

Trail Trash

2017 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

Published exclusively by Dave Spengler
and on the net at www.Davey1.com

*Featuring Commentary &
Predictions by ...*

The Swami

Welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2017 as we move on to regional tournaments around the state.

Sectional tournaments were completed around Northwest Ohio with the usual upsets but very few that would be considered major. The biggest surprise was in D2 with a two-win Toledo Scott team beating Toledo City League runner-up Toledo Rogers. Rogers may have only been a .500 team during the regular season, but the Rams were viewed as once-beaten Wauseon's biggest obstacle in the Bowling Green district. New London, the top seed in the D3 Norwalk district, lost in a sectional final to 6-16 Clear Fork. Records aside, that was not completely unexpected given that Clear Fork plays in the Ohio Cardinal Conference against D1 and D2 teams. Forty-one of the fifty-two teams in NW Ohio that were among the top four seeds in their respective districts won sectional titles. #3 seeds took it on the chin in the sectionals with only seven of the thirteen advancing to 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.

district level. #7

Issue 2017-2

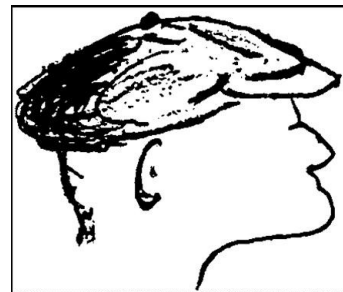
Napoleon in D2 and #7

Kalida and #8 Mohawk in D4 were the lowest seeds to advance to district tournaments.

Things got a lot more interesting at the district level. While things went according to form in D1, the surprises started in D2. Wauseon needed double overtime to defeat 9-15 Napoleon at the district in BG. Then there was the Ohio Northern district. Upper Sandusky, the state's top ranked team in D2 according to the Associated Press, edged Wapakoneta in the first semifinal game. That came after the windshield of the Upper Sandusky bus was blown out by high winds on the trip to Ada. Fortunately there were no injuries, but the Upper players had to be transported to ONU by fans following the team bus. Elida then shocked state ranked and top seeded Ottawa-Glandorf in overtime in the other semifinal game. That abruptly ended O-G's run of six straight district titles and marked the first time since 2007 that the Titans had not advanced at least to a district final. To top things off, Elida eliminated previously undefeated Upper Sandusky in the final at ONU.

In our D3 summary from our first edition, we mentioned that parity (not parody) would be the key word in this year's D3 tournaments across NW Ohio. Spot on Swami. None of the top seeds in D3 were able to win district championships. In addition to New London's sectional final loss, Genoa and Liberty-Benton lost in district semifinal games while Wayne Trace lost a heartbreaker to Marion Local in the district championship game at Lima Senior. Wayne Trace's three losses on the season came by a combined four points.

Top seeds Mansfield St. Peter's, Delphos St. John's, and Lima Perry won district titles in D4. #3 seed Holgate eliminated state ranked Ayersville in the district final at Napoleon while #5 seed North Baltimore won the unpredictable Liberty-Benton district. The district tournament at Napoleon had



state ranked teams in Holgate, Ayersville, and Hilltop along with TAAC champion Toledo Christian.

Six of the thirteen top seeds around Northwest Ohio won district championships while second through fourth seeds each won two district titles. #5 seed North Baltimore was the lowest seeded team to win a district championship. I'm starting to bore myself with all the seed talk.

Better check the brackets as there will be regional games at both Bowling Green and Toledo. The Mid-American Conference gymnastics meet will be held at Bowling Green's Stroh Center. As a result, regional games in D2, D3, and D4 beginning March 16 will be held at Savage Arena on the campus of the University of Toledo.

Paul Wayne of Tinora got career win #500 with a sectional victory over Montpelier. Ethan Linder of Wayne Trace scored a school record fifty-two points in a sectional final win over Parkway. Ethan finished his stellar career scoring over 2,100 points for the Raiders. New London's Ryan Lane became the school's all-time leading scorer in the sectional loss to Clear Fork.

Going back to the predictions from our earlier edition of Trail Trash, the Zwami (inside joke) had an overall record of 114-33 with eight district champions.

DIVISION I

Defending state champion Westerville South lost to Hilliard Davidson in a district semifinal. Top-ranked and undefeated Cincinnati Moeller is in the regional at Wright State.

REGIONALS

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Pickerington Central over Columbus St. Charles; Upper Arlington over Pickerington North

Final – Pickerington Central over Upper Arlington

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Mason; Cincinnati LaSalle over Springfield

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Cincinnati LaSalle

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Garfield Heights over Uniontown Lake; Lakewood St. Edward over Mentor

Trail Trash

Final – Lakewood St. Edward over Garfield Heights

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: The semifinal game between Toledo St. John's and Elyria will be played at the University of Toledo while the semifinal game between Massillon Jackson and the Battling Bees of Medina will be played at the University of Akron. The regional final will be played at Akron. Toledo St. John's won their twentieth consecutive sectional title advancing to the district at the University of Toledo where the Titans defeated Toledo St. Francis and Toledo Bowsher. Junior Vincent Williams of St. John's is the D1 district player of the year for NW Ohio. SJJ's Ed Heintschel ranks fifth all-time in Ohio in career coaching wins with all the wins coming at St. John's. By looking at the end of the St. John's bench, it appears that the Titans already have a start on the 2017-2018 season. Elyria upset state-ranked Lorain while Medina surprised Akron Archbishop Hoban in district final games. Massillon Jackson (#4 in the final Associated Press poll) has D1 signees Kyle Young (Butler) and Logan Hill (Toledo) and knocked off #11 North Canton Hoover (coached by ESPN football commentator Todd Blackledge) in the Canton district final.

Semifinals – Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Elyria; Massillon Jackson over Medina

Final – Massillon Jackson over Toledo St. John's Jesuit

STATE

The DI final will close out the State Tournament with the Saturday night game. The semifinal games will be played Friday night.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Pickerington Central; Massillon Jackson over Lakewood St. Edward

Final – Massillon Jackson over Cincinnati Moeller

DIVISION II

Defending state champion New Concord John Glenn was eliminated by Byesville Meadowbrook in a district final. Top-ranked Upper Sandusky lost to Elida in a district final.

REGIONALS

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: UT last hosted a D2 regional in 2012 when Elida took home the title by defeating

Trail Trash

Sandusky Perkins. Sandusky was the champion in the final year of the Northern Ohio League. Sandusky also won a D2 district title in 2015. The Blue Streaks have three starters from that team including Jayrese Williams, the all-time leading scorer at Sandusky with more than 1,700 career points. Williams is the D2 player of the year for NW Ohio. Wauseon is the NWOAL champion. The only loss for the Indians was to D3 Genoa in early December when 6'9" Austin Rotroff was out with an injury. Rotroff was named first team all-district for NW Ohio. Wauseon last won a district title in 1994 when coach Chad Burt was a senior. The Indians were the eventual D2 state runner-up that season losing to Cleveland VASJ. Elida finished in 3rd place in the Western Buckeye and finished the regular season with three straight losses. The Bulldogs won a sectional title defeating WBL foe Van Wert before eliminating Ottawa-Glandorf and Upper Sandusky at the district. Elida was the D2 state runner-up in 2012 losing to Dayton Dunbar. Parma Heights Holy Name edged defending regional champion Bay Village Bay in the North Ridgeville district final. Holy Name advanced to the regional at Bowling Green in 2015 defeating Sandusky before losing to eventual D2 state champion Defiance in the final. Dwayne Cohill of the Green Wave is one of the top juniors in the state. He is one of three returning starters from the 2015 regional runner-up. Holy Name also starts a 6'10" post player who transferred from Cleveland St. Ignatius.

Semifinals – Wauseon over Sandusky; Parma Heights Holy Name over Elida

Final – Parma Heights Holy Name over Wauseon

OHIO UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Columbus Eastmoor Academy over Fairfield Union; Bylesville Meadowbrook over McArthur Vinton County

Final – Columbus Eastmoor Academy over Bylesville Meadowbrook

CANTON CIVIC CENTER:

Semifinals – Cleveland Central Catholic over Youngstown Ursuline; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Mentor Lake Catholic

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Cleveland Central Catholic

KETTERING FAIRMONT:

Semifinals – Dayton Dunbar over Bloom-Carroll; Trotwood-Madison over Cincinnati Taft

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Dayton Dunbar

STATE

D2 kicks off the ninety-fifth consecutive Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 23. The championship game will be played Saturday morning.

Semifinals – Columbus Eastmoor Academy over Parma Heights Holy Name; Trotwood-Madison over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Columbus Eastmoor Academy

DIVISION III

Defending state champion Lima Central Catholic was eliminated by Delphos Jefferson in a sectional semifinal. Top-ranked Leavittsburg LaBrae lost to Garrettsville Garfield in a district final.

REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE:

Semifinals – West Salem Northwestern over Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas; Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Garrettsville Garfield

Final – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over West Salem Northwestern

OHIO UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Proctorville Fairland over Sugarcreek Garaway; Berlin Hiland over Chillicothe Southeastern

Final – Proctorville Fairland over Berlin Hiland

KETTERING FAIRMONT:

Semifinals – Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Worthington Christian; St. Bernard Roger Bacon over Versailles

Final – Cincinnati Summit Country Day over St. Bernard Roger Bacon



Trail Trash

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO/BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: The semifinal games will be played at Bowling Green while the final will be played at Toledo. Marion Local was the runner-up to Versailles in the Midwest Athletic Conference. The Flyers defeated second seeded Spencerville by two in the district semifinal before edging top seeded Wayne Trace in the district final hitting the game winning three-pointer with two seconds left. Marion Local won the D6 state football championship this past December. Edison won their first district championship in 2016 before losing in a regional semifinal to Lima Central Catholic. The Chargers defended their district title with wins over Margareta and Western Reserve. Edison finished the season in 6th place in the Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division. Cardinal Stritch finished as the runner-up to D4 Toledo Christian in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference. The young Cardinals start three juniors, a sophomore, and a freshman with only one senior in their regular rotation. Cardinal Stritch has overtime victories over Otsego and top seed Genoa in the tournament along with a two point win over second seed Eastwood. The Cardinals won a D4 district title in 2015. Archbold finished as the runner-up to Wauseon in the Northwest Ohio Athletic League. The Blue Streaks start four juniors and a sophomore with one of those juniors, Bryce Williams, named a first team all-district selection for NW Ohio. Archbold last won a district title in 2011.

Semifinals – Maria Stein Marion Local over Milan Edison; Archbold over Oregon Cardinal Stritch

Final – Archbold over Maria Stein Marion Local

STATE

The D3 semifinal games will be the early games on Friday with the championship game played late Saturday afternoon.

Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Proctorville Fairland; Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Archbold

Final – Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph

DIVISION IV

Defending state champion Willoughby Cornerstone Christian was eliminated by Warren John F. Kennedy in a district final. Top-ranked McDonald is in the regional at the Canton Fieldhouse.

REGIONALS

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO/BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: The semifinal games will be played at BGSU with the final at UT. Mansfield St. Peter's was the regional

runner-up in 2016 to Lincolnview. The Spartans return three starters and the top two subs from that team. Jared Jakubick is the D4 district player of the year for NW Ohio. Jakubick and fellow junior Mason Campbell have both gone over 1,000 career points for MSP. St. Peter's has two other starters that average in double figures. The Spartans won the Mid-Buckeye Conference. North Baltimore won the first district championship in school history. The Tigers defeated #3 seed New Riegel in a sectional final followed by district wins over Mohawk and fellow Blanchard Valley Conference member Arlington. NB finished in a tie for 7th place in the twelve-team BVC. Holgate defeated Toledo Christian and top seeded Ayersville to win the district at Napoleon. Holgate also handed Ayersville their only regular season loss to finish in a three-way tie for the Green Meadows Conference championship with Wayne Trace and Ayersville. This is Holgate's first trip to the regional tournament since 2007 when the Tigers won their seventh straight district championship. The 2017 Tigers might not be a Paul Wayne team, but Holgate did lead Fayette by a 10-2 score at halftime of their sectional final. Delphos St. John's defeated Convoy Crestview in the final at Elida for their third district title in the past five seasons. St. John's has won sixteen of their last seventeen games going back to late December. The Blue Jays finished in a tie with Fort Recovery for 3rd place in the MAC behind D3 Versailles and Marion Local. 6'8" Tim Kreeger of St. John's was named a first team all-district selection for NW Ohio.

Semifinals – Mansfield St. Peter's over North Baltimore; Delphos St. John's over Holgate

Final – Delphos St. John's over Mansfield St. Peter's

CANTON FIELDHOUSE:

Semifinals – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Malvern; Warren John F. Kennedy over McDonald

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Warren John F. Kennedy

OHIO UNIVERSITY:

Semifinals – Columbus Wellington School over Waterford; Grove City Christian over Portsmouth Clay

Final – Columbus Wellington School over Grove City Christian

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Lima Perry won their second

Trail Trash

straight district title and the second in school history with wins over Minster and Fort Recovery in the district tournament at Wapakoneta. Perry won the Northwest Central Conference. The Commodores have won eighteen straight games following consecutive losses to WBL members Lima Shawnee, Van Wert, and Wapak in late December. Jakoby Lane-Harvey of Perry was a first team all-district selection and Matt Tabler was named coach of the year for D4 in NW Ohio by the Associated Press. #15 Fort Loramie is the only team at Kettering that was ranked the final Associated Press poll.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Christian over New Madison Tri-Village; Lima Perry over Fort Loramie

Final – Lima Perry over Cincinnati Christian

STATE

The D4 semifinals will be the late games on Thursday with the championship game being the early Saturday afternoon game.

Semifinals – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Delphos St. John's; Columbus Wellington School over Lima Perry

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Columbus Wellington School

There could be some really small crowds in Columbus if some of those predictions hold. I never root against the Swami, but I hope there are some swings and misses. This completes the twenty-fourth season for Trail Trash. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. The davey1 boys will be spending time the next couple of weeks at Bowling Green, Toledo, and Columbus. Thanks for reading.

