

Trail Trash

2024 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

On the net at www.Davey1.com

Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

Welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2024 with our look ahead to the regional and state tournaments. But first, here is a recap of what has transpired over the past two weeks.

With the conclusion of the regular season, the final state poll was released by the Associated Press. Findlay, Whitmer, and Sandusky were ranked in the top ten in D1 while a trio of teams (Shelby, Lexington, Willard) from the Ontario District were ranked in D2. In D3, Ottawa-Glandorf is the top team in the state with Emmanuel Christian, Margareta, Ashland Crestview, and Archbold also ranked. Toledo Christian finished as the poll champion in D4 with Lima Central Catholic, Delphos St. John's, Hopewell-Loudon and Antwerp also in the top ten (actually top eleven). Pandora-Gilboa was ranked #12 in D4. Only eleven voters in the final poll, but congrats to all the teams.

In the D1 sectionals, six of the top eight seeds advanced to the district. #3 Sandusky topped #8 Lima Senior and #4 Perrysburg beat #7 Clay in sectional finals. That marked career win #600 for Perrysburg coach Dave Boyce. #9 Anthony Wayne and #12 Sylvania Northview also advanced to the D1 district

with Northview the only team to eliminate a higher seed in the sectional finals. In the other three divisions, all of the #1 seeds moved on to the districts with Fostoria in D2 the lone #2 seed not advancing. Six teams seeded #5 won sectional titles including a clean sweep in D2 while #4 seeds won just four sectional titles. The D4 Elida District was the only district to have the top four seeds all advance. #7 seeds Liberty-Benton and Paulding in D3 and Marion Local in D4 were the lowest seeds to win sectional titles. Amarr Davis became Mansfield Christian's career scoring leader in a D4 sectional final win over Norwalk St. Paul. Mr. Davis is also the career receiving leader for the Mansfield Senior football team. The move to the higher seed hosting sectional games did not result in a greater home court advantage as higher seeds had an 81-26 record this year compared to an 85-22 record in 2023 when neutral sites were utilized. I had the opportunity to attend four sectional games. One of the weeknight games had a good crowd for a Wednesday and the Friday night game appeared to be close to a full house. It was great that teams still got the opportunity to cut down the nets, but the tournament vibe was somewhat lacking. With a gazillion district tournaments next

Issue 2024-2

Davey1.com

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.

year, maybe the NWDAB will move away entirely from neutral sites.

In the D1 districts, #12 Sylvania Northview pulled off the shocker by beating #1 Findlay in overtime. Northview was eliminated by #6 Toledo St. John's Jesuit in the championship game at Toledo Central Catholic. At Lake, #4 Perrysburg handed #3 Sandusky just their second loss of the season in a semifinal. In the championship game, #2 Toledo Whitmer edged Perrysburg for their third win of the season over the Yellow Jackets.

In D2, top seed Shelby won the loaded district at Ontario with a ten-point win over #2 Lexington. In the semifinals, the Whippets came from behind to beat #5 Mansfield Senior and Lex won an overtime classic over #3 Willard. #3 Lima Shawnee took the Liberty-Benton district with a win over #4 St. Marys. Shawnee had edged #5 Napoleon by one in a semifinal while St. Marys eliminated top seed Elida. At Lake, #5 Toledo Central Catholic came from behind in the fourth quarter to edge #2 Toledo Scott for the championship

In the D3 district at Lima Senior, #1 Ottawa-Glandorf needed overtime to advance with a win over #2 Spencerville in the title game. The Titans hit a late three to force the extra session. At Norwalk, #2 Margaretta eliminated #3 Genoa in the championship game. Margaretta needed a huge fourth quarter to defeat top seed Ashland Crestview in one semifinal while Genoa eliminated #5 Lake in overtime. At Napoleon, top seed Emmanuel Christian earned the first district championship in school history with a win over #2 Archbold. Emmanuel had advanced to the championship game with an overtime win over #4 Liberty Center.

In D4, #2 Seneca East won the first district title in school history with a win over #1 Colonel Crawford at Willard. That marked Seneca East's third win of the season over Crawford. At Elida, #2 Pandora-Gilboa knocked off #1 Delphos St. John's in the championship game. Pandora-Gilboa had narrowly defeated #3 Ottoville in a semifinal. Top seed Toledo Christian won the district championship at Defiance with a win over #3 Maumee Valley Country Day. Maumee Valley had advanced to the title game by topping #2 Antwerp in overtime. #3 Old Fort avenged two narrow regular season losses with an overtime win against #1 Hopewell-Loudon in the district at Liberty-Benton. At Wapakoneta, #1 Lima Central Catholic came from behind to eliminate #7 Marion Local in the championship game.

Just six of the thirteen teams receiving the top seed (#2 Toledo Whitmer was the top seed in the D1 Lake District) won district titles. Toledo St. John's, the #6 seed out of twenty D1 teams, was the lowest seed to win a district championship. Toledo Central Catholic, the #5 seed in the D2 Lake District, was the lowest seed among teams in the

other divisions to win a district title and the only team to advance to the regionals with a losing record.

Regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 will again be held at the Stroh Center at Bowling Green State University. The D4 semifinals will be played on Tuesday night with the D3 semifinals Wednesday night and the D2 semifinals Thursday night. The D4 championship game will be played on Friday night with the D3 and D2 championship games on Saturday afternoon. The start times for those Saturday games are subject to change. The D1 regional semifinal between Toledo Whitmer and Toledo St. John's Jesuit is scheduled for Wednesday night at the University of Toledo. The winner in that semifinal will play in the regional championship on Saturday afternoon at Savage Hall facing the winner of the regional semifinal from the University of Akron. Seneca East, the D4 district champion at Willard, gets to face Richmond Heights in a regional semifinal at the Canton Fieldhouse on Tuesday.

The last real state tournament will be held in Dayton at the University of Dayton Arena. The semifinal games will be played on Friday, March 22 (D4 & D3) and Saturday, March 23 (D2 & D1) with the championship games on Sunday, March 24. The UD Arena is a great place to hold the state tournament but having to play the championship games on Sunday still feels odd. With the OHSAA blowing up the tournament for next year, enjoy what we have in 2024.

The Swami had an overall record of 120-26 on his sectional and district picks but hit on just seven of the thirteen district champions. At least that was an improvement over last year.

DIVISION I

2023 state champion Akron Archbishop Hoban along with Centerville and Toledo St. John's Jesuit from last year's final four have advanced to the regionals. Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller is the top-ranked D1 team in the state.

REGIONALS

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinals will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday with the championship game Friday night. St. Ignatius' only loss to a team from Ohio was Richmond Heights in December. Brunswick ended Lakewood St. Edward's run of seven consecutive district titles.

Semifinals – Canton GlenOak over Brunswick; Cleveland St. Ignatius over Massillon Jackson

Final – Cleveland St. Ignatius over Canton GlenOak

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: Delaware Hayes and Olentangy head to the regionals with one loss apiece. Delaware Hayes lost to Westerville South in December while Orange started the season 17-0 before a February loss to Pickerington Central. Orange has two close wins over Hilliard Bradley. This is really an interesting regional.

Semifinals – Olentangy Orange over Newark; Hilliard Bradley over Delaware Hayes

Final – Hilliard Bradley over Olentangy Orange

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Moeller’s only loss was at Centerville back in January. Both of Elder’s losses to Moeller were by double digits. Centerville has won six straight district championships. Hamilton topped league rival Sycamore in their district final following a regular season loss.

Semifinals – Centerville over Hamilton; Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Cincinnati Elder

Final – Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Centerville

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO/UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: Both semifinal games are on Wednesday with Hoban playing Garfield Heights at Akron and Whitmer taking on St. John’s Jesuit at Savage Arena. The championship game will be Saturday afternoon at UT. An intriguing regional. Garfield Heights’ only loss was at Rocky River Lutheran West. Hoban returned two starters from last year’s state championship team. Whitmer’s two losses were to Findlay. The Panthers start three juniors and a sophomore. St. John’s Jesuit finished in 4th place in the Detroit Catholic High School League. The league has two of the remaining eight teams in the big school tournament in Michigan.

Semifinals – Garfield Heights over Akron Archbishop Hoban; Toledo St. John’s Jesuit over Toledo Whitmer

Final - Garfield Heights over Toledo St. John’s Jesuit

STATE

As usual, D1 will play the late games on Saturday and will close out the last real state tournament on Sunday night before family, friends, and some diehards.

Semifinals – Cleveland St. Ignatius over Hilliard Bradley; Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Garfield Heights

Final – Cleveland St. Ignatius over Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller

DIVISION II

Rocky River Lutheran West is the state’s top ranked team after finishing as the state runner-up in 2023. Defending state champion Akron Buchtel lost in a district semifinal to Cleveland Glenville.

REGIONALS

All semifinal games will be Thursday with the championship games slated for Saturday.

VANDALIA BUTLER: Kettering Alter won their third straight district title. Alter swept their two games with Hamilton Badin. Wyoming started the season 16-0 before a three-game losing streak including a loss to Cincinnati Elder.

Semifinals – Kettering Archbishop Alter over Plain City Jonathan Alder; Cincinnati Wyoming over Hamilton Badin

Final – Kettering Archbishop Alter over Cincinnati Wyoming

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Youngstown Ursuline won at Canfield in December and has a February win over Archbishop Hoban.

Semifinals – Youngstown Ursuline over Cleveland Villa-Angela St. Joseph; Canfield over Warrensville Heights

Final – Youngstown Ursuline over Canfield



BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Lutheran West losses are to St. Ignatius and Archbishop Hoban. The Longhorns returned three players that started in last year’s D2 championship game along with some other contributors. Toledo Central Catholic went winless in the eight-team Detroit Catholic High School League. The Irish start a freshman and three sophomores. Shelby’s losses are to Ottawa-Glandorf and Lexington. The twenty-three wins on the season is a school record for the Whippets. Lima Shawnee finished as the WBL runner-up to Ottawa-Glandorf with the Bertke brothers (sophomore and freshman) as the top players for the Indians.

Semifinals – Rocky River Lutheran West over Toledo Central Catholic; Shelby over Lima Shawnee

Final – Rocky River Lutheran West over Shelby

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Warren Local's only loss to an Ohio team was Marietta. Maysville and Tri-Valley are back at the regionals for a second straight season. The teams split during the regular season. Bishop Hartley's losses are to Jonathan Alder, Bishop Watterson, and Mansfield Senior.

Semifinals – Zanesville Maysville over Columbus Bishop Hartley; Vincent Warren over Dresden Tri-Valley

Final – Zanesville Maysville over Vincent Warren

STATE

D2 has the early games on Saturday with the championship game on Sunday afternoon.

Semifinals – Kettering Archbishop Alter over Youngstown Ursuline; Rocky River Lutheran West over Zanesville Maysville

Final – Rocky River Lutheran West over Kettering Archbishop Alter

DIVISION III

Defending state champion Cleveland Heights Lutheran East along with Ottawa-Glandorf and Canal Winchester Harvest Prep from the 2023 final four are returning to the regionals.

REGIONALS

All semifinal games will be played Wednesday with the championship games on Saturday.

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Malvern was the only team in the state to finish the regular season undefeated. McDermott Northwest knocked off top seed Wheelersburg in their district final. Harvest Prep won their third straight district title and sixth in the last seven years.

Semifinals – Malvern over McDermott Northwest; Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Seaman North Adams

Final – Malvern over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Ottawa-Glandorf won a fifth consecutive district title and their twelfth in the last fourteen years. Titan losses are to Lima Central Catholic, Findlay, and Troy Christian. OSU signee Colin White is the all-time leading scorer in Putnam County. Emmanuel Christian's losses are to Toledo Christian (twice) and Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. Coach Sed Harris won a D3 district championship at Cardinal Stritch last season. Margaretta established a school record with their twenty-three wins. The Polar Bears start just one senior. Worthington

Christian eliminated top seed Columbus Academy after splitting their regular season games.

Semifinals – Worthington Christian over Margaretta; Ottawa-Glandorf over Emmanuel Christian

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Worthington Christian

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Preble Shawnee handed Tri-Village their only conference loss. Tri-Village also lost at Dayton Belmont. Versailles is the only team from the MAC to win a district title. The Tigers finished in a tie for fifth in the league standings.

Semifinals – Camden Preble Shawnee over New Madison Tri-Village; Cincinnati Mariemont over Versailles

Final – Camden Preble Shawnee over Cincinnati Mariemont

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Lutheran East won a ninth straight district championship covering three divisions. Fairview won the first district championship in school history. Canton Central Catholic won a second straight district championship. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney has a January win over the Crusaders.

Semifinals – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Fairview Park Fairview; Youngstown Cardinal Mooney over Canton Central Catholic

Final—Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Youngstown Cardinal Mooney

STATE

D3 has the late games on Friday with the championship game on Sunday afternoon

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Malvern; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Camden Preble Shawnee

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East

DIVISION IV

Two-time defending state champion Richmond Heights along with Russia and Berlin Hiland from the 2023 final four return to the regionals.

REGIONALS

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

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Berlin Hiland won an eighth straight district championship despite dealing with

injuries. Northside Christian has back-to-back district titles. South Webster was the top seed in the Southeast District.

Semifinals – Berlin Hiland over Westerville Northside Christian; South Webster over Leesburg Fairfield

Final – Berlin Hiland over South Webster

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Pandora-Gilboa won the PCL title and tied with Liberty-Benton and Arlington for the BVC title. The Rockets lost back-to-back games in January to Arlington and Delphos St. John's. Toledo Christian won their first district championship since 2011. TC's only loss was to Maumee Valley Country Day in December. Lima Central Catholic's season includes wins over Lima Shawnee (two) and Ottawa-Glandorf with losses to Delphos St. John's and Spencerville. Coach Sean Powell won the D4 state championship at Botkins in 2021. Old Fort won their first district title since 2002. The Stockaders finished tied for 2nd place behind Hopewell-Loudon in the SBC River. Old Fort lost at Toledo Christian in December.

Semifinals – Toledo Christian over Pandora-Gilboa; Lima Central Catholic over Old Fort

Final – Toledo Christian over Lima Central Catholic

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Richmond Heights returned all five starters from the 2023 championship team The Spartans also added 6'7" TJ Crumble from Lutheran East, but the OHSAA ruled him ineligible for the second half of the season in a decision backed by the courts. Seneca East was part of a 4-way tie at the top of the N10 standings. In addition to winning the first district championship in school history, the Tigers won a sectional title for the first time since 1990. Seneca East's enrollment number (before competitive balance) is higher than Richmond Heights. Warren JFK has wins over Akron Archbishop Hoban and Youngstown Cardinal Mooney.

Semifinals – Richmond Heights over Seneca East; Warren JFK over Dalton

Final – Richmond Heights over Warren JFK

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Russia returned three starters and three other contributors from the team that gave Richmond Heights their stiffest test. Russia's only loss was at Botkins. Troy Christian won a second straight district title. The Eagles lost at Russia and at Tri-Village, but have a signature win at Ottawa-Glandorf. Lancaster Fisher Catholic won the first district title in school history.

Semifinals – Russia over Lancaster Fisher Catholic; Troy Christian over Jackson Center

Final – Russa over Troy Christian

STATE

D4 will kick off the 102nd Annual State Boys Basketball Tournament (the 98th annual wasn't held) on Friday, March 22 at the University of Dayton. Might need a rebranding for 2025. The championship game will be Sunday morning.

Semifinals – Toledo Christian over Berlin Hiland; Richmond Heights over Russia

Final – Richmond Heights over Toledo Christian

That wraps up Trail Trash and the Swami for our thirty-first year. Thank you for reading. All facts, fiction, errors, and opinions are those of the Swami. Please check out the brackets on the davey1.com website. See you at the Stroh Center and in Dayton.

Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, and riches take wings. Only one thing endures and that is character.

