

# Trail Trash

## 2024 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament On the net at [www.Davey1.com](http://www.Davey1.com)

*Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...*

# The Swami

*See Page 8 for the History of Davey1.com*

It is tournament time in Northwest Ohio, and we return for our thirty-first year with Trail Trash and the Swami. In all the years of cranking this out, we have seen more changes this season than in any previous year. In addition, a monumental change occurs next year so big that one Kenny Bania would consider it huge. Huge Jerry, huge! Never a fan of exclamation marks.

The conference landscape changed significantly with a number of conference realignments becoming effective this season. None were bigger than the disbandment of the Three Rivers Athletic Conference and the expansion of the Northern Lakes League. It is unfortunate that the TRAC and its public/private rivalries could not have been maintained in some shape or form. The two divisions and mandatory crossover games in the NLL have taken some getting used to, but the division races have been solid. The odd number of teams in the NLL makes the schedule seem somewhat unwieldy and having a twelfth team would be a major improvement. Central Catholic, St. Francis, and St. John's Jesuit found a home in the Detroit Catholic League

(CHL) and are finding that to be one of the most challenging basketball conferences in the Midwest. Lima Senior being in the Toledo City League still does not compute.

Issue 2024-1

In 2023, the Northwest District used the Martin RPI as a pilot for the seeding of teams for the tournament. Although there were differing opinions between the traditional seeding methodology by the coaches and an RPI, the response was generally favorable. For 2024, the OHSAA implemented an RPI administered by MaxPreps on a statewide basis. At the time of the cutoff for the draw, 11 of the 159 schools in Northwest Ohio were missing a game for the RPI calculation. That may or may not have had an impact on the seeding results, but it is a cause for concern. Steps need to be taken to improve the process, the methodology, and the work rules. The current product from MaxPreps is

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## Davey1.com

**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.

mediocre at best. Fortunately, coaches in NW Ohio still have flexibility in placing their teams on the brackets with the higher seeded teams obviously having the greatest flexibility. Of the six districts around the state, only the Southeast District is using NCAA style bracketing. Regardless of the seeding, teams still have to win games to move on in the tournament.

For 2024, the Northwest District has moved away from neutral sites to the higher seed hosting sectional semifinal and final games. Yes Doug, we do have sectional games in Northwest Ohio. And while you may claim that sectional games have not existed in a long time, the headings on the brackets published on the OHSAA website still show 'Sectional/District' for some reason. The move to the higher seed hosting takes away from the tournament experience for fans and players and gives out more of a just another regular season game vibe. Only the Southwest District continues to use neutral sites for all tournament games while the Southeast District only uses the higher seed hosting for sectional semifinal games. If the reasoning behind the change is fewer schools willing to host sectional tournaments, so be it. The higher seeds will have the home court advantage as a reward for their regular season success. It will be interesting whether the change has any impact on attendance and how the lower seeds fare. I will miss those Friday night sectional doubleheaders.

On February 15, The OHSAA Board of Directors unanimously approved the expansion in the number of divisions from four to seven for next year. Division I will have the 64 largest schools (too few in my opinion) based on enrollment adjusted for competitive balance with Division II consisting of the next 64 largest (also too few). The remaining five divisions will be split equally with each having approximately 135 schools. State tournament semifinal games will likely be played at neutral sites around the state with only the championship games at a single site. Maybe that will allow the OHSAA to eliminate championship games at Dayton on Sundays. The aura of the state tournament will change significantly without a true final four. Although more trophies will be handed out, fewer will be rewarded the opportunity to experience the environment of the state tournament.

So, the rationale to go with seven divisions was based on football where teams play once a week and every team does not qualify for the post-season? Yeesh. Seven divisions are just too many for basketball. I understand the frustration from the smaller D1 schools that are too big to drop to Division II and get thrown in with schools two or three times larger in the tournament. That being said, Mason is the largest Division I school in the state. Mason has won one district title in school history as a Division I school. The 2023 Division I state champion was Akron Archbishop Hoban. Under the approved plan, Hoban would be a Division III school. If enrollment is the overriding factor, why do these scenarios exist? I am not a proponent of splitting the public and private schools into separate divisions or forcing private schools to play up. What about a school like Richmond Heights? Under the new plan, RH will likely be in Division VI. Those small schools in Division VII will rejoice, but what about the other Division VI schools? The expansion was done without a formal survey of the schools and without a vote of the schools. I realize that a vote of the schools was not necessary, but nothing prohibited a more participatory process and a vote by the members. There was no need to fast track this proposal given its magnitude. For a change so significant, the OHSAA needed to get it right. They blew it. If things do not work out, the OHSAA can always go to eight divisions or eleven divisions or whatever.

In May, member schools will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum where schools in lower divisions would have the option to play in the Division I tournament. That would only be a one-year commitment by a school opting to play up. You would think that proposal will pass overwhelmingly. That is a step in the right direction.

That was more than enough commentary. Time to break out the ouija board and go to the predictions.

## ***DIVISION I***

Findlay and Toledo Whitmer have received the most recognition among the D1 schools with the NLL rivals both being state-ranked. One-loss

Sandusky received twelve or more points in just one week before disappearing the past three weeks. What a joke. Ten of the twenty teams were above .500 at the time of the draw. Norwalk and Wapakoneta join Sandusky as teams moving up to D1 with Bowling Green and Tiffin Columbian dropping to D2.

District winners from Lake and Toledo Central Catholic will meet in a regional semifinal at the University of Toledo. The other regional semifinal will be at the University of Akron with the winner from the district at Elyria Catholic (aka Northeast 5-Sectional/District) facing the district winner from Lakewood. Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Strongsville, and Archbishop Hoban are the top seeds at EC while Garfield Heights and Barberton are the top seeds at Lakewood. The regional final will be played at the University of Toledo.

LAKE DISTRICT: #2 Toledo Whitmer, #3 Sandusky, #4 Perrysburg, #7 Clay, and #8 Lima Senior are the top seeds. Perrysburg was the district winner in 2023. Interesting that Whitmer, Sandusky, and Perrysburg all went this direction. Whitmer's only two losses were to Findlay. The Panthers have been bolstered by four transfers (none having to sit out the second half of the season). Sandusky's only loss was to Whitmer. The Blue Streaks start five juniors and won the SBC Lake title. Long-time Perrysburg coach Dave Boyce is closing in on 600 career wins (Northwood, Galloway Westland, Perrysburg). Clay will have their first winning season since '04-'05. A little surprising that the Eagles chose to play Perrysburg in a sectional final. Lima Senior is talented but young. The Spartans won the Toledo City League championship game. Sandusky/Lima Senior should be a great sectional final. This is a tough district with Anthony Wayne as the sleeper.

Sectional Semifinals – Lima Senior over Mansfield Madison; Toledo Bowsher over Springfield

Sectional Finals – Lima Senior over Sandusky; Perrysburg over Clay; Toledo Whitmer over Toledo Bowsher; Anthony Wayne over Wapakoneta

District Semifinals – Perrysburg over Lima Senior; Toledo Whitmer over Anthony Wayne

District Final – Toledo Whitmer over Perrysburg

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC DISTRICT: #1 Findlay, #5 Sylvania Southview, and #6 Toledo St. John's Jesuit are the top seeds. SJJ was the district winner in 2023 on their way to the state final four. Findlay's only losses are to Perrysburg and Shelby. The Trojans are the NLL Buckeye champions. Findlay's twenty regular season wins is a first in school history. Southview is the NLL Cardinal champion. St. John's Jesuit returned two starters from the final four team. The Titans finished in the upper half of the CHL, and were the only Toledo member to beat one of the Detroit area teams. St. Francis began the season 9-2 before losing the Horton brothers (transfers from Northview) for the second half of the season. A Northview/St. Francis matchup in the sectional finals would be interesting to say the least. Northview lost at Start back in December.

Sectional Semifinals – Sylvania Northview over Toledo Start; Ashland over Fremont Ross

Sectional Finals – Sylvania Northview over Toledo St. Francis; Findlay over Toledo Waite; Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Ashland; Sylvania Southview over Norwalk

District Semifinals – Findlay over Sylvania Northview; Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Sylvania Southview

District Final – Findlay over Toledo St. John's Jesuit



## ***DIVISION II***

Lexington, Shelby, and Willard are the only state-ranked D2 squads from NW Ohio. All three are part of the stacked Northwest 3 district. The currently homeless district was held at Ashland High School the past three seasons, but the venue was deemed too small. Mansfield Senior, Ontario, Lexington, and Galion emerged as landing spots, but all four are D2 schools playing in that district. As a result, no decision will be made until the sectionals are completed. We will

refer to it as the Mansfield district for the time being, but Ontario is always nice this time of year.

Bowling Green and Tiffin Columbian are new to D2 this season. Sandusky, Norwalk, and Wapak moved up to D1 with Otsego dropping to D3.

District winners from Liberty-Benton and Mansfield will meet in one regional semifinal at Bowling Green with the winner of the Lake District facing the district winner from North Ridgeville in the other semifinal at the Stroh Center. Rocky River Lutheran West is not only the top seed at North Ridgeville but also the top seed among all NE Ohio D2 teams. D2 in Northeast Ohio is not as strong as in previous years, but the Longhorns still chose to head west. Madison and Brookside are other contenders at NR.

LAKE DISTRICT: Wauseon, Toledo Scott, Bowling Green, and Toledo Rogers are the top seeds. Rossford was the district winner in 2023. This is the weakest of the D2 districts with only Wauseon and Scott over .500. There is no clearcut favorite at Lake. Wauseon finishes with a share of the NWOAL title. Scott split their two games with Lima Senior and took Sandusky to overtime. Rogers ended the season at .500 with a strong stretch run despite losing to Lima Senior in the TCL championship game. Central Catholic is young starting three sophomores and a freshman. The Irish took their lumps in the CHL, but have quality wins over Perrysburg and Anthony Wayne. Central Catholic/BG and Clyde/Rogers should make for interesting sectional finals.

Sectional Semifinals – Clyde over Maumee; Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Woodward; Bryan over Port Clinton

Sectional Finals – Clyde over Toledo Rogers; Toledo Scott over Rossford; Toledo Central Catholic over Bowling Green; Wauseon over Bryan

District Semifinals – Toledo Scott over Clyde; Toledo Central Catholic over Wauseon

District Final – Toledo Scott over Toledo Central Catholic

MANSFIELD DISTRICT: Shelby, Lexington, Willard, and Bellevue are the top seeds. Sandusky (now D1) won the district held at Ashland High School in 2023. This is an excellent district at the top with six teams over .500. Shelby won a fifth straight MOAC title. The Whippets have lost to Ottawa-Glandorf and Lexington. Shelby's Alex Bruskotter scored fifty-three points against Ashland. Lexington ran the table in the OCC. Lex's losses are to Gahanna Lincoln and Ottawa-Glandorf. The Minutemen start three sophomores. Willard shares the SBC Bay title with Margaretta. The Flashes lost to Shelby in their regular season finale. Bellevue also has a win over Willard. The Redmen are strong defensively. Mansfield Senior finished just behind Lexington in the OCC standings. The Tygers have a win over state-ranked Columbus Bishop Hartley. After a slow start, Perkins has righted the ship.

Sectional Semifinals – Mansfield Senior over Ontario; Galion over Clear Fork; Perkins over Tiffin Columbian

Sectional Finals – Mansfield Senior over Bellevue; Shelby over Vermilion; Lexington over Galion; Willard over Perkins

District Semifinals – Shelby over Mansfield Senior; Lexington over Willard

District Final – Shelby over Lexington

LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT: Elida, Fostoria, Lima Shawnee, and St. Marys are the top seeds. Van Wert was the district winner last season. There were eight teams above .500 at the time of the draw. Elida will have their first winning season since 2019. Shawnee topped Elida in the regular season finale in the battle for the runner-up spot in the WBL. Fostoria gained a share of the NBC title. The last conference title for the Redmen was in 2008 in the Northern Ohio League. Machi Johnson became Fostoria's career scoring leader breaking Dan Hipsher's record set in 1973. St. Marys has been up and down. Coach Dan Hegemier earned career win #600 back in December. Napoleon started the season 10-1. Upper Sandusky and Celina will finish the season above .500. Napoleon/Fostoria should be a great sectional final. This is a tough district to figure out.

Sectional Semifinals – Defiance over Upper Sandusky; Celina over Van Wert; Napoleon over Lima Bath

Sectional Finals – Elida over Defiance; St. Marys over Kenton; Lima Shawnee over Celina; Napoleon over Fostoria

District Semifinals – St. Marys over Elida; Lima Shawnee over Napoleon

District Final – St. Marys over Lima Shawnee

### ***DIVISION III***

Ottawa-Glandorf is Northwest Ohio’s top D3 team. The Titans won a third straight regional championship in 2023 before losing to Cleveland Heights Lutheran East in the state championship game. Emmanuel Christian, Margaretta, Ashland Crestview, and Archbold are also state-ranked. Wayne Trace continues to receive mention despite losing standout guard Brooks Laukhuf to a season-ending injury.

Otsego goes from D2 to D3 with Lima Central Catholic and Parkway dropping from D3 to D4. As a result of these changes, Wayne Trace moved from the Napoleon District to the Lima Senior District.

Winners from the Napoleon District and Lima Senior District will play in one regional semifinal at Bowling Green with the winner of the Norwalk District meeting one of the Central District winners in the other semifinal at BG. Gahanna Columbus Academy (the overall top seed in the D3 Central District), Johnstown Northridge, and Worthington Christian are the top contenders from that Columbus area district.

**NORWALK DISTRICT:** Ashland Crestview, Margaretta, Genoa, and Wynford are the top seeds. Cardinal Stritch was the district winner last season. Crestview began the season 18-0 before losing at Norwalk St. Paul costing the Cougars an outright FC title. Crestview scored a school record 105 points against Ontario. Margaretta starts two sophomores and a freshman. The Polar Bears and Willard split their two games and share the SBC

Bay title. Genoa gets a share of the NBC title after sweeping the season series with Fostoria. Wynford started the season 9-1, but injuries have slowed the Royals. Lake will have a winning season for the first time since ‘14-’15, and is the second highest scoring D3 team in the state. Oak Harbor has been inconsistent, but owns two wins over Genoa. Cardinal Stritch has won sectional championships the past seven seasons. Edison broke a forty-eight game SBC Bay losing streak with a January win over Vermilion. Malachi Bayless of Bucyrus is the first player in school history to exceed 1,000 points for a career. Bayless scored a school record 45 points in a game against Buckeye Central.

Sectional Semifinals – Northwood over Bucyrus; Cardinal Stritch over Western Reserve; Margaretta over Lakota; Oak Harbor over Edison; Lake over Huron

Sectional Finals – Ashland Crestview over Northwood; Margaretta over Cardinal Stritch; Genoa over Oak Harbor; Lake over Wynford

District Semifinals – Margaretta over Ashland Crestview; Genoa over Lake

District Final – Margaretta over Genoa

**NAPOLEON DISTRICT:** Emmanuel Christian, Archbold, Evergreen, and Liberty Center are the top seeds. Wayne Trace was the district champion at Napoleon in 2023.

Emmanuel Christian finished in the runner-up spot in the TAAC with Toledo Christian gaining a season sweep in the finale. EC lost standout Jerry Easter to La Lumiere in Indiana along with three other players to the transfer portal. Emmanuel’s other loss was at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. Archbold and Liberty Center finish in a three-way tie with Wauseon for the NWOAL title. That is the first league title for LC since the ‘04-’05 season. Archbold’s only losses are to Liberty Center and Napoleon. Evergreen had 4<sup>th</sup> quarter leads in all three of their NWOAL losses. Jerry Keifer will be retiring after thirty-two seasons as the head coach at Evergreen. Eastwood and Paulding could be



spoilers in the district. Eight teams were over .500 at the time of the draw.

Sectional Semifinals – Ottawa Hills over Hicksville; Liberty Center over Swanton; Eastwood over Tinora; Otsego over Fairview; Paulding over Delta

Sectional Finals – Emmanuel Christian over Ottawa Hills; Liberty Center over Eastwood; Archbold over Otsego; Evergreen over Paulding

District Semifinals – Emmanuel Christian over Liberty Center; Archbold over Evergreen

District Final – Emmanuel Christian over Archbold

LIMA SENIOR: Ottawa-Glandorf, Spencerville, Wayne Trace, and Coldwater are the top seeds. A really deep district with nine teams above .500. Ottawa-Glandorf won a fourth straight district title in 2023 followed by a third straight regional championship. OG ran their WBL winning streak to twenty-eight games in capturing a third straight title. The Titans have won sectional titles the past eighteen seasons. OSU signee Colin White recently became Putnam County's all-time leading scorer. Spencerville is the NWC champion for the second straight season. Despite the loss of Brooks Laukhuf, Wayne Trace took home the GMC title. The Raiders lost to Ottawa-Glandorf in double overtime in the 2023 regional final. Coldwater finished in the runner-up spot in the MAC. Bluffton started the season 14-1 before a three-game losing season at the beginning of February. Liberty-Benton shared the BVC title with Pandora-Gilboa and Arlington while Carey finished in a four-way tie at the top of the N10. LB and Carey meet in a sectional semifinal. Kade Lentz recently became Elmwood's career scoring leader.

Sectional Semifinals – Van Buren over Elmwood; Liberty-Benton over Carey; Allen East over Riverdale; Bluffton over Columbus Grove

Sectional Finals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Van Buren; Coldwater over Liberty-Benton; Spencerville over Allen East; Bluffton over Wayne Trace

District Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over

Coldwater; Spencerville over Bluffton  
District Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Spencerville

#### DIVISION IV

Toledo Christian, Lima Central Catholic, Delphos St. John's, and Hopewell-Loudon are all state-ranked in D4 with Antwerp also receiving mention. Pandora-Gilboa has disappeared from the poll for no reason. LCC and Parkway both dropped down from D3 for 2024.

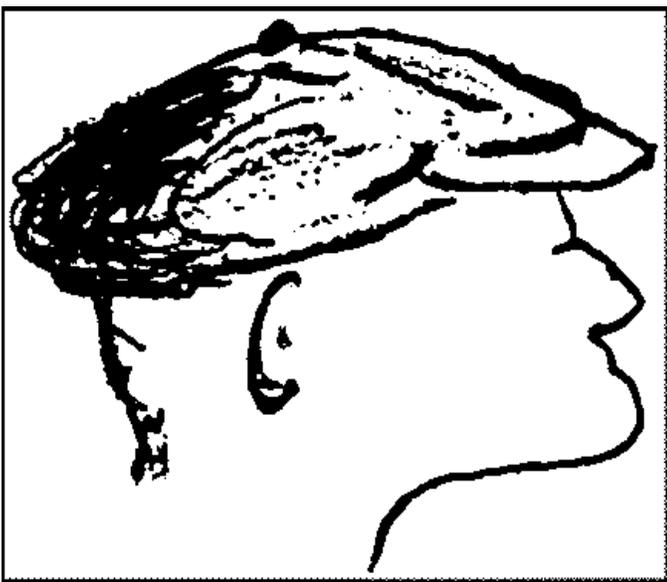
Northwest Ohio again has five districts with the Willard District winner headed east to join the three district winners from Northeast Ohio. The winner at Willard will face the district winner from the Akron Firestone District. Unless something beyond amazing happens, Richmond Heights (currently 12-9) will come out of Firestone. RH was the #4 seed in D4 for NE Ohio which is not exactly a ringing endorsement for using the RPI.

District winners from Elida and Defiance will face off in the first regional semifinal at Bowling Green with the district champions from Liberty-Benton and Wapakoneta meeting in the second game at the Stroh Center. Is Delphos St. John's the favorite at this point?

WILLARD DISTRICT: Colonel Crawford, Seneca East, Lucas, and Norwalk St. Paul are the top seeds. Colonel Crawford was the district winner in 2023 following a D3 district championship in 2022. Colonel Crawford and Seneca East are part of a four-way tie for the N10 title. The Eagles have won sectional titles the past twelve seasons. Seneca East is looking for their first sectional title since 1990. Lucas won a sixth consecutive Mid-Buckeye title. Logan Toms recently became the career scoring leader at Lucas. Norwalk St. Paul shares the FC title with Ashland Crestview after handing the Cougars their only loss. Unfortunately, St. Paul recently lost their top player to a season-ending injury. Mansfield Christian is the only other team above .500 at Willard. The Flames lost a pair of heartbreakers to Lucas. Mansfield St. Peter's broke a conference losing streak of thirty-eight games with a recent win over Loudonville. That marked the first win by the Spartans over an OHSAA opponent since February 2021.

Sectional Semifinals – Plymouth over Buckeye Central; Mansfield Christian over New London; Norwalk St. Paul over Danbury; Seneca East over Mansfield St. Peter’s; Sandusky St. Mary over Monroeville; Lucas over Crestline

Sectional Finals – Colonel Crawford over Plymouth; Mansfield Christian over Norwalk St. Paul; Seneca East over South Central; Lucas over Sandusky St. Mary



*“The Publisher,” an original drawing by Kent Lincoln.*

*Your comments or suggestions are welcomed. E-mail them to the publisher at [webmaster@daveyl.com](mailto:webmaster@daveyl.com)*

District Semifinals – Colonel Crawford over Mansfield Christian; Lucas over Seneca East

District Final – Lucas over Colonel Crawford

ELIDA DISTRICT: Delphos St. John’s, Pandora-Gilboa, Ottoville, and Miller City are the top seeds. Convoy Crestview was the district champion in 2023 on their way to a state runner-up finish. The district might not be as deep as some years but remains a really tough district. Delphos St. John’s is the MAC champion. DSJ losses are to Elida and Shawnee. Sophomore Cameron Elwer has already surpassed 1,000 career points for the Blue Jays. Pandora-Gilboa’s losses were back-to-back against Arlington and DSJ. In addition to sharing the BVC title with Arlington and Liberty-Benton, Pandora-

Gilboa is the PCL champ. Ottoville has wins over both Miller City and Crestview while Crestview has an overtime win over Miller City. Miller City is on a nine-game winning streak. Despite being a #5 seed, Crestview will be a factor at Elida. Parkway started the season strong, but is only 3-7 since mid-January.

Sectional Semifinals – Cory-Rawson over Lincolnview; Miller City over Kalida; Convoy Crestview over Continental; Leipsic over Delphos Jefferson; Parkway over Fort Jennings

Sectional Finals – Delphos St. John’s over Cory-Rawson; Convoy Crestview over Miller City; Pandora-Gilboa over Leipsic; Ottoville over Parkway

District Semifinals – Delphos St. John’s over Convoy Crestview; Pandora-Gilboa over Ottoville

District Final – Delphos St. John’s over Pandora-Gilboa

DEFIANCE DISTRICT: Toledo Christian, Antwerp, Maumee Valley Country Day, and Pettisville are the top seeds. Patrick Henry was the district winner a year ago. Toledo Christian is the TAAC champion after edging Emmanuel Christian to end the regular season. TC’s lone loss was at home to Maumee Valley in mid-December. Antwerp started the season 10-0 before dropping games to Russia and Wayne Trace. Landon Brewer recently became the career scoring leader for the Archers. Maumee Valley started the season 9-0. The Hawks have played a challenging non-conference schedule with losses to La Lumiere and Richmond Heights. Pettisville is the BBC co-champion sharing the title with Montpelier. For Montpelier, it is the first conference title since 1956 when the Swami was just a young lad. Patrick Henry got off to a slow start dealing with some key injuries. The Patriots have played much better the second half of the season, and will be a tough out.

Sectional Semifinals – Toledo Christian over Edon; Pettisville over Stryker; Patrick Henry over Montpelier; Ayersville over Holgate; Edgerton over North Central; Maumee Valley Country Day over Hilltop

Sectional Finals – Toledo Christian over Fayette; Patrick Henry over Pettisville; Antwerp over Ayersville; Maumee Valley Country Day over Edgerton

District Semifinals – Toledo Christian over Patrick Henry; Antwerp over Maumee Valley Country Day

District Final – Toledo Christian over Antwerp

LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT: Hopewell-Loudon, Tiffin Calvert, Old Fort, and Mohawk are the top seeds. Mohawk won the district in 2023. Hopewell-Loudon is the SBC River champion. HL's only losses were to Tiffin Calvert in early December and Fostoria. Tiffin Calvert's non-league schedule included games against Ottawa-Glandorf and Margaretta. Old Fort swept Calvert but two close losses to HL dashed any title hopes for the Stockaders. Mohawk shares the N10 title with Carey, Colonel Crawford, and Seneca East. That is crazy in a league that plays a double round. Arlington earned a three-way share of the BVC title handing Pandora-Gilboa their lone league loss. The Red Devils had won eight in a row before a close loss to Lima Central Catholic to wrap up the regular season.

Sectional Semifinals – Gibsonburg over North Baltimore; Old Fort over McComb; New Riegel over Hardin Northern; Fremont St. Joseph over Arcadia; Mohawk over Woodmore; Arlington over Vanlue

Sectional Finals – Tiffin Calvert over Gibsonburg; Old Fort over New Riegel; Hopewell-Loudon over Fremont St. Joseph; Arlington over Mohawk

District Semifinals – Old Fort over Tiffin Calvert; Hopewell-Loudon over Arlington

District Final – Hopewell-Loudon over Old Fort

WAPAKONETA DISTRICT: Lima Central Catholic, St. Henry, Minster, and Ridgemont are the top seeds. Marion Local won a second straight district title at Wapak in 2023. Lima Central Catholic under first year head coach Sean Powell is 10-0 against WBL teams including a win over Ottawa-Glandorf. The T-Birds also topped Lima Senior for the first time since 2014. LCC's only

losses were to Delphos St. John's and Spencerville back-to-back. St. Henry had a thirteen-game winning streak before a February loss to Delphos St. John's. Marion Local got off to their usual late start, and the Flyers have been inconsistent. ML will be a team to be reckoned with in the tournament as shown by their recent overtime loss to Russia. Minster also got off to a slow start but is 10-3 since the middle of January. Upper Scioto Valley won a second straight NWCC championship.

Sectional Semifinals – Lima Central Catholic over Ada; New Bremen over Ridgemont; Upper Scioto Valley over Fort Recovery; Lima Perry over Lima Temple Christian; Marion Local over Waynesfield-Goshen

Sectional Finals – Lima Central Catholic over New Knoxville; New Bremen over Upper Scioto Valley; St. Henry over Lima Perry; Marion Local over Minster

District Semifinals – Lima Central Catholic over New Bremen; Marion Local over St. Henry

District Final – Lima Central Catholic over Marion Local

We are done. The Swami will be back with our hopefully briefer second edition prior to the regional and state tournaments. All facts, figures, errors, and opinions are those of the Swami. Those easy-to-read brackets on the davey1.com website as usual are courtesy of Mr. David Spengler.

Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, and riches take wings. Only one thing endures and that is character. Stay safe and rock on.

## **THE HISTORY OF DAVEY1.COM**

**During the summer of 2004 Dave Spengler and Dave Sigler** sat down and talked about wanting to do something to promote boys high school basketball in Northwest Ohio. At first we didn't know exactly what we wanted to do, but since we were both fans of the game we knew that we wanted to do something. Then we decided to do schedules and scores, and create a

website, [Davey1.com](http://Davey1.com), where they could be found. But how many? Should we do just one league, or a group of leagues? We decided on an ambitious project to include all schools in the Northwest District of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. For those unfamiliar, today that's approximately 170 teams. It was quite an undertaking.

Every season Dave and Dave work closely together to keep our schedules and game scores accurate and up-to-date. During the 2018-2019 season our database included 2,075 games involving Northwest Ohio teams, and we provided a score for each of those games. More than one person is required to keep all of this information organized and complete.

In the early days there was much more work involved to obtain the schedules we needed. Dave Spengler would contact the schools by sending a letter, sometimes through the postal service and sometimes via fax, to each school (head coach or athletic director) to get their boys varsity basketball schedule. Each year the response rate increased, and more recently we're able to find some of the schedules we need on the web. However, every year, in September we send out e-mail requests to all head coaches requesting that they submit their schedule directly to us. Many respond, yet some still do not. We still persist and somehow find every schedule we need.

When the first schedules were published (2004-2005 season), for Northwest Ohio on [Davey1.com](http://Davey1.com), there was a schedule of games for each school, arranged alphabetically by league, and the name of the school. That's all you got.

**During the 2006-2007 season** we added team nicknames, and we also added a notation so that you would know whether a game had overtime periods. That may sound simple, but in the early years there was no way to know whether overtime periods happened or not.

**Then in 2007-2008 we added** to each schedule the OHSAA Division that each school competed in (1 through 4). That gives the fans information

about the relative size of each school. In another section of the site is the enrollment numbers for each school that the Ohio High School Athletic Association uses to determine these divisions.

Another addition to the information we provide occurred **during the 2008-2009 season** when the name of the head coach was added to each schedule. But we weren't done yet.

**The 2009-2010 season** included the addition of the Sectional Site where each team would play their first OHSAA tournament game. Because of changes made by the OHSAA to their tournament drawing procedure this was changed to the District Tournament Site during the **2014-2015 season**.

One of Dave Spengler's favorite additions, that he **developed just before the 2010-2011 season**, was the addition of hyperlinks for each teams opponents so that you could easily switch schedules just by clicking on the opponents name. You would then jump immediately to that schedule.

At the **beginning of the 2012-2013 season we enhanced our listing of League Standings** so that they are ordered in the proper way to see which team finished at the top of their respective league. Another major improvement.

As each season has come and gone we have kept all of our schedules archived so that they can be viewed all the way back to the 2004-2005 season, creating an extensive history for each school. We believe there is no other single place where our readers can find this kind of information presented for each team.

**One of the popular features found on the website is Trail Trash.** It is The Swami's commentary and predictions for the OHSAA boys basketball tournament in Northwest Ohio. The first edition includes predictions for the Sectional and District Tournament, and the second edition includes The Swami's commentary and predictions for the Regional Tournaments throughout all of Ohio and the State

Basketball Tournament. It is known that the Trail Trash has been used by coaches to motivate their teams when the Swami has chosen them to lose a tournament game....

Issues of the Trail Trash on the website go back as far as 2000.

Alongside Trail Trash are the Boys Tournament Brackets. These brackets are available as far back as the 2000 tournament. They include all Sectional and District games played in Northwest Ohio, and all Regional Tournament and State Tournament games played throughout the entire state. We're proud of the archive of information that we've built over the years.

There is also the Davey1 Hall of Fame, honoring boys teams that have been undefeated during the regular season. This feature goes back as far as our schedules, to the 2004-2005 season.

We also include the OHSAA Divisional breakdowns, showing which division each

team was in going back to the 2007-2008 season.

Be sure to check out some of the other features of our site that we haven't mentioned here.

Dave and Dave have also developed a network of contacts that they use to gather information to help them keep Davey1.com up-to-date and accurate. It is these people that we have met over the years including coaches, athletic directors, other media people, and fans that have kept us motivated to keep doing what we do to promote boys high school basketball in Northwest Ohio. We value these friendships tremendously.

We hope you continue to enjoy our coverage of boys high school basketball in Northwest Ohio.