

# Trail Trash

## 2019 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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*Featuring Commentary &  
Predictions by ...*

# The Swami

*This marks the twenty-sixth year for Trail Trash and the Swami.*

**Welcome aboard.** The regular season has flown by (although not as fast as some would have liked) and it is tournament time in Northwest Ohio. Before we get going, just a few things.

Tournament basketball in the Northwest District is the best of any of the OHSAA's six districts. There is none of the NCAA style bracketing garbage where the #1 seed plays the winner of the game between the #8 and #9 seeds in a 12 team district. The top seeds can take a bye if they want but are not required to do so. A #3 seed can play a #4 seed in a sectional game if they wish. Games are played at neutral sites rather than the higher seed hosting at the sectional level (and not calling those the district quarter finals). No sport boasts more of a home court/home field advantage than basketball so why not play at a neutral site. Northwest Ohio does it right when it comes to tournament basketball. The Swami hopes it stays that way.

**Since 1994, Trail Trash** has been published twice annually in conjunction with the boys state 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.

The tournament also means the running clock rule. The Swami changed his mind about the running clock after seeing it twice last season (in a sectional final and in one of the D2 games at the state tournament). While I understand why the rule was implemented, it does not mean I have to like it. Maybe some tweaking would help like stopping the clock on foul shots. The rule, in part, came about as the result of poor sportsmanship. And while we are at it, no shot clock please. That will not improve the game at the high school level. And stay off my lawn.

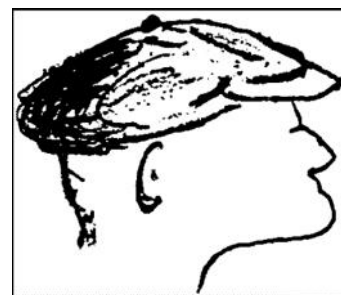
A great move by the OHSAA scheduling doubleheaders for the first two days of the state tournament. The Swami never likes to hear those dreaded words "split session" and is a big fan of doubleheaders at the sectional, district, and regional level. It should also mean much better weather in Columbus come tournament time since we will not be spending nearly as much time outside between games. Expect the weather to deteriorate on the Saturday of the finals. There should also be an increase in the amount of chocolate milk and Donato's pizza consumed. Thank you Mr. Jerry Snodgrass.

Over the past few weeks, there have been a ton of games postponed due to bad weather. Maybe not as bad as during the '13-'14 season when upwards of 250 games were postponed around Northwest Ohio, but still a big number. Kudos to the athletic directors, coaches, officials, and everybody else involved for all their hard work in getting so many of those games rescheduled.

The Swami has knocked the cobwebs off the Ouija board. Time to go to the predictions.

### DIVISION I

Similar to 2018, all twenty-one D1 teams were seeded and then assigned to one of two districts based on whatever line on the brackets a team chose at the tournament draw meeting (even though they no



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longer draw those numbered pills). With the majority of the teams (16 of 21) from the Toledo area, the University of Toledo will again host the two D1 district tournaments in. Toledo Whitmer, undefeated Sylvania Northview, and Lima Senior were the top three seeds. Those same three teams have received the majority of the accolades so far this season in D1 with Northview finishing in the Associated Press top ten, Whitmer falling out of the top ten in the final poll, and Lima in and out of the top ten.

Under a similar tournament format in 2018, the second through sixth seeds all jumped to the same district to avoid Toledo St. John's. There was nothing quite as dramatic this season although it appears that District 2 is somewhat more difficult with a deeper group of contenders. At the time of the draw, twelve teams had records at or above the .500. Lake has replaced Toledo Central Catholic as a sectional site.

The two winners from the district tournaments at the University of Toledo will meet in a regional semifinal at Savage Arena. The other regional semifinal will be played at the University of Akron and will match district winners from Barberton (Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Copley, Akron Archbishop Hoban) and Elyria Catholic (Lorain, Olmsted Falls, Lakewood). The regional final is slated for the University of Akron. With Akron SVSM or Lorain likely to get to the regional final, a D1 team from Northwest Ohio will have their work cut out in order to advance to Columbus.

## SECTIONALS

**TOLEDO START (UT DISTRICT 1):** #1 Toledo Whitmer and #6 Anthony Wayne are the top seeds at Start. Whitmer's only losses on the season are to Lima Senior and Lakewood St. Edward. The Panthers have clinched a TRAC co-championship with a game at Lima Senior to close out the season. Whitmer returned four starters from the 2018 district championship team. Anthony Wayne will finish no worse than a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NLL. The Generals opened the season with a win over Lima Senior. Ashland will be making the 100 mile to Start for a second time this season having lost to the Spartans back in December. The Arrows currently trail Lexington and Mansfield Senior in the OCC. AW and Ashland were both probably seeded a bit too high.

Semifinal – Bowling Green over Toledo Woodward

Finals – Toledo Whitmer over Bowling Green; Ashland over Anthony Wayne

**GENOA (UT DISTRICT 1):** #4 Toledo Start and #5 Toledo St. Francis are the top seeds at Genoa. Start is undefeated in the Toledo City League and will play Bowsher in the league's championship game. St. Francis beat Start handily the day after the tournament draw. Start's only other loss in Ohio was to Whitmer in early January. St. Francis was the

pre-season pick to win the TRAC. The Knights are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the TRAC behind Whitmer and Lima. St. Francis ended their nineteen game losing streak to St. John's earlier this season. Southview returned two starters from their 2018 district runner-up. The Cougars, with a lack of size and depth, will finish in the middle of the NLL standings.

Semifinal – Toledo St. Francis over Toledo Waite

Finals – Toledo St. Francis over Sylvania Southview; Toledo Start over Clay

**FOSTORIA (UT DISTRICT 2):** #3 Lima Senior and #7 Findlay are the top seeds at FHS. Lima Senior will have a chance for a share the TRAC title with Whitmer when they host the Panthers to close out the season. The Spartans have lost to St. John's and Findlay in the TRAC. Two junior transfers from Pickerington Central have been key components for Lima. Findlay will finish in the middle of the TRAC standings. The Trojans are completing their 20<sup>th</sup> straight season over .500. Springfield should finish in the top half of the NLL standings. Findlay beat Springfield by one point back in December at Findlay so their sectional final should be very entertaining. Toledo Bowsher will play Start in the Toledo City League's championship game.

Semifinal – Toledo Bowsher over Mansfield Madison

Finals – Lima Senior over Toledo Bowsher; Findlay over Springfield

**LAKE (UT DISTRICT 2):** #2 Sylvania Northview and #8 Toledo St. John's Jesuit are the top seeds at Lake. An interesting sectional at Lake. Undefeated Northview is the NLL champion. There are questions with Northview given their soft non-league schedule. St. John's is in a reloading year with just one senior. The Titans should still finish in the top half of the TRAC. SJJ has won sectional titles the past twenty-one seasons. Central Catholic has been very competitive with several close losses. Central has won nine straight sectional titles. A Northview/Central Catholic sectional final would be very interesting. That assumes Central can get by underachieving Rogers. Perrysburg has been inconsistent but can still get a share of 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NLL. Coach Dave Boyce got career win #500 (Northwood, Galloway Westland, Perrysburg) in the season opener.

Semifinal – Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Rogers; Perrysburg over Fremont Ross

Finals – Sylvania Northview over Toledo Central Catholic;  
Toledo St. John’s Jesuit over Perrysburg

### DISTRICTS

The winners of the two districts at UT will meet in a regional semifinal at Savage Arena. Toledo St. John’s Jesuit and Toledo Whitmer won district championships at UT in 2018. For SJJ, it was a second straight district title.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO (DISTRICT 1):

Semifinals – Toledo Whitmer over Ashland; Toledo St. Francis over Toledo Start

Final – Toledo Whitmer over Toledo St. Francis

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO (DISTRICT 2):

Semifinals – Lima Senior over Findlay; Sylvania Northview over Toledo St. John’s Jesuit

Final – Lima Senior over Sylvania Northview

### *DIVISION II*

There does not appear to be a dominant team from around Northwest Ohio in D2 this season. Wauseon has been a fixture in the Associated Press top ten but no other teams from NW Ohio have consistently appeared in the popularity contest.

Nine of the fifteen teams in the Mansfield Madison district were above .500 at the time of the draw headed by Norwalk, 2018 state semifinalist Lexington, Vermilion, Mansfield Senior, and Clear Fork. This should make for a very competitive district. Milan Edison is new to this district moving up from D3.

Lima Shawnee and Wauseon are the cream of the crop in the Ohio Northern district. Eight of the fourteen teams were above .500 at the time of the draw. Shawnee and Wauseon got the top two seeds, but it is unlike 2018 when Wauseon was the prohibitive favorite to win the district. It will be interesting to see if any of the other WBL squads get hot at tourney time and make a run similar to Elida’s trip to the regional finals in 2017.

The winner of the district at Mansfield Madison will take on the winner of one of the two districts at Ohio Dominican (Columbus South, Columbus Beechcroft, Columbus Bishop Watterson) in one regional semifinal at Bowling Green with the Lima Senior district winner facing the winner of the district at North Ridgeville (Cleveland Central Catholic,

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Parma Heights Holy Name, Bay) in the other semifinal game. No way does the Swami want to be sitting in the Stroh Center on a Saturday afternoon in March watching Columbus South play Cleveland Central Catholic. Nothing against those schools, but the Swami wants to see a team or teams from NW Ohio with a trip to Columbus on the line.

### SECTIONALS

BUCYRUS (MANSFIELD MADISON DISTRICT): #3 Vermilion and #4 Mansfield Senior are the top seeds at Bucyrus. Vermilion has clinched at least a tie in the SBC Bay. The Sailors took the bye after Norwalk and Lexington passed on it. Vermilion is really scuffling as the season comes to an end. Mansfield Senior can still gain a share of the OCC title with Lex. Clear Fork is the MOAC champion. The Colts have been one of the surprise teams in the Mansfield area. Sandusky still has a remote chance at getting a share of the SBC Lake title. The Blue Streaks lack size but have depth. Shelby was the pre-season pick in the MOAC but the Whippets have underachieved. Bellevue has been hurt by the loss of 1,000-point scorer Trey Ruhlman to injury for a big part of the season. The sectional finals should be excellent.

Semifinals – Sandusky over Shelby; Clear Fork over Bellevue; Mansfield Senior over Port Clinton

Finals – Vermilion over Sandusky; Mansfield Senior over Clear Fork



WILLARD (MANSFIELD MADISON DISTRICT): #1 Norwalk and #2 Lexington are the top seeds at Bob Haas. Norwalk has clinched a share of the SBC Lake title. The Truckers had a fourteen game winning streak recently ended by D3 Cardinal Stritch. Norwalk garnered the top seed with a close win over Lex just before the draw. 2018 state semifinalist Lexington is currently tied with Mansfield Senior for the OCC lead. The Minutemen returned three starters from last season but there has been some inconsistency. Cade Stover became Lex’s career scoring leader in December. Clyde still has a shot at getting a piece of the SBC Lake crown. Ontario has persevered through an injury-plagued season. The Warriors are playing their best basketball of the season and will finish in the runner-up spot in the MOAC. Perkins will finish the season above .500.

Semifinals – Norwalk over Tiffin Columbian; Clyde over

Perkins; Ontario over Galion; Lexington over Edison  
Finals – Norwalk over Clyde; Lexington over Ontario

LIMA SENIOR (ONU DISTRICT): #1 Lima Shawnee is the top seed at Lima Senior. Shawnee will finish no worse than 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the WBL. The Indians have a couple of top-notch sophomores along with several veterans. Shawnee's only losses to date have been to St. Henry and Ottawa-Glandorf. Elida is currently tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Defiance and Van Wert in the WBL. The #5 seed Bulldogs benefitted from some interesting maneuvering by Wapak at the draw. Bryan will finish in the middle of NWOAL. The Golden Bears have a lot of size but have been up and down. Toledo Scott was picked to finish last in the Toledo City League. The Bulldogs qualified for the league's "Final Four" where they lost to Start. Napoleon will finish in the bottom half of the NLL but the Wildcats are much improved from last season.

Semifinals – Napoleon over Celina; Elida over Toledo Scott; Bryan over St. Marys Memorial

Finals – Lima Shawnee over Napoleon; Elida over Bryan

FINDLAY (ONU DISTRICT): #2 Wauseon, #3 Defiance, and #4 Wapakoneta are the top seeds at Findlay. Wauseon will finish as the NWOAL runner-up. The Indians returned two starters from last year's team. Two of Wauseon's losses were to Archbold. Defiance started off 10-2 including a win over Wauseon before a season ending injury to their leading scorer and rebounder. Coach Kirk Lehman got career win #400 (Tinora, Rossford, Defiance) in December. What happened with the rest of this bracket? Wapak, coming off a 14-point loss to Defiance that cost them the #3 seed, decided to jump right back into the fire with a potential sectional final matchup against the Bulldogs. Then Van Wert took a path that should have them playing Wauseon in the other sectional final rather than heading to Lima for a potential matchup with Elida. Kenton is currently undefeated in non-league games but near the bottom of the WBL.

Semifinals – Van Wert over Lima Bath; Defiance over Maumee; Wapakoneta over Kenton

Finals – Wauseon over Van Wert; Wapakoneta over Defiance

### DISTRICTS

The winner of the Mansfield Madison district will play the winner of one of the Columbus districts and the ONU district winner will meet the winner of the North Ridgeville district in regional semifinal games at BGSU.

MANSFIELD MADISON: Lexington won the district championship at Madison in 2018.

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Semifinals – Mansfield Senior over Vermilion; Lexington over Norwalk

Final – Lexington over Mansfield Senior

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY: Wauseon won the district at ONU in 2018 for their second straight district title.

Semifinals – Lima Shawnee over Elida; Wauseon over Wapakoneta

Final – Lima Shawnee over Wauseon

### *DIVISION III*

With only sixteen of the thirty-seven teams from around Northwest Ohio having winning records at the time of draw, D3 appears to be top heavy. At the top of the list are some heavy hitters with undefeated and top-ranked Archbold, undefeated Genoa, and Ottawa-Glandorf all ranked in the top ten by the Associated Press. You can add Cardinal Stritch to the list even though the Cardinals have just started getting noticed in the poll. If things go according to form in D3, there should be some terrific district finals.

The Toledo Central Catholic district has Genoa and Stritch as the top seeds. Evergreen had 15 wins at the time of the draw with Elmwood the only other team above .500. This is not an overly deep district but a Cardinal Stritch/Genoa district final would definitely be worth the price of admission. Archbold and Liberty Center moved from the Central Catholic district to the Lima Senior district while Elmwood moved north to Central Catholic. Clay has replaced Anthony Wayne as a sectional site.

The Lima Senior district got very interesting with Archbold's move from the Central Catholic district. This is another district that isn't very deep with six teams above .500 at the time of the draw. There will be some battles to determine what two teams get out of the sectionals to join Ottawa-Glandorf and Archbold in the district. An Archbold/O-G district final appears to be inevitable. Lima Central Catholic and Fort Recovery have dropped down to D4.

Willard, Upper Sandusky, and Western Reserve are the top teams in the Norwalk district. Six of the teams were above .500 at the time of the draw. The Norwalk district again appears to be the weakest of the D3 districts. 2018 district runner-up Margaretta has dropped down to D4 while



Edison has moved up to D2. Monroeville has replaced Shelby as a sectional site.

The winner of the Toledo Central Catholic district will take on the winner of one of the two Columbus districts (Worthington Christian, Johnstown-Monroe, Grandview Heights, Marion Pleasant) in a regional semifinal at BGSU. The top D3 team in the Columbus district, Canal Winchester Harvest Prep, has chosen a path to the regional at Ohio University. The district winners from Lima Senior and Norwalk will meet in the other semifinal at the Stroh Center. The Swami will be shocked if we do not see a team representing Northwest Ohio in Columbus.

## SECTIONALS

**OREGON CLAY (TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC DISTRICT):** #1 Genoa and #3 Evergreen are the top seeds at Clay. Undeclared Genoa is the NBC champ. At times this season, the Comets have appeared disinterested playing only as hard as they need to. Jake Plantz became Genoa's career scoring leader in December. Teammate Drew Bench has also gone over 1,000 points for his career. Evergreen chose the path that would have them facing Genoa rather than Stritch in a district semifinal. The Vikings will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place behind Archbold and Wauseon in the NWOAL. Evergreen has four starters averaging in double figures but depth is an issue. #8 seed Swanton is the next best team at Clay. The Bulldogs took Genoa and Evergreen to the wire. A young Rossford team with no seniors and no gym has shown some improvement as the season winds down.

Semifinals – Rossford over Gibsonburg; Evergreen over Lake; Swanton over Woodmore

Finals – Genoa over Rossford; Evergreen over Swanton

**TOLEDO BOWSHER (TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC DISTRICT):** #2 Cardinal Stritch and #4 Elmwood are the top seeds at ELB. Cardinal Stritch is the TAAC champion. Jordan Burton and Joey Holifield both surpassed 1,000 points in career scoring this season for the Cardinals. Stritch was the district runner-up in 2018 to Archbold after winning the district championship in 2017. Elmwood is having a solid season. The Royals are currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NBC followed by Eastwood. The Eagles have just one win outside the league. Otsego has hovered around .500 all season. Other than Genoa, the NBC is down this year.

Semifinals – Delta over Northwood; Eastwood over Otsego

Finals – Cardinal Stritch over Delta; Elmwood over Eastwood

**ELIDA (LIMA SENIOR DISTRICT):** #1 Archbold and #4 Van Buren are the top seeds at Elida. Archbold has clinched

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a share of the NWOAL title. The Blue Streaks edged Ottawa-Glandorf at Archbold back in December. Joe Frank has taken over from the retired Doug Krauss as head coach after a zillion years as the junior varsity coach. Van Buren is currently tied with Arlington for the lead in the BVC. Coldwater currently sits in the middle of the MAC standings. Ditto for Paulding in the NWC. After twenty-six sectional titles in a period of twenty-seven seasons, Liberty-Benton will experience a second straight losing season.

Semifinals – Liberty Center over Liberty-Benton; Coldwater over Paulding

Finals – Archbold over Liberty Center; Coldwater over Van Buren

**MILLER CITY (LIMA SENIOR DISTRICT):** #2 Ottawa-Glandorf and #3 Bluffton are the top seeds at Miller City. Ottawa-Glandorf has clinched at least a share of the WBL title. The Titans have scored over ninety points in a game five times with a season high of 102 against Lima Bath. O-G's losses are to Archbold, Findlay, and Lexington. The Titans have won 13 consecutive sectional titles. Bluffton started the season 8-0 including a home win over Convoy Crestview. The Pirates have been a .500 team since the beginning of 2019. Bluffton has no seniors on their roster. A young Fairview team is looking to finish the season over .500. The Apaches will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the GMC.

Semifinals – Delphos Jefferson over Spencerville; Fairview over Tinora

Finals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Delphos Jefferson; Bluffton over Fairview



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**HOPEWELL-LOUDON (NORWALK DISTRICT):** #1 Willard and #4 Carey are the top seeds at HL. Willard has a chance to share the SBC Bay title with Vermilion. Two transfer students have led the resurgence for the Flashes. Willard is currently on a thirteen game (and counting) winning streak. The Flashes lost 83-59 to Upper Sandusky in their season opener, but were able to wrestle the top seed away from the Rams. Defending district champ Carey will finish in the top half of the N10. The Blue Devils have lacked consistency throughout the season. Oak Harbor will finish the season above .500 for the second straight season.

Semifinals – Wynford over Ashland Crestview; Oak Harbor over Lakota

Finals – Willard over Wynford; Carey over Oak Harbor

MONROEVILLE (NORWALK DISTRICT): #2 Upper Sandusky and #3 Western Reserve are the top seeds at Monroeville. Upper Sandusky currently sits in a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the N10 behind league champion Mohawk. The Rams started the season 8-0 but have been up and down since late December. Western Reserve is the Firelands champion. The Roughriders are undefeated in the conference have but scuffled a bit in the non-league portion of their schedule. Huron has been inconsistent but the Tigers are playing the role of spoiler in the SBC Bay. New London is a middle of the pack Firelands team and hovering around the .500 mark on the season. Fostoria is much improved from a season ago.

Semifinals – Huron over New London; Fostoria over Bucyrus

Finals – Huron over Western Reserve; Upper Sandusky over Fostoria

#### DISTRICTS

The winner of the Toledo Central Catholic district will meet one of the Columbus district winners and the Lima Senior district winner will play the Norwalk district winner in regional semifinal games at BGSU.

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Archbold won the district championship at Central Catholic in 2018.

Semifinals – Genoa over Evergreen; Cardinal Stritch over Elmwood

Final – Cardinal Stritch over Genoa

LIMA SENIOR: Ottawa-Glandorf won the Lima Senior district championship in 2018 for their seventh district title in the past eight seasons. Archbold's district title in 2018 was their second straight.

Semifinals – Archbold over Coldwater; Ottawa-Glandorf over Bluffton

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold

NORWALK: Carey's district title at Norwalk in 2018 was the first in school history.

Semifinals – Willard over Carey; Upper Sandusky over Huron

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Final – Willard over Upper Sandusky

#### DIVISION IV

Northwest Ohio once again will have six districts in D4. District winners from Findlay, Fostoria, Napoleon, and Elida will play in the regional tournament at BGSU. The winner of the Willard district will advance to the regional at the Canton Fieldhouse while the winner of the Wapakoneta district will advance to the regional at Kettering Fairmont.

Convoy Crestview, St. Henry, and Mohawk have been fixtures in the top ten with Hicksville falling out of the top ten in the final Associated Press poll. In 2018, Marion Local and Pandora-Gilboa both advanced to Columbus with Marion Local winning the whole thing. Neither was ranked so why does the Swami keep mentioning the AP poll?

In the Willard district, Colonel Crawford is the top seed but there is no clear-cut favorite. Eight of the teams were above .500 at the time of the draw (should we now start calling it the bracket selection process?). Margaretta has dropped down from D3. Shelby has replaced Lexington as a sectional site (somebody must have looked at a map). Whoever wins at Willard will meet the Struthers district winner (New Middletown Springfield, McDonald). The winner of the Orwell district (Kinsman Badger, Bristol) will meet the winner of the Norton district (Richmond Heights) in the other regional semifinal at Canton.

St. Henry and defending D4 state champ Marion Local are the top teams in the Wapak district. Minster is solid and Lima Perry is the dark horse. Fort Recovery has dropped down from D3. Five teams had winning records at the time of the draw with a couple more hovering around .500. The winner at Wapak will face the winner of one of the Dayton districts (Springfield Catholic Central) in one of the regional semifinals at Kettering Fairmont. The winners of the other two Dayton districts (Cincinnati Christian, Fort Loramie, Jackson Center, Xenia Legacy Christian) meet in the other regional semifinal.

Findlay has replaced Liberty-Benton as a district venue. Of the four districts making up the Bowling Green regional, Findlay is probably the weakest. Arlington and Columbus Grove are the top teams. Five teams were at or above .500 at the time of the draw. Arlington, Hardin-Northern, Riverdale, and Vanlue are new to the district coming over from Fostoria (see earlier map comment). Bluffton University has replaced Ottawa-Glandorf as a sectional site.

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The Fostoria district features a number of changes with Maumee Valley Country Day, Toledo Christian, Ottawa Hills, and Emmanuel Christian moving over from Napoleon and Danbury from the Willard district. The TAAC teams along with top seed Mohawk makes this a much stronger district than a year ago. Seven teams had winning records at the time of the draw.

Hicksville is the top team in the Napoleon district. The Aces, Antwerp, and Ayersville all came north after being part of the Elida district in 2018. Holgate is back at Napoleon after a year in the Liberty-Benton district. Six teams had records above .500 at the time of the draw. Defiance replaces Wauseon as a sectional site (the lighting in the gym at Defiance is a little better).

Elida remains the strongest of the districts headed to BG. Convoy Crestview is the bonafide favorite in a district that featured nine teams at or above .500 at the time of the draw. Kalida and Miller City moved over from Liberty-Benton with Lima Temple Christian coming over from Wapak. Lima Central Catholic has dropped down from D3 just to make things interesting.

Similar to last season, there are people complaining about sectional sites and district assignments. Just a different group of people doing the complaining this time around. At least they are trying to get it right.

Northwest Ohio again has a chance to get three teams to Columbus in D4. The Swami doubts that will happen but the Swami likes the chances of getting two D4 teams to the state tournament in 2019.

## SECTIONALS

**SHELBY (WILLARD DISTRICT):** #2 South Central and #3 Margaretta are the top seeds at Shelby. This is a competitive sectional. South Central will finish as the runner-up in the Firelands behind Western Reserve. Trojans losses are to WR (twice), Waynedale, and Norwalk in overtime. Margaretta will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the SBC Bay. The Polar Bears were the D3 district runner-up at Norwalk a year ago. Sandusky St. Mary will finish the regular season with at least 16 wins but was only able to get the #6 seed. Mansfield St. Peter's will finish as the runner-up to Lucas in the Mid-Buckeye. The Spartans have played an extremely competitive non-league schedule. Plymouth should finish the season above .500.

Semifinals – Sandusky St. Mary CC over Mansfield Christian; Mansfield St. Peter's over Plymouth

Finals – South Central over Sandusky St. Mary CC; Margaretta over Mansfield St. Peter's

**GALION (WILLARD DISTRICT):** #1 Colonel Crawford

and #4 Norwalk St. Paul are the top seeds at Galion. Colonel Crawford recently had their fourteen game winning streak snapped by Lexington. The Eagles are currently in a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the N10 with Upper Sandusky. Norwalk St. Paul got the #4 seed by knocking off Sandusky St. Mary the night before the draw. The Flyers will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Firelands. Lucas is the Mid-Buckeye champion. The Cubs last league title had been in 1991. A young Monroeville team is much improved matching their number of wins for the past three seasons combined.

Semifinals – Crestline over Monroeville; Lucas over Buckeye Central

Finals – Colonel Crawford over Crestline; Lucas over Norwalk St. Paul

**BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY (FINDLAY DISTRICT):** #1 Arlington and #4 Riverdale are the top seeds at BU. Arlington is currently tied with Van Buren for the BVC lead. The Red Devils are trying to get over the hump after back-to-back district runner-up finishes. Riverdale has been a BVC contender all season and will finish in the top half of the league. Riverdale's last sectional title was in Class A prior to the OHSAA going to four divisions for the 1988 tournament. Leipsic has been around .500 all season and will finish in the middle of the BVC standings. Patrick Henry, with a recent win over Bryan for their only NWOAL victory to date, took the bye at when Arlington chose to play a sectional semifinal game.

Semifinals – Arlington over Vanlue; Leipsic over Arcadia

Finals – Arlington over Patrick Henry; Riverdale over Leipsic

**VAN BUREN (FINDLAY DISTRICT):** #2 Columbus Grove and #3 Pandora Gilboa are top seeds at VB. Columbus Grove has clinched a tie for the NWC championship. The Bulldogs will face NWC rival Convoy Crestview to finish the season. Grove, with three sophomore starters, will also finish as runner-up to Kalida in the PCL. Pandora-Gilboa returned two starters from the 2018 state semifinalist. The Rockets still have a shot at a share of the BVC championship. McComb got a late start after winning the D7 state championship in football. The Panthers will finish in the top half of the BVC. Hardin-Northern has seven wins after winning just two games over the past two seasons.

Semifinals – McComb over Hardin Northern; Cory-Rawson over North Baltimore

Finals – Pandora-Gilboa over McComb; Columbus Grove over Cory-Rawson

CAREY (FOSTORIA DISTRICT): #1 Mohawk and #2 Maumee Valley Country Day are the top seeds at Carey. Mohawk is the N10 champion for their first outright league title since 1963. Zach Hayman of Mohawk recently became the school's career scoring leader breaking the record that also goes back to 1963. #2 seed Maumee Valley Country chose to make the short trip to Carey to set up a potential district semifinal against top seed Mohawk. University of Michigan commit Zeb Jackson leads four Hawks averaging in double figures. MVCD is currently tied with Toledo Christian and Ottawa Hills for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the TAAC behind Cardinal Stritch. Hopewell-Loudon chose MVCD's bracket rather than a potential sectional final matchup with Mohawk. The Chieftains, looking to finish the season above .500, move from the BVC to the SBC River next season.

Semifinals – Hopewell-Loudon over Danbury; Seneca East over New Riegel

Finals – Maumee Valley Country Day over Hopewell-Loudon; Mohawk over Seneca East

FREMONT ROSS (FOSTORIA DISTRICT): #3 Toledo Christian and #4 Ottawa Hills are the top seeds at the Purple Pit. Toledo Christian is battling Maumee Valley Country Day and Ottawa Hills for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the TAAC. TC handed Stritch their only league loss to date. The Eagles are young with just one senior on the team and two sophomore starters. Ottawa Hills is solid as usual. The Green Bears swept the season series with MVCD. #5 seed Old Fort and #6 seed Tiffin Calvert jumped on Ottawa Hills' bracket. Old Fort has clinched at least a share of the SBC River with Sandusky St. Mary right behind. The Stockaders swept the season series with Calvert. The Senecas will finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the SBC River.

Semifinals – Fremont St. Joseph CC over Toledo Emmanuel Christian; Old Fort over Tiffin Calvert

Finals – Toledo Christian over Fremont St. Joseph CC; Ottawa Hills over Old Fort

DEFIANCE (NAPOLEON DISTRICT): #1 Hicksville and #4 Antwerp are the top seeds at Defiance. The new gym at Defiance is outstanding. Hicksville shares the GMC title for a second straight season with Wayne Trace after losing to the Raiders in overtime. The Aces ran off fourteen straight wins to begin the season before a one-sided loss at Convoy Crestview. Hicksville lost to the Knights on a buzzer beater

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in the 2018 district final at Elida. Antwerp and Edgerton are likely to match up in what should be a very competitive sectional final. The teams split during the regular season with the Archers finishing just ahead of Bulldogs in the GMC.

Semifinals – Holgate over Ayersville; Edgerton over Hilltop

Finals – Hicksville over Holgate; Antwerp over Edgerton

BRYAN (NAPOLEON DISTRICT): #2 Stryker and #3 Pettisville are the top seeds at Bryan. This is the all BBC sectional. Stryker has clinched a share of the BBC title while Pettisville can still get a co-championship. The two split their regular season games with the Panthers winning at Pettisville and the Blackbirds winning in double overtime at Stryker. Fayette will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the BBC but was swept by Stryker and Pettisville. The Eagles chose Pettisville's bracket at the draw. Fayette will finish the season over .500. Williams County rivals North Central and Edon played two close games in splitting the season series.

Semifinals – Fayette over Montpelier; Edon over North Central

Finals – Pettisville over Fayette; Stryker over Edon

VAN WERT (ELIDA DISTRICT): #1 Convoy Crestview is the top seed at VW. Crestview currently trails Columbus Grove in the NWC. The Knights play Grove to close out the regular season for a share of the title. Crestview's only loss on the season came at Bluffton in mid-December. The Knights returned four starters from their 2018 regional runner-up team. Crestview's Javin Etzler has signed to play at Miami (OH). Delphos St. John's can get a share of the MAC title with a win at St. Henry to close out the regular season. The Blue Jays, with thirteen wins at the time of the draw, still only received the #5 seed. DSJ grabbed the bye when Wayne Trace headed to Paulding. Lima Central Catholic is right around .500 but has to be considered a dark horse given their schedule. The T-Birds will meet Delphos St. John's in a sectional final. Coach Bruce Bowman of Lima Temple Christian got career win #300 in a win over Vanlue in late January on a night when his son Brody scored 51 points.

Semifinals – Fort Jennings over Lima Temple Christian; Lima Central Catholic over Continental

Finals – Convoy Crestview over Fort Jennings; Delphos St.



John's over Lima Central Catholic

PAULDING (ELIDA DISTRICT): #2 Kalida, #3 Ottoville, and #4 Wayne Trace are the top seeds at Paulding. Kalida is the PCL champion. The Wildcats returned four starters from their 2018 district runner-up team. Ottoville features a strong sophomore contingent with 15 wins at the time of the draw but has suffered some key injuries. Wayne Trace shares the GMC title with Hicksville after knocking off the Aces in overtime. That is the 7<sup>th</sup> straight shared or outright GMC title for the Raiders. Wayne Trace passed on the bye at Van Wert and could end up in a sectional final against Ottoville. Lincolnview will end up no worse than a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the NWC. Parkway is much improved but still reside near the bottom in the MAC. Parkway had no problems with Lincolnview when they played back in January.

Semifinals – Parkway over Lincolnview; Wayne Trace over Miller City

Finals – Kalida over Parkway; Wayne Trace over Ottoville

COLDWATER (WAPAKONETA DISTRICT): #1 St. Henry and #3 Minster are the top seeds at Coldwater. St. Henry has clinched at least a share of the MAC title. The Redskins host Delphos St. John's to close the regular season with the game determining an outright or shared title. St. Henry split games with Marion Local. Other Redskins losses were to Russia and Anna. Minster will finish in the top half of the MAC but have been somewhat inconsistent. The Wildcats won at Marion Local but still chose to go to Coldwater. Fort Recovery is right around .500 but will finish in the lower half of the MAC. The bottom three seeds are all at Coldwater with either New Knoxville or Ada facing St. Henry in a sectional final.

Semifinals – Ada over New Knoxville; Fort Recovery over Waynesfield-Goshen

Finals – St. Henry over Ada; Minster over Fort Recovery

LIMA BATH (WAPAKONETA DISTRICT): #2 Marion Local and #4 Lima Perry are the top seeds at Bath. Defending D4 state champion Marion Local currently shares 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the MAC with Delphos St. John's with a shot at a co-championship. The Flyers returned two starters from their 2018 team. A young Lima Perry team is the NWCC champion going undefeated in the league. Perry last loss came in late December. Upper Scioto jumped on Perry's bracket setting up a potential sectional final versus the Commodores. New Bremen has shown flashes but will finish near the bottom in the MAC. Allen East has a chance to finish the season above .500 but the Mustangs' only quality win came against Bluffton. Ridgemont is much improved finishing in the middle of the NWCC. The

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Golden Gophers finished the regular season at .500.

Semifinals – Allen East over Ridgemont; Upper Scioto Valley over New Bremen

Finals – Marion Local over Allen East; Lima Perry over Upper Scioto Valley

### DISTRICTS

The winner of the Findlay district will play the winner of the Fostoria district in one regional semifinal at BGSU with the winner of the Napoleon district facing the winner of the Elida district in the other regional semifinal at the Stroh Center.

WILLARD: Mansfield St. Peter's won their third straight district title in 2018. The district winner at Willard will face the winner of the Struthers district in a regional semifinal at the Canton Fieldhouse.

Semifinals – Margareta over South Central; Colonel Crawford over Lucas

Final – Margareta over Colonel Crawford

FINDLAY: Pandora-Gilboa won the district championship at Liberty-Benton in 2018.

Semifinals – Arlington over Riverdale; Columbus Grove over Pandora-Gilboa

Final – Columbus Grove over Arlington

FOSTORIA: Mohawk won the first district championship in school history at Fostoria in 2018.

Semifinals – Maumee Valley Country Day over Mohawk; Toledo Christian over Ottawa Hills

Final – Maumee Valley Country Day over Toledo Christian

NAPOLEON: Maumee Valley Country Day won the district championship at Napoleon in 2018.

Semifinals – Hicksville over Antwerp; Stryker over Pettisville

Final – Hicksville over Stryker

ELIDA: Crestview won the 2018 district championship at Elida

Semifinals – Convoy Crestview over Delphos St. John’s; Kalida over Wayne Trace

Final – Convoy Crestview over Kalida

WAPAKONETA: Marion Local won the district title at Wapak in 2018 on the way to the Division IV state championship. The Wapakoneta district winner will play one of the Dayton district champions in a regional semifinal at Kettering Fairmont.

Semifinals – St. Henry over Minster; Marion Local over Lima Perry

Final – St. Henry over Marion Local

Mercifully, that should wrap things up. The Swami will be back for an abbreviated version prior to 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. See you along the tournament trail. Rock on.

The logo for "Trail Trash" is displayed in a blue, cursive font within a grey rectangular box. The text "Trail Trash" is written in a stylized, handwritten style.