

Pat Workman

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AAA

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

FORECAST

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 ACTUAL STATE QUALIFIERS

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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 Ohio. Naturally, 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 calibre of wrestling this is, undoubtedly, a weaker than average year throughout the entire state. Certainly, there are some exceptional seniors like Dernlan, Dagley, Funk, Donovan, and Marinelli, but the strength of the state is in its juniors. Next year will be a recruiting bonanza--probably the best year since 1982 when Heffernan, Elinsky, Jordan and that outstanding group matriculated. The difference between this year and 1985 has been the decline in good upper weight competitors. An outstanding exception to this is the "AAA" 185# class, but with that exception the calibre of big men has seriously diminished.

I've often used these reports as a forum to discuss ways in which wrestling in Ohio could be improved--particularly in the context of the individual wrestler. This year there are three issues that need addressing:

1. The regional format was promoted and approved as a method which allows equal representation of schools. Each regional would be equal in size and send an equal number of qualifiers to Columbus. Yet, this year the Mentor Regional has 69 schools while the Tiffin Regional has but 54. This makes no sense. The Mentor Regional has dominated "AAA" wrestling for the past few years, and has always left home wrestlers who could qualify from any other regional. To include even more schools at that location penalizes individuals for geography and not wrestling skills. If for some unfathomable reason regionals must differ in size by this much (almost 30%), then that area which has placed the most boys certainly shouldn't bear the brunt of that unequal division. If one of the goals of the regional format was to more nearly qualify the best 16 boys at each weight class for Columbus, then common sense suggests that the most successful regional not be assigned the greatest number of teams. The NCAA selects qualifiers from its regionals based strictly on merit (number or placewinners and matches won the previous year). That, in my mind, is not an appropriate methodology at the high school level, but a system in which individuals are short-changed by unequal representation is even more distasteful. There would appear to be many solutions to this problem and, perhaps, a blue-ribbon panel out to be assigned the task of discovering the best alternative.

AAA

Because the Central "AAA" Districts are to be assigned at a later date, it will not be possible to do any kind of a complete regional analysis. The Reynoldsburg District will go to Massillon while the Upper Arlington District will travel to Tiffin. I am making the assumption that Upper Arlington will compete at its own facility and, hence, will also be at Tiffin. This system, at the district level, is so much at variance with the rest of the state and has so much potential for mischief that it ought to be eliminated.

98#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ~~ALAN FRIED~~ (ST. EDWARD) (3)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| (2) | 2. Blas (North Canton) | 10. Flauto (Hudson) |
| (5) | 3. Nelson (North Royalton) | 11. Smith (North Olmsted) |
| | 4. Priebe (Holy Name) | 12. King (Euclid) |
| | 5. Ramirez (Toledo Waite) | (6) 13. King (East Liverpool) |
| | 6. Caudill (Beaver Local) | 14. Orcutt (Toledo Rogers) |
| | 7. Smith (Fairfield) | 15. Monachino (Maple Hts.) |
| (1) | 8. Smith (Solon) | 16. Ramirez (Fremont Ross) |
| | 9. Bouten (Lebanon) | 17. Williams (West Chester Lakota) |
| | | 18. Biehle (Uniontown Lake) |

Alan Fried has dominated this weight for the entire season, and, yet, I feel most uncomfortable in selecting him. He is, after all, only a freshman and is a very small 98#. However, he has sensational moves, great body position, and seemingly, perfect balance. Yet what I think may happen--as it did to Dane Tussel when he was a freshman--is that an inferior wrestler will muscle him onto his back for 5 points or a fall, and knock him out of the competition. Brute force has a very real place in wrestling and Fried may fall victim to it. Besides this weight class (out of the 39 I select) is the one I've gone longest without a winner. So far I'm 0 for the 1980's with my last winning selection being Joe McFarland in 1979.

The Mentor Regional is, as is almost always the case, really loaded. Right behind Fried is another sensational freshman, Shawn Nelson, who is also undefeated this year. He has had virtually no close bouts the entire year. Priebe, another young wrestler, has lost only to Nelson and Fried at 98# and has been very impressive. Caudill, a senior, wrestles in an out-of-the-way area, but has an unbeaten season. If he finds out how good he really is he'll qualify, otherwise Mentor will over-awe him and he'll freeze up early. Both Smith and King are tough kids looking for any kind of opening for a state

berth. Yackin (Valley Forge), a clever leg wrestler, and Solon Inv. champ Wathey also have ambitions of regional placement. The pairings at Mentor may be a problem with Fried, Priebe, Smith, Yackin, and Wathey all coming out of the Avon Lake District.

At Massillon the competition will also be fierce. Elsass won the MIT in very impressive fashion, and has strung together a number of nicely wrestled bouts. His only loss was to Fried in the finals of North Canton. Minadeo and state qualifier Flauto would also have to rate as favorites for qualifying berths. Both have had some losses, but their opponent never has an easy second. The undefeated Emering, Monachino, and Biehle would seem to be in a battle for the fourth spot. Emering is pretty much an unknown quantity, but won the OVAC with real style. Biehle and Monachino are both rugged individuals who could upset anyone, but Elsass. Whoever qualifies should be in the hunt for state places.

At Tiffin, Jerry Ramirez would rank as the favorite over a relatively uninspiring field. Except for him it's difficult to see any of the rest of this group do much at the States. Orcutt and Jamie Ramirez have done well this year while Kynard (Toledo St. Francis) and Zipfel (Defiance) could be surprises. Another long-shot is Obrieter (Perrysburg). You'll want to draw into this group in the first round at Columbus.

The Dayton Regional is also weak. The freshman Laflin, the better of the Fairfield twins, is showing steady improvement and might even place. The rest of the field strikes me as mediocre although Boulton and Williams are reasonable. Wright (Dayton Dunbar) might be a surprise here.

105#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ~~DAVE RANGE~~ (CLEVELAND HTS.) ①

TOP CONTENDERS:

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|------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 2. | Shuman (Galion) | 10. | Lemon (Glen Oak) |
| ② 3. | Smith (Holy Name) | 11. | Isaacs (Vandalia Butler) |
| 4. | Hampton (Hilliard) | 12. | Wanchoke (North Olmsted) |
| ③ 5. | Topolsky (Lake Catholic) | 13. | Tolarchyk (North Canton) |
| 6. | Pegram (Middletown) | 14. | Croft (Lima Shawnee) |
| 7. | McConne (Solon) | 15. | Rotsaert (St. Edward) |
| ④ 8. | Moore (Lebanon) | 16. | McDougle (Maumee) |
| 9. | Campbell (Westerville North) | 17. | Petti (Mentor) |
| | | 18. | Salemme (Cincy St. X) |

This is an absolutely splendid weight class featuring a wide and varied cast of outstanding performers. It should provide both regional and state fans with lots of excitement. My choice is Dave Range, 3rd last year at 98#, and undefeated this season. Range won the toughest 98# regional in the state last year, and then was eliminated by the 4th place winner in the state semi-

finals. When in the proper frame of mind, Range is a devastating competitor combining exceptional strength and tremendous quickness. However, he has in the past had periods where he seemed content to win by a few points without making an all-out effort. If he tries that with the field assembled here, he will quickly become an upset victim.

The Mentor Regional is again top-heavy with talent. Kundtz won the OCC with a final round pin, and last season pinned Caskey at States before being eliminated. He is very strong. Topoly, now at the right weight, slows down the pace of a bout and wins by several points almost every time. He is an exceptional rider, but is prone to stalling calls because he is not super aggressive. He lost two heartbreakers in last year's regional including a one-point defeat by state champ Martin. Cianciola, the sensational freshman, will have to beat some bigger boys to qualify, but he has some of the best moves I've seen this year at 105#. This quartet will be challenged by a number of state-calibre wrestlers--boys who would make it any place else. This includes the enigmatic Rotsaert, the takedown artist Petti, and Pattie (Elyria). It would not be much of an upset if any of this trio were to qualify. Even Manning (Willoughby South) Long (West Geauga), and Reihner (Madison) have state ability. Again both Avon Lake and Mayfield Districts are loaded which will cause pairings jam-ups the next weekend.

I was so impressed with Scott Kintner that I nearly picked him to win this year. He upset defending state champion Gelvin in the state quarter-finals, before finishing a strong 5th. Range or anybody else will only beat him with an absolutely maximum effort. I've lumped the Columbus boys in this regional though one or both could be at Massillon. Both Cameron and Campbell are state qualifiers who won a bout apiece at States. I like Cameron better, but both are exceptional. They should qualify at either regional, and Cameron has middle-to-high place potential. State qualifier Croft may have trouble repeating this year while McDougale and Dorn (Toledo Whitmer) may win a trip for the first time. Their chances will depend on what direction the two Columbus boys travel.

The Dayton Regional is also excellent. Pergram, a state qualifier last year, lost an exciting first round battle and did not reappear (thanks to the archaic consolation rules). He has place potential, and the ability to upset anyone. Moore and Isaace have both had solid seasons and both were just a few points from state qualification last year. Saleme is my surprise fourth choice, but he'll have to be in top form. The other Laflin (Fairfield) twin is solid, and right behind him are a handful of other good competitors.

The Massillon Regional will develop depending on where Cameron and Campbell are located. However, Picone has the power to beat either. He needs to establish real consistency on the tourney trail. Lemon, a state qualifier, is also strong, while Tolarchyk has won a lot of bouts that you thought might go the other way. He dominated the Southwestern 105's present at the St. X Tourney and was nipped by a single point by Campbell. Yet Pattie slaughtered him at the MIT. Other possibilities include Tran (Groveport), Slusser (Uniontown Lake), Snyder (Akron Firestone), and Miller (New Philadelphia).

PROJECTED CHAMPION: EDDIE NOBLE (LEBANON)

TOP CONTENDERS:

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|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 2. | Biggs (St. Edward) | 12. | Alves (Anthony Wayne) |
| ⑤ 3. | Caskey (Xenia) | 13. | Berdysz (Mentor) |
| ① 4. | [REDACTED] (Reynoldsburg) | 14. | [REDACTED] (Perrysburg) |
| 5 | [REDACTED] (Euclid) | 15. | S. Lemon (Massillon Perry) |
| 6. | Miller (Warren Howland) | ② 16. | [REDACTED] (Chardon) |
| ⑥ 7. | [REDACTED] (Hudson) | 17. | Knotts (Vincent Warren) |
| 8. | Langratt (Glen Oak) | 18. | Brady (Toledo St. John) |
| 9. | [REDACTED] (Fremont Ross) | 19. | Cornell (North Olmsted) |
| ④ 10. | Rhodes (Cuyahoga Falls) | 20. | [REDACTED] (Whitehall Yearling) |
| 11. | [REDACTED] (Fairfield) | 21. | [REDACTED] (Cincy St. X.) |
| | | 22. | Klumb (Elder) |

Another absolutely dynamite weight class. It has one of the better assortment of little men in the state in several years. My choice, Eddie Noble, will later be looked on as one of my most brilliant and insightful selections in some time or as a complete misjudgment of an entire weight class. Noble, 4th last year, has been a qualifier since his freshman year, but it was only last season that he clicked in Columbus. He lost to Macko 2-1 in the semi-finals, but physically manhandled him. This year he has been wrestling several weight classes up, but is now back at 112#. He may lose one or two on the trail to Columbus (his regional is loaded), but he will prevail at the state meet.

One of his toughest rivals will be Chris Caskey. The regional champ last year (he upset state champ Gelvin in the finals). He has not had a close bout all year. Physically dominating, too, he and Noble will shake up the entire gym when they meet. State qualifier Hinkle will work for a third or fourth state berth, but he has no chance against the top two. Saleme and Klumb are also both excellent, but the odds are tough for them at this regional. In addition Utt (Fairborn Baken) and Jesse (Lakota) could be tough. An extremely solid regional.

Most people are looking at Kevin Biggs as state champion figuring it's his turn after two runner-up finishes in the last three years. There is no question he'll be a formidable obstacle in anybody's path, but I think he's one of those St. Ed's stars destined never to win the big one. There are two reasons this is likely to happen. One is that Biggs, now a muscular senior has started to rely on muscle instead of moves. Noble and Caskey will destroy that style. Second, Biggs seems to have trouble wrestling up to his potential in big matches and that spells sure trouble in Columbus. Deboe missed by a single point of qualifying for Columbus. He looks like the second best at this weight, but his margin over a pack of challengers is not wide. Berdysz, two-time state qualifier Barron, and state qualifier Miller all fall into that

category of "almost stars." Berdysz wrestles a conservative style that doesn't take full advantage of his abilities, Barron is not physically strong, and Miller is inconsistent. Give them a "hot hand" regional and any of them could qualify. Barron has made a habit of that kind of qualification. Cornell also is good, being eliminated last year on a criteria decision by the eventual state runner-up while Gilmore (St. Joseph) can be a threat to anyone. Richner (Painesville Riverside), a fine sophomore and Kopp (Southview) are two other contenders who look overmatched here.

At Massillon Perry the field has good credentials, but I don't think any of them is good enough to place. State qualifiers Williams, Langfitt, and Rhodes all made the trip to Columbus last year, but none placed and only Rhodes won a bout. That's about what will happen this year. However, if Ryan is here things will look very different. He was a solid 3rd last year at 105# losing only a very close bout to Biggs. He is very tall and would dominate this regional. His chances for state placement are excellent and it is not inconceivable that favorable pairings could make him a finalist. Lemon and Mattingly (Uniontown Lake) are two other strong performers while Knotts could be the tourney surprise. This weight class at Massillon will be most interesting.

The Tiffin Regional is not this strong unless Ryan is here (which is unlikely). State qualifiers Marinis and Alves are long-time opponents who are just about dead even. Brady, Clasen, and Pfaff have had solid seasons, but it's difficult to see them gaining more than a low regional place and a quick first round departure at Columbus. A dark horse is Carter (Columbus Eastmoor) who if things go well, could be not only a qualifier, but a possible challenge to the top boys. This regional, however, is not going to scare anyone from the other areas.

119#

PROJECTED CHAMP ~~ERD GORDON~~ (TRENTON EDGEWOOD) (5)

TOP CONTENDERS:

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 2. Venesile (St. Edward) | 12. Mike (Fairfield) |
| 3. Montie (Toledo Rogers) | 13. King (Euclid) |
| 4. Worley (Carrollton) | (6) 14. Bill (Revere) |
| 5. Long (Galion) | 15. Wasson (Vandalia Butler) |
| (1) 6. Moulin (West Branch) | 16. Clark (Worthington) |
| 7. Alex (Toledo Central Catholic) | 17. Schaub (Ashland) |
| 8. Glass (North Canton) | 18. Lowe (Kent Roosevelt) |
| (2) 9. Hoskins (Xenia) | 19. Smith (Troy) |
| (3) 10. Lampa (Valley Forge) | 20. Prusha (Maple Hts.) |
| 11. Biggins (Anthony Wayne) | 21. Grimes (Howland) |

This is not a particularly strong weight class, and lacks any real returning state stars. My choice for the top spot is Gordy Gordon who must surmount a weak schedule and some past problems to win. However, he is a nice combination of power and speed and if he stays within himself, he should take the title. His main competition should come from Venesile who we'll discuss in the context of his own regional.

For the second consecutive weight the Dayton Regional is loaded. Gordon, of course, heads the field, but Hoskins and state qualifiers Baker, Wasson, and Smith are all top-notch competitors. Baker has moved up three weight classes from his 6th place finish at 98# last year and he may be a little small. Otherwise I would place him second here. Wasson and Smith will have trouble repeating their qualification of 1985 because others have improved more than they have. Parker (Centerville) has been out all year, but is a possibility if totally healthy. That's a total of six candidates already, and Pico (Springfield North) and Anderson (Cincinnati St. X.) are two more. A solid group.

Venesile is several steps ahead of anybody else in the Mentor Regional, and could well beat Gordon in Columbus with his wide assortment of takedowns. Venesile is good on his feet and if he can take Gordon down he may be able to beat him, but not if he's on the mat with him. I like the unheralded Moulin at Mentor, but, again, it depends on whether he can handle the pressure there. If not, old war-horses like two-time state qualifier Lampa, state qualifier Felix, King, and Grimes might be best shots for qualification. Actually this is one time where some relatively unknown to this area has a chance at qualifying for States. Somebody, for example, like Lowe or Clark (Lorain Southview).

At Tiffin the competition will be even. State qualifiers Montrie, Biggins, and Schaub are good, but so are non-qualifiers Alex and Long. This quintet should be the principal players in determining the four qualifiers. The tall Montrie has always been a favorite of mine, but has lost two first-round bouts in Columbus. He is overdue. Long was MVP at the Marion Harding and he may capture a low place. The others, especially Schaub, will have trouble in Columbus from the first round on.

The Massillon Regional has an interesting mixture of people. Worley may be the best, but he's not wrestled in almost a year because of injuries. However, in top form, he'll ride the rest of this group to death. Glass has state placement potential if he can quit going to his back and throwing away won bouts. He is strong for the weight. Prusha and Clark are a large step below these two, but could have qualification possibilities. Other contenders will be Woodruff (Vincent Warren), Cefaratti (Hudson), and, probably, Marsico (Cuyahoga Falls).

PROJECTED CHAMPION: JEFF LYONS (ELYRIA)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| ① 2. | Hamad (Akron Firestone) | 9. | Roberto (Ravenna) |
| 3. | [REDACTED] (Louisville) | 10. | [REDACTED] (Hilliard) |
| 4. | [REDACTED] (Upper Arlington) | 11. | [REDACTED] (St. Edward) |
| ③ 5. | [REDACTED] (Toledo St. John) | 12. | [REDACTED] (Cincinnati Elder) |
| 6. | [REDACTED] (North Canton) | ④ 13. | [REDACTED] (Lake Catholic) |
| ② 7. | [REDACTED] (Collinwood) | 14. | Farra (West Carrollton) |
| 8. | [REDACTED] (Fairfield) | 15. | Darby (Valley Forge) |
| | | 16. | Franklin (Marion Harding) |

This is probably one of the weaker weight classes in "AAA" competition. My top two choices are juniors who are just now beginning to blossom into full fledged stars. Yes, I know Lyons lost to Malcuit 2-1, but it came just after he made the weight and was a typical Malcuit slow-down victory. He won't beat Lyons like that again. Lyons almost qualified at 132# last year wrestling up a weight because of state champ Saxton. He'll be the second consecutive Elyria wrestler to bring home that title. One other really incredible streak is in serious jeopardy. For the past eight years St. Edward has had a wrestler competing Saturday night in Columbus--four times winning the state title and four times taking 3rd. Seven different boys have put together this amazing streak, but the 8-0 Saturday night record is probably over as Auer is game, but overmatched at the state level.

Lyons exits the Mentor Regional and it's possible he'll be the only place-winner from there. Maddox is an incredible talent, but he's cutting a lot of weight and he doesn't get the competition in the room. However, he's six minutes of potential pin dynamite every time he wrestles. The rest of the field is far below these two. Auer, Schonauer and Darby are journeyman performers although Auer won the North Canton at 132#. Baker (North Olmsted), the Brecksville champ, appears to be back at 126# and will be a tough "go" for anybody. Price (St. Joseph) is another contender as is the erratic Crevar (Nordonia). Papouras (Euclid) burst onto the scene as a freshman sensation, but now as a senior has not dominated opponents like was expected. He is a long-shot for qualification.

At Massillon they'll have the best regional competition at this weight. Hamad, 4th last year at 105#, is up three weight classes. He's an absolutely marvelous wrestler, and if he doesn't win it all this year, he has got to be a favorite at some weight next year. Malcuit has been 2nd and 5th the past two years at 98# and is up four classes. He is not as talented as my first two choices, but he could beat either or both with a combination of great riding, slowing down the match, and intelligence. He is one of the headiest

wrestlers in "AAA" this year. Brokloff and state qualifier Roberto have to be the favorites for the other two qualification spots. This could leave the very rugged Slevinski (Maple Hts.) and Williams (East Liverpool) without a berth. If there is to be an upset look for Slevinski to pull it.

McClellan and Zeto will probably be at Tiffin and along with Knauer they should dominate that regional. After this trio the gap is deep and wide with Franklin (Marion Harding) and Harmon (Toledo St. Francis) heading up the next group. Look for McClellan to place again at the state level (he was 5th last year) and for Knauer to possibly do the same.

The Dayton Regional is weak. Duncan and Klosterman are its best, but they are only gathering low places at the big tourneys. Duncan, a state qualifier at 105# last year, doesn't truly seem settled at this weight, and will be small by March. Farra heads the next stratum with Geis (Beavercreek), Walker (Xenia), and LeForce (Franklin) pushing him.

132#

PROJECTED CHAMP: [REDACTED] (ST. EDWARD) ①

TOP CONTENDERS:

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. [REDACTED] (Minerva) | 8. Klever (Toledo St. John) |
| 3. [REDACTED] (Nordia) | 9. [REDACTED] (Xenia) |
| 4. [REDACTED] (St. Joseph) | 10. [REDACTED] (Pickerington) |
| 5. [REDACTED] (North Canton) | 11. Chevalier (Massillon Jackson) |
| 6. [REDACTED] (Hudson) | 12. Dyas (Upper Arlington) |
| 7. Schetter (Dayton Wayne) | 13. [REDACTED] (Toledo Rogers) |

This is a solid compact weight that basically will be of interest when the top five in this group compete. Leading the way is the fabulous St. Edward's junior, Guy Palker, 3rd at 126# last year. He is quick, skilled, and very physical on the mat and he'll just run the competition right into the ground. Next year he'll be one of the most sought after wrestlers in the country. This year he has dominated his competition and he just keeps on getting better.

Right behind Palker is "AA" state champ Gary Chaddock. Minerva has moved up to "AAA" this year and it sets up a tremendous confrontation between he and Palker. Chaddock was Outstanding Wrestler at the MIT easily beating two-time state champ Ken Ramsey while not allowing him a single takedown. He will mix it up with Palker, and if he gets an early lead he could easily win.

The third star is Joe Andrassy--only a sophomore--but one of the best in the state. He has already beaten Clague, won the Brecksville at 138#, and mauled everyone in his path. He is every bit as physical as Palker, but, maybe, a shade slower. Clague and Green have won major tournaments like the St. X and North Canton, but must be rated behind my top three. They could be

upset victims to the next echelon behind them whereas that is unlikely to befall my top trio.

At the Mentor Regional it will be all Palker, Clague, and Andrassy. Nobody else really matters here. It's likely they'll each be district champs so the pairing should be fine.

The Massillon Regional will be a little more crowded. Chaddock, of course, will be the dominant figure, but Titmas, 5th last year at this weight, and Green will help form a second top trio. Chevalier and Haas (Louisville) are possible qualification choices while Nace (Groveport) will also be a contender.

Both Korney and Dyas should be at Tiffin and they'll dominate the Toledo boys with the exception of Brickey and Klever. In any event this is an exceptionally weak regional and will be greatly cherished as first round opponents.

Finally, Schetter and Smith lead a weak Dayton Regional. The sophomore Schetter is a high potential competitor who may not place because of the stern competition. Watch for him in the future because he is going to be very good. Shaut (Oak Hills), Wolf (Colerain) and Francis (Troy) are other possibilities here.

138f

PROJECTED CHAMPION: **TONY HUNTER** (ST. JOSEPH) (2)

TOP CONTENDERS:

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) 2. [redacted] (St. Edward) | 10. Fleet (Boardman) |
| (4) 3. [redacted] (Watkins Memorial) | 11. [redacted] (Upper Arlington) |
| (5) 4. [redacted] (Marion-Franklin) | 12. Miller (Xenia) |
| 5. Randleman (Sandusky) | (6) 13. [redacted] (North Royalton) |
| 6. [redacted] (Lorain Southview) | 14. Rea (Massillon Jackson) |
| 7. [redacted] (North Canton) | 15. G. Ice (East Liverpool) |
| (3) 8. [redacted] (Glen Oak) | 16. [redacted] (Cincinnati Elder) |
| 9. [redacted] (Dayton Wayne) | 17. Schultz (Centerville) |

On the surface this does not appear to be a completely logical choice. After all Carpenter thumped Hunter 8-4 at the OCC winning with four takedowns to four escapes, and that is pretty decisive. Still I have reasons why I think this'll turn around. First, Hunter is the better athlete and the St. Joe's people are smart enough to change their plan of attack. Second, Hunter has had things so much his way this year (MVP in every tourney entered) that he just wasn't prepared for a tough bout. And, finally, Carpenter is more of a chance of being upset on the way to the State finals than Hunter. I look for Hunter to rededicate himself to the sport and pull out a one-point thriller in the state finals.

There are other strong contenders in the Mentor Regional. Taylor is also a marvelous athlete and amazingly strong. Last year at Mentor he threw Benny Bright all over the mat for two periods before tiring and getting pinned in the 3rd period. He should be in better shape this year and nobody is safe from his scintillating throws. Fleet and Marini are two other experienced competitors with fine records, and both can only make it by pulling a big upset. Collins (St. Ignatius) and Connelly (Rocky River) are top-notch competitors while DiNardo (Valley Forge) has upset capabilities.

Lieb, Thomas, and Ulen are a strong trio of 138's from the Columbus area whose regional location is yet to be determined so I'll treat them separately. Lieb was 3rd at 132# last year, and is the best looking candidate for the title after Hunter and Carpenter. The way the pairings will be made he'll have to beat both to win the championship--a daunting task, indeed. Both he and Thomas, who is very under-rated, have perfect records, but Lieb is a bit the better of the two. Still, I believe that they will both place. Ulen will almost surely go to Tiffin and that regional is terribly weak. He should qualify easily.

The only other top contender at Tiffin is the powerful Randleman. He seems to start each year slowly, but then comes on very strong at tourney time. He faces minimal competition from the likes of Taquino (Defiance), Kent (Maumee), and Shull (Toledo Clay). In fact, after Randleman, Ulen, and possibly, the other Columbus stars there is not much here to worry anyone.

At Massillon the story is one of "almosts." The four listed here from this regional are almost good enough to look for place--but not quite. Tharp was hurt part of the year and spent most of the rest at 145#. He's an unknown at this weight but I have a lot of faith in the North Canton system. Dodge and Rea are two other possibilities, with the former coming close to some big victories this year. State qualifier Gary Ice has just returned to the lineup after an almost season-long absence by winning the OVAC in impressive fashion including a final round fall. He may challenge the top trio. Of course, if some of the Columbus entries journey here some of the lower rated boys would have to be reevaluated for a state spot.

The Dayton Regional is of uncertain quality. Papalios and Miller would seem to be the two best, but how they will fare against the northern boys is still to be decided. Up till now, they have not done real well in that particular arena. Mullin is experienced while Schultz seems to have a lot of potential. Certainly his record this year would provide no hint of a state caliber wrestler, and yet the talent is there and it's just a question of whether it will surface in time for the state tourney trail. Several more conventional choices are Moore (Sycamore), Plummer (Chaminade), and Counts (Sidney).

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ~~Monty Dagley~~ (XENIA) ①

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ③ 2. Marion Marion Harding) | 10. Alspaugh (Sylvania Northview) |
| ④ 3. Bridges St. Ignatius) | 11. Eslich (Louisville) |
| 4. Worthington Worthington) | 12. Normandy (Normandy) |
| ② 5. Gucciaro (St. Edward) | 13. Massillon (Massillon Jackson) |
| 6. East Liverpool East Liverpool) | 14. McFarland (Tiffin) |
| 7. McKinney (West Chester Lakota) | 15. Oakhills (Oakhills) |
| 8. Gibbs (North Canton) | 16. Austintown (Austintown Fitch) |
| 9. Legan (Willoughby South) | 17. Saultz (Amherst) |

This is a relatively weak weight dominated by the towering presence of Monty Dagley. If he wrestles with six full minutes of intensity no one in the field will be within a half dozen points of him. Last year he shredded two fine 138's in the quarter and semi-finals in a manner which was completely overpowering--and these were first-rate wrestlers. Yet in the final only extremely questionable officiating enabled him to win the crown by one hotly disputed point. He deserved to lose the bout. What I'm saying is that if he gets distracted or impatient he can be challenged, if not, no one here has a chance. This year he has manhandled basically inferior opposition and crushed potential challengers. It will be a major upset if he loses.

Two of the top challengers come from the Columbus area which again confuses the regional picture. Mayse, 3rd last year, is a solid junior who upset Koch last year and then was crushed by Billy Walker. He's undefeated this year, but Dagley will handle him easily. O'Conner has a made-for-Dagley style, but he is a rugged competitor who can challenge anyone else. Both he and Mayse should place.

At Mentor, Buddie and Gucciardo would appear to be the two best. They're from the same district so they should be apart. Buddie holds two decisions over Gucciardo and was beaten by Dagley at the St. X Invitational. I've rated Legan over both Morgan and Saultz even though they finished ahead of him at Brecksville. I just think he is the superior boy and that Saultz was having a hot tournament. Hoopes is another challenger for a state berth while both Owens (Valley Forge) and Bontempo (North Ridgeville) are good enough to beat any of the top boys on a good night. Unfortunately Gucciardo, Buddie, Saultz, Owens, and Bontempo all exit from the Avon Lake District. One won't even make it to Mentor.

At Massillon one of the Columbus stars will probably be in the field and he should win. That's because there just isn't much here to challenge a real good wrestler. Paul Ice, a state qualifier at this weight last year, may be an exception to that theory, but if so, he's the only one. Gibbs, Eslich, and Lorenz are strictly journeyman performers who have had the good luck to be at a weak regional weight.

Much the same is true at Tiffin. Except for the importation of a Columbus standout, the field is very weak. Alspaugh and McFarland are reasonable choices with the former rated #2 in the Toledo area. Osborne (Westerville North) is a possibility if he comes this way, while Burch (Mansfield), Hook (Vermillion), and Lozano (Fremont Ross) could squeak through to a state berth. Nobody here has to worry about what to do with a state medal.

155#

PROJECTED STATE CHAMPION: ~~DAVE WALTER~~ (UPPER ARLINGTON) (2)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| (2) | 2. Landolfo (St. Edward) | (6) | 10. Laurenz / Smoot (Glen Oak) |
| (3) | 3. Emery (Massillon Jackson) | (6) | 11. W. ... (East Liverpool) |
| (4) | 4. Jackson (Toledo Waite) | | 12. ... (Xenia) |
| | 5. Marshall (Chaminade) | | 13. Keil (Boardman) |
| | 6. Wilkins (Grove City) | | 14. Doss (Gahenna) |
| | 7. Parasson (Akron Firestone) | | 15. Bachman (Vermillion) |
| | 8. Dave (Maple Hts.) | | 16. Collins (St. Ignatius) |
| | 9. Gibson (Mansfield Madison) | (1) | 17. Baum (Oakhills) |
| | | | 18. ... (North Royalton) |

This would appear to be a two-man contest between the exceptional senior Dave Walter and the talented St. Ed's junior, Jay Landolfo. Walter, 4th last year at 145#, has grown into the 155# class and has been superb all year. His 19-9 victory over Steve Buddie not only won him the MVP at Brunswick, but indicated that he has become even more aggressive this season. He has not been threatened this year. Landolfo, a first year varsity wrestler at St. Ed's, has been a major surprise dominating most competition and beating several talented out-of-state boys. I think Walter will beat Landolfo on his feet and avoid the down position where Landolfo has been so strong.

Walter should dominate the Tiffin Regional, but there will be plenty of good competition. Jackson has had tough luck in the last two regionals, but I see him breaking out of that box and placing at the state level. He is extremely strong. Wilkins, should he go that way, has been in Walter's shadow, but is an extremely solid wrestler with good placement potential. State qualifier Gibson and Bachman would thus be battling for the fourth qualifying spot with, perhaps, Herrera (Toledo Clay) and Morris (Toledo St. John). I favor Gibson to grab that berth and, perhaps, win a bout or two at Columbus.

The Mentor Regional is not terribly strong here, and Landolfo should not face many serious challenges. In fact, I've only listed Keil, Collins, and Schmidt as top contenders. None of this group is upset-proof and they will face tough competition--at their level--in this regional. Possible qualifiers are Cochrane (Beaver Local), Khas (Mayfield) and Fringer (Medina).

The Massillon Regional is very good. There are, possibly, six qualifiers with state placement aspirations. Gmerek has had a strong season, but he is not upset proof. State qualifier Parasson has lost to Gmerek, but beaten everyone else, but again he is not a sure-shot qualifier. David is the quintessential flopper who scores tons of points, but gives up nearly as many. He is exceptionally dangerous. Lautzenheiser is potentially the best wrestler here, but injuries hve sidelined nearly all season and sophomore backup Smoot won the MIT. Finally, Wright has tremendous moves, but is small for the weight. He may be able to outslick the bigger boys. It will be an outstanding competition.

At Dayton the competition is not nearly as strong. Marshall has made tremendous strides and, for now, leads the pack. Smith is a clear second choice as part of Xenia's exceptional middleweights. After that Baum, Johnson (West Chester Lakota) and, maybe, Whalen (Centerville) could be the best. Look for some upsets here with somebody like Field (Dayton Colonel White) or Minges (Harrison) surprising a higher-rated boy.

167#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ~~██████████~~ (LORAIN SOUTHVIEW) ③

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ② | 2. ██████████ (Solon) | 10. ██████████ (St. Edward) |
| ① | 3. ██████████ (Xenia) | 11. Vonderahe (Cincinnati-Elder) |
| | 4. ██████████ (Lima Shawnee) | 12. Feldspusch (Massillon Jackson) |
| | 5. Trotter (West Chester Lakota) | 13. ██████████ (Westerville North) |
| ④ | 6. ██████████ (Worthington) | 14. ██████████ (Holland Springfield) |
| | 7. Goatley (Maumee) | 15. ██████████ (Trenton Edgewood) |
| | 8. McRitchie (Bedford) | 16. ██████████ (Mayfield) |
| | 9. Bright (Chardon) | 17. DelRosa (Nordonia) |

The immensely powerful G. T. Taylor is my top choice at 167#, but his eventual victory is neither assured nor easily won. He will face challenges from every corner of the state including many from his own regional. What he has going for him is enormous strength and good agility. He also has good intensity and cannot be shaken and made to give up.

His top regional competition includes the recently shrunk down Bright, Butler, Wagner and DelRosa just for starters. Bright has placed high at West Geauga, North Canton and Brecksville wrestling at 185# and 175#. He should be very competitive at this weight. Butler, after a very slow start has won the North Canton and the OCC and may be finding himself. However, he can be

upended unexpectedly. Wagner has had a strong season including a first period fall over DelRosa. However, the sophomore DelRosa is extremely strong (his father is a weightlifting coach) and he is improving in leaps and bounds. By tourney time he may be the second best 167# in this regional. Other candidates for qualification are Gutbrod (St. Joseph), Garn (Wadsworth), and Mullen (Medina). A real sleeper would be the freshman Mike Buddie (St. Ignatius) just recently introduced into their starting lineup.

Genovese lost a tough overtime battle to Taylor at last year's regional, but then placed ahead of him at States by finishing 5th. He has one upset loss to Butler, but maybe, that will convince him that he must wrestle with constant intensity rather than floating through matches relying on superior athletic ability. He is, at his best, right in Taylor's league. State qualifier McRitchie beat Dudgeon last year in first round of States, but I don't see it happening again. Still he should qualify and, possibly, place. Feldspusch is the other real possibility in this region along with, perhaps, Schwartz if he gets sent in this direction. Eddlebute (Vincent Warren) is a long shot.

Tiffin will be strong. Shafer placed last year and he is a handful. Stobart lost to Shafer in his go-to-state bout, but he may do much better this year. His losses, unfortunately, seem to come at inopportune times so he'll have to be careful at this regional. Goatley and Brown are my choices for the last two spots, but Tammarine (Perrysburg) and Akers (Tiffin) have possibilities. It's likely that pretty much an unknown will capture one of these state berths.

The Dayton Regional is interesting. For the second year Dudgeon appears to be the cream of the crop. However, he is strictly a counter-wrestler, capable of drawing stalling calls because of his initial inactivity. There has also been some questions as to conditioning. State qualifier Trotter is not unbeatable, but he wrestles a solid bout almost every time out, and that should be enough to qualify here. Vonderahe and the rapidly improving McGlosson are my other qualifying choices. However, Wampler (Clayton Northmont) and King (Sycamore) have upset potential.

175#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ~~KURT YORK~~ (ST. EDWARD)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- ④ 2. ~~Hosman~~ (Upper Arlington)
3. Willoughby (Lake Catholic)
4. ~~Ben~~ (Toledo St. John)
5. Fickes (Centerville)
6. Huston (Lancaster)
7. ~~Sik~~ (Dayton Wayne)
8. Griffith (Nordonia)

9. ~~Hart~~ (Worthington)
① 10. ~~...~~ (Xenia)
11. ~~...~~ (Toledo Waite)
12. Hicks (Gahenna Lincoln)
13. ~~Faulkner~~ (Norwood)
14. Huff (North Olmsted)
15. ~~...~~ (New Philadelphia)

This is probably the weakest weight in "AAA" this year. There are few superstars and very little depth, too. I would not be surprised to see some who have dropped to 167# re-certify at this weight. My choice is the talented senior from St. Edward, Kurt York. Patiently waiting his turn behind Mason and Welch last year he has come into his own this year. Both of his losses were to out-of-state foes and were more the result of his impatience rather than anything else. His great skills on his feet set him apart from the others in this category.

One advantage York will have is a relatively easy regional--but then none are that strong either. Willoughby and Griffith look to be his principal competition with Huff, Reid (St. Joseph) and Zuccaro (St. Ignatius) being other possible threats. This is not an awe-inspiring group and yet I haven't been able to find better candidates. Hamker (Midview) looked good at this weight last year, but has not competed this season. Should he appear in shape he would have a lot to say about who qualified.

At Tiffin the outstanding sophomore Holman should this year avenge his first round regional loss in 1985 to Tony Beier. Beier went on to place 5th in the state while Holman never got the second chance he deserved. This year those roles may be reversed. Holman has been sensational--rarely being forced to go six minutes. Beier looked good until the OCC's when his lack of conditioning and limited takedowns really told. He'll have to get more aggressive. Kerr is not rated highly, but I think he'll qualify along with, possibly, Morris (Mansfield Madison) or Collum (Holland Springfield).

I'm not sure who'll show up at this weight in New Philadelphia, but I'm anticipating a large number of state hopefuls. Hart and Hicks are strong Columbus area wrestlers whose final regional whereabouts is still a mystery with Pitts (Marion Franklin) and McFann (Franklin Hts.) other possibilities from that area. Huston leads the way from the Eastern District schools with Myers a very close second. Both these boys could qualify. The normally powerful Federal League schools don't seem to have much with Cameron (Alliance) and Klotz (Glen Oak) possibilities. Overall, it doesn't look like any competitors here have state placement potential.

At Dayton state qualifier Fickes is just now beginning to wrestle after a long injury recuperation. He, when completely healthy, is the class of this area. LaCour and Skinner are a short step behind him now. Skinner, a "AA" qualifier last year, has won some big tourneys for Wayne and may do better than where I have him placed. The last spot is wide open with Faulkner, Drinnon (Fairfield), Uhrig (Oakhills), and Smith (Sycamore) vying for it.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ~~MIKE FUNK~~ (MASSILLON JACKSON) ①

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. Winters (Upper Arlington) | 10. Kitchen (Troy) |
| 3. Winters (Hamilton) | 11. Bauer (Amherst) |
| ② 4. Winters (St. Edward) | 12. Chirozzi (Howland) |
| 5. Bryan (St. Ignatius) | 13. Monroe (Marion Franklin) |
| 6. Winters (Maumee) | 14. Crane (Perrysburg) |
| 7. Byington (Fairfield) | 15. Winters (North Olmsted) |
| ③ 8. Winters (North Royalton) | 16. Pollifrone (Boardman) |
| 9. Castellucci (Marlington) | 17. Winters (Centerville) |

This is an excellent upper weight class that features some of the best big men in the state. At the top of this class is one of Ohio's best, defending state champ Mike Funk. The big senior from Massillon Jackson has yet to go six full minutes in his 15 wins ending all of his bouts with either pins or technical falls. He has been taken down only once this season (that in heavyweight action) and has completely dominated every foe. He is probably unbeatable, but the group listed below will certainly be an excellent test. Incidentally this has been my most successful weight class in "AAA" with 4 consecutive correct choices and 6 of the last 7. Funk should help keep the record intact.

Matt Mynster was one of the better heavyweights in the state last year losing to defending state champ Keith Cameron 5-4 in the state quarter-finals. This year he has wrestled in the more natural 185# class (Scott Holman was there last year) and after missing almost the entire season because of injury he has been outstanding. At the Fairfield Tourney he destroyed the better 185's in the Southwest pinning Byington in the finals. He cannot be underestimated without serious jeopardy.

Nick Cooley went out for wrestling for the first time as a sophomore and promptly qualified for the state meet where he lost in the quarter-finals to state champ Jon Moore. He did not participate as a junior, but this year has come back and in only his second year of wrestling has compiled a 14-0 record with 12 falls. Immensely quick and strong he has enormous college potential because he still has to be on the sharp slope of the learning curve.

Dan Mitchell was 30 seconds from the state finals at this weight last year when Inderlied lateral dropped him to a fall to erase his 10-6 lead (a feat he duplicated against Holman the next night). Mitchell then faded to 6th. This season he started slowly seemingly bothered by an injured shoulder. However, since the first of the year, he has been devastating--especially when you consider that he really is a natural 175-pounder. I'm not sure he is strong enough to match up with my top three picks.

Joe Bryan, rated 5th, would probably be in the top two in a normal year, but this season he'll have trouble placing. This junior wrestles a down tempo match that keeps opponents off their normal pace and sets up quick singles and doubles. As I mentioned he is only a junior, and should be one of the favorites next year.

On a regional basis Funk exits the New Philadelphia Regional that will also feature state qualifier Castellucci (pinned by Funk) and the undefeated Monroe. Other possibilities are Cross (Louisville), Sutton (Carrollton), and, perhaps, Foley (Worthington).

The Mentor Regional is the strongest and deepest at this weight. Besides Mitchell and Bryan it will host a half dozen other contenders for the remaining two state berths. Leading the way is Smith who nipped Bryan in the Brunswick final. Also with good chances are Brecksville champ Bauer, Chirozzi, state qualifier Pollifrone, and sophomore Frimel. Again the Avon Lake District will feature most of these boys with Mitchell, Bryan, Bauer, and Frimel in that meet. Watch for Smith in that he has received very little recognition for a fine season. He could perhaps garner a low state place. Pollifrone will have real problems returning to Columbus while Chirozzi has looked better in January. There are also another half dozen serious contenders such as Goedecke (Willoughby South) and Hawkins (Austintown Fitch).

Cooley will have real competition in Dayton. Byington, a 1985 state qualifier, looked exceptional early in the year, but has not fared well against the real top boys. He still may be able to outslick Cooley. Kitchen lost his go-to-state match 10-9 last year and has something to prove in 1986, but he'll be challenged by Campbell whose motto seems to be "pin or be pinned," Heideman (Cincinnati Elder), Rettig (Cincinnati St. X), and Mullin (Chaminade). The last two spots will really provoke a mass brawl.

The Tiffin Regional is not that strong. Mynster would be there and he should have few problems. Walczak has low place potential while Crane has a reasonable shot at a state berth. After that the quality is mediocre--at best. Perhaps, Barnett (Galion) or Hiler (Lima Shawnee) have as good a chance at state qualification as anyone.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMPION: **RAPHA STANLEY** (SPRINGFIELD NORTH)

TOP CONTENDERS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Datkuliak (Louisville) | 10. Smith (Sylvania (Northview)) |
| 3. [REDACTED] (Walsh) | 11. Delconte (Oakhills) |
| 4. [REDACTED] Perrysburg) | 12. Arrowsmith (Lake Catholic) |
| ① 5. [REDACTED] (Kent Roosevelt) | 13. Lisy (St. Edward) |
| 6. Moore (Amherst) | 14. [REDACTED] West Carrollton) |
| ② 7. [REDACTED] (Akron Buchtel) | 15. Philipps (Nordonia) |
| ④ 8. [REDACTED] (Vermillion) | 16. Bouchard (Cincinnati St. X) |
| 9. Findish (Lorain) | 17. [REDACTED] (Toledo Rogers) |
| | 18. Green (Groveport) |

The last few years it's been the "kiss of death" to be the "AAA" heavyweight pick in this report. Two years in a row my choice got pinned in the first round while far ahead then there was the boy with the broken ankle and, finally, last year defending champion Cameron was upset 11-10 in the finals. So it's probably of little consolation to Stanley that I think he has the tools and mental toughness to win it all. Actually the contest will be very close with a half dozen having a real expectation of a possible state crown. Stanley lost in the first round last year on a pin in overtime to the defending state runner-up so maybe that's out of the way. Look for him to win some narrow, high scoring bouts on his way to the title.

One advantage that Stanley has is a relatively weak regional that does not produce many upset worries. DelConte and Wolf are perhaps a slim step ahead of several others, but are well behind Stanley. Bouchard, Stafford (Troy), Bitsko (Dayton Carroll), and Kiser (West Chester Lakota) are other possibilities. Only Stanley should place out of this regional.

The toughest regional by far is at New Philadelphia. Three of the top contenders there have legitimate state placement chances. Datkuliak is not as big as his brother, but moves well and has better skills. Many people I've talked to place him as the favorite at this weight class and they may well be right. He won both the North Canton and the MIT and was particularly impressive in the latter with 4 falls and a 14-3 decision in the finals over Murphy. Houska is the smallest of the top contenders. He was a state qualifier at 185# last year, and probably weighs right around 200 pounds this year. However, he is very quick and his leg wrestling style is seldom encountered at this weight. He is so effective with the legs that his pin ratio is high; my fear, however, is that he has an exceptionally dangerous style, particularly at heavyweight.

Jackson has special upset potential and could beat any of those rated ahead of him. He specializes in 19-11 type scores (such as first round of regional) but is exceptionally dangerous on the mat. The fourth spot might fall to Green (Groveport), Ramsey (East Liverpool) or Reischling (Hudson). Clearly the pairings will be of paramount importance here.

As is so often the case, the Tiffin Regional is not very strong. I see Stipe and Friel as the top threats, but they are not upset-proof by any means. Smith and Connor are my other two picks here, but Ginn (Franklin Hts.) or Nagucki (Toledo St. John) are possibilities.

The Mentor Regional brings together a contrast in styles. Murphy was a sophomore sensation, but has not improved as much as I anticipated. Two years ago I thought he'd be a shoo-in as state champ in his senior year. It has not happened--at least not yet. He is still stronger than the other Cleveland area heavies. Moore is a big man who wrestles like a much smaller one. Slick on his feet he can be overpowered. Findish is also big with tremendous pinning potential. I suspect his stamina, but he is the most dangerous pinner in the region. Arrowsmith and Lisy have wrestled two low scoring bouts both won by the former. Both these boys are on the thin edge of qualification. Huge Joel Philipps has real upset potential. He can be out-manuevered, but he is very good in the top position. Other possibilities are Long (Mayfield), Hobar (Avon Lake), and Vanadia (Normandy). Again the Avon Lake District will be crowded with Moore, Findish, Lisy, and Hobar assigned there.

TEAMS

1. ST EDWARD -- Yet another dazzling team that should have no problems rolling to its ninth consecutive team title. They are not blessed with superstars like Heffernan, Elinisky, or Strauss, but their team depth is incredible. Last year they wrestled below standard at Columbus, but I don't expect that to happen this year. In fact, if things went reasonably right for them they could have seven state champs in Fried, Biggs, Venesile, Palker, Carpenter, Landolfo and York. Of course, that won't happen, but there is plenty of points here---possibly enough for a new team record.
2. XENIA -- A fine team that can score a lot of points if they don't let the northern boys overawe them--as has happened in the past. Dagley, Caskey, and Dudgeon could all be state champs or at least finalists and they have plenty of back-up power. Both Smiths, Miller, Hoskins, and LaCour can score at the state level. A 100% effort would give them a shot at the record for most points scored by a runner-up team (92½ by North Canton in 1982).
3. UPPER ARLINGTON -- An excellent team that gets a real break by being assigned to the weakest regional in the state. Walter, Holman, Mynster, and, possibly, McClellan could be state finalists while Ulen and Dyas could help at the middle weights. The weak regional may enable them to sneak another qualifier out like Orazen.

4. NORTH CANTON -- Year after year they come up with outstanding teams. Elsass is exceptional at 98# while Tolarchyk is a fooler at 105#. But the heart of the team is between 119# and 145# where Glass, Brokloff, Green, Tharp, and Gibbs must produce.
5. FAIRFIELD -- Not the real strong team we expected in 1986. None of the four returning state qualifiers--Hinkle, Baker, Duncan, and Byington-- have been quite as good as expected. On the other hand the Laflin twins have aided immeasurably and could push them up to 4th.
6. MASSILLON JACKSON -- The linchpin of the team is the incredible Funk who should by himself score 25 points. They need people like Gmerek, Chevalier, Rea, Feldspusch and Lorenz to come through so that they can qualify at least four.
7. ST. JOSEPH -- Another team that consistently produces outstanding state tourney teams. Hunter should be a finalist with good chances of winning it all. Clague and Gilmore could really help, while Gutbrod, Price, and Reid must fight their way through a most difficult regional.
8. GLEN OAK -- A team that has the "guns" for a top ten finish, but they have to get their team healthy. Lemon and Langfitt are solid lower weights while Dodge, Lantzenheiser, and Klotz can score at the upper levels. The key is for Lautzenheiser to lead the way with a large number of big wins.
9. NORDONIA -- The sophomore stars Andrassy and DelRosa have been super all season, and Andrassy could be a finalist. They need help from Griffith at the weak 175# weight class and for Philipps and Crevar to come through in the clutch.
10. SOLON -- Really only a three man team, but Minadeo, Picone, and Genovese are all exceptional. Going to the easier New Philadelphia regional will help.
11. LOUISVILLE -- A team that is led by two possible finalists in Malcuit and Datkuliak. The problem will be to get other state qualifiers and the chances are not good. However, Cross, Haas, and Eslich could fit the bill.
12. NORTH OLMSTED -- A young team that is severely damaged by a wickedly difficult district and the usual awesome regional. The question is whether the lightweights like Smith, Cianciola, Cornell and Baker can qualify because they can score at the state level. At the upper weights only Huff and Frimel have a chance.