

Trail Trash

for the 2003 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler

Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami



The Swami was red-hot in the sectionals but cooled off dramatically in the districts to end up with a 110-39 (74%) win/loss record. Especially disappointing was the Swami picking only four district winners. Losing three projected winners in the sectional (Fremont Ross, Coldwater, Miller City) didn't help, and the Swami was brutal in the D3 and D4 districts.

In 2002 the Swami witnessed some outstanding sectional and district games while many of the regional and state games were less than spectacular. So far in 2003, the Swami has seen only a small number of good tournament games. Let's hope the tables turn at the regional and state level.

While Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary has breezed down the tournament trail, Strongsville forfeited a thirty-two point victory in the sectional by playing an ineligible player for one minute and thirty-five seconds. To add insult to injury, the Mustangs didn't even seek a temporary restraining order to have the forfeit overturned.

No more St. Vincent-St. Mary bashing. I have

mixed emotions about seeing the end of the LeBron/SVSM dynasty. I love to watch great teams play and LeBron James is the best player I have ever seen play in Ohio. The Swami is a little too young to have seen Jerry Lucas in high school, but I did watch Clark Kellogg and Jimmy Jackson and LeBron is more advanced than either of them. The only high school player who I have seen play in person at a comparable level was Magic Johnson. I will not miss the sideshow that SVSM has created along with all the hype. I also lack my usual excitement for the D2 regional and state tournaments because I really do not think there is a team that can compete with SVSM. I am looking forward to a return to normal in 2004.

It looks like another year that the Swami will not be receiving any state tournament tickets from admiring readers. If you have any comments or suggestions for Trail Trash, contact the Swami through swamisig@aol.com. Let's roll, it's Swami time.

DIVISION IV

Nine of the nineteen teams ranked by the Associated Press in their final poll have reached the regional. Poll champ Tiffin

The Swami

Calvert was defeated by Fostoria St. Wendelin in a district semi-final. Five teams (Cedarville, Sebring McKinley, Holgate, and 2002 state qualifiers Mowrystown Whiteoak and Bristol) are making a return trip to the regional. Defending state champ Delphos St. John's was eliminated by Convoy Crestview in a district final.

REGIONAL

Miami University: #2 Marion Local and #10 Fort Loramie head up this always-strong regional at Oxford. Franklin-Monroe eliminated #5 Russia in a district final while Cedarville defeated #7 Yellow Springs at the district. Take Fort Loramie over Franklin-Monroe and Marion Local over Cedarville in semi-final games. Marion owns a regular season win over Fort Loramie. Take Marion Local over Fort Loramie in the regional final.

Canton Fieldhouse: #6 Berlin Hiland, #9 Sebring McKinley, and #11 Bristol are ranked teams headed to Canton. This will be Elyria Open Door's first trip to a regional. Berlin Hiland defeated #19 Toronto in a district final. Bristol defeated #8 Windham and #15 Southington Chalker at the district. Take Berlin Hiland over Open Door and Bristol over Sebring McKinley in the semi-finals. Take Berlin Hiland over Bristol in the final.

Bowling Green State University: #4 Holgate and #17 Convoy Crestview lead the field at Anderson Arena. Crestview defeated #3 Delphos St. John's in a district final. Fostoria St. Wendelin upset #1 Tiffin Calvert and Holgate defeated #18 Hicksville at the district. Tristan Tagliapietra leads Van Buren while Charlie Kelly is an all-district player for Holgate. Holgate has a triple overtime win along with the one-point win over Hicksville in the tournament. St. Wendelin has the most losses of any team still in the tournament with eight. Take Crestview over Holgate and Van Buren over St. Wendelin in the semi-finals. VB already has a late season win over FSW. Take Crestview over Van Buren in the championship game.

Columbus Fairgrounds: #12 Mowrystown Whiteoak and #16 Danbury Lakeside are ranked teams playing at the Barn. The Wellington School played both their district games in the Barn. This will be the first regional appearance for either Wellington or Danbury. Wellington has an outstanding guard in Marcus McCants while sophomore Jake Fanning leads Danbury. Take Whiteoak over Reedsville Eastern and Columbus Wellington over Danbury in semi-final games. Take Columbus Wellington over Mowrystown Whiteoak in the final.

STATE

Division IV opens the eighty-first boys state basketball

tournament with the final four consisting of Marion Local, Berlin Hiland, Convoy Crestview, and Columbus Wellington. This will be Hiland's seventh trip to the state with six of those coming under the leadership of the late Perry Reese. The Hawks were the D4 state champs in 1992. Marion Local will be making their third appearance. The Flyers were the 1975 "A" state champs. Crestview's only previous appearance was in 1971. Take Marion Local over Berlin Hiland and Convoy Crestview over Columbus Wellington in semi-final games. Marion Local wins the D4 state championship with a win over Convoy Crestview.

DIVISION III

Six of the eighteen teams ranked by the Associated Press will be playing in the regional. Five teams (Elyria Catholic, Richmond Dale Southeastern, Sugar creek Garaway, Columbus Hartley, and Reading) also qualified for the regional in 2002. Defending D3 state champ Clear Fork was eliminated by Ashland Crestview in their opening tournament game.

REGIONAL

Ohio University: A great regional at the Convo with #1 Sugar creek Garaway, #10 Chesapeake, #11 Marion Pleasant, and #15 Richmond Dale Southeastern. Pleasant defeated #5 Marion River Valley in a district final. Garaway eliminated #8 Bellaire and #2 Beverly Fort Frye in the district. Southeastern is led by 6'10" Chris Skaggs. Take Pleasant over Chesapeake and Sugar creek Garaway over Richmond Dale Southeastern in the semi-finals. Take Garaway over Pleasant in the championship game.

Bowling Green State University: No ranked teams at BG. This regional features legendary coaches Bob Walsh, Rob Sheldon, Doug Krauss, and Steve Williman. Archbold eliminated #9 St. Henry in the district. Elyria Catholic lost to eventual state champ Clear Fork in the 2002 regional final at BG on a layup at the buzzer. The Panthers return three starters from that team. EC's Bob Walsh won state championships at both Lorain Clearview and Oberlin. Liberty-Benton was the 1995 D4 state champ. Wynford coach Rob Sheldon won his 400th game by defeating Woodmore in the district. Take Archbold over Liberty-Benton and Elyria Catholic over Wynford in the semi-finals. Elyria Catholic advances to Columbus with a win over Archbold in the final.

Wright State University: No ranked teams at the Nutter Center. Versailles eliminated #7 Clinton-Massie in a district final. Reading has an outstanding player in Eric Clemons, an Ohio University recruit. Versailles finished fourth in the Midwest Athletic Conference. Take Columbus Hartley over Cincinnati Madeira and Reading over Versailles in the semi-finals. Take Reading over Columbus Hartley in the championship game.

Canton Fieldhouse: #6 New Middletown Springfield and #18 Newton Falls lead the field at Canton. West Salem Northwestern eliminated #4 Loudonville in a district final. This is Northwestern's first regional appearance since 1968.

The Swami

Mark Alberts Jr coaches the Huskies. His father's team, Wooster, is also a regional qualifier in D1. Take Northwestern over Newton Falls and Springfield Local over Bedford St. Peter Chanel in the semi-finals. Take New Middletown Springfield over Northwestern in the regional final.

STATE

The final four consists of Sugarcreek Garaway, Elyria Catholic, Reading, and New Middletown Springfield. This will be the third appearance for Springfield and the second appearance for both Reading and Elyria Catholic with Reading's trip to the state in 1978 being the most recent. Take Garaway over Elyria Catholic and New Middletown Springfield over Reading in the semi-finals. New Middletown defeats Sugarcreek for the D3 state championship.

DIVISION II

Ten of the eighteen ranked teams in the final AP poll have advanced to the regional level. Seven regional qualifiers (Kettering Alter, Canton South, Ottawa-Glandorf, defending state champ Cincinnati Roger Bacon, and 2002 state qualifiers Poland Seminary, Columbus Beechcroft, and Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary) repeated as district champions.

REGIONAL

Canton Civic Center: #2 Poland Seminary, #6 Cleveland Benedictine, and #8 Canton South are ranked teams at Canton. Benedictine defeated #10 Cortland Lakeview in a district final. Avon was 6-16 as a D3 team in 2002. Benedictine won back-to-back D2 state crowns in 1997 and 1998. Veteran Bob Patton coaches the Bengals. Take Canton South over Cleveland Benedictine and Poland Seminary over Avon in semi-final games. Canton South takes the regional championship with a win over Poland Seminary.

University of Toledo: The circus comes to Savage Hall. #1 Akron \$V\$M, #9 Willard, and #15 Ottawa-Glandorf are ranked teams at Toledo. St. Vincent-St. Mary destroyed #13 Akron Hoban and #3 Akron Central-Hower in the district. This will be the first "split session" at UT since 1982. Take Ottawa-Glandorf's two big guns (the Pollitz twins) over Willard's one big gun (Nick Dials) in one semi-final. \$V\$M bludgeons Tallmadge in a mismatch in the late game. Take Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary big over O-G in the final.

Wright State University: #5 Dayton Chaminade-Julienne and #11 Cincinnati Roger Bacon are ranked teams at WSU.

Bexley eliminated #4 Canal Winchester in the district final. Nathan Peavy leads Chaminade while Monty St. Clair leads defending D2 state champ Roger Bacon. Both are Miami recruits. Take Roger Bacon over Bexley and Chaminade-Julienne over Kettering Alter in the semi-finals. Take Dayton Chaminade-Julienne over Cincinnati Roger Bacon for the regional championship.

Ohio University: #16 Gallipolis Gallia Academy and #17 East Liverpool are ranked teams playing at the Convo. West Holmes eliminated #18 New Concord John Glenn and Columbus Beechcroft eliminated #14 Columbus Watterson at the district. SirJoseph (not a misprint) Welch leads Beechcroft. This is East Liverpool's first season in D2. Take East Liverpool over West Holmes and Beechcroft over Gallia Academy in the semi-finals. Take East Liverpool over Beechcroft in the championship game.

STATE

The circus moves to Columbus. The final four is comprised of Canton South, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Dayton Chaminade-Julienne, and East Liverpool. All four schools have made multiple trips to the state tournament. \$V\$M has won three championships while C-J has won two. Take St. Vincent-St. Mary big over Canton South and Chaminade-Julienne over East Liverpool in the semi-finals. The GCL might be the best basketball league in the state, but Chaminade-Julienne is no match for St. Vincent-St. Mary. Akron \$V\$M is the D2 state champ. Fred Nance is named the MVP (and we don't mean player) for the D2 state tournament.

DIVISION I

Six of the eighteen teams ranked by the Associated Press will be playing in the regional. Six teams (defending D1 state champ and top-ranked Columbus Brookhaven, 2002 state qualifier Lakewood St. Edward, 2001 state champ Cleveland St. Ignatius, Toledo St. John's, Centerville, and Mentor) are making return trips to the regional.

REGIONAL

Xavier University: #9 Cincinnati Moeller is the only ranked team at the Cintas Center. Moeller eliminated #18 Beavercreek in the district final. This is Springboro's first season as a D1 school. Springboro eliminated Cincinnati Elder in the district final. Moeller has a top-notch junior in Josh Duncan. Hamilton had district wins over GCL teams LaSalle and St. X. Take Moeller over Springboro and Hamilton over Cincinnati Princeton in the semi-finals. Take Moeller over the Hamilton Big Blue for the regional crown.

University of Akron: #11 Massillon Washington and #16 Cleveland Heights are ranked teams at the JAR. Cleveland Heights scored 114 in a district win over Warren Howland. Cleveland Heights has an outstanding scorer in Jon Battle while Eddie Zienkowski leads Mentor. Massillon defeated arch-rival Canton McKinley for the district championship.

The Swami

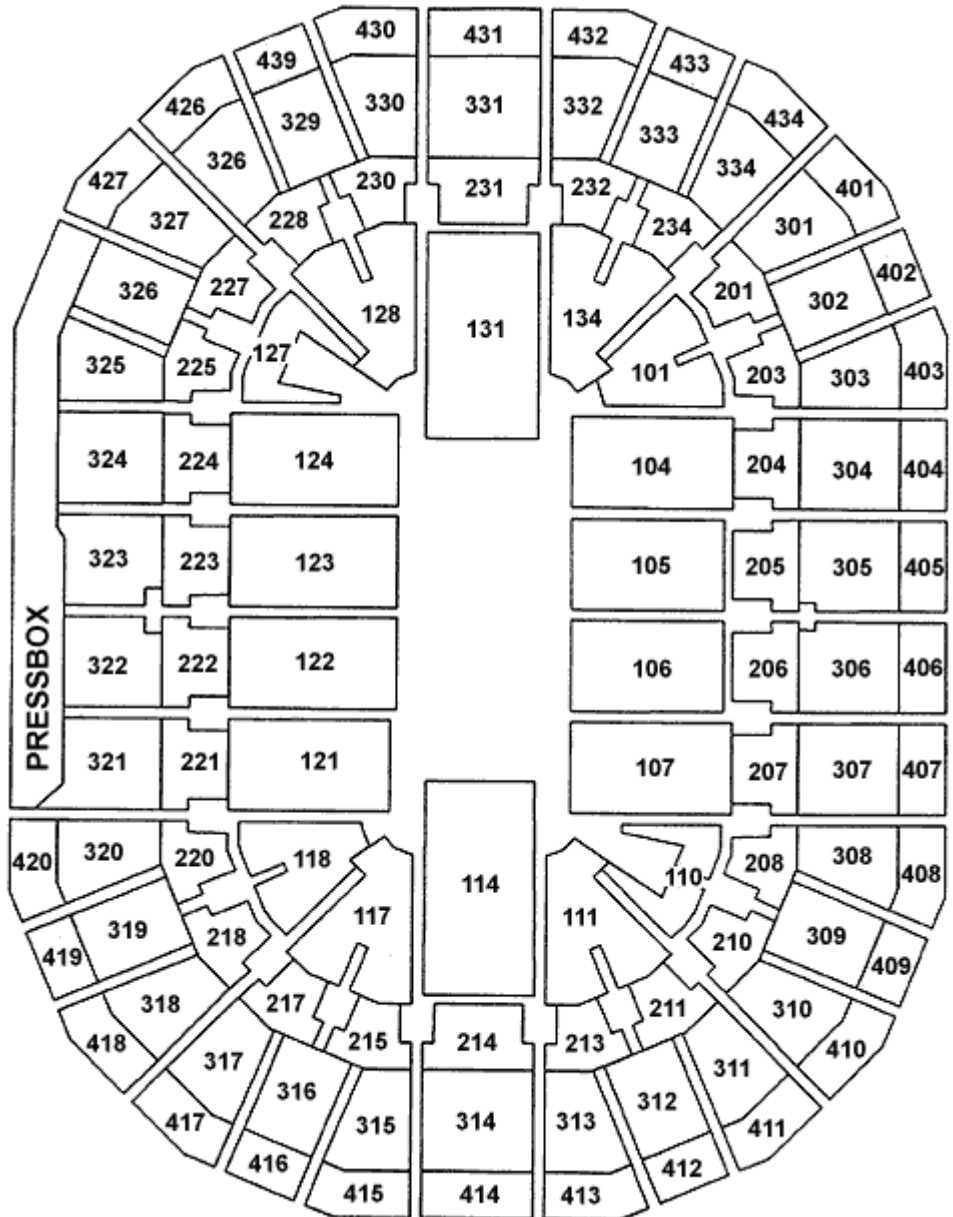
Take Cleveland Heights over Wooster and Mentor over Massillon in the semi-finals. Take Cleveland Heights over Lake Erie League rival Mentor for the district championship.

Columbus Fairgrounds: #1 Columbus Brookhaven and #6 Lancaster are ranked teams at the Barn. Lancaster defeated #3 Thomas Worthington in the district final. Defending D1 state champ Brookhaven is loaded again with only an overtime loss to \$V\$M marring their record. Andrew Lavender, Brandon Foust, and sophomore Janelle Cornley lead the way for the Bearcats. Lavender and Foust are headed to Oklahoma University. Centerville has an outstanding guard in Chris Spears, a Dayton recruit. Take Centerville over Lancaster and Brookhaven over Newark in the semi-finals. Take Brookhaven over Centerville in the championship game.

University of Toledo: #13 Toledo St. John's is the only ranked team at Toledo. St. John's eliminated #8 Toledo Central Catholic in a district final. Lakewood St. Edward looked like a challenger to Brookhaven at the start of the season with the addition of 6'9" transfer Chris Moore to go along with two returning starters and the two top subs from their 2002 state qualifier. The Eagles have disappointed despite winning nineteen games. St. John's has an easy win over Ashland and a two-point loss at St. Ed's while St. Ignatius has a pair of wins over Ed's. Take Toledo St. John's over Lakewood St. Edward and Cleveland St. Ignatius over Ashland in the semi-finals. St. John's and St. Ignatius normally play during the regular season. This year's game was cancelled when Iggy scheduled too many regular season games. Take St. Ignatius over St. John's for the regional championship.

Ignatius, the 2001 champ; Moeller, the 1999 champ; and Cleveland Heights, the 1997 champ. Take Cincinnati Moeller over Cleveland Heights and Columbus Brookhaven over Cleveland St. Ignatius in the semi-finals. Brookhaven defends their state championship with a win over Moeller in the D1 title game.

That's it for another year. The opinions expressed in Trail Trash are those of the Swami. See you in Columbus. Rock on.



From osubuckeyes.com

STATE

Division I will again close out the state boy's basketball tournament. Cincinnati Moeller, Cleveland Heights, Columbus Brookhaven, and Cleveland St. Ignatius make up the final four. Brookhaven was the 2002 DI champ; St.

Seating Chart for the Value City Arena in the Jerome Shottenstein Center. For those of you that will be attending the state championships in Columbus next week, we have included a seating chart to help you in locating your seats.