

# Trail Trash

## 2018 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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*Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...*

# The Swami

Time for the second edition of Trail Trash for 2018 as we move to regional tournaments around Ohio. Welcome.

Sectional tournaments around Northwest Ohio were completed with a handful of upsets. Two #1 seeds went down in sectional final games with state ranked Pettisville losing to #7 seed Edgerton in D4 and Upper Sandusky falling to #8 seed Huron in D3. Meanwhile in D2, #7 seed Defiance eliminated #2 seed Elida. As far as sectional championships are concerned, #5 seeds fared just as well as their #3 and #4 seeded brethren with teams gaining a #6 seed not too far behind. Six teams with records under .500 won sectional championships while six teams that either won an outright or shared a conference championship failed to advance to the district.

Things heated up at the district level, but there were no big upsets. As expected in D1, Toledo St. John's didn't break a sweat in breezing

*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.*

to a district title. Issue 2018-2  
Toledo Whitmer beat three higher seeded teams (Start, St. Francis, Sylvania Southview) in winning the other D1 district at Toledo. In D2, Wauseon dominated the Ohio Northern district while #3 seed Lexington won the Mansfield Madison district. The win for Lex came as no surprise regardless of their seeding.

Ottawa-Glandorf dominated the D3 Lima Senior district with two of their three wins resulting in a running clock while #1 seeded Archbold won the very competitive Toledo Central Catholic district. #3 seed Carey, the district winner at Norwalk, overcame a seventeen-point deficit to Oak Harbor in their semifinal win. In the other semifinal at Norwalk, #6 seed Margaretta edged #8 seed Huron in six overtimes in one of the longest games in OHSAA tournament history. The marathon took more than two and a half hours to play.

Top seeds Mansfield St. Peter's, Pandora-Gilboa, Convoy Crestview, and Marion Local won district championships in D4. The Elida district lived up to the hype with #6 seed Hicksville eliminating #3 seed Delphos St. John's and #2 seed Wayne Trace before losing to Crestview on a buzzer beater in the district final. #2 seeds won district tournaments at Fostoria and Napoleon with Mohawk and Maumee Valley Country Day taking home championships.

Eight of the thirteen top seeded teams around Northwest Ohio won district titles while #2 and #3 seeded teams each won two championships. Toledo Whitmer, the #6 seed overall in D1 and the #5 seed in their Toledo district, is the lowest seed to advance to the regional.

Regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 will return to the Stroh Center at Bowling Green State University.

The D4 semifinals will be played on Tuesday night followed by D3 semifinals on Wednesday and D2 semifinals on



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Thursday. The D4 regional final will be played Friday night with the D2 final Saturday afternoon and the D3 final Saturday evening. The D1 regional semifinal between Toledo St. John's and Toledo Whitmer will be played as a single game on Thursday evening at Savage Arena in Toledo. The winner will meet the winner of the regional semifinal game at the University of Akron in the regional final at the University of Toledo on Saturday afternoon.

The Swami was not upset that Dayton Dunbar lost their district final game against Cincinnati Woodward. Dunbar was removed from the tournament by the OHSAA for allegedly using an ineligible player in a sectional win over Dayton Thurgood Marshall. Dunbar and Dayton Public Schools followed the advice of Doug Llewelyn and the People's Court by filing suit against the OHSAA. The case was heard in Montgomery County Common Pleas Court with Judge Michael Krumholtz ruling in favor of the plaintiff and ordering Dunbar back into the tournament. Who would have ever guessed he would rule in Dunbar's favor? Sarcasm.

Every year around tournament time, it seems that you hear how difficult it is for one team to beat another three times in a season. You can call it coach speak, but the Swami doesn't buy into that theory. We had fifteen of those matchups at the sectional and district levels this season around NW Ohio, and thirteen ended with a sweep. Those numbers are better than the Swami's. Speaking of numbers, the Swami had an overall record of 116-30 with ten district winners missing out on a D1 at Toledo (St. Francis was the Swami's pick), the D3 at Norwalk (Oak Harbor) and the Napoleon D4 (Pettisville).

### DIVISION I

#### REGIONALS

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: The semifinals will be played Wednesday night with the championship game Friday night. This is a great regional. 2017 D1 state runner-up Cincinnati Moeller has won five straight district titles. Cincinnati Princeton will be without two starters including Mr. Basketball candidate Darius Bazley for the semifinal against Huber Heights Wayne as they sit out the second game of an OHSAA mandated suspension. The two will be back if Princeton can advance to the regional final. Huber Heights Wayne and Springfield split their regular season games. That was Wayne's only loss on the season. Moeller won at Springfield in early February.

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

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Huber Heights Wayne

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Toledo St. John's won their second straight district title and sixteenth in the last twenty-eight seasons. SJJ heads into the regional undefeated against teams from Ohio. St. John's won the TRAC with Whitmer finishing in a tie with Toledo St. Francis for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. St. John's beat Whitmer by double digits in both regular season meetings. Vincent Williams, Jr. of SJJ has signed with Virginia Commonwealth. Whitmer starts all underclassmen. The Panthers edged state ranked Sylvania Southview in a district final. Lakewood St. Edward won the regional at Cleveland State in 2017. St. John's defeated St. Edward's in mid-January at SJJ marking career win #700 for Titans coach Ed Heintschel. St.Ed's has won eleven in a row since that loss. Lorain was the top seed at Elyria Catholic and finished the regular season as the runner-up to Cleveland Heights in the Lake Erie League.

Semifinals – Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Toledo Whitmer (at Toledo); Lakewood St. Edward over Lorain (at Akron)

Final – Toledo St. John's Jesuit over Lakewood St. Edward (at Toledo)

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: The semifinal games will be played Wednesday and Thursday with the championship game Saturday night. Upsets ruled in the Columbus districts including top seeds Pickerington North and Upper Arlington. All four teams at ODU come from the thirty-one team Ohio Capital Conference. Hilliard Bradley's only loss was to Hilliard Davidson. Brent Norris, formerly at Delphos St. John's, coaches Bradley. #6 seed Dublin Coffman eliminated state ranked UA in a district final. #9 seed Pickerington Center has advanced without highly touted Jeremiah Francis. Reynoldsburg was a #10 seed and did not face a higher seeded team in their run to a district title.

Semifinals – Hilliard Bradley over Reynoldsburg; Dublin Coffman over Pickerington Central

Final – Hilliard Bradley over Dublin Coffman

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: The semifinals will be played Wednesday night with the championship game Saturday night. Top Ranked Solon's only loss was to Lakewood St. Edward in their final regular season game. Massillon Jackson returns two starters from their 2017 state championship team. The Polar Bears beat Canton McKinley in double overtime to advance to the regional. Shaker Heights eliminated the top two seeds in the Solon district while #5 seed Copley eliminated the top two seeds in the Barberton district.

Semifinals – Massillon Jackson over Copley; Solon over Shaker Heights

Final – Solon over Massillon Jackson

### STATE

Since 1998, the D1 final has closed out the State Tournament with the Saturday night game. The semifinal games will be played Friday night. Defending state champion Massillon Jackson plays in the regional at Cleveland State.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Toledo St. John’s Jesuit; Solon over Hilliard Bradley

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Solon

## DIVISION II

### REGIONALS

**KETTERING FAIRMONT:** Semifinal games will be played Thursday evening with the championship game Saturday afternoon. Trotwood-Madison returned three starters from their 2017 state semifinalist team. Columbus South finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Columbus City League South behind Columbus Eastmoor losing to Eastmoor twice during the regular season. South came back to knock off Eastmoor in the district final blowing up the Swami’s theory. The other regional semifinal will be the rubber match as Cincinnati Hughes and Cincinnati Woodward split their Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference games.

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Columbus South; Cincinnati Hughes over Cincinnati Woodward

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Cincinnati Hughes

**OHIO UNIVERSITY:** The semifinals will be played Thursday evening with the championship game Saturday night. Fairland moved up to D2 after losing to Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph in the 2017 D3 state semifinals. Fairland’s only loss to a team from Ohio this season was at Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary. John Glenn defeated St. Vincent-St. Mary in the 2016 D2 state championship game. The Unioto Shermans swept the Scioto Valley Conference. Byesville Meadowbrook eliminated league foe and East Central Ohio League champion Zanesville in a district final.

Semifinals – New Concord John Glenn over Chillicothe Unioto; Proctorville Fairland over Byesville Meadowbrook

Final – Proctorville Fairland over New Concord John Glenn

**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY:** Wauseon and Columbus Beechcroft are the state’s top ranked teams in D2 according to the Associated Press. Wauseon has won fifty-one of their last fifty-two games with the only loss to Akron SVSM in the 2017 D2 state championship game. Wauseon’s closest games so far this season have been five point wins over D1

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district finalists Anthony Wayne and Sylvania Southview. 6’9” Austin Rotroff of Wauseon has signed with Duquesne. Beechcroft’s only loss was to D1 Pickerington North. Beechcroft won the Columbus City League. Lexington shared the Ohio Cardinal Conference championship with D1 Mount Vernon. Lex handed D3 Ottawa-Glandorf their only regular season loss. Bay Village eliminated top seed and state ranked Parma Heights Holy Name in overtime at the North Ridgeville district final. The league foes split their regular season games. Bay won the regional at BGSU in 2016 defeating O-G.

Semifinals – Columbus Beechcroft over Bay Village Bay; Wauseon over Lexington

Final – Wauseon over Columbus Beechcroft

**CANTON CIVIC CENTER:** Semifinal games will be played Thursday night with the championship game at noon on Saturday. Defending D2 state champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary won their tenth straight district championship. Defending D3 state champion Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph won their sixth straight district championship covering three divisions (D2, D3, D4). The Vikings moved up to D2 this season as a result of Competitive Balance. Revere won their first district championship. Revere’s 6’10” Pete Nance is a Northwestern signee and brother of Larry Nance, Jr. of the Cavaliers. Lakeview advances after being the #4 seed at Boardman.

Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Cortland Lakeview; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Richfield Revere

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph

### STATE

The D2 semifinals will be the early games on Friday with the championship game played late Saturday afternoon. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary plays in the regional at Canton.

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Proctorville Fairland; Wauseon over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Wauseon

## DIVISION III

### REGIONALS

**CANTON FIELDHOUSE:** Semifinal games will be played Wednesday evening with the championship games scheduled



for Saturday night. State ranked LaBrae's only loss is to D2 Poland Seminary. Canton Central Catholic eliminated the top two seeds in the district at Salem. Defending D4 state champion Cleveland Heights Lutheran East was the top seed in the Garfield Heights district despite a 9-13 regular season record. LE moved up to D3 this season because of CB. This marks Triway's first trip to the regional since losing to Dayton Dunbar in the 2006 D2 state championship game.

Semifinals – Leavittsburg LaBrae over Canton Central Catholic; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Wooster Triway

Final – Leavittsburg LaBrae over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East

**KETTERING FAIRMONT:** Semifinal games will be played Wednesday evening with the championship games scheduled for Saturday night. Cincinnati Deer Park, one of four remaining undefeated teams, has outscored opponents by over 30 points a game. Cincinnati Purcell Marian finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the GCL Coed Central. North College Hill is riding a twenty-one game winning. NCH has been off the grid since winning their third straight D3 state championship back in 2007. Cincinnati Madeira, the runner-up to Deer Park in the Cincinnati Hills League, knocked off Versailles in a district final.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Deer Park over Cincinnati Purcell Marian; Cincinnati North College Hill over Cincinnati Madeira

Final – Cincinnati Deer Park over Cincinnati North College Hill

**OHIO UNIVERSITY:** Semifinal games will be played Wednesday evening with the championship games scheduled for Saturday night. Undefeated and top ranked Canal Winchester Harvest Prep has topped 100 points eight times this season. Only two of Harvest Preps wins were not by double digits. Harvest Prep is another team that was moved up due to Competitive Balance. Never saw that one coming. Oak Hill and Wheelersburg are the top two teams in the Southern Ohio Conference II splitting their regular season meetings. Sugarcreek Garaway was the #3 seed in the East district.

Semifinals – Oak Hill over Sugarcreek Garaway; Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Wheelersburg

Final – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Oak Hill

**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY:** Ottawa-Glandorf won their seventh district title in the past eight years. O-G has averaged eighty-six points a game in their three tournament games. The only loss for the WBL champions was at D2 Lexington in mid-February. Archbold lost at O-G by five points back in December with the Blue Streaks holding a lead late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. That was one of the first games back from injury for O-G's Jay Kaufman. Archbold's only other losses are to Wauseon. The Blue Streaks return four starters from their 2017 state semifinalist team. This marks Carey's first district championship. The Blue Devils finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Northern 10. State ranked Columbus Africentric finished in 3<sup>rd</sup>

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place in the Columbus City League South. Africentric won the final basketball game played in BGSU's Anderson Arena defeating Archbold in the 2011 D3 regional final.

Semifinals – Columbus Africentric over Carey; Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Columbus Africentric

### STATE

The D3 semifinals will be the late games on Thursday with the championship game being the early Saturday afternoon game. Defending D3 state champion Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph is playing in the D2 regional at Canton.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Deer Park over Leavittsburg LaBrae; Ottawa-Glandorf over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Cincinnati Deer Park

### DIVISION IV

#### REGIONALS

**OHIO UNIVERSITY:** Semifinal games will be played Tuesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Friday night. State ranked Berlin Hiland returns to the Convo after losing to Proctorville Fairland in the 2017 D3 regional final. The Hawks won back-to-back D4 state championships in 2011 and 2012. Peebles won the Southern Hills Athletic Conference while Coal Grove Dawson-Bryant (aka Coal Grove) finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Ohio Valley Conference behind D2 Fairland and D2 Gallipolis Gallia Academy. Fairfield Christian Academy, one of two teams with a losing record to advance to the regionals, was the #7 seed in the Central district.

Semifinals – Coal Grove Dawson-Bryant over Peebles; Berlin Hiland over Fairfield Christian Academy

Final – Berlin Hiland over Coal Grove Dawson-Bryant

**CANTON FIELDHOUSE:** Semifinal games will be played Tuesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Friday night. Top ranked and undefeated Mansfield St. Peter's won their third straight district championship at Willard. The Spartans lost in regional finals to Lincolnview in 2016 and to Delphos St. John's in 2017. St. Peter's will have their work cut out as 2016 D4 state champion Willoughby Cornerstone Christian is also at Canton. Don't be deceived by Cornerstone Christian's record. Five of the losses are to D1 schools including Lakewood St. Edward and Solon. Cornerstone also



lost to Cardinal Stritch. Rittman is in the regional for the first time since 2007 while East Canton was the #7 seed at Struthers.

Semifinals – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Rittman; Mansfield St. Peter’s over East Canton

Final – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Mansfield St. Peter’s

**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY:** Pandora-Gilboa won their first district title since 1999. P-G won both the PCL and the BVC. Pandora’s only loss was at Upper Scioto Valley in December. Mohawk won the first district championship in school history. Mohawk finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Northern 10 behind Upper Sandusky and Colonel Crawford. 2014 D4 state champion Convoy Crestview won the NWC championship. The Knights survived the district at Elida defeating Ottoville in double overtime in the semifinal and hitting a 3-pointer at the buzzer to eliminate Hicksville in the final. Maumee Valley has experienced an “interesting” season. MVCD lost leading rebounder and double figure scorer Jaiden Woodley to a late season knee injury, had two players leave the team during games, had an outside investigation of the basketball program conducted, and had the coaching staff file a lawsuit against several parents (including a former assistant coach) for defamation of character. The Hawks persevered and managed to advance to the regional for the second time in school history.

Semifinals – Pandora-Gilboa over Sycamore Mohawk; Convoy Crestview over Maumee Valley Country Day

Final – Convoy Crestview over Pandora-Gilboa

**KETTERING FAIRMONT:** Semifinal games will be played Tuesday evening with the championship game scheduled for Friday night. Fort Loramie and Russia finished in a three-way tie along with Anna for the Shelby County League title. Fort Loramie swept the regular season games with Russia. Fort Loramie’s only regular season losses were to Anna. Marion Local went undefeated in winning the MAC. The Flyers edged MAC runner-up St. Henry in overtime to win the district at Wapakoneta after blowing out the Redskins during the regular season. ML’s last regular season loss was at Fort Loramie in early February. Springfield Catholic Central won the Ohio Heritage Conference South title.

Semifinals – Fort Loramie over Russia; Marion Local over Springfield Catholic Central

Final – Fort Loramie over Marion Local

### STATE

D4 starts off the ninety-sixth annual Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 22. The D4 championship game will be played Saturday morning. Defending D4 state champion Cleveland Heights Lutheran East (that was one ugly game) is playing in the D3 regional at Canton.

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Semifinals – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Berlin Hiland; Fort Loramie over Convoy Crestview

Final – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Fort Loramie

That wraps up our twenty-fifth season of Trail Trash. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. The davey1 staff will be spending plenty of time the next couple of weeks in Bowling Green and Columbus. Thanks for reading.

