

Trail Trash

2021 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

We are back with the second edition of Trail Trash for 2021. Over the past two weeks, 146 tournament games were scheduled to be played around Northwest Ohio. Every game went off as scheduled, and every team had the opportunity to play in the tournament with no delays or changes. To get all those games in was absolutely fantastic and a great accomplishment during this strange basketball season.

With the higher seed hosting at the sectional level for the first time, there were few upsets. In the eighteen team D1 tournament, #5 seed Sylvania Southview and #8 seed Toledo Start were the highest seeds not to advance with #10 Toledo St. Francis the lowest seed to move on to the district. In the other divisions, #3 seeds Lima Central Catholic and Evergreen in D3 and Pettisville in D4 were the highest seeds that failed to advance. #7 seed Hicksville in D4 was the lowest seed to win a sectional title. In sectional final games, the home team (the higher seed) won forty-six of the fifty-two games. Even with limited attendance, having home court played a significant role. The majority of the sectional finals were not close with the average winning margin exceeding twenty points. The Swami is keeping his fingers crossed for the return to neutral sites in 2022.

The D1 district tournaments went according to form with top seeds Lima Senior and Toledo St. John's Jesuit winning district titles. #1 seed Lima Senior eliminated #4 seed Sylvania Northview and #2 seed St. John's Jesuit

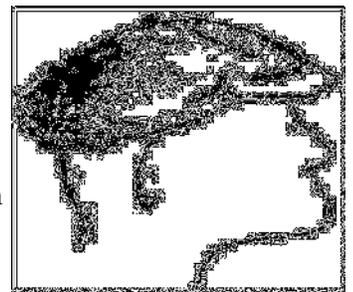
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eliminated #3 seed Findlay in district championship games.

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#1 seeds Lima Shawnee and Shelby won district titles in D2. Shawnee defeated #3 seed St. Marys while Shelby eliminated #3 seed Norwalk in the championship games. The big surprise came at Lake where #1 seed Rossford was eliminated by #4 seed Toledo Central Catholic in a district semifinal. Central Catholic went into the tournament with just four wins. The Fighting Irish eliminated #2 seed Tiffin Columbian in the district final at Lake.

In D3, #1 seed Ottawa-Glandorf won the district at Lima Senior with a win over #2 seed Wayne Trace after squeaking by #4 seed Coldwater in overtime in a semifinal. #2 seed Archbold edged #1 seed Cardinal Stritch in the district final at Toledo Central Catholic. Undefeated Colonel Crawford, the top seed at Shelby, was soundly beaten in a district semifinal by #3 seed Willard. #2 seed Western



Since 1994, Trail Trash has been published twice annually in conjunction with the boys state basketball tournament. Trail Trash is published to share 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.

Reserve won the district championship edging the Crimson Flashes.

In the D4 district at Willard, #5 seed Lucas won the title defeating #1 seed South Central in a semifinal and #3 seed Norwalk St. Paul in the championship game. At Liberty-Benton, #3 seed Carey eliminated #1 seed Old Fort in a semifinal followed by a win over #2 seed Tiffin Calvert in the title game. At Elida, #1 seed Columbus Grove defeated #2 seed Ottoville in a battle of state-ranked teams in the final. #4 seed New Bremen advanced to the district at Wapakoneta with an overtime sectional final win against #5 seed Marion Local. New Bremen then eliminated #2 seed Minster in a district semifinal and #3 seed St. Henry in the championship game. St Henry had eliminated #1 seed Lima Perry in the other district semifinal at Wapak. At Defiance, #1 seed Antwerp edged #2 seed Toledo Christian 23-20 on a three-pointer by Jagger Landers with less than a second remaining for the championship. TC had defeated #7 seed Hicksville 47-46 in overtime on a buzzer-beating three by Trevor Wensink. Logan Trumbull, the career scoring leader at Hicksville, was outstanding with 30 points for the Aces. As great as the buzzer-beater was, Trevor's reaction and display of sportsmanship following the game was even better.

Seven of the thirteen top seeded teams from around Northwest Ohio won district championships. Lucas, the #5 seed in the D4 Willard district, was the lowest seed to win a district title.

Regional tournaments in D2 and D3 will be held at Elida while the D4 regional will be held at Van Wert. Lucas, the D4 district champion at Willard, will play in the regional at Akron Firestone. D4 regional semifinals will be played Tuesday night with the championship game on Friday night. D3 regional semifinals will be played Wednesday evening with the title game on Saturday night while the D2 semifinals will be Thursday night with the championship game scheduled for Saturday afternoon. In D1, the regional semifinal between Lima Senior and Toledo St. John's Jesuit has been moved from Lima Senior to Liberty-Benton for Wednesday night. The championship game in D1 will be played Saturday afternoon at Norwalk.

The state tournament will be held in Dayton at the University of Dayton Arena. Semifinals will be played on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20 with the championship games slated for Sunday, March 21. The state tournament was held at the UD Arena in 1986 and 1987.

The davey1.com staff (both of us) had the opportunity to attend the district tournaments at Lake (D1 & D2) and Defiance (D4) during the past week. These marked the first games either of us have attended in-person this season. Congratulations to the tournament managers (Dave Shaffer at Lake and Jerry Buti at Defiance) and tournament staff for a job well done at two outstanding venues. Thank you for your hospitality and for allowing us to attend.

One word can describe the Swami's results from the first edition. Bad. With an overall record of 106-40 and just five district winners (pick the top seeds and you'll do better than that), the numbers declined for the third straight year. Time to go back to the drawing board.

DIVISION I

REGIONALS

TWINSBURG: Semifinal games will be played Wednesday evening with the title game scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Top-ranked Mentor is one of three undefeated teams remaining in the tournament and the lone D1 team. North Canton Hoover upset #2 seed Canton McKinley in their district final. 2017 D1 state champion Massillon Jackson was the #3 seed in the east portion of the district behind Mentor and McKinley while Medina was the #3 seed in the western portion of the district behind Lakewood St. Edward and Cleveland St. Ignatius.

Semifinals – Medina over North Canton Hoover; Mentor over Massillon Jackson

Final – Mentor over Medina

CINCINNATI PRINCETON: Semifinal games will be played Wednesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Saturday night. Moeller won their eighth straight district championship. Elder, Moeller, and St. Xavier split their Greater Catholic League games. Those are the only losses on the season for St. X and the only losses for Moeller to teams from Ohio. GWOC champion Centerville won a third straight district title. The Elks lost at Moeller in early December.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Cincinnati St. Xavier; Centerville over Cincinnati Elder

Final – Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Centerville

NORWALK: Both semifinal games are scheduled for Wednesday night with Lakewood St. Edward playing Cleveland St. Ignatius at Norwalk and Toledo St. John's Jesuit meeting Lima Senior at Liberty-Benton. Lima Senior won their third straight district title and fifth in the past seven seasons. St. John's and Lima shared the TRAC title with Findlay. SJJ and the Spartans split their regular season games with both games played at Lima. The Titans won the TRAC matchup (the league only played a single round) during the final week of the regular season. St. Edward won a fifth straight district championship and their fifteenth in the past seventeen seasons. St. Ed's and St. Ignatius split their regular season games. Ed's also has home wins over St.

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John's and Lima Senior.

Semifinals – Lakewood St. Edward over Cleveland St. Ignatius; Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Lima Senior

Final – Lakewood St. Edward over Toledo St. John's Jesuit

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: The semifinal games will be played Thursday evening with the championship game set for Saturday afternoon. All four teams are members of the Ohio Capital Conference. Gahanna Lincoln finished on top of the OCC-Ohio followed by Westerville Central. The teams split two one-point games. Hilliard Bradley finished on top of the OCC-Central followed by Olentangy Liberty with Bradley sweeping the season series. Westerville Central and Hilliard Bradley both won a second straight district championship.

Semifinals – Gahanna Lincoln over Olentangy Liberty; Westerville Central over Hilliard Bradley

Final – Gahanna Lincoln over Westerville Central

STATE

The D1 semifinals will be played Saturday evening with the championship game scheduled for Sunday night.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Mentor; Gahanna Lincoln over Lakewood St. Edward

Final – Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller over Gahanna Lincoln

DIVISION II

REGIONALS

All D2 regional semifinal games are scheduled to be played Thursday evening with championship games scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

CHILLICOTHE SOUTHEASTERN: Columbus St. Francis DeSales is the Central Catholic League champion. DeSales, the #2 seed in the Central district, defeated top seed Jonathan Alder in the championship game to win a second straight district title. Meadowbrook won a second straight district championship as the top seed in the Eastern district. Vincent Warren was the top seed in the Southeastern district. Chillicothe Unioto was the #7 seed in the Southeastern district. The Shermans defeated #2 seed Circleville Logan Elm in a district semifinal.

Semifinals – Columbus St. Francis DeSales over Chillicothe Unioto; Byesville Meadowbrook over Vincent Warren

Final – Columbus St. Francis DeSales over Byesville Meadowbrook

VANDALIA BUTLER: Tipp City Tippecanoe went undefeated in winning the Miami Valley League. Tipp's only loss was in a non-league game at Mason. Cincinnati McNicholas disposed of Trotwood-Madison in their district final. McNicholas is the Greater Catholic League Coed champion. Dayton Chaminade Julianne finished in a tie for 3rd in the GCL Coed. Columbus Bishop Watterson finished the regular season at 6-15 and at the bottom of the five-team Central Catholic League. Watterson, the #13 seed in the Central district., eliminated #3 seed Columbus Beechcroft and #4 seed Heath in the district tournament.

Semifinals – Tipp City Tippecanoe over Dayton Chaminade-Julienne; Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas over Columbus Bishop Watterson

Final – Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas over Tipp City Tippecanoe

ELIDA: Lima Shawnee won a third straight district championship. Shawnee is the WBL champion. Shawnee's only loss was at Findlay in late January. That broke a winning streak of forty-four regular season games and forty games overall for the Indians. Shelby won their first district championship since 1999. The Whippets are the MOAC champions. Akron Buchtel features Chris Livingston, one of the top juniors in the country. Chris and twin brother Cordell returned to Buchtel following a year at Western Reserve Academy. The four losses for the Griffins were to D1 schools by a total of ten points. Toledo Central Catholic ended the regular season at 4-11 and in a 7th place tie in the TRAC. The Irish lost two sophomore starters prior to the tournament. Central Catholic has no seniors and just three juniors on the roster.

Semifinals – Akron Buchtel over Toledo Central Catholic; Lima Shawnee over Shelby

Final – Lima Shawnee over Akron Buchtel



BARBERTON: The only losses for Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary on the season were at Cincinnati Moeller and to DeMatha Catholic. Malaki Branham of the Irish is an OSU commit and a favorite to win Mr. Basketball for Ohio. Struthers is the only undefeated team in D2 and the Northeast 8 Athletic Conference champion. Struthers beat #14 seed Chardon 116-108 in double overtime in a wild (that's an understatement) district final. Gilmour Academy was under .500 entering the tournament.

The Lancers, a #10 seed, eliminated district favorite Warrensville Heights in a semifinal. Youngstown Chaney won a second straight district title defeating #2 seed Poland.

Semifinals – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Struthers;



Youngstown Chaney over Gates Mills Gilmour Academy

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Youngstown Chaney

STATE

The D2 semifinal games will be the early games on Saturday with the championship game the late Sunday afternoon game.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas over Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Lima Shawnee

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas

DIVISION III

REGIONALS

CHILLICOTHE SOUTHEASTERN: Semifinal games will be Wednesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Saturday night. Worthington Christian, the #1 seed in the Central district, beat #2 seed Canal Winchester Harvest Prep in the district finals. WC's only loss was to Dublin Jerome. Proctorville Fairland was the #1 seed in the Southeastern district. Fairland won a second straight district title. Wheelersburg was the #2 seed in the Southeastern district. The Burg's only loss was to Waverly. Beverly Fort Frye, the #1 seed in the East district, defeated #2 seed Tuscarawas Valley in their district final. That marks the first district championship for the Cadets since 2006.

Semifinals – Worthington Christian over Wheelersburg; Proctorville Fairland over Beverly Fort Frye

Final – Worthington Christian over Proctorville Fairland

VANDALIA BUTLER: Semifinal games will be Wednesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Cincinnati Taft was the top seed from the Cincinnati area. Taft finished tied for 2nd place in the CMAC Red. Springfield Shawnee was the top seed from the Dayton area. Shawnee edged #2 seed Cincinnati Summit Country Day in their district final. Anna won a third consecutive district championship. The Rockets are co-champions with Botkins in the Shelby County Athletic League. Versailles finished the regular season at 8-14 and in a tie with Parkway for 7th place in the MAC. The Tigers were the #9 seed from the Dayton area eliminating #2 seed Preble Shawnee in a district semifinal.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Taft over Anna; Springfield Shawnee over Versailles

Final – Cincinnati Taft over Springfield Shawnee

ELIDA: Semifinal games will be Wednesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Saturday night. Ottawa-Glandorf won a second consecutive district title and their ninth in the past eleven seasons. The Titans finished as the WBL runner-up behind Lima Shawnee. Archbold went undefeated in winning the NWOAL. The Blue Streaks lost 57-36 to Ottawa-Glandorf in a game played at Archbold back in December. Johnstown was the #3 seed in the Central district. The Licking County League champions won a second consecutive district championship having lost 64-54 to Evergreen in a regional semifinal played last March 11 at BGSU. Western Reserve last won a district championship in 1963 when the Roughriders defeated Attica before losing to Pettisville in a Class A regional semifinal. WR won the Firelands Conference championship for a 4th straight season.

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold; Johnstown over Collins Western Reserve

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Johnstown

TWINSBURG: Semifinal games will be played Tuesday evening with the championship game scheduled for late Saturday afternoon. Cleveland Heights Lutheran East losses are to Akron Buchtel, at Lakewood St. Edward, and at Akron SVSM. Lutheran East has won six consecutive district championships covering D2, D3, and D4. Creston Norwayne, a #2 seed, defeated #3 seed Waynedale in overtime for a second straight district title. Norwayne finished as the runner-up to D4 Dalton in the WCAL. New Middletown Springfield was the #1 seed and Youngstown Cardinal Mooney the #2 seed among schools in the eastern portion of the Northeast district (confused myself on that one). Springfield won a D4 district title in 2019.

Semifinals – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Youngstown Cardinal Mooney; Creston Norwayne over New Middletown Springfield

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Creston Norwayne

STATE

The D3 semifinals will be the evening games on Friday with the championship game early Sunday afternoon.

Semifinals – Worthington Christian over Cincinnati Taft; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Ottawa-Glandorf

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Worthington Christian

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DIVISION IV

All D4 regional semifinal games will be played Tuesday evening with championship games scheduled for Friday night.

REGIONALS

VANDALIA BUTLER: Undefeated and top ranked New Madison Tri-Village is the lone undefeated D4 team. The Patriots are Cross County Conference champs. Botkins won their first district title since 2001. The Trojans shared the SCAL title with D3 Anna marking the first league title for Botkins since the '92-'93 season. Cedarville, a #2 seed, edged another #2 seed Jackson Center in their district final. The Fighting DeWine's are the Ohio Heritage Conference champion. Cedarville's only loss on the season was to Springfield Northeastern. Newark Catholic entered the tournament under .500 but was still the #3 seed in the Central district. The Green Wave finished mid-pack in the Licking County League.

Semifinals – New Madison Tri-Village over Cedarville; Botkins over Newark Catholic

Final – Botkins over New Madison Tri-Village

AKRON FIRESTONE: Richmond Heights won a third consecutive district championship. Richmond Heights losses are at Lakewood St. Edward, at Cleveland St. Ignatius, at Akron SVSM, and Warrensville Heights. With their own gym unavailable, RH played their tournament games at Brush. Lucas won a second straight district title. The Cubs were to play Richmond Heights last year in the D4 regional final. Lucas is the Mid-Buckeye champion. Warren John F. Kennedy also returns to the regional for a second consecutive season. JFK was a #2 seed and defeated top seed and state-ranked McDonald in their district final. Bristolville Bristol won a district title as the #4 seed in the eastern portion of the Northeast district.

Semifinals – Warren JFK over Lucas; Richmond Heights over Bristolville Bristol

Final – Richmond Heights over Warren JFK

VAN WERT: Columbus Grove won a third consecutive district championship with their win over state-ranked Ottoville. Grove losses are to Ottoville and Jackson Center. The Bulldogs are NWC champions. Antwerp won a second straight district title with the win over Toledo Christian. Antwerp's lone loss was to Wayne Trace. The Archers are the GMC champion. Columbus Grove met Antwerp in a regional semifinal at BGSU in 2020 with Grove prevailing 55-50 in a battle of undefeated teams. Carey won the second district championship in school history. The Blue Devils won a D3 district crown in 2018. Carey finished tied with Upper Sandusky for 2nd place in the N10 behind Colonel Crawford. New Bremen won their first district title since

2006. The Cardinal finished in a tie with Marion Local for 3rd place in the MAC behind league champion Minster and runner-up St. Henry. NB has tournament wins over all three. New Bremen won the Division 7 state football championship last fall.

Semifinals – Columbus Grove over Carey; Antwerp over New Bremen

Final – Columbus Grove over Antwerp

CHILLICOTHE SOUTHEASTERN: State-ranked New Boston Glenwood was the top seed in the Southeast district. New Boston won their second district title in three years after going fifty-nine years between championships. Berlin Hiland won a fifth straight district championship. Hiland, the #3 seed in the Eastern district, defeated top seeded Malvern at Malvern in the district final. Gloucester Trimble, the #2 seed in the Southeastern district, won a second straight district championship. Grandview Heights won a second straight D4 district championship following their D3 district title in 2019. The Bobcats started the tournament under .500 after finishing at the bottom of the MSL Ohio with D3 Worthington Christian the league champion.

Semifinals – New Boston Glenwood over Grandview Heights; Berlin Hiland over Gloucester Trimble

Final – Berlin Hiland over New Boston Glenwood

STATE

D4 will kick off the ninety-ninth Boys State Basketball Tournament on the morning of Friday, March 19. The D4 state championship game will be played Sunday morning.

Semifinals – Richmond Heights over Botkins; Columbus Grove over Berlin Hiland

Final – Columbus Grove over Richmond Heights

That wraps up our twenty-eighth year of Trail Trash. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. Looking forward to attending some regional games this week. I have not missed a state tournament game since a Class AAA semifinal in 1981 between Wadsworth and Cleveland John Adams, but that streak will come to an end next week. Thanks for reading. Good luck to all teams remaining in the tournament.



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