

Trail Trash

2025 OHSAA Boys High School Basketball Tournament

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Featuring Commentary & Predictions by ...

The Swami

Welcome to our second edition of Trail Trash and the Swami for 2025. Before looking ahead to the regional and state tournaments, here is a recap of the past couple of weeks. Wrapping up the regular season, Perrysburg and Whitmer share the NLL Buckeye title after splitting their two games. Antione West became Whitmer's career scoring leader in the regular season finale against Start breaking the mark previously held by Floyd Campbell.

The first week of the tournament was certainly different with regular season games interspersed with tournament games. There were no D1 or D2 tournament games and a few D3 teams had byes straight into the district. Higher seeds prevailed in the majority of sectional games. The exception was in the D5 Napoleon district where the lower seed won all four sectional finals. In the D6 Old Fort district, #2 seed Ottawa Hills was eliminated in the sectional final by #7 Hopewell-Loudon. Probably the most entertaining sectional final was in the D4 Findlay district with #3 Shelby edging #6 Ottawa-Glandorf in overtime. That marks the first time since 1999 that OG lost their opening tournament game.

In the D1 districts, Whitmer won big at Mentor and edged a really good Brunswick team in the championship game at Akron North after trailing by double digits at the half. Perrysburg hosted Cleveland Heights in a semifinal losing to the Tigers.

In D2, top seed Lima Senior won both games with a running clock while #4 Toledo St. Francis beat #3 Toledo St. John's Jesuit to take the season series. SJJ is the only team in the eight-team CHSL not to win a district title. That includes teams from Michigan and Ohio.

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In D3, top seeds Lima Shawnee and Toledo Central Catholic advanced. Both of Central's wins ended with a running clock. In the Willard district, #3 Sandusky eliminated #2 Mansfield Senior and #1 Lexington.

In the D4 Findlay district, top seed Elida stopped Shelby. Shelby had advanced to the district final with a win over #2 Upper Sandusky. At Clay, #6 Napoleon took out #3 Perkins and #1 Otsego to win the district title. Otsego had edged #2 Bellevue in a semifinal. Napoleon is the only Northwest Ohio team heading to the regionals with a losing record.

In D5, #8 Liberty Center beat #6 Archbold for the district title at Napoleon. With the exception of LC's sectional semifinal win over Emmanuel Christian, the lower seed won every game. At Lakota, top seed Margaretta eliminated #3 Genoa in the championship game. In the semifinals,

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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.

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.

Genoa won in overtime against #2 Liberty-Benton in one of the best tournament games so far.

In D6, undefeated Patrick Henry won the Defiance district while top seeds Colonel Crawford and Lima Central Catholic also advanced to the regional at Bowling Green. #3 Maumee Valley Country Day blew out #1 Mohawk to win the Old Fort district and move on to BGSU. At Wapakoneta, #3 Coldwater eliminated #1 seed Spencerville in a semifinal. #2 Marion Local edged the Cavalier in the championship game to advance to the regional at Vandalia Butler.

In D7, top seeds Delphos St. John's and Norwalk St. Paul won district titles. St. John's will be joined by Edgerton, Fort Jennings, and Arlington in the regional at Elida. At Bryan, #4 Edgerton won over #3 Edon in the championship game. Edon defeated #1 Pettisville and Edgerton stopped #2 Montpelier in semifinal games. #4 Fort Jennings eliminated top seed Miller City to win the district at Elida. At Fostoria, #3 Arlington defeated #2 Tiffin Calvert and #1 Old Fort to take home the district crown. Norwalk St. Paul advances to the regional in the Magic City.

At the district level, there were 10 games ending with a running clock. Only 5 of the 20 district championship games were decided by 7 or fewer points.

As far as the Swami's picks are concerned, hit on a lot of games (114-29 overall) but missed on a whole lot of district champions. I mean a bunch. Time to go back to the drawing board.

Will be interesting where the state semifinals are held. Quite a few people appear none too happy with some of the sites selected for the girls. Nothing against Elyria Catholic, but I never pictured the Coliseum as a venue for a state tournament game. The Swami assumes that several of the regional sites will host semifinal doubleheaders for the boys.

Speaking of the state semifinals, we are cheating on our picks this time around. Since we won't know the semifinal pairings until regional games have been completed, we will wait to make our state picks after the matchups have been determined.

DIVISION I

REGIONALS

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY: The Whitmer road show continues at Kent. St. Ignatius was the 2024 D1 state champion. Whitmer has two D1 signees in Antione West (Purdue) and Makhil Leach (Bowling Green) as does Ignatius in Damon Friery (Dayton) and Quinn Woidke (Kent State). Lakewood St. Edward was set to host a district semifinal against Elyria. Thirty seconds into the game, it was discovered that the roof

was leaking onto the gym floor. After some deliberations, it was decided that the game would continue that evening at Lakewood High School. The teams, officials, support personnel, and spectators packed up and made the short trip over to Lakewood for the remainder of the game.

Semifinals (Tuesday & Wednesday) – Toledo Whitmer over Canton McKinley; Cleveland St. Ignatius over Lakewood St. Edward

Final (Saturday) – Cleveland St. Ignatius over Toledo Whitmer

OHIO EXPO CENTER: AKA the Barn. Reynoldsburg's lone loss was to D3 Columbus St. Francis DeSales.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Reynoldsburg over Dublin Coffman; Olentangy Liberty over Upper Arlington

Final (Saturday) – Olentangy Liberty over Reynoldsburg

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY: Olentangy Orange has not lost to a team from Ohio this season. Beaver Creek and Cincinnati Sycamore are both under .500.

Semifinals (Tuesday & Wednesday) – Groveport Madison over Beaver Creek; Olentangy Orange over Cincinnati Sycamore

Final (Saturday) – Olentangy Orange over Groveport Madison

XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Lakota West has wins over St. Xavier and Lakota East; Fairfield beat Lakota West twice; Lakota East and Fairfield split two games. Take your pick. No Moeller or Centerville in the regionals.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Lakota East over Fairfield; Lakota West over Cincinnati St. Xavier

Final (Sunday) – Lakota West over Lakota East

DIVISION II

REGIONALS

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: Massillon Perry and Shaker Heights are two of the remaining four teams in D2 with losing records.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Warren Harding over Massillon Perry; Brecksville-Broadview Heights over Shaker Heights

Final (Saturday) – Warren Harding over Brecksville-Broadview Heights

COLLEGE OF WOOSTER: North Royalton's only loss was to Stow-Munroe Falls in December.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – North Royalton over North Ridgeville; New Albany over Avon

Final (Saturday) – New Albany over North Royalton

OHIO EXPO CENTER: Westerville North's only losses were to Olentangy Orange and Cleveland St. Ignatius. Licking Heights won their first district title.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Westerville North over Westerville Central; Pataskala Licking Heights over Sunbury Big Walnut

Final (Saturday) – Westerville North over Pataskala Licking Heights

ELIDA: Pretty much a home game for Lima Senior. Great semifinal matchup between the Spartans and Winton Woods. Lima's only losses were at Whitmer and at Lima Shawnee. Winton Woods lost to Indianapolis Cathedral and Kings Mill Kings. St. Francis won their first district title since 1995 and only the second since winning the 1983 Class AAA state championship.

Semifinals (Wednesday & Thursday) – Lima Senior over Cincinnati Winton Woods; Toledo St. Francis over Loveland

Final (Saturday) – Lima Senior over Toledo St. Francis

DIVISION III

REGIONALS

MEDINA: So, we go to seven divisions and 2023 D1 state champion Akron Archbishop Hoban is now D3? Size doesn't matter? Garfield Heights losses were to Huber Heights Wayne and Lorain.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Akron Archbishop Hoban over Olmsted Falls; Garfield Heights over Parma Padua Franciscan

Final (Friday) – Garfield Heights over Akron Archbishop Hoban

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO: Lutheran West heads west for the regionals for a third straight year. SBC Lake champion Sandusky has never won a regional game. The Blue Streaks lost to Lutheran West in a 2023 D2 (remember the dark ages when we only had four divisions?) regional semifinal. Toledo Central Catholic won their fourth district championship in the past five years. The Irish had a late-season slump losing eight out of ten. WBL champion Lima Shawnee's losses were to D6 Lima Central Catholica and D7 Delphos St. John's by a total of six points.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Rocky River Lutheran West over Sandusky; Lima Shawnee over Toledo Central Catholic

Final (Saturday) – Lima Shawnee over Rocky River Lutheran West

OHIO EXPO CENTER: Louisville got a late season win over Cleveland St. Ignatius. Columbus St. Francis DeSales handed D1 Reynoldsburg their only loss. Steubenville beat previously undefeated Washington CH Miami Trace in a district final.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Louisville over Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Columbus Bishop Hartley over Steubenville

Final (Saturday) – Louisville over Columbus Bishop Hartley

CINCINNATI PRINCETON/XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be at Princeton with the final at Xavier. Cincinnati Aiken's only loss was at Trotwood-Madison to close the regular season. Trotwood-Madison lost to Reynoldsburg and Dayton Chaminade-Julienne.

Semifinals (Tuesday & Wednesday) – Cincinnati Aiken over Cincinnati LaSalle; Trotwood-Madison over Hamilton Badin

Final (Sunday) – Cincinnati Aiken over Trotwood-Madison

DIVISION IV

REGIONALS

CANTON MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE: Best win for Warrensville Heights came against Lutheran East.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Akron Buchtel over Cleveland Glenville; Warrensville Heights over Canfield

Final (Saturday) – Warrensville Heights over Akron Buchtel

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Elida finished right behind Lima Shawnee in the WBL. Gates Mills Hawken upset Youngstown Ursuline in the district semifinals. Napoleon is the only team still alive in D4 with a losing record. The Wildcats finished in fourth place in the NLL Cardinal. Jonathan Alder won the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail championship.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Elida over Gates Mills Hawken; Plain City Jonathan Alder over Napoleon

Final (Saturday) – Elida over Plain City Jonathan Alder

OHIO UNIVERSITY: River Valley won their first district title since 2007. RV losses were to Marion Pleasant and Columbus Bishop Watterson. Maysville lost to Kettering Alter in last year's D2 state championship game.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Caledonia River Valley over Chillicothe Unioto; Zanesville Maysville over New Lexington

Final (Sunday) – Zanesville Maysville over Caledonia River Valley

LAKOTA EAST/XAVIER UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be at Lakota East with the final at X. Wyoming won their first seventeen games before losing to Cincinnati St. Xavier. The other loss for the Cowboys was to Dayton Chaminade-Julienne.

Semifinals (Tuesday & Wednesday) – Kettering Archbishop Alter over Dayton Oakwood; Cincinnati Wyoming over Dayton Northridge

Final (Sunday) – Kettering Archbishop Alter over Cincinnati Wyoming



DIVISION V

REGIONALS

CANTON MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE: Lutheran East has back-to-back D3 state championships and ten consecutive district championships. Richmond Heights has won three straight D4 state championships. The only losses for Norwayne were to Brecksville-Broadview Heights and Massillon Perry. Canton Central Catholic lost to Richmond Heights earlier in the season. Will the D5 state championship game be played at Canton? Yes.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Cleveland Heights Lutheran East over Norwayne; Richmond Heights over Canton Central Catholic

Final (Saturday) – Richmond Heights over Cleveland Heights Lutheran East

MANSFIELD SENIOR: Columbus Academy and Margareta meet in a marquee matchup. Academy is one of three undefeated teams remaining in the tournament. SBC Bay champion Margareta's only loss was to Canton Central Catholic. The Polar Bears have won three district titles in the past four seasons. Bishop Ready knocked out top seed Columbus Africentric in a district final. Two of Ready's losses were to Columbus Academy. Liberty Center lost six of their last seven regular season games before regrouping to win the Napoleon district as the #8 seed.

Semifinals (Wednesday & Thursday) – Columbus Academy over Margareta; Columbus Bishop Ready over Liberty Center

Final (Saturday) – Columbus Academy over Columbus Bishop Ready

OHIO UNIVERSITY: Friday night semifinals? The Minford loss was by three to Warren Local. Martins Ferry entered the tournament under .500 but eliminated top seed St. Clairsville in the district final.

Semifinals (Friday) – Minford over Sugarcreek Garaway; Chesapeake over Martins Ferry

Final (Sunday) – Minford over Chesapeake

FAIRBORN/WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games at Fairborn with the final at Wright State. Summit Country Day's record is a bit misleading after forfeiting five games for using an ineligible player. Summit Country Day, Purcell Marian, and Clark Montessori are all members of the Miami Valley Conference Scarlet.

Semifinals (Tuesday & Wednesday) – Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Cincinnati Purcell Marian; Cincinnati Clark Montessori over Camden Preble Shawnee

Final (Saturday) – Cincinnati Summit Country Day over Cincinnati Clark Montessori

DIVISION VI

REGIONALS

CANTON MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE: Two of Smithville's losses were to Norwayne.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Dalton over Campbell Memorial; Smithville over Kirtland

Final (Friday) – Smithville over Dalton

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: N10 champion Colonel Crawford avenged their lone loss with a district final win over Ashland Crestview. Maumee Valley Country Day starts four sophomores and one freshman ranging from 7' to 5'4" (actually shorter). The Hawks have just one senior and no juniors. LCC returned one starter in Jordan Priddy from their 2024 D4 regional championship team that lost in double overtime to Berlin Hiland in Dayton. NWOAL champ Patrick Henry is undefeated heading to the regional. The twenty-five wins is a school record breaking the mark set by the 1997 D3 state championship team. Lincoln Creager, a Northwestern football signee, became PH's career scoring leader in their district final win over Evergreen. That breaks the mark set by Jim Hoops in 1977.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Colonel Crawford over Maumee Valley Country Day; Patrick Henry over Lima Central Catholic

Final (Saturday) – Patrick Henry over Colonel Crawford

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: Monroe Central knocked off top seed Berlin Hiland in their district final. For you (us?) old-timers, Monroe Central is a consolidation of Skyvue and Woodsfield.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Woodsfield Monroe Central over Seaman North Adams; Beaver Eastern over Cardington Lincoln

Final (Saturday) – Woodsfield Monroe Central over Beaver Eastern

VANDALIA BUTLER/WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be at Vandalia with the final at Wright State. Marion Local finished right behind Delphos St. John's in the MAC standings. Flyer losses were to St. John's and Russia. Miami Valley Christian Academy won their first district title. Tri-Village losses were to Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and Russia.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Marion Local over Cincinnati Miami Valley Christian; New Madison Tri-Village over Anna

Final (Saturday) – Marion Local over New Madison Tri-Village

DIVISION VII

REGIONALS

BARBERTON: Quinn "Turtle" Kwasniak of Cornerstone Christian became the OHSAA's career scoring leader breaking the record set by Upper Sandusky's Jon Diebler (also Fostoria)

in 2007. Kwasniak scored 53 points in Cornerstone Christian's district final win over Berlin Center Western Reserve. Firelands Conference champion Norwalk St. Paul won their first district title since 1998.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Jeromesville Hillsdale; Warren John F. Kennedy over Norwalk St. Paul

Final (Friday) – Willoughby Cornerstone Christian over Warren John F. Kennedy

ELIDA/BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinal games will be at Elida with the final at BG. MAC champion St. John's losses were to Spencerville and Convoy Crestview in overtime. DSJ junior Cameron Elwer is closing in on 2,000 career points. Fort Jennings won their first district title since 2007. Jarron Swick became the career scoring leader for the Musketeers in their district semifinal win over PCL champion Kalida. Edgerton last won a district title in 2013. The Bulldogs finished in 4th place in the GMC. Arlington won their first district title since 2012. The Red Devils finished as the runner-up in the BVC behind D5 Liberty-Benton.

Semifinals (Tuesday) – Delphos St. John's over Fort Jennings; Arlington over Edgerton

Final (Saturday) – Delphos St. John's over Arlington

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY: Losses for the South Webster Jeeps were to D5's Minford (twice) and Fairland.

Semifinals (Thursday) – Steubenville Catholic Central over Portsmouth Notre Dame; South Webster over Columbus Patriot Preparatory

Final (Saturday) – South Webster over Steubenville Catholic Central

VANDALIA BUTLER/WRIGHT STATE: Semifinal games will be at Vandalia with the final at WSU. Russia joins D5 Columbus Academy and D6 Patrick Henry as the only remaining undefeated teams. Russia lost to Richmond Heights in the state semifinals in both 2023 and 2024 in very competitive games. Botkins loss a pair of SCAL games to Russia.

Semifinals (Wednesday) – Russia over Westerville Northside Christian; Botkins over Pittsburg Franklin Monroe

Final (Saturday) – Russia over Botkins

We will be back next week with our state picks. Thank you for reading. All facts, fiction, errors, and opinions are those of the Swami. Please check out the brackets on the daveyl.com website. Heading to Bowling Green and Toledo this week.

