

Trail Trash

for the 2005 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler

Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

A disaster is the only way to describe the Swami's numbers for our first 2005 edition. The Swami's 98-51 (66%) win/loss record marks the first time in the twelve-year history of Trail Trash that the Swami failed to predict at least 100 winners for our sectional/district edition. The Swami correctly picked only six of the thirteen Northwest Ohio district champions. Compare this year's numbers to last year's 112 winners and you realize how poorly the Swami performed. Let's hope the Swami's numbers improve in this edition or we may see some changes at Trail Trash next year. The Swami has been busy the past two weeks having watched seventeen games at eight different locations.

Unlike a season ago, all four teams ranked at the top of the Associated Press' final poll have qualified for regional play. Just like any other season, there have been a number of upsets in the sectionals and districts. The 2005 state tournament could return to the circus atmosphere of the LeBron years with the likes of Cincinnati North College Hill. There is also a good chance for some controversy in Columbus as long as teams like NCH, Columbus Africentric, and Upper Sandusky make the trip to the state tournament.

The Swami almost decided to go the Bizarro Swami route (for any Seinfeld or Superman followers reading

Trail Trash) in making the predictions for this edition. That wouldn't be fair to our loyal readers so let's get on with the picks. It's Swami time.

DIVISION II

Seven of the seventeen teams ranked by the Associated Press in their final poll have advanced to the regional. Five teams (Greenfield McClain, Cincinnati Taft, Dayton Dunbar, 2004 state qualifier Dayton Chaminade-Julienne, and Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary) were regional qualifiers in 2004. Upper Sandusky is the only undefeated team remaining in D2.

REGIONAL

Canton Civic Center: #12 Painesville Harvey and #14 Wooster Triway are ranked teams at Canton. Tallmadge eliminated #4 Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit in a district final and Triway edged #12 Orrville in a district final. Harvey's only loss was to Ashtabula Edgewood. Poland gave up only nineteen points in their district semi-final. Morgan Lewis is the big gun for Harvey. Juniors Linc Rottman and Jaime Breneman lead Triway while Chad Fender is the top player for Poland Seminary. Take Tallmadge over Harvey in an upset and Triway over Poland in the semi-finals. Take Wooster Triway over Tallmadge in the finals.

Ohio University: There are no ranked teams at the Convo. Uhrichsville Claymont edged #7 Cambridge in a district final



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while Zanesville defeated #8 East Liverpool in a district final. Columbus Linden McKinley is the only team remaining in the tournament with a losing record. David White is Claymont's top player while freshman Logan Aronholt leads Zanesville. Greenfield McClain has one of the top sophomores in the state in Dante Jackson while Shaun Gunnell and Sam Payne have put up big numbers for Linden McKinley. Look for Zanesville to edge Claymont in one semi-final. Take McClain over Linden McKinley in the other semi-final. Greenfield McClain advances to Columbus with a win over Zanesville in the regional final.

University of Dayton: #5 Cincinnati Taft and #9 Dayton Dunbar are ranked teams at Dayton. Whitehall Yearling has an outstanding player in Lamar Abbington while DeAndre Byrd leads Taft. Daequan Cook of Dunbar is considered the best junior in the state while 6'9" Aaron Pogue is a promising sophomore. Derrick Brown, one of three returning starters from the 2004 state qualifier, is the top player for Chaminade-Julienne. Take Cincinnati Taft over Whitehall in one semi-final and Dayton Dunbar over Dayton Chaminade-Julienne in the other semi-final. Dayton Dunbar captures the regional title with a close win over Cincinnati Taft in the finals.

University of Toledo: #1 Upper Sandusky, #2 Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, and #10 St. Marys Memorial are ranked teams at Toledo. St. Vincent-St. Mary defeated #3 Akron Buchtel in a district final while St. Marys edged #16 Van Wert in their district final. The semi-final between SVSM and Parma Padua will be played at the Canton Fieldhouse for travel reasons. The win over Buchtel marked SVSM's seventh consecutive district title. Marcus Johnson and OSU football recruit Lawrence Wilson lead SVSM. Coach Mitch Gerycz of Padua was once the head coach at SVSM. Matt Huml and Matt Jankowski lead Padua. Coach Keith Diebler is in his first year at undefeated Upper after coming from Fostoria. Upper's top players are senior Jake Diebler and sophomore Jon Diebler. Greg Micheli is another solid player for the Rams. St. Marys was the Division III runner-up in football. Wes Clark is the top player for the Riders. Take SVSM over Padua in the semi-final at Canton and Upper Sandusky over St. Marys Memorial in the semi-final at Toledo. Upper Sandusky takes the regional title with a close win over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary in the final at Toledo.

STATE

D2 kicks off the eighty-third boys state basketball tournament with a final four consisting of Wooster Triway, Greenfield McClain, Dayton Dunbar, and Upper Sandusky. Dayton Dunbar will be making their fourth trip to the state tournament (the Wolverines were the last "AAA" state

champs in 1987) while Triway will be making their third trip. This will mark the first trip for Greenfield McClain and Upper Sandusky. Take Wooster Triway over Greenfield McClain in one semi-final with Upper Sandusky over Dayton Dunbar in the other semi-final. Upper Sandusky is the D2 state champion with a win over Wooster Triway.

DIVISION IV

Eight of the fifteen teams ranked by the Associated Press have reached the regional tournament. Eight teams (Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, 2004 state qualifier Sebring McKinley, Windham, defending D4 state champ Holgate, Tiffin Calvert, Columbus Africentric, Reedsville Eastern, and 2004 state qualifier South Webster) played in the regional in 2004.

REGIONAL

Canton Fieldhouse: #2 Sebring McKinley and #5 Zanesville Rosecrans are ranked teams at Canton. Sebring eliminated #13 McDonald in a district final. Scott Moyer and Jeremy Ridgley lead Rosecrans while Joe James and Dan Scarpitti lead Sebring. James and Scarpitti are joined by two other returning starters from Sebring McKinley's 2004 state qualifier. Ian McGuire leads Windham while Sam Liggins is the top player for Cleveland Heights Lutheran East. Sebring McKinley gave up fourteen points in their district semi-final win. Take Sebring McKinley over Zanesville Rosecrans in one semi-final and Lutheran East over Windham in the other semi-final. Sebring McKinley defends their regional title with a win over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East in the final.

University of Dayton: #13 Minster is the only ranked team at Dayton. DaJuan Harris is the top player for Lockland while Jason Cunningham leads Cedarville. Quincy Curry is St. Bernard-Elmwood Place's top player while Dane Sommer leads Minster. St. Bernard-Elmwood Place finished the regular season at 8-12. Take Lockland over Cedarville in one semi-final and Minster over St. Bernard-Elmwood Place in the other semi-final. In the final, look for Minster to advance to the state tournament with a tight win over Lockland.

Bowling Green State University: #10 Holgate and #11 Continental are ranked teams at Bowling Green. Holgate has allowed an average of twenty-seven points per game during the tournament followed closely by Ottoville at just under thirty-two per game and Continental at just over thirty-three a game. Continental and Ottoville are both members of the Putnam County League. Lee Brubaker is Holgate's top player while Aaron Mass leads Tiffin Calvert. Brubaker is one of three returning starters from Holgate's state championship squad. Junior Josh Vorst is the big gun for the Big Green of Ottoville while Kurtis Brown and Nick Wilson top Continental. Take Holgate over Tiffin Calvert in one semi-final and Continental over Ottoville in the other semi-final. Continental takes the regional title with a win over defending state champion Holgate.

Columbus Fairgrounds: #1 Columbus Africentric, #4 South

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Webster, and #9 Reedsville Eastern are ranked teams at the Barn. Columbus Africentric defeated Columbus Brookhaven to win the Columbus City League. This is the second year in the OHSAA tournament for Africentric. Eastmoor transfer Donald Suel, Lance Sullivan, and Brookhaven transfer LaQuawn Perry are outstanding players for the Nubians. Nathan Cozart and Cody Dill are the top players for Reedsville Eastern. Junior Nick Aldridge (6'7") is an outstanding talent for South Webster. Three other starters return from the Jeeps' 2004 state tournament team. Columbus Africentric defeats Reedsville Eastern in one semi-final with South Webster defeating Fremont St. Joseph in the other semi-final. Columbus Africentric wins the regional crown by defeating South Webster.

STATE

Sebring McKinley, Minster, Continental, and Columbus Africentric make up the final four in D4. This is the fourth trip to the state tournament for Sebring McKinley and the third trip for both Continental and Minster. Take Minster over Sebring McKinley in one semi-final and Columbus Africentric over Continental in the other semi-final. Columbus Africentric is the 2005 D4 state champion with a win over Minster in the final.

DIVISION III

Five of the thirteen teams ranked by the Associated Press have advanced to regional play. Eight teams (2004 state qualifier Loudonville, Leavittsburg LaBrae, Reading, 2004 state qualifier Bellaire, Bloom-Carroll, Ironton, Chesapeake, and Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy) are making return trips to the regional after qualifying in 2004. Ironton is the lone undefeated team in D3.

REGIONAL

Canton Fieldhouse: #5 Cleveland Villa-Angela/St. Joe's and #11 Loudonville are ranked teams at Canton. Trevor Scott and 6'8" Kyle Gillette are the top players for Loudonville. Jason Frederick and Todd Rowan lead Leavittsburg LaBrae. Junior Cory Buso is the top player for Rootstown. Cleveland VASJ's David Lighty is one of the top juniors in the state. Ron Hollis and Darryl Rushton are other major contributors for VASJ. Loudonville edges Leavittsburg LaBrae in one semi-final with Cleveland VASJ eliminating Rootstown in the other semi-final. Cleveland VASJ advances to Columbus with a win over Loudonville in the finals.

Wright State University: #1 Cincinnati North College Hill is the only ranked team at the Nutter Center. 2003 D3 state

champion Reading eliminated #12 Jamestown Greeneview in a district final. North College Hill's only loss was to Cincinnati St. Xavier early in the season. Middletown Fenwick has played a double overtime game and a triple overtime game in the tournament. NCH's O.J. Mayo and Bill Walker are two of the top sophomores in the nation. Mayo and Walker arrived at North College Hill as freshman from Kentucky and West Virginia respectively. Their AAU teammate, 6'10" sophomore Keenen Ellis, joined them this past January after transferring from Indianapolis. NCH scored 119 points in their sectional final. David Klink is the top player for New Albany. Marty Bidwell leads Fenwick while Justin Brinkman is the top player for Reading. North College Hill big over New Albany in one semi-final and Reading over Middletown Fenwick in the other semi-final. North College Hill advances to the state tournament with a win over Reading in the finals.

Ohio University: #2 Ironton and #6 Chesapeake are ranked teams at Athens. Bellaire defeated #9 Sugarcreek Garaway in a district semi-final. Nate Davis and Mike Fisher are the big guns for Bellaire and 6'7" Kale Richardson is the top player for Bloom-Carroll. Juniors Brigham Waginger and Dennis Gagai lead undefeated Ironton while P.J. Rase and Brennan Hall are top players for Chesapeake. Bellaire nips Bloom-Carroll in one semi-final and Ironton eliminates Chesapeake in the other semi-final. In the finals, Ironton gains a regional title with a win over Bellaire.

Bowling Green State University: #7 Archbold is the only ranked team at Anderson Arena. Archbold eliminated #8 Delphos St. John's and #3 St. Henry, the defending D3 state champ, at the district. Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy defeated #4 and previously unbeaten Rocky River Lutheran West in their district final. Injuries have been a factor for all four teams. Dan Borcherdt is the big gun for Archbold who lost starter Josh Johnson to a knee injury. Tyler Rosenberger is Woodmore's top player. The Wildcats lost one of their top scorers, Joe Nowak, to injury late in the regular season. His return for the regional is doubtful. Tim Carroll is the top player for CVCA who have big man Ted Lawver (6'8") back from a football injury. Elmwood is making their tournament run with leading scorer Chad Reynolds out with an ankle injury. Archbold just gets by Woodmore in one semi-final. Elmwood and CVCA played in a 2000 regional semi-final with CVCA winning. Same result this time in the other semi-final. Archbold advances with a win over Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy in the regional final.

STATE

Cleveland VASJ, Cincinnati North College Hill, Ironton, and Archbold make up the final four. This will be the ninth trip to the state for VASJ. The Vikings have three state championships in D2 and one state championship in D1. This will be Archbold's sixth trip to the state tournament while Ironton and North College Hill will both be making their second trip. North College Hill will eliminate Cleveland VASJ in one semi-final as long as NCH doesn't get caught up in the hype. Archbold will defeat previously unbeaten Ironton in the

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other semi-final. Cincinnati North College Hills wins the D3 state championship with a win over Archbold in the final.

DIVISION 1

Six of the sixteen teams ranked by the Associated Press in their final poll have advanced to the regional. Six teams (Mansfield Senior, 2004 state qualifier Canton McKinley, Bedford, Cincinnati, Moeller, 2004 state qualifier Columbus Brookhaven, and Columbus Mifflin) were regional qualifiers in 2004. Solon is the only undefeated team in D1.

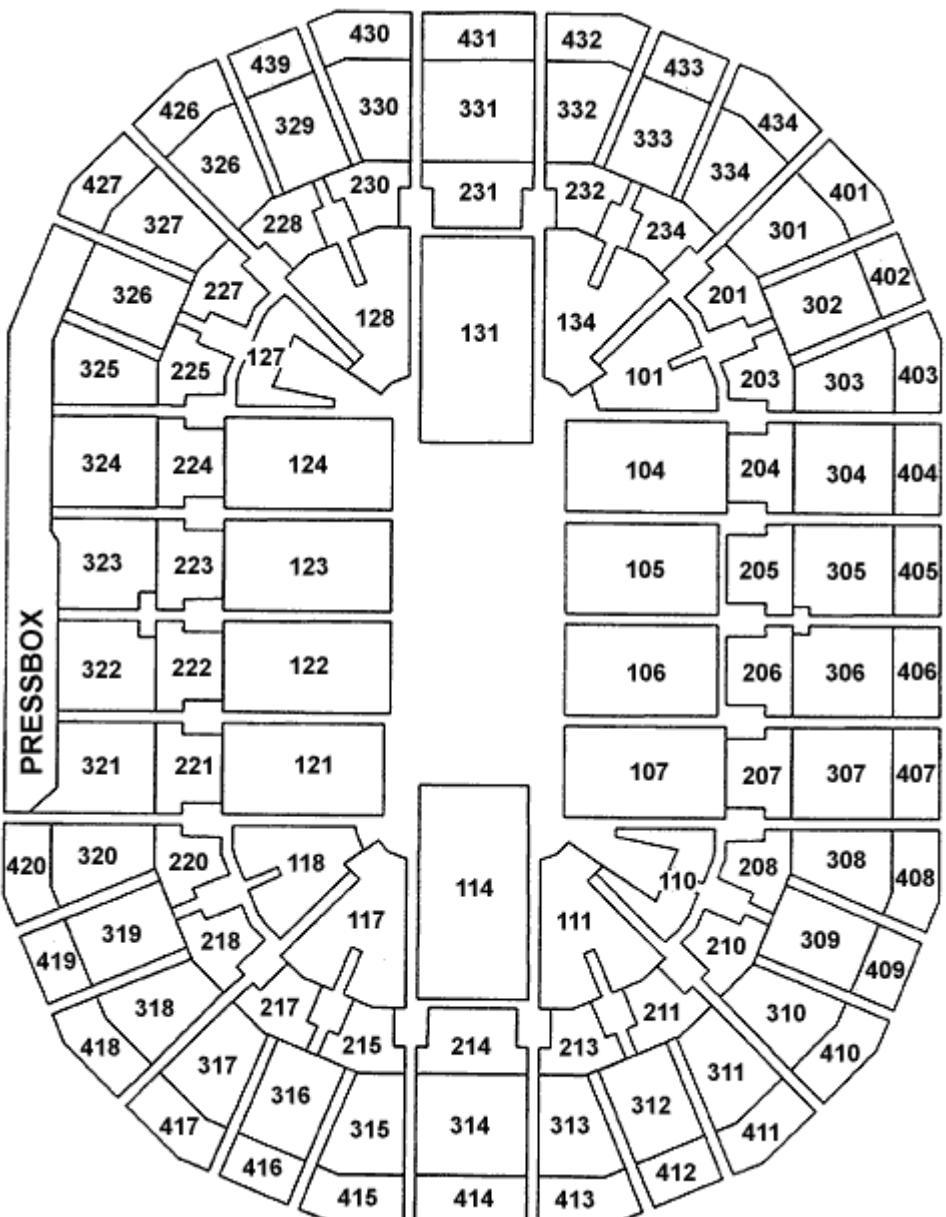
REGIONAL

University of Toledo: #4 Solon and #8 Mansfield Senior are ranked teams at Savage Hall. Toledo Scott eliminated #5 Toledo St. John's Jesuit in the district final while Mansfield Senior bounced #9 Lima Senior in their district final. Joe Suboticki is in his first year coaching at Scott. Suboticki won state championships at Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary and at Portsmouth. Mansfield Senior lost its opener to Cincinnati Princeton and has not lost since. James Walker and Darrion Griffin, a transfer from Toledo Waite, are the top players for Scott. Dallas Lauderdale, a 6'9" sophomore, and Jordan Krantz lead Solon. Lakewood St. Edward is big and very young with 6'7" freshman Delvon Roe the leading scorer. Junior Reid Anderson is another top player for the Eagles. Jonathon Avery and Rashad Reed lead Mansfield Senior. Scott, the fourth place team in the Toledo City League, upsets Solon in one semi-final with Mansfield Senior edging past Lakewood St. Edward in the other semi-final. Mansfield Senior advances to Columbus with a hard fought win over Toledo Scott in the regional final.

University of Akron: #1 Canton McKinley is the lone ranked team at the JAR. McKinley destroyed #3 Warren Harding in their district final. McKinley's only loss was to Lancaster back in January. Juniors Raymar Morgan and Ricky Jackson, a transfer from Louisville Aquinas, are the

top players for McKinley. Two other starters also return from McKinley's 2004 state qualifier. Junior Jason Thompson leads Bedford. Kenny McConnel and Ben Wallace lead Cleveland Glenville while Brian Guerin is the top player for Hudson. McKinley eliminates Bedford in one semi-final and Cleveland Glenville defeats Hudson in the other semi-final. Canton McKinley takes home the regional championship with a win over Cleveland Glenville in the final.

University of Dayton: #11 Centerville and #13 Cincinnati St. Xavier are ranked teams at Dayton. Trotwood-Madison eliminated #14 Springboro in a district semi-final and



From osubuckeyes.com

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.

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Cincinnati St. Xavier edged #2 Springfield South in their district final. Lee Boddie leads Trotwood-Madison while Scot Grote is Centerville's top player. Johnny Wolf is an outstanding player for St. X while Michael Hall leads Troy. Centerville eliminates Trotwood-Madison in one semi-final and Cincinnati St. Xavier defeats Troy in the other semi-final. St. Xavier moves on to the state tournament with a win over Centerville in the regional final.

Columbus Fairgrounds: #6 Cincinnati Moeller is the only ranked team at Columbus. Galloway Westland defeated #16 Lancaster in a district semi-final while Columbus Brookhaven defeated #15 Dublin Coffman in overtime in their district final. Josh Bostic and Justin Patrick are the top players for Westland while Ryan Childress leads Moeller. Columbus Mifflin has an outstanding player in Cordaryl Ballard while Jamelle Cornley again leads Brookhaven. Moeller defeats Galloway Westland in one semi-final and Columbus Brookhaven edges Mifflin in the other semi-final. Cincinnati Moeller takes the regional crown as the Crusaders avenge last year's regional final loss to Brookhaven.

STATE

D1 again closes out the state tournament with Mansfield Senior, Canton McKinley, Cincinnati St. Xavier, and Cincinnati Moeller comprising the final four. McKinley is making their twenty-seventh trip to the state tournament. The Pups were the "AAA" state champions in 1984. Moeller won D1 state titles in 1999 and 2003 in their only trips to the state tournament. This will also be the third trip to the state tournament for St. Xavier, the 2000 D1 state champs. Mansfield Senior will be making their seventh trip to the state tournament. Canton McKinley defeats Mansfield Senior in one semi-final while St. X edges Moeller in a battle of GCL South teams in the other semi-final. Cincinnati St. Xavier is the 2005 D1 state champion as the Bombers upset Canton McKinley in the final.

That is Trail Trash for another year. We appreciate your support and value your comments. The opinions expressed are those of the Swami. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for Trail Trash, contact davey1@davey1.com. The Swami, can be reached at swamisig@aol.com. See you in Columbus.



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