

Trail Trash

for the 2009 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 the second edition of Trail Trash for 2009. Due to the Swami having some family obligations, this edition will be much shorter than our normal product. Please, please stop all the applauding.

Looking at sectional and district results from around Northwest Ohio, the Swami posted a 105-44 (70%) win/loss record and correctly picked 7 of the 12 district champions. Given the parody around NW Ohio as well as a number of upsets, that isn't too bad. The Swami really stunk it up in D2 with a 13-14 record to go along with zero district champions (the "expert" went with Toledo Central Catholic and Tiffin Columbian as his projected champions).

Speaking of experts, there were nine teams from NW Ohio across the divisions that were ranked in the final Associated Press poll. Of those nine, only D4 Plymouth won a district championship. The two biggest surprises were New Knoxville and the D3 district at Elida.

Defending D4 state champ New Knoxville's amazing streak of forty-nine consecutive wins came to an end in the district final against Ada. The Swami has attended the state tournament for the past thirty years, and New Knoxville's 2008 team was as good as any D4 team he has ever seen. Unlike the 2008 team, the 2009 team had some close games including an early season win over Ada but was still

Issue 2009-2

able to maintain the streak until the district final. New Knoxville's streak was one of the great accomplishments in Ohio high school basketball history.

Heading into the tournament, the D3 district at Elida was eagerly anticipated with three of the top seven D3 teams in the state in defending state champion Ottawa-Glandorf, Liberty-Benton, and St. Henry. St. Henry didn't even make it out of the sectionals and L-B and O-G both lost in the district to Coldwater. I guess that's why they play the games.

Time to move beyond Northwest Ohio. Let's go to the picks.

DIVISION I

Seven of the seventeen teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll have advanced to the regional tournament. Six teams (Lakewood St. Edward's, Mentor, Warren Harding, Cincinnati Princeton, Cincinnati St. Xavier, Dublin Scioto) are repeat regional qualifiers from 2008. For Lakewood St. Edward's and Cincinnati St. Xavier, this marks a fifth consecutive trip to the regional. Defending D1 state champion Newark lost to Dublin Scioto in a district final.

REGIONALS

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: #8 Warren Harding is the only ranked team at the Wolstein Center. Warren Harding defeated #16 Cleveland Heights in a district semifinal.

Semifinals-Mentor over North Ridgeville; Warren Harding over Lakewood St. Edward's

Final-Warren Harding over Mentor

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM: #1 Columbus Northland and #6 Dublin Scioto are ranked teams at the Barn. Cincinnati St. Xavier eliminated #3 Middletown in a district semifinal.

Semifinals-Dublin Scioto over Cincinnati St. Xavier; Columbus Northland over Grove City

Final-Dublin Scioto over Columbus Northland

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #2 Cincinnati Princeton, #11 Cincinnati LaSalle, and #16 Centerville are ranked teams at the Cintas Center. Cincinnati Aiken defeated #5 Cincinnati Moeller in a district final while Centerville eliminated #13 Trotwood-Madison in their district final.

Semifinals-Cincinnati Princeton over Cincinnati Aiken; Centerville over Cincinnati LaSalle

Final-Cincinnati Princeton over Centerville

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: #7 Barberton is the only ranked team at the JAR. The Barberton/North Canton Hoover semifinal will be played at Akron with the Toledo St. John's/Lima Senior semifinal tipping off at the University of Toledo's Savage Arena. North Canton stopped #4 Canton Timken in a district final with Toledo St. John's eliminating #12 Sylvania Southview in a district semifinal.

Semifinals-North Canton Hoover over Barberton; Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Lima Senior

Final-North Canton Hoover over Toledo St. John's Jesuit

STATE

For the twelfth consecutive year, D1 will close out the state tournament. The semifinals will be Friday night with the championship game on Saturday night.

Semifinals-Dublin Scioto over Warren Harding; Cincinnati Princeton over North Canton Hoover

Final-Cincinnati Princeton over Dublin Scioto

DIVISION II

Seven of the fourteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll are in the regional tournament. Just three teams (defending D2 state champ Chillicothe, St. Paris Graham, Vermilion) also advanced to the regionals in 2008. Chillicothe is making a third straight trip to the regional. Top-ranked St. Paris Graham is the only undefeated team in D2. Xavier University replaces Wright State as a regional site in D2.

The Swami

REGIONALS

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #2 Circleville Logan Elm and #11 Chillicothe are ranked teams at the Convo. Carrollton defeated #6 Dover in a district final.

Semifinals-Cambridge over Carrollton; Circleville Logan Elm over Chillicothe

Final-Circleville Logan Elm over Cambridge

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #1 St. Paris Graham, #4 Wilmington, and #10 Dayton Thurgood Marshall are ranked teams at Xavier. St. Paris Graham eliminated #5 Cincinnati Indian Hill and Dayton Thurgood Marshall stopped #9 Cincinnati Roger Bacon in district finals while Wilmington defeated #13 Dayton Dunbar in a district semifinal. Dayton Thurgood Marshall was formerly known as Dayton Colonel White.

Semifinals-St. Paris Graham over Columbus Bishop Watterson; Dayton Thurgood Marshall over Wilmington

Final-St. Paris Graham over Dayton Thurgood Marshall

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: #3 Akron St. Vincent St. Mary is the only ranked team at Canton. Akron East upset #7 Cleveland Benedictine and Streetsboro eliminated #12 Poland Seminary in district finals.

Semifinals-Akron SVSM over Streetsboro; Akron East over University School

Final-Akron AVSM over Akron East

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #8 Columbus DeSales is the only ranked team at Bowling Green. This is the first regional appearance for Galion.

Semifinals-Galion over Vermilion; Columbus DeSales over Elida

Final-Columbus DeSales over Galion

STATE

The D2 semifinals will be the day games on Friday while the championship game will be played late Saturday afternoon.

Semifinals-St. Paris Graham over Circleville Logan Elm; Columbus DeSales over Akron SVSM

Final-St. Paris Graham over Columbus DeSales

DIVISION III

Seven of the twelve teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll are playing in the regional tournament. Just three teams (Smithville, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Anna) are making a second straight trip to the regional tournament. Defending D3 state champion Ottawa-Glandorf was eliminated by Coldwater in a district final. Smithville and Seaman North Adams are the only undefeated teams in D3. Wilmington College replaces Wright State as a regional site in D3.

REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #1 Smithville and #9 Cleveland Central Catholic are ranked teams at Canton.

Semifinals-Cleveland Central Catholic over Leavittsburg LaBrae; Smithville over Campbell Memorial

Final-Smithville over Cleveland Central Catholic

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #8 Piketon and #10 Seaman North Adams are ranked teams at OU. Any chance that Jim Marquette officiates a regional game at Athens?

Semifinals-Seaman North Adams over Piketon; Grandview Heights over Buckeye Trail

Final-Seaman North Adams over Grandview Heights

WILMINGTON COLLEGE: #3 Miami East and #4 Anna are ranked teams at Wilmington.

Semifinals-Anna over Miami East; Bloom-Carroll over Dayton Christian

Final-Anna over Bloom-Carroll

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: There are no ranked teams at BGSU. In addition to their win over #5 Ottawa-Glandorf, Coldwater also eliminated #2 Liberty-Benton in the district tournament. This is the first regional appearance for Colonel Crawford.

Semifinals-Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy over Tinora; Coldwater over Colonel Crawford

Final-Coldwater over Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

STATE

The D3 semifinals will be the Thursday evening games with the championship game being the early Saturday afternoon game.

Semifinals-Smithville over Seaman North Adams; Anna over Coldwater

Final-Anna over Smithville

The Swami

DIVISION IV

Five of the fifteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll have advanced to the regional tournament. Four teams (Oak Hill, Canal Winchester Harvest Prep, Plymouth, Lockland) were regional qualifiers in 2008. Harvest Prep also advanced to the regional in 2007 while Lockland will be making a fifth consecutive regional appearance. Berlin Hiland is the only undefeated team in D4. Defending D4 state champion New Knoxville was eliminated by Ada in a district final. Kettering Fairmont replaces the University of Dayton and Ohio University replaces the Columbus Fairgrounds Coliseum as regional sites in D4.

REGIONALS

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #7 Plymouth is the only ranked team at BG. Kalida had a great district tournament with wins over #14 Delphos St. John's and #12 Pandora-Gilboa. McComb eliminated #13 Pettisville in a district final. This is the first regional appearance for Toledo Christian.

Semifinals-McComb over Toledo Christian; Kalida over Plymouth

Final-Kalida over McComb

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #2 Berlin Hiland and #3 Cleveland Heights Lutheran East are ranked teams at Canton. Lutheran East advanced to the regional with a win over #6 Bedford Chanel while Berlin Hiland eliminated #11 Malvern in a district semifinal. This is the first regional appearance for Youngstown Christian.

Semifinals-Youngstown Christian over Warren JFK; Lutheran East over Berlin Hiland

Final-Lutheran East over Youngstown Christian

KETTERING FAIRMONT HIGH SCHOOL: There are no ranked teams at the Trent Arena. In addition to Ada's win over #1 New Knoxville, Lockland eliminated #9 Dayton Jefferson and Fort Loramie defeated #5 South Charleston Southeastern in district final games. Cincinnati Summit Country Day eliminated #8 Cincinnati Seven Hills in a district semifinal.

Semifinals-Lockland over Fort Loramie; Ada over Cincinnati Summit Country Day

Final-Lockland over Ada



OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Oak Hill and #10 Newark Catholic are ranked teams in the OU regional. The Harvest Prep/Newark Catholic semifinal will be played at the Fairgrounds Coliseum with the Oak Hill/Racine Southern semifinal scheduled for the Convo. Harvest Prep defeated #14 Worthington Christian in a district final game.

Semifinals-Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Newark Catholic; Oak Hill over Racine Southern

Final-Oak Hill over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

STATE

D4 will kick off the eighty-seventh annual Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 26. The championship game will be played Saturday morning.

The Swami

Semifinals-Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Kalida; Oak Hill over Lockland

Final-Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Oak Hill

That ends Trail Trash for another year. We continue to appreciate your support and value your feedback. All predictions and opinions are those of the Swami. Please contact daveyl@daveyl.com with any opinions, comments, or corrections. See you in Columbus if not sooner.