

# *Trail Trash*

**for the 2001 OHSAA Boys High School  
Basketball Tournament**

**Published exclusively by Dave Spengler**

*Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...*

# The Swami



For the eighth consecutive year, Trail Trash presents to you the opinions of the Swami, Northwest Ohio's self-proclaimed high school basketball expert and guru. Nowhere else will you find so much information on Northwest Ohio high school tournament hoops for 2001.

After a relatively successful 2000, the Swami has refused to rest on his laurels. He has continued to work harder and smarter (?) to make this the best publication possible. Scouting trips, game tapes, and a return of the ouija board have prepared the Swami for this year's run. No Survivor or Temptation Island for the wise one (although several readers of Trail Trash asked that the Marquette brothers be sent somewhere after their performance at last year's state tournament). The Swami's television has been stuck on Big Board Friday, the Powers Pack, and Friday Frenzy

for the past eleven weeks.

Enough of this futile attempt to entertain. Fire up the ouija board. It's Swami time.

## DIVISION I

Toledo Libbey and overrated Mansfield Senior head up the big school field. Libbey somehow lost its opener to Sandusky but has since gone undefeated while Mansfield has continued its recent dominance despite heavy graduation losses. Toledo St. John's Jesuit, the preseason Toledo City League favorite, has also been a fixture in the top ten while Lima Senior and Toledo Scott have the potential to go deep into the tournament in 2001. After those five there is not a great deal of depth with Celina, Fremont Ross, and Sylvania Northview the best of the rest. Libbey, Mansfield, and Scott all qualified for the regional in 2000, but only two NW Ohio D1 teams will advance to that level in 2001. After last year's long trek to BG's ancient Anderson Arena for sectional play, the Toledo area teams will make the short trip to Springfield. This excellent site became available when Springfield dropped to D2. The NW District Board should be applauded for their selection. District semi-final games will once again be played at the sectional sites with the district final games to be played at BGSU. Those two district winners will meet in a regional semi-final at UT's

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Savage Hall with the winner playing the Cleveland State regional semi-final winner (St. Ignatius, St. Edward, or Bedford in that order) in the regional final at UT. With Iggy looming on the horizon, NW Ohio has its work cut out if a Division I team is to make it to the state tournament in 2001.

## SECTIONALS

Willard: Mansfield Senior and Ashland are seeded. Fremont Ross fans are still shaking their heads about last year's double overtime defeat at the hands of Mansfield Senior in a district semi-final. The Little Giants, fresh off their first conference championship in forty-seven years, will meet up again with Senior High after eliminating Madison. This time take the Giants in an upset of the Tygers. Take Sandusky over Columbian in the other semi. Ashland has fallen on hard times after a 13-1 start. The Swami looks for the Arrows to edge rebuilding Sandusky.

Springfield I: St. John's Jesuit and Sylvania Northview are seeded. Has anyone seen Leroy? Confused Libbey coach Leroy Bates missed out on both the time and place for the tournament draw. By the time Leroy arrived, he had missed out on the Cowboys' opportunity for the expected first seed and instead found them placed on the bracket against 15-2 Northview. Those fifteen represent the Wildcats current winning streak. If Northview can upset Libbey, look for Cowboy fan Carleton S. Finkbeiner to declare war and shut off the flow of water to Sylvania. Libbey's guard play will be too much for Northview, but the game will be close. Central coach Mike Padgett also managed to miss the draw, but he will get to see his slumping Irish lose to St. John's. The Swami likes Southview over Woodward and Whitmer over St. Francis in other semi-final action. In the finals, take the Johnnies big over Southview and Libbey over Whitmer.

Liberty-Benton: Lima Senior and Celina are seeded. The strength at L-B is in the upper half of the bracket. Perrysburg takes on Findlay in a good first round contest. Pburg has had a solid year under new coach Dave Boyce while the Trojans, with GLL scoring leader Greg Friday, have exceeded all expectations. Findlay nips the Jackets. Lima Senior had the most talented team in the state in 2000. That proved to be a curse as the Spartans failed to survive the district. Although not as deep as a year ago, Lima has plenty of talent with Tavares Clay and UT recruit Sammy Villegas leading the way. Lima over Findlay in the final. Wapakoneta and BG meet in the other semi. Take the Redskins. In the final, Celina defeats WBL rival Wapak to advance.

Springfield II: Scott and Waite are seeded. If Libbey had shown up on time for the draw and all had gone as expected, the Cowboys and Northview would have ended up in this group as seeds (and not playing each other) with Scott moving to the Springfield I sectional. Waite ends up as the big winner from all this confusion by moving into a seed and avoiding the big boys. Led by little Dennis Springs, Scott has put together an excellent season with their only losses to Libbey and in an Indianapolis holiday tournament. Scott defeats CL rival Start in a semi-final. Other winners in the semis include Rogers over Clay, Waite over Anthony Wayne, and Maumee over Bowsher. Look for Waite to nip Rogers in one final and for Scott to use their quickness and the shot-blocking ability of Derrick Ford to trip Maumee in the other final.

## DISTRICTS

District semi-final games will be played at the sectional locations (Willard, Springfield, Liberty-Benton) with the finals scheduled for BGSU's Anderson Arena. At Willard, Fremont Ross will get by Ashland to advance to BG. At Springfield, Libbey will face St. John's in the first game of a doubleheader with Waite meeting Scott in the nightcap. This could be the third time that the Johnnies and Cowboys meet in a little over two weeks. Libbey meets St. John's on February 15 in their regular season contest and the two could end up playing again in the Toledo City League playoffs. Tempo will determine the outcome of the district semi, but the Swami likes Libbey's "big three" of Jamaal Mays, Jonathan March, and Danny Williams along with the improved inside play of the recently eligible Marlin Hooker. Speaking of eligibility, Scott fans refuse to believe that former Scott player Williams is academically eligible. In the nightcap, the Dogs cruise to an easy win over Waite. At L-B, take Lima over Celina in their annual district semi battle. In the finals on Saturday at BG, the Swami likes Libbey over Fremont Ross and Lima Senior gets revenge against Scott. Scott defeated Senior by 5 on February 13 at Lima.

## DIVISION II

Willard and Ottawa-Glandorf, arguably NW Ohio's two most successful D2 programs, have been near the top of the state rankings all season. Undefeated Willard has been pushed on a couple of occasions by Bellevue and Ontario while only a loss to Celina mars O-G's record. Willard is led by a sensational sophomore point guard in Nick Dials along with big man Derek Fey while O-G relies on balance and depth. Beyond those two, Van Wert and 2000 state qualifier Shawnee appear to be the best by far. Shawnee returned three starters and added highly touted freshman Jamar Butler but has struggled in the paint. Methodical Oak Harbor sports a gaudy 16-2 record and 7' Nate VanderSluis but has played a less than

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formidable schedule. On paper there appear to be no real challengers for Willard in the Ashland district. No site changes in D2 for 2001. The two district winners will play in a regional semi-final at BGSU's Anderson Arena with the winner advancing to play the Cleveland State regional semi-final winner (Tallmidge, Hoban, Olmsted Falls, Buchtel) in the regional final at BG. Shawnee broke a three-year drought for NW Ohio by advancing to the state in 2000. Look for another NW Ohio team in Columbus this year.

## SECTIONALS

Lima Senior: Ottawa-Glandorf and Van Wert are seeded. The suspense here was whether Shawnee or Van Wert would get the second seed and into which bracket the unseeded team would fall. O-G opens play with an easy win over Paulding (O-G won in the regular season by 54). In the second game, Bath nips St Marys in a yawner. Bath is coached by former BGSU quarterback Rich Dackin. Van Wert/Shawnee is as good as it gets for a sectional semi-final game. The Cougars appear to be peaking at tournament time and already own a win over Shawnee. Take Van Wert in a thriller. In the nightcap, up and down Elida avenges a regular season loss to up and down Defiance. In the finals, Ottawa-Glandorf has no trouble with Bath and Van Wert eliminates Elida.

Sylvania Southview: Oak Harbor and Bryan are seeded. Top of the bracket is stronger with all three teams over .500 and capable of advancing. After several losing seasons, the Fostoria players have really bought into new coach Keith Diebler's system. The Redmen get by Napoleon. The final is a contrast in styles with the key being the health of the giant Sluis' injured ankle. If VanderSluis is back, take OH. If the big man can't go, the Redmen will edge the Rockets. The lower half of the bracket has only Bryan going into the tournament with a winning record. Bryan was nipped by Van Wert at the district in 2000 and returned an excellent nucleus for this season. The Golden Bears took Ottawa-Glandorf into overtime in their season opener but then lost all-district guard Travis Smith to a broken foot. The Bears have remained solid but have not achieved their lofty preseason expectations. Bryan faces an improving Rossford team in the opener. Bryan hangs on to edge a Bulldog team that already owns a victory over Oak Harbor. Wauseon nips Springfield in the other semi. In the final, Bryan advances with an easy win over the Indians.

Sandusky: Bellevue and Port Clinton are seeded. Mediocre sectional at best. Top half of the bracket

features Bellevue and two teams with a combined three wins while the bottom half features three teams struggling to get over .500. Bellevue passed up the first round bye and opens play with an easy win over neighboring Clyde. The Redmen wax the Norwalk Truckers in the final to advance. The bottom half is balanced if nothing else. Perkins has hit a late season slump, Vermilion has struggled in the Ohio Heartland Conference, and Port Clinton has been consistently inconsistent. Take Vermilion at the buzzer over Perkins in the semi-final. The Sailors avenge a 2000 tournament defeat and advance to play Willard by edging a young Port Clinton team.

Bucyrus: Willard and Upper Sandusky are seeded. Very balanced and deep sectional although Willard is far and away the best team. After a six year slump, it has not taken people long to start complaining about the Flashes and their "interesting" past. Can you imagine the controversy if Kenny Fritz had stayed at Willard and not returned to Shelby? Look out, the Flashes are young. The only question remaining is whether anyone in Willard is currently hiring. Traditional doormats Upper Sandusky and Kenton have had surprisingly successful years. Kenton even managed to make the top ten in the initial Associated Press poll (as a Division III team). Shows you what the polls are worth. The Swami always takes Lex and 2001 is no exception as the Minutemen down Galion. The Swami also likes Shelby with Fritz over a young Kenton team. In one final, Willard remains unbeaten with a win over Lexington. In the other final, Shelby beats Upper in a mild upset.

## DISTRICTS

BGSU: Ottawa-Glandorf faces Bryan in a rematch of the two teams' season opener. Without Travis Smith, the Golden Bears are no match for O-G. This time no overtime is necessary. The nightcap features Van Wert and Oak Harbor. Cory Sinning leads the Cougars as Van Wert holds off the Rockets in a defensive struggle. Anderson Arena is jammed for the district final. Nothing is better than a packed house at Anderson Arena. After a district runner-up finish in 2000, Van Wert advances to the regional with an upset win over Ottawa-Glandorf.



Ashland University: Bellevue and Shelby face off in a pick 'em game to open district play. The Redmen edge the Whippets to move on to the final. Willard crushes Vermilion in the other semi. Bellevue has been an underachieving team in 2001, but has shown flashes (no pun intended) against Willard. Nick Dials is just too tough on the Redmen as Willard advances to the regional at Bowling Green for the second consecutive year.

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## DIVISION III

At the time of the tournament drawings, Liberty-Benton and Otsego are two of a small numbers of teams in any class statewide that are still undefeated. Both L-B and Otsego were highly rated in 2000, and both were eliminated earlier than expected in tournament play. Last year Swanton shocked L-B in a district semi-final while Otsego lost in a D2 sectional final to Bryan. Veteran Brady Hoane and Stryker transfer Blake Mealer leads L-B. Otsego returned three starters from their 2000 team, but was dealt a terrible loss with the tragic death of center Joel Summersett in a December truck accident. Wayne Trace, with only a loss to Van Wert, has been in the top ten throughout the year and is considered by many to be the best D3 team in NW Ohio. State-ranked Ontario has also been mentioned as NW Ohio's best in D3 while 2000 state qualifier Lima Central Catholic can never be counted out as long as Coach Seg is around. Parkway, Wynford, and Archbold have also put together excellent seasons and could cause trouble. No site changes at the sectional level while Ohio Northern University replaces Napoleon and Toledo Waite replaces Owens Community College at the district level. The three NW Ohio district winners will be joined by the winner from the weak Elyria district (CVCA, Oberlin, Brooklyn) for regional play at BGSU's Anderson Arena. Mark it down, a NW Ohio D3 team will make it to Columbus.

## SECTIONALS

Elida: Lima Central Catholic and Parkway are seeded. Somehow LCC made it to Columbus in 2000. Graduation losses were heavy, but the T-Birds once again will be a factor. This sectional also features perennial powers St. Henry and Coldwater. 2000 Division IV state runner-up St. Henry has struggled and is surprisingly under .500. Somehow the Redskins managed to get a number of votes in the initial D4 state poll. Coldwater has been right around the .500 mark. The Cavaliers feature the first high school player to ever score points at Value City Arena in Tyler Vogel. Coldwater defeats St. Henry and Delphos Jefferson knocks off Allen East in the semi-finals. In the finals, go with the seeded teams as LCC stops Coldwater and Parkway drops Delphos Jeff.

Defiance: Wayne Trace and Archbold are seeded. No one wanted to play Wayne Trace in this sectional. Led by point Gabe Denning and a number of other returnees from their 2000 district qualifier, expectations have been high all season long for the Raiders. They have

not disappointed. Archbold has been a huge surprise and has perfected the ability to win ugly. Take Tinora over Bluffton and Fairview over Montpelier in the first round. In the finals, Wayne Trace easily defeats Tinora while Archbold hangs on to stop Fairview.

Sylvania Northview: Otsego and Evergreen are seeded. Where do we start? Delta and Lake is like a soap opera. Talk about bad karma. Delta was struggling before five of their seven varsity players were suspended recently. That made a bad situation even worse. Last year, Lake was hindered by their best player being involved in a court battle over the school's drug testing policy with the player eventually leaving the team. This year started off with their big man transferring to Genoa and now has seen head coach Greg Noftz being suspended for the season under mysterious circumstances. That's a lot of print for teams with a combined eight wins. Evergreen has run off thirteen consecutive wins, Swanton is very solid and has many of the players that were involved in last year's huge tournament upset of L-B, and Otsego is still somehow undefeated. Lake over Delta ugly and Swanton over Genoa ugly in the semis. Got to go with Evergreen over Lake in one final. Otsego and Swanton is intriguing. Otsego is past due to lose, but the Knights' guards are the difference against Swanton. Take Otsego barely.

Old Fort: Liberty-Benton and Eastwood are seeded. After rumors that he was headed from Stryker to Wauseon, Blake Mealer appeared at L-B. Despite a relatively weak schedule, L-B would not be undefeated if Mealer had not shown up. L-B is always fundamentally sound and with him they are extremely solid. In the only semi, Elmwood pounds Lakota. In the finals, Eastwood hangs on for their third win of the year against rival Elmwood despite the efforts of scoring machine, Brian Oestreich. One of the leading scorers in NW Ohio, Oestreich's game is unique. In the other final, L-B defeats a much-improved Woodmore squad. The Eagles posted an easy win over the Wildcats in January.

Norwalk: Huron and Western Reserve are seeded. Same as Sandusky D2 sectional except worse. Huron has been a disappointment under first year coach Frank Gioffre, but the Tigers are the class of the field. Take Margareta over Ashland Crestview. Crestview is one of the few D3 clubs in the state to play Akron St. Vincent this year. In the other semi, take Edison over New London. In the finals, Huron hangs on to defeat the Margareta Polar Bears and the Edison Chargers defeat Western Reserve.

Galion: Ontario and Wynford are seeded. Three good teams at Galion with Clear Fork joining the two seeds. Ontario's only defeat was a close loss at Willard yet the Warriors have been mysteriously unable to make their way into the AP top ten. Clear Fork avenges last year's tournament defeat by destroying hapless Seneca East in the only semi. Clear Fork and Wynford is an excellent

*(Continued after Division III Brackets)*

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matchup in one final. Wynford nips the Colts. In the other final, Ontario has no trouble defeating future NCC rival Bucyrus.

## DISTRICTS

Ohio Northern University: District play returns to ONU as Lima Central Catholic faces Archbold. The ONU Sports Center has never been one of the Swami's favorite sites. LCC, behind the solid play of Jason Stump, stops the Blue Streaks in a low-scoring game. In the second game, Wayne Trace is almost caught looking ahead but they are able to hold on and defeat Parkway. In the finals, Wayne Trace avenges their 2000 tournament loss as they defeat LCC to advance to the regional at BGSU.

Toledo Waite: After a one-year hiatus, district play returns to the venerable Waite Field House. Parking is still inadequate, the voting machines are still in the men's restrooms, and the sweet smell of a refinery permeates the air. We missed it last year. In the opener, Liberty-Benton snaps Evergreen's long winning streak sending the Vikes back to the Outhouse on County Road 6. SLL rivals Otsego and Eastwood collide in the second game. Eastwood springs the upset as they defeat the state-ranked Knights. In the final, the Liberty-Benton Eagles advance to the regional as they easily defeat the Eastwood Eagles.

Ashland University: Galion sectional winners dominate at Ashland. In the opener, Ontario easily defeats Huron. Benji Hall and Jason Smith head up a strong cast for Ontario. In the nightcap, Wynford has no trouble defeating Edison. NCC rivals Ontario and Wynford meet once again for the district crown. Once again, Ontario stops Wynford to advance to regional play at BGSU.

## DIVISION IV

According to the Swami, NW Ohio didn't have a powerhouse Division IV team in 2000. Maybe there wasn't a dominant team, but the 2000 state final featured Fort Jennings and St Henry with Jennings winning the state crown. St Henry and Fort Jennings won't see each other again in Columbus since both are under .500 (and St Henry is in D3), but don't be surprised if this year's championship game again features two NW Ohio teams. Marion Local is the state's top ranked D4 team. The Flyers have accomplished this despite losing BGSU recruit Cory Eyink to a foot injury. If Eyink can get healthy, Marion will be a big favorite to win the state. Minster was top-ranked earlier in the season before a late

season slump while Delphos St. John's and Holgate are also state-ranked. Convoy Crestview and Kalida are the best of the rest with Lincolnview, Arlington, and Edgerton all capable of making some noise. Owens Community College replaces Springfield as a sectional site. District winners at Elida, Liberty-Benton, Napoeon, and Fostoria advance to regional play at the UT's Savage Hall. The winner of the Wapakoneta district advances to the Miami University regional, and the Galion district winner moves on to the Columbus regional.

## SECTIONALS

Coldwater: Marion Local and Minster are seeded. Marion's only loss was to Tipp City, a D2 school, in their first game following Eyink's injury. Minster was the district runner-up in 2000. The Wildcats started the season at 12-0 before slumping. In the semi-finals, go with Spencerville over New Knoxville and 1999 D4 state runner-up Fort Recovery over New Bremen. The Swami keeps going back and forth on Minster and Spencerville. Minster edges the Bearcats. Take Marion over Fort Recovery in the other final.

Waynesfield-Goshen: Upper Scioto Valley and Hardin Northern are seeded. Same situation as a year ago when USV was the only team with a winning record. In the semi-finals, go with Riverdale over Ridgemont and Lima Perry over Ada. 1994 D4 state champ USV wins the upper bracket by defeating Riverdale. In the lower bracket final, the Commodores upset Hardin Northern.

Van Wert: Delphos St. John's and Crestview are seeded. Best sectional anywhere in any class. Good teams with great tradition, state championships, and strong fan support. Kalida coach Dick Kortokrax recently broke the state record for victories previously held by DSJ's Bob Arnzen. Fort Jennings was the 2000 D4 state champ while Lincolnview was the 1997 D4 state champ. Kalida and Delphos are also former state champs. Fort Jennings returns Matt Metzger, a big gun in the 2000 run to the championship. This sectional has everything except enough seats (the Swami just proved why he is not a writer). In the opener, take Kalida over Ottoville with Lincolnview defeating Jennings in the second game. The four teams in the finals would make for a good regional tournament. The Swami has to go with the seeds but both games will be thrillers. Take Delphos over Kalida in the opener and Crestview over Lincolnview in the second game.

Lima Bath: Arlington and Pandora-Gilboa are seeded. Not quite Van Wert but should be very competitive. Arlington has been a surprise and took Liberty-Benton into overtime. In the opener, Columbus Grove defeats Lima Temple Christian with Cory-Rawson defeating Waynesfield-Goshen in the other semi. In the finals, go with Arlington over Grove. In the nightcap, there is a minor upset as Cory-Rawson hangs on to defeat Pandora-Gilboa.

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Ottawa-Glandorf: McComb and Miller City are seeded. Big news here is Patrick Henry dropping to D3 and ending up in Ottawa. Some of our more paranoid colleagues believe that Kalida and Pandora were moved to other sites as part of a conspiracy to make things easy for the Pats. Get serious. McComb decided to play a first round game despite the top seed. Could be a bad move by coach Aaron Roth. PH slows it way down and nips McComb. Pats survive final against North Baltimore. In the other semi, Continental stops Leipsic. In the lower bracket final, Miller City defeats the Pirates.

Owens Community College: Ottawa Hills and Maumee Valley Country Day are seeded. This is the TAAC plus Gibsonburg. Swami plans on avoiding this one. Northwood is still looking for Cleveland Horizon Science Academy on the bracket. Teams met in December with Northwood winning 82-6. Cardinal Stritch defeats Northwood in their fourth meeting of the season. Gibsonburg nips Toledo Christian in other semi. In the finals, Ottawa Hills defeats Stritch and Maumee Valley Country Day stops Gburg. This is a sectional where all of the teams have a legitimate shot at advancing and at losing.

Bryan: Edgerton and Stryker are seeded. If Blake Mealer had stuck around, Stryker would have been a top ten team with a shot at Columbus. Panthers have found a way to win fifteen without him which is a real credit to coach Zieg and his team. Edgerton has played extremely well down the stretch. In the semis, Swami likes Hicksville over North Central and Edon over the Archers. Take Edgerton over the Aces in one final and Stryker over the Bombers in the other final.

Wauseon: Holgate and Hilltop are seeded. Liberty Center has found ways all year to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. The Tigers led Otsego by nine late in their game but could not make a foul shot before losing in overtime. Methodical Holgate just finds a way to win. In first round action, Ayersville tops Pettisville and Liberty defeats Fayette. Swami traditionally takes Ayersville but will go with Holgate over the Pilots in one final. Game will be close and low scoring. In the other final LC hangs on to defeat Hilltop.

Findlay: Fostoria St. Wendelin and Mohawk are seeded. This is a bit better than a year ago when all of the teams had records under .500. St. Wendelin owns a victory over D1 Toledo Waite. In that game, the Mohawks were down six with less than ten seconds left yet managed to win in regulation. Vanlue knocks off

Carey in one semi but falls to St. Wendelin in the final. Mohawk (not to be confused with the St. Wendelin Mohawks) passed on the bye to play Van Buren in the first round. Mohawk beats the Knights and advances to the district with a win over Arcadia.

Hopewell-Loudon: Fremont St. Joseph and Tiffin Calvert are seeded. Five MAL teams are joined by Buckeye Central at Bascom. Pretty good balance in this field. In semi-final games, the Swami likes Old Fort over New Riegel and BC over Bettsville. In the finals, take Fremont St. Joseph with high scoring Aaron Knight over Old Fort and Buckeye Central over #2 seed Tiffin Calvert.

Port Clinton: South Central and Sandusky St. Marys are seeded. Always tough to pick the winners at PC. Very good sectional with five of the six teams having at least eleven wins at the time of the draw. St. Marys handed Oak Harbor one of their two losses. In first round games, look for Danbury Lakeside to slip by Monroeville and Norwalk St. Paul to handle Hopewell-Loudon. According to DL coach Brian Vorst (the all-time leading scorer at Kalida), the Lakers gear their season around the tournament. Danbury springs a minor upset on South Central. Sandusky St. Marys and Norwalk St. Paul should go down to the wire. We like St. Marys to advance to the district.

Lexington: Mansfield St. Peter and Lucas are seeded. Nothing spectacular here. Former powerhouse St. Peter has an outstanding freshman in Marcus Butler. Not quite as touted as "the other Butler" at Shawnee, Marcus leads the Spartans in scoring. In the semis, go with Colonel Crawford over Crestline and Plymouth over Mansfield Christian. The seeds prevail in the finals as Lucas eliminates Colonel Crawford and St. Peter defeats Plymouth.

## DISTRICTS

Wapakoneta: Minster may have been lucky to edge past Spencerville in the sectional but they should have no problems with another team from the NWC in Perry. Marion has no trouble either in knocking off Upper Scioto Valley. In the final, the two powers from the MAC meet again. Take Marion Local again. The Flyers move on to the regional at Oxford hoping to add to their D6 state football championship.

Elida: The district at the Elida Field House is a bit weaker than the VW sectional. Got to go with Delphos St. John's in the first semi-final game against Cory-Rawson. Convoy Crestview and Arlington might be a bit closer, but the Swami has to go with the Knights over the Red Devils. In the final, DSJ slips past Crestview to advance to the regional at Toledo.

*(Continued after Division IV Brackets)*

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Liberty-Benton: Patrick Henry, Miller City, Ottawa Hills, and Maumee Valley Country Day don't make this the most imposing district. Where else can you find a district where two of the schools have field hockey teams? The Krauss conspiracy theory continues to grow. Got to go with PH over MVCDS and Miller City over Ottawa Hills. The Swami might as well lose all credibility and take the Patriots over Miller City in the final.

Napoleon: Time to get serious. Edgerton advanced to the state in 1999. Bulldogs get into the finals with a win over Liberty Center. Winner of Stryker and Holgate will be lucky to reach forty points. Defense and deliberate play rule as Tigers move into the finals with a win over Stryker. GMC rivals Edgerton and Holgate meet in the final. Got to go with Edgerton over the Tigers although it will be closer than their February 9 clash at Edgerton.

Fostoria: This is a very mediocre district with no clear-cut favorite. Fostoria St. Wendelin and Buckeye Central start things off. The Mohawks are able to hold off BC to move into an all-MAL final. Swami likes Fremont St.

Joseph over Mohawk in the other semi-final. In the championship game, the Crimson Streaks of St. Joe advance to the regional at UT with a win over Fostoria St. Wendelin.

Galion: We finally made it to the end. For those of you that persevered, thank you. This district is a bit better than Fostoria but there are no powerhouses. Danbury continues their strong tournament run with a win over Mansfield St. Peter in the opener. Sandusky St. Marys also advances to the final with a win over Lucas. In the district final, Sandusky St. Marys advances to the regional at Columbus with a hard-fought win over Danbury Lakeside

See you on the trail. All records and rankings are as of February 12, 2001. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher, David L. Spengler.

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