

Trail Trash

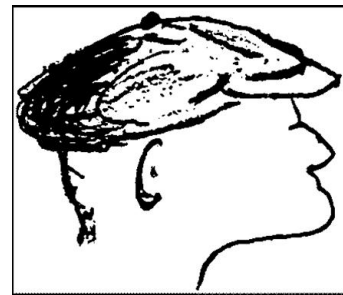
for the 2012 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler

And on the net at www.davey1.com

Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami



Welcome to our second edition of Trail Trash as we have hit the halfway point of the tournament season. The Swami started fast and had a good overall record with his picks, but only hit on five of the twelve district winners.

As you view the Davey1.com home page, you will note that we have added two schools to the prestigious Davey1.com Hall of Fame. D1 Norwalk and D4 Edgerton are the newest entrants bringing total membership to fifteen teams. We started the Davey1.com Hall of Fame following the 2010-2011 season to honor those teams from Northwest Ohio that finish the regular season undefeated. With so much focus placed on tournament success, perfection during the regular season seems to be diminished somewhat when a team fails to make a run to Columbus. Regardless of a team's schedule, perfection during the regular season is extremely difficult to achieve. Otherwise, more than fifteen teams would have done it. With Ohio moving to a twenty-two game regular season next year, this accomplishment will become even more difficult.

Of the thirteen teams that went undefeated prior to the 2011-2012 season, only two won state championships. Those were D2 Upper Sandusky in 2005 and D4 New Knoxville in 2008. Two teams were state runner-ups with four teams falling in the regional finals. Five of the teams did not advance past the district tournament. Both Norwalk and

Issue 2012-2

Edgerton are still alive in the 2012 tournament. Regardless of what the next two weeks bring, we salute you.

Time to move forward with our picks.

DIVISION I

Eight of the thirteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press D1 poll have reached the regional. Top ranked Columbus Northland was upset by Reynoldsburg in a district final game. Norwalk is the only undefeated team remaining in D1. Four teams (Cincinnati Moeller, Cincinnati Withrow, Lakewood St. Edward, Mentor) in this year's regional also made it to the regional in 2011. St. Ed's is making their eighth straight trip to the regional while Mentor has five straight district titles. Moeller is in the regional for the third year in a row. With Northland's loss, there is no clear favorite in D1.

REGIONALS

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: #5 Toledo Whitmer and #11 Norwalk are ranked teams in this split regional. Whitmer and Norwalk will play their regional semi-final at the University of Toledo while Medina and Elyria will play their regional final at the University of Akron. The regional final will be played at the JAR in Akron. This is Norwalk's first season in D1. The Truckers' last district title came in 1974. Medina finished the regular season with a 5-15 record. The Bees have been bolstered by the return of 6'9" Michigan State recruit Kenny Kaminski.

Semifinals-Toledo Whitmer over Norwalk; Medina over Elyria

Final-Toledo Whitmer over Medina

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: #3 Mentor, #10 Warren Harding, and #11 Lakewood St. Edward are ranked teams at the Wolstein Center. Shaker Heights knocked off #13 Garfield Heights in their district final. This is a very balanced regional with any of the four teams having a good shot at advancing to Columbus.

Semifinals-Mentor over Warren Harding; Shaker Heights over Lakewood St. Edward

Final-Shaker Heights over Mentor

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS: #4 Pickerington Central and #7 Olentangy Liberty are ranked teams at the Barn. In addition to Reynoldsburg's win over Northland, Liberty eliminated #8 Columbus Walnut Ridge in a district final. The district title was Olentangy Liberty's first in school history

Semifinals-Reynoldsburg over Canton McKinley; Pickerington Central over Olentangy Liberty

Final-Pickerington Central over Reynoldsburg

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #6 Cincinnati Moeller is the only ranked team at the Cintas Center. Fairfield eliminated defending state champion and second ranked Cincinnati LaSalle in a district semifinal. Fairfield's district title was their first since 1988. Middletown coach Josh Andrews led Cincinnati Princeton to a D1 state runner-up finish in 2009.

Semifinals-Cincinnati Moeller over Middletown; Fairfield over Cincinnati Withrow

Final-Cincinnati Moeller over Fairfield

STATE

For the fifteenth consecutive season, D1 will close out the State Tournament. The semifinal games will be played Friday evening. D1 is guaranteed a new state champion.

Semifinals-Shaker Heights over Toledo Whitmer; Cincinnati Moeller over Pickerington Central

Final-Cincinnati Moeller over Shaker Heights

DIVISION II

Four of the twelve teams ranked in the final Associated Press D2 poll have reached the regional level. Top ranked Dayton Dunbar is the only undefeated team in D2. Five teams (Chillicothe, defending D2 state champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, 2011 D2 state runner-up Dayton Thurgood Marshall, Struthers, Dayton Dunbar) also advanced to the D2 regional in 2011. Akron SVSM and Thurgood Marshall have won four consecutive district titles while Dayton Dunbar has won three straight. Defending D3

The Swami

state champion Cincinnati Taft is in D2 for 2012 and is appearing in their third straight regional. The D2 state champion should come out of the Kettering Fairmont regional.

REGIONALS

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: #5 Akron East and #10 Mentor Lake Catholic are ranked teams at Canton. Akron SVSM eliminated #2 Alliance in a district final. St. Vincent finished the regular season at 11-9, the same record as the 2011 team that went on to win the D2 state title. Akron East's only loss is to D4 Richmond Heights.

Semifinals-Mentor Lake Catholic over Struthers; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Akron East

Final-Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Lake Catholic

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #1 Dayton Dunbar and #6 Cincinnati Taft are ranked teams at the Trent Arena. This is the top D2 regional with Dayton Thurgood Marshall also a strong contender. Thurgood Marshall knocked off #4 Franklin in a district semifinal while Columbus Eastmoor advanced by eliminating #7 Plain City Jonathan Alder in their district final. Dunbar has two players that started on the Wolverines' 2010 D2 state championship team. Taft's four losses were to out-of-state teams in December.

Semifinals-Dayton Dunbar over Columbus Eastmoor Academy; Cincinnati Taft over Dayton Thurgood Marshall

Final-Dayton Dunbar over Cincinnati Taft

OHIO UNIVERSITY: No ranked teams at the Convo. On paper, this appears to be the weakest of the D2 regionals. St. Clairsville eliminated #8 East Liverpool in their district final. Junior Dan Monteroso of St. Clairsville is one of the top scorers in the state. Waverly's last district championship came in 1980 while New Philadelphia's last trip to the regional was in 1967.

Semifinals-Chillicothe over St. Clairsville; New Philadelphia over Waverly

Final-Chillicothe over New Philadelphia

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: No ranked teams at Savage Arena. Despite the lack of ranked teams, this shapes up as a good regional. Sandusky Perkins defeated #4 Defiance in their district final after eliminating #12 Wauseon in a district semifinal. Perkins had never won a district game prior to this season. Elida eliminated #11 Lexington in a district final. This is Columbus Brookhaven's first year as a D2 school.

Semifinals-Columbus Brookhaven over Sandusky Perkins; Elida over Cleveland Benedictine

Final-Elida over Columbus Brookhaven

STATE

D2 will play their semifinal games on Friday with the championship game scheduled for late Saturday afternoon. Two defending state champions from 2011, Akron SVSM and Cincinnati Taft, remain alive in D2 at the start of regional play.

Semifinals-Dayton Dunbar over Akron St. Vincent-St. Marys; Elida over Chillicothe

Final-Dayton Dunbar over Elida

DIVISION III

Seven of the eleven teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll have advance to the D3 regional. Worthington Christian upset top ranked and previously undefeated Bloom-Carroll in their district final. Six teams (Burton Berkshire, Orrville, Cincinnati Summit Country Day, Ottawa-Glandorf, Chesapeake, 2011 state semifinalist Portsmouth) also advanced to the D3 regional level in 2011. Orrville and Chesapeake are making their third consecutive trips to the regional. St. Bernard Roger Bacon has moved to D3 after winning D2 district titles in 2010 and 2011. Defending state champion Cincinnati Taft has moved up to D2 for 2012. The D3 picture is just as jumbled as it was at the start of the tournament.

REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #7 Bedford St. Peter Chanel is the only ranked team at Canton. Burton Berkshire eliminated #10 Newton Falls in their district final after eliminating #2 and previously undefeated Leavittsburg LaBrae in a district semifinal. Chanel moved up from D4 this season. This marks the second year in a row that Orrville advanced to the regional despite a 7-13 regular season record.

Semifinals-Bedford St. Peter Chanel over New Middleton Springfield; Burton Berkshire over Orrville

Final-Bedford St. Peter Chanel over Burton Berkshire

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #3 Cincinnati Summit Country Day and #8 Versailles are ranked teams at Kettering. Summit Country Day's only loss is to D2 Cincinnati Taft. St. Bernard Roger Bacon is the sleeper in this regional. The Spartans played one of the better schedules of any D3 team.

Semifinals-St. Bernard Roger Bacon over Columbus Academy; Cincinnati Country Day over Versailles

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Final-Cincinnati Summit Country Day over St. Bernard Roger Bacon

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #5 Lima Central Catholic is the only ranked team at BG. Only three of #1 Bloom-Carroll's games had been closer than ten points prior to the upset loss to Worthington Christian. LCC and Ottawa-Glandorf have played the past two seasons in district championship games. New London is riding a sixteen game winning streak.

Semifinals-Lima Central Catholic over Worthington Christian; Ottawa-Glandorf over New London

Final-Lima Central Catholic over Ottawa-Glandorf

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Chesapeake, #6 Portsmouth, and #11 Ironton are ranked teams at the Convo. Chesapeake's only loss is to D2 Circleville Logan Elm. This has all the makings of an excellent regional. Chesapeake won the OU regional in 2010 with Portsmouth capturing the title in 2011. Coshocton's district title is their first since 1983.

Semifinals-Portsmouth over Chesapeake; Ironton over Coshocton

Final-Ironton over Portsmouth

STATE

The D3 semifinals will be the late games on Thursday with the championship game played early Saturday afternoon. A new state champion is guaranteed in D3. Also guaranteed is that the championship game will be more entertaining than in 2011.

Semifinals-Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Bedford St. Peter Chanel; Lima Central Catholic over Ironton

Final-Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Lima Central Catholic

DIVISION IV

Seven of the twelve teams ranked by the Associated Press in their final poll have advanced to the D4 regional. Top ranked Jackson Center and Edgerton are the only undefeated teams in D4. Six teams (Dayton Jefferson, Manchester, defending D4 state champion Berlin Hiland, Windham, Richmond Heights, Edgerton) return after advancing to the D4 regional in 2011. Manchester and Dayton Jefferson are making a third straight appearance in the regional tournament. Columbus Africentric,



a 2011 state semifinalist in D3, has also advanced to D4 regional play. Berlin Hiland has to be considered the favorite in D4 although repeating is difficult.

REGIONALS

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #1 Jackson Center and #12 Dayton Jefferson are ranked teams at Kettering Fairmont. St. Henry eliminated #5 Fort Recovery in their district final. This is the most balanced of the D4 regionals.

Semifinals-St. Henry over Jackson Center; Dayton Jefferson over Lockland

Final-St. Henry over Dayton Jefferson

WAVERLY/OHIO DOMINICAN/LOGAN: #7 Newark Catholic and #9 Columbus Africentric are ranked teams in the roadmap regional. For some reason, the Athens Regional has no games being played in Athens. The regional semi-final game between Columbus Africentric and Newark Catholic will be played at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus while the regional semi-final between Manchester and Beaver Eastern will be played at Waverly High School. The regional final will be played at Logan High School.

Semifinals-Manchester over Beaver Eastern; Columbus Africentric over Newark Catholic

Final-Columbus Africentric over Manchester

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #2 Berlin Hiland and #4 Richmond Heights are ranked teams at Canton. Hiland eliminated #6 Zanesville Rosecrans in overtime in their district final while Richmond Heights defeated #10 Cleveland Villa Angela St. Joseph also in overtime in a district final. Hiland's only loss is to D1 Canton GlenOak while Richmond Height's lone loss is to D1 Shaker Heights. Is the Hiland/Richmond Heights game for the state championship?

The Swami

Semifinals-Richmond Heights over Windham; Berlin Hiland over Mogadore

Final-Berlin Hiland over Richmond Heights

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #3 Edgerton is the only ranked team at the Stroh Center. Both Arlington and Maumee Valley Country Day are making their initial appearance in a regional tournament. Maumee Valley's only loss is to conference rival Gibsonburg.

Semifinals-Arlington over Maumee Valley Country Day; Edgerton over Colonel Crawford

Final-Arlington over Edgerton

STATE

D4 will kick off the ninetieth annual Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 22. The championship game will be the early game on Saturday. Hiland could become the first repeat state champion since Cincinnati North College Hill turned the trick back in 2007 with their third straight championship in D3.

Semifinals-Columbus Africentric over St. Henry; Berlin Hiland over Arlington

Final-Berlin Hiland over Columbus Africentric

That wraps up Trail Trash for another season. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. You can contact us at daveyl@daveyl.com. See you in Columbus if not sooner.



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