

# Trail Trash

## 2023 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament On the net at [www.Davey1.com](http://www.Davey1.com)

*Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...*

# The Swami

*See Page 9 for the History of Davey1.com*

Tournament time is here in Northwest Ohio, and we are back with Trail Trash and the Swami for a thirtieth year. Thank you for joining us. The regular season has flown by, although not fast enough for some. Just a typical basketball season.

For 2023, the Northwest District Athletic Board (NWDAB) moved to replace voting by the coaches to determine seeding in each district with a process using the Martin RPI calculations to establish the seeding order. This was approved as a one-year pilot. The Martin RPI calculation currently uses a team's winning percentage (35%), the average winning percentage of a team's opponents (35%), the average winning percentage of the opponents' opponents (25%), and a school size factor for a team's opponents (5%). Coaches retained the ability to determine where their teams are placed on the tournament bracket.

For Northwest Ohio, the seeding order does not look all that different from what would be expected. However, there are some exceptions. Tiffin Columbian as the #2 seed among the nineteen teams in Division I is one example. It is safe to say that Columbian would not have been voted the #2 seed under the old system. Martin RPI is not being used in other districts around the state, but it is easy to compare the numbers to the seeding as voted by coaches in those areas. In the Central District (Columbus area), defending D1 state champion Pickerington Central is the

#1 seed receiving twenty-nine first place votes out of a total of forty-nine votes. Under the Martin RPI, Pick Central would have been the #6 seed. **Issue 2023-1**

Some may look at the use of the Martin RPI as a solution looking for a problem or as part of a bigger agenda. Others may look at the former process as fraught with skullduggery, chicanery, cliques, and grudges. No misfeasance or malfeasance? As with so many things, the truth is somewhere in the middle. Any subjective process such as voting by coaches on seeding is flawed to some degree. It is just human nature. Take a look at the detail of some of the voting in the Northeast District, and you will see adults acting like children. A mathematical formula also has its share of flaws. The question is whether there is value added by using a mathematical formula.

Using the Martin RPI for establishing the seeding order is fine as long as there are continuing efforts to improve the formula and business rules, greater transparency, and consensus on the methodology. Coaches should continue to be able to place their teams where they see fit on the brackets. Top seeds should be rewarded by having the

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**Since 1994, Trail Trash** has been published twice annually in conjunction with the boys state basketball tournament. Trail Trash is published to share 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.

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opportunity to choose where and when they play and whether or not to take a bye. In other words, no NCAA style bracketing. And last of all, no “super districts” in Northwest Ohio with the exception of Division I. For the other divisions, the concept just does not make sense given the number of schools and the expanse of Northwest Ohio. Regardless of one’s opinion on the RPI and the new seeding process, Mr. Martin should be commended for taking on such a monumental task.

This season marks the end of the line for the Three Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC). It also marks the end of the Northern Lakes League (NLL) as we know it (cue REM). No reason to point fingers or place any blame here, but it is unfortunate that the TRAC could not stay intact. Both the TRAC and NLL have treated us to outstanding league races this basketball season.

Next season will find Central Catholic, St. Francis, and St. John’s Jesuit as members of the CHSL (Detroit Catholic League). Clay, Findlay, Fremont Ross, and Whitmer will become part of a somewhat unwieldy eleven-team NLL. After getting kicked to the curb, Lima Senior will join the Toledo City League. Maumee goes to the NBC after bolting the NLL and will be joined by Oak Harbor which is leaving the SBC Bay. Elmwood goes from the NBC to join the “stable” Blanchard Valley Conference while Woodmore moves from the NBC to the SBC River. Cory-Rawson and North Baltimore will go from the BVC to the NWCC. And to further confuse things, Liberty-Benton will be leaving the BVC with the time and destination to be determined. All that movement is just a little mind-boggling.

Looking at the current tournament schedule, there will be no sectional final games on Saturday, February 25. Fostoria and Genoa hosted sectional finals on a Saturday in 2020 and 2022, but all sectional finals will be played this year on Friday, February 24. For those tournament junkies who like catching two Saturday district final games, it will not be easy with the D2 final at Ashland and the D3 final at Norwalk as the only possible combination. Two thumbs down on the schedule changes.

Enough of the preaching. Time to break out the ouija board and go to the predictions.

## **DIVISION I**

There are no statewide powers from Northwest Ohio in D1 this season, but this shapes up to be one of the most intriguing tournaments in years. You can make the argument that any of the top eleven seeds has a legitimate shot at capturing a district title. Toledo Whitmer and Tiffin Columbian are the top two seeds, but there is a great deal of parody this year. Columbian is the only newcomer to D1 after two straight D2 district runner-up finishes. Lakota replaces Genoa as a sectional site. District winners from Lake and Genoa will meet in a

regional semifinal game at the University of Toledo. The other regional semifinal will be played at Kent State and match district winners from Copley and Elyria Catholic. Garfield Heights and Avon Lake are the top seeds at Copley while Brecksville-Broadview Heights and Cleveland St. Ignatius are at the top of the heap at EC. The regional final will be played at Kent State.

## **SECTIONALS**

GENOA (LAKE DISTRICT): #3 Perrysburg and #8 Toledo St. Francis are the top seeds at Genoa. Perrysburg is currently tied with Anthony Wayne for the NLL lead. Perrysburg split their two games with Springfield, but the Blue Devils have fallen out of the NLL race after a strong start. St. Francis is much improved from last season and have a signature win at Central Catholic. With Springfield and St. Francis starting to leak oil as the season winds down, Mansfield Madison will also be a factor.

Semifinal – Springfield over Mansfield Madison

Finals – Springfield over Toledo St. Francis; Perrysburg over Clay

LAKOTA (LAKE DISTRICT): #4 Lima Senior and #6 Sylvania Northview are the top seeds at Lakota. First time out on the frozen tundra since 2016. Lima beat Northview in a regional semifinal last season on a buzzer beater (yes, his left foot was out of bounds when he went up for the shot). Lima returned just one starter while Northview graduated their starting five. Lima hit a lull in early January but has since turned the corner. The Spartans gave Ottawa-Glandorf one of their losses. Northview will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the NLL. Northview and Bowling Green split their NLL contests. BG also has a win over Tiffin Columbian.

Finals – Sylvania Northview over Bowling Green; Lima Senior over Fremont Ross

TOLEDO START (TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC DISTRICT): #2 Tiffin Columbian and #5 Findlay are the top seeds at Start. Tiffin played just four games against D1 teams (3-1 with wins over Findlay and Anthony Wayne). Logan Beaston became Columbian’s career scoring leader against AW. St. John’s Jesuit jumped on the opportunity to play TC. SJJ swept their two games with Lima Senior. Findlay has clinched their twenty-fourth straight winning season. The Trojans trail Whitmer and Central in the TRAC. Anthony Wayne is tied with Perrysburg for the NLL lead. The Generals lost six straight in December but have bounced back. Waite broke a twenty-six game losing streak in late November. Should be a fun time at Roy C.

Semifinal – Toledo St. John’s Jesuit over Toledo Waite

Finals – Tiffin Columbian over Toledo St. John’s Jesuit;  
Anthony Wayne over Findlay

ROSSFORD (TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC DISTRICT): #1 Toledo Whitmer and #7 Toledo Start are the top seeds at Rossford. Whitmer is tied with Central Catholic at the top of the TRAC. Start went undefeated in the City League and defeated Scott in the league tournament championship game. Start handily defeated Whitmer in their regular season meeting. Junior Micah Bays established Sylvania Southview’s single game scoring record with forty-three points against Napoleon. Bowsher’s Joe Guerrero is retiring after thirty-six seasons as the head coach at Waite, Clay, Bowsher, Start, and Bowsher (again). Coach Guerrero is a class act who will be missed.

Semifinal – Ashland over Toledo Bowsher

Finals – Toledo Whitmer over Ashland; Toledo Start over Sylvania Southview

### DISTRICTS

LAKE: Lima Senior won the district at Lake in 2022 marking a fourth straight district title for the Spartans.

Semifinals – Perrysburg over Springfield; Lima Senior over Sylvania Northview

Final – Perrysburg over Lima Senior

TOLEDO CENTRAL CATHOLIC: Sylvania Northview won their first Division I district championship at Central Catholic in 2022.

Semifinals – Anthony Wayne over Tiffin Columbian; Toledo Whitmer over Toledo Start

Final – Toledo Whitmer over Anthony Wayne

### DIVISION II

State-ranked Sandusky, Toledo Central Catholic, and Defiance are the top D2 teams in Northwest Ohio for 2023. All three will face stiff challenges for district titles.

The Ashland District has the deepest field with eight teams above .500 at the time of the draw. Shelby and Lexington join Sandusky as the top title contenders. Mansfield Senior should also be a factor while Bellevue, Willard, and Perkins are all potential spoilers.

In the Lake District, Central Catholic is the favorite with Rossford viewed as the top challenger. Wauseon and Toledo Scott are also in the conversation. Those were the only four teams above .500 at the time of the draw. Rossford last won a district tournament game in 1997.

In the Liberty-Benton District, St. Marys and Van Wert figure to be Defiance’s biggest challengers. St. Marys features 6’10 Austin Parks, an Ohio State signee. Wapakoneta is the only other team that was above .500 at the time of the draw.

Lima Bath, Otsego, and Willard all moved up to D2 for 2023 while Tiffin Columbian is now D1 and Huron is now D3. Liberty-Benton has replaced Ohio Northern as a district site (there are tears) with Anthony Wayne replacing Genoa as a sectional venue.

The winners of the Lake District and the Liberty-Benton District will meet in a regional semifinal at Bowling Green while the winner of the Ashland District will meet the winner of the North Ridgeville District in the other semifinal at the Stroh Center. Rocky River Lutheran West and Akron East are the top contenders at North Ridgeville.

### SECTIONALS

BUCYRUS (ASHLAND DISTRICT): #1 Sandusky and #4 Bellevue are the top seeds at Bucyrus. Sandusky is the SBC Lake champion. The lone loss for the Blue Streaks to date was at Tiffin Columbian in mid-December. Sandusky is the highest scoring D2 team in the state. Bellevue will have their first winning season since ’12-’13 and is looking for their first sectional title since 2010. Mansfield Senior is having a solid year following three straight losing seasons. Perkins has been inconsistent but brings a lot of firepower. Sandusky has close wins against Perkins (twice), Mansfield Senior, and Norwalk so this shapes up to be a really good sectional.

Semifinals – Perkins over Vermilion; Mansfield Senior over Norwalk

Finals – Sandusky over Perkins; Mansfield Senior over Bellevue



MANSFIELD MADISON (ASHLAND DISTRICT): #2 Shelby and #3 Lexington are the top seeds at Madison. This is another really good sectional. Shelby has clinched at least a tie for the MOAC championship. That marks a fourth straight league title for the Whippets. Lexington has clinched no worse than a tie for the OCC championship (with New Philadelphia). The Minutemen began the season with twelve straight wins before losing to St. Marys. Lexington topped Shelby in their Valentine’s Day meeting. Willard has clinched at least a tie for the SBC Bay championship.

Semifinals – Ontario over Clear Fork; Willard over Galion

Finals – Shelby over Ontario; Lexington over Willard

ANTHONY WAYNE (LAKE DISTRICT): #2 Rossford and #3 Wauseon are the top seeds at AW. Rossford has clinched at least a share of the NBC championship going into their season finale against Genoa. Rossford's Derek Vorst is an Indiana State signee. Wauseon should get at least a share of the NWOAL championship. The Indians are on a seven-game winning streak including a win over Rossford. Bryan is much improved while Maumee's final season in the NLL has been disappointing.

Semifinals – Bryan over Maumee

Finals – Rossford over Bryan; Wauseon over Toledo Woodward

TOLEDO BOWSHER (LAKE DISTRICT): #1 Toledo Central Catholic and #4 Toledo Scott are the top seeds at Bowsheer. Central Catholic is tied with Whitmer at the top of the standings in the TRAC. That is quite an achievement for the Irish given that Chico Johnson, a Drake signee, has missed his entire senior season with an injury. He is unlikely to return for the tournament. Scott finished behind Start in the City League standings before falling to the Spartans in the league championship game. Port Clinton's Adam Thorbahn recently became the career scoring leader for the Redskins.

Semifinals – Clyde over Port Clinton; Toledo Rogers over Otsego

Finals – Toledo Scott over Clyde; Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Rogers

LIMA SENIOR (LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT): #2 St. Marys and #3 Van Wert are the top seeds at Lima. St. Marys will close out the regular season on a thirteen-game winning streak but finish behind Ottawa-Glandorf and Defiance in the WBL standings. Austin Parks became the career scoring leader at St. Marys and later set the school's single game scoring record with 45 points against Sidney. Van Wert has lost six games by three points or less including a double overtime decision to Ottawa-Glandorf. The Cougars also have six wins by five or fewer points. Elida has shown flashes dropping close games to St. Marys and Van Wert.

Semifinals – Fostoria over Kenton; Elida over Upper Sandusky

Finals – St. Marys over Fostoria; Van Wert over Elida

PAULDING (LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT): #1 Defiance and #4 Napoleon are the top seeds at Paulding. A veteran Defiance team will finish as the WBL runner-up behind Ottawa-Glandorf. Defiance has dropped decisions to Rossford (in overtime), Whitmer, and O-G. Napoleon is on the same path as a season ago when the Wildcats upset Defiance in a sectional final. Wapakoneta will

finish in the top half of the WBL despite an offense averaging fewer than forty-three points per game. Shawnee has scuffled since the beginning of the new year.

Semifinals – Lima Bath over Celina; Wapakoneta over Lima Shawnee

Finals – Defiance over Lima Bath; Wapakoneta over Napoleon

## DISTRICTS

ASHLAND: This district tournament will again be played at Ashland High School. Huron won the district title in 2022 but has dropped to D3 for this season.

Semifinals – Sandusky over Mansfield Senior; Lexington over Shelby

Final – Lexington over Sandusky

LAKE: Toledo Central Catholic won a second straight district title at Lake in 2022.

Semifinals – Rossford over Wauseon; Toledo Central Catholic over Toledo Scott

Final – Toledo Central Catholic over Rossford

LIBERTY-BENTON: St Marys won the district played at Ohio Northern in 2022.

Semifinals – St. Marys over Van Wert; Defiance over Wapakoneta

Final – Defiance over St. Marys

## DIVISION III

Ottawa-Glandorf and Emmanuel Christian are the top D3 teams in Northwest Ohio with both looking at making a run to the state tournament. O-G finished as the D3 state runner-up in 2022 losing to Cincinnati Taft in the championship game.

There are plenty of changes in D3 from a year ago. Huron has dropped down from D2 while Emmanuel Christian, Spencerville, Carey, Margaretta, Hicksville, Columbus Grove and Parkway all moved up from D4. Willard, Lima Bath, and Otsego are now D2 while Colonel Crawford, Seneca East, Maumee Valley Country Day, Delphos Jefferson, and Woodmore dropped to D4. Napoleon replaces Toledo Central Catholic as a district site. Emmanuel with sophomore Jerry Easter II may be the headliner and the favorite in the Napoleon District but this is a really good district beyond EC. Ten teams were above .500 at the time of the draw with an eleventh team



at the .500 mark. Swanton, Wayne Trace, and Delta are other top teams with Liberty Center, Paulding, and Eastwood as potential spoilers.

As usual, Ottawa-Glandorf is at the top of the heap in the Lima Senior District. Spencerville, Carey, and Liberty-Benton all have a chance to win their respective conference championships. All three teams chose to go to the bottom half of the bracket and away from the Titans. Can anybody at Lima take down the Titans?

Cardinal Stritch is the top team in the Norwalk District. Similar to the other D3 districts, the next three seeds after Stritch (Ashland Crestview, Huron, Genoa) went to the other side of the bracket. Seven teams were above the .500 mark at the draw. Can Margareta play the role of spoiler? The Polar Bears have wins over #3 Huron and #4 Genoa.

Winners from the Lima Senior District and the Norwalk District will meet in a regional semifinal at Bowling Green while the winner of the Napoleon District will take on the winner of the Wooster District in the other semifinal at BG. Norwayne and Canton Central Catholic are the top teams at the Woo.

## SECTIONALS

SPRINGFIELD (NAPOLEON DISTRICT): #1 Emmanuel Christian is the top seed at Springfield. Emmanuel has clinched at least a share of the TAAC championship. EC losses are to Cleveland Heights Lutheran East, Cardinal Stritch, and a team from North Carolina in a game played in Los Angeles. EC's Jerry Easter II set the school's single game scoring record with 49 points in December and recently followed that up with 51 points against Western Reserve Academy. Paulding is the GMC champion. That is the first league title for Paulding since 1999 when the Panthers were NWC champs. Eastwood trails Rossford and Genoa in the NBC. Archbold is trying to avoid their first losing season since 1997. The Blue Streaks won at Eastwood in December. Evergreen's Jerry Keifer earned career win #400 (thirty-one years all at Evergreen) in early December.

Semifinals – Evergreen over Fairview; Paulding over Tinora; Eastwood over Archbold

Finals – Emmanuel Christian over Evergreen; Paulding over Eastwood

WAUSEON (NAPOLEON DISTRICT): #2 Swanton, #3 Delta, and #4 Wayne Trace are the top seeds at Wauseon. This is a really good sectional with Liberty Center also included. Swanton and Delta are both having outstanding seasons but trail Wauseon and Patrick Henry in the NWOAL. Swanton handed Wauseon their only league loss with a dominating win over the Indians. Delta has held their opponents to just over thirty-seven points per

game. Wayne Trace's record is somewhat deceiving with several close losses. Liberty Center got off to a late start, but the Tigers have been solid with wins over Swanton and Liberty-Benton.

Semifinals – Wayne Trace over Ottawa Hills; Liberty Center over Hicksville

Finals – Wayne Trace over Delta; Swanton over Liberty Center

ELIDA (LIMA SENIOR DISTRICT): #1 Ottawa-Glandorf is the top seed at Elida. Ottawa-Glandorf won their twenty-first WBL basketball championship with a narrow win over Defiance. The Titans have won seventeen straight sectional titles. Junior Colin White set the O-G single game scoring record with 44 points against St. Marys. The bottom half of the bracket looks very competitive. Bluffton is right behind Spencerville and Convoy Crestview in the NWC standings. The Pirates and Allen East are both having good seasons and will finish the season above .500. Lima Central Catholic has been inconsistent but some quality wins including Liberty-Benton. Coldwater got off to a good start leading the MAC in late January before slumping. The Cavaliers are on a seven-game losing streak heading into the final weekend.

Semifinals – Elmwood over Riverdale; Bluffton over Allen East; Lima Central Catholic over Coldwater

Finals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Elmwood; Lima Central Catholic over Bluffton

MILLER CITY (LIMA SENIOR DISTRICT): #2 Spencerville, #3 Carey, and #4 Liberty-Benton are the top seeds at Miller City. Spencerville has clinched at least a share of the NWC championship. The only losses for the Bearcats were at Kalida and at Marion Local. Carey has clinched a share of the N10 title heading into their showdown at home with Mohawk. The Blue Devils stopped Colonel Crawford's fifty-eight game regular season winning streak in December. Liberty-Benton is the BVC champion. Liberty-Benton started the season 16-0 but since has losses to Defiance, Liberty Center, and Lima Central Catholic. L-B defeated Carey by double digits in January.



Semifinals – Columbus Grove over Van Buren; Liberty-Benton over Parkway

Finals – Spencerville over Columbus Grove; Liberty-Benton over Carey

MONROEVILLE (NORWALK DISTRICT): #2 Ashland Crestview, #3 Huron, and #4 Genoa are the top seeds at Monroeville. Crestview won their first Firelands championship since 2000 and their twenty wins is a school record. The Cougars started the season winning fourteen straight before losing at Lucas. Crestview also lost at D2 Ontario in overtime. Huron can grab a share of the SBC Bay title with a win at Willard. The Tigers just had their ten-game winning streak broken by Perkins. Genoa can share the NBC title with a win over Rossford, but that will be a monumental task. Junior Malachi Bayless of Bucyrus tied the school's single game scoring record with 44 points versus Galion.

Semifinals – Genoa over Wynford; Huron over Lake; Northwood over Bucyrus

Finals – Ashland Crestview over Genoa; Huron over Northwood

HOPEWELL-LOUDON (NORWALK DISTRICT: #1 Cardinal Stritch is the top seed at H-L. Stritch can still share the title in the TAAC with Emmanuel Christian but will need help. The Cardinals split the season series with EC. Stritch's other losses are to St. Marys and Maumee Valley. Margaretta was the beneficiary of Crestview, Huron, and Genoa all heading to the speed trap. The Polar Bears are starting two freshmen. Western Reserve has improved significantly since the start of the season. The Roughriders are looking to close out the regular season with seven straight wins.

Semifinals – Western Reserve over Oak Harbor; Edison over Lakota

Finals – Margaretta over Western Reserve; Cardinal Stritch over Edison

## DISTRICTS

NAPOLEON: The district was played at Toledo Central Catholic in 2022 with Eastwood winning the championship.

Semifinals – Emmanuel Christian over Paulding; Wayne Trace over Swanton

Final – Emmanuel Christian over Wayne Trace

LIMA SENIOR: Ottawa-Glandorf won a third consecutive district title at Lima in 2022.

Semifinals – Ottawa-Glandorf over Lima Central Catholic; Spencerville over Liberty-Benton

Final – Ottawa-Glandorf over Spencerville

NORWALK: Colonel Crawford took the district championship at Norwalk last season with a memorable

win over Western Reserve.

Semifinals – Huron over Ashland Crestview; Cardinal Stritch over Margaretta

Finals – Cardinal Stritch over Huron

## DIVISION IV

Convoy Crestview, Marion Local, and Patrick Henry are the top D4 teams in Northwest Ohio for 2023. D4 will again feature five districts with the winner at Willard heading east for the regional. Colonel Crawford, Seneca East, Maumee Valley Country Day, Delphos Jefferson, and Woodmore are new to D4 with Emmanuel Christian, Spencerville, Carey, Margaretta, Hicksville, Columbus Grove, and Parkway now in D3. Liberty Center replaces Napoleon as a sectional site.

Lucas and Colonel Crawford are the top contenders in the Willard District with Monroeville and Danbury being potential bracket busters. The winner at Willard will advance to the regional at the Canton Fieldhouse to face the winner of the Struthers District in a semifinal game. Warren JFK, Lowellville, and Dalton are the top teams at Struthers (really cool gym). The winner of the regional semifinal will face Richmond Heights in the regional championship game. Good luck with that.

Marion Local and New Bremen are the top contenders in the Wapakoneta District. This is not an overly deep district with just four teams having winning records at the time of the draw. St. Henry could surprise, but ML and NB are clearcut favorites.

Antwerp, Toledo Christian, and Pettisville join Patrick Henry as the top teams in the Defiance District. The upper bracket will be very interesting. Ayersville and Stryker could also be factors while Maumee Valley Country Day looks to be the spoiler.

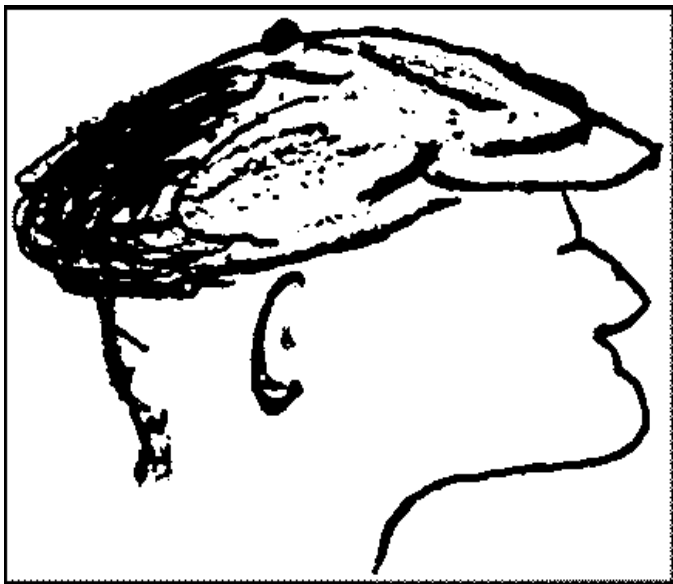
Convoy Crestview is the top team in the Elida District but Kalida, Ottoville, Delphos St. John's, and Pandora-Gilboa make this a really good district. Eight of the twelve teams were at or above .500 at the time of the draw.

The Liberty-Benton District will be very competitive with Mohawk, Arlington, Old Fort, Hopewell-Loudon and Tiffin Calvert as the top contenders. New Riegel looks to play the role of spoiler.

District winners from Wapakoneta and Defiance will face off in the first regional semifinal at Bowling Green State University. District winners from Elida and Liberty-Benton will face off in the second semifinal at the Stroh Center. Antwerp is the defending D4 regional champion.

## SECTIONALS

SHELBY (WILLARD DISTRICT): #1 Colonel Crawford and #4 Mansfield Christian are the top seeds at Shelby. Colonel Crawford will finish behind Carey and Mohawk in the N10. David Sheldon earned career win #300 at Crawford with a January victory at Lucas. Colonel Crawford's Braxton Baker set the school's single game scoring record of 45 points against Bucyrus. Mansfield Christian is the runner-up to Lucas in the MBC. MC's leading scorer Amarr Davis was first team All-Ohio in



*"The Publisher," an original drawing by Kent Lincoln.*

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football this past fall at Mansfield Senior (no football at MC). Danbury will have their first winning season since '08-'09. South Central had a mid-season coaching change.

Semifinals – Sandusky St. Mary over Plymouth;  
Mansfield Christian over Norwalk St. Paul; Danbury over South Central

Finals – Colonel Crawford over Sandusky St. Mary;  
Danbury over Mansfield Christian

ASHLAND CRESTVIEW (WILLARD DISTRICT): #2 Lucas and #3 Seneca East are the top seeds at Crestview. Lucas is the MBC champion. Lucas dominated Crestview in breaking their fourteen-game unbeaten streak to start the season. The Cubs passed on the bye but have an easy path to the district. Seneca East is having their best season since '06-'07. The Tigers have not won a sectional title since 1990. Monroeville enters the final weekend of

the tied for the runner-up spot in the Firelands. Seneca East edged the Monroeville in the season opener for both teams.

Semifinals – Lucas over Mansfield St. Peter's;  
Monroeville over Crestline; Seneca East over Buckeye Central

Finals – Lucas over New London; Monroeville over Seneca East

COLDWATER (WAPAKONETA DISTRICT): #2 New Bremen and #4 St. Henry are the top seeds at the Palace. New Bremen could still get a share of the MAC title but will need help. The Cardinals will be a tough out in the tournament. St. Henry ends the regular season at .500 overall and in the top half of the MAC standings. Lima Perry will finish in the runner-up spot behind Upper Scioto Valley in the NWCC. Minster features a very young team. The future is bright for the Wildcats.

Semifinals – Lima Perry over Waynesfield-Goshen; St. Henry over Minster

Finals – New Bremen over Lima Perry; St. Henry over Lima Temple Christian

ST. MARYS (WAPAKONETA DISTRICT): #1 Marion Local and #3 Upper Scioto Valley are the top seeds at St. Marys. Marion Local has clinched no worse than a share of the MAC title. The Flyers also own some impressive non-league wins. If ML can get past New Bremen in the district, they have as good of a shot as anyone at winning the D4 regional. Upper Scioto Valley went undefeated in winning the NWCC. Fort Recovery got off to a fast start but hit a dry spell during January with seven losses in eight games.

Semifinals – Ada over Ridgmont; Fort Recovery over New Knoxville

Finals – Marion Local over Ada; Fort Recovery over Upper Scioto Valley

BRYAN (DEFIANCE DISTRICT): #2 Antwerp, #3 Toledo Christian, and #4 Pettisville are the top seeds at Bryan. Antwerp finished in a tie with Wayne Trace for the runner-up spot in the GMC. The Archers have won seventeen of their last eighteen games heading into the final weekend of the regular season. Toledo Christian was 7-1 before losing leading scorer Conye Gaston to a season-ending injury in early January. Pettisville finishes as the BBC runner-up. It was a bit of a surprise that the Blackbirds decided to head to Bryan. Stryker went undefeated in winning the BBC. Toledo Christian edged Stryker in the season opener for both teams. Edgerton turned their season around in mid-January. This will be a very interesting sectional

Semifinals – Pettisville over Edgerton; Toledo Christian over Edon; Stryker over North Central

Finals – Antwerp over Pettisville; Toledo Christian over Stryker

LIBERTY CENTER (DEFIANCE DISTRICT): #1 Patrick Henry is the top seed at Liberty. Patrick Henry is tied with Wauseon for the NWOAL lead heading into the final weekend of the season. The Patriots were edged by Antwerp at PH in a January game. Ayersville is finishing the regular season on a high note. Their signature win on the year came at Wayne Trace. Maumee Valley Country Day has been inconsistent, but the Valley can be a factor at Liberty Center. The Hawks handed Cardinal Stritch one of their losses in late January.

Semifinals – Montpelier over Fayette; Ayersville over Hodge; Maumee Valley Country Day over Hilltop

Finals – Patrick Henry over Montpelier; Maumee Valley Country Day over Ayersville

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY (ELIDA DISTRICT): #2 Kalida and #3 Ottoville are the top seeds at the home of the Beavers. Kalida went undefeated in winning the PCL including an overtime win over Ottoville. The Wildcats have several impressive non-league wins including Rossford in the season opener and Spencerville. Kalida enters the final weekend on an eleven-game winning streak. Ottoville finishes in the runner-up spot in the PCL. The Big Green have put together an outstanding season. Delphos Jefferson has been under the radar finishing the regular season at .500 and in the top half of the NWC standings. Cory-Rawson finishes the season over .500 including a win over Continental in late December.

Semifinals – Delphos Jefferson over Fort Jennings; Continental over Cory-Rawson

Finals – Kalida over Delphos Jefferson; Ottoville over Continental

VAN WERT (ELIDA DISTRICT): #1 Convoy Crestview and #4 Pandora-Gilboa are the top seeds at VW. Crestview can still get a share of the NWC title. The only losses for the Knights on the season were at Spencerville by two points and at Delphos St. John's. Pandora-Gilboa finishes an outstanding season with eighteen wins, but the Rockets will finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both the BVC and the PCL. Delphos St. John's can earn a share of the MAC title with a win at Marion Local to close the regular season. The Blue Jays have one of the outstanding freshmen in Ohio in Cameron Elwer. Miller City will finish the year over the .500 mark.

Semifinals – Miller City over Leipsic; Delphos St. John's over Lincolnview

Finals – Convoy Crestview over Miller City; Delphos St. John's over Pandora-Gilboa

FOSTORIA (LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT): #1 Mohawk and #4 Tiffin Calvert are the top seeds at FHS. Mohawk has a shot at a share of the N10 title playing Carey to finish the regular season. The only losses for the Warriors were at Wynford and at Colonel Crawford back in December. A.J. Hess became Mohawk's career scoring leader in January. Calvert returned only one player with significant playing time from last season's D4 regional runner-up team. The Senecas can still get at least a share of the SBC River title. New Riegel will finish the season over the .500 mark. Jerome Kloefer became the career scoring leader at Vanlue moving ahead of another member of the Kloefer family.

Semifinals – Mohawk over North Baltimore; New Riegel over Vanlue; Tiffin Calvert over Gibsonburg

Finals – Mohawk over Arcadia; Tiffin Calvert over New Riegel

TIFFIN COLUMBIAN (LIBERTY-BENTON DISTRICT): #2 Hopewell-Loudon and #3 Old Fort are the top seeds at Tiffin. Both Hopewell-Loudon and Old Fort can get a share of the SBC River title. Hopewell, Old Fort, and Tiffin Calvert split their season series. Old Fort's only other loss was to Genoa. Arlington finished as the BVC runner-up to Liberty-Benton losing by two points at L-B. The Red Devils have an early season overtime win at Kalida to their credit. Old Fort and Arlington should make for an excellent sectional final.

Semifinals – McComb over Fremont St. Joseph; Old Fort over Hardin Northern; Arlington over Woodmore

Finals – Hopewell-Loudon over McComb; Old Fort over Arlington

## DISTRICTS

WILLARD: Margaretta won the district at Willard in 2022. The Polar Bears have since moved up to D3.

Semifinals – Colonel Crawford over Danbury; Lucas over Monroeville

Final – Lucas over Colonel Crawford

WAPAKONETA: Marion Local was the district champion at Wapak in 2022.

Semifinals – New Bremen over St. Henry; Marion Local over Fort Recovery

Final – Marion Local over New Bremen



DEFIANCE: Antwerp won a third straight district title last season at Defiance.

Semifinals – Antwerp over Toledo Christian; Patrick Henry over Maumee Valley Country Day

Final – Antwerp over Patrick Henry

ELIDA: Ottoville won the district championship at Elida last season.

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

Final – Kalida over Convoy Crestview

LIBERTY-BENTON: Tiffin Calvert took home the district championship at Liberty-Benton in 2022.

Semifinals – Mohawk over Tiffin Calvert; Old Fort over Hopewell-Loudon

Final – Mohawk over Old Fort

Time to wrap this thing up. The Swami will be back with our highly overrated second edition prior to the regional and state tournaments. All facts, fiction, errors, and opinions are those of the Swami. Brackets on the davey1.com website are courtesy of Mr. David Spengler. Stay safe out there and rock on.

## **THE HISTORY OF DAVEY1.COM**

**During the summer of 2004 Dave Spengler and Dave Sigler** sat down and talked about wanting to do something to promote boys high school basketball in Northwest Ohio. At first we didn't know exactly what we wanted to do, but since we were both fans of the game we knew that we wanted to do something. Then we decided to do schedules and scores, and create a website, [Davey1.com](http://Davey1.com), where they could be found. But how many? Should we do just one league, or a group of leagues? We decided on an ambitious project to include all schools in the Northwest District of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. For those unfamiliar, today that's approximately 170 teams. It was quite an undertaking.

Every season Dave and Dave work closely together to keep our schedules and game scores accurate and up-to-date. During the 2018-2019 season our database included 2,075 games involving Northwest Ohio teams, and we provided a score for each of those games. More than one person is required to keep all of this information organized and complete.

In the early days there was much more work involved to obtain the schedules we needed. Dave Spengler would contact the schools by sending a letter, sometimes through the postal service and sometimes via fax, to each school (head coach or athletic director) to get their boys varsity basketball schedule. Each year the response rate increased, and more recently we're able to find some of the schedules we need on the web. However, every year, in September we send out e-mail requests to all head coaches requesting that they submit their schedule directly to us. Many respond, yet some still do not. We still persist and somehow find every schedule we need.

When the first schedules were published (2004-2005 season), for Northwest Ohio on Davey1.com, there was a schedule of games for each school, arranged alphabetically by league, and the name of the school. That's all you got.

**During the 2006-2007 season** we added team nicknames, and we also added a notation so that you would know whether a game had overtime periods. That may sound simple, but in the early years there was no way to know whether overtime periods happened or not.

**Then in 2007-2008 we added** to each schedule the OHSAA Division that each school competed in (1 through 4). That gives the fans information about the relative size of

each school. In another section of the site is the enrollment numbers for each school that the Ohio High School Athletic Association uses to determine these divisions.

Another addition to the information we provide occurred **during the 2008-2009 season** when the name of the head coach was added to each schedule. But we weren't done yet.

**The 2009-2010 season** included the addition of the Sectional Site where each team would play their first OHSAA tournament game. Because of changes made by the OHSAA to their tournament drawing procedure this was changed to the District Tournament Site during the **2014-2015 season**.

One of Dave Spengler's favorite additions, that he **developed just before the 2010-2011 season**, was the addition of hyperlinks for each teams opponents so that you could easily switch schedules just by clicking on the opponents name. You would then jump immediately to that schedule.

At the **beginning of the 2012-2013 season we enhanced our listing of League Standings** so that they are ordered in the proper way to see which team finished at the top of their respective league. Another major improvement.

As each season has come and gone we have kept all of our schedules archived so that they can be viewed all the way back to the 2004-2005 season, creating an extensive history for each school. We believe there is no other single place where our readers can find this kind of information presented for each team.

**One of the popular features found on the website is Trail Trash.** It is The Swami's commentary and predictions for the OHSAA

boys basketball tournament in Northwest Ohio. The first edition includes predictions for the Sectional and District Tournament, and the second edition includes The Swami's commentary and predictions for the Regional Tournaments throughout all of Ohio and the State Basketball Tournament. It is known that the Trail Trash has been used by coaches to motivate their teams when the Swami has chosen them to lose a tournament game....

Issues of the Trail Trash on the website go back as far as 2000.

Alongside Trail Trash are the Boys Tournament Brackets. These brackets are available as far back as the 2000 tournament. They include all Sectional and District games played in Northwest Ohio, and all Regional Tournament and State Tournament games played throughout the entire state. We're proud of the archive of information that we've built over the years.

There is also the Davey1 Hall of Fame, honoring boys teams that have been undefeated during the regular season. This feature goes back as far as our schedules, to the 2004-2005 season.

We also include the OHSAA Divisional breakdowns, showing which division each team was in going back to the 2007-2008 season.

Be sure to check out some of the other features of our site that we haven't mentioned here.

Dave and Dave have also developed a network of contacts that they use to gather information to help them keep Davey1.com