

Trail Trash

“Our 20th Anniversary”

**2013 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 twentieth year of Trail Trash, a Northwest Ohio institution since 1994. Entering the 2012-2013 season, it appeared that we were in store for a banner year for high school basketball in Northwest Ohio. A number of teams that enjoyed success last season were returning key players. There were at least nine players who had already signed with D1 college programs including four headed to Big Ten institutions. So far, those expectations have been met with outstanding league races and a number of teams receiving statewide recognition.

The 2012-2013 season also marked the expansion of the regular season schedule to twenty-two games with the majority of teams around NW Ohio electing to add additional games. It has worked out well so far with the mild winter weather resulting in very few postponed games and the potential chaos in trying to reschedule those

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

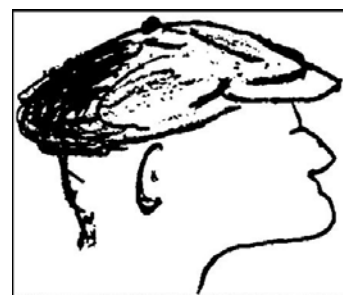
contests.

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Just like last year, there have been a number of low-scoring games this year. There have been well over a hundred games where at least one of the teams scored fewer than thirty points with at least thirty games where one of the teams scored twenty or fewer points. I am not going to go into any theories behind this, but it is mind-boggling to me. On the other hand, teams have scored 100 or more points on sixteen occasions this season.

Changes in the various leagues around Northwest Ohio continue to be a hot topic. The North Central Conference (NCC) and Midland Athletic League (MAL) will soon be things of the past, and we'll have the Sandusky River League and the Buckeye 10. There will be numerous changes in the Blanchard Valley Conference, Northern Ohio League, and Sandusky Bay Conference along with other leagues as the dominos continue to fall. The 2011-2012 season was a big year in the makeup of leagues around NW Ohio, and we will see more changes next year and wholesale changes in 2014-2015. Change is good.

The elephant in the room is the OHSAA referendum vote scheduled for this spring that would create separate tournaments for public and private schools. I am not going to bore you with statistics on regional representation between the publics and privates over the past several seasons in boys' basketball, but I will tell you that the publics have more than held their own. Times must be good in Wayne County considering that the "group of superintendents" appear to be more interested in holding separate tournaments and bringing home half a state championship than they are with school financing and curriculum changes resulting from new state testing requirements. That is what I like about the Midwest Athletic Conference (MAC). They compete, you don't hear them complaining, and they win. The change to separate tournaments would not be good.



As we talk about change, it has been twenty-five years (hard to believe for us old codgers) since the three-point line was added and Ohio went to four divisions in basketball. District champions in 1988 were Toledo Whitmer and Mansfield Senior in D1; Elida, Mansfield Malabar, and Sylvania Northview in D2; Gibsonburg, Ottawa-Glandorf, and Wynford in D3; and Kalida, Liberty-Benton, Holgate, Mansfield St. Peter's, Convoy Crestview, and Ada in D4.

To continue this historical thread, let's go back fifty years to 1963. District champions from Northwest Ohio were Toledo Central Catholic (over Toledo Woodward), Lima Senior, and Marion Harding (over Mansfield St. Peter's) in Class AA and Gomer (now part of Elida), York Township (now part of Bellevue), Western Reserve (over Attica), and Pettisville (over Payne) in Class A. Meanwhile, the head coach at Ottoville was a guy named Richard Kortokrax.

Sometimes things change, and sometimes they don't. Time to knock the dust off the Ouija board and go to the predictions.

DIVISION I

We are seeing an outstanding season in D1. Norwalk, Toledo St. John's, Toledo Central Catholic, and Toledo Whitmer have all cracked the top 5 in the Associated Press poll at some time this year. For those city folks that have not bought into the Norwalk hype, the Truckers are the real deal. Anthony Wayne has also received some statewide recognition. Throw in Mansfield Senior and Toledo Rogers, and you have seven strong teams. There are a number of other D1 teams with winning records (nine headed into the final week of the regular season) that should make for some great tournament games. The district tournament matchups will be as good as any in the state.

There is one site change for 2013 as Galion has replaced Willard. Liberty-Benton and Galion will continue to operate under a "Super Sectional" format where the sectional winners at those sites will return to play their district semi-final games on March 7. The district final will again be played at the Stroh Center in Bowling Green on March 9. There has been a format change for the Toledo district. Last year the two Central Catholic sectional winners played in one district semi-final at the University of Toledo with the two Whitmer sectional winners matched up in the other semi-final. This year, each of the district semi-final games will pair a Whitmer sectional winner against a Central Catholic sectional winner. This was precipitated by Central Catholic and Whitmer hosting sectional games and those two teams (the overall #2 and #3 seeds in the Toledo district) going to the same side of the brackets. Since a team cannot play a tournament game on their home floor, a change in the format was made.

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The two NW Ohio district champions will play in a regional semi-final at the University of Toledo. The winner will play the winner of the regional semi-final between the Copley district final (Nordononia, Twinsburg) and the Grafton district winner (Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Elyria). That regional semi-final will be played at the University of Akron. The regional final will be played at the University of Toledo. You can bet there will once again be a D1 team representing NW Ohio at the state tournament.

SECTIONALS

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Toledo St. John's and Toledo Whitmer are the top seeds. St. John's currently leads the TRAC. OSU signee Marc Loving is the all-time leading scorer and rebounder at SJ. Titans coach Ed Heintschel recently passed 600 career wins (all at SJ) placing him in the top ten for all-time wins in Ohio. The Titans have won fifteen consecutive sectional titles. Whitmer returns three starters from their 2012 state runner-up team including Wisconsin signee Nigel Hayes. Bowsher is one of the top scoring teams in the state averaging over eighty-four points a game. Former University of Toledo head coach Stan Joplin coaches Springfield. The Blue Devils will present a contrast in style to Bowsher when they meet in the semifinals. Just like Springfield, Northview has far exceeded expectations. The Wildcats have a very underrated player in Connor Hartnett.

Semifinals – Sylvania Northview over Toledo St. Francis; Springfield over Toledo Bowsher

Finals – Toledo St. John's over Sylvania Northview; Toledo Whitmer over Springfield

TOLEDO WHITMER: Toledo Central Catholic and Toledo Rogers are the top seeds. Central was the pre-season favorite to win the TRAC. The Irish have four starters who were key components in Central's run to the D1 final four in 2011. A veteran Rogers team dominated the Toledo City League before losing in the semifinals of the league tournament to Start. Guards Tony Kynard and Clemmye Owens of Rogers are D1 signees. Start coach Gil Guerrero will face brother Joe Guerrero and Bowsher when the teams meet for the City League championship. Maumee is another team from the NLL that has been a surprise. The Panthers face Start in an excellent first round matchup. Southview upset Rogers and Central Catholic to advance to the district final a year ago so the Cougars cannot be overlooked.

Semifinals – Toledo Rogers over Toledo Waite; Toledo Start over Maumee

Finals – Toledo Rogers over Sylvania Southview; Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Start

GALION: Norwalk and Mansfield Senior are the top seeds. NOL champion Norwalk advanced to the regional semifinals in 2012 and return an experienced group. The Truckers are currently on a forty-two game regular season winning streak. Norwalk passed up a bye at the tournament draw, and should breeze into the district semifinal. Mansfield Senior is undefeated in the OCC. The Tygers have only two seniors on the roster, but have a veteran point guard in Keon Johnson (Winthrop) and some size. A district semifinal between Norwalk and Mansfield is much anticipated. Mansfield has eleven consecutive sectional titles. Ashland is young and much improved. Mansfield better not be looking past the Arrows. Playing an independent schedule, Marion Harding has quietly put together a decent season.

Semifinals – Norwalk over Sandusky; Ashland over Mansfield Madison

Finals – Norwalk over Marion Harding; Mansfield Senior over Ashland

LIBERTY-BENTON: Anthony Wayne and Fremont Ross are the top seeds. Anthony Wayne has clinched an NLL co-championship. The Generals' chances for tournament success will revolve around Michigan signee Mark Donnal (6'10"). Fremont Ross getting the second seed was a bit of a surprise. The Little Giants have put together a solid season in the TRAC. Perrysburg and Findlay have been wildly inconsistent. Findlay handed St. John's their only loss to a team from Ohio. The Trojans have the size to handle AW. It would not be a shock to see Perrysburg and Findlay in the district. Lima Senior has some good young talent.

Semifinals – Perrysburg over Lima Senior; Findlay over Clay

Finals – Perrysburg over Fremont Ross; Anthony Wayne over Findlay

DISTRICTS

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Toledo Whitmer is the defending district champion. Toledo St. John's has won seven of the past eleven district championships with their most recent coming back in 2010. Whitmer is the only other school to win more than one district title during that period.

Semifinals – Toledo St John's over Toledo Rogers; Toledo Whitmer over Toledo Central Catholic

Final – Toledo St. John's over Toledo Whitmer

BGSU: Norwalk will face Mansfield Senior in a district semifinal at Galion while Anthony Wayne will face Perrysburg in a district semifinal at Liberty-Benton.

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Norwalk is the defending district champion.

Semifinal (at Galion) – Norwalk over Mansfield Senior

Semifinal (at Liberty-Benton) – Anthony Wayne over Perrysburg

Final – Norwalk over Anthony Wayne

DIVISION II

There are some very good teams, but this has not been a vintage year in D2 around NW Ohio. A D2 team from Northwest Ohio has yet to make an appearance in the top ten of the AP polls so far this season. Otsego has received the most mention, but few would argue that the Knights are the top D2 team in NW Ohio. Lima Bath has put together an excellent season while Sandusky Perkins, defending D2 state runner-up Elida, Defiance and several other teams are very solid. 2013 may look a little stronger on paper, but could this year's tournament be comparable to 2009 when there was no dominant team and Elida and Galion won district championships following a number of upsets?

The two district winners will advance to the regional at BGSU where the winner of the Bowling Green district will play the winner of the Westlake district (Cleveland Central Catholic, Cleveland Benedictine) and the winner of the Ohio Northern district will play the winner of one of the Columbus districts (Columbus Brookhaven, Columbus Watterson). Brookhaven and Watterson were the top two seeds in the Central district, and chose the BG regional rather than a loaded Kettering Fairmont regional (Dayton Thurgood Marshall, Kettering Alter, Dayton Dunbar, Trotwood-Madison, etc.). On paper, it is doubtful that a team from NW Ohio will advance to the state tournament but do not be surprised if it happens.

SECTIONALS

SWANTON: Defiance and Bowling Green are the top seeds. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year at Defiance, but the Bulldogs enter the last week of the regular season on a nine game winning streak. Bowling Green has played a strong schedule for a D2 team. The Bobcats with Wisconsin signee Vitto Brown have momentum heading into the tournament. Otsego has clinched at least a share of the NBC title. A.J. Limes is the all-time leading scorer for the Knights while Jordan Lauf, a University of Toledo signee, passed Tim Reiser as the all-time leading scorer for the Wildcats. Napoleon has yet to win a sectional title during Lauf's career. Either Wauseon or Bryan will claim at least a share of the NWOAL crown. Despite that, the Indians and



Golden Bears received the #5 and #6 seeds at Swanton. This is a very good sectional.

Semifinals – Defiance over Eastwood; Wauseon over Otsego; Napoleon over Rossford; Bowling Green over Bryan

Finals – Defiance over Wauseon; Bowling Green over Napoleon

OREGON CLAY: Sandusky Perkins and Toledo Scott are the top seeds. Nothing beats the trip to Oregon on a cold winter's night. Sandusky Perkins returns four starters from their 2012 regional runner-up team losing only big man Michael Ebert. The Pirates recently lost four-year starter and 1,000 point career scorer Brandon Smith to an injury. If Smith cannot go in the tournament, the Pirates will not last long. Scott has been inconsistent, but will be a tough matchup in the sectional. Bellevue has also been plagued by inconsistency, but the Redmen can be a factor on their side of the bracket. Jalen Santoro, the quarterback on Bellevue's DIII state runner-up football team, keys the Redmen. Clyde has been solid while Oak Harbor has reached double figures in wins for the first time since 2004.

Semifinals – Sandusky Perkins over Edison; Bellevue over Port Clinton; Clyde over Oak Harbor; Toledo Scott over Toledo Woodward

Finals – Sandusky Perkins over Bellevue; Toledo Scott over Clyde

LIMA SENIOR: Lima Bath and Elida are the top seeds. Eight WBL teams are in the sectional at Lima. Bath has a chance to win at least a share of their first WBL title since 1970. The Wildcats have balanced scoring and shoot the ball well from the outside. 2012 state runner-up Elida is also still in the hunt for a share of the WBL title. Dakota Mathias of Elida is one of the top scorers in the state. Just a junior, Mathias is being looked at by a number of D1 high-majors. Wapakoneta appears to be the best of the rest of the WBL teams while both Celina and Van Wert could be factors. Kenton is much improved while St. Marys' lone WBL win to date was at the Supreme Court in Ottawa. There appears to be some separation between the top two seeds and the rest of the field, but that does not rule out a couple of surprises.

Semifinals – Lima Bath over Lima Shawnee; St. Marys Memorial over Kenton; Elida over Van Wert; Celina over Wapakoneta

Finals – Lima Bath over St. Marys Memorial; Elida over Celina

BUCYRUS: Lexington and Willard are the top seeds. So former NBA player Jamie Feick was replaced by Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton as the head coach at Lexington? A different Scott Hamilton? Sorry about that. This was supposed to be a rebuilding year at Lex, but the Minutemen have put together a nice season and received

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the top seed. This is not a Willard team from the days of Bob Haas and the elephant or Nick Dials or any of those other characters that Willard people loved and others loathed, but the Flashes are the best team in the NOL not named Norwalk. In somewhat of a surprise, third seed Shelby went to Lexington's side of the bracket despite a win over Willard and a loss to Lex earlier in the season. Clear Fork has been playing well late in the season and could be a factor.

Semifinals – Shelby over Upper Sandusky; Willard over Galion; Clear Fork over Tiffin Columbian

Finals – Lexington over Shelby; Willard over Clear Fork

DISTRICTS

BGSU: Sandusky Perkins is the defending district champion. The BG district has seen nine different champions over the past nine seasons.

Semifinals – Defiance over Toledo Scott; Bowling Green over Sandusky Perkins

Final – Bowling Green over Defiance

OHIO NORTHERN: Elida is the defending district champion. Not sure why the Bucyrus sectional has to travel all the way to Ada. Why not alternate between Ohio Northern and Ashland? The Swami didn't like the ONU venue when we started publishing this thing back in 1994, and that opinion has not changed.

Semifinals – Lima Bath over Willard; Elida over Lexington

Final – Lima Bath over Elida

DIVISION III

This sounds like a broken record. Lima Central Catholic, Ottawa-Glandorf, and Liberty-Benton are the top D3 teams in NW Ohio and have been fixtures in the top ten in the AP popularity contest. The jury is out on which is the best of the best, but LCC holds the head-to-head advantage following December wins over both O-G and L-B. Another familiar face, Archbold, is also a contender. Several other teams including Lake, Wayne Trace, and Ontario are having solid seasons. Otsego replaces Anthony Wayne as a sectional site while Willard replaces Norwalk as a district venue.

The Lima Senior district winner plays the Napoleon district winner in one regional semi-final at BGSU while the Willard district winner plays one of the Columbus district winners (Bloom-Carroll, North Union) in the other regional semifinal at

the Stroh Center. Bloom-Carroll is the top overall seed in the Central district. Just like in D2, they chose the BG regional rather than a tough Kettering Fairmont regional. The Swami likes the chances of a D3 team from NW Ohio advancing to the state tournament.

SECTIONALS

DEFIANCE: Ottawa-Glandorf and Wayne Trace are the top seeds. 2012 final four participant Ottawa-Glandorf has captured seven consecutive sectional titles since dropping to D3 for the 2006 tournament. Make that eight straight once the action at Defiance is completed. The lower bracket is excellent with Wayne Trace, Paulding, and Tinora. Wayne Trace won the GMC championship and has an early season win over Paulding. With the twenty-two game regular season, it would be nice to see the GMC play a double round. Tinora handed Wayne Trace one of their two regular season losses and will finish the regular season with at least sixteen wins. Paulding is in the upper half of the NWC, and the Panthers will finish the regular season with at least sixteen victories including some quality wins.

Semifinals – Hicksville over Fairview; Tinora over Paulding

Finals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Hicksville; Wayne Trace over Tinora

OTSEGO: Archbold and Evergreen are the top seeds. The bulk of the NWOAL invades Tontogany. Archbold started a bit slowly but appear to be peaking as tournament time rolls around. The Blue Streaks have a good chance to capture a share of the NWOAL crown. Archbold has twelve consecutive sectional titles. Evergreen has experienced a bounce back year after a rare losing season in 2011-2012. The Vikings were just eliminated from NWOAL title contention. Delta was 10-4 and leading the NWOAL before their schedule caught up to them in mid-January. Rivals Delta and Evergreen have already traded one-point victories. Liberty Center is having their best season since 2006 while Swanton has made strides over the second half of the season. We try not to dwell on teams having difficult seasons, but it is hard to believe that 1996 D3 state champion Patrick Henry has just one win to date.

Semifinals – Swanton over Patrick Henry; Delta over Liberty Center

Finals – Archbold over Swanton; Evergreen over Delta

FINDLAY: Liberty-Benton and Elmwood are the top seeds. Liberty-Benton is the BVC champion. L-B's lone loss to date was to Lima Central Catholic in December. You can be critical of the Eagles schedule with the Arcadias and the Hardin-Northerns, but L-B has some quality wins including Bath and Elida. Liberty-Benton gets it done with defense and balanced scoring. Picked to finish near the bottom of the NBC, Elmwood has overachieved resulting in the second seed and a good chance to advance to the district. Carey has been a contender for the MAL title, and will

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finish the regular season with at least fifteen wins. The Blue Devils play a schedule dominated by D4 schools. Lakota has a legitimate opportunity to win their first tournament game since 2001.

Semifinals – Fostoria over Lakota; Carey over Van Buren

Finals – Liberty-Benton over Fostoria; Elmwood over Carey

WAPAKONETA: Lima Central Catholic and Spencerville are the top seeds. Lima Central Catholic has a chance to get at least a share of the NWC title, the T-Birds' final season in the league. LCC lost to O-G in the 2012 regional finals. The T-Birds have a number of quality wins including Bath, Elida, L-B, and O-G. Spencerville can also earn at least a share of the NWC crown. The Bearcats have a dominating February win over LCC in a game played on the T-Birds' home floor. Nothing else sticks out in the mix of NWC and MAC teams playing at Wapak with Coldwater appearing to be Spencerville's biggest threat. LCC will glide into the district from their side of the bracket.

Semifinals – Delphos Jefferson over Allen East; Spencerville over Parkway; Coldwater over Bluffton

Final – Lima Central Catholic over Delphos Jefferson; Spencerville over Coldwater

LEXINGTON: Ontario and New London are the top seeds. Ontario is undefeated in the NCC Black Division. The Warriors have yet to lose to a D3 team this season. Ontario joins the NOL next season. New London has a chance to get at least a share of the Firelands Conference championship with Western Reserve. The Wildcats have limited size, but are quick and athletic. Ontario will breeze in the upper bracket. The lower bracket appears to be a bit more competitive. Seneca East has a close loss to New London in a game played at the "Q" in Cleveland. Traditional NCC power Wynford will have their first losing season since 1985 (thank you crawfordcountybasketball.com).



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Semifinals – Ontario over Ashland Crestview; Seneca East over Wynford

Final – Ontario over Bucyrus; New London over Seneca East

SANDUSKY: Huron and Lake are the top seeds. Huron is on track to get at least a share of the SBC championship with D2

Sandusky Perkins. The Tigers have lost only to D1 power Norwalk in the 2013 portion of their schedule. Lake was the district runner-up a year ago and appears to be improved for 2013. The Flyers are the NBC runner-up. Western Reserve has a shot at getting at least a share of the Firelands Conference title. Margaretta went through an eleven game losing streak early in the season, but is much improved of late. Woodmore was expected to be a contender in the NBC, but injuries have sidetracked their season. Keith Diebler is in his first season as head coach at Genoa. The Comets score a lot, but give up more (almost 90 per game) as Coach Diebler implements his system.

Semifinals - Margaretta over Genoa; Western Reserve over Woodmore

Final – Huron over Margaretta; Lake over Western Reserve

DISTRICTS

NAPOLEON: Ottawa-Glandorf is the defending champion at the Grand Canyon. The Titans also won the Elida district in 2011.

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Evergreen; Archbold over Wayne Trace

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold

LIMA SENIOR: Lima Central Catholic won the district title in 2012 at Lima.

Semifinals – Liberty-Benton over Spencerville; Lima Central Catholic over Elmwood

Final – Lima Central Catholic over Liberty-Benton

WILLARD: The district tournament was held at Norwalk last season with New London taking home the championship.

Semifinals – Lake over Ontario; Huron over New London

Final – Huron over Lake

DIVISION IV

D4 basketball in NW Ohio is always outstanding. 2013 is no exception. St. Henry, Fort Recovery, Toledo Christian, and Old Fort have been making regular appearances in the top ten in the weekly AP poll. New Bremen, Edgerton, and Convoy Crestview have received recognition on a regular basis while a number of other teams including Delphos St. John's, Leipsic, New Riegel, and Ottawa Hills are putting together outstanding seasons. The Coldwater sectional featuring several teams from the MAC and the Elida district will be meat grinders.

The winner of the Liberty-Benton district will face the winner of the Napoleon district in one regional semi-final at BGSU with the winner of the Lakota district playing the

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winner of the Willard district in the other semi-final game. The Elida district winner will again head south to play the winner of one of the Dayton districts (Jackson Center, Cincinnati Christian) at Kettering Fairmont. New Madison Tri-Village, Cincinnati Country Day, Botkins, and Troy Christian are some of the potentials on the other side of the bracket at Fairmont. Look for two teams in D4 from NW Ohio to advance to the state tournament. A NW Ohio team has not won a state championship in D4 since undefeated New Knoxville took home a championship back in 2008. It is time to end that drought.

SECTIONALS

COLDWATER: New Bremen and St. Henry are the top seeds. A great sectional that includes Fort Recovery and three other MAC teams. With most of the early talk in the MAC revolving around St. Henry and Fort Recovery, New Bremen has been a bit of a surprise as one of the title contenders. The Cardinals will need a lot of help, but New Bremen still can get a share of the MAC title. St. Henry is tied with Delphos St. John's for the conference lead headed into the final week of the regular season. The Redskins spent several weeks as the top-ranked D4 team in the state. Fort Recovery is undefeated outside of MAC play. After losing to New Bremen in overtime in their regular season matchup, the third seeded Indians are looking forward to another shot at New Bremen. Minster, New Knoxville, and Marion Local are all capable of upsetting their MAC brethren.

Semifinals – Fort Recovery over Marion Local; St. Henry over Waynesfield-Goshen; Minster over New Knoxville

Finals – Fort Recovery over New Bremen; St. Henry over Minster

VAN WERT: Convoy Crestview and Delphos St. John's are the top seeds. Convoy Crestview is chasing LCC and Spencerville in the NWC race. The Knights' early season victory over St. John's was a factor in Crestview getting the top seed at Van Wert. Delphos was not expected to be a contender for the MAC crown, but the Blue Jays are currently tied for the league lead with St. Henry. Lima Temple Christian is the NWCC champion. Led by LCC transfer Bruce Hodges, Perry handed Temple Christian their only league loss. Lincolnview, Ottoville, and Fort Jennings will also make the short trip to Van Wert. It will be a big surprise if Crestview and St. John's do not advance to the district.

Semifinals – Ottoville over Lima Perry; Delphos St. John's over Fort Jennings; Lincolnview over Lima Temple Christian

Finals – Convoy Crestview over Ottoville; Delphos St. John's over Lincolnview

KENTON: Arlington and Vanlue are the top seeds. Arlington won their initial district and regional titles to advance to the 2012 final four. The Red Devils returned one starter from last year's team and are more perimeter oriented this season. Vanlue features University of Toledo signee Zach Garber (6'9"). Upper Scioto Valley is much improved. Former Vanlue coach Jeff Kloepfer is in his first year as the head coach at USV. Kloepfer, who is also Garber's uncle, did not get his contract renewed after the 'Lue lost in the sectionals last year. It is safe to say that it will be very interesting when the Wildcats and the Rams meet at Kenton. The remaining teams at Kenton all have records under .500.

Semifinals – Ada over Ridgemont; Vanlue over Riverdale; Upper Scioto Valley over Hardin Northern

Finals – Arlington over Ada; Vanlue over Upper Scioto Valley

OTTAWA-GLANDORF: Leipsic and Columbus Grove are the top seeds. Leipsic is the PCL champion going undefeated in the league. They share the runner-up spot in the BVC with Arlington and McComb. The Vikings' league losses were by a total of five points. Columbus Grove finished second in the PCL in addition to being a contender in the NWC. McComb got off to a slow start, but regrouped to finish tied for second in the BVC. The Panthers have quality wins over Leipsic and Vanlue. Cory-Rawson enters the final week of the regular season with eleven wins. The last time the Hornets finished the regular season with a .500 record or better was in 2004. Arcadia's Cara Noel is completing her first year as head coach of the Redskins.

Semifinals – McComb over Pandora-Gilboa; Leipsic over North Baltimore; Cory-Rawson over Arcadia

Finals - Columbus Grove over McComb; Leipsic over Cory-Rawson

BRYAN: Fayette and Stryker are the top seeds. The Bryan sectional features all the members of the Buckeye Border Conference plus Montpelier. Fayette has already clinched a BBC championship. The Eagles are undefeated in the league with a conference game remaining against Pettisville. Fayette is the only team at Bryan that will enter the tournament at or above .500. North Central and Pettisville are chasing Stryker for second place in the BBC. Montpelier's only win to date came against Edon in the opener. With all six BBC teams and the Locos in one sectional, you can throw the records out the window. Please.

Semifinals – North Central over Montpelier; Pettisville over Edon; Stryker over Hilltop

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Finals – Fayette over North Central; Pettisville over Stryker

PAULDING: Edgerton and Miller City are the top seeds. Edgerton was the regional runner-up in 2012. The Bulldogs finished in a tie for second with Tinora behind Wayne Trace in the GMC after winning the conference championship in 2012 and sharing the title in 2011. Miller City has put together a solid season. Holgate is the sleeper at Paulding. The Tigers are at full strength following some injuries and have great tournament tradition. Antwerp and Ayersville will both finish the regular season above .500. As if this even needs mentioning, Kalida coach Richard Kortokrax is Ohio's all-time winningest coach. The Wildcats are in a rebuilding year. The Paulding sectional will be very competitive making it one of the more difficult to predict.

Semifinals - Kalida over Ayersville; Holgate over Continental; Miller City over Antwerp

Finals - Edgerton over Kalida; Holgate over Miller City

ONTARIO: Colonel Crawford and Buckeye Central are the top seeds. Both Colonel Crawford and Buckeye Central enter the final week of the regular season with a chance for at least a share of the NCC Silver Division title. Colonel Crawford won the head-to-head matchup in the league opener back in December. Mansfield St. Peter's recently had a nine-game winning streak snapped by New London. The Spartans will finish the season above .500 for the first time since the 2005-2006 campaign. Mansfield Christian is also having a solid season. Injuries have diminished the Flames' chances for a lengthy tournament run.

Semifinals – Mansfield Christian over Lucas; Mansfield St. Peter's over Crestline

Finals – Colonel Crawford over Mansfield Christian; Mansfield St. Peter's over Buckeye Central

NORWALK: Sandusky St. Mary CC and Norwalk St. Paul are the top seeds. Sandusky St. Mary has been competitive this season competing against much larger schools in the SBC. The Panthers are 7-1 against D4 teams with the only loss coming in overtime against Cardinal Stritch. Norwalk St. Paul has an outside chance of getting a share of the Firelands Conference title. The Flyers have some quality wins including D2 Sandusky Perkins and D3 Huron. Both the top seeds skipped first round byes. Plymouth appears to be the best of the rest at the Garage. The Big Red have good young talent but have been inconsistent.

Semifinals – Plymouth over Sandusky St. Mary CC; Norwalk St. Paul over South Central

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Finals – Plymouth over Monroeville; Norwalk St. Paul over Danbury

FOSTORIA: Old Fort and New Riegel are the top seeds. Seven MAL teams make the jaunt to Fostoria. Old Fort and New Riegel meet in the final game of the regular season for the MAL title. Old Fort is undefeated in the league and has clinched a share of the title, the first for the Stockaders since 2002. New Riegel is going for their fourth straight league title (outright or shared) and has the MAL's dominant player in Brandyn Reinhart. Hopewell-Loudon is the best of the remaining teams at Fostoria. Tiffin Calvert is going through a difficult season. 2012 MAL player of the year Nick Warnement saw his first action of the season in mid-February and will be available for the tournament following an injury. That should provide a big boost for the Senecas.

Semifinals – Tiffin Calvert over Mohawk; Hopewell-Loudon over Fostoria St. Wendelin; New Riegel over Bettsville

Finals – Old Fort over Tiffin Calvert; New Riegel over Hopewell-Loudon

EASTWOOD: Toledo Christian and Ottawa Hills are the top seeds. This is a very good sectional. A veteran Toledo Christian team is the TAAC champion. TC's Eric Cellier is one of the better D4 players in NW Ohio. Ottawa Hills has been chasing TC in the TRAC. The Green Bears recently lost leading scorer and four-year starter Lucas Janowicz to a knee injury. Without Janowicz, Ottawa Hills is a bit smaller but still have 6'8" and 6'6" on the front line. Guard play and depth will be the key for the Green Bears. Fremont St. Joseph can still get a share of the MAL title. The Crimson Streaks are guard dominated which should make for a very interesting matchup with Ottawa Hills. St. Joe's will first need to get by a much-improved Gibsonburg team. Cardinal Stritch is solid and features an excellent sophomore in Austin Adams. Maumee Valley Country Day graduated a number of key players but return the mercurial Davey Brown who at 5'5" is one of the top point guards in NW Ohio.

Semifinals – Cardinal Stritch over Maumee Valley Country Day; Ottawa Hills over Northwood; Fremont St. Joseph CC over Gibsonburg

Finals – Toledo Christian over Cardinal Stritch; Fremont St. Joseph CC over Ottawa Hills

DISTRICTS

ELIDA: From top to bottom, the Elida district will be as strong as any D4 regional. St. Henry is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Fort Recovery over Delphos St. John's; St. Henry over Convoy Crestview

Final – St. Henry over Fort Recovery

LIBERTY-BENTON: Arlington won the district title at L-B

last year.

Semifinals – Leipsic over Arlington; Columbus Grove over Vanlue

Final – Leipsic over Columbus Grove

NAPOLEON: Edgerton is the two-time defending district champion.

Semifinals – Holgate over Fayette; Edgerton over Pettisville

Final – Holgate over Edgerton

WILLARD: Colonel Crawford is the defending district champion.

Semifinals – Norwalk St. Paul over Colonel Crawford; Mansfield St. Peter's over Plymouth

Final – Norwalk St. Paul over Mansfield St. Peter's

LAKOTA: Without getting too specific, Lakota is located in the middle of nowhere. Maumee Valley Country Day took home the district title in 2012.

Semifinals – Old Fort over Fremont St. Joseph CC; Toledo Christian over New Riegel

Final – Toledo Christian over Old Fort

That is it for now. We will return with a much shorter version for 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. We will see you along the tournament trail. Rock on.