

Trail Trash

2014 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 our twenty-first year of Trail Trash, a Northwest Ohio institution since 1994. Winter is almost over. It's tournament time.

The 2013-2014 season will go down as the season of postponed games. Upwards of 250 games involving teams from around Northwest Ohio have been postponed as a result of the inclement weather we have experienced this winter. Add in twenty-two game regular season schedules along with the football playoffs being pushed back a week, and it has created quite a challenge. A handful of games will not be played, but the vast majority have been rescheduled. For that we want to thank Athletic Directors and other responsible parties around Northwest Ohio for their hard work and creativity. This has

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.

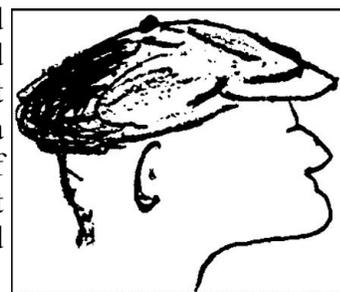
Since the fall of 2004 Davey1.com has featured the most complete collection of Ohio Boys High School Basketball Schedules and results that can be found in one place anywhere on the internet. We have gathered all of the schedules from the schools in the OHSAA Northwest District. We wrote our own special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

resulted in a heavy February schedule with a number of schools playing "NBA like" schedules, but regular season schedules and league races have not been compromised.

A number of schools have moved into different divisions as a result of the OHSAA biennial reclassification of schools. These new division assignments are the result of school enrollment numbers from the fall of 2012. As some will recall, this was thoroughly bungled and was not one of the OHSAA's finer moments. There appears to be no truth to the rumor that the OHSAA will be contracting out future work on the enrollment numbers to a 5th grade math class in Sylvania. In addition to the impact on individual schools, the reclassification has resulted in an additional district in D2 for Northwest Ohio. For 2014, we are also seeing a number of new sites at both the sectional and district levels.

The 2014 season marks the end of the line for the Midland Athletic League (MAL) and North Central Conference (NCC). Next season, we will have the Sandusky River Conference and the Northern Ten Conference (which will have nine members in its first year). We will also see some changes in other conferences including the Sandusky Bay Conference and Blanchard Valley Conference. There will be more changes resulting from those changes, but we say that every year.

Speaking of changes, the Northeast district has implemented some changes in their tournament structure. The Northeast district has used a combined sectional/district format for a number of years. That format had



separate district sites similar to the Northwest district, but with teams also playing their sectional games at the district site. For 2014 in all divisions, sectional games will be played at the higher seeded team while neutral sites will continue to be utilized at the district level. In D1, a “pod” concept was utilized with teams having the option of playing in one of two districts. The seeding process is also based on the “pod” rather than the individual district. The goal was to try to even out the competition across districts while not making travel a huge issue. Is this something we could see in the future in Northwest Ohio?

I have been neutral for several years on the value of a shot clock in high school basketball. Recently, I attended a game where a team trailing by ten points held the ball for over five minutes to get the final shot of the third quarter. Whether it was to break their opponent’s momentum or to keep players from further foul trouble or whatever, I do not know. It did make me more of a proponent for having a shot clock.

Shot clock or not, it’s time to break out the Ouija board and go to the predictions.

DIVISION I

D1 basketball around NW Ohio has flown a bit under the radar this season. Some of that may be attributed to the lack of “star power” as several players have moved on to the Big Ten and to other NCAA DI and DII college campuses. Perrysburg and Toledo Bowsher have recently made appearances in the top ten of the Associated Press poll while Toledo St. John’s and Toledo Central Catholic have also received some recognition. Mansfield Senior has also put together an excellent season. There are also several other solid teams. D1 does not appear to be as strong from top to bottom as in recent seasons. However, there are a number of teams with a legitimate chance at winning district titles.

2013 state runner-up Toledo Rogers, Norwalk, Perrysburg, and Maumee have dropped to D2 for 2014 while Bowling Green has moved up to D1 for 2014.

Toledo Waite has replaced Toledo Whitmer as a sectional site. Toledo Bowsher will also be used for a sectional final game. Otsego has replaced Liberty-Benton as a tournament site. Otsego and Galion will operate under a “Super Sectional” format with the sectional winners from those sites returning to play their district semifinal game at the same location. The district final will be played at the Stroh Center in Bowling Green on March 8. The sectional

winner from Waite and Bowsher will play in one district semifinal game at the University of Toledo’s Savage Arena with the winners from the Central Catholic section squaring off in the other district semifinal.

The two NW Ohio district champions will play in a regional semifinal game at the University of Toledo. That winner will play the winner of the regional semifinal between the Grafton district winner (Cleveland St. Ignatius, Berea-Midpark) and the Broadview Heights district winner (Lakewood St. Edward’s). That regional semifinal as well as the regional final game will be played at the University of Akron. If NW Ohio is to have a D1 team at the state tournament, there will need to be at least one upset along the tournament trail.

SECTIONALS

TOLEDO WAITE: Toledo Bowsher and Toledo Central Catholic are the top seeds. Bowsher is averaging over eighty-seven points a game and has scored at least 100 in a game eight times. The Rebels finished on top of the Toledo City League standings. The City League champion is determined by a four-team playoff. Central Catholic leads the TRAC headed into the final week of the regular season. The Irish will play their sectional final game with Waite at Bowsher. Central’s DeShone Kizer, a Notre Dame football recruit, was a starter on the 2011 final four team. Bruce Smith who coached Whitmer to the D1 state championship game in 2012 is in his first season at Southview. The Cougars are one game back in the NLL race and playing their best basketball of the season. Clay and Waite will not be factors although Clay may hang with Bowsher for a while.

Semifinal – Toledo Bowsher over Oregon Clay

Finals – Sylvania Southview over Toledo Bowsher; Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Waite

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Toledo St. John’s and Springfield are the top seeds. St. John’s has a chance at a share of the title in the TRAC entering the final week of the regular season. The Titans have won sixteen consecutive sectional titles. Ed Heintschel, in his thirty-fifth year as head coach at SJJ, is currently ninth all-time in Ohio for career wins and somehow has a full head of hair. SJJ’s Anthony Glover (Chicago State) will probably be the TRAC player of the year. Springfield is in position to share the NLL title with Perrysburg. The Blue Devils held Bowsher to a season-low 60 points in a win over the Rebels. Whitmer has a young team that is improving while St. Francis has made strides this year. Both regular season games between the Panthers and Knights came down to the wire. Neither Northview nor Start is expected to challenge St. John’s.

Semifinals – Toledo Start over Sylvania Northview; Toledo Whitmer over Toledo St. Francis

Finals – Toledo St. John’s over Toledo Start; Springfield over Toledo Whitmer

GALION: Mansfield Senior and Fremont Ross are the top seeds. Mansfield Senior is head and shoulders above the rest at Galion. The Tygers returned four starters from their 2013 district runner-up team. One of their returning bigs, Robert Jones, left the team earlier in the season. Mansfield has won twelve straight sectional titles. The Tygers have been fairly impressive outside the conference, but their OCC losses raise some questions. Fremont Ross started the season at 8-2 before the TRAC schedule caught up with them. Ashland has a strong junior class led by point guard Isaac White while Madison has some good young talent. Marion Harding has played an independent schedule since the Greater Buckeye Conference broke up in 2011. With the Presidents moving to the MOAC next season, could that mean a move to the Central district?

Semifinal – Mansfield Madison over Marion Harding

Finals – Mansfield Senior over Mansfield Madison; Ashland over Fremont Ross

OTSEGO: Perrysburg and Findlay are the top seeds. Perrysburg currently leads the NLL but have slumped of late. Leading scorer Nick Moschetti is one of the top players in NW Ohio. A veteran Findlay team was the pre-season pick to win the TRAC. The Trojans have been a bit inconsistent. Defending district champion Anthony Wayne is in the upper half of the NLL and will be a tough out. The Generals played a couple of tight games with Perrysburg in splitting the season series. Lima Senior has a very talented sophomore class, but the Spartans have been extremely inconsistent. Bowling Green makes their return to D1 with limited size, a new coach in Mark Malinowski after the controversial “non-renewal” of Von Graffin, and one returning starter from a year ago. That returning starter is a good one in La’Monta Stone.

Semifinal – Lima Senior over Bowling Green

Finals – Findlay over Lima Senior; Perrysburg over Anthony Wayne

DISTRICTS

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Toledo Rogers won the district in 2013. Toledo St. John’s has won seven of the last twelve district championships but none since 2010

Semifinals – Toledo Central Catholic over Sylvania Southview; Toledo St. John’s over Springfield

Final – Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo St. John’s

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Anthony

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Wayne is the defending district champion. Mansfield Senior will face Ashland in a district semifinal at Galion while Perrysburg will face Findlay in a district semifinal at Otsego.

Semifinal (at Galion) – Mansfield Senior over Ashland

Semifinal (at Otsego) – Findlay over Perrysburg

Final – Mansfield Senior over Findlay

DIVISION II

D2 teams from Northwest Ohio have gotten a lot of love this season in the Associated Press poll. Ontario, Norwalk, Lake, and Defiance have all been in the top five at some point and have been fixtures in the top ten. Norwalk spent one week as the state’s top ranked team before losing to Ontario. Elida has also received some recognition. There are a number of other solid teams including Toledo Scott, Toledo Rogers, Sandusky Perkins, and Lima Bath. This should make for a great year in D2 tournament basketball at both the sectional and district levels with some outstanding potential matchups

There have been wholesale changes in the makeup of D2 for 2014. Norwalk, Toledo Rogers, Maumee, and Sandusky moved down from D1 while Ontario, Lake, Fostoria, and Genoa moved up from D3. Bowling Green is now in D1 while Willard, Van Wert, Eastwood, and Edison dropped to D3.

Anthony Wayne has replaced Swanton as a sectional site while Willard and Riverdale are new sites as a result of the increase in the number of sectionals. District tournaments will be played at Mansfield Senior, Toledo Central Catholic, and Liberty-Benton replacing Ohio Northern and Bowling Green. BG had hosted D2 district tournaments since 1994.

The three district winners from NW Ohio will advance to the regional tournament at the Stroh Center in Bowling Green. The Mansfield district winner will play the winner of the Westlake district (Parma Heights Holy Name, Medina Buckeye) and the Toledo Central Catholic district winner will play the Liberty-Benton district winner in semifinal games. After a year’s absence, there will be a D2 team from Northwest Ohio going to the 2014 state tournament.

SECTIONALS

BUCYRUS: Ontario and Norwalk are the top seeds. To put it mildly, undefeated Ontario’s first year in the NOL has been a success. Ontario has clinched at least a tie for the NOL championship. In late January the Warriors ended Norwalk’s



fifty-seven game regular season winning streak which ranked 9th all-time in Ohio. Ontario and Norwalk are scheduled to meet to finish the regular season. The Truckers have four-year starters in Jeff Thomas (Georgia State) and Ben Haraway. Lexington lost to Ontario in overtime and Clear Fork took the Warriors down to the wire during their regular season meetings so it was no surprise that both jumped to Ontario's side of the bracket. Norwalk passed up a bye and will play a Galion team having a decent season in the NCC. Inconsistent Shelby awaits Norwalk.

Semifinals – Lexington over Clear Fork; Norwalk over Galion

Finals – Ontario over Lexington; Norwalk over Shelby

WILLARD: Sandusky Perkins and Clyde are the top seeds. Perkins has clinched their third consecutive SBC championship. Nic Williams is the all-time leading scorer for the Pirates and is likely to be the three-time SBC player of the year. Clyde is in the top half of the SBC but the Fliers are not playing their best basketball of the season as the tournament approaches. Expect Clyde's Ryan Carter to step down from his coaching position at the end of the season to focus on his football duties. The rest of this sectional is not very good. Bellevue and Sandusky are at the bottom of NOL while Port Clinton and Oak Harbor are at the bottom of the SBC. Sandusky has excellent younger players, but the program needs continuity. Port Clinton has some good young talent that has yet to gel.

Semifinals – Oak Harbor over Port Clinton; Sandusky over Bellevue

Finals – Clyde over Oak Harbor; Sandusky Perkins over Sandusky

LIMA SENIOR: Elida and Lima Bath are the top seeds. An all-WBL sectional at Lima Senior. Elida faces Celina in their regular season finale with the winner getting at least a share of the WBL title. Dakota Mathias (Purdue) became Elida's all-time leading scorer with a forty-two point performance against LCC. With a tournament run, Mathias could surpass 2,000 career points. Lima Bath was in contention for a WBL title until their Valentine Day's loss to Elida. Taren Sullivan became the all-time leading scorer for Bath in that contest. Celina can still get at least a share of the WBL title even though February has been a tough month for the Bulldogs. Celina still might be a year away with a strong group of juniors. St. Marys is the sleeper at Lima. The Roughriders have a chance of finishing over .500 for the season. Coach Dan Hegemier reached career win number five hundred earlier in the season. Lima Shawnee and Wapakoneta are both near the bottom of the WBL, but could pull upsets in semifinal games.

Semifinals – St. Marys Memorial over Lima Shawnee; Celina over Wapakoneta

Finals – Elida over St. Marys Memorial; Lima Bath over Celina

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RIVERDALE: Tiffin Columbian and Upper Sandusky are the top seeds. This is the weakest of the D2 sectionals. Tiffin Columbian should finish third in the NOL behind Ontario and Norwalk. The Tornadoes' are the only team at Riverdale with a chance of finishing the regular season above .500. Upper Sandusky has hovered around the .500 mark all season. The Rams should finish in the top half of the NCC. Upper will move to the MOAC next season before joining the Northern Ten the following year. Otsego still has a chance of finishing in the top half of the NBC. Otsego shares the honor of being the smallest D2 school in the state with Lake. Kenton and Fostoria are currently winless in the WBL and NBC respectively. Fostoria is the only team that does not have a realistic shot at winning a sectional title at Riverdale.

Semifinal – Otsego over Fostoria

Finals – Upper Sandusky over Otsego; Tiffin Columbian over Kenton

OREGON CLAY: Lake and Toledo Scott are the top seeds. This is a very good sectional. Lake is the NBC champion. The Flyers' only loss is to Eastwood. Lake is the smallest D2 school in the state. Ryan Bowen of Lake should be the player of the year in the NBC. Scott finished second to Bowsher in the City League standings and own a win over the Rebels. Chris Harris is one of the top players in the TCL. Rogers returns one starter from the surprise 2013 D1 state runner-up. The Rams have played an excellent schedule and will be tough to beat in the tournament. Rossford has a remote chance at sharing the NBC title. The Bulldogs would much rather be making the trip to Anthony Wayne. For the first time in a number of years, Woodward has reached double digits in wins. The Polar Bears will also make an appearance in the TCL "final four". Genoa had been around .500 before a late season swoon. Will this mark the end of Keith Diebler's coaching career?

Semifinals – Toledo Rogers over Rossford; Toledo Woodward over Genoa

Finals – Toledo Rogers over Lake; Toledo Scott over Toledo Woodward

ANTHONY WAYNE: Defiance and Bryan are the top seeds. Defiance is in position to grab a share of the WBL crown. That would be the third WBL championship or co-championship in the past five seasons for the Bulldogs. Maumee is near the bottom of the NLL, but their record is a bit misleading with some close losses. The other side of the bracket is fairly even. Bryan and Wauseon will meet the last week of the regular season with the winner getting at least a piece of the NWOAL

title. Wauseon is giving up only forty points a game. Bryan got off to slow start following their football playoff run but has been on a roll since the beginning of the new year. Napoleon has been competitive in the NLL despite a lack of size. The Wildcats defeated Wauseon in their regular season meeting.

Semifinal – Wauseon over Napoleon

Finals – Wauseon over Bryan; Defiance over Maumee

DISTRICTS

MANSFIELD SENIOR: Ashland University was the site when we last had three districts in 2011. Perkins won district titles the last two years at Bowling Green

Semifinals – Ontario over Sandusky Perkins; Norwalk over Clyde

Final – Norwalk over Ontario

LIBERTY-BENTON: Liberty-Benton replaces Ohio Northern as a district site. Lima Bath won the district last season at ONU.

Semifinals – Elida over Tiffin Columbian; Lima Bath over Upper Sandusky

Final – Elida over Lima Bath

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Central Catholic replaces Bowling Green as a district site.

Semifinals – Toledo Rogers over Defiance; Toledo Scott over Wauseon

Final – Toledo Scott over Toledo Rogers

DIVISION III

Lima Central Catholic has been the only team from NW Ohio to garner much support in the weekly Associated Press poll. There are plenty of other solid teams including defending D3 state champion Ottawa-Glandorf and traditional powers Archbold and Liberty-Benton but no headline grabbers.

This year's D3 tournament looks radically different from last season with a great deal of turnover. Willard, Van Wert, Eastwood and Edison have moved down from D2 while St. Henry, Colonel Crawford, Riverdale, Hopewell-Loudon, Montpelier, and Northwood were in D4 a year ago. Ontario, Lake, Fostoria, and Genoa are now in D2 while Wayne Trace, Spencerville, Patrick Henry, Hicksville, and Seneca East have moved to D4.

There are also a number of site changes. Wauseon, Oak Harbor, and St. Marys Memorial have replaced Otsego, Sandusky, and Wapakoneta as sectional venues. BGSU, Ashland University, and Ohio Northern have replaced

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Napoleon, Willard, and Lima Senior as district tournament locations.

The regional tournament will again be held at Bowling Green's Stroh Center. The Ohio Northern winner will play one of the Columbus district winners (Richwood North Union, Columbus Grandview Heights) in the first semifinal game. Interestingly, the top two seeds in D3 from the Central district have opted for the brackets that feed into the Ohio University regional rather than the path through Bowling Green. The Bowling Green and Ashland district winners will clash in the other regional semifinal game at the Stroh. NW Ohio has an excellent chance of getting a D3 team to the state tournament in 2014. It could be LCC, but they are not the "stone cold lock" (channeling Don Cornelius) that they were earlier in the season.

SECTIONALS

ST MARYS MEMORIAL: Lima Central Catholic and St. Henry are the top seeds. After seven seasons in the NWC and five championships or co-championships, LCC is back to playing as an independent. The T-Birds have played a demanding schedule and feature a talented sophomore class. LCC lost returning starter Darius West due to a football related injury. Parkway and Allen East join LCC on the top half of the bracket. Parkway is winless in the MAC while Allen East is near the bottom of the NWC standings. The lower half of the bracket should be very competitive. St. Henry is in the middle of the MAC standings. The Redskins' success revolves around 6'6" junior Ryan Mikesell. Coldwater's season got off to another late (and slow) start as the Cavaliers won another state football championship. WBL member Van Wert and Coldwater are the sleepers at St. Marys. Delphos Jefferson had limited success in the NWC, but the Wildcats will finish the season above .500.



Semifinals – Parkway over Allen East; St. Henry over Delphos Jefferson; Coldwater over Van Wert

Finals – Lima Central Catholic over Parkway; St. Henry over Coldwater

FINDLAY: Liberty-Benton and Carey are the top seeds. Liberty-Benton brought back an experienced group, but the Eagles were slowed by a run of injuries to key players early in the season. The Eagles are now healthy after finishing as the BVC runner-up. L-B is undefeated and has dominated opponents since losing by twenty-nine points to LCC in late

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December. Carey will finish as the MAL runner-up. The Blue Devils have a very good junior class. Hopewell-Loudon finished near the top of the MAL. Riverdale got off to a good start including a win over Carey, but the Falcons will finish in the lower half of the NCC standings. Elmwood has several NBC wins but the non-league schedule has been tough on the Royals. Lakota is one of several MAL teams that have had difficult seasons.

Semifinals – Elmwood over Lakota; Riverdale over Hopewell-Loudon

Finals – Liberty-Benton over Elmwood; Carey over Riverdale

OAK HARBOR: Huron and Eastwood are the top seeds. Huron returns several contributors from their 2013 district championship team. The Tigers are currently in 2nd place in the SBC. Eastwood is in the top half of the NBC. The Eagles handed Lake their lone loss. Margaretta has been the surprise team of the SBC. A young Edison team has been competitive in the SBC even with the loss of 6'8" Luke Frankboner to a season-ending injury. This has been a down year for Western Reserve, but the Roughriders are still in the top half of the Firelands Conference standings. Woodmore is near the bottom of the NBC. Northwood's only win came against non-OHSAA member Monclova Christian. The Rangers are averaging just twenty-four points a game. Huron should breeze in the upper bracket while the lower half of the bracket should be very competitive.

Semifinals – Woodmore over Northwood; Eastwood over Western Reserve; Margaretta over Edison

Finals – Huron over Woodmore; Eastwood over Margaretta

LEXINGTON: Colonel Crawford and Willard are the top seeds. Colonel Crawford can still get a share of the NCC title. The Eagles won district titles in each of the past two seasons playing in D4. Colonel Crawford returns experience from those teams including leading scorer Connor McCreary. Willard is chasing Tiffin Columbian for third place in the NOL. The Flashes have a good junior class. Bucyrus will finish above .500 in the final season for the NCC. The Redmen have never won a sectional title. New London holds the second spot behind Plymouth in the FC. Ashland Crestview can also finish in the upper half of the standings but have only one win outside the conference. Wynford has fallen on hard times. Through 2011, the Royals had won sectional titles sixteen consecutive years.

Semifinals – Wynford over Ashland Crestview; New London over Bucyrus

Finals – Colonel Crawford over Wynford; Willard over New London

WAUSEON: Archbold and Liberty Center are the top seeds. This sectional composed entirely of NWOAL squads returns to Fulton County. Archbold is tied for the NWOAL

lead going into their regular season finale with Evergreen. The improvement of 6'8" Luke Fisher has been a key to the Blue Streaks' success. Archbold has a streak of thirteen consecutive sectional titles. Liberty Center continues to show improvement and should finish in the top half of the league. Starters for the Tigers include the Pohlman triplets. Delta was 10-1 in mid-January before going almost a month without a win. Swanton is much improved. The Bulldogs handed Archbold their lone league loss. Evergreen also started the season strong before fading in mid-January. Not much was expected from Montpelier. The Locos are winless in the NWOAL.

Semifinals – Archbold over Evergreen; Delta over Montpelier

Finals – Archbold over Swanton; Delta over Liberty Center

DEFIANCE: Ottawa-Glandorf and Paulding are the top seeds. Defending D3 state champion Ottawa-Glandorf is in the midst of a down year (by O-G standards) as they enter the final week of the regular season with twelve wins and in the middle of the pack in the WBL. 6'7" Noah Bramlage is the lone returning starter for the Titans. O-G has won eight straight sectional titles. Paulding is one of the better D3 teams in NW Ohio despite sitting in the middle of the NWC standings. Tinora trails Wayne Trace in the GMC race and has an outside change of getting a piece of the title. Van Buren finished in the top half of the BVC. After a couple of rough seasons, the Black Knights are much improved. Bluffton and Fairview ended up on O-G's side of the bracket. Bluffton is in the lower half of the NWC standings while the Apaches finished in the GMC basement.

Semifinals – Tinora over Van Buren; Bluffton over Fairview

Finals – Paulding over Tinora; Ottawa-Glandorf over Bluffton

DISTRICTS

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY: Lima Central Catholic won a second straight district championship at Lima Senior last year. Will they make it three in a row?

Semifinals – Lima Central Catholic over Carey; Liberty-Benton over St. Henry

Final – Lima Central Catholic over Liberty-Benton

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY: Huron won the district tournament held at Willard in 2013.

Semifinals – Willard over Huron; Colonel Crawford over Eastwood

Final – Willard over Colonel Crawford

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Ottawa-Glandorf won the district title at Napoleon last season en route to their D3 state championship. That marked the third consecutive district title for the Titans. Can the Titans win another?

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Archbold; Paulding over Delta

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Paulding

DIVISION IV

2014 looks like another banner year for D4 basketball. Northwest Ohio has dominated this year's Associated Press rankings with Convoy Crestview currently at the top of the poll. Marion Local spent a week as the state's top ranked team and have been regulars in the top ten along with Ottawa Hills, Buckeye Central, and Wayne Trace. Sandusky St. Mary CC and Plymouth have also received recognition. Fort Recovery, Upper Scioto Valley, and Arlington are also having solid seasons, and there is plenty of depth in the D4 field.

New to D4 for 2014 are Wayne Trace, Spencerville, Patrick Henry, Seneca East, and Hicksville while Colonel Crawford, St. Henry, Riverdale, Hopewell-Loudon, Montpelier, and Northwood have moved up to D3. There are no changes in the sectional sites. At the district level, Van Wert and Wapakoneta have replaced Napoleon and Liberty-Benton. Napoleon's "Grand Canyon" will not be hosting any tournament games this year after serving as a venue for both D3 and D4 district tournaments for a number of years.

The Willard district winner will play the Van Wert district winner in the first semifinal game at Bowling Green with the Elida district winner meeting the Lakota district winner in the second semifinal game. The Wapakoneta district winner will head south to play one of the Dayton district winners (Cincinnati Aiken, Russia) at Kettering Fairmont's Trent Arena. The other semifinal game at Kettering will feature the winners of the other two Dayton districts. New Madison Tri-Village, Pittsburg Franklin Monroe and Troy Christian are some of the potentials for that side of the bracket.

SECTIONALS

COLDWATER: Fort Recovery and Spencerville are the top seeds. Five teams from the MAC along with Spencerville comprise the field at Coldwater. Fort Recovery has been a bit of a surprise in the MAC. The Indians will play Marion Local in the regular season finale with the MAC championship up for grabs. Marion Local got off to a late start after winning another state football championship.

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The Flyers ran off nine straight wins to start the season before cooling off a little. Marion Local is big. Fort Recovery and Marion Local are on a collision course in the sectional. Spencerville is chasing Convoy Crestview in the NWC. The Bearcats have gotten a boost from their sophomore class. Spencerville is 4-1 against MAC schools with a loss to New Knoxville. New Bremen, Minster, and New Knoxville are in the lower half of the MAC standings. Despite that, all three are more than capable of pulling an upset. This is an excellent sectional.

Semifinals – New Bremen over New Knoxville; Marion Local over Minster

Finals – Spencerville over New Bremen; Marion Local over Fort Recovery

KENTON: Upper Scioto Valley and Arlington are the top seeds. The Kenton sectional is now paired up with the Coldwater sectional rather than the Ottawa-Glandorf sectional. There are three very good teams at Kenton. Arlington went undefeated in winning the BVC crown. Point guard Andrew Hunter was a starter on the Red Devils' 2012 state final four team. Upper Scioto Valley is the NWCC champion. That is the Rams' first league title since 1994 when USV also won a D4 state championship. USV's only loss is to D3 Carey which also handed Arlington one of their losses. Lima Perry finished as the runner-up to USV in the NWCC. Arlington and Perry should make an outstanding sectional final. Ada is winless in the NWC but is by far the best of the rest of the teams at Kenton. Waynesfield-Goshen, Hardin Northern, and Ridgmont have a combined 6-53 record heading into the final week of the regular season.

Semifinals – Ada over Waynesfield-Goshen; Arlington over Hardin Northern; Lima Perry over Ridgmont

Finals – Upper Scioto Valley over Ada; Arlington over Lima Perry

ONTARIO: Buckeye Central and Plymouth are the top seeds. Buckeye Central has clinched at least a tie for the NCC title heading into the final week of the regular season and a showdown with Colonel Crawford. Plymouth is the Firelands Conference champion. The Big Red (or is it the Vikings?) have a pair of 1,000 point career scorers in juniors Tyrell Edmiston and Tyler Beebe. Oddly enough, the two reached the milestone within minutes of each other in an early February game versus Seneca East. Mansfield Christian won the Mid-Buckeye Conference title in their first season in the league while long-time independent Mansfield St. Peter's took the runner-up spot. I don't see MC or MSP being able to TCB against the likes of BC or Plymouth. Crestline will finish at the

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bottom of the NCC. Lucas ended their fifty-six game losing streak with a January win over Gilead Christian. For good measure, the Cubs added a February win against South Central.

Semifinals – Mansfield St. Peter’s over Crestline; Plymouth over Lucas

Finals – Buckeye Central over Mansfield St. Peter’s; Plymouth over Mansfield Christian

NORWALK: Sandusky St. Mary CC and Norwalk St. Paul are the top seeds. Other than Sandusky St. Mary, this is not a very good sectional. SMCC has been a contender in their final year as a long-time member of the SBC. The Panthers have the talent to make a long run, but there are some questions about their self-discipline. St. Mary’s is 8-0 against D4 opponents. Norwalk St. Paul is a solid program in the midst of a down year. The Flyers play a difficult non-league schedule. Fremont St. Joseph picked a good year to get away from the Eastwood sectional. The Streaks have been a contender in their final year in the MAL. Monroeville is the sleeper at Norwalk. South Central got off to a quick start, but the Trojans have encountered some internal issues. Danbury has found wins difficult to come by while Seneca East has become more competitive as the season has progressed.

Semifinals – Sandusky St. Mary CC over Seneca East; Norwalk St. Paul over South Central; Fremont St. Joseph CC over Monroeville

Finals – Sandusky St. Mary CC over Danbury; Fremont St. Joseph CC over Norwalk St. Paul

BRYAN: Edgerton and Pettisville are the top seeds. The entire Buckeye Border Conference and Edgerton head to Bryan. Edgerton has put together another good season finishing in the top half of the GMC. The Bulldogs return three starters from their 2013 district championship team. Pettisville has clinched at least a tie for the BBC title entering the final week of the regular season. The Blackbirds have played a difficult out-of-conference schedule. Fayette has put together another solid season, and will finish with the most wins of any BBC squad. The Eagles can earn a co-championship with a win over Pettisville in the regular season finale. This has not been a banner year for the BBC. The league has won less than 25% of their non-league games with only Fayette sporting a winning record outside conference play.

Semifinals – Stryker over Hilltop; Fayette over North Central; Pettisville over Edon

Finals – Edgerton over Stryker; Fayette over Pettisville

PAULDING: Wayne Trace and Ayersville are the top seeds. Wayne Trace got off to a late start after playing for a state football championship. That did not slow down the Raiders as they are undefeated in the GMC. The only losses for Wayne Trace are to Convoy Crestview and Lincolnview. Ayersville will finish in the upper half of the GMC with a young team. Antwerp will finish the season above the .500 mark despite limited success in GMC play. The Paul Wayne era is no longer

at Holgate. The Tigers have scored more this year including ninety (90? Holgate?) in one game. That would have lasted Wayno a couple of weeks. Holgate is also giving up many more points than Wayno’s teams did. Continental has a young team that has shown much improvement late in the season. Hicksville finished in the lower half of the GMC. Patrick Henry dropped their first eight games of the season and will finish near the bottom of the NWOAL.

Semifinals – Continental over Patrick Henry; Ayersville over Hicksville; Holgate over Antwerp

Finals – Wayne Trace over Continental; Ayersville over Holgate

VAN WERT: Convoy Crestview and Delphos St. John’s are the top seeds. The Van Wert sectional is now paired up with the Ottawa-Glandorf sectional rather than the Coldwater sectional. Convoy Crestview has dominated the NWC and has clinched a tie for the league title. The balanced Knights also have several impressive wins outside league play including LCC and Celina. Delphos St. John’s will finish in the top half of the MAC. Always a tough tournament team, the Blue Jays have been inconsistent down the stretch and have had trouble winning at home. The lower half of the bracket could be very interesting. Lincolnview has been solid in the NWC and gave DSJ all they could handle at the Vatican. Ottoville has been competitive in the PCL. In the upper half, neither Fort Jennings nor Lima Temple Christian will challenge Crestview.

Semifinals – Fort Jennings over Lima Temple Christian; Lincolnview over Ottoville

Finals – Convoy Crestview over Fort Jennings; Delphos St. John’s over Lincolnview

OTTAWA-GLANDORF: Miller City and Columbus Grove are the top seeds. There are no standout teams at O-G although it should be a very competitive sectional. Miller City is the PCL champion. The Wildcats have played a quality non-conference schedule. Columbus Grove has been solid and will finish in the upper half of the NWC to go along with a runner-up finish in the PCL. Kalida is the sleeper at O-G. The Wildcats have been inconsistent. Kalida coach Richard Kortokrax is Ohio’s all-time winningest coach. He has won so many games that nobody talks about it anymore. McComb will finish near the top of the BVC. The Panthers have some non-league losses that are tough to figure. Leipsic graduated a ton from their 2013 D4 state runner-up team. Pandora-Gilboa and Cory-Rawson will finish near the bottom of the BVC

Semifinals – Kalida over Pandora-Gilboa; McComb over Leipsic; Columbus Grove over Cory-Rawson

The Swami

Finals – Kalida over Miller City; Columbus Grove over McComb

EASTWOOD: Ottawa Hills and Gibsonburg are the top seeds. The TAAC plus North Baltimore head to Eastwood. Ottawa Hills is the TAAC champion. The Green Bears have D1 recruits in 6'7" Geoff Beans (Furman) and 6'9" RJ Coil (Marist). OH's lone loss was in December to D1 Sylvania Southview in overtime. The bottom half of the bracket should be fun as the other top TAAC teams (say that fast) stayed away from OH. Toledo Christian is currently 2nd in the TAAC. The Eagles have won eleven straight sectional titles. Gibsonburg and Maumee Valley Country Day are chasing TC in the league standings. Toledo Christian and Gibsonburg split their regular season series. Cardinal Stritch junior Austin Adams has already surpassed 1,000 career points. The Cardinals hung with Ottawa Hills in one of their meetings. North Baltimore is much improved this season but the Tigers would rather be in Fostoria.

Semifinals – Cardinal Stritch over North Baltimore; Toledo Christian over Maumee Valley Country Day

Finals – Ottawa Hills over Cardinal Stritch; Toledo Christian over Gibsonburg

FOSTORIA: Old Fort and New Riegel are the top seeds. Old Fort is currently undefeated in the MAL heading into the final week of the regular season and has clinched at least a tie for the title. Hunter Perry of the Stockaders scored fifty-five in a December game against North Baltimore. That is the most points ever scored by an individual in an MAL game. Old Fort is the only team in this sectional with a winning record. Defending MAL co-champ New Riegel replaced coach Todd Aichholz after the junior varsity coach threatened to leave if not promoted. How did that work out? New Riegel and Tiffin Calvert appear to be the best of the rest of the teams at Fostoria. Vanlue finished near the bottom of the BVC standings but the Wildcats could win a sectional title. Arcadia showed some signs in late December and early January, but the Redskins have not won in nearly a month. Fostoria St. Wendelin has a chance of finishing the regular season at .500. Mohawk's only win in the MAL came against St. Wendelin. Unless Old Fort loses, nothing would be considered an upset at Fostoria.

Semifinals – Fostoria St. Wendelin over Mohawk; New Riegel over Arcadia; Tiffin Calvert over Vanlue

Finals – Old Fort over Fostoria St. Wendelin; Tiffin Calvert over New Riegel

DISTRICTS

WAPAKONETA: The winner of this district advances to the Kettering regional.

Semifinals – Spencerville over Arlington; Marion Local over Upper Scioto Valley

Final – Spencerville over Marion Local

WILLARD: Colonel Crawford won back-to-back district titles in 2012 and 2013. The Eagles are now in D3.

Semifinals – Buckeye Central over Fremont St. Joseph CC; Sandusky St Mary CC over Plymouth

Final – Buckeye Central over Sandusky St. Mary CC

VAN WERT: Edgerton has won three straight district titles at Napoleon.

Semifinals – Edgerton over Ayersville; Wayne Trace over Fayette

Final – Wayne Trace over Edgerton

ELIDA: Delphos St. John's won the Elida district in 2013 to advance to Kettering. The 2014 winner will advance to Bowling Green. Leipsic won the Liberty-Benton district in 2013.

Semifinals – Convoy Crestview over Columbus Grove; Delphos St. John's over Kalida

Final – Convoy Crestview over Delphos St. John's

LAKOTA: Ottawa Hills won the district title in 2013. Nothing beats the drive to Lakota. Make sure you watch your speed in Risingsun.

Semifinals – Ottawa Hills over Tiffin Calvert; Toledo Christian over Old Fort

Final – Ottawa Hills over Toledo Christian

That is all for now. We will return with our much shorter version for the regional and state tournaments. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. Brackets are courtesy of davey1.com and Mr. David Spengler. We will see you along the tournament trail. Rock on.