

Trail Trash



for the 2010 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler

And on the net at www.davey1.com

Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

Welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2010. The sectional and district tournaments have flown by as we move into the regional tournaments.

Issue 2010-2

Looking at the sectional and district results from around Northwest Ohio, the Swami finished with an Earle Bruce-like 106-41 (72%) win/loss record. Good but not good enough. The most disappointing part was the Swami correctly picking only seven of the fourteen district champions. The Swami was able to accurately predict the toughest district in Northwest Ohio by taking Lima Central Catholic in D3 at Elida, but again laid an egg in all the D2 district tournaments.

Readers of Trail Trash were spared from any editorials in our first edition, but there are a couple of items that the Swami would like to mention.

Tournament or playoffs? A number of the members of the media, primarily the television talking heads (and I'm not referring to the band that sang Take Me to the River back in the 70's), have been referring to the tournament as the playoffs. The NBA playoffs, the NFL playoffs, and even the State Football playoffs are all fine. The Swami might be old (clothing, musical tastes, odor) and somewhat of a traditionalist, but the boys basketball tournament in Ohio will always be the tournament. I realize we are talking about semantics here, but calling the tournament the playoffs is just like Gil Thorp and

Marty Moon talking about the playdowns.

We hear plenty about good sportsmanship. The OHSAA emphasizes it, but often times there are situations where good sportsmanship is not exhibited by fans, players, or coaches. At the D2 district final at Ashland on March 13, Bellevue's Cody Ruhlman entered the game with 995 career points. Cody went down with a knee injury in the first half still three points shy of 1,000. He returned to the game for the start of the second half but was unable to continue after re-injuring his knee. With just under a minute left in the game and Port Clinton leading by nine points, Bellevue coach Mile Raifsnider called a timeout and conferred with the officials and Port Clinton coach Troy Diels. Cody reentered the game, and Port Clinton let him shoot an uncontested layup. Bellevue then allowed Port Clinton to score on a layup. PC returned the favor and let Cody score another uncontested layup to go over 1,000 points for his career. Some might call it a thirty-one minute game with the way things played out. I would hope people would call it good sportsmanship.

Time to move on. Let's go to the picks.

DIVISION 1

Eleven of the sixteen teams ranked in the final Associated

Press poll have reached the regional tournament. Eight teams (Mentor, Lakewood St. Edward, Cincinnati St. Xavier, defending state champion Columbus Northland, Cincinnati Princeton, Cincinnati LaSalle, Lima Senior, Toledo St. John's) played in the D1 regional in 2009 while Akron East was a D2 regional qualifier. St. Xavier and St. Edward's are making a sixth straight trip to the regional while Mentor and Princeton are making a third straight trip.

REGIONALS

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #4 Cincinnati LaSalle, #9 Cincinnati Moeller, and #12 Cincinnati Princeton are ranked teams at the Cintas Center. St. Xavier upset Huber Heights Wayne to get to the regional. Two players who had transferred to Wayne prior to the beginning of the season were declared ineligible by the OHSAA before to the district final. Surprisingly, Wayne did not have to forfeit any games. This regional will be a dogfight.

Semifinals-Moeller over Princeton, LaSalle over St. Xavier

Final-LaSalle over Moeller

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: #5 Mentor, #11 Lakewood St. Edward, and #16 Cleveland St. Ignatius are ranked teams at the Wolstein Center. St. Ignatius eliminated #6 Warren Harding in a district final. Avon Lake's district championship marked the first time the Shoremen had reached a district final. A great doubleheader at CSU with an Ed's/Iggy game and Mentor being one of the most entertaining teams in the state.

Semifinals-Mentor over Avon Lake; St. Edward over St. Ignatius

Final-St. Edward over Mentor

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: #13 Massillon Jackson and #14 Toledo St. John's Jesuit are ranked teams in the Akron regional. Jackson and the Akron East Orientals will meet in a semifinal at Akron with St. John's meeting Lima Senior in a semifinal at the University of Toledo. The final will be played at the JAR in Akron. Lima Senior defeated #3 Mansfield Senior in a district final while Jackson eliminated #8 North Canton Hoover in a district final.

Semifinals-Jackson over Akron East; St. John's Jesuit over Lima Senior

Final-Jackson over St. John's Jesuit

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM: #1 Columbus Northland, #2 Gahanna Lincoln, and #15 Dublin Coffman are ranked teams at the Barn. Northland is also the #1 team in the country according to USA Today. Gahanna Lincoln's district title is the first in school history. Coffman eliminated #10 Upper Arlington in a district semifinal. Too bad that this regional will not be played at St. John's Arena.

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Semifinals-Coffman over Gahanna Lincoln; Northland over Cincinnati Colerain

Final-Northland over Coffman

STATE

For the thirteenth consecutive year, D1 will close out the State Tournament. The semifinal games will be played Friday night. Hard to pick against Northland.

Semifinals-Cincinnati LaSalle over Lakewood St. Edward; Columbus Northland over Massillon Jackson

Final-Columbus Northland over Cincinnati LaSalle

DIVISION II

Eight of the thirteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll have reached the regional tournament. Six teams (Carrollton, Circleville Logan Elm, Columbus Watterson, Dayton Thurgood Marshall, defending state champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Columbus DeSales) also advanced to the regional tournament in 2009. The Trent Arena at Kettering Fairmont High School replaces Xavier University as a regional site.

REGIONALS

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: #5 Poland Seminary, #6 Cleveland Benedictine, and #10 Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary are ranked teams at Canton. SVSM eliminated top ranked Akron Buchtel in the district final at Stow. Poland is averaging close to ninety points per game. Cleveland Collinwood last reached the regional tournament in 2004 when the Railroaders were a D1 school.

Semifinals-Benedictine over Collinwood; SVSM over Poland

Final-Benedictine over SVSM

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #2 Dayton Dunbar is the only ranked team at Kettering. Despite that fact, this is a very strong regional. 2009 D2 state runner-up Thurgood Marshall eliminated #9 Dayton Chaminade-Julienne in a sectional final game. Dunbar spent the majority of the season at the top of the Associated Press poll until losing to Dayton Jefferson and Akron Buchtel.

Semifinals-Dunbar over Columbus Watterson; Thurgood Marshall over Cincinnati Roger Bacon

Final-Dunbar over Thurgood Marshall

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #3 Columbus DeSales and #8 Circleville Logan Elm are ranked teams at the Convocation Center. Both Logan Elm and DeSales reached the D2 state final four in 2009 with DeSales winning the Bowling Green regional. Zanesville knocked off #13 Dover in a district final.

Semifinals-Zanesville over Carrollton; DeSales over Logan Elm

Final-DeSales over Zanesville

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #4 Port Clinton and #7 Defiance are ranked teams at Anderson Arena. Port Clinton's district championship is the first in school history. Both Defiance and Celina are members of the Western Buckeye League with Defiance winning the league title. This is Clearview's first year as a D2 school. Clipper coach John Szalay was a starter on the Clearview's 1974 Class "A" state championship team.

Semifinals-Celina over Clearview; Defiance over Port Clinton

Final-Defiance over Celina

STATE

The D2 semifinals will be the Thursday evening games with the championship game being played Saturday afternoon.

Semifinals-Cleveland Benedictine over Dayton Dunbar; Columbus DeSales over Defiance

Final-Cleveland Benedictine over Columbus DeSales

DIVISION III

Only five of the eleven teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll are playing in regional tournaments. Two teams (defending state champion Cleveland Central Catholic and Anna) also advanced to the regional in 2009. This marks the third consecutive trip to the regional for Anna. Plymouth advanced to the regional in D4 in both 2008 and 2009. The Trent Arena at Kettering Fairmont replaces Wilmington College as a regional site.

REGIONALS

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #9 Ironton is the lone ranked team at the Convocation Center. Ironton eliminated #7 Peebles in a district final at Athens. 2008 state runner-up Garaway is the only team in the regional that did not play their district games at the Convo.

Semifinals-Garaway over Chesapeake; Ironton over Sardinia Eastern

Final-Ironton over Garaway

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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #4 Plymouth is the only ranked team at Anderson Arena. Lima Central Catholic defeated #1 Liberty-Benton in the district semi-final and #10 Ottawa-Glandorf in the district final at Elida. Centerburg knocked off #8 Cardington-Lincoln in a district semi-final game. Plymouth's Brooks Turson topped 2,000 career points in the Big Red's district final win over Ontario.

Semifinals-Archbold over Plymouth; Lima Central Catholic over Centerburg

Final-Lima Central Catholic over Archbold

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #3 East Canton is the lone ranked team at Canton. Cleveland Central Catholic eliminated #11 Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph in a district final. The Ironmen have battled injuries throughout the season to key players but have gotten healthy for the tournament. East Canton along with Middletown Madison and Plymouth remain unbeaten in D3.

Semifinals-Cleveland Central Catholic over Orrville; East Canton over Newton Falls

Final-Cleveland Central Catholic East Canton

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #2 Middletown Madison and #6 Cincinnati Taft are ranked teams at the Trent Arena. Anna was the D3 state runner-up in 2008. The girls team from Middletown Madison is also undefeated and will be playing in the girls final four in D3. Columbus Bishop Ready was the #4 seed in the Columbus district, but the top three seeds all went to the side of the bracket that advanced to the Bowling Green regional.

Semifinals-Anna over Bishop Ready; Cincinnati Taft over Middletown Madison

Final-Cincinnati Taft over Anna

STATE

D3 will kick off the eighty-eighth annual Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 25. The championship game will be played on Saturday morning.

Semifinals-Lima Central Catholic over Ironton; Cincinnati Taft over Cleveland Central Catholic

Final-Cincinnati Taft over Lima Central Catholic

DIVISION IV

Six of the thirteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press



poll are playing in regional tournaments. Four teams (Kalida, Lockland, Fort Loramie, Newark Catholic) return after making trips to the regional tournament in 2009. For Lockland, it is a sixth consecutive appearance in the regional tournament. Defending D4 state champion Oak Hill was eliminated by Wheelersburg in a D3 sectional game.

REGIONALS

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #10 Kalida is the only ranked team at BGSU. Kalida eliminated #5 Continental in a district final while Miller City defeated #9 McComb in a sectional final. Kalida coach Richard Kortokrax has won over 800 games in his long career. Kalida has already faced both Wayne Trace and Miller City in regular season games. The Wildcats have not yet faced a tournament opponent who they did not meet during the regular season.

Semifinals-Miller City over Ottawa Hills; Kalida over Wayne Trace

Final-Kalida over Miller City

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM: #1 Newark Catholic is the lone ranked team in the Columbus regional. Manchester defeated #6 Reedsville Eastern in a district semi-final game. Manchester and Columbus Tree of Life (got to love that name) will play their semi-final game at Ohio University with Newark Catholic and Wynford playing their semi-final at the Barn. The regional final will be played in Columbus.

Semifinals-Manchester over Tree of Life; Newark Catholic over Wynford

Final-Newark Catholic over Manchester

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #2 McDonald and #4 Shadyside are ranked teams at Canton. Shadyside eliminated #11 Berlin Hiland in a district semi-final. Shadyside's district championship is the first in school history. Bedford St. Peter Chanel's win in the district final put the Firebirds above the .500 mark for the first time since their season opener.

Semifinals-Shadyside over McDonald; St. Peter Chanel over Cortland Maplewood

Final-Shadyside over St. Peter Chanel

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #7 Dayton Jefferson and #8 Fort Recovery are ranked teams at Kettering. Fort Loramie defeated #13 Cincinnati Seven Hills in a district final. Jefferson's 13-10 record entering the regional is deceiving as the Broncos were forced to forfeit five games for using an ineligible player.

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Semifinals-Fort Recovery over Lockland; Dayton Jefferson over Fort Loramie

Final-Dayton Jefferson over Fort Recovery

STATE

D4 will play their semifinal games during the day on Friday with the championship game scheduled for late Saturday afternoon. D4 is the only division with a new state champion guaranteed.

Semifinals-Newark Catholic over Kalida; Dayton Jefferson over Shadyside

Final-Dayton Jefferson over Newark Catholic

This ends Trail Trash for another year. As always, we appreciate the support and value your feedback. Please contact davey1@davey1.com with any comments, opinions, or corrections. We will see you in Columbus if not sooner.

