

Trail Trash

for the 2007 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler



Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

The Swami got off to a slow start and finished slowly on our sectional and district picks for 2007. The 102-46 (69%) win/loss record was a drop off of two games from 2006. The Swami once again picked only five district champions correctly out of the thirteen districts from around Northwest Ohio. In five other districts, the Swami had his projected district winner fall short in the district championship game. The regional and state predictions should be a bit more difficult in 2007 since we don't have the clear cut favorites that we had in 2006.

Three of the four teams crowned as champions in the final Associated Press poll (Lakewood St. Edward, Liberty-Benton, and New Knoxville) have advanced to the regional with only D2 poll champ Greenfield McClain being eliminated. Three of the 2006 state champions (Dayton Dunbar, Cincinnati North College Hill, and South Webster) remain alive with D1 Canton McKinley eliminated in a sectional final.

Jon Diebler of Upper Sandusky enters the regional with 975 points on the season and 3,081 points in his career. He is the only player in OHSAA history to top 3,000 points in a career and is a sure bet to become the fifth player to top 1,000 points in a season.

Rather than taking up space with some editorializing, let's go to the picks. It's Swami time.

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DIVISION III

Five of the thirteen teams ranked by the Associated Press in their final poll are playing in the regional. Four teams (St. Henry, Cleveland Villa-Angela/St. Joe's, Wheelersburg, and Cincinnati North College Hill) were regional qualifiers in 2006. Liberty-Benton is the only undefeated team in D3.

REGIONAL

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #1 Liberty-Benton is the only ranked team at Anderson Arena. Columbus Africentric eliminated #11 Columbus Bishop Hartley in a district final. Evergreen defeated #3 Archbold in a district semifinal while St. Henry ousted #13 Lima Central Catholic in a sectional final. Nathan Hyde is the top player for L-B with help from T.J. Recker and Aaron Craft. Tim Mapp and Bernie Agnew lead Africentric. Andrew Pinkelman is Evergreen's top player with Tyler Post and Mitch Niekamp leading the way for St. Henry.

Semifinals – Liberty-Benton over Columbus Africentric; St. Henry over Evergreen

Final – Liberty-Benton over St. Henry

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #5 Rocky River Lutheran West and #9 Cleveland VASJ are ranked teams at Canton. Campbell Memorial defeated #7 Youngstown Ursuline in a district final. This is Cleveland VASJ's third straight trip to the regional. The Vikings lost to North College Hill 90-73 in last year's D3 state final. Nate Barnes, Ashen Ward, and Maurice Haynes lead VASJ. Blake Marsh and Mike Lewis are the top players for Manchester while Jermaine Richardson leads Campbell

Memorial. Scott Voiers and Mike Telzrow are big guns for Lutheran West.

Semifinals – Cleveland VASJ over Akron Manchester; Campbell Memorial over Lutheran West

Final – Cleveland VASJ over Campbell Memorial

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #6 Wheelersburg is the only ranked team at the Convo. Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley defeated #8 West Muskingum in a district semi-final. Wheelersburg is the defending regional champion. Camden Miller (Western Carolina) and Drew Spradlin are top players for the 'Burg. Drew Copas leads Seaman North Adams, and Garland Stiltner is Oak Hill's top player. Jacob Brown paces Tusky Valley.

Semifinals – Wheelersburg over Oak Hill; Tusky Valley over Seaman North Adams

Final – Wheelersburg over Tusky Valley

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY: #2 Dayton Oakwood is the only ranked team at the Nutter Center. Cincinnati North College Hill is the two-time defending state champion in D3. Damon Butler returns for NCH with help from Nathaniel Glover. Kyle Peterson leads River Valley. Chris Hardy and Robby Sherk are top players for Oakwood while Fred Willis leads Purcell Marian.

Semifinals - North College Hill over River Valley; Purcell Marian over Oakwood

Final – Purcell Marian over North College Hill

STATE

D3 kicks off the eighty-fifth annual state boys basketball tournament.

Final Four – Liberty-Benton, Cleveland Villa-Angela/St. Joe's, Wheelersburg, Cincinnati Purcell Marian

Semifinals – Liberty-Benton over Cleveland VASJ; Wheelersburg over Cincinnati Purcell Marian

Final – Wheelersburg over Liberty-Benton

DIVISION II

Eight of the eleven teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll have advanced to regional tournaments. #1 Greenfield McClain was eliminated by Chillicothe in double overtime in a district final. Six teams (Cleveland Benedictine, Painesville Harvey, Columbus DeSales, Zanesville, Tipp City Tippecanoe, Dayton Dunbar) are making a return trip to the regional tournament in 2007. Tipp City Tippecanoe is the only undefeated team in D2.

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OHIO UNIVERSITY: #7 Zanesville and #11 Columbus DeSales are ranked teams at the Convo. Unranked Chillicothe eliminated #1 Greenfield McClain in a district final. DeSales is the defending regional champion. Zanesville has three straight district titles. Elijah Allen, Alex Kellogg (Clark's son), and Dane Johnson top DeSales. Adam Bice leads Tri-Valley. Logan Aronhalt and Korey Haddox are top players for Zanesville. Anthony Hitchens, Chris Givens, and Ray Chambers lead Chillicothe.

Semifinals – DeSales over Dresden Tri-Valley; Zanesville over Chillicothe

Final – Columbus DeSales over Zanesville

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY: #2 Kettering Alter, #4 Tipp City Tippecanoe, and #6 Dayton Dunbar are ranked teams at the Nutter Center. Dayton Dunbar is the defending D2 state champion. This is the fourth straight trip to the regional tournament for Dunbar. Paris Harris and J.J. Laumann are the top players for Alter. Troy Cherry and Darren Hughes lead Beechcroft. Kellen Zawadzki, Robert Goldsberry, and Kyle Corbin lead Tipp. Norris Cole and Aaron Pogue are returning starters for Dunbar.

Semifinals – Kettering Alter over Columbus Beechcroft; Tipp City Tippecanoe over Dayton Dunbar

Final – Kettering Alter over Tipp City Tippecanoe

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: #8 Olmsted Falls, #8 Van Wert, and #10 Upper Sandusky are ranked teams in the Toledo regional. Akron Kenmore defeated eight-time defending district champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary to advance to the regional. Jon Diebler (OSU) dominates for Upper with sophomore Alex Falk providing support. Chris Morrow, Jared Myers, and Brett Leon lead Van Wert. Tyler Sparks, Dave Pellerite, and Pat Pellerite pace Olmsted Falls. Joe Miller, Marcus Golden, and Sinisa Srbijan are top players for Kenmore. The semifinal between Kenmore and Olmsted Falls is being played at the Canton Fieldhouse with Upper Sandusky and Van Wert meeting in a semifinal at Toledo. The final will be played at UT's Savage Hall.

Semifinals – Upper Sandusky over Van Wert; Olmsted Falls over Akron Kenmore

Final – Upper Sandusky over Olmsted Falls

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: There are no ranked teams at Canton. This is Painesville Harvey's third straight trip to the

(Continued after Division I Brackets)

regional. Navarre Fairless advanced with a win over two-time defending regional champion Wooster Triway. Scott Alston, Devonne Johnson, and Jeff Spikes are top players for Harvey. Chris Lovell leads Poland Seminary. Freshman Cameron Wright is the top player for Benedictine with help from Walter Boykins. Jonah Manack and Brian Cross are big guns for Fairless.

Semifinals – Painesville Harvey over Poland Seminary; Cleveland Benedictine over Navarre Fairless

Final – Painesville Harvey over Cleveland Benedictine

STATE

D2 will play the Thursday evening games and the early Saturday afternoon final in Columbus.

Final Four – Columbus DeSales, Kettering Alter, Upper Sandusky, Painesville Harvey

Semifinals – Kettering Alter over Columbus DeSales; Upper Sandusky over Painesville Harvey

Final – Kettering Alter over Upper Sandusky

DIVISION IV

Eight of the twelve teams in the final Associated Press poll have advanced to regional play. Seven teams (Holgate, Bucyrus Wynford, South Webster, Lockland, Houston, Windham, and Berlin Hiland) were regional qualifiers in 2006. Canal Winchester Harvest Prep, New Knoxville, Georgetown, and McDonald are undefeated teams still playing in D4.

REGIONAL

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #6 Van Buren is the only ranked team at Anderson Arena. Van Buren eliminated #3 Toledo Christian in a district final. Holgate has seven consecutive district championships. Joe Baker and Logan Brubaker are veterans for Holgate. Derek Geise leads Fort Jennings. Matt Phillips and Logan Grant are top players for Van Buren while John Shifley and Chad Snyder lead Wynford.

Semifinals – Holgate over Fort Jennings; Van Buren over Bucyrus Wynford

Final – Van Buren over Holgate

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS: #5 Canal Winchester Harvest Prep and #12 Latham Western are ranked teams at the Barn. Harvest Prep eliminated #7 Worthington Christian for a district title. South Webster is the defending D4 state champion. The Jeeps have three consecutive district championships. Tyler Kreim and Blaine Erwin lead Buckeye Central while Jeremy Latham and Michael White

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pace Latham Western. Remon Nelson and Marquis Mathis are the big guns for Harvest Prep. Josh Campbell and Ryan Fenton are top players for South Webster.

Semifinals – Buckeye Central over Latham Western; Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over South Webster

Final – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Buckeye Central

MIAMI UNIVERSITY: #1 New Knoxville and #8 Lockland are ranked teams at Millett Hall. Georgetown is unranked despite being undefeated. Houston defeated #2 Russia in a district semifinal. Lockland returns to the regional for the third consecutive season and is the defending regional champion. Thomas Smith and Antoine Wilhite are returnees for Lockland. Ross Stienecker and Josh Niemeyer lead New Knoxville. Brandon Hughes is the top player for Houston while Jay Chadwell and Isaiah Felder lead Georgetown

Semifinals – Lockland over New Knoxville; Houston over Georgetown

Final – Lockland over Houston

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #4 McDonald, #9 Berlin Hiland, and #11 Windham are ranked teams at Canton. Windham is the defending regional champion. Andy Timko and Bradley Hinton are top players for McDonald while Drew Fetter and Travis Gregory lead Rittman. Joel Gause is the top player for Hiland. Zach Jacobson and Phil Workman lead Windham.

Semifinals – McDonald over Rittman; Berlin Hiland over Windham

Final – Berlin Hiland over McDonald

STATE

D4 will play the early Friday games and the late Saturday afternoon game at the Value City Arena.

Final Four – Van Buren, Canal Winchester Harvest Prep, Lockland, and Berlin Hiland

Semifinals – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Van Buren; Lockland over Berlin Hiland

Finals – Lockland over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

DIVISION I

Seven of the ten teams ranked in the final Associated Press

(Continued after Division II Brackets)



poll are playing in regional tournaments. Seven teams (Solon, Cincinnati St. Xavier, Trotwood-Madison, Cincinnati Elder, Toledo St. John's, Strongsville, Lakewood St. Edward) quailed for the regional in 2006. Lakewood St. Edward and Columbus Northland are undefeated teams in D1.

REGIONAL

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: #9 Canton GlenOak is the only ranked team at the JAR. GlenOak eliminated #10 Warren Harding in a district semifinal. This is the third straight trip to the regional tournament for Solon. 7'1" Kosta Koufos (OSU) leads GlenOak with help from Mark Quinn. 6'9" Dallas Lauderdale (OSU) paces Solon who had 6'7" Reggie Keely transfer to Bedford at midseason. Kendall Holt and Jermale Hines lead Cleveland Glenville while Joe Pope, Robert Johnson, and Ramel Mitchell are top players for Akron Firestone.

Semifinals – Canton GlenOak over Solon; Akron Firestone over Cleveland Glenville

Final – Canton GlenOak over Akron Firestone

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #2 Trotwood-Madison and #8 Cincinnati Elder are ranked teams at the Cintas Center. Cincinnati St. Xavier and Trotwood-Madison have three straight district titles to their credit. Trotwood-Madison lost 63-33 to Canton McKinley in the 2006 state championship game. Chris Wright (Dayton) and Duane Morgan are top players for Trotwood-Madison. Walt Gibler is the big gun for St. X. Kyle Rudolph is the top player for Elder while 6'9" Yancy Gates leads Withrow.

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Cincinnati St. Xavier; Cincinnati Elder over Cincinnati Withrow

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Cincinnati Elder

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS: #4 Columbus Northland, #6 Newark, and #7 Cincinnati Moeller are ranked teams at the Barn. Upper Arlington eliminated #5 Dublin Scioto in a district semifinal. Greg Avery is the top player for Newark while Devon Moore and Jared Sullinger lead Northland. Troy Tabler (Wright State) and Quinn McDowell lead Moeller. Matt Hutton and Chris Sullivan are top players for Upper Arlington

Semifinals – Newark over Columbus Northland; Cincinnati Moeller over Upper Arlington

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Newark

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: #1 Lakewood St. Edward is the lone ranked team in the Toledo regional. Toledo St. John's defeated #3 Toledo Libbey for a district title. St. Ed's has three consecutive district titles. Toledo St. John's is the defending regional champion. Joe Jakubowski (Rice) and Michael Taylor lead St. John's with Luke Kraus and

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Jesse Wohl the top players for Findlay. 6'8" Delvon Roe, 6'8" Tom Pritchard, and 6'5" Kyle Hubbard lead St. Ed's. Nate Korinchak and Danny Kelly pace Strongsville. The semifinal between Strongsville and Lakewood St. Edward will be played at the Canton Civic Center while St. John's and Findlay will meet in a semifinal at the University of Toledo. The final will be played at UT's Savage Hall.

Semifinals – Toledo St. John's over Findlay; Lakewood St. Edward over Strongsville

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

STATE

D1 will close out the 2007 state tournament playing the Friday night games and the late Saturday game.

Final Four – Canton GlenOak, Trotwood-Madison, Cincinnati Moeller, Lakewood St. Edward

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Canton GlenOak; Lakewood St. Edward over Cincinnati Moeller

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Lakewood St. Edward

This closes the book on Trail Trash for another year. Try not to laugh too hard at some of these picks. We appreciate your support and value any feedback. The opinions expressed are those of the Swami. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, contact davey1@davey1.com. See you in Columbus.