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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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PROJECTED CHAMP: MIKE MALCUIT (Louisville)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2. Kurman (St. Ignatius)   | 10. Stumpf1 (Dayton Stebbins)   |
| 3. Utt (Fairborn Baker)    | 11. McDoug1e (Maumee)           |
| 4. Martin (Midview)        | 12. Marinis (Fremont Ross)      |
| 5. Baker (Fairfield)       | 13. Faillace (Cincinnati Elder) |
| 6. Gardner (Mentor)        | 14. Elsass (N. Canton Hoover)   |
| 7. Cornell (North Olmsted) | 15. Savely (Watkins Memorial)   |
| 8. Cameron (Hilliard)      | 16. Hamilton (Centerville)      |
| 9. Range (Cleveland Hts.)  | 17. Rhodes (Cuyahoga Falls)     |

Mike Malcuit should dominate this weight class and capture his first state title with relative ease. While the remainder of the field is solid there really isn't anybody within four points of my choice. Malcuit, a state runner-up as a sophomore, spent most of the season at 105# easily winning both the prestigious Medina and North Canton tournaments at that weight.

Most of the best 98's, excluding Malcuit, are in the Mentor Regional--including five of my top nine picks. The two best are Kurman and Martin who have both been outstanding this year. I've chosen Kirman ahead of Martin even though he dropped a 2-0 decision to him at the Brunswick Inv. I believe Kurman's greater poise and experience will show to best advantage at tourney time. However, Martin is enormously strong, if untutored, and is capable of upsetting almost anyone. Gardner, my third choice at Mentor, is an old rival of Malcuit. In fact, he inflicted Malcuit's only defeat, 5-2, in a bout contested at 105#. Over the past two years, Malcuit has beaten Gardner three other times. Gardner, at least in my mind, may not be consistent enough to string together enough wins to capture the state crown. However, he could be the one wrestler with a reasonable chance of upsetting Malcuit because of their many previous contests. Cornell is my choice for the fourth qualifying spot, but it's difficult to accurately judge his true ability since he just recently made 98# and the team. He is excellent on his feet. Range could easily qualify out of any other regional, but may be shut out at Mentor. He looked awesome at Brecksville, upsetting Gardner, and winning the final 21-0. The pairings will have a lot to do with who does get to Columbus. Murray (Austintown Fitch) and Topoly (Lake Catholic) are two other capable performers who are not quite good enough to qualify.

The only other regional with a lot of quality is the Southwest. Utt, down from 105#, won the Wayne Inv. dominating the previously unbeaten Stumpf in the process. If he progresses he should get a medium place. I was much impressed with Baker at the North Canton. I'm not sure he's this highly rated in his own regional, but I detect real ability in his performance. Watch for him to surprise people. Stumpf and Faillace are my other two choices to qualify and, perhaps, win a bout at state. This would leave out Hamilton along with Muhlen (Oak Hills), Moore (Lebanon), and Pergram (Middletown). In summary, this is the second best regional with good depth and strong individuals.

The Perry Regional has little except Malcuit. I've seen Rhodes and Elsass this year, and they are solid performers, but they cannot "go" with the boys from the two previously mentioned regionals. Lemon (Glen Oak) and Lemon (Perry) are two possibilities for that fourth qualifying spot. Fenwick (Cambridge) has previous regional experience, but Woodruff (Vincent Warren) may surpass him in the Southeast. Pawl (Nardonia), if at this weight, could be a factor. They should not challenge the top people at this regional.

The worst regional is at Bowling Green. I've listed Cameron, McDougle, Marinis, and Savely, but none are that strong. I would expect them all to be first round victims. Burnheimer (Pickerington) and Schaub (Ashland) are outside choices here for a qualifying spot.

#### 105#

PROJECTED CHAMP: CHRIS GELVIN (Kettering Fairmont)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. Biggs (St. Edward)          | 9. Kundtz (Holy Name)          |
| 3. Montrie (Toledo Rogers)     | 10. Picone (Solon)             |
| 4. Sanfillippo (North Olmsted) | 11. Bellows (Lima Shawnee)     |
| 5. Cassady (Logan)             | 12. Salemme (Cincinnati Elder) |
| 6. Mains (Westerville)         | 13. Duncan (Fairfield)         |
| 7. Caskey (Xenia)              | 14. Knotts (Vincent Warren)    |
| 8. Hamad (Akron Firestone)     | 15. Kintner (Galion)           |

The battle for the 105# state championship should basically revolve around the top four listed at this weight. There is a real drop-off in quality after Sanfillippo in the ratings such that the best the remaining can hope for is a low place.

My choice to capture his second state title is Chris Gelvin, but it won't be easy. Gelvin cruised through the first two rounds at Columbus last year, and then won 2-point decisions over Marder and

Malcuit for the crown. He was helped in that pre-meet favorite Jackie Macko could not compete due to illness, although Gelvin certainly would have given Macko everything he could handle. I was kind of hoping Gelvin would stay at 112# and match up with Macko this year just to see how things would turn out. Nevertheless, Gelvin is much improved over last year. He had a fantastic summer season and is now much better on his feet.

That's where Biggs will try and wrestle with him. Runner-up at 98# two years ago Biggs was upset in last year's regional and failed to qualify. This year he has been very sharp except for one stumble against the defending state champ from Michigan. I still believe he will be slightly better than Gelvin on his feet, but he'll have to prove it in, hopefully, the finals. The Northeast District also has state 3rd, Sanfillippo, who has been amazingly consistent. He slows down the tempo of a bout, and utilizes his big move arsenal to win the close bouts. Biggs beat him 5-4 in their dual with a last second reversal. I've listed Kundtz and Picone as other possible qualifiers, but I think the field is wide-open for these last two qualifying spots at Mentor. People like Deboe (Euclid), state qualifier Barron (Chardon), and state qualifier Miller (Howland) all have a chance.

Montrie has wrestled successfully at 119# and 112# and will be an absolutely gigantic 105#. I was impressed with him last year, and he has potential to be a finalist. His problem will be on his feet where his height will make his legs vulnerable. On the mat he is awesome. State qualifier Mains should be a strong second at Bowling Green, but, like Mentor, the other two spots are wide open. I've listed Bellows and Kintner, but they won't be favored by most at that regional. Many will be looking at Alves (Anthony Wayne), Ryan (Reynoldsburg), and Bender (Northland).

Gelvin heads another strong Southwestern contingent. Caskey ignites the strong Xenia team, and he could nail down a low place. Saleme and state qualifier Duncan are solid choices for the last two spots. Binkley (Oak Hills) and Williams (Mt. Healthy) are upset possibilities here. The problem this regional has at this weight is their weakness on takedowns. Give them the first two points and they are very difficult to beat.

Cassady will be a real unknown at the Perry Regional, but he is very good. Logan doesn't wrestle that tough a schedule, but Cassady, now a senior, has still continued to get better. Last year at Columbus Malcuit beat him by just two points in the first round. I was also impressed with Hamad at last year's regional. In his go-to-state bout with Montrie he fell short by a single point. Like several other regionals the other two qualifying spots are still to be spoken for.

PROJECTED CHAMP: JACK MACKO (St. Edward)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. Hart (Worthington)             | 11. Smith (Anthony Wayne)      |
| 3. McCreery (Maumee)              | 12. Blanton (Cincinnati St. X) |
| 4. Hunter (St. Joseph)            | 13. Jones (Akron East)         |
| 5. Noble (Lebanon)                | 14. Lampa (Valley Forge)       |
| 6. Snyder (North Olmsted)         | 15. Heer (Toledo Libbey)       |
| 7. Jordan (Westerville South)     | 16. Nelson (North Royalton)    |
| 8. Brokloff (North Canton Hoover) | 17. Howard (Sycamore)          |
| 9. Gantz (Massillon Perry)        | 18. Berdysz (Mentor)           |
| 10. Worley (Carrollton)           | 19. Long (Galion)              |
|                                   | 20. Solano (Lake Catholic)     |

This will turn out to be a very interesting and competitive weight class that should draw substantial fan interest. Every regional has potential high place winners and most of the bouts should be close and exciting. In addition, each regional has five or six boys good enough to go to Columbus so the competition at that level will also be fierce.

I'm looking for Jackie Macko to stay healthy this year and collect the state title that seemed so evidently his most of last year. He is less flashy than a number of his St. Ed's teammates, but he really knows how to win. He has not lost in two years. On his feet, on the mat, or underneath he is first-rate, and has no apparent weakness. If Macko does win at 112# it will break a long-time St. Ed's jinx. Despite all the good lightweights they've had and 21 state individual championships in the last 7 years no one has ever won a crown for the Eagles at less than 126#. Close behind him are Jeff Hunter and Mike Snyder who have also had outstanding years. Hunter swept through the challenging St. X Tourney pinning in the finals while Snyder defeated Lampa, state champ Hanson, and Berdysz on his way to the Brecksville title. Snyder's only defeat was by one point to a somewhat illness weakened Macko. The battle for the fourth spot will be bitter. Normally state qualifier Lampa would be favored, but he has not looked good this year. At Brecksville he seemed out of synchronization and just couldn't get his timing down. He is not wrestling as well as last year. This leaves the door ajar for Berdysz or Solano to nail down a state turney bid. The pairings at this regional will go a long way in determining the ultimate outcome with Hunter, Berdysz, and Solano exiting the same district as do Macko and Snyder at theirs.

Hart, my second choice, finished a solid 4th at this weight losing only to Shire and Carlin last season. This season he finished behind Macko at North Canton when both were at 119#. His regional is

loaded. McCreery did a great job at the Admiral King Regional last year sweeping through a great field to the final. There he took Carlin down three times in the first period before running out of gas and getting "decked." He has been a little erratic this year so it's difficult to know what he'll do at tourney time. State qualifier Jordan won a bout at Columbus last year and could do better this time around. Again it'll be a challenge just getting out of that regional. The battle for the last qualifying will be interesting. Smith has never done as well as I've expected, but he has real talent. Heer missed state qualification by one point last year while Long has had a terrific year including the MVP at the Gorman. Look for Smith to finally cash in with some crucial victories here.

The Southwestern is not quite as solid as the two previously mentioned area. It is led by junior Ed Noble, already a two-time state qualifier. Last year he lost a quarter-final thriller 9-9, 7-0 OT costing him a high place. This year he stands clearly above the rest of that regional. Blanton and state qualifier Howard look to be two possible qualifiers with the last spot open to anybody having a good weekend. The only competitor to watch from this area, though, is Noble.

The Perry Regional is very confusing because some of the top people have not met this year. Brokloff and Gantz head this list. Brokloff, a sure placer at 98# last year, was hit by a car before districts and did not compete. He did not wrestle this season until mid-January and is only slowly rounding into form. I look for him to be much sharper by tourney time. He is "dynamite" on his feet. Gantz also had a slow start campaigning at 119#. For example, he finished 6th at North Canton. Still this boy was 5th in the State last year including two falls--one of which caught Jordan. Right behind this duo is Worley--2nd at Medina, and Jones, the Hudson champ. Both are experienced competitors with a lot of strength. A dark horse is Nelson who I've liked for two years. He could be a regional finalist on a hot weekend. Another person to watch is Summers (Alliance) who has made rapid progress.

### 119#

PROJECTED CHAMP: RICK HARTMAN (St. Ignatius)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. Carlin (St. Edward)         | 10. DeFelice (Chardon)             |
| 3. Kopp (Lorain Southview)     | 11. Schreier (Kettering Fairmount) |
| 4. Bish (Tiffin Collumbian)    | 12. Zeller (Glen Oak)              |
| 5. Green (North Canton Hoover) | 13. Shepherd (North Olmsted)       |
| 6. Mezinger (Fremont Ross)     | 14. Wasson (Vandalia Butler)       |
| 7. Miller (Dayton Chaminade)   | 15. Biggins (Anthony Wayne)        |
| 8. Pierson (Alliance)          | 16. Lee (Cincinnati Mt. Healthy)   |
| 9. McClellan (Upper Arlington) | 17. Yacobucci (Akron North)        |



On the surface this choice does not appear to make a lot of sense. After all, Carlin beat Hartman at the OCC's and outwrestled him in a drawn dual meet. There is little difference in experience as both boys have had magnificent four year varsity careers. Hartman was a state champ as a sophomore and runner-up last year while Carlin has placed 2nd and 3rd the last two years. I've chosen Hartman for two reasons--first, his safe, conservative style makes him less prone to the big upset by someone else. Second, should he and Carlin meet in the state finals he should have an advantage because in pressure bouts his approach requires less coordination and timing. Thus, nerves will have less effect on him in the critical first period, and with an early lead Hartman is almost impossible to beat. I foresee Carlin having a couple "bad shots" in the first period with Hartman converting those into takedowns. After that he'll use the legs to hang on to that lead.

It's tempting to see this weight class as a two-man show, but it would be incorrect to do so. Also exiting the Mentor Regional is the terribly strong Kopp who upset Hartman at the Brunswick. Last year he failed by one point to qualify for Columbus, and he will be a major factor in the competition. Also at Mentor will be the excellent DeFelice--who if the pairings are balanced--should gain the fourth qualifying spot. Backing up this foursome are Shepherd, who has made major improvement this season, Cwiklinski (Valley Forge), and Schaeffer (Ashtabula Edgewood). Two dark horses who deserve special mention are Zingale (Brecksville) and Maddox (Collinwood). Zingale, a state quarter-finalist two years ago, got decked last year at districts while leading 12-4 and eliminated from further competition. Injured all season he had just recently returned to the lineup and with his marvelous athletic ability could pull some major upsets. Maddox is also a sensational athlete with great balance and a wonderful cradle. He is the beginning of an outstanding Collinwood trio of wrestlers and needs to be closely watched.

The Bowling Green Regional is second strongest at this weight. Bish and Mezinger have both had outstanding years, and they have a lot of experience. I was very impressed with Mezinger at last year's regional, but after Carlin decked him, he just wasn't himself in the state meet. Bish lost in the regionals to Venesile who now wrestles on St. Ed's Green Team after transferring this year. Yet he has come back to beat Mezinger at the Rogers and win two major tourneys. Behind this duo are McClellan and state qualifier Biggins. These boys have done well with the important exception of big tourneys where they have folded. If that trend continues people like Reisch (Worthington), Richardson (Columbus South), Zeto (Hilliard), and Weisbarth (Eastmoor) could qualify.

As has been the case several times the Perry Regional is confusing. Green has the best overall record--winning the Medina, finishing 2nd at North Canton, and wrestling solid bouts in almost every outing--but he has been upset several times. His steadiness in big tournaments has to be a primary strength. Pierson beat Green

while Zeller drew with him, but I still rate them lower--that's because at Medina they both finished behind him. Yacobucci is a tentative fourth choice, but he all too often has failed to win the big bout. Pontuti (Carrollton) has pulled some major upsets while Crevar (Nordonia) is cut from the same cloth. When you see either of these boys on a good day you wonder how they ever lose. Lewis Clarke (Ravenna) has one of my favorite names, and has an outside chance at this weight.

The Southwestern Regional has a lot of experience, but I don't think the talent is there for placement possibilities. Schreier Wasson both qualified for States at this weight last year, but were hammered in the first round. It could well happen again this year, although Schreier may do a little better this time. Somebody to really watch, however, is Miller. A state qualifier in "AA" last season, he beat Branham and then lost to Pryor in overtime. He easily won the GMVWA and has been outstanding all year. The fourth spot could go to Lee, Stafford (Fairfield) or LeForce (Franklin).

#### 126#

PROJECTED CHAMP: DAN PICOLO (Springfield North)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2. Lightner (Alliance)  | 11. Ma (Cleveland Hts.)          |
| 3. Hunter (St. Joseph)  | 12. McClellan (Upper Arlington)  |
| 4. Diglia (Elida)       | 13. Glass (North Canton)         |
| 5. Saxton (Elyria)      | 14. Dance (Oak Hills)            |
| 6. DeCamp (Centerville) | 15. Burnett (Collinwood)         |
| 7. Fitch (West Geauga)  | 16. Purney (Toledo Macomber)     |
| 8. Schenk (GlenOak)     | 17. Ice (East Liverpool)         |
| 9. Palker (St. Edward)  | 18. Durbin (Lisbon Beaver Local) |
| 10. Andrassy (Nordonia) | 19. Korney (Pickerington)        |
|                         | 20. Schette (Dayton Wayne)       |

The way this report is constructed centers around writing 39 short reports (one for each weight class) over about a ten-day period. Since it's typed on a sophisticated word processor there is no reason to write them in any particular order so I start with those that seem easiest--like the ones that contain names with Goad or Potokar or Strauss. That gives me more time to collect information on more difficult weights hoping that something will happen to make my task a little easier. Gradually--sometimes very gradually--they all get done until I'm left with the single most difficult case--this one.

I have absolutely no idea who will win this championship. One thing I have noticed in weights like this, is that distance becomes important. That is when no wrestler seems real good to me, ones that wrestle for schools far away from Cleveland start looking better and better. Basically that's how Dan Picolo became my top choice. He may have flaws, but from 200 miles they're not easy to see. Anyway Picolo is undefeated, qualified for state last year, and possesses a formidable array of skills. He has as good a chance as anyone.

His top competition should come, at least in part, from the Mentor Regional. Tony Hunter is quick and strong and very experienced. He placed 6th last year at this weight. I think he is ready to improve on that result. Saxton has been hidden away at 132#, but he is the kind of wrestler Elyria produces every year--strong, well-conditioned, and knowing how to win. With the right draw he could be a finalist. Fitch has been impressive all season and could have to grab a qualifying spot in this tough competition. Palker is a sensational sophomore who could be one of the all-time best at that school. He has a "tough head" and that combined with his quickness will win a lot of bouts. However, a half year of varsity experience may be too much to overcome. He had state champion Ken Ramsey beat at the OCC, but succumbed to the pressure and lost late. I think both Fitch and Palker are vulnerable here and there are a host of eager 126's who could displace them. Ma had a great Brecksville Tourney and I was just about ready to pick him. Enormously strong I believe he may be having trouble with the weight and he has been unable to sustain his earlier momentum. Taylor (Lorain Southview) and Burnett are very talented competitors who have shown an erratic pattern of results. They look like upset threats rather than long-term winners. Durbin has the bad luck of coming to Mentor, but he could sneak into a qualifying spot if everything goes just right.

The Perry Regional is also strong and deep. I almost picked Lightner to win the state crown so impressive is his record. A relentless attacker he has won the Medina Tourney and is undefeated in duals. He's the same lad who twice last season lost to two-time state champ Dan Willaman by a single point. I see Schenk, Glass, and, maybe, Acierni (Marlington) all at about the same level with the first two having the edge in experience. Incidentally all four of these wrestlers compete in the tough Federal League. There is not even a shade of a doubt that it is the toughest wrestling league in Ohio. The level of dual meet competition there just cannot be matched anywhere in Ohio. Two younger wrestlers will also compete at this regional--Andrassy and Ice. The former is only a freshman, but he caught my eye early and he should become a great one. I think he will qualify for State on talent alone. Ice, only a sophomore, won a bout at Columbus last year. So far, after movingf up two weights, he has not been nearly as impressive. Look for him to come on at the end of the season.

The Southwestern Regional has some depth behind Picolo. I keep looking for DeCamp to hit his stride and nail down a low place at Columbus. Dance is also a solid competitor with the credentials to qualify. Another outstanding freshman is Aaron Schette who could also qualify past some more experienced wrestlers. Again we have a talented young wrestler about to make a mark for himself. His competition will come from Holliday (Vandalia Butler).

This seems to be the weight class for relative unknowns. People are going to be surprised when Diglia dominates the Bowling Green Regional but they shouldn't be. He missed most of last season with a serious injury, but he has crushed everybody this season. Now "everybody" hasn't necessarily been all the best people, but a weak schedule shouldn't hurt this boy too much. Other possible qualifiers are Purney, McClellan, and Korney, but they are really just journeymen competitors. I look for some real surprises in this regional. "AA" state qualifier Olander (Whitehall) is a possibility as is Knauer (Toledo St. John). I shudder, however, to think what will happen to these wrestlers once they reach Columbus.

### 132#

PROJECTED CHAMP: JEFF STRAUSS (St. Edward)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2. St. John (St. Joseph)        | 10. Tharp (North Canton)        |
| 3. Tusick (North Olmsted)       | 11. Whitehair (Madison)         |
| 4. Lieb (Watkins Memorial)      | 12. Thomas (Marion Franklin)    |
| 5. Bright (Collinwood)          | 13. Hudson (Toledo Macomber)    |
| 6. Price (Fairfield)            | 14. Smith (Xenia)               |
| 7. Gallagher (Chardon)          | 15. Crane (Nordonia)            |
| 8. Denker (Holland Springfield) | 16. Lyons (Elyria)              |
| 9. Barker (Stow)                | 17. Galilei (Westerville South) |
|                                 | 18. Papalios (Dayton Wayne)     |

Just about all the good 132's are at the Mentor Regional. It's a real shame that two or three boys who would be finalists at the other regionals won't even get out of the Northeast District. Let's take a look at who'll be competing.

First, of course, is defending state champ Bubba Strauss--one of the best and most recruitable wrestlers in Ohio. Then two-time state qualifier Dan St. John dropped down--his only loss this season is to Strauss. Then state runner-up Bennie Bright certified at 132# further crowding the field. Already there was state qualifier Bob Gallagher and Brecksville champ Tim Tusick whose only loss was an

8-7 defeat by Struass. It could easily be argued that these are the five best 132's in the state. In addition Whitehair and Lyons could easily qualify out of any other regional in the state. The shame of it all is that only four will qualify. The competition here at this weight will be much tougher than the following week at Columbus. The pairings will mean everything. Since the six top people emerge from three districts there will hopefully be a balanced draw. I would not be surprised to see the four that emerge all meet in the state semi-finals.

Strauss should win again. He's become a top pressure wrestler and loves the spotlight in big tourneys (or little ones, too). St. John is just so solid you figure he has to qualify. Tusick can be overpowered and Bright outslipped while Gallagher cannot match the speed of the others. It will depend on the match-up for these three. Whitehair, as good as he is, looks to be left out. People like Lyons and Hoopes (Austintown-Fitch) who are good, but have no chance at this weight ought to think seriously about 138#. What a great regional field.

At Bowling Green there is a lot of depth, but far less quality. I look for Lieb to defeat the rest of the pack and grab a low state place. Denker seems next best and relatively sure of qualification. After that the field is wide open. There are over a half-dozen past regional qualifiers any of whom could grab a qualification spot. I've listed Thomas, Hudson, and the pugnacious Galilei. They seem the next best to me. Other possibilities might include Rentschler (Marion Harding), Bellows (Lima Shawnee), Anderson (Toledo Clay), and Merklin (Gahenna). In it's own way competition at this regional will mirror the battles at Mentor--though at a much lower level.

The Southwest is substantially weaker. I really like Price, but after that there is a big drop-off in quality. Smith and Papalios have done reasonably well within this area while a whole host of others trail behind. Campbell (Princeton) upset Thomas at the Fairfield Invitational and has become a factor at this weight since dropping from 138#.

This same lack of quality holds true at the Perry Regional. Tharp reminds me very much of his last year's teammate Auker with his ability to win close matches while Barker has beaten some good people. I just have no feeling that people like Crane really are good enough for state qualification but I have no better names to bring forth. Again, this is an area where some unfamiliar wrestlers will do well like, for example, Richter (Strongsville) or Parks (Alliance).

PROJECTED CHAMP: BRIAN DOLPH (North Canton Hoover)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2. Sell (Carrolton)       | 11. Shumaker (W. Chester Lakota) |
| 3. Carpenter (St. Edward) | 12. Berg (Cleveland Hts.)        |
| 4. Dodson (Hilliard)      | 13. Reda (Alliance)              |
| 5. Roberts (Shelby)       | 14. Christie (West Geauga)       |
| 6. Black (Stow)           | 15. Jackson (Toledo Waite)       |
| 7. Dagley (Xenia)         | 16. Jedding (Cincinnati LaSalle) |
| 8. Smith (North Olmsted)  | 17. Siske (Pickerington)         |
| 9. Kendig (Lima Shawnee)  | 18. Spychalski (Maumee)          |
| 10. Johnson (Nordonia)    | 19. Wright (East Liverpool)      |
|                           | 20. Mullen (Cincinnati Elder)    |

This is a strong and deep weight class with quality competitors throughout the state. The competition should be very close as no one boy stands out well above the rest. It also should prove to be a contrast in styles as virtually every type of wrestler is represented.

The choice at this weight is very difficult. I've gone with Dolph, 5th last year at 126#, even though he has had some ups and downs this year. He has wrestled a very competitive schedule this season with solid success. I believe that he'll be able to withstand the pressure, and win the close battles it will take to capture the crown.

Actually I think Sell may actually be the better wrestler. He defeated Dolph at Medina on his way to the championship and is undefeated this year. This will be his fourth state trip, and yet, he has never placed. He has only lost seven times in those four years, but he does not wrestle the big-time schedule that a Dolph or a Carpenter wrestles. I was tremendously impressed with Skip Laughlin, the Carrollton coach, last year. His boys are well trained and he is a superb coach during the bout. Last year his 119#er Bryan Shaw nearly upset two-time champ Dan Willaman in the finals using a well-developed plan. Still, Sell just doesn't wrestle enough tough, hard bouts to be completely ready for what is still to come.

That Perry Regional is dynamite. Besides Dolph and Sell it features a number of other wrestlers who could place. Foremost, is state qualifier Jeff Black who has just come back from a separated shoulder. He can be brilliant. Rusty Johnson is a fine leg wrestler who is almost impossible to beat once he gets ahead. OVAC champ Rich Wright is undefeated and has a chance to grab a state spot. Finally, Shawn Reda has wrestled a difficult schedule with solid success although he has lost a number of very close bouts. Should

things go his way he'll upset some higher rated boys. Still, I look for Black and Johnson to cop the last two state spots and possibly place at Columbus.

The Mentor Regional is also excellent, though, it does not have the depth of the one at Perry. Mike Carpenter has done everything asked of him this season including winning the North Canton, the Top Hat, and the West Geauga. As good as he is I think Dolph and Sell are just a little better--especially on their feet. Smith, state qualifier Berg, and Christie are just a small step behind Carpenter. The one to watch may well be Smith. He has some great upper body moves, and if North Olmsted does well in the team competition he may pick up some of that momentum. The sophomore Steve Buddie may be a strong contender for a spot if he continues to improve.

Bowling Green also has a lot of depth at this weight with some very strong wrestlers leading the way. Both Dodson and Roberts were state qualifiers with Roberts garnering a 6th place at this weight. They have different styles. Robert, extremely strong, is hard to score on and win a lot of close bouts. He may stress defense too much. Dodson is a scorer who is good on his feet. His style tends to keep stalling calls from being a factor in the matches. Kendig is another strong battler who has moved down one weight class. A one-point loss kept him from Columbus last year. Nacko Jackson, who gets an automatic two points for the first name, is rated #1 in Toledo. Frankly, he did not look very good at last year's Admiral King Regional and is vulnerable once again this year. Siske, Spychalski, O'Conner (Worthington) and Ulen (Upper Arlington) are all top-flight contenders for that last spot. I particularly like Siske and would not be surprised to see him in the thick of things at Columbus.

Dagley towers over the rest of the field at the Southwestern Regional. He may be in line for a low place with a good draw at Columbus. Shumaker is rated highly in his area and is probably next in this regional. I don't believe he can compete well with my top ten. Jedding and Mullen are my other two choices, but Hogan (Dayton Colonel White) is an intriguing possibility. He has compiled an outstanding record against generally inferior competition and is yet to be really tested. His fall records suggests caution, however.

PROJECTED CHAMP: MARK BUDDIE (St. Ignatius)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. Ross (West Carrollton)   | 10. Walter (Upper Arlington)       |
| 3. Dagley (Xenia)           | 11. Ice (East Liverpool)           |
| 4. Marino (West Geauga)     | 12. Galbreath (Groveport)          |
| 5. Patsey (Normandy)        | 13. Mayse (Marion Harding)         |
| 6. Melegari (Louisville)    | 14. Sprouse (Canton South)         |
| 7. Walker (North Olmsted)   | 15. Mulcahy (Holland Springfield)  |
| 8. Greer (Tiffin Columbian) | 16. Smith (Port Clinton)           |
| 9. Norris (Centerville)     | 17. Raynes (Elyria)                |
|                             | 18. Breitfelder (Cincinnati Elder) |

This is a relatively mediocre weight class that will not cause much of a stir in Columbus this year. In that respect it is mindful of the 145's last year. It gives that appearance, perhaps, because only two wrestlers at this weight have every won a bout at previous state meets.

Mark Buddie, one of those two, finished 4th last year at 132# and is having a sensational season. He has already won the Brunswick, St. X, and OCC tourney and has beaten Ross and "AA" star Aaron Peters. However, his victory is not assured. Ross was 2nd last year losing the title bout at this weight 3-2. He is very strong and solid and his 9-2 loss is not indicative of his abilities. What Buddie did was take him down four times to run up the big score. I don't think that will happen again, although if Ross has a weakness it is on his feet. Buddie still has the look of a winner and he should enter the tournaments with enormous confidence.

The Mentor Regional is very strong--in fact, four of my top seven choices exit from that regional. Marino, a state qualifier last season, has really had a strange year with weight problems, injuries, and a suspension. However, he is a standout wrestler. Patsey blew a 4-1 lead on Walker at the Brecksville by retreating into a shell. If he wrestles hard for six minutes few will be able to match him. Walker is so terribly tall that most 145's don't even know how to approach him. If he can keep from getting taken down he'll win a lot of bouts. This foursome should prove very strong in Columbus. They are all battle hardened and tough. The only problem might be the regional pairings. If Marino and Walker are the champs on one side then they'll be with Patsey, second to Buddie, at the Normandy Regional. While the probabilities of that are only one in three it would leave the door ajar for a Raynes or Markulin (Austintown Fitch) to qualify. Another candidate would be Brodnik (Solon) who is an outstanding wrestler, but who, for health reasons, has trouble going six tough minutes.



At Bowling Green there are a lot of possibilities but no sure things. Greer is top-rated in the Northwest but has never done real well with out-of-area competitors. Walter is a top-flight junior who may still be a year away from being able to "go" with the very best. Galbreath, Mayse, Mulcahy, and Smith are all possible state qualifiers. This is a regional that mixes both Toledo area and Columbus area competitors. There will be little knowledge about the competition and so wrestlers with one great move--like a headlock or cradle--will have a better chance of winning than they normally would at this time of year. The refereeing will also be important since the two areas have differing philosophies regarding such things as stalling.

Ross, Dagley, and Norris make up a very strong Southwestern trio. They all have state placement potential. While Ross stands at the top of the list, Dagley and Norris both are strong, and surprisingly for that area, pretty good on their feet. Breitfelder, a strong 3rd at the OCC should be the fourth qualifier. Maxwell, (Tecumseh) has a sensational record but will not be ready for this level of competition.

The Perry Regional is very weak. Melegari won the North Canton and was 2nd at the Medina. He stands above the rest. OVAC champ Ice and state qualifier Sprouse are possibilities, although both have some definite weaknesses. Two Pioneer Conference wrestlers McGowan (Strongsville) and Stallard (Cloverleaf) have had strong years and could be state qualifiers. My feeling is that after Melegari the other three qualifiers will simply be bracket fillers.

#### 155#

PROJECTED CHAMP: TIM KENVILLE (North Canton)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. Pearson (Centerville)           | 11. Taylor (Lorain Southview)      |
| 3. Stickleman (Franklin)           | 12. Higgins (Elyria)               |
| 4. Coldiron (Toledo Whitmer)       | 13. Lautzenheiser (GlenOak)        |
| 5. Genovese (Solon)                | 14. Peck (Xenia)                   |
| 6. Gerhardstein (Cincinnati Elder) | 15. Scavuzzo (Revere)              |
| 7. Toney/Chambers (St. Edward)     | 16. Gutbrod (St. Joseph)           |
| 8. Millward (Akron North)          | 17. Hamilton (Upper Arlington)     |
| 9. Martin (Toledo Rogers)          | 18. Cornist (Cincinnati Princeton) |
| 10. Muscarella (Warren Howland)    | 19. Raab (Trotwood-Madison)        |

Last year this was one of the outstanding weight classes in any classification featuring almost a dozen first-rate wrestlers. This year it is much weaker and possesses a minimum of fan interest.

My choice is Tim Kenville the experienced star from North Canton Hoover. He was 3rd at this weight as a sophomore, but last year failed to place because of an unfortunate pairing. Injured most of the season he returned to win the important St. X Tourney in solid fashion. Like most North Canton wrestlers he is very well trained in the basics and knows how to win the close ones. His major competition will be Jim Pearson--winner at both North Canton and Brecksville, and a wrestler with a style similar to Kenville. Neither is particularly quick and they grind out the decisions using their outstanding strength to control and contain the opponent.

Most of the best 155's seem to be in the Southwestern Regional. Beside Pearson, there is the undefeated Stickleman, OCC champ Gerhardstein, St. X runner-up Peck, Raab and Cornist. While not in Pearson's class the first two should be able to capture medium to low places while the last three will battle for the final qualifying spot. In addition, DiCarlo (Charminade) and Marcell (West Carrollton) are fine wrestlers with no place to go. Unlike many weights drawing a Southwestern Regional qualifier at 155# will prove to be a rough go.

I'm really confused with the Mentor Regional picture. Genovese is a hard working performer, but can he really be the best this area has to offer? Early in the season I would have rated Geoff Toney as the best, but he isn't even making the team and his replacement, Chambers, did not make the finals at the North Canton or the OCC. And what about Muscarella? He was 6th at this weight last year, has been much less than impressive so far this season. Somehow I'm not getting it to all add up. Taylor and Higgins from the far west of the regional just haven't wrestled enough top people for me to make a solid judgment. And finally, Gutlbrod has surprised me by taking Kenville into overtime and beating Chambers and Dulin. Besides, the improving Bright (Chardon) and the strong Culpepper (Bedfore) still haven't been accounted for. What is makes for is a jumbled picture that suggests that the four qualifiers are likely to be surprises and probably will have real trouble placing in Columbus.

At Bowling Green the two Toledo wrestlers--Coldiron and Martin--stand well ahead of the remainder of the field. Neither is likely to challenge the very best boys, but both would win some bouts in Columbus. Behind them are Hamilton, rated 1st in Columbus but only 6th at the Brunswick and Wilkens (Grove City). They are both vulnerable to upsets. In particular, Simpson (Sylvania Southview) and Brown (Northland) are possible threats to unseat them. Still after the top two this regional is not strong.

On the other hand, the Perry Regional has a lot of solid performers. Clearly Kenville is my top choice, but the stubborn Millward and Lautzenheiser are quite good. Scavuzzo gets a tentative nod for the fourth spot. However, no one is safe here not even

Kenville. Taggart (East Liverpool) won the huge OVAC tourney while Garn (Wadsworth) is a tenacious wrestler. Two possible darkhorses are Krosse (Medina) and Stephens (Lancaster).

167#

PROJECTED CHAMP: DARRYL MICKLEY (Louisville)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. Coulter (Whitehall)     | 9. Drew (Toldeo Whitmer)       |
| 3. Stobart (Worthington)   | 10. Dotson (Springfield North) |
| 4. Mason (St. Edward)      | 11. Reinbolt (Walsh Jesuit)    |
| 5. Shafer (Lima Shawnee)   | 12. Lucas (Lakewood)           |
| 6. Dudgeon (Xenia)         | 13. Laake (Cincinnati LaSalle) |
| 7. Beier (Toldeo St. John) | 14. Barnes (Vincent Warren)    |
| 8. Lucas (West Carrollton) | 15. Hoover (Cleveland Hts.)    |
|                            | 16. Griffiths (Nordonia)       |

Darryl Mickley is one of those rare wrestlers who has seemingly changed his style overnight. In the past he was a stolid, defensive wrestler winning bouts in a dry as dust style that allowed him twice to place at the state level. Suddenly, this season he becomes the consummate offensive wrestler scoring 20 or more points in virtually every bout. In 1985 this new found aggressiveness should translate into a state title. Except for Coulter, I really don't see anybody even challenging him.

Mickley's regional is probably one of the weakest in the state. Reinbolt certainly should challenge for a qualifying spot, but not Mickley's. The unknown Barnes is a pinner who may catch enough people by surprise to qualify. State qualifier Huston (Lancaster) has not wrestled well enough to qualify, but Griffiths and Wagner (Medina) may have a chance. McClintock (North Canton Hoover) looks to be moving to this weight and if so he could be a factor. Clearly, except for Mickley, no one here will place at State.

The really strong regional, though, is the one at Bowling Green. There six top-notch contenders will vie for the four qualifying spots. Coulter has wrestled at 175# all year, but certified at 167#. He should be the top man at Bowling Green and the one competitor who could upset Mickley. State qualifier Stobart has solid credentials despite a 4th place finish at North Canton. He seems to be the kind of wrestler who improves as the season progresses. Shafer is an outstanding athlete whose state chances ended last year with a regional injury. I like both their chances for qualification. I put OCC champ Beier ahead of Drew and state qualifier Schwartz (Westerville North) for the last spot, but it should be very close.

I see Beier as the wild card in this regional. On a hot weekend he could be second--on just an average weekend he could be left out. Again as is so often the case the pairings will be crucial.

Mason heads the Mentor contingent which appears to be very weak. Since he has moved up to 167# Mason has looked very good. Except for the controversial loss to Beier he has been dominating. He won't be quick enough to match up with Mickley, though. The well runs dry after Mason. Lucas and Hoover are LEL rivals with very moderate credentials although Hoover was the Brecksville champ. King (Euclid), Chirozzi (Warren Howland), and Bryant (Lorain) are also possibilities. But there have to be better folks than this. Look for them, whoever they are, to surprise at least several of my listed people this year.

As a footnote, two-time state qualifier Kevin Ginley of St. Ignatius did not come out for the team. Had he done so he would probably have been a top three choice, and given Ignatius the opportunity for the runner-up trophy.

The qualifiers from the Southwest will surprise a lot of people. Dudgeon, Lucas, Dotson, and Laake may not be superstars, but they are better than anyone outside of Bowling Green except for Mickley and Mason. They all look like they have low place possibilities-- particularly Dudgeon and Lucas. These two have battled each other all year, and it would be only fitting if they met for a place, say 5th, at Columbus. The one weakness is their takedown skills. Dole (Harrison) is another possibility who cannot be overlooked.

#### 175#

PROJECTED CHAMP: SCOTT HOLMAN (Upper Arlington)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2. Welch (St. Edward)        | 9. Byington (Fairfield)            |
| 3. Funk (Massillon Jackson)  | 10. Millimen (Toledo Clay)         |
| 4. Prelock (Lake Cahtolic)   | 11. Brownsberger (Louisville)      |
| 5. Law (Wapakoneta)          | 12. Rupper (Dayton Wayne)          |
| 6. Managan (Akron Firestone) | 13. Benes (Lakewood)               |
| 7. Seacrist (Chardon)        | 14. Mincy (Cincinnati Mt. Healthy) |
| 8. Rosemond (Toledo Rogers)  | 15. Bauer (Amherst Steele)         |

A sensational weight class featuring a number of absolutely outstanding 175's. If there were an Outstanding Wrestler Award at Columbus the winner of this weight class would be a prime candidate. I anticipate that the competition will engender more discussion and interest than at any other "AAA" class.

My choice is the rock solid and implacable Holman. He was 2nd last year--thanks to drawing away from both Moore and Foor--but pairings will not have any effect on him this year. He is the best at their weight class, and will prove it by defeating an awesome field for the title. His finals loss to Foor is his only defeat the past two years, and he has wrestled all season at 185# even though certified at this lower weight.

There is top competition for Holman everywhere but let's start at the Mentor Regional. Chris Welch has developed into a legitimate star who probably has the best chance of upsetting Holman. He, like Holman, is an enormous 175# although I think Holman may be a bit quicker and stronger. Welch benefits from great coaching and solid competition week after week. Right behind Welch is the redoubtable Prelock, 6th last year at this weight. He was hammered by Welch at the OCC but has made a habit of coming back from such losses. Last year he pinned Inderlied in the regional finals after an early season loss. Trailing both of these is the solid Seacrist--loser only to Welch at both the West Geauga and North Canton finals. He was one point from a state berth last season. All of these boys have strong placement possibilities with Welch a possible finalist. Behind them--a long way behind them--are folks like Benes, Bauer, and D'Annibale (Brecksville)

Mike Funk has made incredible strides this year, and this outstanding junior is a force to be reckoned with. Last season he made it to the state quarter-finals, but he should do much better than that is 1985. He has already thumped Managan, 4th at this weight last year, and crushed my "AA" choice, Rini, 10-0. He'll join his brother as a state champion, but probably not this year. Managan is still big and tough and could place again. The question I have revolves around his level of improvement. Brownsberger is an often overlooked member of that fine Louisville team, but he should qualify and, perhaps, score at the state level. The fourth spot is wide open.

Holman will face vigorous competition at his own regional. I was really impressed with Mike Law last season even though he lost both outings--one to state champ Foor and the other by one point to Prelock. He should be a solid qualifier. Rosemond and Millimen are long-time rivals who I favor for the other two qualifying spots. Rosemond, unaccountably, failed to get out of his district after a splendid season while Millimen went to State. This year they have split in two hard-fought outings. Gutoski (Port Clinton) and Uphouse (Hilliard) are two other state possibilities at this regional.

The Southwest Regional is not quite as well armed at this weight. North Canton champ Byington moved down from 185#, but he would actually do better at the higher weight. Rupper, Mincy, and Starkey are my choices for the last three spots, but there are a number of

other contenders as well. Chief among them are Wampler (Springfield North) and Whitney (Oakhills). This area will have trouble placing a boy at this weight.

### 185#

PROJECTED CHAMP: HANK INDERLIED (Chardon)

#### TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2. Sullivan (Lake Catholic)    | 11. Salopeck (Mentor)            |
| 3. Musci (Stow)                | 12. Houska (Walsh Jesuit)        |
| 4. Blessing (Cin. Roger Bacon) | 13. Miller (Rocky River)         |
| 5. Young (Lancaster)           | 14. Lyons (Elyria)               |
| 6. Castellucci (Marlington)    | 15. Kelley (Amherst Steele)      |
| 7. Baker (Trotwood Madison)    | 16. Anderson (Toledo St. John)   |
| 8. Dominquez (Toledo Rogers)   | 17. Chenevey (Massillon Jackson) |
| 9. Mullins (Dayton Charminade) | 18. Tsamasiros (Centerville)     |
| 10. Mitchell (St. Edward)      | 19. Cross (Louisville)           |
|                                | 20. Bowermaster (Franklin)       |

It's kind of strange the way it's worked out at the upper weights. The 175# class is loaded, as is the heavyweight division while here at 185# the cupboard is nearly bare. In every regional I'm scratching to find four wrestlers who look even close to state caliber. This may be an opportunity weight for 175's who are not in the top echelon of that classification. Somebody like Byington who moved down to 175# would probably be better off at this weight in 1985.

Hank Inderlied is the obvious choice at this weight, but picking him makes me extremely nervous. He has always been a performer who has compiled erratic results over the years. A former World Age-Group champion, his skills are unsurpassed in this weight class, but his ability to consistently win has never been convincingly proven. An auto accident set him back early in the year but the MVP at the Brecksville after a beautifully wrestled win over Potokar showed what he can do. The question that still remains to be answered is whether he can do it all for three consecutive weekends.

Inderlied is a small 185, but his closest competitor, John Sullivan, is certainly not. John 3rd at this weight in 1984, has not looked real impressive so far this year, but I attribute that to the few bouts that he has actually wrestled. My guess is that he'll have heavy duty practice sessions to get him ready for the tournaments. I think Inderlied is just too slick for him, but with Inderlied penchant for being upset Sullivan may find someone else awaiting him in the finals.

The rest of the Mentor Regional is in a state of confusion. Miller and Kelley are west side wrestlers who made it to regionals last year. However, they wrestle weak schedules which do not sufficiently harden them for the tests still to come. Lyons was runner-up at the Medina, and he may be the best possibility for the third qualifying spot. Miller and Kelley could be pushed out of the picture altogether by two rapidly improving juniors. Mitchell--while a very small 185#--took Sullivan to the limit at the OCC and may be ready to establish himself as one of the outstanding big men in 1986. Salopeck decked Mitchell earlier in the year and his heroics have led to three Mentor dual triumphs. He will challenge anyone but the top two.

At Perry the picture is jumbled because many of the top contenders have not met. Musci lost two regional matches last year--one in overtime--either of which would have qualified him for the State. He should be ready this year. Castellucci and Young are both little known, but very tough. Castellucci has already beaten both Cross and Chenevey in compiling an undefeated season, while Young has been outstanding at the Gorman and Marion Harding Classics. Houska may be the fourth qualifier, but Cross and Chenevey are ready to pounce on the smallest opening. It will be a close, if not particularly elevated, competition.

Blessing, a state qualifier at 175# last year, has moved up this year and has done well. He leads what appears to be the best in a rather weak Southwestern Regional. Missing is state qualifier Nick Cooley, who as a first year wrestler nearly placed at the state level. A sensational prospect this junior from Hamilton did not go out for the team. Other top performers who will appear are Baker, Mullins, Tsamasiros, and Bowermaster. It will be a crowded field with some surprises sure to occur. Bitsko (Dayton Carroll) and Rettig, (Cincinnati St. Xavier) are two possibilities for long-shot qualification.

The Bowling Green Regional is weakest of all. Two pocket-sized heavyweights, Dominguez and Anderson, will move down and be the people to beat. They lack quickness. Smith is a possibility for a qualifying spot while the unheralded Longfellow (Newark) could also be in the thick of things. Not much here.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMP: KEITH CAMERON (Alliance)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. Stewart (Xenia)            | 11. White (Dayton Stebbins)       |
| 3. Reid (St. Joseph)          | 12. Murphy (Kent Roosevelt)       |
| 4. Farrow (New Philadelphia)  | 13. Korleski (Austintown Fitch)   |
| 5. Vanadia (Normandy)         | 14. Goforth (West Chester Lakota) |
| 6. Chenetski (Pickerington)   | 15. Fraley (Marion Franklin)      |
| 7. Sullivan (Lake Catholic)   | 16. Bouman (North Olmsted)        |
| 8. Cliffe (Defiance)          | 17. Johnson (Strongsville)        |
| 9. McConnell (Centerville)    | 18. Hicks (Norton)                |
| 10. Mynster (Upper Arlington) | 19. Arslanian (Solon)             |
|                               | 20. Stanley (Springfield North)   |

The heavyweight division is the strongest it's been since 1975 when Golic, Cousineau, Harold Smith, Payne, and Weitzman competed. There are a number of outstanding competitors and each regional is loaded with state quality kids. From the first round at Columbus we'll be seeing intriguing matchups and great wrestling. Enjoy.

I've not correctly chosen the winner at this class in "AAA" since 1980 and, generally, my picks get pinned in the first round while 10 points ahead. Last year I outdid myself with Chris D'Esposito breaking his ankle after winning the regional. Thus it should give defending state champion Keith Cameron little pleasure that I believe he has the ability to repeat. Clearly, in a high performance field like this one and with the known volatility of the heavyweight class Cameron will have to be razor sharp to take the title. He will also be combatting a 17-year jinz in which no "AAA" heavyweight has taken the title two consecutive years. The last wrestler to do so was Greg Wojciechowski in 1967 and 1968. Later, of course, he became an NCAA champion. Still the short squatty Cameron is extremely quick and a real pinner. He corrects his own mistakes by ending the match early. Undefeated this year and Medina champ on fire straight falls his biggest problem will be the wrestler who'll outslick him early and stall at the end.

Cameron exits from the Perry Regional and the competition there will be very strong. Farrow, 2nd to Cameron last year, also returns and has lost only one bout this year. His biggest problem has been a weak schedule dotted with forfeits. His only losses last season were to D'Esposito and Cameron, and he beat Stewart 12-9 in the quarter-finals. Junior Wes Murphy has moved ahead of many others this year with his rapid improvement. Cameron pinned him at Medina, but other than that he looked very tough. Johnson was a state qualifier last season while Hicks missed by a single bout. Both will have to scrape to make Columbus this year. Two interesting wrestlers will be



Jackson (Akron Buchtel) and Datkuliak (Louisville). The former upset Farrow this year 9-8 so you know he didn't win on a lucky fall. He had not shown that kind of talent in the past, although he clearly is capable of the monumental upset. Datkuliak, brother of last year's state qualifier, placed an unimpressive 3rd at North Canton and 5th at Medina, but he recently took Cameron to the wire in a narrow 8-6 loss. They will have to be watched.

One of Cameron's biggest challenges will be Rod Stewart, 4th last year at this weight. Not always the most impressive looking wrestler he knows how to win the close ones--a super talent for a heavyweight. This season he remains undefeated despite a number of "close shaves." McConnell is an excellent wrestler who also plays the line on stalling with great intelligence. He's about due to beat Stewart after a number of close losses to him. White at 6'5" and 230# is an impressive physical specimen who was Lineman of the Year in Ohio. If he can harness his tremendous athletic skills into a wrestling framework he should get to Columbus. That leaves the aptly named Goforth and Stanley to squabble for the last place.

The Mentor Regional also is loaded with at least seven boys good enough to qualify. I've liked Reid for the last several years and he came on strong at the end of last season to become a state quarter-finalist. If he can get over the occasional habit of going into a coma and throwing away won matches he could win it all. Ed Vanadia put on about 45 pounds during the past year and he has good wrestling skills to go along with a 230# frame. He was most impressive winning the Brecksville title. Twin brother Mike Sullivan wrestles a tough, intimidating style, and has the muscle to back it up. However, he has trouble with the "good moves" heavyweights. Korleski is something of a plodder but at 5'10", 235# he is difficult to do much against. He also has trouble with heavyweights who wrestle rather than push and tug. That leaves the door open for Bouman who has excellent moves, but lacks the strength and size to overpower the best boys. He'll have to be at his peak to qualify. Two other possibilities are the rugged duo of Arslanian and Linberger (Chardon). The latter--a strong placer at North Canton and Brecksville--recently underwent arthroscopic knee surgery and may not be ready for the tournaments.

The Bowling Green Regional is terribly crowded. Medina runner-up Chenetski has had a recent slump but he may marginally be the best heavy there. The 6'6" Cliffe isn't well known, but this Defiance senior is ready for a really strong performance. Last year he lost a regional bout to Chenetski by two points and is undefeated this year. Mynster and the angular Fraley are my two other choices as qualifiers, but the field is really wide open. Lavelle (Westerville South), the gigantic Reed (Reynoldsburg), and Stine (Perrysburg) are possibilities. While this would be a strong regional in a normal year, it is probably the weakest of a strong lot in 1985.

## TEAMS

1. St. Edward -- A senior oriented team that should crush all opposition on its way to an eighth consecutive team crown. The super tough Mentor Regional may actually help St. Ed's since it will swallow up competitors' boys without materially affecting their wrestlers. The heart of the team is the weights from 105# to 138# and it would not be surprising for any or all of that group to win a state title with the exception of the dazzling sophomore Prker. Welch and Mason are upper weight place possibilities, but to break the team point record the disarray at 145# and 155# will have to be rectified, and Mitchell must continue to improve.
2. North Canton Hoover -- One of the best teams from the standout Federal League, North Canton has a solid nucleus of Green, Dolph, and Kenville. In addition, if Brokloff can come back he will score for them at 112#. Where North Canton rates ahead of others is that they have fine second-line strength. Glass, Thorp, Elsass, and McClintock could all score points at the state level.
3. North Olmsted -- A senior dominated team that could easily finish as high as 2nd weight or as low as 10th. The real question is how good those lower boys really are. It's crucial because they line up strength on strength at the regional with St. Ed's. Snyder and Shepherd have had great seasons, but the jury is still out on their state capabilities. Tusick must exit from the absolutely brutal Mentor Regional at 132#--something he had twice failed to do in the past. Bouman is at the murderous heavyweight class and Cornell at the equally tough 98#. Their test is the regional. Success there would make them state runner-ups.
4. Upper Arlington -- The brilliant Holman is the hub of the team, but there is plenty of strong help. Both McClellans could qualify and Walter, Hamilton, and Mynster certainly have good chances to do so. They exit from a regional that is often weak at their key weights so they should be well represented in Columbus. The question is can they score there.
5. St. Joseph -- A team with four working parts and, maybe, one spare. It's about time St. John did something at the state level--after all should he make his way through the torturous Mentor Regional at his weight, a high place would seem a certainty in this his third try. Both Hunters should place and if Reid stays alert he could win it. However, there is little margin for error.
6. Louisville -- A team that may be somewhat over-rated. Mickley and Malcuit are great, but everyone after them is suspect. They

have the good fortune of being away from the Cleveland boys this year, but it won't help them much if people like Melegari, Brownsberger, Cross, and Datkuliak cannot score at the state level.

7. Chardon -- A team with some crucial question marks. First, can Inderlied stay solid and win the state crown he clearly deserves? Second, can Gallagher qualify at 132# out of that murderous Mentor Regional? Third, can Seacrist and DeFelice score at the state level. And fourth, can Barron and Linberger be ready to compete by district time. Four affirmative answers puts them in the top five.
8. Centerville -- Pearson should be a finalist, and the 126# class is such that DeCamp has the ability to score heavily. If McConnell can do well at the rugged heavyweight class and Norris hangs tough at 145# this team will do very well. It wouldn't hurt to have Hamilton and Tsamasiros pitch in, too.
9. Lake Catholic -- This is not a deep team, but feature three individual stars--Prelock and the Sullivan twins. It wouldn't be a huge jump into fantasy land to see all three as possible finalists--but it's unlikely. The problem is that Topoly and Solano--the only possible helpers--are at difficult regional weight classes.
10. Xenia -- They just have so many opportunities that you'd think some would come through for them. The sticking point is that Xenia wrestlers haven't proved that they're good enough to score at the state level as a team. Still with Stewart as the linchpin and the two Dagleys to help, maybe they can get Caskey, Dudgeon, Peck, Smith, and Muncy involved.
11. St. Ignatius -- Strictly a three-man team, but what a threesome. Buddie and Hartman have to be favored and Kurman could be a finalist. In the land of "what might have been" you have to think about state placer Ginley who didn't come out--and possible state placer Haman who moved to California. They might have been second with that group.
12. Alliance -- I'm really impressed with Cameron and Lightner, but both could be upset victims. With only Pierson and Reda as back-up help this team--with bad luck--could fall out of the top twenty.