

Trail Trash

2015 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler
and on the net at www.Davey1.com

*Featuring Commentary &
Predictions by ...*

The Swami

Welcome to season number twenty-two of Trail Trash. It seems like the regular season just got started, and here we are approaching tournament time.

New for 2015 in Northwest Ohio is the move to the “super sectional” format where all teams in a district are seeded together with the top two seeds required to go to separate sectional sites. The only way that the top two seeds can meet will be in a district final. The remaining teams in the district have the choice of any available line on the bracket at either of the sectional sites. District semifinal games will match winners from the same sectional. Also part of the new format is on-line seeding, a move that has received positive feedback.

The new format not only rewards the top two seeds in a district

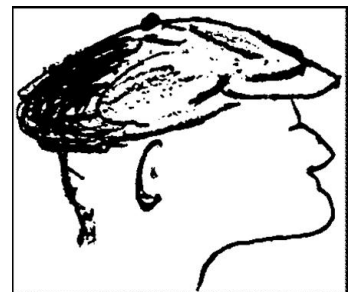
Since 1994, Trail Trash has been published twice annually in conjunction with the state boys basketball tournament. In addition to tournament brackets, Trail Trash has included the expert predictions of the Swami. For those of you familiar with the Swami, we say no more. For the small number of you not familiar with the Swami, he is the self-proclaimed guru on Northwest Ohio high school hoops.

Since the fall of 2004 Davey1.com has featured the most complete collection of Ohio Boys High School Basketball Schedules and results that can be found in one place anywhere on the internet. We have gathered all of the schedules from the schools in the OHSAA Northwest District. We wrote our own special software using a Microsoft Access database to compile and display our schedules. Nowhere else will you find the amount of information that we present on Davey1.com.

but also should help those teams that were previously stuck in a strong sectional. How many times have we heard that one sectional is so much stronger than the other sectional in a particular district? The top four seeds in the D4 Lakota district would have played each other in the Eastwood sectional under the old format. It also appears to give some of the higher seeded teams the opportunity to avoid teams until the district final. There are districts that are spread out geographically and with that are concerns about the amount of travel for mid-week games. Assigning teams to different districts would have alleviated some of those problems. That would have meant changing some sectional sites, but it appears that it was feasible. D1 with only twenty teams overall and a majority of them in the Toledo area might be best off by seeding all the teams together and letting them cross districts. Four sectional and two district sites would remain. Nothing requires that the structure of the D1 tournament be the same as the other three divisions. Regardless of the format and sectional sites, there would be some travel in D1.

Next year will bring the biennial reclassification of schools based on enrollment so there are likely to be changes in division assignments. The reclassification normally results in changes in tournament sites and can also mean changes in the number of sectional and district tournaments in Northwest Ohio. Let us hope that this year is a learning process for the new format and it can be tweaked and improved upon for next season.

There has been some talk about the elimination of neutral sites for the sectional tournaments.



The Swami is strongly in favor of maintaining neutral sites. End of discussion.

The 2014-2015 season marks the first year for the Northern 10 Conference and the Sandusky River League. There are already changes on the horizon for those two leagues with Crestline leaving the Northern 10 for the Mid-Buckeye and the SRL evolving into the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division. Montpelier will be leaving the NWOAL for the BBC and Tiffin Calvert will be heading to the River after a brief stop in the TAAC. Changes breed changes and more will be coming.

Time to break out the Ouija board and go to the predictions.

DIVISION I

Undefeated Sylvania Southview has been the top-ranked team in the state in D1 by the Associated Press for the past several weeks. Despite the ranking, Southview continues to get the Rodney Dangerfield treatment from fans and “experts” around the Toledo area. Lima Senior has gotten the most attention with a new coach in Quincey Simpson and the addition of four transfers including 2014 D3 State Tournament MVP Xavier Simpson from Lima Central Catholic and Western Carolina recruit Elijah Pughsley from Cincinnati Hughes. A veteran Ashland team has flown under the radar for most of the season and is just starting to receive mention in the state poll. Toledo St. John’s is in a rebuilding year but swept the season series with Lima and is the TRAC champ. Mansfield Senior is coming on strong as the end of the regular season approaches.

Lexington replaces Galion as a sectional site, and Liberty-Benton replaces Bowling Green State University as a district site. L-B will host district semi-final and final games. Under the old format in that district, the sectional sites hosted district semi-final games. Marion Harding is no longer part of the OHSAA’s Northwest District and is now with the Columbus area teams in the OHSAA’s Central District. With Harding’s departure, Oregon Clay moves from the Toledo district to the Liberty-Benton district.

District champions from Liberty-Benton and the University of Toledo will meet in a regional semifinal

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game at the University of Toledo. The winner of that game will play the winner of the University of Akron regional semifinal between the Broadview Heights district winner (Lakewood St. Edward, Berea-Midpark, Elyria) and the Grafton district winner (Lorain, Cleveland St. Ignatius, Brunswick). The regional final will be played at the University of Toledo.

In 2014, D1 was the only division in which a Northwest Ohio team did not claim a state championship.

SECTIONALS

LEXINGTON: Top seed Ashland, #3 Perrysburg, and #4 Mansfield Senior are all on the Lexington side of the bracket. Ashland is the OCC champion. The Arrows only loss to date was to Medina in the season opener. Isaac White became Ashland’s all-time leading scorer earlier this season. Perrysburg and Mansfield Senior meet in an excellent sectional final. The Tygers have a streak of thirteen consecutive sectional championships. Senior High will finish second in the OCC while Perrysburg is battling Springfield for the runner-up spot in the NLL. 2013 district champ Anthony Wayne and Oregon Clay make the long journey to Lex for a weeknight game. Clay’s last win came against Lima Senior on Valentine’s Day 2014.

Semifinal – Anthony Wayne over Oregon Clay

Finals – Ashland over Anthony Wayne; Mansfield Senior over Perrysburg

OTSEGO: #2 Lima Senior is the top seeded team at Otsego. The Spartans dropped their first two games of the season to Wapakoneta and Toledo St. John’s. Lima will finish as the runner-up to St. John’s in the TRAC. Xavier Simpson leads the TRAC in scoring. Six of the top seven players in the Spartans’ rotation are underclassmen. Findlay is in the top half of the TRAC standings. The Trojans are going after their sixteenth straight winning season. Madison was off to a strong start before losing leading scorer Tyrell Ajjian to a season-ending injury in January. Fremont Ross and Bowling Green round out the field at Otsego. BG lost an outstanding player in guard La’Monta Stone who transferred to River Rouge, Michigan to play for his father.

Semifinal – Fremont Ross over Bowling Green

Finals – Lima Senior over Fremont Ross; Findlay over Mansfield Madison

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Sylvania Southview and NLL rival Springfield are the top seeds at Central Catholic. Southview’s NLL championship is their first since 2009. Ben Casanova, a transfer from Philadelphia, is the leading scorer and rebounder in the NLL. Former University of Toledo coach Stan Joplin is in his fourth season at Springfield. The Blue Devils have a D1 prospect in 6’9” Demajeo Wiggins. #5 Toledo St. Francis jumped over to the Central Catholic side of the bracket opposite Springfield in what should be an excellent sectional final. The Knights are much improved over the past several seasons. Sylvania Northview and Toledo Waite meet for the chance to face Southview. Northview has been competitive in both games with archrival Southview.

Semifinal – Sylvania Northview over Toledo Waite

Finals – Sylvania Southview over Sylvania Northview; Springfield over Toledo St. Francis

TOLEDO WAITE: #2 Toledo St. John’s and #4 Toledo Central Catholic are the top seeds at Waite. St. John’s is the TRAC champ. The Titans have won seventeen straight sectional titles. Ed Heintschel is in his thirty-sixth year as head coach of the Titans and is currently sixth all time in Ohio for career wins. With a number of players coming off a D3 state football championship, Central Catholic has been inconsistent. The Irish have won five straight sectional titles. Toledo Start plays Toledo Whitmer to get things started at Waite. Whitmer has a good group of underclassmen but lacks size. 2014 district champion Toledo Bowsher is in a major rebuild after graduation losses. The Rebels have a good sophomore class and have qualified for the Toledo City League’s “final four.”

Semifinal – Toledo Whitmer over Toledo Start

Finals – Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Whitmer; Toledo St. John’s over Toledo Bowsher

DISTRICTS

LIBERTY-BENTON: Mansfield Senior is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Ashland over Mansfield Senior; Lima

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Senior over Findlay

Final – Lima Senior over Ashland

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Toledo Bowsher is the defending district champion. Five different district champions over the past five seasons. Will Southview make it six?

Semifinals – Sylvania Southview over Springfield; Toledo St. John’s over Toledo Central Catholic

Final – Toledo St. John’s over Sylvania Southview

DIVISION II

Norwalk brought home a state championship in 2014 in a great year for D2 basketball around Northwest Ohio. For 2015, WBL foes Defiance and Celina are the only state ranked teams from NW Ohio in D2 according to the Associated Press. 2014 AP poll champion and 2015 NOL champ Ontario has not gotten much love from the AP despite only one loss on the season. Kind of makes you wonder how this whole voting thing works. There are several other teams having excellent seasons including Toledo Scott, Sandusky, and Rossford.

Mansfield Madison replaces Bucyrus and Sylvania Southview replaces Oregon Clay as sectional sites. The Toledo Central Catholic district looks very competitive with eight of the eleven teams having records above .500 at the time of the draw.



The regional tournament will again be held at BG’s Stroh Center. The Mansfield district winner will play the winner of the North Ridgeville district (Bay Village Bay, Keystone, Parma Heights Holy Name, Vermilion) and the Toledo Central Catholic district winner will play the Liberty-Benton district winner in semifinal games. Again in 2015, there will be a D2 team from Northwest Ohio advancing to the state tournament.

SECTIONALS

MANSFIELD MADISON: #1 Ontario and #3 Shelby are the top seeds at Madison. Ontario has wrapped up the NOL championship giving the Warriors a co-

championship and an outright championship in their two seasons in the league. Ontario's only loss to date was to Wooster back in December. Shelby is currently third in the NOL. The Whippets get contributions from several sophomores and freshmen. Norwalk returned only one starter (Breck Turner) and one other player who saw significant playing time on the state championship team. The #5 Trickers passed up a bye at Willard and will meet Clear Fork in a semifinal game. Sandusky Perkins was the district runner-up in 2014 after two consecutive district championships. The Pirates are rebuilding this season.

Semifinals – Ontario over Oak Harbor; Norwalk over Clear Fork

Finals – Ontario over Sandusky Perkins; Shelby over Norwalk

WILLARD: #2 Sandusky and #4 Lexington are the top seeds. Coach Colin Irish has brought much needed stability to the Sandusky program. The Blue Streaks, with thirteen wins in their last fourteen games, start four underclassmen. Sandusky will finish in 2nd place in the NOL. Lexington passed on the bye and will play Bellevue in a semifinal. The Minutemen have been up and down this season, but rate as the sleeper in the Mansfield district. #6 Clyde ended up grabbing the bye. The Fliers appear to have righted the ship after a slow start. Galion is in their first season in the MOAC (Mid Ohio Athletic Conference). The Tigers' regular season schedule has only seven games against teams from NW Ohio. Former Bowling Green coach Von Graffin is having a rough first year at Port Clinton.

Semifinals – Galion over Port Clinton; Lexington over Bellevue

Finals – Sandusky over Galion; Lexington over Bellevue

ANTHONY WAYNE: #2 Toledo Scott and #4 Toledo Rogers are the top seeds at AW. Scott finished on top the Toledo City League standings. The City League champion is determined by a four-team playoff. Scott's Chris Darrington is the top player in the City League. Rogers is somewhat of a mystery team as the Rams do not have a single regular season opponent from Northwest Ohio other than teams from the City League. Other than Scott and Rogers, the City League is not very good this year. With Rogers choosing to play Bryan in a semifinal game, #5 Lake took the bye. The Flyers (why are some Flyers and others are

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Fliers?) are tied with Rossford for the NBC lead. Connor Bowen is the all-time leading scorer for Lake. On the same night Bowen accomplished that achievement, teammate Jared Rettig (now the school's second all-time leading scorer) went over 1,000 career points. Rogers and Lake will be an intriguing matchup in the sectional final. Maumee meets Genoa in the other semifinal game with the winner facing Scott. Luke Rightnowar is Genoa's all-time leading scorer.

Semifinals – Maumee over Genoa; Toledo Rogers over Bryan

Finals – Toledo Scott over Maumee; Toledo Rogers over Lake

SYLVANIA SOUTHVIEW: #1 Defiance and #3 Rossford are the top seeds at Southview. This is a really good sectional. State-ranked Defiance's lone loss is to WBL leader Celina. The Bulldogs are stingy on defense giving up around forty points a game. Rossford is tied for the lead in the NBC. The Bulldogs have size and depth. #6 Napoleon and #7 Wauseon meet in an excellent semifinal matchup. Napoleon is strong on the perimeter while Wauseon likes to pound it inside. Wauseon, currently tied for the lead in the NWOAL, should finish the regular season with a 16-5 record. Not too shabby for a #7 seed. The Napoleon/Wauseon winner will take on Rossford in a top-notch sectional final. Toledo Woodward was edged out by Bowsher for the TCL's "final four". The sectional final games scheduled at Southview will be played on Thursday, March 5.

Semifinal – Napoleon over Wauseon

Finals – Rossford over Napoleon; Defiance over Toledo Woodward

LIMA SENIOR: Celina is the top seed in the Liberty-Benton district. The Bulldogs currently lead Defiance by a game in the WBL. Celina's Ryan Hoyng is the career-scoring leader for the Bulldogs. Celina was the only team in the sectional with a .500 or better record at the time of the draw. #5 Elida took the other bye at Lima. The Bulldogs (it's like I keep repeating myself) got off to a slow start with five straight losses but have played much better after gaining some experience. Lima Bath's

Andrew Renner is the lone returning starter from the team that was edged by Norwalk in last year's regional final. Renner is one of the top players in the WBL. Tiffin Columbian is in the midst of a disappointing season. The Tornados have some size, but will finish near the bottom in the NOL. Otsego and Fostoria are at the bottom of the NBC.

Semifinals – Otsego over Fostoria; Lima Bath over Tiffin Columbian

Finals – Celina over Otsego; Lima Bath over Elida

RIVERDALE: #2 St. Marys Memorial, #3 Upper Sandusky, and #4 Wapakoneta are the top seeds at Riverdale. St. Marys has been competitive in the WBL and should finish in the top half of the league. The Roughriders lack size with big man Quinn Zaerr currently out. His status could impact their tournament success. Upper Sandusky is battling Carey for the runner-up spot in the Northern 10. Upper handed Colonel Crawford their first loss of the season on February 20. The Rams' record may be a bit deceiving with nineteen of their twenty-two games against D3 and D4 opponents. Wapak is also battling for a finish in the top half of the WBL. The Redskins are much improved from a year ago. Shawnee has talent especially at the guard spots but have been consistently beaten on the boards.

Semifinal – Lima Shawnee over Kenton

Finals – St. Marys over Lima Shawnee; Wapakoneta over Upper Sandusky

DISTRICTS

MANSFIELD SENIOR: Norwalk is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Ontario over Shelby; Lexington over Sandusky

Final – Lexington over Ontario

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Defiance is the defending district champion. Is Rogers still looking for their bus driver?

Semifinals – Toledo Scott over Toledo Rogers; Defiance over Rossford

Final – Defiance over Toledo Scott

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LIBERTY-BENTON: Lima Bath is the defending district champion. Bath also won the Ohio Northern district in 2013.

Semifinals – Celina over Lima Bath; Wapakoneta over St. Marys

Final – Celina over Wapakoneta

DIVISION III

Lima Central Catholic won the 2014 D3 state championship with a win over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph. The T-Birds along with Colonel Crawford, St. Henry, and Huron have been fixtures in the top ten in this year's Associated Press state poll. There are other teams around NW Ohio having solid seasons including traditional powers Ottawa-Glandorf, Archbold, and Liberty-Benton along with Swanton.

Shelby replaces Lexington as a sectional site and Anthony Wayne replaces BGSU as a district site. Eight of the twelve teams in the Anthony Wayne district had records above .500 at the time of the draw.

The three district winners from NW Ohio will advance to the regional tournament at the Stroh Center. No March snowstorms this year please. The Ashland district winner will play one of the Columbus district winners (Worthington Christian, Mount Gilead, Columbus Bishop Hartley, Fredericktown, Columbus Linden McKinley) and the Ohio Northern district winner will play the Anthony Wayne district winner in semifinal games. Expect Northwest Ohio to have a team from D3 at the state tournament in 2015



SECTIONALS

OAK HARBOR: #2 Huron and #4 Eastwood are the top seeds at Oak Harbor. A veteran Huron team is the SBC champion. The Tigers began the season winning their first thirteen games. Eastwood is third in the NBC behind Rossford and Lake. Eastwood's chances hinge

upon the return of 6'5" Zach Jacoby from injury. Archrivals Bucyrus and Wynford make the long trip to Oak Harbor. The two teams are battling for a finish in the top half of the N10. Bucyrus has a realistic chance of winning the first sectional title in school history. Wynford won sixteen straight sectional titles through 2011. The Royals have not won one since. Woodmore and Western Reserve meet in what should be a competitive semifinal. It has been over two years since Northwood defeated an OHSAA member opponent.

Semifinals – Wynford over Bucyrus; Huron over Northwood; Woodmore over Western Reserve

Finals – Eastwood over Wynford; Huron over Woodmore

SHELBY: #1 Colonel Crawford and #3 Edison are the top seeds at Shelby. Colonel Crawford wins the N10 in the league's first season. The Eagles started the season 20-0 before losing to Upper Sandusky. An interesting move on Edison's part passing up the bye at Oak Harbor and going to Shelby instead. Edison already has a win over Huron. The Chargers will finish as the runner-up in the SBC. #5 Willard was the co-favorite along with Ontario to win the NOL with the return of several key players from last season. The Flashes have been a disappointment but are the sleeper in this district. Margaretta has been inconsistent but appears to be another wild card. New London should finish 3rd in a weak Firelands Conference. Ashland Crestview also has a chance to finish in the upper half of the FC, but the Cougars have not won a game outside the league.

Semifinals – Margaretta over Ashland Crestview; Willard over New London

Finals – Colonel Crawford over Margaretta; Willard over Edison

WAUSEON: #1 Ottawa-Glandorf and #4 Paulding are the top seeds at Wauseon. Ottawa-Glandorf will finish third in the WBL behind Celina and Defiance. O-G's Noah Bramlage is a Princeton signee. The Titans have won nine straight sectional titles. Paulding, Tinora, and Liberty Center are all very even on the bottom of the bracket. Paulding was the district runner-up a year ago. Liberty has been streaky with an eight game winning streak followed by a four game losing streak. Tinora has also been inconsistent but appears to be coming together as the tournament approaches. NWOAL foes Evergreen and Montpelier

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get the sectional started for the opportunity to face O-G. Evergreen gave O-G a huge scare in the 2013 district semifinal during the Titans' run to the D3 state championship.

Semifinals – Evergreen over Montpelier; Tinora over Liberty Center

Finals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Evergreen; Paulding over Tinora

DEFIANCE: #2 Archbold and #3 Swanton are the top seeds at Defiance. This is a good sectional. Archbold and Swanton are tied with Wauseon for the NWOAL lead. That would be the 6th straight league title or co-title for Archbold. For Swanton, it would be the first league title since 1987. Once Montpelier leaves the league, will the NWOAL go to a double round? Archbold has won fourteen straight sectional titles. Doug Krauss recently earned career win #500 as coach of the Blue Streaks. The Swami has absolutely no idea how Delta ended up with the #5 seed and Bluffton got the #7 seed in the AW district while Paulding got the #4. Delta, #6 Van Buren, and Bluffton should all finish the regular season with 15 or 16 wins. Delta is a rarity averaging around seventy points a game. Bluffton started the season with eight straight wins and is looking to finish the season strong. Van Buren is currently in 3rd place in the BVC.

Semifinals – Delta over Fairview; Bluffton over Van Buren

Finals – Archbold over Delta; Swanton over Bluffton

ST. MARYS MEMORIAL: Lima Central Catholic is the top seed in the Ohio Northern district. Defending D3 champion LCC lost Martyce Kimbrough to graduation and Xavier Simpson to Lima Senior, but the T-Birds have remained dominant. The status of Tre Cobbs who suffered a shoulder injury in LCC's February 21 win over Celina will be a key factor in the tournament. LCC and #5 Delphos Jefferson grabbed the byes at St. Marys. Jefferson's Trey Smith has scored over 1,300 points in his career. He is just a junior. Coldwater got off to a slow start after winning the D5 state football championship. The Cavaliers will finish no worse than a tie for 3rd place in the MAC and can do some damage in the tournament. Riverdale and Hopewell-Loudon will

make the long trip to St. Marys for weeknight semifinal games. Riverdale will face Parkway in a semifinal game for the opportunity to play LCC.

Semifinals – Parkway over Riverdale; Coldwater over Hopewell-Loudon

Finals – Lima Central Catholic over Parkway; Coldwater over Delphos Jefferson

FINDLAY: #2 St. Henry, #3 Carey, and #4 Liberty-Benton are the top seeds at Findlay. St. Henry has clinched at least a tie for MAC championship. St. Henry's Ryan Mikesell is a Dayton signee. The Redskins have lost to Russia and Celina. Carey is currently in 2nd place in the N10. Leading scorer Jared Wentling is averaging over 24 points per game. Liberty-Benton is undefeated in the BVC. Elmwood will finish the season over .500 and in the middle of the NBC standings. The Royals have only one senior on the team. Van Wert will finish the season near the bottom of the WBL standings and are currently in the midst of a six game losing streak. The Cougars have been competitive in a number of games. Allen East is improved and has wins over Paulding and Bluffton. Keith Diebler who won the 2005 D2 state championship while at Upper Sandusky coaches Lakota.

Semifinals – Elmwood over Allen East; Van Wert over Carey; Liberty-Benton over Lakota

Finals – St. Henry over Elmwood; Van Wert over Liberty-Benton

DISTRICTS

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY: Huron has won two consecutive district championships.

Semifinals – Huron over Eastwood; Willard over Colonel Crawford

Final – Huron over Willard

ANTHONY WAYNE: Ottawa-Glandorf has won four straight district championships at three different venues (Elida, Napoleon, Bowling Green).

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Paulding; Archbold over Swanton

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold

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OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY: Lima Central Catholic has won three straight district championships.

Semifinals – Lima Central Catholic over Coldwater; St. Henry over Van Wert

Final – Lima Central Catholic over St. Henry

DIVISION IV

Undefeated Convoy Crestview (29-0) won the D4 state championship in 2014. For 2015, Wayne Trace, Plymouth, Gibsonburg, and Marion Local are all ranked in the top ten of the Associated Press poll. Sandusky St. Mary also was ranked among the top ten teams for several weeks. A number of other teams have put together good seasons including Lima Perry, Hicksville, and South Central.

Lima Bath replaces Kenton and Ashland University replaces Ontario as sectional sites. The Elida district appears to be very balanced with nine of the thirteen at .500 or above at the time of the draw. Seven or eight of those teams have a shot at winning a district title.

The Willard district winner will play the Van Wert district winner in the first regional semifinal game at Bowling Green with the Elida district winner playing the Lakota district winner in the second semifinal game. The Wapak district winner will head south to play one of the Dayton district winners (Troy Christian, Jackson Center, Fort Loramie) at Kettering Fairmont's Trent Arena. The other two Dayton district winners will play in the other regional semifinal game at Kettering. Top ranked New Madison Tri-Village, Russia, Cincinnati Aiken, and Georgetown are some of the potentials on the other side of the bracket.

SECTIONALS

COLDWATER: Marion Local is the top seed in the Wapakoneta district. Marion Local is currently in 2nd place in the MAC behind St. Henry. The Flyers are big with 6'10" Luke Knapke (a Toledo signee) and 6'7" Ryan Bruns. Marion Local's Class A state basketball championship in 1975 was the first state title in any sport for the MAC. #5 seed New Bremen and #10 Fort Recovery from the MAC will face each other in one

semifinal. New Bremen's Carson Manger is one of the better players in the MAC. Fort Recovery is coming off a near upset of St. Henry. Arlington will finish in the top half of the BVC and has won five straight sectional titles. Ada still has a chance to finish in the top half of the NWC. NWCC rivals Ridgemont and Waynesfield-Goshen will get the sectional started with the winner playing Marion Local.

Semifinals – Waynesfield-Goshen over Ridgemont; Ada over Arlington; New Bremen over Fort Recovery

Finals – Marion Local over Waynesfield-Goshen; New Bremen over Ada

LIMA BATH: #2 Spencerville, #3 Lima Perry, and #4 Upper Scioto Valley are the top seeds at Bath. Spencerville has clinched at least a tie for the NWC title. Following an 0-3 start to the season, Perry has lost only to Miller City. The Commodores went undefeated in winning the NWCC. Jared Poling is the all-time leading scorer for Perry. Unfortunately, he will miss the tournament after suffering an injury. Upper Scioto Valley finished as the NWCC runner-up. #7 Minster and #8 New Knoxville are both in the bottom half of the MAC standings although Minster has a win over Versailles. Hardin-Northern is in their 49th and final year in the BVC while also competing in the NWCC. In their eighteen losses to date, Hardin-Northern has averaged a little over 40 points per game. In their lone win against Gilead Christian, the Polar Bears scored 102 points.

Semifinals – Minster over Hardin Northern; New Knoxville over Upper Scioto Valley

Finals – Spencerville over Minster; New Knoxville over Lima Perry

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY: Plymouth is the top seed in the Willard district. Due to a scheduling conflict, the semifinals will be played at Ashland High School and the finals at Ashland University. Plymouth is the Firelands champion. The Big Red's lone loss on the season was a buzzer beater to Colonel Crawford back in early December. Plymouth has a pair of 1,000 point career scorers in four-year starters Tyrell Edmiston and Tyler Beebe. #5 Mansfield St. Peter's went undefeated in winning the Mid-Buckeye Conference. The Spartans have won two state championships but that marked the first league championship in school history for St. Pete's.

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Fremont St. Joseph has some good young talent.

Semifinals – Plymouth over Monroeville; Mansfield St. Peter's over Norwalk St. Paul

Finals – Plymouth over Seneca East; Mansfield St. Peter's over Fremont St. Joseph

NORWALK: #2 Sandusky St. Mary, #3 South Central, and #4 Buckeye Central are the top seeds at Norwalk. Sandusky St. Mary is the champion in the first year of the SRL. The Panthers also have a winning record against their old SBC opponents. South Central finishes as the runner-up behind Plymouth in the FC. Buckeye Central has been slowed by injuries. The Bucks will finish no worse than 4th in the N10. South Central and Buckeye Central should be an excellent sectional final assuming the teams win their semifinal games. #6 Mansfield Christian took the bye with St. Mary's electing to play in the semifinal. MC is the MBC runner-up. The Flames took D2 Ontario to overtime and also played Plymouth tough. St. Mary and Mansfield Christian would be another excellent sectional final.

Semifinals – Sandusky St. Mary over Crestline; South Central over Lucas; Buckeye Central over Danbury

Finals – Sandusky St. Mary over Mansfield Christian; Buckeye Central over South Central

BRYAN: #2 Edgerton, #3 Hicksville, and #4 Ayersville are the top seeds at Bryan. Interesting sectional at Bryan with the top seeds avoiding Wayne Trace. Edgerton finished as the GMC runner-up. The Bulldogs are on an eight game winning streak entering the final week of the regular season. Edgerton took the first round bye. Hicksville is having their best season in a number of years. The Aces finished in third place in the GMC. Ayersville made an interesting choice going to Edgerton's side of the bracket. #12 Continental will play the Pilots in a semifinal. Continental defeated Ayersville in January. #6 Fayette will likely finish behind Stryker and Pettisville in the BBC. Fayette handed Hicksville their first loss of the season in early January. The teams could meet in a sectional final. Holgate has only won twice since the start of the new year.

Semifinals – Ayersville over Continental; Hicksville over

Edon; Fayette over Holgate

Finals – Edgerton over Ayersville; Hicksville over Fayette

PAULDING: Wayne Trace is the top seed in the Van Wert district. We are seeing a pattern in D4 with the top seeds. Wayne Trace returns three starters and other key contributors from last year's regional runner-up. The Raiders are the GMC champions. WT's only loss was to D2 Napoleon. Will Wayne Trace get 6'6" David Sinn back into the lineup for the tournament? #5 Stryker and #8 Pettisville are tied for the BBC lead. The bottom half of the bracket with Stryker, Antwerp, Pettisville, and Patrick Henry is a toss up. Antwerp has been scuffling while PH has been much more competitive this season. Hilltop is another much improved team but not likely to compete with Wayne Trace.

Semifinals – Hilltop over North Central; Pettisville over Antwerp; Patrick Henry over Stryker

Finals – Wayne Trace over Hilltop; Patrick Henry over Pettisville

VAN WERT: #2 Convoy Crestview and #4 Delphos St. John's are the top seeds at Van Wert. Trying to figure out the whole Elida district makes my head hurt. Defending D4 state champion Convoy Crestview returns two starters in Preston Zaleski and Connor Lautzenheiser. Zaleski recently went down with an injury. His status for the tournament is currently unknown. The Knights lack size but are strong from the perimeter. Delphos will finish in the top half of the MAC. The Blue Jays have several quality wins. #6 Lincolnview is another team with a legitimate shot at the district title. The Lancers own a win over DSJ. #9 Leipsic should finish in the top half of the BVC but have not had much success in their PCL games. Fort Jennings is capable of an upset.

Semifinals – Fort Jennings over Leipsic; Delphos St. John's over Cory-Rawson; Lincolnview over Pandora-Gilboa

Finals – Convoy Crestview over Fort Jennings; Delphos St. John's over Lincolnview

OTTAWA-GLANDORF: #1 Miller City and #3 Columbus Grove are the top seeds at O-G. This is one interesting sectional. Miller City got the top seed but will finish in a tie for second in the PCL with #7

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Ottoville. #8 Kalida won the PCL championship. Coach Richard Kortokrax is Ohio's all-time winningest coach. He has won a lot of games. We mention that every year, #5 McComb will finish as the runner-up in the BVC. The Panthers should finish the regular season with the best record of any of the teams at O-G. Columbus Grove has been inconsistent. The Bulldogs will finish near the top of the NWC and in the middle of the PCL standings. Grove put a whooping on O-G in a game played at Ottawa in late January. Ottoville's Brandt Landin scored 43 points in a January game versus Tinora. That tied the school's individual scoring record going all the way back to 1966.

Semifinals – Ottoville over Lima Temple Christian; Kalida over McComb

Finals – Ottoville over Miller City; Columbus Grove over Kalida

EASTWOOD: #2 Ottawa Hills and #4 Toledo Christian are the top seeds at Eastwood. Ottawa Hills lost four starters from their district championship team. The Green Bears have been steadily improving as the season progresses. Three of OH's six losses are to undefeated Gibsonburg and Southview. Toledo Christian was the pre-season pick to win the TAAC. The Eagles have won twelve straight sectional titles. North Baltimore and Arcadia meet in what should be a very good sectional semifinal. The two teams are having excellent seasons under first-year head coaches. Tiffin Calvert and Maumee Valley Country Day will be meeting for the third time in nine days when they play their semifinal. Mohawk recently won consecutive games snapping a twenty-five game losing streak.

Semifinals – Tiffin Calvert over Maumee Valley Country Day; Toledo Christian over Mohawk; North Baltimore over Arcadia

Finals – Ottawa Hills over Tiffin Calvert; Toledo Christian over North Baltimore

FOSTORIA: #1 Gibsonburg and #3 Cardinal Stritch are the top seeds at Fostoria. Both teams were previously part of the Eastwood sectional. Undefeated Gibsonburg is the TAAC champion. The Golden Bears really have

not been pushed with only two of their first twenty wins not by double digits. Cardinal Stritch is having an excellent season under first year coach Jamie Kachmarik. Austin Adams is the career-scoring leader for the Cardinals. New Riegel and Old Fort are in a battle for the runner-up spot in the SRL. That will be determined in the last game of the regular season. The two teams will face off four days later in what should be a very good sectional semifinal. Fostoria St. Wendelin and Vanlue will meet with the winner advancing to play Gibsonburg. The sectional final games at Fostoria will be played on Thursday, March 5.

Semifinals – Vanlue over Fostoria St. Wendelin; New Riegel over Old Fort

Finals – Gibsonburg over Vanlue; Cardinal Stritch over New Riegel

DISTRICTS

WAPAKONETA: Marion Local is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Marion Local over New Bremen; Spencerville over New Knoxville

Final – Marion Local over Spencerville

WILLARD: Buckeye Central is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Plymouth over Mansfield St. Peter's; Sandusky St. Mary over Buckeye Central

Final – Plymouth over Sandusky St. Mary

VAN WERT: Wayne Trace is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Edgerton over Hicksville; Wayne Trace over Patrick Henry

Final – Wayne Trace over Edgerton

ELIDA: Convoy Crestview is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Delphos St. John's over Convoy Crestview; Columbus Grove over Ottoville

Final – Columbus Grove over Delphos St. John's

LAKOTA: Ottawa Hills has won two straight district

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championships at Lakota. Will they ever move the seats a little closer to the floor at Lakota?

Semifinals – Toledo Christian over Ottawa Hills; Gibsonburg over Cardinal Stritch

Final – Gibsonburg over Toledo Christian

That is all for now. We will return with a much shorter version for the regional and state tournaments. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. Brackets are courtesy of davey1.com and Mr. David Spengler. Hope to see you on the tournament trail. Rock on.