

Trail Trash

Issue #2

2014 OHSAA Boys High School
Basketball Tournament

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and on the net at www.Davey1.com

Featuring Commentary &
Predictions by ...

The Swami

Welcome to the second edition of Trail Trash for 2014 as we have reached the halfway point of the tournament season.

There have been very few surprises around Northwest Ohio during the first two weeks of tournament play. Top ranked (according to the Associated Press) Ontario in D2 lost to Lexington in a sectional final, but this was not viewed as a huge upset. Norwalk made a successful return to D2 eliminating defending two-time district champion Sandusky Perkins. Lima Bath edged Elida for the second year in a row in a district championship game. Elida's Dakota Mathias finished his career with 1,906 points. Defiance joins fellow WBL member Bath in the regional at Bowling Green. In D1, Toledo Bowsher showed they could play a little defense and did not have to put up ninety points to win. Mansfield Senior bounced back from 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.

loss of their top player Donovyn Benson and the resulting forfeit of their Ohio Cardinal Conference championship to win a district title. There was nothing new in D3 as Lima Central Catholic, Huron, and Ottawa-Glandorf all repeated as district champions. In late January, a D4 regional consisting of district favorites Convoy Crestview, Ottawa Hills, Wayne Trace, and Buckeye Central looked great on paper. All four ended up winning district titles. Marion Local came on strong after a mid-season lull to win a district title and head south for their D4 regional.

Teams from ten conferences around Northwest Ohio and one team playing an independent schedule have advanced to regional tournaments. The Western Buckeye League with three teams winning district championships is the only league with more than one regional representative.

Convoy Crestview is the lone team from Northwest Ohio to finish the regular season undefeated. For that accomplishment, the Knights are the latest inductee into the highly prestigious Davey1.com Hall of Fame. That boosts the membership to seventeen teams covering the past ten seasons.

There will be plenty of regional tournament action in Northwest Ohio. Bowling Green State University will again host regional tournaments in D2, D3, and D4 at the Stroh Center. The University of Toledo will host a D1 regional semifinal game at Savage Arena. Time to start flipping the coin and go to our preview of regional and state tournament action.

DIVISION I

Eight of the eleven teams ranked in the final Associated Press D1 poll have advanced to the regional level. 2012 D1 state champion Pickerington Central and Shaker Heights are in the regional for the third consecutive year while Columbus Northland advances to the regional for the second straight year. Defending D1 state champion Mentor lost to



Cleveland East Tech in a district final. That snapped the Cardinals' streak of six straight district championships.

REGIONALS

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: #3 Lakewood St. Edward's and #8 Toledo Bowsher are ranked teams in this split regional. Bowsher and Mansfield Senior will play their semifinal game at the University of Toledo while St. Edward's and Cleveland St. Ignatius will play in a semifinal at the University of Akron. The championship game will be played at the JAR in Akron. Bowsher won the first district title in school history by defeating Toledo St. John's in the district final. Bowsher eliminated #10 Toledo Central Catholic in a district semifinal. Mansfield Senior won their first district title since 2006. St. Edward's won both games with St. Ignatius during the regular season. St. Ignatius defeated #6 Berea-Midpark in a district final.

Semifinals – Toledo Bowsher over Mansfield Senior; Lakewood St. Edward's over Cleveland St. Ignatius

Final – Lakewood St. Edward's over Toledo Bowsher

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY: #4 Massillon Jackson, #7 Uniontown Lake, and #9 Shaker Heights are ranked teams at the Wolstein Center. Shaker Heights has one of the top juniors in the state in Esa Ahmad along with Kent recruit Rosel Hurley. Cleveland East Tech went undefeated in winning the Cleveland Senate League. 2010 D1 state champion Jackson and Uniontown Lake split during the regular season with Lake winning the Federal League title. Lake won the school's first district championship with a win over Medina in the district final.

Semifinals – Shaker Heights over Cleveland East Tech; Massillon Jackson over Uniontown Lake

Final – Massillon Jackson over Shaker Heights

COLUMBUS FAIRGROUNDS: #10 Columbus Northland is the only ranked team at the Barn. 2009 D1 state champion Northland also made final four appearances in 2011 and 2013. The Vikings had their 118 game Columbus City League winning streak snapped by Columbus Brookhaven in February. Upper Arlington won the Ohio Capital Conference Central with Dublin Coffman finishing third. UA's only loss was to Olentangy Liberty. Pickerington Central features OSU commit Jae'Sean Tate and Arkansas State commit Connor Kern. Both started on Pick Central's 2012 state championship team. The Tigers eliminated #2 Zanesville in a district final.

Semifinals – Columbus Northland over Dublin Coffman; Pickerington Central over Upper Arlington

Final – Pickerington Central over Columbus Northland

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: #1 Cincinnati Moeller and #5 Trotwood Madison are ranked teams at the Cintas Center. Trotwood Madison won the GWOC North while Huber

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Heights Wayne won the GWOC Central. The two teams did not meet during the regular season. Dayton Dunbar is the only team from Ohio to defeat Trotwood. Middletown has a Purdue commit in Vince Edwards. The Middies finished in a tie with Fairfield for the Greater Miami Conference Championship. Moeller's lone loss is to Jacksonville, FL Providence. The Crusaders have a Wright State commit in Grant Benzinger, the son of former Cincinnati Reds player Todd Benzinger.

Semifinals – Trotwood-Madison over Huber Heights Wayne; Cincinnati Moeller over Middletown

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Trotwood-Madison

STATE

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

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

Final – Cincinnati Moeller over Lakewood St. Edward's

DIVISION II

Eight of the fourteen teams ranked in the final Associated Press D2 poll have reached the regionals. Top ranked Ontario was eliminated by Lexington in a sectional final game. Four teams (defending D2 state champion Columbus Bishop Watterson, Lima Bath, Dayton Dunbar, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary) also advanced to the regionals in 2013. Akron SVSM has six consecutive district titles while Dayton Dunbar has won five straight.

REGIONALS

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #2 Norwalk and #9 Defiance are ranked teams at the Stroh Center. Norwalk's lone loss was to Ontario. That broke the Trucker's fifty-seven game regular season winning streak. Vermilion finished second in the West Shore Conference to D1 Lakewood. Defiance finished in a tie with Elida for the Western Buckeye League title with Lima Bath finishing in a tie for third. Defiance defeated 2013 D1 state runner-up Toledo Rogers in a district semifinal game. Lima Bath eliminated #14 Elida in their district final game. Taren Sullivan is the all-time leading scorer for Bath while Cameron Kuhn is Vermilion's all-time leading scorer.

Semifinals – Norwalk over Vermilion; Lima Bath over Defiance

Final – Lima Bath over Norwalk

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #3 Dayton Dunbar and #6 Dayton Thurgood Marshall are ranked teams at Trent Arena. Columbus Eastmoor was runner-up in the Columbus City League South. 2011 D3 state champion Cincinnati Taft won the Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference. Dunbar is undefeated against teams from Ohio. The Wolverines won the Dayton City League with Thurgood Marshall the runner-up. Dunbar met Thurgood Marshall twice during the regular season winning both games. A.J. Harris of Dunbar is one of the top juniors in the state and an OSU commit. Thurgood Marshall defeated #5 Franklin in a district semifinal.

Semifinals – Columbus Eastmoor over Cincinnati Taft; Dayton Dunbar over Dayton Thurgood Marshall

Final – Dayton Dunbar over Columbus Eastmoor

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Columbus Bishop Watterson and #8 Circleville Logan Elm are ranked teams at the Convo. Logan Elm won the Mid State Buckeye League. Their lone loss to a team from Ohio is to Bloom-Carroll. Bishop Watterson returns four starters from their 2013 D2 state championship team. The Eagles eliminated #13 Columbus Brookhaven in their district final showdown. Watterson's losses are to Upper Arlington and Middletown. Dover finished behind Zanesville in the East Central Ohio League while New Concord John Glenn won the Muskingum Valley League.

Semifinals – Columbus Bishop Watterson over Circleville Logan Elm; Dover over New Concord John Glenn

Final – Columbus Bishop Watterson over Dover

CANTON CIVIC CENTER: #11 Cleveland Central Catholic and #12 Akron SVSM are ranked teams at Canton. Jonathan Harris stepped down as the coach at Cleveland Central Catholic shortly before their district semifinal game. The Ironmen have one of the better sophomore players in the state in Tervell Beck. Poland Seminary won the All American Conference. Poland's lone loss to a team from Ohio is to Canfield. Mentor Lake Catholic finished in a tie for first in the big school division of the North Coast League. For the fourth consecutive year, Akron SVSM advances to the regional with nine regular season losses. The Irish have one of the top sophomore players in the country in VJ King and a Virginia Tech commit in Jalen Hudson.

Semifinals – Poland Seminary over Cleveland Central Catholic; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Mentor Lake Catholic

Final – Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Poland Seminary

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STATE

D2 will start off the ninety-second consecutive Boys State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 20. The championship game will be played Saturday morning.

Semifinals – Dayton Dunbar over Lima Bath; Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary over Columbus Bishop Watterson

Final – Dayton Dunbar over Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary

DIVISION III

Six of the twelve teams ranked in the final Associated Press D3 state poll have advanced to regional tournaments. Top ranked Beachwood lost to Warrensville Heights in a district semifinal game. Eight teams (defending D3 state champion Ottawa-Glandorf, defending D4 state champion Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph, Martins Ferry, Cincinnati Summit Country Day, St. Bernard Roger Bacon, Worthington Christian, Lima Central Catholic, Huron) also advanced to the regional in 2013. Roger Bacon has won five straight district championships including D2 titles in 2010 and 2011. 2012 D3 state champion Cincinnati Summit Country Day and Ottawa-Glandorf have four consecutive district titles while 2010 D3 state champion Lima Central Catholic and Worthington Christian have won three straight.

REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: #2 Cleveland VASJ and #12 Creston Norwayne are ranked teams at Canton. Cleveland VASJ might have seven losses, but the Vikings are loaded. Carlton Bragg and Brian Parker rank among the top junior players in the state. VASJ eliminated #8 Warrensville Heights in a district final. Canton Central Catholic won their first district title in school history. Norwayne won the Wayne County Athletic League title. Youngstown Ursuline won a D3 state championship with ten losses in 1994. Ursuline and Canton Central Catholic both play independent schedules.



Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Canton Central Catholic; Youngstown Ursuline over Creston Norwayne

Final – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Youngstown Ursuline

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Lucasville Valley and #6 Columbus Bishop Ready are ranked teams at the Convo. Martins Ferry eliminated #3 Belmont Union Local in a district semifinal.

Lucasville Valley went undefeated in the Southern Ohio Conference. The Indians' only losses are to Athens and Warren Local. Wheelersburg finished in the middle of the Southern Ohio Conference. The Pirates eliminated #12 Chillicothe Zane Trace in a district semifinal game. Bishop Ready defeated Columbus Bishop Hartley in their district final following two regular season losses to Hartley.

Semifinals – Lucasville Valley over Martins Ferry;
Columbus Bishop Ready over Wheelersburg

Final – Lucasville Valley over Columbus Bishop Ready

KETTERING FAIRMONT: #5 St. Bernard Roger Bacon is the only ranked team at the Trent Arena. Dayton Chaminade-Julienne finished in a tie with Middletown Fenwick for the Greater Catholic League North title. 2012 D3 state champion Cincinnati Summit Country day went undefeated to win the Miami Valley Conference. Dayton Stivers School for the Arts is the smallest school in the Dayton City League. Stivers has four state titles, the latest coming in 1930. Roger Bacon went undefeated in winning the Greater Catholic League Central title.

Semifinals – Dayton Chaminade-Julienne over Cincinnati Summit Country Day; St. Bernard Roger Bacon over Dayton Stivers

Final – St. Bernard Roger Bacon over Dayton Chaminade-Julienne

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #7 Lima Central Catholic is the lone ranked team at the Stroh Center. Worthington Christian defeated Columbus Grandview Heights in their district final following two regular season losses to Grandview. WC and LCC both play independent schedules. Lima Central Catholic has lost to Ottawa-Glandorf each of the past two seasons in the regional at BGSU after defeating the Titans during the regular season. The T-Birds beat O-G by twenty points in December. Huron finished as the runner-up to Sandusky Perkins in the Sandusky Bay Conference. Ottawa-Glandorf finished in the middle of the Western Buckeye League. The Titans return one starter in Noah Bramlage from their 2013 D3 state championship team. O-G eliminated #11 Archbold in a district semifinal.

Semifinals – Lima Central Catholic over Worthington Christian; Ottawa-Glandorf over Huron

Final – Lima Central Catholic over Ottawa-Glandorf

STATE

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

Semifinals – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over Lucasville Valley; St. Bernard Roger Bacon over Lima Central Catholic

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Final – Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph over St. Bernard Roger Bacon

DIVISION IV

Eight of the ten teams ranked in the final Associated Press poll in D4 have advanced to the regional level. Top ranked Convoy Crestview is the only remaining undefeated team in any division. Four teams (Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas, Troy Christian, New Madison Tri-Village, Ottawa Hills) also advanced to regional tournaments in 2013. Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas was a D3 school last season. Defending D4 state champion Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph is now in D3.

REGIONALS

CANTON FIELDHOUSE: There are no ranked teams at Canton. Willoughby Cornerstone Christian won the first district title in school history with a win over Cortland Maplewood. Cornerstone plays an independent schedule. Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas played a challenging schedule finishing near the bottom of the small school division in the North Coast League. Malvern surprised #3 Berlin Hiland in the district final following two one-sided regular season losses to Hiland. Richmond Heights finished behind Beachwood in the Chagrin Valley Conference Metro.

Semifinals – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas; Richmond Heights over Malvern

Final – Richmond Heights over Willoughby Cornerstone Christian

OHIO UNIVERSITY: #4 Canal Winchester Harvest Prep and #9 Peebles are ranked teams at the Convo. Columbus Africentric is the smallest school in the Columbus City League. The Nubians finished in the upper half of the City League South. Peebles won the Southern Hills Athletic Conference. Junior Beau Justice of Peebles is averaging over thirty points a game. Canal Winchester Harvest Prep was not allowed to participate in the tournament the past two seasons resulting from sanctions by the OHSAA. Harvest Prep's only loss is to Newark Catholic. Leesburg Fairfield finished behind Peebles in the Southern Hills. No word on whether the regional final will be played in Athens if Africentric and Harvest Prep advance. If so, a small crowd is guaranteed.

Semifinals – Columbus Africentric over Peebles; Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Leesburg Fairfield

Final – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Columbus Africentric

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KETTERING FAIRMONT: #2 New Madison Tri-Village and #6 Troy Christian are ranked teams at Kettering. Troy Christian returned three starters from their 2013 final four team. The Eagles went undefeated in winning the Metro Buckeye Conference. Tri-Village eliminated #8 Tipp City Bethel in a district semifinal. The Patriots' lone loss is to Pitsburg Franklin Monroe. Tri Village defeated Troy Christian during the regular season. Following their D7 state football title, Marion Local won the Midwest Athletic Conference in basketball. Russia won the Shelby County League title. Marion Local defeated Russia during the regular season.

Semifinals – New Madison Tri-Village over Troy Christian; Marion Local over Russia

Final – Marion Local over New Madison Tri-Village

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: #1 Convoy Crestview, #5 Ottawa Hills, #7 Buckeye Central, and #10 Wayne Trace are ranked teams at the Stroh Center. This is a very good regional. Buckeye Central won the North Central Conference in the league's final year. Wayne Trace won the Green Meadows Conference with two of their three regular season losses to Convoy Crestview. Undefeated Convoy Crestview played a strong regular season schedule and won the Northwest Conference. Ottawa Hills won the Toledo Area Athletic Conference. OH has an imposing front line that includes 6'7" Geoff Beans (a Furman commit) and 6'9" RJ Coil (a Marist commit). Ottawa Hills' only loss is to D1 Sylvania Southview in overtime.

Semifinals – Wayne Trace over Buckeye Central; Convoy Crestview over Ottawa Hills

Final – Convoy Crestview over Wayne Trace

STATE

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

Semifinals – Canal Winchester Harvest Prep over Richmond Heights; Convoy Crestview over Marion Local

Final – Convoy Crestview over Canal Winchester Harvest Prep

That completes our twenty-first year for Trail Trash. All facts, fiction, and opinions are those of the Swami. You can contact us at davey1@davey1.com. See you in Columbus if not at the Stroh.

