time state qualifier Smith is a junior with runner-up finishes at the OVAC and EOWL in this weight class, placing eighth at the Top Gun.

The senior Barnett is a returning state alternate, and has titles in four tournaments this season. The freshman Danals was champion at Nelsonville-York, beating Gray in the final, and was one match from placing at Medina; while the senior Gray was fourth at North Canton, runner-up at Nelsonville-York, and fifth at the OVAC.

Grunden has placed third and second at the state tournament, while competing for Defiance, and the senior made a later than expected return to the lineup. He's joined by two other ranked wrestlers at Norwalk, both seniors, returning state qualifier Mell and district placer Schneider; also here is returning state qualifier Brown. Mell was champion at Allen County and Lima Senior, where he beat two returning state placers to earn gold, and third at Defiance; while Schneider has titles in two tournaments, placed fourth at Defiance, third at Perrysburg, and sixth at Maumee Bay.

Rounding it out is an Alliance district with just three ranked wrestlers, but two of them are returning state placers and all three made the state tournament last year. The sophomore Leonard was runner-up

at North Canton and champion at Medina in the 152 weight class before dropping into this weight, where he placed third at the Top Gun before winning titles at the Hephner and EOWL meet. The senior Baker placed seventh at state last year and was runner-up at Smithville and the Gorman this year, while the junior Potok was seventh at the Top Gun and third at Wadsworth after missing the first half of the season due to his transfer from Tallmadge.

### *152 pounds*

1. Sandro Ramirez, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
2. Jashon Hubbard, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
3. Joey Sanchez, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
4. Justin Shaw, Carrollton, senior (Claymont)
5. Jarrett Munyan, Sheridan, senior (Claymont)
6. Dylan Miller, West Branch, senior (Alliance)
7. Briar Cadle, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
8. Jared Musci, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
9. Will McGhee, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
10. Chris Anderson, Streetsboro, junior (Alliance)
11. Isaac Yoho, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
12. Luke McKeon, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
13. J.D. McNett, Defiance, senior (Norwalk)
14. David Frederick, Dayton C-J, freshman (Wilmington)
15. Zach Altman, Napoleon, senior (Norwalk)
16. Jacob Armstrong, Indian Valley, sophomore (Claymont)

ALL – Miller, Musci, McGhee, Anderson; Yoho, McKeon

CLMT – Hubbard, Shaw, Munyan, Cadle; Armstrong

NOR – Ramirez, McNett, Altman, Nick Smythe (Bellevue, senior); John McNulty (Padua, junior)

WIL – Sanchez, Frederick, Damion Williams (Urbana, senior), Zane Nelson (Washington C.H., senior); Keegan Rawlins (McClain, senior)

Three wrestlers stand out as the class of this field, all were in the 145 pound weight class last year at the state tournament from which Kevon Freeman won his second state title. Each is also a multi-time state placer, and seeks that elusive state title in their senior season. Ramirez placed third as a freshman before finishing second the last two years (losses to Rocky Jordan and Freeman in the 145 final); Hubbard is also a three-time state placer (third at 106 as a freshman, fourth at 132 as a sophomore, and third last year after losing 1-0 to Ramirez in the semifinal); while Sanchez has placed fifth at 152 and fourth at 145 the previous two years.

Notre Dame College bound Ramirez was one match from placing at the Ironman down at 145 before placing fourth at Brecksville in this weight class and winning the title at Maumee Bay; Hubbard has titles in three tournaments this year, and was runner-up at the OVAC meet, losing 3-0 to the nationally ranked Humphreys from West Virginia; while Sanchez placed eighth at the Ironman and picked up a second win over Gallagher in the dual meet.

Ramirez exits a district at Norwalk with just two other ranked wrestlers, returning Division III state placer McNett another senior in Altman. McNett was runner-up at Defiance and a semifinalist at Perrysburg, while Altman was third at Perrysburg and runner-up at Wapakoneta.

Hubbard exits a relatively strong district at Claymont with four additional ranked wrestlers, including another returning state placer in fellow senior Shaw, who has titles at two tournaments this year (including a win over state qualifier Plank in the West Holmes final) to go with a runner-up finish at Top Gun. Fellow senior Munyan qualified for state two years ago, and finished runner-up at Watkins in this weight; while up a weight class he won three tournament titles, including a finals victory over Miller at Cambridge, and was runner-up at Marion Harding. Another ranked senior is returning district placer Cadle, who was champion at Barnesville, sixth at Top Gun, and missed placement at Brecksville by a match. Rounding it out is the sophomore Armstrong, who was fifth at Wadsworth in this weight, while placing top three in three tournaments up at 160.

Sanchez exits a weakish Wilmington district with just the freshman Frederick among the top 16 ranked wrestlers. He was runner-up at Eaton in this weight class, while winning a title at Tippecanoe up at 160, along with third place finishes at Bellbrook and the CIT.

The remaining district is a rather deep one at Alliance that features six ranked wrestlers, including four with state tournament experience. Two-time state qualifier Miller was runner-up to open the season at Cambridge in the 160 weight class and fifth at the Top Gun in this weight class before suffering a head-scratcher of a loss in the EOWL final. Fellow senior and returning state qualifier Musci placed fifth at Medina and second at Wadsworth, but failed to place at Top Gun (including a loss to Miller). Last among those that made state last year is two-time qualifier McKeon, also a senior, who missed the first half of the season due to injury; since return he was runner-up at the CIT and his league meet while placing fourth at Wadsworth.

The other with state experience is fellow senior Yoho, who made it in 2016 before deciding to stop wrestling prior to last year's state series. This season he was runner-up at Hudson and Central Crossing, while placing eighth at Brecksville. Returning state alternate McGhee is a junior, who placed eighth in the 160 weight at Brecksville, while in this weight he was 2-2 at the Ironman and third at Wadsworth. Finally among the ranked wrestlers is the sophomore Anderson, who was champion at Clear Fork and Hudon.

#### *160 pounds*

1. Ryan Thomas, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Kevon Freeman, Lake Catholic, senior (Alliance)
3. David Johnson, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)
4. Caleb Cass, Cloverleaf, senior (Alliance)
5. Xavier Torres, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
6. Brandon Daniels, Carrollton, junior (Claymont)
7. Quentin Kelley, Akron Hoban, senior (Alliance)
8. Ethan Hernandez, Norwalk, sophomore (Norwalk)
9. Brahm Ginter, Shelby, senior (Norwalk)
10. Kaden Bunting, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
11. Hayden McGee, Maysville, junior (Claymont)
12. Blake Wickline, Bloom-Carroll, senior (Claymont)
13. Austin Hinzman, Coventry, junior (Alliance)
14. Justin Mayes, Bellevue, freshman (Norwalk)
15. Isaac Allen, Wilmington, senior (Wilmington)
16. Trevor Boyd, Vermillion, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Freeman, Johnson, Cass, Kelley; Hinzman

CLMT – Daniels, Bunting, McGee, Wickline; Brady Oberdier (Vincent Warren, sophomore)

NOR – Torres, Hernandez, Ginter, Mayes; Boyd

WIL – Thomas, Allen, Seth Hodapp (Eaton, senior), Ross Lennon (Clinton-Massie, senior); Caleb Linton (Logan Elm, senior)

Like in Division I at 120 pounds, this weight class features a two-time state champion and a returning state champion. Also like in that scenario, the two-time state champion is not projected to win the state title. While Freeman did outplace Thomas to win his 2016 state title at 132 pounds, Thomas out-placed Freeman in winning the Walsh Ironman at the beginning of the season.

Further, Thomas was a Super 32 champion prior to the start of this season; while Freeman fell short of that standard in placing fifth at the Ironman and sixth at the Beast. In other action this season, Thomas was champion at the GMVWA, though he did suffer one slip up, losing 3-1 to Marsh in an early December dual meet; while Freeman has titles at Solon, Brecksville, and Wadsworth to his credit.

Thomas exits what is by far the weakest district in this weight class, the one at Wilmington that features just one other ranked wrestler. The senior Allen is a returning state alternate; this season he has runner-up finishes in three tournaments, a third at Eaton, and a seventh at the GMVWA.

Freeman exits a relatively robust Alliance district at this weight class with four other ranked wrestlers, two returning as state placers. The senior Johnson had a disappointing district tournament last year at Division I Walsh Jesuit to miss out on state after a regular season that projected him to a mid-placement finish; while he missed the first half due to transfer, and most of January due to some sort of injury, he did beat returning state placer Cass 12-5 in a regional semifinal dual meet. Cleveland State commit Cass placed sixth at state last year, and this season has three tournament titles to go with a second at Wadsworth and a fifth at Medina; while returning state third place winner Kelley, also a senior, has spent most of his season at 170 (Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> and Hephner 5<sup>th</sup>) before coming down to this weight and winning his conference title. Also ranked here is the junior Hinzman, who was third at the Hephner in this weight class.

Three returning state qualifiers are among the five ranked wrestlers coming from the Norwalk district. The junior Torres was fourth at Brecksville and runner-up at Perrysburg in this weight class, while placing fifth at Maumee Bay up at 170. The sophomore Hernandez does not have a loss this season from what I can tell, and have five tournament titles, including those at Kenston and the Gorman. The senior Ginter is the lone returning state placer of the group; he was runner-up at Clear Fork at 170 before dropping to this weight, placing fourth at the Gorman and missing out on placement at the Top Gun by a match.

The pair after a fourth state spot is led by the freshman Mayes, who won a pair of tournaments up at 170 along with finishing second at Tiffin Columbian, while losing to Hernandez 1-0 in the final at Clyde in this weight. The senior Boyd was champion at Clear Fork and runner-up at the Gorman, but missed out on placement at Maumee Bay by one match.

Last is a group of four ranked wrestlers at Claymont, from which the junior Daniels and the senior Wickline each won a state tournament bout last year. Daniels has two tournament titles to go with a fourth at North Canton and a fifth at Top Gun, while Wickline has runner-up finishes at Nelsonville-York and (at 170 to McGee) West Holmes, while placing fifth at Defiance and going 1-2 at the Top Gun. The junior McGee is a returning state alternate, winning up a weight at West Holmes as just mentioned;

while in this weight class it was failing to place at Defiance and losing to Wickline in the semi at Nelsonville-York. Rounding it out is the senior Bunting, last year a district placer, who placed fourth at the Top Gun this season.

#### *170 pounds*

1. Rocky Jordan, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
2. Ashton Eyler, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
3. Anthony D'Alesio, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Hank Carey, Streetsboro, junior (Alliance)
5. Keegan Vanmeter, Granville, junior (Claymont)
6. Spencer Robinson, Woodridge, senior (Alliance)
7. Wesley Pauley, McConnellsville Morgan, junior (Claymont)
8. Cole Hivnor, Lake Catholic, freshman (Alliance)
9. David Tuttle, Steubenville, sophomore (Claymont)
10. Lucas Salmon, Sandusky Perkins, junior (Norwalk)
11. Jack Rogan, Akron Springfield, senior (Alliance)
12. Jarrod Setliff, Medina Buckeye, senior (Norwalk)
13. Gabe Phillips, Norwalk, sophomore (Norwalk)
14. Bryce Hart, Cloverleaf, senior (Alliance)
15. Brent Paulus, Louisville, sophomore (Alliance)
16. Sean Netherton, Westfall, senior (Wilmington)

ALL – D'Alesio, Carey, Robinson, Hivnor; Rogan, Hart, Paulus

CLMT – Eyler, Vanmeter, Pauley, Tuttle; John Mautz (New Lexington, senior)

NOR – Salmon, Setliff, Phillips, Noah Pasquinelli (Maumee, senior); Johnny Witschi (Clear Fork, senior)

WIL – Jordan, Netherton, Chris Conger (Washington C.H., senior), Blake Coy (Dayton Carroll, junior); Gage Johnson (Franklin, sophomore)

The Jordan name is synonymous with wrestling in the Buckeye State. They have become the first family for wrestling no matter what anyone says. Jim (1979-1982) and Jeff (1980-1983) Jordan each won four state titles at St. Paris Graham, while during Jim's senior year the Falcons won their first of 19 state titles via the individual tournament. Jim was a three-time All-American at Wisconsin, winning national titles in 1985 and 1986; while Jeff was a two-time All-American, also at Wisconsin, placing fourth in 1987 and 1988.

Jim's sons Ben and Isaac each won three titles at St. Paris Graham. Ben's titles came in 2005, 2006, and 2008 with a finals loss in 2007 to Jeff Pelton (2-1); Isaac won titles in 2010-2012, with an 11-4 loss in the 2009 semifinal to Ty Mitch. Ben would earn one All-American finish at Wisconsin, seventh as a senior; while Isaac would All-American three times (seventh in 2014 and 2015, runner-up in 2016).

Jeff's two oldest sons each won four titles at St. Paris Graham, Bo doing so from 2010-2013 and Micah from 2011-2014. Bo is already a three-time All-American, placing third in 2015 and 2016 before finishing runner-up last year; Micah earned All-American honors for the first time last year, finishing fourth. His third and final son Rocky is a senior this year, winning state as a sophomore and junior, but losing to Cameron Kelly 3-0 in the state final as a freshman.

Summed together the brothers Jeff and Jim, along with their five sons, are a combined 106-3 at the OHSAA state wrestling tournament; with Rocky a senior this year that number is likely to jump up to

110-3! Between them there are 24 state titles right now, should Rocky win this year that would make 25. That hypothetical total would make those seven wrestlers rank joint 12<sup>th</sup> (with Cleveland West Tech) among any school in OHSAA history; a total that is one less than the formerly great Chanel program, from which J. Jagers is an alum. So far the six Jordan's over two generations to compete in college have combined for 13 All-American finishes.

During his senior season, Ohio State commit Rocky won the Ironman and was named its Outstanding Wrestler. Just one other ranked wrestler joins him at the Wilmington district, returning Division III state qualifier Netherton, a senior who has runner-up finishes at Logan Elm and Athens this season.

The primary contender to dethroning Rocky Jordan would be two-time state placer Eyler, who views the task as something of a "Vision Quest". Eyler placed seventh up at 182 in the Super 32 Challenge during the preseason, while winning a title at Barnesville in that weight class during the regular season. He dropped down to 170 for Brecksville, where he placed third after losing by fall to state champion Lagoa in the semifinal. Three other ranked wrestlers join Eyler at the Claymont district, including a pair of returning state qualifiers.

The junior Vanmeter won a state tournament match last year at 160, while this season he has runner-up finishes at Defiance and New Lexington to his credit. Fellow junior Pauley went two-and-out last year in the 160 weight class at state, while this year he has three tournament titles at 182 before dropping to this weight class and winning at Watkins. Rounding out the ranked group is the sophomore Tuttle, last year a state alternate; this year he was third at the OVAC, and while competing at 182 placed sixth at North Canton.

In what does not qualify as breaking news, the Alliance district is absolutely loaded with seven ranked wrestlers, including three with state experience, led by returning state placer D'Alesio. The sophomore was fifth at Brecksville and runner-up at the EOWL. The junior Carey and senior Robinson return after winning a state tournament bout last year. Carey was champion at Clear Fork and Hudson, where he beat three state tournament participants along the way; while Robinson was third at Hudson and champion at Central Crossing.

The freshman Hivnor was a junior high state champ last year, who has three tournament titles to his credit (North Canton beating state placer Reicosky in the final, CIT and his conference meet). He also was third at Wadsworth, a semifinalist at Solon, and 2-2 at Brecksville. The senior Rogan has runner-up finishes at the Hephner and Mapleton; fellow senior Hart has placed in five tournaments, including fifth at Medina; while the sophomore Paulus has placed in four tournaments, including fifth at North Canton and Top Gun.

Rounding it out is a Norwalk district that features three ranked wrestlers, but none with state experience. The group is led by the junior Salmon, last year a state alternate; this year he has a title at Lorain to go with a fifth at North Coast and seventh at Medina. Next is the senior Setliff, who has two titles to go with a fourth at Medina and runner-up at the Gorman; while the sophomore Phillips was champion at Kenston and runner-up at the Gorman up a weight class before dropping here to pick up a title at Clyde.

#### *182 pounds*

1. David Crawford, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
2. David Heath, Akron SVSM, senior (Alliance)

3. Duce Johnson, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
4. Noah Clary, Upper Sandusky, senior (Norwalk)
5. Cody Neece, Sheridan, junior (Claymont)
6. Hunter Johns, Dayton C-J, junior (Wilmington)
7. Eliot Clark, Bexley, senior (Claymont)
8. Sam Hunter, Sandusky, sophomore (Norwalk)
9. David McCullough, Keystone, senior (Norwalk)
10. Rocco Pearce, Cloverleaf, senior (Alliance)
11. Daniel Greiner, Batavia, senior (Wilmington)
12. Ryan Buckley, New Richmond, senior (Wilmington)
13. Josh Baldrige, West Holmes, junior (Claymont)
14. Andrew Shaffer, St. Paris Graham, sophomore (Wilmington)
15. Spencer Reynolds, Eaton, senior (Wilmington)
16. Kenny Marra, West Branch, freshman (Alliance)
17. Alex Carrothers, Carrollton, sophomore (Claymont)

ALL – Crawford, Heath, Johnson, Pearce; Marra, *Marcus Davis (Alliance, senior)*

CLMT – Neece, Clark, Baldrige, Carrothers; Dalton Cunningham (Warsaw River View, sophomore)

NOR – Clary, Hunter, McCullough, Ryan Haas (Maumee, senior); Matt Abraham (Padua, junior)

WIL – Johns, Greiner, Buckley, Shaffer; Reynolds

The top three ranked wrestlers will exit the Alliance district, stop me where you've heard that before. Crawford joined Georgio Poullas from Canfield in recently winning state as a junior. Poullas won his state title at 152 in 2016, while falling to Ryan Thomas in last year's 160 state final, 6-4 in overtime. Crawford, the Pitt signee, was a key member of Canfield's run to the regional final in football this fall; in addition to his obvious role as a three-time state placer in the resurgence of their wrestling program (runners-up the last two years in the individual tournament and making a debut appearance in the dual team event this weekend).

During this season, Crawford was champion at Perry winning by major decision over a Pennsylvania state placer in the final, and also at the EOWL. He has lost in two finals bouts to nationally ranked wrestlers from Division I here in Ohio, 3-0 to Lawson in the Brecksville final and 5-4 to Marcelli in the final at Green. His most direct challenger comes close to home in a potential district showdown against fellow senior Heath, a Brown signee. Heath lost to Crawford in the district final last year in the tiebreakers, while his state tournament loss came 12-4 to eventual runner-up Williams in the quarterfinal. In this season, Heath missed placing at the Ironman by one match, finished fourth at the Beast, was runner-up Baughman at Medina (8-3), champion at Top Gun, and third at Wadsworth (1-0 semifinal loss to Lawson). Third at state last year in the 182 weight class, Johnson had a record setting fall as a tailback at Alliance, while in wrestling he was runner-up at Beaver Local during early December; however, I haven't seen a result for him since, so his availability is in question.

Two other ranked wrestlers are present at Alliance, the senior Pearce and the freshman Marra. Pearce has a pair of tournament titles to his credit before placing third at Hudson, fourth at Medina, and fifth at Wadsworth. Junior high state champion Marra has split time between 182 and 195, where he won a title at Cambridge; while in this weight it's a third place finish at the EOWL and missing placement by one bout at the GMVWA and Top Gun.

Outside of the Alliance trio, two-time state qualifier Clary is next in line. For the season, he has titles at four tournaments, including a 7-4 victory over two-time state placer Stoll at Marion County; he also was runner-up at the GMVWA. Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at Norwalk, fellow seniors McCullough and Hunter. Returning state alternate McCullough was eighth at Brecksville, runner-up at West Holmes, and champion at Willoughby South; while Hunter was fourth at Defiance and Maumee Bay, and third at the Gorman.

Two other returning state qualifiers will exit the Claymont district, the junior Neece and the senior Clark. Neece transferred in from Fairfield Union so he missed the first half of the season, but since return he has a runner-up finish to his teammate Loughman at Watkins in the 195 weight class; while Clark was champion at Marion Harding. Two other ranked wrestlers also are in this district, the junior Baldrige and the sophomore Carrothers; Baldrige was runner-up at Smithville, while Carrothers was runner-up at Licking Valley and fifth at the Top Gun.

Rounding it out is a solid group of five ranked wrestlers at the Wilmington district. Leading the way here is the sophomore Johns, who is up three weights from last year; this year he has three tournament titles, while placing third at CIT and fourth at GMVWA. Next is the senior Greiner, a returning state qualifier, who has runner-up finishes in three tournaments this season. Fellow senior Buckley is a returning state alternate, finishing third at Milford this season with a 13-12 semifinal loss to Grenier. Next is the sophomore Shaffer, who placed fourth at the GMVWA down at 170 before winning the title at Valley View in this weight class; while rounding out the group is the senior Reynolds, who was runner-up at Eaton.

#### *195 pounds*

1. Stone Day, Valley View, senior (Wilmington)
2. Gage Braun, St. Paris Graham, senior (Wilmington)
3. Jud Ramage, Meadowbrook, senior (Claymont)
4. Matthew Cover, Bay Village, junior (Norwalk)
5. Jackson Gear, Cincinnati McNicholas, senior (Wilmington)
6. Nick Crawford, Canfield, sophomore (Alliance)
7. Justin Ocheltree, Keystone, senior (Norwalk)
8. Noah Arnett, Defiance, senior (Norwalk)
9. C.J. Williams, Norton, senior (Alliance)
10. Owen Loughman, Sheridan, junior (Claymont)
11. Alec Maloney, Norwalk, sophomore (Norwalk)
12. Colin McNamara, Aurora, junior (Alliance)
13. Cory Stallings, Cloverleaf, senior (Alliance)
14. Sam McNulty, Sandusky Perkins, sophomore (Norwalk)
15. Keith Bodnar, Steubenville, sophomore (Claymont)
16. Zach Miller, Wapakoneta, senior (Norwalk)

ALL – Crawford, Williams, McNamara, Stallings

CLMT – Ramage, Loughman, Bodnar, Griffin Rathburn (Bishop Hartley, junior); Dylan Boysel (Jonathan Alder, senior)

NOR – Cover, Ocheltree, Arnett, Maloney; McNulty, Miller

WIL – Day, Braun, Gear, C.J. Cook (Bellefontaine, senior); Deegan Borris (Hillsboro, senior)

For the second straight year, Valley View's Stone Day will have to clear a Graham rival in order to get his school's first ever state title. Last year he became the school's first state finalist, but lost 3-2 in the ultimate tiebreaker to Kavan Sarver at the Schott; Day had three previous wins against Sarver (regular season, sectional, district) to one defeat (regional dual) in that season. Day already beat fellow senior, and returning state runner-up Braun 5-4 in the Valley View final this season; both wrestlers have also committed to wrestle at MAC schools, Day at Kent State, Braun at Northern Illinois.

Day also has titles at five other events, including a tiebreaker victory over Baker in the final at Franklin; while Braun was fourth at the Ironman and champion at the GMVWA. Just one other ranked wrestler joins them at the Wilmington district, and that would be two-time state qualifier Gear, who this season has two tournament titles to go with a runner-up at SWOWCA and third at the CIT.

Just one other state placer features in this weight class, and that would be three-time state qualifier Ramage, who was fifth in this weight last year. On the season he was champion at Beaver Local in this weight and at Barnesville up a weight. Joining him for district at Claymont are just two other ranked wrestlers, 2016 state qualifier Loughman and Bodnar. Loughman qualified for state on that occasion as a freshman, while this year he has third place finishes at Marion Harding and Sheridan to go with a title at Watkins; while the sophomore Bodnar was champion at Nelsonville-York and fifth at the OVAC meet.

Returning state qualifiers Cover and Ocheltree anchor a group of six ranked wrestlers at Norwalk. The junior Cover was a Cadet National double All-American over the summer, including a runner-up finish in freestyle; this season he's been champion at five tournaments, including Medina, Avon Lake (where he pinned Ocheltree), and Green (where he pinned Crawford). His lone loss is 4-3 in a dual meet to Ben Smith. The senior Ocheltree was third at Avon Lake, champion at Willoughby South and West Holmes, while finishing fifth at Brecksville.

The senior Arnett finished third at Defiance and Perrysburg. The sophomore Maloney was champion at Kenston and Clyde, while placing fifth at the Gorman. Fellow sophomore McNulty was runner-up at Lorain and fourth at the North Coast, while missing out on placement at Medina by a match; while the senior Miller was champion at Wapakoneta.

While there are no returning state qualifiers at Alliance, the field does feature four ranked wrestlers, though there is a clear drop off down to a hypothetical fifth option. Leading the way is the sophomore Crawford, who was closed out by two state placers last year. This season he was runner-up at Perry, fourth at Brecksville, and third at Green and the EOWL. Next in line is the senior Williams, a returning district placer; this season he won a title at Smithville down at 182 before finishing third at the Gorman and second at Green in this weight. The junior McNamara placed third at both Wadsworth and the Suburban League meet, while the senior Stallings is a returning state alternate with three tournament titles on the season but placed fourth at Wadsworth.

### *220 pounds*

1. Johnny Shafer, St. Paris Graham, junior (Wilmington)
2. Tyler Stein, Canfield, junior (Alliance)
3. Breslin Walker, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
4. Brandon Phillips, Maumee, senior (Norwalk)
5. Brandon Matlock, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
6. Mikey Addis, Norwalk, senior (Wilmington)
7. Austin Smith, Amanda-Clearcreek, senior (Claymont)

8. Connor Johnston, Upper Sandusky, senior (Norwalk)
9. Evan Kaeck, Wapakoneta, sophomore (Norwalk)
10. Tyler Bath, Vermillion, senior (Norwalk)
11. Luke Shively, New Lexington, senior (Claymont)
12. Ben Davis, Circleville, junior (Wilmington)
13. Chavion Young, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
14. Skylar Wooley, East Liverpool, sophomore (Claymont)
15. Kole Aubiel, Claymont, junior (Claymont)
16. Deontae Williams, Canton South, junior (Alliance)

ALL – Stein, Walker, Matlock, Young; Williams

CLMT – Smith, Shively, Aubiel, Wooley; Mason Cox (Fairland, senior)

NOR – Phillips, Johnston, Kaeck, Bath; Sebastian Chavez (Napoleon, junior)

WIL – Shafer, Addis, Davis, Sam Brothers (Clinton-Massie, senior); Nathaniel Armstrong (Kettering Alter, junior)

After a string of weight classes where there was some semblance and direction of order at the top, this weight class represents anything but. For a second straight year, the now junior Shafer will enter the tournament as the projected state champion. However, last year that meant absolutely nothing as he ended up finishing seventh; when combined with a fifth place finish as a freshman, he is now a two-time state placer. On the season, Shafer placed sixth at the Ironman before winning titles at the GMVWA and Valley; recently he lost a dual meet match to two-time Michigan state placer McKiernan.

His district at Wilmington is again shallow with just two other wrestlers ranked. The senior Addis is a returning state qualifier, who placed fifth at SWOWCA. The other ranked wrestler is the junior Davis, who was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Logan Elm while finishing third at Athens and the Brooke Classic. Also in this weight is returning state qualifier Brothers.

The two wrestlers directly behind Shafer exit the Alliance district. The junior Stein qualified for state last year at 195, but went 1-2; however, he subsequently placed at the Flo Nationals and the UWW Cadet Nationals in the off-season. This season he was fifth at Brecksville (beating Walker 5-2 in the consolation quarterfinal), champion at Perry, and third at the EOWL meet losing only to Willis 3-1 in overtime. The sophomore Walker qualified for state in this weight, also going 1-2. This season he placed third at North Canton and seventh at Brecksville before winning titles at Maumee Bay (beating returning state runner-up Phillips in overtime along the way) and Wadsworth.

Three other ranked contenders will challenge at the Alliance district, including the senior Matlock, who placed fourth up at 285 last year. On this season he won a title at Hudson, lost to Stein in a dual meet, and was fourth at the EOWL meet (also losing to Stein in the consolation final). Fellow senior Young was runner-up at Beaver Local, fourth at the Top Gun, and fifth at the EOWL meet; while it's round out by the junior Williams, who was third at Beaver Local and champion at Benjamin Logan.

Returning state runner-up Phillips has four tournament titles on the season, including one at Bellevue where he beat returning Division III state qualifier Kuhn (he also won at Defiance at Perrysburg). His losses came in the semifinal and consolation semifinal at the Maumee Bay Classic. Three others join Phillips in the rankings at the Norwalk district. Returning state alternate Johnston is a fellow senior, who has third place finishes at the GMVWA, Gorman, and Marion Pleasant to his credit on the season. The fellow sophomore Kaeck was champion at Wapakoneta after placing third at Maumee Bay and fifth at

the GMVWA. While the group is rounded out by the senior Bath, who qualified for state at 195 last year; this season he has two tournament titles to go with fourth place finishes at the Gorman and Maumee Bay.

The Claymont district features four ranked wrestlers, led by returning Division III state qualifier Smith, who has titles at Logan Elm and New Lexington on the season. Fellow senior Shively has four tournament titles on the season, including a win at Athens over returning state qualifier McCollister, along with a runner-up finish at New Lexington and missing placement at Medina by one match. The sophomore Wooley was third at the OVAC and seventh at New Lexington; while the junior Aubiel was third at Barnesville, sixth at Top Gun, and has a 3-2 dual meet win over Shively.

### *285 pounds*

1. Jack Delgarbino, Girard, junior (Alliance)
2. Sam Mitchell, Warsaw River View, senior (Claymont)
3. Tyler Ely, Steubenville, senior (Claymont)
4. Lane Cluff, Hillsboro, junior (Wilmington)
5. Sean Lipscomb, Firelands, senior (Norwalk)
6. Travis Kuttler, Minerva, senior (Claymont)
7. Alex Leasure, Alliance, senior (Alliance)
8. Daniel Kapalko, Canfield, senior (Alliance)
9. Matt Holman, CVCA, sophomore (Alliance)
10. Mason Weldon, Galion, senior (Norwalk)
11. Lyle Clark, Claymont, senior (Claymont)
12. Grant Robinson, Bexley, senior (Claymont)
13. Alex Sosa, Wauseon, senior (Norwalk)
14. Chris Julian, Warren Howland, senior (Alliance)
15. Ambrose Adams, Lexington, senior (Norwalk)
16. Alex Coleman, Hamilton Ross, sophomore (Wilmington)

ALL – Delgarbino, Leasure, Kapalko, Holman; Julian

CLMT – Mitchell, Ely, Kuttler, Clark; Robinson

NOR – Lipscomb, Weldon, Sosa, Adams; Jacob Jackson (Toledo Central Catholic, sophomore)

WIL – Cluff, Coleman, Seth Bowman (Eaton, junior), Trent Wilson (Valley View, senior); Connor Barton (Wilmington, senior)

Just a junior, DelGarbino has the chance to be the next elite heavyweight in this state. He placed fourth last year at 220, and spent the off-season just continuing to get better; finished as runner-up to Earnest in the unofficial UWW Cadet freestyle tournament at 125 kilos then participating in both styles at the Junior Nationals in Fargo, including a run to the quarterfinals in Greco-Roman. It's paid off this season as he is undefeated and mostly dominant with notable titles at Solon, Top Gun, and the EOWL.

There is only one other returning state place-winner in this weight class, and that would be the senior Mitchell who finished sixth last year after making the state semifinal in this weight class. On the season he has titles at four tournaments, but picked up a dual meet loss in December to Hill of Bedford. At the Claymont district, Mitchell will be joined by returning state qualifier Ely, runner-up at North Canton and the OVAC this season, along with titles at two tournaments. In a dual meet, Mitchell did pin Ely. Three other ranked wrestlers are present in the field, all of whom are seniors.

A district placer two years ago, this season Kuttler placed third at Cambridge and Coshocton, while finishing runner-up at the Top Gun and fifth at North Canton. Clark was sixth at Barnesville, seventh at Brecksville, and eighth at the Top Gun; while Robinson was champion at Marion Harding. Also here is the sophomore Potts from DeSales, who is not ranked, but does have a pin of Division III #2 Bodkin at New Lexington.

Delgarbino is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Alliance district, with only the senior Leasure a returning state qualifier. During this season he was champion at Beaver Local, runner-up at the EOWL, fourth at Top Gun, and missed placing at Brecksville by a match. Next is the senior Kapalko, who was closed out last year by state runner-up Mason Giordano; this season he was fourth at Brecksville and third at the EOWL, losing 3-2 to Leasure in the semifinal. The sophomore Holman was a state alternate in this weight last year, but just returned after missing the bulk of the season due to injury. Finally ranked here is the senior Julian, champion at Hudson and fourth at the EOWL.

Two of the remaining three state qualifiers exit the Wilmington district, a group that is led by the junior Cluff, who has wins at three tournaments this year. The other ranked wrestler at this district is the sophomore Coleman, who was champion at Franklin before placing fifth at Fairfield and third at Eaton. Also in this district is returning state qualifier Wilson.

Rounding it out is the group at Norwalk with four ranked wrestlers, including returning Division III state qualifier Weldon, who this season was third at the Gorman, runner-up at Van Buren, and champion at Tiffin Calvert. The top ranked among the group in this district is fellow senior Lipscomb, who was champion at Milan Edison and Perrysburg along with third at Medina. Another senior is the returning state alternate Sosa, who went 2-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville before placing third at Perrysburg and missing out on placing at Maumee Bay by one match. Last is another senior Adams, who won titles at the Kilted Classic and Clyde, along with taking fourth at the Gorman.