

Trail Trash

2022 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

Welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2022 as we shift our focus to the regional and state tournaments. But before we look ahead, here are a few (probably too many) observations from the first two weeks of tournament play around Northwest Ohio.

At the sectional level, Division I went pretty much as expected with the top seven seeds advancing to the district. #11 Bowling Green also advanced with wins over #10 Mansfield Madison and #8 Ashland which were not all that surprising. Things were more chaotic in the other divisions as the top four seeds advanced to the second week in only three of the eleven districts. Two top seeds (Defiance in D2 and New Bremen in D4) and two #2 seeds (Shelby in D2 and state-ranked Swanton in D3) were eliminated in sectional final games. Four #7 seeds and four #8 seeds advanced to district tournaments along with Stryker, a #10 seed in D4. Overall, the higher seed prevailed in thirty-six of fifty-two sectional final games. Maybe it was the return to neutral sites, but the number of "upsets" was higher than in a typical year. No teams from either the Mid Ohio

Athletic Conference or Toledo City League advanced to the district. In fact, no team from either league won a tournament game.

The D1 district tournaments went according to form with #1 Lima Senior eliminating #3 Perrysburg at Lake and #2 Sylvania Northview topping #4 Toledo Whitmer at Toledo Central Catholic to win district titles. Whitmer advanced to the district final with a 59-57 overtime win over #6 Toledo St. John's Jesuit when freshman Antoine West banked in a buzzer-beating 3-pointer.

Top seeds Toledo Central Catholic and Huron won district titles in D2 with Central eliminating #3 Tiffin Columbian at Lake and Huron knocking out #3 Lexington at Ashland in the championship games. #2 St. Marys earned the D2 district title at Ohio Northern with a win over #6 Napoleon.

The top seeds in D3 all prevailed to take home district championships. Ottawa-

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Since 1994, Trail Trash has been published twice annually in conjunction with the boys state basketball tournament. Trail Trash is published to share 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.

Glandorf dominated #2 Wayne Trace at Lima Senior and Eastwood handily defeated #4 Cardinal Stritch at Toledo Central Catholic in district finals. For top-ranked Colonel Crawford, it was an entirely different story. Crawford trailed by seventeen points with under seven minutes left in the fourth quarter and by nine with less than two minutes to go in the championship game against #2 Western Reserve. Colonel Crawford scored the final eleven points for a 53-51 win in the "Sheldon Bowl" to take home the district title and remain undefeated.

All five district champions in D4 won their title games by double digits. At Willard, #1 Margaretta won the school's first district championship in ninety years with a win over #3 South Central. Top seed Tiffin Calvert remained undefeated with a win over #2 Old Fort for the district title at Liberty-Benton while #1 Antwerp topped #2 Ayersville in the championship game at Defiance. At Wapakoneta, #4 Marion Local stopped #2 Spencerville for the district title. In the district at Elida, #6 Ottoville won the title defeating #1 Convoy Crestview in a semifinal and #2 Columbus Grove in the championship game.

Ten of the thirteen top seeded teams from around Northwest Ohio won district championships. Ottoville, the #6 seed in the D4 Elida district, was the lowest seed to win a district title. There may have been a number of upsets in the sectionals, but there were few surprises in the district tournaments.

Regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 return to the Stroh Center on the campus of Bowling Green State University. The D4 semifinals will be played on Tuesday night followed by the D3 semifinals on Wednesday night and the D2 semifinals on Thursday night. The D4 championship game will be played on Friday night. The D3 and D2 finals will both be played Saturday afternoon with D3 in the early game (1:00 pm) and D2 in the late game (4:00 pm). We will see how that works out. The D1 regional semifinal between and Lima Senior and Sylvania Northview will be played Wednesday night at the University of Toledo. The winner will meet the winner of the semifinal at Kent State University in the regional final at the University of Toledo on Saturday afternoon. Margaretta, the D4 district champion at Willard, will play in the regional at the Canton Fieldhouse.

The state tournament will be held in Dayton at the University of Dayton Arena. Semifinals will be played on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19 with the championship games on Sunday, March 20. The Swami still has to wrap his head around that schedule. The davey1.com staff (both of us) had the opportunity to attend the first day of the state tournament in 2021. The atmosphere was different with the small crowds and social distancing, but we found that the UD Arena is a great facility to watch a basketball game. For any old-timers who attended the state tournament at Dayton Arena in 1986 and 1987, there is no comparison (except the parking lot). I liked some of the amenities that the Schott provided and a return to St. John's Arena would have been interesting, but I am really looking forward to Dayton.

In doing the research for this second edition, I came across something interesting. For 2022, the Southeast District has seventeen Division II teams and two teams in the regional while the East District has eighteen Division II teams but only one team in the regional. Going back to 2021, the Southeast District also had two teams in the regional while the East District had one. I understand how the OHSAA calculates the number of regional representatives by district by division. It is simple math unless you have Kevin Malone from the Office doing the calculations. So how did it happen? It appears that the original division breakdown for the 2020-2021 season used preliminary numbers that had both the Southeast District and East District with eighteen teams in Division II. There was a coin flip to break the tie, and the Southeast District won the flip giving them two regional representatives. There was one problem. When the numbers for the 2020-2021 season were finalized, one of the teams from the Southeast District moved from Division II to Division III. That reduced the number of Division II teams in the Southeast District to seventeen. Fast forward to the 2021-2022 season. Once again, the Southeast District won the coin flip to break the tie giving them two regional spots even though there was no tie to be broken. That is pure incompetence.

The Swami had an overall record of 111-35 in our first edition which is a slight improvement over the past couple of years. The record was aided greatly by the Swami correctly picking twelve of the thirteen district winners missing out only on the D4 champion at Elida (Columbus Grove was the Swami's pick).

DIVISION I

REGIONALS

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be played on Wednesday night with the championship game on Saturday night. Looks like a great regional. Pickerington Central won their eighth district championship in the last eleven years, and Gahanna Lincoln won a second straight district title. Pick Central's only losses are to Newark and Reynoldsburg while Gahanna Lincoln's losses are to Akron SVSM and Pickerington Central. Undefeated Westerville South advanced with a double-overtime win over Dublin Jerome in their district final.

Semifinals – Pickerington Central over Upper Arlington; Gahanna Lincoln over Westerville South

Final – Gahanna Lincoln over Pickerington Central

COPLEY: Semifinal games will be Wednesday and Thursday nights with the championship game on Saturday afternoon. This regional was originally set for Cleveland State before moving to Copley Science. Green's district championship was the second in school history. Lakewood St. Edward won a sixth straight district championship and their sixteenth in eighteen years. Mentor won their fourth straight and eleventh in the last fifteen years. Eric Flannery got career win #500 in the district final while Mentor's Bob Krizancic is sitting on 699 career wins.

Semifinals – Green over Akron Archbishop Hoban; Lakewood St. Edward over Mentor

Final – Lakewood St. Edward over Green

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games are Wednesday night with the championship game on Saturday night. Top ranked Centerville won a fourth straight district title. The last loss for the defending D1 state champion Elks was to Akron SVSM in January 2021. Kettering Fairmont and Huber Heights Wayne finished right behind Centerville in the GWOC while Fairfield won the Greater Miami Conference. This is the first time since 2002 that the Greater Catholic League has not sent a team to the D1 regional tournament.

Semifinals – Fairfield over Huber Heights Wayne; Centerville over Kettering Fairmont

Final – Centerville over Fairfield

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Semifinal games will be played Wednesday night at Kent State and the University of Toledo with the championship game slated for Saturday afternoon at Toledo. Lima Senior won a fourth straight district title to go with a fourth straight TRAC championship. Lima's only losses are to Mansfield Senior when the Spartans were missing several starters and at Toledo Whitmer. Northview won the first D1 district championship in school history to go along with a D2 district title from 1988. Northview's only loss was at Lima Senior in December. St. Ignatius returned three starters from the 2021 regional championship team. Northview defeated Ignatius in a January game played at Rossford.

Semifinals – Cleveland St. Ignatius over Cleveland Heights; Lima Senior over Sylvania Northview

Final – Lima Senior over Cleveland St. Ignatius

STATE

The D1 semifinal games will be played Saturday evening with the championship game on Sunday night. Yes, Sunday night.

Semifinals – Gahanna Lincoln over Lakewood St. Edward; Centerville over Lima Senior

Final – Centerville over Gahanna Lincoln

DIVISION II

REGIONALS

All D2 regional semifinal games are scheduled to be played Thursday night.

VANDALIA BUTLER: The championship game will be played Saturday morning. Kettering Alter went undefeated in winning the GCLC. Alter's only loss to a team from Ohio was to Kettering Fairmont back in December. Cincinnati Woodward is on a thirteen-game winning streak. Paul McMillan IV of Woodward will likely finish fifth all-time in career scoring in Ohio. Roger Bacon was the runner-up in the Miami Valley Conference after being a long-time member of the GCLC.



Semifinals – Kettering Alter over Columbus Linden McKinley; Cincinnati Woodward over St. Bernard Roger Bacon

Final – Kettering Alter over Cincinnati Woodward

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: The championship game will be played Saturday afternoon. Defending D2 state champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary has won district titles the past fourteen seasons. SVSM's only losses to teams from Ohio are to Pickerington North and Centerville. Youngstown Chaney won a third straight district title. Cleveland Glenville won the Cleveland Senate League championship. The Tarblooders did not participate in the OHSAA tournament in 2021. Louisville won their first district title in twenty-nine years.

Semifinals – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Youngstown Chaney; Louisville over Cleveland Glenville

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Louisville

OHIO UNIVERSITY: The championship game is set for Saturday afternoon at the Convo following the D3 regional championship game. Heath eliminated top-seeded Columbus Beechcroft in their district final. Byesville Meadowbrook knocked off top-seeded New Philadelphia and #2 seed Dresden Tri-Valley to win a third straight championship in the eighteen-team East District. Waverly and Greenfield McClain were the top two seeds in the seventeen-team Southeast District.

Semifinals – Heath over Byesville Meadowbrook; Waverly over Greenfield McClain

Final – Heath over Waverly

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: The championship game is scheduled for Saturday afternoon following the D3 regional championship at BG. Gilmour Academy eliminated Akron Buchtel in the district final at North Ridgeville. Buchtel had advanced after their semifinal game with Akron East was ended early following a 3rd quarter brawl involving players and fans. Classy. Gilmour Academy lost in the regional finals to Akron SVSM in 2021. Toledo Central Catholic won a second straight district championship. The Irish finished the regular season in a tie with Findlay for 3rd place in the TRAC. Huron shared the SBC Bay title with Margaretta. Huron's losses are to Margaretta and

Western Reserve. St. Marys won their first district title since 2005. The Roughriders finished the regular season in a three-way tie for 3rd place in the WBL. St. Marys features OSU commit Austin Parks, a 6'10" junior.

Semifinals – Toledo Central Catholic over Gates Mills Gilmour Academy; St. Marys over Huron

Final – Toledo Central Catholic over St. Marys

STATE

The D2 semifinal games will be Friday evening with the championship game early Sunday afternoon.

Semifinals – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Kettering Alter; Toledo Central Catholic over Heath

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Toledo Central Catholic

DIVISION III

REGIONALS

All D3 regional semifinal games will be played Wednesday night.

OHIO UNIVERSITY: The championship game is scheduled for early Saturday afternoon. Columbus Africentric was the top seeded D3 team in the Central District and chose the path leading to the Convo. The Nubians knocked off #2 seed Columbus Bishop Ready in the district final. Top-seeded Sugarcreek Garaway eliminated #2 seed Tuscarawas Valley in their district final. Fairland won a third straight district championship while #8 seed Wheelersburg knocked off top seed Minford to win a second straight district title.

Semifinals – Columbus Africentric over Proctorville Fairland; Sugarcreek Garaway over Wheelersburg

Final – Columbus Africentric over Sugarcreek Garaway

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: The championship game is slated for early Saturday afternoon. Ottawa-Glandorf won a third straight district championship and their tenth in the last

twelve years. The Titans went undefeated in winning the WBL. O-G's only losses are to Findlay and Lima Senior. Eastwood won the NBC championship. Ottawa-Glandorf beat Eastwood by a 66-49 count in December. Colonel Crawford has won fifty-four straight regular season games. Their district championship was the fifth in school history all coming since 2009. Canal Winchester Harvest Prep won their fourth district title in the past five years. Harvest Prep was the #3 seed in the Central District.

Semifinals – Colonel Crawford over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep; Ottawa-Glandorf over Eastwood

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Colonel Crawford

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: The championship game will be played Saturday night. Defending D3 state champion Cleveland Heights Lutheran East has won seven straight district championships covering D2, D3, and D4. Campbell Memorial won their first district title since 2009. Their lone loss on the season came was to D4 Lowellville. Norwayne has won three straight district titles. Norwayne's losses were at Dalton and at Smithville. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney won a second straight district title defeating top seed and state-ranked New Middletown Springfield.

Semifinals – Campbell Memorial over Youngstown Cardinal Mooney; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Creston Norwayne

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Campbell Memorial

KETTERING FAIRMONT: The championship game will be played Saturday night. Cincinnati Taft won the regional in 2021 before losing at the buzzer to Worthington Christian in a state semifinal. Taft has played one of the tougher D3 schedules in the state. Georgetown stopped Versailles in their district championship game handing the Tigers just their second loss on the season. Dayton Meadowdale finished behind league champ Dunbar in the Dayton City League.

Semifinals – Georgetown over Dayton Meadowdale; Cincinnati Taft over Cincinnati Mariemont

Final – Cincinnati Taft over Georgetown

STATE

D3 will kick off the 100th Annual State Boys Basketball Tournament (or is it the 99TH) on the morning of Friday, March 18. The D3 state championship game will be played Sunday morning. I also attended the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500. The crowds in Dayton will probably be a bit smaller.

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Columbus Africentric; Cincinnati Taft over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Cincinnati Taft

DIVISION IV

REGIONALS

All D4 regional semifinal games will be played Tuesday night with the championship games scheduled for Friday night.

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Margaretta shared the SBC Bay title with D2 Huron. The Polar Bears last won a district title in 1932 on their way to the Class B state championship. Jake Leibacher recently became Margaretta's career scoring leader. Richmond Heights won a fourth consecutive district championship defeating Cornerstone Christian. Vienna Mathews defeated Warren JFK in overtime for their district title. It marked the school's first district title since consolidating in 1961. The lone loss on the season for Mathews was to D2 Cortland Lakeview.



Semifinals – Richmond Heights over Margaretta; Vienna Mathews over Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas

Final – Richmond Heights over Vienna Mathews

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Berlin Hiland makes the long trek to the Convo after winning a sixth straight district title. The Hawks needed overtime to win both their sectional final and district semifinal. Newark Catholic knocked off top seed Grandview Heights to win a second straight district crown.

Latham Western (aka Western Pike) eliminated top seed Gloucester Trimble in their district final. Western has lost to New Boston Glenwood and Symmes Valley. Lucasville Valley, the #2 seed in the Southeast District, won a district title after finishing as the runner-up in 2021.

Semifinals – Berlin Hiland over Newark Catholic; Lucasville Valley over Latham Western

Final – Berlin Hiland over Lucasville Valley

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Defending D4 state champion Botkins won the SCAL. The Trojans have lost to Marion Local and Lima Shawnee. New Madison Tri-Village went undefeated in winning the WOAC. Tri-Village lost 51-50 to Botkins at Kettering Fairmont. Springfield Catholic Central started the season with fifteen straight wins. Catholic Central's losses are to Cedarville and Troy Christian. East Knox won the school's first district championship.

Semifinals – New Madison Tri-Village over East Knox; Botkins over Springfield Catholic Central

Final – New Madison Tri-Village over Botkins

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: This is a really good regional. Undefeated Tiffin Calvert won their second district title in three years. The Senecas are the SBC River champions. Antwerp has won three straight district titles. Wayne Trace handed the Archers their only loss on the season. This is Marion Local's first trip to the regional since winning the D4 state championship in 2018. The Flyers shared the MAC title with New Bremen and Versailles. Ottoville won their first district title since 2005. The Big Green shared this year's PCL title with Leipsic and Pandora-Gilboa.

Semifinals – Tiffin Calvert over Ottoville; Antwerp over Marion Local

Final – Antwerp over Tiffin Calvert

STATE

The D4 semifinals will be the early games on Saturday with the championship game scheduled for late Sunday afternoon.

Semifinals – Richmond Heights over Berlin Hiland; New Madison Tri-Village over Antwerp

Final – Richmond Heights over New Madison Tri-Village

That wraps up Trail Trash and the Swami for year number twenty-nine. All facts, fiction, errors, and opinions are those of the Swami. Thanks for reading. Also, please check out our brackets on the davey1.com website that I find are far superior (I am totally unbiased) to any others. Really excited to be heading back to the Stroh Center. Good luck to all teams remaining in the tournament. Stay safe.