

# Trail Trash

Issue #2

2015 OHSAA Boys High School  
Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler  
and on the net at [www.Davey1.com](http://www.Davey1.com)

Featuring Commentary &  
Predictions by ...

The Swami

With two weeks down and two weeks to go, welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2015.

There have been relatively few surprises from around Northwest Ohio during the first two weeks of tournament play. Seven top seeds and three top seeds have advanced to the regional. D4 Cardinal Stritch is the lone #3 seed to win a district championship. The Cardinals upset top seeded and previously undefeated Gibsonburg and defeated #2 seed Ottawa Hills to win at Lakota. D4 Delphos St. John's and D3 Eastwood are the only #4 seeds to advance to the regionals. Despite their seeding, DSJ's win was not unexpected at the Elida district. Eastwood's defeating two state-ranked teams and winning the district championship at Ashland in D3 was an entirely different story. The only team that was not a top four seed to reach a district final was Delta in the D3 at Anthony Wayne. To recap the past two weeks, the

*Since 1994, Trail Trash has been published twice annually in conjunction with the state boys basketball tournament. In addition to tournament brackets, Trail Trash has included the expert predictions of the Swami. For those of you familiar with the Swami, we say no more. For the small number of you not familiar with the Swami, he is the self-proclaimed guru on Northwest Ohio high school hoops.*

*Since the fall of 2004 Davey1.com has featured the most complete collection of Ohio Boys High School Basketball Schedules and results that can be found in one place anywhere on the internet. We have gathered all of the schedules from the schools in the OHSAA Northwest District. We wrote our own special software using a Microsoft Access database to compile and display our schedules. Nowhere else will you find the amount of information that we present on Davey1.com.*

Swami finished with a 110-35 overall record and picked nine district champions correctly. Issue 2015-2

The Swami has heard and read on several occasions over the past few weeks how difficult it is to beat a team three times in a season. During the first two weeks of tournament games around Northwest Ohio, teams went for three game sweeps eighteen times. In the sectionals, teams winning the first two games against an opponent won seven of the ten games. In the districts, five of the eight games resulted in three game sweeps. Granted this is highly unscientific and a very small sample size, but twelve wins in eighteen games shows that beating a team three times in a season might not be as difficult as some think.

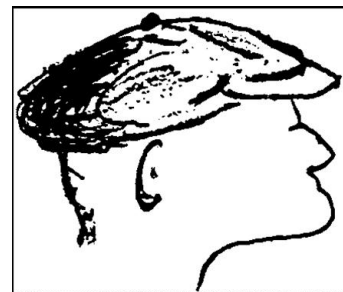
Northwest Ohio will be represented by eight conferences along with one independent at the regional level. The Western Buckeye League has three representatives for the second consecutive year while the TRAC and the MAC each have two teams still playing.

Gibsonburg and Sylvania Southview both finished the regular season undefeated. For that accomplishment, the Golden Bears and Cougars are the latest inductees into the highly prestigious Davey1.com Hall of Fame. That increases the membership to nineteen teams over the past eleven seasons.

There will be plenty of regional tournament action this week in Northwest Ohio. The University of Toledo is scheduled to host a D1 regional semifinal game and the D1 final at Savage Arena. Bowling Green will again host regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 at the Stroh Center. Picking these regional games is tough. Time to start flipping the coin.

## DIVISION I

Seven of the fourteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press D1 poll have advanced to the regional level. Top ranked Sylvania Southview lost to Toledo St John's in a district final. Shaker Heights is



in the regional for a fourth straight year while Columbus Northland advances for a third straight season. Defending D1 champion Lakewood St. Edward's, Huber Heights Wayne, and Cincinnati Moeller are in the regional for a second year in a row. Lorain is the only undefeated team in D1.

## REGIONALS

**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY:** There are no ranked teams at the Wolstein Center. Uniontown Lake defeated previously unbeaten Uniontown Green in a district final. Shaker Heights has one of the top players in the state in West Virginia recruit Esa Ahmad. Medina entered tournament play with a 10-11 record. The play of 7' junior Jon Teske, a Michigan recruit, has sparked Medina. Garfield Heights is a member of the Northeast Ohio Conference along with Shaker Heights and Medina.

Semifinals – Shaker Heights over Medina; Garfield Heights over Uniontown Lake

Final – Shaker Heights over Garfield Heights

**COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS:** #5 Westerville South and #14 Dublin Jerome are ranked teams at the Barn. Columbus Northland eliminated #9 Gahanna Lincoln in a district final. Westerville South's only loss is to league rival Dublin Jerome. Northland won the Columbus City League defeating Walnut Ridge in the championship game. Northland's Doug Taylor and Newark's Jordan Dartis are Ohio University recruits.

Semifinals – Westerville South over Newark; Columbus Northland over Dublin Jerome

Final – Westerville South over Columbus Northland

**UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO:** #2 Lorain, #11 Lakewood St. Edward's, and #12 Toledo St. John's are ranked teams in this split regional. St. Edward's and Lorain will play their semifinal at the University of Akron while St. John's and Lima Senior will meet in a semifinal at the UT. The championship game will be played at Savage Arena in beautiful Toledo. Along with the St. John's win over top ranked Sylvania Southview, Lima Senior defeated #12 Ashland in a district final. St. Edward's returns two starters from 2014 D1 including State Tournament MVP Kipper Nichols. SJJ defeated Lima Senior in both regular season contests. Lima Senior has been bolstered by four transfer including 2014 D3 State Tournament MVP Xavier Simpson.

Semifinals – Lakewood St. Edward's over Lorain; Lima Senior over Toledo St. John's

Final – Lakewood St. Edward's over Lima Senior

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY:** #8 Huber Heights Wayne and

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#10 Centerville are ranked teams at the Cintas Center. Cincinnati Moeller eliminated #3 Wilmington and Centerville eliminated #7 Cincinnati Elder in district final games. Centerville and Huber Heights Wayne split their regular season games. Wayne has a pair of D1 recruits in Xeryius Williams (Dayton) and Ahmad Wagner (Iowa). Moeller's 6'9" Nate Fowler, a Butler recruit, has missed the entire season due to injury.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Springfield; Huber Heights Wayne over Centerville

Final – Huber Heights Wayne over Cincinnati Moeller

## STATE

For the eighteenth consecutive season, the D1 final will close out the State Tournament. The semifinal games will be played Friday night.

Semifinals – Westerville South over Shaker Heights; Huber Heights Wayne over Lakewood St. Edward's

Final – Huber Heights Wayne over Westerville South

## DIVISION II

Nine of the thirteen teams in the final Associated Press D2 poll have reached the regionals. Seven teams (Poland Seminary, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Cleveland Central Catholic, New Concord John Glenn, Dover, Defiance, Dayton Dunbar) also advanced to the regionals in 2014. Akron SVSM has won seven straight district titles while Dayton Dunbar has won six straight. SVSM, New Concord John Glenn, and Chillicothe Unioto are all undefeated. Defending D2 state champion Norwalk was eliminated by Shelby in a sectional final game.

## REGIONALS

**CANTON CIVIC CENTER:** #1 Akron SVSM, #8 Cleveland Central Catholic, and #11 Poland Seminary are ranked teams at Canton. After losing to Akron SVSM in the 2014 regional final, Poland coach Ken Grisdale commented that he had the best public school D2 team in the state. They weren't. SVSM has a pair of D1 signees in Josh Williams (Akron) and Jibri Blount (Cleveland State). Cleveland Central Catholic's schedule includes eight teams that have advanced to the regional. Their lone loss to a D2 team was to Akron SVSM.

Semifinals – Akron SVSM over Poland Seminary; Cleveland Central Catholic over Chagrin Falls

Final – Akron SVSM over Cleveland Central Catholic

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OHIO UNIVERSITY: #2 New Concord John Glenn and #4 Chillicothe Unioto are ranked teams at Convo. Unioto eliminated #7 Athens in a district semifinal while Columbus Walnut Ridge defeated #6 Whitehall-Yearling in a district final. John Glenn defeated Dover 73-50 in their regular season game. Unioto's only previous district title came in 1991 when the Shermans lost to Wayne Trace in the D3 state final. Walnut Ridge's district championship was their first since 1978.

Semifinals – New Concord John Glenn over Dover;  
Columbus Walnut Ridge over Chillicothe Unioto

Final – Columbus Walnut Ridge over New Concord John Glenn

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #5 Defiance and #9 Celina are ranked teams at the Stroh Center. Defiance eliminated #12 Toledo Scott and Sandusky eliminated #13 Ontario in district final games. Celina went undefeated in winning the WBL finishing one game in front of Defiance. Colin Irish is the seventh head coach in the last four seasons at Sandusky. The Blue Streaks defeated Ontario for the district title after two losses during the regular season. Parma Heights Holy Name won their first district title since 1953.

Semifinals – Sandusky over Parma Heights Holy Name;  
Celina over Defiance

Final – Celina over Sandusky

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON: #2 Franklin and #10 Dayton Dunbar are ranked teams at Dayton. This regional was originally scheduled for Kettering Fairmont. The semifinals have been moved to the University of Dayton, and the final will likely be moved if Franklin advances. Luke Kennard of Franklin was Mr. Basketball for Ohio in 2014 and will repeat in 2015. Kennard averages nearly 40 points per game and is a Duke signee. This is Franklin's first district title. A.J. Harris of Dayton Dunbar is an Ohio State signee. Harris started on Dunbar's 2012 D2 state championship team.

Semifinals – Dayton Dunbar over Columbus South;  
Franklin over Bellefontaine

Final – Franklin over Dayton Dunbar

## STATE

The D2 semifinal games will be the early games on Friday with the final being the late Saturday afternoon game.

Semifinals – Akron SVSM over Columbus Walnut Ridge;  
Franklin over Celina

Final – Akron SVSM over Franklin

## DIVISION III

Four of the ten teams ranked (how can there be 200 teams in the state in D3 and only 10 get ranked?) in the final Associated Press D3 poll have advanced to the regionals. Seven teams (defending D3 state champion Lima Central Catholic, Ottawa-Glandorf, Canton Central Catholic, Youngstown Ursuline, Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph, Columbus Eastmoor, Dayton Chaminade Julienne) also advanced to the regionals in 2014. Ottawa-Glandorf has five straight district titles, Lima Central Catholic four straight, and Cleveland VASJ three straight. Columbus Eastmoor advanced to the D2 regional in 2014. There are no undefeated teams in D3.

## REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #1 Cleveland VASJ and #8 Youngstown Ursuline are ranked teams at Canton. Canton Central Catholic defeated #4 New Middletown Springfield in a district final. Cleveland VASJ has three D1 signees in Carlton Bragg (Kansas), Derek Pardon (Northwestern), and Brian Parker (Marist). The Vikings are the prohibitive favorite on paper to win the D3 state championship just as they were in 2014.

Semifinals – Youngstown Ursuline over Canton Central Catholic;  
Cleveland VASJ over Massillon Tuslaw

Final – Cleveland VASJ over Youngstown Ursuline

OHIO UNIVERSITY: There are no ranked teams at the Convo. Portsmouth eliminated #9 Chesapeake in a district final. Your guess is as good as mine on this regional. Belmont Union won their first district championship with a win over St. Clairsville. Ironton won just two games last season after losing in overtime to eventual D3 State champion Ottawa-Glandorf in a 2013 state semifinal. Columbus Eastmoor finished the regular season with an 11-11 record playing in the Columbus City League.

Semifinals – Columbus Eastmoor over Belmont Union Local;  
Portsmouth over Ironton

Final – Portsmouth over Columbus Eastmoor

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #2 Lima Central Catholic is the lone ranked team at Bowling Green. LCC eliminated #3 St. Henry in a district final. Eastwood eliminated #10 Huron in a district semifinal and #6 Colonel Crawford in a district final. 2014 D3 state champ LCC and 2013 D3 state champ Ottawa-Glandorf are meeting in the



regional for the fourth straight season after playing in the district in both 2010 and 2011. LCC won in convincing fashion back in December, but the T-Birds have been battling some injury problems. O-G appears to be peaking. Could this be an upset? O-G's Noah Bramlage is a Princeton signee.

Semifinals – Columbus Bishop Hartley over Eastwood; Ottawa-Glandorf over Lima Central Catholic

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Columbus Bishop Hartley

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #5 Dayton Northridge is the only ranked team at the Trent Arena. This is another evenly matched regional. Northridge has a regular season win over Moeller. Northridge won the Buckeye Division of the Southwestern Buckeye League while Cincinnati Shroder finished in a tie for the Cincinnati Metro Conference title. Dayton Chaminade won the GCL North while Cincinnati Purcell Marian was the runner-up in the GCL Central.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Shroder over Cincinnati Purcell Marian; Dayton Chaminade Julianne over Dayton Northridge

Final – Dayton Chaminade Julianne over Cincinnati Shroder

## STATE

The D3 semifinals will be the late games on Thursday with the championship game being the early Saturday afternoon game.

Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela St. Joseph over Portsmouth; Ottawa-Glandorf over Dayton Chaminade Julianne

Final – Cleveland Villa Angela St. Joseph over Ottawa-Glandorf

## DIVISION IV

Eight of the twelve teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll in D4 have reached the regionals. Eight teams (New Madison Tri-Village, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas, Columbus Africentric, Canal Winchester Harvest Prep, Peebles, Wayne Trace, Marion Local, Russia) also reached the regionals in 2014. Tri-Village and St. Thomas Aquinas have won three straight district titles. Tri-Village and Glouster Trimble are both undefeated. Defending D4 state champion Convoy Crestview was eliminated by Leipsic in a sectional final.

## REGIONALS

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Peebles and #10 Glouster Trimble are ranked teams at the Convo. Canal Winchester

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Harvest Prep, Columbus Africentric, and Peebles return to Athens for 2015 and are joined by undefeated Trimble. Peebles' only loss is to Bainbridge Paint Valley. Beau Justice of Peebles has over 2,300 career points. Look for the Columbus area teams to again dominate this regional.

Semifinals – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Peebles; Columbus Africentric over Glouster Trimble

Final – Columbus Africentric over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #2 Wayne Trace and #6 Plymouth are ranked teams at the Stroh Center. Cardinal Stritch eliminated #5 Gibsonburg in a district semifinal. Wayne Trace's only loss is to D2 Napoleon while Plymouth's lone loss was to D3 Colonel Crawford. Cardinal Stritch's last district championship came in 1989 when the Cardinals were members of the Toledo City League.

Semifinals – Wayne Trace over Plymouth; Delphos St. John's over Oregon Cardinal Stritch

Final – Wayne Trace over Delphos St. John's

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #8 Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas is the only ranked team at Canton. New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic (try to put that on a bracket) eliminated #3 Berlin Hiland in a district final. St. Thomas Aquinas was the D4 state runner-up in 2014. Tuscarawas Central Catholic won their first district title since 1996 and avenged last year's district final loss with their win over Hiland.

Semifinals – Tuscarawas Central Catholic over Mogadore; Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas over Warren JFK

Final – Tuscarawas Central Catholic over Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #1 New Madison Tri-Village, #9 Marion Local, and #12 Russia are ranked teams at Kettering. Jackson Center eliminated #7 Troy Christian in a district final. This appears to be the strongest D4 regional. Tri-Village returns three starters from their 2014 D4 regional championship team. Russia won the Shelby League with Jackson Center the runner-up. Russia won both meetings with Jackson Center but has losses to Tri-Village and Marion Local. Jackson Center has a win over Marion Local. Marion Local has size in 6'10" Luke Knapke (Toledo) and 6'7" Ryan Bruns but outside shooting carried the Flyers in their district final win over Spencerville.

Semifinals – Marion Local over Jackson Center; New Madison Tri-Village over Russia

Final – Marion Local over New Madison Tri-Village

### STATE

D4 kicks off the ninety-third consecutive Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 26. The championship game will be played Saturday morning.

Semifinals – Wayne Trace over Columbus Africentric; Marion Local over Tuscarawas Central Catholic

Final – Marion Local over Wayne Trace

This completes year number twenty-two for Trail Trash. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. You can contact us at [webmaster@davey1.com](mailto:webmaster@davey1.com). See you in Columbus if not at the Stroh.

# The Swami

