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H I G H S C H O O L W R E S T L I N G

AA

F O R E C A S T

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INTRODUCTION

The object of these annual reports encompasses two basic goals. First, is to acquaint everyone with the basic character of each weight class, and identify the participants who are likely to play a major role in its resolution. In addition, each regional is examined as to whom its representatives might be. Second, is to stimulate interest in the whole state tournament process throughout the state. Natural accuracy is also of primary concern so care is taken to develop the most comprehensive list possible of outstanding wrestlers, though of necessity, the evaluation of their final place is, in part, subjective.

In terms of caliber of wrestling this is, perhaps, a somewhat stronger than average year in Ohio. Much of this is due to the maturation of competitors in the upper weights--many of whom have wrestled at the state level for three years. Upper weight competitors like Holman, Moxley, Potokar, Inderlied, the Sullivans, Welch, Cameron and a number of others make this an outstanding recruiting year for those interested in the upper weights. Naturally, there are the usual superstars--maybe a few more than usual--such as Goad, Strauss, Hoy, and Patrick that makes wrestling such a rewarding sport.

The major change in 1985 has been the quest for improvement in last year's introductory regional format. There is no question that many of the flaws have been eliminated such as two-man districts in "AAA," one round on Friday night, and the raffling of regional sites in Toledo. Regular readers of this report are well aware of my lack of sympathy for those in Northeast Ohio who expect some sort of qualifying advantage because they possess most of the best "AAA" wrestlers. However, common equity suggests that the configuration of the redrawn Mentor Regional should be looked at in anticipation of 1986. The current north-south split should be reinvestigated since it has led to a regional that penalizes too many individuals for geographical rather than wrestling defects. There is no question that travel times can remain at current levels with a differently, fairer assignment of schools.

At the same time, we ought to be reevaluating the wrestle-back used at the district, regional and state level. The requirement of losing to a finalist before being allowed in the consolation rounds is archaic and unfair. Every year fewer tournaments held in this state use such a rule. Instead, most have opted for the much fairer procedure of permitting wrestlers into the consolation if the competitor defeating them makes the semi-finals. It adds only one round to the tournament, but pays off in fairer placements.

One last item. It appears that each year, more and more coaches get this report. One thing that would really help me is if they would send me bracket sheets for tournaments that they enter-- particularly the sectionals and districts this year. That is a good way to get this report mailed to you when it is first prepared. My address is:

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"AA"

During the past few years, this classification has provided us with most of the exciting team races and many of the most memorable bouts. That is because there are good teams and outstanding individuals from every corner of the state, and no one team or even several teams have been able to consistently dominate. For example, since the three-class system was initiated in 1976, only 3 "AAA" high schools have won state crowns as compared to 7 "AA" high schools.

As always the team title is wide open with at least half a dozen schools having a reasonable chance of winning. Last year it was highly embarrassing that Barnesville--a team I had not listed in my Top Ten--went on to snare the team title. I loved it anyway because it was heartening to see an Eastern District school cop the crown. When two great wrestlers battle not only for an individual state crown, but also for team laurels, it really creates tremendous excitement. During the past few years, most of this kind of action has been provided in "AA."

98#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ JOHN PURCELL (Streetsboro)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. Cassidy (Coventry) | 10. ✓ Tinney (Rossford) |
| 3. Wilhelm (Bath) | 11. Shocklee (ASV) |
| 4. ✓ Moats (Circleville). | 12. ✓ Burns (Reading) |
| 5. Kruse (Bishop Ready) | 13. Reynolds (Stritch) |
| 6. ✓ Blunt (Willard) | 14. ✓ DiDomenico (Chanel) |
| 7. Landis (Casstown Miami East) | 15. Manger (W. Jefferson) |
| 8. Anders (Teays Valley) | 16. ✓ Grandison (Claymont) |
| 9. ✓ Schade (Buckeye) | 17. Letzner (Highland) |
| | 18. ✓ Carter (Preble Shawnee) |

This is a weight class that each season generally introduces an entire new crop of talented freshmen and sophomores. This year, however, it appears that three seniors will stand as the early favorites to dominate the 98# class. At the top of the list is the redoubtable John Purcell who came within a whisker of capturing the crown last year. His 9-8 semi-final upset loss was as heart-breaking as it was unexpected since he already owned a regional win over the eventual champ, Eric Burnett. A tremendous pinner, he has dominated every wrestler he has met this year and his only problem has been a lack of good competition.

The Northeast District also returns state qualifier Cassidy--a runaway winner of the prestigious Medina Tourney (4 falls and a superior decision). However, Purcell has handled him easily in the

past, and Cassidy has already suffered an upset defeat this year. Behind this duo I favor Schade and Shocklee for the last two spots, although both DiDomenico and Letzner certainly will be strong contenders. This group should do very well in Columbus.

At Fostoria, the senior Wilhelm would seem to be the favorite for the regional title and a high state place. However, the combination of a weak schedule and weight problems make him vulnerable to the upset. This regional has good depth with Blunt, Tinney, Reynolds, Kruse and Manger, all possessing good credentials. As is too often the case at this weight though, look for the big upset by an unheralded sophomore or freshman.

Moats, Anders and Grandison stand out at the Lancaster Regional. I may be overlooking other top contenders, but this trio stands well above the rest of the folks there, and is competitive with the rest of the state. Both Moats and Anders--who just failed to qualify for States last year--should prove to be formidable opponents for all but Purcell.

The Southwest Regional has not really been a factor at this weight class in the past three years, garnering only a pair of sixths during that time period--and that should continue this year. Those listed--Landis, Burns, and Carter--appear to be the three best with McCombs (Springfield Northwestern), Amos (Brookville) and Fry (Bethel-Tate) as possible qualifiers. None of this group should be a real factor in Columbus.

105#

⑨ PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ MARK MARINELLI (Columbus DeSales)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Burnett (Oberlin) | 11. Moor (Bryan) |
| 3. ✓ Marder (Chanel) | 12. Milum (Upper Sandusky) |
| 4. ✓ Young (Steubenville) | 13. ✓ DeLande (St. Clairsville) |
| 5. ✓ Silvers (Eaton) | 14. Moyer (Casstown Miami East) |
| 6. Bell (Copley) | 15. ✓ Nguyen (Lima CC) |
| 7. Mitchell (Dayton Northridge) | 16. Foss (Ontario) |
| 8. Marczika (Bishop Ready) | 17. Gregan (Twinsburg) |
| 9. Krantz (Beachwood) | 18. ✓ Williams (Hillsboro) |
| 10. Cunningham (Deer Park) | 19. Timpe (Swanton) |

This is an exceptionally fine and deep weight class featuring five former state placers and another six state qualifiers. This

wide dispersal of talent probably portends many upsets at both the regional and state level.

Notwithstanding this, it still seems likely that my top three choices will dominate the competition. All still remain underclassmen this year even though they all placed 3rd or better in 1984. Marinelli, my choice both this year and last, is a blend of strength and speed who still does not fully realize how good he can be. His losses are generally the result of his "sitting on" a small lead rather than taking control of the bout in the early going.

Burnett upset Marinelli last year at Columbus in one of the best matches of the tourney 6-4 in overtime. He is lightning quick and superb on his feet. He emerged last season as something of an unknown except for those close to age-group wrestling--where he has substantial experience. He lost in both district and regional competition last year, so his elevation to state champion was rather unexpected.

A new element in this brew is Brian Marder--3rd at 98# in "AAA" last year--and just down from 119#. A solid, consistent wrestler, he is probably the least likely of the three to fall victim to an upset. His biggest problem may be coping with the demands of making 105#. Nonetheless, he has the tools to cope with Marinelli's strength and Burnett's speed.

Since Burnett and Marder emerge from the same regional, one will be lucky enough to have drawn away from both the other two. That could be an important element in the final resolution of this weight. Other outstanding competitors in the Northwest District include Bell, Krantz, Gregan, and Meadows (Ravenna Southeast). I particularly like Bell if he chooses to compete at this weight. He could well prove to be an unexpected factor at the regional level. A long-shot for state qualification could be Gainer (Manchester).

The Northwest is also loaded with strong competitors chasing after Marinelli. Marczika was 3rd in "A" last year, but has had injury problems. Nguyen qualified last year, but there are so many 105's close to him. Of these Moor seems like the best possibility to do very well. I have also listed the improving Foss and the veteran Timpe as possible state qualifiers. Pay careful heed to the sophomore Milum just down from 112#. He is the kind of wrestler where a hot weekend could vault him over many older and more experienced wrestlers as witnessed by his impressive win at the Tiffin Christmas Tourney. It's strickly a long-shot possibility for Keyes (Olentangy), Miracle (River View), and Mullett (Macysville).

Young should lead the Lancaster contingent and should be in line for a medium to high place in Columbus. State qualifiers DeLande and Williams should also make it to state competition but the latter seems very vulnerable to an upset. He has not wrestled at a state caliber level as of late.

In the Southwest, Silvers and Mitchell are powerful competitors. Mitchell "pitched" two shut-outs last year at Columbus until Burnett and Marinelli walloped him back-to-back. He ended up 6th. Silvers may have an edge on him this year. Other possibilities are state qualifier Moyer and Cunningham.

112#

① PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓DAN DONOVAN (Chanel)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. ✓Nitz (Canal Fulton NW) | 11. ✓Mikula (Bellbrook) |
| 3. ✓Bell (Barnesville) | 12. Racer (Ottawa-Glandorf) |
| 4. Leemaster (Bloomdale Elmwood) | 13. Tresch (Olmsted Falls) |
| 5. ✓A. DiSabato (Bishop Ready) | 14. ✓Hodge (Bethel-Tate) |
| 6. ✓Staniford (Northwestern) | 15. ✓Bailey (Ravenna Southeast) |
| 7. Woods (Wooster Triway) | 16. Savoia (Highland) |
| 8. ✓Thurn (Clyde) | 17. St. Clair (Hamilton Ross) |
| 9. Kristoff (Grand Valley) | 18. Scheufler (Castalia Margaretta) |
| 10. ✓E. DiSabato (Columbus DeSales) | 19. Schaeffer (Brookville) |

This is a very geographically unbalanced weight class. The two northern regionals are loaded with state qualifiers, former place-winners, and promising newcomers. The southern areas seem not to have the same talent level with Bell being the one exception.

Standing above everyone, however, is last year's "AAA" state champ at 105#, Dan Donovan. The Chanel junior was also 2nd as a freshman so he has enormous experience to go along with his strong determination. Recently, however, he has not appeared as aggressive on his feet as he'll need to be on the tourney trail. Nevertheless, he has to be the clear choice at this weight.

Not that far behind Donovan is Doug Nitz, the excellent senior from Canal Fulton. He was 5th last year at this weight--losing late to Menchaca and in overtime to McCumber. His biggest drawback will be the lack of rigorous regular season scheduling.

It will surprise many that I've rated the virtually unknown Trevor Staniford so high, but he should emerge in much the same manner as his state titlelist teammate, John Huber, did last year. His record the past two years has been most impressive despite the fact that he was unable to participate in the state qualifying process last year.

The other Northeast qualifier should be either Woods or Kristoff--both state qualifiers last year--but there are so many other possible claimants. Bailey and Tresch are just down from 119# and have competed well at the higher weight. Savoia is somewhat erratic, but has strong upset potential. Even beyond this group are possibilities such as Hatfield (Elyria Catholic), Hach (Twinsburg), and Wilkens (Kenston). Keep a particular eye on Hach from this group.

The Northwest Regional has a similar glut of talented 112#'s. Leemaster and Thurn are former state qualifiers while Eric DiSabato, Racer, and Scheufler have solid credentials. One wrestler to really watch closely, though, is the heralded freshman, Adam DiSabato. One has heard so much the past year about another DiSabato from the famous Columbus wrestling family, but he has performed well under that pressure. He seems to be a very tough-minded kid who just doesn't know when to quit. Mix in good genes and fast reflexes and that could win a lot of bouts in Columbus.

In the Southwest, state qualifiers Mikula and St. Clair will be joined by such as Williams, Schaeffer, and Hodge. Frankly this group is unlikely to inspire terror in the competitors from the North, and are unlikely to garner anything but the lowest of places should they receive a favorable draw. One darkhorse is state qualifier Callaway (Jamestown Greenview) out all year with an injury, but due back in time for the tournaments.

The perceptive will note that only one of the nineteen top-rated wrestlers exit from the Lancaster Regional. But that one, Shawn Bell, looms large in evaluating the final results at this weight and, perhaps, in the team competition. Enormously strong, he cruised through his half-bracket before being crushed by Tatonetti in the finals. This time it will be a much tougher road to the finals, but Bell should have good pairings since he is almost a sure regional champ. I was really impressed with the way he handled Leemaster last year and three performances like that would put him in the finals against Donovan. The rest of the Lancaster qualifiers at 112# will strictly be bracket-fillers. Possible qualifiers are Calis (St. Clairsville), Mathews (Ridgewood), and White (Logan Elm). Of this group I like Calis the best.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ MITCH TATONETTI (Kenston)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Branham (West Jefferson) | 11. Weiner (Bishop Ready) |
| 3. ✓ Crockett (Lewistown Indian Lake) | 12. ✓ Isaac (Twinsburg) |
| 4. ✓ Gier (Upper Sandusky) | 13. Stillion (Byerville Meadowbrook) |
| 5. ✓ Martin (Elyria Catholic) | 14. Sheehan (Highland) |
| 6. Theriot (Olmsted Fall) | 15. Uribes (Wauseon) |
| 7. ✓ Lewis (Tipp City) | 16. Powers (Orrville) |
| 8. Torzok (Percy) | 17. Mathers (Cardinal Stritch) |
| 9. Geyer (Aurora) | 18. Frazee (Doylestown) |
| 10. ✓ Sigler (Union Local) | 19. ✓ Donathan (Mt. Orab West. Brown) |
| | 20. Mullet (Marysville) |

The Northeast District is loaded at this weight. Nine of my top twenty wrestlers exit from this district--and the shame is that only four will qualify for States. The competition will be absolutely brutal at the regional level.

The best of this group is defending state champ, Mitch Tatonetti, who had a brilliant state tourney in 1984. This year he has not been nearly as effective--mainly because he looks too much for big upper body throws instead of mixing it up and attacking the legs as well. Still I see him as a tournament wrestler who will rise to the occasion and defend his title. Frankly, his biggest problem may be to avoid an upset at his crowded regional.

The other eight listed from the Northeast are all very close in ability with only marginal differences in overall rating. They all have the look of low place-winners. I've gone with three former state qualifiers--Martin, Theriot and Torzok--as the most likely candidates to join Tatonetti in Columbus. I particularly like Martin, but he failed to make it to the second period in his only state bout last year. Torzok and Theriot are both solid performers who seem a little less prone to the upset. However, it bothers me that Smithville champ Powers and Medina runner-up Geyer fall outside the qualifying circle in this analysis. Both have hit "highs" that could carry them not only to Columbus, but to a placement position. The wrestler, though, who could provide real fireworks is Shawn Sheehan. He has the potential to string upsets including Tatonetti at the Regional or any of the champs from the other areas.

At Fostoria, Branham and Gier should provide a strong one-two punch. Both have had outstanding campaigns, and Branham, in particular, seems a solid bet for a high place. Defending state "A" champ Weiner has moved up to "AA" competition this year, but I do not foresee his earlier successes. Branham has twice crushed him and he

may have trouble even qualifying for Columbus. Two other solid performers in that area are Mathers and Uribes while below them are a whole raft of journeymen wrestlers such as Mullet and Crawford (Perkins).

State runner-up Crockett heads a solid Southwest contingent. A real unknown at tourney time and a 4th place regional qualifier. Crockett missed by one point and maybe five seconds of capturing the 112# crown. His closest challenger should be Lewis who defeated him for 3rd at the regional and has again wrestled well this year. These two stand far above other competitors from that area such as Donathan.

At Lancaster Sean Bell, second to Tatonetti last year, has moved down--perhaps temporarily--to 112#. Should he return to this weight he would have to be rated in the top five. Otherwise Sigler, who split two matches with Bell is probably the top person out of Lancaster. State qualifier Stillon will certainly repeat last year's trip to Columbus, but after him matters are pretty uncertain as to the last two qualifiers. Perhaps Takach (Steubenville) or Carpenter (Barnesville) have a shot at those spots.

126

⑩ PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓MATT McCUMBER (Rossford)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. ✓Schneider (Beachwood) | 11. Gentile (Columbus DeSales) |
| 3. ✓Ohl (Ontario) | 12. Fallona (Granville) |
| 4. ✓DiSabato (Bishop Ready) | 13. ✓Burchett (Tipp City) |
| 5. ✓Chaddock (Minerva) | 14. Hatfield (Willard) |
| 6. ✓Collica (Twinsburg) | 15. Philiphs (Hillsboro) |
| 7. ✓Thomas (Lexington) | 16. Fisher (Harrison) |
| 8. ✓Polinsky (St. Clairsville) | 17. ✓Speed (Chagrin Falls) |
| 9. Schenk (Casstown Miami East) | 18. Layne (Ironton) |
| 10. Martin (Orrville) | 19. Sako (Wellington) |

This is one of those frustrating weight classes where literally any one of a dozen competitors could win the state title without it being called an upset. It's also a strong class featuring twelve former state qualifiers scattered throughout all four regionals. The rating shown above is the fourth I've drawn up on consecutive days, and each one varies substantially from its predecessors. It shows the real indecision I have about this weight.

My choice, today, is Matt McCumber, the scrappy senior from Rossford who has placed 4th and 3rd in Ohio the last two years. He

lost by one point to the eventual champ at 112# in the semi-finals last year, so he has been exposed to the enormous pressure wrestlers face in Columbus. As good as McCumber is, he does not face an easy path just to qualify for his third state trip. Also at Fostoria are five other contenders with solid credentials. Ohl and DiSabato are both outstanding juniors with previous state experience. Ohl suffered a narrow loss to my 132# choice, Brian Bartos, in last year's first round at state while DiSabato was "A" state champ at 112# two years ago. Ohl has been very successful this season at 132# while DiSabato's performance consistently confounds my efforts to determine how good he really is. Thomas is another strong performer who won the Gorman and holds a victory over McCumber 16-13. Hatfield was 3rd at 98# two years ago--ironically defeating McCumber by one point to capture that spot. Finally, Gentile looked impressive at the Brecksville making the finals before dislocating his elbow. Completely recovered, he is tough to beat. It should be a real donnybrook at this weight in Fostoria and if Grossenbacher (West Jefferson) has a hot weekend, things will get even more confused.

The Northeast Regional has much the same look. Schneider, Chaddock, and Martin were all state qualifiers although none won a bout. Mix in Collica--down from 138# last year and the steady Speed, and once again it's difficult to pick out the qualifiers from the nonqualifiers. Schneider is conservative and a great rider so he should continue his winning ways. Chaddock was 3rd at the Medina and looked very good. He should last longer than the 65 seconds he got at Columbus last year. Martin is not well known, but all he does is win and win. The biggest puzzle, though, is Collica. He has beaten some outstanding kids, and then not done so well against mediocrities. If this means he wrestles to the level of the competition, he'll do very well, indeed, on the tournament trail. Besides Speed as a possible choice to upset one of the above four for a state berth, also remember names like Schultz (Kenston) and Sako.

At Lancaster state qualifiers Fallona, Philipps, Polinsky, and Layne all return at this weight. I like Polinsky best and I think he could easily win a medium to low place. He already holds four career victories over state 4th Steve Pryor--now at 132#. Again there are some nonqualifiers who could knock out one or, maybe, two of the top four here. Bragg (Morgan), Potts (Philo), and Somers (Claymont) are not that far behind that top quartet.

Finally, in the Southeast the quality level seems to drop off. Schenk has beaten Burchett and Fisher and seems clearly strongest. Still I wouldn't be surprised to see Burchett move ahead during the last third of this season. Fisher, a former state qualifier, seems to have dropped a little off the pace of the other two. There is, however, little depth at this weight so these three should qualify in a relatively easy manner.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓BRIAN BARTOS (Buckeye)

⑦ TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. Zoccole (Brookfield) | 10. ✓Volpe (Columbus DeSales) |
| 3. ✓Pryor (Barnesville) | 11. Goolsby (Hillsboro) |
| 4. Garner (Bloomdale Elmwood) | 12. Spurlock (Tipp City) |
| 5. Sibcy (Camden Preble Shawnee) | 13. Paonessa (ASV) |
| 6. Cole (Jefferson) | 14. Wyer (Philo) |
| 7. ✓Kriz (Ravenna Southeast) | 15. ✓Mendicino (Fairview) |
| 8. Huffman (Lima Central Catholic) | 16. ✓Shore (Springfield NW) |
| 9. ✓Hibbs (Jefferson Union) | 17. Lamb (Evergreen) |

This is not a particularly strong weight class. It's surprising how many of the above listed wrestlers are long-time starters who have always been just on the fringe of stardom. One exception to this rule is Brian Bartos, who established himself as a bona-fide star with a strong third last year at Columbus, and has built on that success this year. His only loss in the past two years was to Wlodarz in last year's semi-finals. One place he stands out above his competition is his ability on his feet.

Zoccole is an extremely experienced wrestler who has already twice qualified for Columbus. This may be his break-through year where he takes charge of the competition. He was extremely impressive at the Howland Invitational. These two--Bartos and Zoccole--dominate the Northwest Regional, but Cole, a real unknown, will surprise many. Already an upset winner over Jeff Whitehair, he has made enormous improvement this year. Kriz is my choice as the fourth qualifier, as this experienced wrestler has performed impressively this year. I look for Paonessa and Medicino to be just on the fringe of state qualification--and, of course, the most tempting target for an upset will be the inexperienced Cole.

Pryor is a brutal mat wrestler whose 4th place finish last year provided enough unexpected points to give Barnesville the state title. If he grabs that initial takedown he can be very tough to beat. Goolsby, Wyer, and Hibbs are the best choices for the other qualifying spots, but a low place is the best they could hope to garner. Kurth (Bellaire) has an outside chance of making Columbus.

In the Northwest, state qualifier Garner heads a weak and lackluster field. He has had a successful season and certainly is in the hunt for a place. His supporting cast should probably include such as Huffman, Volpe, and, perhaps, someone like Lamb. Two other possible contenders are Rader (Lakota) and Watson (Olentangy) Unlike most other weight classes, this northwestern contingent will not be feared in Columbus.

There is much the same story in the Southwest. State qualifier Sibcy is the nominal leader of this qualifying group, but Spurlock and Shore may surpass him by regional time. There is not much depth in this area so that whoever the forth qualifier is will have a short tournament expectancy in Columbus. Ott (Eaton) or Wick (Springboro) could be that short-lived soul.

138#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓LUKE GRAZIANI (Columbus DeSales)

(11) TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Wlodarz (Stritch) | 10. Hagen (Kenston) |
| 3. ✓ Brown (Manchester) | 11. ✓ Rhude (Hillsboro) |
| 4. ✓ Reese (Springfield NW) | 12. ✓ Iams (Barnesville) |
| 5. ✓ Smith (Ravenna Southeast) | 13. ✓ Barron (Reading) |
| 6. Sambuco (Martins Ferry) | 14. Napoli (Col. Station) |
| 7. Esterkamp (Mason) | 15. ✓ Jones (Otsego) |
| 8. ✓ Kosla (Chanel) | 16. Meyers (St. Paris Graham) |
| 9. ✓ Perdue (Huron) | 17. Jennings (Buckeye Brilliant No.) |

This is a first-rate weight class dominated by the two senior stars both exiting from Fostoria. Since they should finish 1-2 or 1-3 there (depending on the draw), they will be in an ideal position to meet again in the state finals. Both were runners-up in 1984 and represent Catholic schools that have been abiding powerhouses in "AA". I've selected Graziani because he has held weight while Wlodarz has moved up two classes, and because he has been brilliant wrestling a more difficult schedule. To my mind Graziani could have easily been the outstanding wrestler at Brecksville because he dominated the tourney's strongest weight class. However, victory is not assured because Wlodarz is a tremendously tough competitor who matches up reasonably well with Graziani. The rest of the field at Fostoria lags well behind this duo with Perdue and Jones, perhaps, a smidgen ahead of the rest of the field. However, both Mahnke (Wauseon) and Green (Marysville) are certainly capable of capturing a qualifying spot. Mahnke, in particular, may be underrated in this analysis.

The Northeast regional is also very strong. State qualifiers Brown and Smith have strong placement potential and Brown may be the only one in the rest of the state with a shot at upsetting either Graziani or Wlodarz. Brown won the prestigious Medina Invitational at 145# defeating a strong field. Kosla missed by one match qualifying for Columbus as a "AAA" 145#er. He has just dropped to 138# and will be very strong at this weight. Look for him to become much more formidable the last day of a tourney when he can eat. Hagen is

really an excellent sophomore with two years of varsity experience. I look for him to qualify this year, and, with work, place in 1986 and 1987. Napoli, Davis (Perry), and Arto (Coventry) are other threats in this regional.

Reese is a very strong contender from the Southwestern Regional. He placed 4th last year posting wins over two regional champs. Currently, he is 16-0 with 14 falls. Such domination suggests that he may have trouble adjusting to the close, hard matches that state competition so abundantly provides. There is a big fall-off after him in this area with Esterkamp, Barron, and Meyers more than a respectable step behind. None of that group will place. A long-shot choice might be Peters (Tipp City).

Every year Martins Ferry turns out one state caliber wrestler and this year it's Scott Sambuco. He should win the Lancaster Regional and have a reasonable shot at a low state place. Rhude has just recently dropped to 138# and has started winning big, while Iams could become a crucial element in Barnesville's team hopes. Jennings, 3rd last year in "A" will not do as well in this classification. He lacks the needed quickness to counter the speed of the top people. Boyd (Licking Valley) and Mlynek (Bellaire) are two other state possibilities. My feeling is that the qualifiers from this area are just not good enough on their feet to compete with those from other regionals.

145#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ PAT HOY (Fairview)

③
TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Patrick (Upper Sandusky) | 8. ✓ Brady (Milton-Union) |
| 3. ✓ A. Peters (Cardinal Stritch) | 9. Amburgey (Bishop Ready) |
| 4. Dunn (Oak Harbor) | 10. Slazyk (Indian Hills) |
| 5. ✓ M. Peters (Claymont) | 11. Henderson (Copley) |
| 6. Sampley (Tipp City) | 12. ✓ Kiko (Louisville St. Thomas) |
| 7. ✓ Durieux (Hebron Lakewood) | 13. ✓ Ferrell (St. Paris Graham) |

The top five at this weight class make it one of the most exciting in the entire state. It should provide a number of long anticipated match-ups that leave any true wrestling fan almost breathless, since the first three rated boys are all among the top ten seniors in the state.

How shall we sort it out? Defending state champion Pat Hoy is lightning quick and has amazing balance, but his best trait is

outstanding mental toughness. He is able to go out and wrestle a super match every time.

Brian Patrick, 3rd at 138# last year, after a narrow 12-10 loss to Hoy, is a diamond-in-the-rough. Twice a placer, he is probably the best pure athlete in this group, and has been the nucleus around which Upper Sandusky has built a fine team. He is undefeated at 167# and 155# this year, and will be an enormous 145#. He undoubtedly dropped to get away from Goad, but as weak as 167# is he would probably be the favorite there. It will take an all-out effort for Hoy to defeat him.

Aaron Peters, upset in last year's regional had an outstanding summer establishing himself as one of the best in the country in both freestyle and Greco-Roman. His only defeat this year was a 3-2 loss at 155# administered by two-time state champ Greg Goad.

Sam Dunn transferred from Findlay to Oak Harbor for this season presumably to utilize Greg Goad as a workout partner. He has already won the Perrysburg Open and finished a strong third at Medina. He is the most likely to show real improvement as the season progresses as he adjusts to new coaching.

Matt Peters finished 5th last year at 138# and is the second brother in what promises to be a long line of outstanding wrestlers at Claymont. He is probably as good as Dunn but the lack of great workout partners and a weaker schedule drop him to fifth in this rating.

The draw could be crucial at Columbus. The second and third place finishers at Fostoria--say Peters and Dunn--will be together on one side of the bracket with the odds favoring Hoy to be in the half, too. If that is the case, it will give the Fostoria champ a real edge. Hoy would then have to beat Dunn, Peters, and Patrick in succession--a Herculean task. Still I think that's exactly what will happen. Hoy will be too quick for Dunn and outscore Peters on his feet. I believe the real challenge will be Patrick. Should that be the final it could well go down as one of the great ones in tournament history.

This quintet should dominate, but the Southwest Regional has a number of solid wrestlers who should challenge for a low place. Sampley and Slazyk were state qualifiers last year and Sampley impressed in his tough opening round loss. However, to give you an idea of the depth in this area Brady has already defeated Sampley this year, and Ferrell has been strong although admittedly against somewhat inferior opposition. Besides these four this regional has several other good wrestlers such as Eisner (Loveland).

At Fostoria, the trio of Patrick, Peters and Dunn should stand well above the competition. However, Dennison (Fostoria), Asmus (Otsego), and particularly, Amburgey, should be the top challengers

for the last qualifying spot. I think it's possible that all the way through the Regional and State competition the top group may become so concerned with each other that they could fall prey to an early round upset. That often happens in an unbalanced weight class like this where the top people stand far above the rest of the field.

Both the Northeast and Lancaster Regionals are very weak except for Hoy in the former and Peters and Durieux in the latter. I've had trouble coming up with names to even list as possible qualifiers in both areas. It's quite likely that pretty much unknown wrestlers will fill out the qualifying spots in each area. Names like Kiko, Lurch (Kenston), Winovich (Chagrin Falls), and Fink (West Branch) are some possible names in the Northeast area, while Raber (West Holmes), Hart (Union Local) and Ramsey (River Local) may do well at Lancaster.

155#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ GREG GOAD (Oak Hills)

① TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Stankus (Tipp City) | 8. Robinson (Circleville) |
| 3. ✓ McGlone (Marysville) | 9. Saylor (Columbia Station) |
| 4. ✓ Hanchin (Perkins) | 10. Mathys (North Union) |
| 5. Romp (Rossford) | 11. ✓ Cottrell (Loveland) |
| 6. Bowman (Bishop Ready) | 12. Moore (Chanel) |
| 7. ✓ DeFraine (Olmsted Falls) | 13. Sawka (Jefferson Union) |
| | 14. ✓ Szwec (Brookville) |

Now that Peters and Patrick have moved down to 145# it will be strictly a one-man show. It's kind of a shame because we all would like to see Goad really tested, so that we can truly appreciate how good he really is. Like pairs skating a masterpiece can only be created by two superior talents, and there is nobody here who can push Goad to a higher level of performance. Goad, of course, has been a prodigy finishing 2nd as a freshman, and then winning two state titles since then. He was enormously impressive at the Medina Tourney, and is one of the very top senior prospects in Ohio.

Sometimes one can only regret the vagaries of fate. Tony McCormick--a one point loser to Goad in the state finals last year--moved to Florida eliminating, perhaps, the outstanding junior in the state this year. He was of a level that would have tested Goad to the very depths of his skills and talent. That move will also cost DeSales the team title.

The Fostoria Regional is dominant at this weight--with of course, Goad leading the way, but also including five of the top six rated boys. The competition should be ferocious for the last three

qualifying spots. McGlone, down from 167#, qualified at that weight last year, and will be an important factor. I'm surprised that he made this severe cut since 167# appears so much easier. Hanchin and Romp have had great seasons and both surely deserve a state spot this year, but it won't be easy. Bowman, only a sophomore, is amazingly strong, and undefeated at 155#. Mathys, another 1984 state qualifier, faces a long road to duplicate that achievement. Considering the quality of the other regionals it's kind of a pity that two of these boys will have their season on regional weekend.

Stankus, the hard-working senior is in the hunt for a medium place and leads a very representative Southwestern Regional. His only loss has been to "AAA" contender Stickleman. Cottrell and Szewc look like other possible qualifiers, but keep an eye on Hoffman (Lewistown Indian Lake) and Sayers (Springfield Shawnee). This is the second consecutive weight class where the Southwest should be a factor.

At Lancaster, Sawka is looking to erase the frustration of twice losing bouts last year that could have qualified him for Columbus. He will be joined by Robinson, a regional quarter-finalist last year at 167#. The other two spots are wide open with Anderegg (Claymont) as a prime threat. Also look for Spencer (Belpre) and Reed (Byersville Meadowbrook) to play a role at this regional.

The Northwest Regional is uncharacteristically weak with DeFraine appearing to have the only placement possibilities. He is up from 126#. Saylor is down from 167# and should surprise some unwary 155's although he cannot really challenge the better boys from the Fostoria Regional. Jeff Moore is beginning to pick up the baton left by his state champion brother, Jon--now at Michigan State. Because of his rapid improvement and the weak nature of this weight class in the Northeast he could qualify. Other possibilities include Minillo (Elyria Catholic), Cageao (Kenston), and Williams (Louisville St. Thomas). Several of these boys, particularly Cageao, seem better in the dual meet setting and will have to reset their mental gears to do well at tourney time.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ ERNIE SLONE (Milan Edison)

⑪ TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Current (Steubenville) | 10. Lindley (Eaton) |
| 3. Wearsch (Wellington) | 11. ✓ Garrison (Hillsboro) |
| 4. ✓ Hatfield (Dayton Northridge) | 12. ✓ Meyers (Dixie) |
| 5. ✓ Platzke (Oak Harbor) | 13. Mulhollen (Ravenna Southeast) |
| 6. ✓ Skinner (Milton-Union) | 14. ✓ Henessey (Brookfield) |
| 7. ✓ Lipnos (Twinsburg) | 15. Cameron (Upper Sandusky) |
| 8. ✓ Ackerman (Cardinal Stritch) | 16. Rountree (Springfield NW) |
| 9. ✓ Auble (Orrville) | 17. Love (Byersville Meadowbrook) |

This is a very weak weight with very little to recommend it. There are no obvious standouts, and many of the names listed here are basically the result of guesswork. It seems apparent that the wrestlers who have hot weekends in Columbus can really move up in this mass of mediocrity.

A possible exception to this gloomy forecast is Ernie Slone--5th last year at this weight. A solid performer, he has defeated a number of the highly rated boys listed at this and the previous weight. His steadiness suggests that if no one gets a "hot hand" in Columbus he has to be rated a slight favorite to take it all.

Slone along with Platzke and Ackerman appear to be the dominant forces at the Postoria Regional. The latter wrestle in the shadow of their more famous teammates--like Goad and Peters--but they have manufactured successful seasons. Platzke, in particular, seems to come on with a rush late in the season and he may be somewhat underrated in this analysis. Top contenders for the wide-open fourth spot might be Cameron, Romp (Rossford), Janyia (Columbus DeSales) and maybe even Swank (Clear Fork)

Current, runner-up at Medina, is a solid second choice. It's kind of ironic that he and Slone met in the first round of the States last year with Slone triumphing, 8-4. Their next match-up could be for the state title. Garrison is really the only other 167#er at Lancaster so that there is little depth there. I was straining to find Love as a third choice and a fourth candidate eluded me altogether, although Briggs (Barnesville) could be such a wrestler.

There is no paucity of contenders in the Southwest, though. Hatfield has had an outstanding year and should place. Skinner and Lindley, up from 126#, are also strong candidates for a regional place. After that Meyers and Rountree should battle for the last spot. Grisez (Versailles) and Padgett (Mason) will be looking for the big upset to help their chances.

There is not a whole lot in the Northwest Regional. Lipnos has wrestled from 167# to 185# this year and last year won a state bout at 175#. At the moment he does not appear to be in that same form in 1985. I placed the more impressive Wearsch ahead of him based on two victories over Platzke and an unblemished record, besides. Auble, just down from 175# is my choice for the third spot and he could really help make a good team showing. Mulhollen and Henessey are strictly guesses for the other qualifying spots. A dark horse candidate might be Ware (Fairview) and the erratic Pemberton (Kenston).

175#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ MIKE RINI (Aurora)

⑨ TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Miller (Bexley) | 9. Cua (Columbus DeSales) |
| 3. ✓ Ziegler (Creston Norwayne) | 10. ✓ Winigman (Minerva) |
| 4. ✓ Smart (Springfield NW) | 11. ✓ Schell (Bishop Ready) |
| 5. ✓ Sciuva (Orange) | 12. Kemp (Oberlin) |
| 6. ✓ Schultz (Cardinal Stritch) | 13. ✓ Poe (St. Clairsville) |
| 7. ✓ Topp (Carlisle) | 14. Bray (Reading) |
| 8. ✓ Dixie (Perkins) | 15. Gaba (Olmsted Falls) |

While this weight is not as weak as 167#, it is still below normal in both quality and depth. One positive feature is that all four regionals have strong contenders for the title, although, as is often the case the two northern regionals have superior depth.

My choice, Mike Rini, has substantial varsity experience, but has never qualified for Columbus. His victory would give Aurora two consecutive titles at this weight as Jon Stratton cruised to an easy win last year. If Rini is to win, it will not be easy. He will have to win two or three nailbiters to take the crown, but I believe he can accomplish this. He has wrestled a top-flight schedule including such "AAA" stars as Funk and Rosemond.

There are other strong contenders in the Northeast. Ziegler was one of the four 167's who qualified for the State from the Orrville Sectional last year--and the only one not to place. He wrestles a weak schedule, but may be able to regain his competitive edge at this year's somewhat easier district. Sciuva has had an up-and-down career, but is a fierce mat wrestler from the top. Last year he pinned "AAA" state runner-up Pat Renz to win the Richmond Heights Tourney, yet failed to win a bout at his regional. This may be his year. Auble has been steady and is good in low-scoring bouts. He benefits from having Leeder for a work-out partner.

Right below this foursome are some interesting contenders. Winigman has beaten Sciuva among others, but did not look good at Medina. Gaba has had an exceptionally steady season and he will punish mistakes of any of the top wrestlers. Most intriguing is Kemp who has won several tournaments wrestling for a school I seem to overlook (such as Erik Burnett). He will probably turn out to be either much better or much worse than this top twelve rating.

Miller should dominate the Lancaster Regional. His only loss was a shocking pin at the hands of a much under-valued foe. That is not likely to happen again. State qualifier Poe wrestles a lot of high-scoring bouts, and that can be a real negative at the regional level. Charles Lytle (Steubenville) up from 155# has had good success, and could play a key role in Steubenville's hopes for a very high "AA" team finish. This is a wide-open regional at this weight and if he can qualify and score at Columbus it could make a big difference. Other possibilities are Hanby (Dresden Tri-Valley) and McDaniel (Claymont) if he returns to the line-up at this weight.

The Southwest should be dominated by Topp and Smart, and both have the potential to place at this weight class. Behind this duo are Bray (Reading) who spent last season behind Reading's fine upper-weights, but has done just as well himself this year. The fourth spot should be very wide open.

The Northwest area has a large number of relatively equal wrestlers and the real question will be how this group matches up with the rest of the state. I like Schultz and Dixie as placement threats, but you cannot overlook the experienced Cua and Schell. Others to watch are Pierce (Oak Harbor), Leeth (Upper Sandusky), and Slob (River Valley).

185#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ JACK LEEDER (Orrville)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Young (Steubenville) | 10. ✓ Moore (Rootstown) |
| 3. ✓ Michael (Marysville) | 11. Basinski (Elyria Catholic) |
| 4. ✓ Meyer (Reading) | 12. ✓ Kindle (Indian Hills) |
| 5. ✓ Cameron (Brookville) | 13. Sloboda (Marion Pleasant) |
| 6. Roschman (Swanton) | 14. ✓ Havens (Washington CH) |
| 7. May (Upper Sandusky) | 15. Warwick (Clyde) |
| 8. Robinson (Akron St. Vincent) | 16. ✓ Ross (Philo) |
| 9. ✓ Daiber (Cardinal Stritch) | 17. ✓ King (Byesville Meadowbrook) |

What I really anticipated seeing in 1985 was defending state champ Charlie Keenan match up one more time with Jack Leeder. Last year--in the quarter-finals--Keenan pulled out a heart-stopping 11-10 victory, and then cruised to the state title with Leeder notching a strong third. Unfortunately football recruiting squashed this rematch (more on that later), so that now Leeder stands alone at the top of the heap. The big blonde from Orrville is still only a junior, but what an awesome athlete. However, he does not wrestle a strong schedule and has not been pushed this year. This could hurt him when a close bout inevitably comes along. However, my guess is he won't have many close ones.

Brian Young, my second choice, is also an interesting story. Not willing or able to make 175#--where he qualified for Columbus in 1984--he intended to sit out the season. When Keenan was forced up to heavyweight, Young jumped back in and won the high-powered Medina Tourney in his first appearance. Talk about depth, Steubenville really had it at 185#. Still Young isn't a Keenan and I expect Leeder to triumph against a Steubenville wrestler this year. Remember both these boys are still only juniors.

Leeder exits from the Northeast Regional which is uncharacteristically weak at this weight. State qualifier Basinski is far behind Leeder, and may be ripe for an upset. It might come from the direction of Robinson or Moore--who, I have been assured by an unbiased source, has made rapid improvement this year. Leeder has beaten them both this year--Robinson at Copley 6-2 and Moore at Smithville 10-2. After that I'm not even coming with names at this weight. Maybe, Baier (Grand Valley) will pull a couple of upsets and qualify.

Young stands head and shoulders above his Lancaster Regional competition. Havens, Ross, and, perhaps, King or Mayhew (Barnesville) are viable candidates at this weight. I expect some dark horses from the Hartley District will probably capture one or two of these wide-open qualifying spots.

At Fostoria, there is a crush of solid 185's. Kip Michael has to be the top choice, but he may be vacillating between this weight and heavyweight. He should stay right here. He is only marginally ahead of Roschman, May and Daiber who have performed well in 1985. I keep looking for May to really break-out and start beating everyone--so far it hasn't happened. Sloboda will be waiting for any of this group to falter. A real long-shot with great potential is Warwick. He is a little known contender who has quietly defeated some better known opponents.

(The Southwest should be strictly a two-man show. Meyer--unlike Leeder and Young in their regionals--has a strong competitor within his geographical area. Last year he got caught in 33 seconds by Ishmael in the quarter-finals and eliminated. It shouldn't happen that early this year. Cameron, 6th last year at 175#, should push

Meyer at the regional level and has an opportunity to better his placement of last year. Besides the listed Kindle--Phelan (Versailles) and Wagner (Dayton Northridge) have the best shots for the last two qualifying spots.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ✓ TIM MOXLEY (Barnesville)

⑩ TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2. ✓ Keenan (Steubenville) | 11. ✓ Moore (Jonathan Alder) |
| 3. ✓ Alig (Coldwater) | 12. Cencebaugh (Carlisle) |
| 4. ✓ Robbins (Eaton) | 13. Pence (Wauseon) |
| 5. ✓ Recknagel (Rossford) | 14. Fitzpatrick (Chagrin Falls) |
| 6. ✓ Beachler (Loudonville) | 15. Gregory (Mason) |
| 7. ✓ Magda (Grand Valley) | 16. Rine (Bellevue) |
| 8. ✓ Young (Upper Sandusky) | 17. Farnsworth (Highland) |
| 9. McLain (Jefferson Union) | 18. Bainter (Circleville) |
| 10. ✓ Moncoviesh (Streetsboro) | 19. Gephart (Middletown Madison) |
| | 20. Riffle (Manchester) |

Recent events have made this the most intriguing weight in "AA". Defending 185# state champ Charlie Keenan is also an all-state defensive tackle. He opened the year at 185#, but, as I understand it, football recruiters told him that to realize his lifelong dream of playing at Ohio State he would have to start gaining weight immediately. Based on this he committed to Ohio State and moved up to the heavyweight division. Now, in most years, Keenan would probably be good enough to win at heavyweight. He is a superb athlete who has wrestled since grade school, consequently knowing more actual wrestling than the sum of three average heavyweights. However, Keenan at about 6'2", 200#, will be a small, super-quick heavyweight.

This isn't most years. Returning state champion Tim Moxley pinned his way through the state tournament, and is a knowledgeable wrestler having a brother who wrestled at Ohio State for two years. Not as quick as Keenan he does possess one significant advantage--he is 6'8", 304#. It's your classic match-up. A good "little" man versus a good big man--and it will probably happen four times (the OVAC, the district, the regional and the state). One other advantage that Moxley has is that he is unlikely to fall victim to an unexpected fall. Keenan, on the other hand, must be careful since he'll be terribly outweighed in almost every bout--plus Keenan tends

to wrestle on his side and back (with the legs) more than most big men. Moxley is not unbeatable though it seemed that way at Columbus last year. In his regional final, Fuller of Hillsboro lost 4-3 to Tim on a controversial stalling point.

Ohio has a number of solid "AA" heavyweights. Each area is reasonably solid at this weight. For example, at Lancaster, Moxley and Keenan lead the field, but McLain and Bainter have excellent track records. Both were regional qualifiers last year and they should move up one more tournament this year.

At Fostoria, I count at least seven possible contenders. I really like Alig, but he wrestles such a wretched schedule that he just may not be ready for the kind of "heavy duty" competition he'll find at his regional. Recknagel and Young are tough with Moore, Rine, and Pence just a step behind. Even the sophomore Flathers (Swanton) can pull the big upset as he did over Pence to give Swanton a big dual meet win over Wauseon. It also could have important team implications as Rossford, Upper Sandusky, Wauseon, and Swanton have state possibilities, here.

In the Southwest, Robbins and Cencebaugh started off even in my mind but Robbins seems to have made the greater progress. Just last week he knocked off undefeated "AAA" contender Brent White. Both are excellent and Gregory and Gephart look to be the other two qualifiers. Meredith (Loveland), Staats (Brookville), and Wickersham (Reading) may also challenge.

The picture in the Northeast is very confusing. Beachler wrestles such a weak schedule it's difficult to get a real fix on his true ability. I think he will turn out to be quite good. Magda is erratic and makes the prediction business a most difficult one. His only loss was a 6-5 squeaker to defending "AAA" champ Keith Cameron--by far Cameron's closest bout this year. Moncoviesh is a solid journeyman performer while much the same can be said about Fitzpatrick. They win the ones they're supposed to and do their best against the "heavy hitters." Riffle and the 315# Bell (Columbia Station) are real long-shots. Something of a disappointment has been Farnsworth. Late last year he seemed to be making real progress, but I just haven't seen that same momentum this year. Unless things change he likely will fail to qualify.

TEAMS

1. Cardinal Stritch -- It's getting to be kind of an annual event. Every year I choose Cardinal Stritch for the team title; every year somebody else wins. This is my third consecutive shot and, maybe, we both can get it right in 1985. After all they have two sure--or almost sure--finalists in Wlodarz and Peters along with

upper weight help from Schultz and Daiber. Factor in a resurgent Ackerman and some help from Reynolds and Mathers and they should win--or so I said before.

2. Barnesville -- A team that returns all their state points ought to be heavy favorites, right? Well maybe, but the feeling still persists that Bell and Pryor "maxed" out at Columbus last year--a feat that is unlikely to happen again. Still, Bell has looked good and Pryor has been solid. If Iams can score a few points they could repeat. Moxley at 6'8", 304# is a given--at least until the finals.
3. Steubenville -- A solid nucleus of four stars may be just enough to take the title--and it had better be since no one is likely to help. The key is Tim Young at 105#. If he can do well I think the big guys will hold up their end of the bargain. It's no exaggeration to see all three of them as finalists.
4. Columbus DeSales -- Another long-time great "AA" team with possible state championship potential. The next time they win it will break their tie with Coventry for most "AA" team titles. Marinelli and Graziani should be champs, but after that it's difficult to count on much solid help. Gentile or Volpe are the best chances, but Janyia or a rejuvenated Cua could help.
5. Chanel -- The early choice as state champion, but I'm not sure why. No doubt that Donovan and Marder are proven state point scoring machines, but everyone else is unproven. I do believe that DiDomenico, Kosla, and Moore could help, but that remains a big question mark.
6. Upper Sandusky -- This team is led by the brilliant Patrick who would be a state champion in most years. Unfortunately most years does not include 1985 with the redoubtable Hoy and powerful Peters. Still, there would be lots of help for Patrick. Gier has been super at 119# while May and Young have the two upper weights covered. The sensational sophomore Milum could put them over the top with a great performance. This is a team that could finish 1st or 21st.
7. Columbus Bishop Ready -- An under-rated team given the reports of most observers. Both DiSabatos should place and a healthy Marczika could do the same. Kruse and Bowman are young, but a hot weekend could see them score a lot of state points. The key, though, is Schell, who needs to score big for this team to reach its maximum potential.
8. Oak Harbor -- Goad is worth about 30 points alone and Dunn is excellent. Again, though, he competes at the fierce 145# class. Clearly, that weight will tell a lot of the story with regard to the team trophy. Pierce and Platzke could lend some help, but there is very little depth on this team.

9. Kenston -- A perennial Top Ten team that never does quite as well as anticipated. Defending state champ Tatonetti leads the way, but the sophomore Hagen is very impressive at 138#. They need Schultz, Wilkens, and, maybe, Pemberton or Cageao to get to Columbus to help out.
10. Tipp City -- A Southwestern Regional team that has a number of solid state qualifiers. The question is whether they can score at that level. Stankus, Sampley and Lewis are all possible placers. The key is the second line strength embodied by such as Burchett and Spurlock.
11. Ravenna Southeast -- A Portage County team with some solid performers. Key to their success are seniors Kriz and state qualifier Smith who must provide strong leadership. After that it's up to the underclassmen like Bailey, Mulhollen, and Coontz.
12. Orrville -- Leeder is my top choice at 185# now that Keenan has moved up to Heavyweight. Powers, Martin, and Auble all have state potential, but there are questions as to getting through that tough Northeast Regional.