

Trail Trash

2019 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

We are back for our second edition of Trail Trash for 2019 as we head into regional tournaments around Ohio. Welcome.

As usual, the sectional tournaments around Northwest Ohio featured a handful of upsets. Both #2 seeds in D2 were eliminated in sectional final games with 2018 regional champion Lexington losing to #8 seed Ontario and Wauseon falling to #6 seed Van Wert. In the twenty-one team Toledo D1 district, #11 seed Perrysburg defeated #8 seed Toledo St. John's and #13 seed Springfield eliminated #7 seed Findlay to win sectional titles. The loss by St. John's broke a streak of twenty-one consecutive sectional championships that began in 1998. Springfield was the only team in Northwest Ohio with a losing record to win a sectional championship. In D4, 2018 regional champion Pandora-Gilboa lost in three overtimes to McComb in their sectional final game while Riverdale's sectional championship was their first since winning a Class A sectional title in 1987. All twenty-

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.

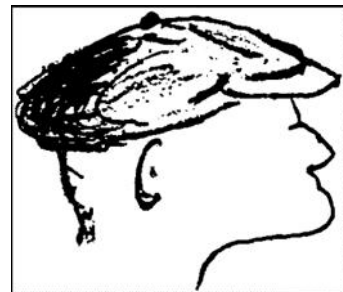
Since the fall of 2004 Davey1.com has featured the most complete collection of Ohio Boys High School Basketball Schedules and results that can be found in one place anywhere on the internet. We have gathered all of the schedules from the schools in the OHSAA Northwest District. We wrote our own special 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.

two conferences from around Northwest Ohio had at least one team win a sectional championship. At Fremont in D4, #6 seed Tiffin Calvert avenged two regular season losses to #5 seed Old Fort before upsetting #4 seed Ottawa Hills in the sectional final.

In the D1 districts at Toledo, #3 seed Lima Senior and #4 seed Toledo Start won championships. Start eliminated #1 seed Toledo Whitmer in a district final after defeating #5 seed Toledo St. Francis in a semifinal. #11 seed Perrysburg advanced to the district championship game with Lima Senior by eliminating previously undefeated and #2 seed Sylvania Northview. Both #1 seeds in D2 won district titles, but it was not an easy task. In the Mansfield Madison district, Norwalk defeated #8 seed Ontario in three overtimes before eliminating #3 seed Vermilion in the district final. At Ohio Northern, Lima Shawnee won the district title with an overtime win over #6 seed Van Wert. Van Wert had advanced to the championship game with a 27-25 overtime win over #3 seed Defiance with neither team attempting a foul shot.

Coldwater grabbed the headlines in D3 with a couple of huge wins. The #5 seeded Cavaliers shocked previously unbeaten and #1 seed Archbold in a district semifinal at Lima Senior before eliminating #2 seed Ottawa-Glandorf in the championship game. At Toledo Central Catholic, #2 seed Cardinal Stritch needed two overtimes to defeat previously unbeaten and #1 seed Genoa in the district final. In the D3 district at Norwalk, #1 seed Willard breezed to a district championship.

There no big upsets in D4 even though Convoy Crestview, Hicksville, and St. Henry were the only #1 seeds to win district championships. Crestview defeated #2 seed Kalida in double overtime for the district championship at Elida. The Knights needed a buzzer beating three-pointer at the end of the first overtime to force a second extra session. #2



seeds South Central, Columbus Grove, and Maumee Valley Country Day captured the other district titles in D4. South Central needed overtime to defeat #3 seed Margaretta in their district semifinal.

Six of the thirteen top seeded teams from around Northwest Ohio won district championships while four teams seeded #2 won district crowns. Coldwater, the #5 seed in the Lima Senior district, was the lowest seeded team to earn a district championship.

Regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 will be held at the Stroh Center on the campus of Bowling Green State University. The D4 semifinals will be played Tuesday night followed by the D3 semifinals on Wednesday and the D2 semifinals on Thursday. The D4 regional final will be played on Friday night with the D2 final on Saturday afternoon and the D3 final on Saturday night. The D1 regional final between Toledo Start and Lima Senior will be played on Wednesday night at the University of Toledo. The winner will advance to the regional final Saturday afternoon at the University of Akron. In D4, South Central will play in the regional at the Canton Fieldhouse with teams from the Northeast District while St. Henry will play in the regional at Kettering Fairmont with teams from the Southwest District.

At the start of the tournament, three of the five undefeated teams in Ohio were from Northwest Ohio. All three (Archbold, Genoa, Sylvania Northview) had their perfect seasons ended in the district tournaments. That does not take away from the tremendous seasons that Archbold, Genoa, and Northview had. Congratulations.

The Swami had an overall record of 113-33 in our first edition with nine district winners missing out on a D1 at Toledo (Whitmer was the Swami's pick), the D2 at Mansfield Madison (Lexington), the D3 at Lima Senior (Ottawa-Glandorf), and the D4 at Willard (Margaretta).

The Swami will break out the dartboard with the Ouija board not working. Time to go to the picks.

DIVISION I

REGIONALS

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be Wednesday night with the championship game Saturday afternoon. Mentor won the Greater Cleveland Conference with Euclid finishing in the 2nd spot. Mentor's losses are to Shaker Heights and Medina. Green won the first district championship in school history while Euclid won their first district title since 1995. Green knocked off

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Massillon Jackson in the district final after finishing in 2nd place in the Federal League behind the Polar Bears. Lakewood St. Edward has been inconsistent but do not sleep on the Eagles.

Semifinals – Mentor over Uniontown Green; Lakewood St. Edward over Euclid

Final – Lakewood St. Edward over Mentor

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be Wednesday night with the championship game Saturday night. Defending D1 state champion Moeller is the Greater Catholic League champ. Moeller defeated Lakota East 61-53 back in January. That is one of just two games that undefeated Moeller has not won by double digits. East is the champion of the ten-team Greater Miami Conference. Centerville and Springfield shared the title in their division of the Greater Western Ohio Conference. The two teams split their regular season games.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Lakota East; Centerville over Springfield

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Centerville

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be played Wednesday and Thursday with the championship game Saturday afternoon. All four teams in the regional play in the Ohio Capital Conference. The top two seeds in the combined Columbus districts (Dublin Coffman and Hilliard Bradley) lost in district semifinal games. Pickerington Central and Pickerington North tied for the OCC-Ohio title. Pickerington Central's lone loss is to Pickerington North. Olentangy Liberty won the OCC-Buckeye while Newark won the OCC-Capital title. Pick Central has won this regional the past two seasons.

Semifinals – Pickerington North over Newark; Olentangy Liberty over Pickerington Central

Final – Olentangy Liberty over Pickerington North

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: Semifinal games will be played Wednesday at the University of Toledo and the University of Akron with the championship game

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scheduled for Saturday afternoon at Akron. Start won their first district championship in school history (fifty-seven years) with the win over Whitmer. The Spartans won the Toledo City League. Lima Senior shared the TRAC title with Whitmer. The top two scorers for Lima, Josiah Fulcher and Jamir Simpson, played in the state tournament for Pickerington Central in 2018. Two-time D2 defending state champion Akron SVSM has moved up to D1 as a result of competitive balance. The Irish returned four starters from their 2018 state title team. A second SVSM/Lorain matchup (SVSM won 82-75 during the regular season) was not to be with Olmsted Falls upsetting 2018 regional champion Lorain. Losses for the Bulldogs are to Southwestern Conference opponents Lakewood and Midview.

Semifinals – Lima Senior over Toledo Start (at Toledo); Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Olmsted Falls (at Akron)

Final—Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Lima Senior

STATE

Since 1998, the D1 final has closed out the State Tournament with the Saturday night game. Is it time for a change? The semifinal games will be the Friday night doubleheader. Defending state champion Cincinnati Moeller plays in the regional at Xavier.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Moeller over Lakewood St. Edward; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Olentangy Liberty

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary

DIVISION II

REGIONALS

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be Wednesday evening with the championship game Saturday night. Sheridan's district championship is their first since 2000. Steubenville finished in 3rd place in the big school division of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (primarily West Virginia schools). New Philadelphia was the runner-up to Dover in the East Central Ohio League. Zane Trace's district title is their first since 1970 when the Pioneers won a Class A regional championship. ZT won the Scioto Valley Conference.

Semifinals – Thornville Sheridan over Steubenville; New Philadelphia over Chillicothe Zane Trace

Final – New Philadelphia over Thornville Sheridan

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Norwalk won their first district title since the 2014 D2 state championship team. The Truckers are the SBC Lake champions with twenty-one wins in their last twenty-two games. The lone loss during that stretch was to Cardinal Stritch. Columbus South, the Columbus City League champion, won a second straight district title. South's only loss was to Columbus Walnut Ridge in January. Lima Shawnee finished as the runner-up to Ottawa-Glandorf in the WBL. The Indians had not won a district title since 2000. Shawnee's losses are to St. Henry and O-G. Cleveland Central Catholic finished in 4th place in the North Coast League Red. The Ironmen lost at Toledo St. John's in late January.

Semifinals – Columbus South over Norwalk; Lima Shawnee over Cleveland Central Catholic

Final – Columbus South over Lima Shawnee

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: Semifinal games will be Wednesday night with the championship game on Friday night. Cleveland VASJ and Cleveland Benedictine split their regular season games. VASJ shared the North Coast League Red title with Akron Hoban while Benedictine finished in 3rd place. Akron Buchtel's district championship was their first since 1998. The Griffins also won the Akron City Series. Poland's losses were to Canfield and Boardman back in December. The top-seeded Bulldogs beat #3 seed Youngstown Chaney in overtime for their district title.

Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Cleveland Benedictine; Poland Seminary over Akron Buchtel

Final – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Poland Seminary

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Semifinal games will be Thursday night with the championship game Saturday afternoon. Trotwood-Madison has won the regional the past two seasons. The Rams have hit triple digits thirteen times while averaging 102.7 points per game with a high of 138. T-M losses are to Huber Heights Wayne and



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Pick Central. Aiken tied Cincinnati Taft and Cincinnati Hughes for the top spot in the CMAC Red. Northridge shocked Cincinnati Taft in their district final. The Polar Bears finished in the 3rd place in the SBL Buckeye. Bishop Hartley finished in 4th place in the Central Catholic League.

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Cincinnati Aiken; Columbus Bishop Hartley over Dayton Northridge

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Columbus Bishop Hartley

STATE

The D2 semifinal games will be the Thursday night doubleheader with the championship game being the early Saturday afternoon game. Defending state champion Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary is playing in the D1 regional at Akron.

Semifinals – Columbus South over New Philadelphia; Trotwood-Madison over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph

Final – Trotwood-Madison over Columbus South

DIVISION III

REGIONALS

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Semifinal games will be Wednesday evening with the championship game Saturday evening. Cincinnati Purcell Marian is the GCL Central champion. The Cavaliers' four losses are to D1 and D2 schools. Versailles finished in 6th place in the MAC. Dayton Stivers eliminated defending D3 state champion Cincinnati Deer Park in a district final. Stivers is the co-champion of the Dayton City League with Thurgood Marshall. Anna won the Shelby County Athletic League. The only losses on the season for the Rockets are to Jackson Center and Minster.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Purcell Marian over Versailles; Dayton Stivers over Anna

Final – Cincinnati Purcell over Dayton Stivers

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be Thursday night with the championship game Saturday afternoon. Wheelersburg is one of two undefeated teams remaining in the tournament. The Burg won the Southern Ohio Conference II. Harvest Prep won the regional championship at Athens in 2018. Prep's only loss to a team from Ohio was to D1 Kettering Fairmont. Sandy

Valley, the #4 seed in the East District, knocked off #2 seed Byesville Meadowbrook and #1 seed Sugarcreek Garaway for their first district title since 1990. Adena's district championship is their first since 1980.

Semifinals – Wheelersburg over Magnolia Sandy Valley; Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Frankfort Adena

Final – Wheelersburg over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Semifinal games will be Wednesday night with the championship game Saturday evening. Lutheran East is looking for a third straight regional title. The Falcons were the 2017 D4 state champions (in one ugly game) before bumping up to D3 as a result of competitive balance. Lutheran East's eight losses are to D1 schools and Spire Academy. Ashtabula Edgewood's district title is their first since 1990. Their lone loss was to Poland Seminary in overtime. Mogadore and Orrville were #4 seeds in their respective districts with Mogadore knocking off #1 seed Waterloo and Orrville eliminating #1 seed Norwayne.

Semifinals – Ashtabula Edgewood over Mogadore; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Orrville

Final – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Ashtabula Edgewood

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Cardinal Stritch won their third district title in the past five years with the double overtime win over previously unbeaten Genoa. The Cardinals also won a second straight TAAC championship. Willard won their first district crown since 2006. The Flashes have won seventeen straight games since an early January loss to Vermilion. Willard shared the SBC Bay title with the Sailors. Coldwater finished in a tie for 3rd place in the MAC behind St. Henry and Marion Local. Coldwater's wins over Archbold and Ottawa-Glandorf were reminiscent of 2009 when the Cavaliers knocked off state ranked Liberty-Benton and O-G in the district at Elida. Grandview Heights was the #6 overall seed in the combined Columbus districts. The Bobcats knocked off the #2 and #3 seeds for their district title. Grandview Heights finished in 3rd place in the MSL-Ohio.

Semifinals – Cardinal Stritch over Grandview Heights;

Coldwater over Willard

Final – Cardinal Stritch over Coldwater

STATE

D3 will kick off the ninety-seventh annual Boys State Basketball Tournament at noon on Thursday, March 21 with a doubleheader. The D3 state championship game will be played Saturday morning.

Semifinals – Cincinnati Purcell Marian over Wheelersburg; Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Cardinal Stritch

Final – Cincinnati Purcell Marian over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East

DIVISION IV

REGIONALS

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be Tuesday night with the championship game Friday evening. Hiland has won three straight district titles. The Hawks won the regional at Athens in 2018 before losing in the state semifinals to Cornerstone Christian. Hiland's only loss came against Cleveland East Tech back in December. New Boston Glenwood last won a district championship in 1960 when LeRoy Frazier led them to the Class A state tournament. Coal Grove won their second straight district title at Athens. Berne Union won the first district championship in school history.

Semifinals – Berlin Hiland over Coal Grove Dawson-Bryant; New Boston Glenwood over Sugar Grove Berne Union

Final – Berlin Hiland over New Boston Glenwood

KETTERING FAIRMONT: Semifinal games will be Tuesday evening with the championship game Friday night. St. Henry eliminated defending D4 state champion Marion Local in a district final. The Redskins are the MAC champions. Jackson Center finished in the runner-up spot behind Anna in the SCAL with Fort Loramie in 3rd place. Jackson Center swept the regular season games with Fort Loramie. We will find out how difficult it is to beat a team three times in a season when the two meet in a regional semifinal. Springfield Catholic Central won a second straight district championship and will again face a team from the MAC. State ranked Catholic Central again won the Ohio Heritage Conference South Title.

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Semifinals – St. Henry over Springfield Catholic Central; Jackson Center over Fort Loramie

Final – St. Henry over Jackson Center

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: Semifinal games will be Tuesday night with the championship game Friday evening. South Central finished runner-up to Western Reserve in the Firelands. The Trojans last won a district championship in 1974 in Class A. Richmond Heights' six losses on the season came against Lutheran East and five D1 schools including Toledo Whitmer. #2 seed Bristol eliminated top seeded Kinsman Badger in the district at Orwell. New Middletown Springfield won the district at Struthers as the top seed.

Semifinals – Richmond Heights over Bristolville Bristol; South Central over New Middletown Springfield

Final – Richmond Heights over South Central

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Crestview returned four starters from the team that lost to Pandora-Gilboa in the 2018 regional finals. Crestview's lone loss was to Bluffton back in December. The Knights shared the NWC title with Columbus Grove. Crestview's Javin Etzler has signed with Miami (OH). Hicksville won their first district championship since 1941. The Aces shared the GMC title with Wayne Trace. Hicksville losses are to WT in overtime and 60-35 at Crestview. The Aces lost to Crestview on a buzzer beater in the 2018 district final at Elida.



In addition to their NWC co-championship, Columbus Grove finished as the runner-up to Kalida in the PCL. Grove lost 61-44 at Crestview in their final regular season game. Maumee Valley Country Day won their second straight district championship. Junior Zeb Jackson is a Michigan commit. The Hawks finished in a tie with Toledo Christian for 3rd place in the TAAC.

Semifinals – Maumee Valley Country Day over Columbus Grove; Convoy Crestview over Hicksville

Final – Convoy Crestview over Maumee Valley Country Day

STATE

D4 semifinal games will be the Friday afternoon doubleheader with the championship game played late Saturday afternoon.

Semifinals – St. Henry over Berlin Hiland; Convoy Crestview over Richmond Heights

Final – Convoy Crestview over St. Henry

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

The logo for "Trail Trash" is displayed in a blue, cursive font within a grey rectangular box. The text "Trail Trash" is written in a stylized, handwritten style.