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H I G H S C H O O L

W R E S T L I N G

F O R E C A S T

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## INTRODUCTION

The real object of these annual reports is two-fold in nature: 1. To acquaint everyone with the cast of characters at each weight class; and 2. to stimulate discussion and interest in the forthcoming state tournament competition from Sectionals through District and State events. Last year as an added bonus you received my most accurate report ever. In "AAA" my top picks won seven titles, two runner-up trophies, and 2 third place medals while in "AA" they copped nine titles, one second, and 2 thirds. In "A" the scores were not as good with four champions, 2 seconds, and 4 thirds. Most of that success was due to a combination of lucky decision-making and some outstanding wrestling by a number of my long-shot choices.

Frankly, in 1979 I do not expect to do as well. There are more good wrestlers here than last year, and the competition is more even at many weights. There are many more college prospects this year than last and at least a half dozen real blue chip wrestlers. I particularly like, for collegiate wrestling, senior stars such as Zimmer, Potokar, Coffing, Vetter, Hehl, and Blazeff, and there are a whole galaxy of stars just below them. Collegiate recruiters will have a fruitful time this year in Ohio, and I predict at least eight NCAA-I all-Americans by the time this class finishes college.

This is the second year for the new weight certification procedures and it is just as shoddy and unfair as last year. I would hope the coaches wake up and realize that the old December 20th date allowed wrestlers to concentrate more of wrestling than on weight placement, and get the competition on fairer terms. We will have boys wrestling this year at weights which they have never come within three pounds of making. The present system is completely ridiculous and in its present form could easily be replaced by just letting the boys wrestle at whatever weight they come in at for the Sectionals.

Finally, these primitive one and two man district qualifiers are ridiculous and patently unfair. We award six places and yet conspire to keep possibly the second best contestant out of the State Meet altogether. In addition, this kind of districting makes a huge difference in the team competition. I would like to see a State Dual Meet competition where one weekend a year would be devoted to who had the best team. A 16 team bracket would be arrangeable and would be complete in a two-day tourney.

And as a question to ponder, ask yourself what state has produced the only two boys to be finalists four times at the NCAA-I tournament.

PROJECTED CHAMP: JOE MCFARLAND (North Olmsted)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Brian Ruby (Fairfield)
3. John Ryba (Nordonia)
4. Pat Welch (St. Edward's)
5. Jim Hartigan (Northland)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Chuck Britton (E-N)
7. Jeff Berry (Maumee)
8. Jerry Daiuto (Solon)
9. Mark Dodson (Oakhill)

This weight class is often difficult to predict because of the many underclassmen, without previous records, who wrestle here. This year is no exception and there are other unusual complicating factors that also need to be evaluated. For example, rumors abound that defending state champ Dane Tussel will certify at this weight; and what about John Ryba -- ineligible until February, will he be able to successfully make the weight and compete effectively? Be assured of one thing if Tussel does compete at this weight he will be state champ.

Otherwise, my choice is McFarland who is lightning quick and very aggressive. His only flaw is that even as a junior he is still a small 98#. Both Ruby and Ryba are bigger and stronger and could overpower him. Pat Welch has campaigned all year at 105# and has beaten the Michigan State Champ at that weight -- he could be a big factor. In addition, by coming out of the same District as McFarland they should be in opposite parts of the draw at Columbus.

In Cleveland, Britton and Daiuto should survive for a trip to Columbus. Daiuto made it to the semis last year, but has not looked as good as I anticipated this year. He was blanked 7-0 at the Hudson Tourney and that should not be happening. A dark-horse in Cleveland is Brunswick Champ Mark Wilhelm (Southview). Like his brother, he could come on "tough" and take the title as a sophomore. Other Cleveland contenders are Jim Kerr (John Marshall), Cordiak (Maple), and Funk (Cloverleaf).

Jim Hartigan is the top wrestler at this weight in Columbus and should place at the State Tourney. Fee (Groveport) could be the other qualifier. Beside Ruby, there are two other threats in the Cincy/Dayton area. Mark Dodson and Butler (St. X) could also score at Columbus, but it's difficult to see either winning.

The Toledo area has an interesting mix of contenders. Berry, ranked sixth, is a state free-style champ with impressive credentials, although ranked now only third in that area by the local experts. I think he will be their District Champ. Mann (Whitmer) is a good choice for the second qualifier followed by Leffler (T.S.F.) and Arlen (Galion). In Akron, an ineffective Ryba could lose to Brady (Cuy. Falls), Bryson (Medina), or Horning (Walsh). Still, in terms of a state title a healthy Ryba is the only possibility out of that district.

PROJECTED CHAMP: DANE TUSSEL (Nordonia)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. John Scholtz (No. Royalton)
3. Joe Ianaggi (Bedford)
4. Jerry Bradley (Woodward)
5. Greg Wright

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Baron Young (Sidney)
7. Frank Stewart (Westland)
8. Jeff Notte (Madison)
9. Don Lorence (Crestwood)
10. Rick Wilde (Defiance)
11. Rod Merrill (Mentor)

Dane Tussel should easily take this title back to Nordonia. Sensational on his feet this junior has talent and experience -- his only drawback at this weight is his small stature. He beat Scholtz for the state title and it could happen again. Scholtz, a great rider, and now better on his feet, is very difficult to beat. Stewart is cutting a lot of weight, but he was 5th at this weight last year. Ianaggi was 3rd at Columbus at this weight but has been erratic. A tall senior, Joe has lost in two duals (Tussel and Merrill), but was great at the Medina Tourney. He's tough to forecast. Bradley, a little dynamo, has done much of his wrestling at 112# this year, but he could cop a place at this weight in 1979. Greg Wright, only a sophomore, has just reached this weight and was behind Mason 112#. He will surprise many with his skills.

Of those I rated from sixth through eleventh their best hope is to garner a low place at Columbus. Notte is another sophomore who I look to qualify out of Cleveland, which means that Merrill will have to beat at least one boy ranked ahead of him to get to Columbus.

Youngs Lorence, and Wilde are similar in style -- high scoring, flashy wrestlers -- who come out of districts where they should easily qualify. They all have state experience. One wrestler not in my top ten, but with state credentials, is Bob Preston (Grove City). Strictly a rider he might leg ride a favorite "into the ground" for a surprise win.

Other possibilities in the Cleveland District are the improving Trivett (Elyria), Asp (North Ridgeville), and Del Creps (Bay.) Stalter (Rogers) should qualify with Wilde out of Toledo, while Genetin (Timken) and Cotton (Marlington) could be threats in Akron.

All in all, after Tussel, this is a very well balanced weight class.

PROJECTED CHAMP: JIM MASON (St. Edward's)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Ray Jenkins (Nordononia)
3. Tom Kelly (Wadsworth)
4. Steve Garrett (Sycamore)
5. Rich Decatur (Buchtel)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Lou Rocco (No. Royalton)
7. Steve Michel (Kent Roos.)
8. Frank Agriesti (Northland)
9. Jeff Weingartner (Oak Hills)

I think Mason and Jenkins dominate this weight class. Furthermore, I'm not convinced that Mason's victory over Ray at Brecksville showed real dominance. Again Jenkins looked like he might well beat Mason at Columbus by staying on his feet and going takedowns. Nobody can mat wrestle with Mason at their weight.

Incidentally, the Akron District contributed four wrestlers to my top ten in an area where only three will qualify. What a rugged competition that will be. I favor Jenkins, Kelly, and Decatur -- all of whom should place. Decatur is not great on his feet, but has the "horsepower" to beat almost anyone -- this junior is a real "bear" and a great college prospect next year. Kelly has twice placed at 98# and is clever. Michel will really have to work to get a spot.

In the Cincy/Dayton area I really like Garrett; and Weingartner -- also with state experience -- will push him. In Columbus, Agriesti will have strong competition from state qualifier Williams (Groveport) and Crawford (Westerville South).

I'm not impressed with the Toledo contestants and expect that while Williams (Mansfield) and Mayer (TSF) seem best they won't win a match in Columbus.

Besides Mason, the Cleveland area is not that strong at this weight. Rocco should qualify with perhaps a Larsen (Fairview) or a Creps (Bay) filling out the contingent. Again, those last two spots will have rough sledding in Columbus.

119#

PROJECTED CHAMP: PAUL PALIVODA (North Royalton)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Mike Gerken (Vermillion)
3. Derek Strahorn (Walnut Hills)
4. Tony Leonino (Stow)
5. Scott Pagenstecher (Mentor)
6. Jeff Bentley (Kent Roos.)

OTHER CONTENDERS

7. Ron Cantini (Fairview)
8. Alan Childers (Brunswick)
9. Dan Spoerl (TSF)
10. Mike Gabbard (Centerville)
11. Jim Hinajosa (Clay)

This is quite honestly the strongest, deepest weight class I have ever seen in state competition. It currently features 14 boys who have previously qualified for the state meet -- including one state champ and six former place winners. In most areas, just emerging from the district competition will be a monumental accomplishment.

For example, in Cleveland we have Palivoda, who was 3rd at this weight last year, Pagenstecher who would surely have placed except for a broken ankle and was 4th the year before, Cantini, 5th at 112#, Childers, 2nd at 105#, and top prospects like Macko (Padua), Simon (Maple Hts.), and Topoly (E-N). A big factor will be the bracketing because of the diverse styles represented by these participants.

In the Akron District, Leonino is a 3-time state qualifier while Bentley has handed Leonino his only career loss outside of Columbus, 5-4. In addition, Mears (No. Canton), Vance (Nordonia), and Wenger (Copley) could also challenge. Vance has super potential -- only a freshman -- he will be a state champ one day.

In Toledo, we feature state champ Mike Gerken, 6th place winner at 119# Jim Hinajosa, and state qualifiers Spoerl (TSF) and Smith (Findley). With their two-man district, pairings are crucial and so it is really impossible to predict both qualifiers. I favor Spoerl and Gerken, but if they are matched together, Hinajosa could get through again.

In Cincy/Dayton state qualifiers Gabbard and Zugelder (Vandalia) will take a back seat to Strahorn who finished 4th at 112#. Strahorn is enormously strong and quick and has publicly stated -- through his coach -- that he will win.

Helber (Lorain) another state qualifier should beat out another state qualifier Crosier (Steubenville) for a spot in Columbus. The Columbus area itself will send two boys as cannon fodder here.

How do I look for the state meet to go? Well, I think Palivoda has the best chance of winning -- he is big and strong with great moves. Gerken is a terrific leg man and that style often wins. He will not have the huge height advantage he enjoyed at 105#. Strahorn has super talent, but he does not have the competition in his area and may not be ready for talent assembled at Columbus. Leonino and Pagenstecher are super kids caught at a super weight. In my mind Pagenstecher could still win the whole thing with just a little luck. Bently, Cantini, and Childers all have great moves and ability and all three of these juniors are good enough to win the whole thing. However, I believe that the "riders" will neutralize their speed and grind out victories.

This is an outstanding weight with superior competition. We may not see its like for years to come, so it will be something to savor and enjoy.

126#

PROJECTED CHAMP: DAN FOLDESY (St. Edward's)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Jim Deubel (Maple)
3. Russ Wilhelm (Southview)
4. Rick Sutton (Lakota)
5. Mike Stroud (Fairburn Baker)
6. Scooter Darnell (Madison)

OTHER CONTENDERS

7. Gary Stretar (Fairview)
8. Don Baldwin (Timken)
9. Carl Naso (Parma)

Another strong weight class featuring nine former state qualifiers including state champ Jim Deubel. This year I see Dan Foldesy surviving a number of close matches to snare the title. His main competition will come out of the Cleveland area.

The Cleveland District shapes up with Foldesy competing against state champ Deubel, former state champ Wilhelm, and two-time state qualifier Stretar. In addition state qualifier Darnell, Brecksville runner-up Naso, Schmidt (St. Ig.), Viviani (Lake), Peterson (St. Joe), and Plott (Bay) will be threats. I think that the injury-prone Stretar could upset either Foldesy, Deubel, Darnell, or Wilhelm who I now favor to qualify. Naso, too, is a very active and tough competitor. This will be a hurrendous district to "get out of" -- the state tourney will not be as strong top to bottom.

Sutton and Stroud are both former state qualifiers with exceptional skills coming out of the Cincy/Dayton area. This will also be a tough district with Hiteman (Lebanon) and Kurzner (Fairfield) being the other qualifiers.

Baldwin should win the Akron District but will be challenged by Smith (Nor.), Joseph (Norton, Miller (Kent Roos.) and Brumbaugh (Tallmadge). This group is not going to frighten the Cleveland boys. In Columbus state qualifier Schuyler (Reynoldsburg) is the choice with Motz (Walnut Ridge) as a challenger, while in Toledo Leffler (TSF) and West (Vermillion) may be best.

At Columbus, Foldesy should win because Deubel has been nagged by injuries and has not yet been in good shape. Besides, the Deubels have all had a history of poor senior seasons -- perhaps because of declining interest. I think Wilhelm will have trouble making weight although he has looked exceptional this year. Sutton and Stroud could challenge this top three and possibly spring one upset (but not three). Darnell or Stretar also could play a strong role in determining the title holder. Deubel, though, has beaten Stretar enough times to convince me that the Fairview wrestler falls just below my top echelon at this weight. Viviani, if he can get to Columbus, has the style that could win a few big matches, too. Still look for the trio of Deubel, Wilhelm, and Foldesy to battle it out. Make Darnell or Sutton a dark-horse candidate and forget about Toledo, Columbus, and Akron at this weight.

132#

PROJECTED CHAMP: JOHN GRASINGER (North Canton)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Mark Ciccarello (No. Olmsted)
3. Elmer Velez (Southview)
4. Scott Leasure (St. Ed's)
5. Tony Bass (W. Carrollton)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Tony Politz (Worthington)
7. Pete Mascia (Midpark)
8. Tracy Shellhous (Nordonia)
9. Rick Wilson (Stow)
10. Jeff Schoen (TSJ)

Yes, I know that Leasure beat state champion Grasinger 18-5 at the Watterson Open, but that was early in the year and one of those inexplicable things that happen in wrestling. Since then Grasinger has been superb and should win again in Columbus. His three closest competitors are all from Cleveland, including state runner-up Velez, 6th place winner Ciccarello, and the aforementioned Leasure. The "rock-em, sock-em" Tony Bass could also challenge.

I see it as a problem in styles. Grasinger, Ciccarello, and Bass all "fire" out and wrestle super aggressively. Velez is a more solid competitor with good strength, but the added weight seems to have slowed him slightly. Leasure is slick, but cannot afford to start going upper-body or on the mat with any of the three ahead of him.

Politz leads a good Columbus contingent while Shellhous and Wilson will trail Grasinger in Akron. In the Toledo area long-shot Jeff Schoen (TSJ) is my candidate to emerge as District champ, perhaps followed by Wagner (Galion). The Cincy/Dayton contingent should feature Wallingford (Oak-hills), Woodruff (Sidney), and Smith (Elder). None of these folks -- with the exception of Politz should challenge the top five.

I see a couple of dark horses in Cleveland after the trio of Ciccarello, Velez, and Leasure. Mascia has already beaten Leasure and is a steady competitor, while Scott Gradert (Maple) is a complete unknown with a tantalizing style. In addition, Nebelski (Mentor) is the kind of long-shot that can spring a big upset.

138#

PROJECTED CHAMP: Ricky Horton (Alliance)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Paul Snyder (Maple Hts.)
3. Jim Aumick (Madison)
4. Paul Bartalone (St. Joe)
5. Ernie Blazeuff (Stow)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Steve Babyak (St. Ed)
7. Mark Huddleston (Norton)
8. John Ray (Akron East)
9. Larry Shoemo (Sandusky)
10. Jim Hague (Reynoldsburg)

The last three weight classes have all been dynamite -- loaded with outstanding competitors. However, the next four classes, with the exception of a few wrestlers, is much weaker. For example, at 138# we have neither the super skilled boys at the top or the depth down below. In fact, I judge this weight class to be highly competitive because of the generally equal, if not high, calibre of talent.

I have chosen three-time state qualifier Horton who placed 4th at 126# last year. Not super strong he is well coordinated, quick, and aggressive. His only loss was to "AA" contender Gus Kallai and he should be good enough to stave off the challenges of the Cleveland contingent and others in the Akron District.

That Akron District will be tough with Horton matching up against the promising Ernie Blazeuff, solid Mark Huddleston, 5th place finisher John Ray, state qualifier Turell McGuire (Akron North), and solid Bob Brnilovich (Nordonia). I really like Blazeuff and while he has a draw on his record against Brnilovich he pinned Ray while winning the Hudson Tourney with ease. That's six wrestlers and only three openings which will make for tough competition indeed.

In Cleveland, Snyder and Aumick look good to me. Snyder while not a great wrestler, knows how to win while Aumick is just plain tough. Bartalone the promising sophomore, and Babyak should get the two other spots. How-



ever, Majnerich (E-N) and particularly Comacho (Southview) will be stern challengers capable of grabbing a ticket to Columbus.

In Columbus, Yost (Northland) and Brennan (Worthington) will go against Hague with the battle hardened Brennan a tough match for anyone. In Toledo, Larry Schoemo should reign supreme followed by Parks (Fre Ross) and Smith (TSF) or Ondrus (TSJ). Rumor has it that Schoemo may be at 132#, which, if true, strikes me as a major error in strategy.

However, in Cincy/Dayton state qualifier DeCamp (Centerville), Morton (Fairfield), and Butler (St. X) look to be the class of the area and I think all have a definite chance of crashing into my Top Ten. One might even place at Columbus. Another wrestler with state experience is Mark Black (Dover), but he will have tough sledding when he reaches St. John's.

145#

PROJECTED CHAMP: CHRIS COPPING (Fairfield)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Steve Soroka (Worthington)
3. Jim Liggett (Padua)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Rick Scavuzzo (Revere)
5. Glen Ray (Lakewood)
6. Dave Languis (Whetstone)

This is really a weak weight and its kind of a shame because we'll never find out how really good Chris Copping is. Make no mistake, this returning state champ is a blue chip prospect with great credentials. Unfortunately, there is really no one here to push him. One important note is that he transferred to Fairfield over the summer and is an addition that really boosts their team aspirations.

Soroka and Liggett should easily place, but after that the field is wide open. Besides my first six, here are some other possibilities:

- A) Cleveland -- Carter (Maple Hts.), Turgeon (Fairview), Zingales (St. ed), Kushan (St. Joe).
- B) Akron -- Mercer (Akron North), Welsh (Walsh), McLaughlin (No. Canton).  
Toledo -- Heater (Findley), Kokinakes (Perrysburg).  
Cincy/Dayton -- Hoendorf (Oak Hills), Twitty (Taft).  
Columbus -- Buxton (Westerville South).

155#

PROJECTED CHAMP: PHIL WELCH (St. Ed's)

(Continued on next page)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Doug Dix (Cuyahoga Falls)
3. Jeff Saylor (Fairfield)
4. Dave Cozad (Xenia)
5. Eurt Klein (Shaker Hts.)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Bob Mareda (Brecksville)
7. Dino Mastantuono (No. Olmsted)
8. Geoff Johnson (Crestwood)

This is another very weak weight class so I'm going way out on a limb with the first of my real long shots -- Phil Welch. Unheralded and unknown, Welch will be severely tested by the powerful Doug Dix, 5th last year at 145#, and Jeff Saylor, one match from the state last year. State qualifier Dave Cozad could also be a place winner, though again, the lack of quality talent throws open the lower places to almost anyone.

I've chosen Welch mainly because his improvement has been phenomenal. Only a junior if he continues to get better he will be unstoppable next year. Dix is actually a more logical choice -- since his career record is much more impressive and he already has state experience. No question that he could win. Saylor is also a long-shot type pick since his record last year was really not that super. The addition of Coffing right below him has undoubtedly helped him. A real intriguing competitor is Klein. He went to state last year at 175# as the result of a series of lucky breaks, and was slaughtered in both matches. He has wrestled at 175# this year until January 13 when he suddenly certified at 155#. How he will perform at this weight is a complete mystery, and should provide an interesting sidelight to the competition.

After Welch and Klein, the Cleveland picture is unclear. Mareda and Mastantuono are solid performers, but they could be challenged by any of a half dozen performers. Ware (Fairveiv) and Papesch (Orange) would be two such challengers. Greg Sluka (Garfield) was my preseason choice as the best 155# in Cleveland, but up to now he has shown no inclination to gain that laurel. Two long shots might be Billy Whitehair (Madison) and Jim Markley (Lakewood).

In Akron, Warrington (Kenmore), Martz (Revere), and Kolopus (No. Canton) may be expected to provide the major competition for Johnson. Gordon (Dover), twice a state qualifier, has been disappointing this year while Wahl (Tiffin) and Mauer (Whitmer) are real dark horses from the Toledo area.

As I finish up this weight I have the nagging feeling that there must be better people around and I've missed them. If so, I apologize with the promise that they will surprise me as much as you.

167#

PROJECTED CHAMP: JOE EAST (Grove City)

(Continued on next page)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Paul DeBaggis (Cleve. Hts.)
3. Marty Ruff (Whitmer)
4. Brian Neal (Barberton)
5. Ross Parker (Copley)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Bob Hauck (Oakhills)
7. Jim Rowbottom (St. Ed's)
8. Rob Prikyl (Maple Hts.)
9. Brian Jursik (Norton)

The trio of East, DeBaggis, and Ruff should dominate this otherwise relatively weak weight class. As he did last year, DeBaggis has already beaten East at the Brecksville Tourney (pinned him this time), and most folks make him the early favorite. But I went with East last year and I'm sticking with him. He's really a college wrestler in style and outlook already, and he knows how to win. Of concern is the cartilage removal operation on both knees he underwent in October and the loss of mobility attendant to that. Still, come March he should be ready to defend and is he ever good in March.

DeBaggis is super strong and a good athlete but lacks the finesse of East and he performed execrably last March. Still, this time he should be runner-up. Ruff is much quicker than his two principal competitors, but not nearly as strong. In this case I think DeBaggis and East will neutralize his speed advantage. Neal down from 175# is very physical and has an excellent chance of placing -- maybe even making the finals.

After this group the quality drops off rather quickly. In Cleveland, Rowbottom, Prikyl, Dabrowski (Parma), and Ross (Strongsville) can be tough. Greg Darby (Midpark) hasn't wrestled much, but he could be a threat, too.

Neal and Parker seem strongest in Akron with Jursik, Glassner (Firestone), Canfield (Walsh), and Hunter (Kent Roos.) having state potential. I've seen Jursik look very good and also very bad so his status is a real question mark.

In Columbus, Haimerl (Worthington) and Sansone (Westerville South) back up East at this weight. Incidentally, Keith Griffin (Eastmoor) the last of Archie's brothers won the Eastmoor Holiday Tourney and could grab that second ticket to St. John's Arena.

After Ruff, the Toledo areas best threats are Schoen (TSJ) and Harrod (Mans. Madison) and you can bet East isn't losing any sleep worrying about them. I see no challengers in Cincy/Dayton at all after Hauck.

175#

PROJECTED CHAMP: MARK LUCAS (Clayton Northmont)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Eli Blazeff (Stow)
3. George Boiles (Akron North)
4. Tom Kalski (St. Edwards)
5. Wayne Turchin (Norton)
6. Clarence Hughes (Ad. King)

OTHER CONTENDERS

7. Scott Shepard (Berea)
8. Dennis Hostettler (Groveport)
9. Tracy Linnaberry (Gahanna)

An excellent weight class featuring seven or eight exceptionally good big men. Lucas, 2nd at 167# last year, gets the nod, because he is such a versatile wrestler at home competing against any style. However, Blazeff had a great summer and the tall senior with the great legs rates just a shade behind Lucas. Both these big men know how to use their legs and can command terrific leverage. Eli was 6th last year.

Bolles is a physical wrestler with real strength and determination. He beat the "A" state titleist Suszek this year and his only two losses last year were to Newberg and Sullivan at the State. He finished 5th as a result. Kalski is as good on his feet as any of the top contenders, but this junior looks small compared to the top three and may be overpowered -- in addition, Lucas and Blazeff will control him on the mat with their leg rides. Kalski went to the state quarter finals last year.

Turchin, 6th at 175#, is also good on his feet, but this junior doesn't look as good as he did as a sophomore. However, it may be a temporary slump. Hughes is not completely versed in the intricacies of the sort of wrestling, but he is a "hammer" and will win a lot of matches this year.

In a normal year Shepard (Berea) could easily expect to place, but this year it will be tough going. With Blazeff, Bolles, and Turchin ahead of him Neal probably won't get out of his district. I wouldn't be surprised to see a few defections to the ranks of the 185's later in the year -- Shepard could be just such a candidate.

The people in Toledo are a mystery to us all so I'm ignoring them and after Lucas the Cincy/Dayton area has nothing either. The two Columbus area competitors, Hostetter and Linaberry, might squeak into a low place with a lot of luck.

#### 185#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ERIC HEHL (Fairview)

#### TOP CONTENDERS

2. Mike Snyder (Ravenna)
3. Dave Preston (Warren Harding)
4. David Wheeler (Akron Kenmore)
5. Eric Batt (Defiance)

#### OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Dave Henry (Rogers)
7. Steve Kirk (Brookhaven)
8. Bill Jacoby (TSJ)
9. Dave Nash (Cleve. Hts.)
10. James Burt (Akron East)

Hehl should win the State Title this year after the heart-breaking loss last year on a penalty point while getting what appeared to be the winning takedown. Snyder, Preston, and Wheeler -- all out of the Akron District -- should be his chief competition although James Burt, a powerful dark horse could upset one of them.

I find the Cleveland District 185's a rather poor lot with Nash, Botson (Padua), Suren (Normandy), Gulassey (John Marshall), and Semary (West Tech) possible contenders for a District place. It's quite likely that several "unknowns" will cop a trip to Columbus because of the Calibre of competition.

Batt, Henry, and Jacoby form a nice trio of 185's in Toledo, but with only two going one, at least, will be disappointed. Watch out for the raw Gary Robbins (Toledo Scott) who like Burt has tremendous power, but little wrestling skill. He could be a district surprise there.

Steve Kirk and Jerry Osborne (Westerville North) head a group of uninspired 185's out of Columbus while in the Cincy/Dayton area Ken Mann (Vandaliz) heads a fair group that also consists of Merk (Oakhills), Taylor (Fairfield), and Harville (Lebanon). One of them could climb into the upper ranks with steady improvement.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMP: GREG STEELE

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Tim Meade (Westland)
3. Ray Myers (Bowsher)
4. Andy Marker (Troy)
5. Jeff Golz (St. Ed's)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Chris Meyers (Medina)
7. Ray Lobins (St. Ignatius)
8. Brad Bloomer (Sylvania Northview)
9. Tom Horsmann (Mayfield)

An interesting weight class with a number of possible champs. I've chosen Greg Steele the behemoth from Firestone who went to the state last year under the name of Greg Snow. He's big, very strong, and undefeated. Yet I've never really seen him "shoot a takedown" and it worries me. I'd like to see him a more active force on the mat.

Tim Meade may well beat Steele. He's good and experienced, but is not really outstanding. Myers, 5th at this weight last year, is a sensational football player and a good wrestler. His only loss was to Steele. Marker, a former world runner-up freestyler, has excellent skills. However, at 5'10", 235# he's short and squat. He lost to Myers last year in overtime.

The best wrestler in the group is Jeff Golz. He has great speed, good moves, and has a wide assortment of takedowns. His drags, singles, and even carries are excellent. I would choose him except he has some bad habits (learned, no doubt, in California) and I'm afraid he'll get decked somewhere along the line when he's winning about 10-2. Still, if he wrestles mistake-free, he will be a stern test for the four rated ahead of him -- and he has shown tremendous improvement.

Meyers, was 4th at Heavyweight last year, and is actually the highest placing returnee, but he has not looked good this year and may not place this year. Lobins, on the other hand, could well move up. Big at 255#, he also has some great moves and good takedowns. However, in important matches he forgets all of them and uses the double undertook to stall away the time. If he wrestles well, he'll be very tough. Bloomer is another state qualifier from last year who could place while Horsmann is a super pinner who has not yet been really tested.

Other possibilities include Moody (deVilbiss) and Amor (Fremont Ross) out of the Toledo area and Totten (Bay), James (Garfield), and Gobble (River-side) out of Cleveland.

There's a Broadnax competing for Xenia this year, but it's not big Vernon -- only his baby brother Vaughn who at 260# is only two-thirds his brother's size. He should qualify for Columbus. Skemp (No. Canton), Haley (Col. South), Morris (Chillicothe), and Cobb (Miami Trace) are real long-shots.

#### TOP TEAMS

1. St. Edward's -- The defending state champs probably have the finest high school dual meet team in the country. They have beautiful balance and no weak links anywhere. Beyond that, most of their wrestlers have the potential to place in Columbus so that even if a Mason or a Foldesy gets upset they should win. Remember that Mason, Kalski, Phil Welch, Pat Welch, Wright, Zingales, Blanc, and McCarthy will all be back next year, so it could become a real dynasty. But the key this year -- if it gets close -- could be the seniors like Leasure, Babyak, Rowbottom, and Golz and their ability to get to Columbus and score.
2. Nordonia -- They have been first and second the last two years in Columbus and they are one of the few teams that might beat Edwards out of a second straight title. For that to happen, though, a lot of things have got to go right for them. Ryba has to come back at 98# and gain a high place, Tussel has to win and Jenkins make the finals, and Smith, Shellhous, and Brnilovich have to score down there. It'll be an uphill struggle.
3. Fairfield -- I've never rated a Cincy/Dayton team in my top five, but I believe Fairfield has the strength and depth to rise to third -- or maybe even higher. They have a sure champ in Coffing, and should get more points from Ruby, Saylor, and Willsey. They'll need help from Kurzner, Morton, Taylor, and Jones though, to take on St. Ed's or Nordonia. A real nice team coached by former Parma great Ron Masanek.
4. Fairview -- Earlier this year many people felt that this team would rate even higher than fourth. My feeling is that they will have to struggle to maintain even this rating. They are led by Eric Hehl, but two other stars Cantini and Stretar are in tough weight classes. Besides, Stretar has been beset by injury problems. The depth that many thought was there hasn't shown itself either. Wrestlers like Larsen, Turgeon, Ware, and Spall are going to have to show more for Fairview to hold this spot.
5. Maple Hts. -- The duo of Snyder and Deubel should be worth a lot of state points, but Maple Hts. could also get help from Cordiak, Simon, Gradert, and Prikyl. They may prove that a mediocre dual meet team can find happiness in Columbus.
6. Stow -- This team has four standouts and nothing else, so there is no room for error here. But if the two Blazeffs, Leonino and Wilson, do well even 4th place is not an unreasonnable expectation.
7. Cincy Oakhills -- As always they have a lovely dual meet squad, but the question always arises as to whether the quality is there to achieve state placement. This year I think it is. Dodson,

Weingartner, Hoendorf, Hauck, and Merk should be able to scrape together enough points for a Top Ten finish -- maybe even into the elite five if Rhein or Maher can help.

8. North Royalton -- Another team that has to get points from its three big guns -- Scholtz, Rocco, and Palivoda, I like little Peskar, but it will be unlikely that he can make Columbus.
9. Worthington -- Politz and Soroka are solid and Brennan, Haimerl, Jackson, and Stewart could help. A weak District will get a number of their kids through, but the question is whether they'll be able to score at all at the state level.
10. North Olmsted -- Ciccarello and McFarland should both be finalists, but it's hard to see where additional points are going to come from. Maybe Mastantuono or one of the Sinko's can help.
11. Southview -- This team could finish fourth or forty-fourth. Still with former state champ Wilhelm, state runner-up Velez, and the promising Comacho and Mark Wilhelm this team may easily break into the Top Ten.
12. Madison -- Another team that is erratic. Up until last year they were known as the team that always did the "fast fade" at District time. With returning qualifiers Notte, Darnell, and Aumick and the presence of a couple of sleepers named Whitehair and Bates they could really move up.

PROJECTED CHAMP: ALEX QUINONES (Genoa)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Early (Buckeye Valley)
3. Emerick (Eaton)
4. Keil (Aurora)
5. M. Derr (Stritch)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Gianconia (Kirtland)
7. Boston (Pickerington)
8. Bennett (Coventry)

Quinones is a strong, aggressive, pin-hungry wrestler who looks to be the class of this year's 98's. A state qualifier last year, he looked like the best choice opposite Allison, but was upset 7-6 in the quarter-finals. That possibility still lingers because his super aggressiveness will still place him, occasionally, in a position to become the victim of a 5 point move.

A major break for Quinones is that my top contender Bob Brinton (Kenston) moved to North Carolina after defeating State runner-up Adkins in the Kenston Holiday finals. He would have given Quinones all he could handle, I'm sure.

Right now, Jeff Early, 4th at this weight last year, and Jerry Emerick look like the top threats to Quinones. It's hard to see either, though, beating the dynamo from Genoa. Scott Keil disappointed me with his Seasonal performance last year, but his success at 105# early in the year convinces me that he's ready for a big 1979. Derr, brother of state champion Jimmy, has had mixed success this year, but he has the style to do well in "AA".

Gianconia, Boston, and Bennett are much longer shots to win. Gianconia, a refugee from Class "A", has good skills, but may be over-powered by the top echelon boys. Bennett is a tough boy to wrestle for the first time because of his tricky rolls and spins, but experience with him seems to negate that strength. Other possible Northeast District qualifiers are Burton (Highland), Brustowski (Woodridge), and Howard (Oberlin).

PROJECTED CHAMP: Doug Blay (Oak Harbor)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Jaksetic (Stritch)
3. Sampson (Swanton)
4. Urse (Watterson)
5. Renton (Brooklyn)
6. Depas (Highland)
7. Mulligan (Col. DeSales)

8. Ditcher (Claymont)
9. Ruiz (Springfiled)
10. Hughes (Coventry)
11. Chang (Wyoming)
12. Hoppel (Beaver Local)
13. Bartz (Kenston)



This is a very well-balanced weight class with no one wrestler standing out. I do think that the Toledo District of Blay, Jaksetic, Sampson, and Ruiz really stricks out as outstanding. Only three will qualify so it will be a real "shoot-out" there. Blay, 3rd at 98# last year, is my favorite, but Jaksetic and Sampson also qualified last year and are excellent. Sampson with the Watterson, and Jaksetic was 2nd, at 112#, in the U. of C. Tourney. An idea of Ruiz's quality is that he may beat one of those three off the Columbus trip.

The Northeast District is also well-balanced. Besides Renton, Depas, Hughes, and Bartz challenges will come from state qualifier Hoppel, Lucas, and frosh star Gary Dieckman. Hoppel in particular is a strong dark horse to bounce<sup>over</sup> of my four from the qualifying stand. However, I don't think he's improved as much as the others. If Sternberg (Beachwood) makes the weight he could be a factor, too.

Chang leads a weak Southwest contingent with few chances of even a place. Ditcher, 5th last year, suffers from weak competition but he and state qualifier Hunt (Maysville) will be tough first round obstacles for the better boys.

Urse stands out in the Columbus along with the tenacious Mulligan. Urse is aggressive and his "junk" moves are tough for all but the best wrestlers to combat. Mulligan like many of the DeSales kids is good at hanging on with his legs -- but he's not the first DeSales kid to go a long way with that style. He'll get tough at tourney time. Filby (Olentangy) is another competitor with good credentials in that district.

112#

PROJECTED CHAMP: RANDY JENKINS (Aurora)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Weirich (Oak Harbor)
3. Weiss (Beachwood)
4. White (DeSales)
5. Bradley (Twinsburg)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. McGough (Hoban)
7. May (Highland)
8. Cole (Lake)
9. Axe (St. Mary's)

Let's be honest, there isn't anyone here who can beat "AAA" champion Randy Jenkins. Transferring to Aurora so his brother can also wrestle at 112#, this is really a man wrestling boys. I think the only 112# in the state who might beat Randy is Jim Mason and he's still "AAA".

In a way this disparity is a shame, because the competition is deep and fierce after Jenkins. I particularly like the fiery junior Weirich, 4th last year (at 105#), a boy who has just got to eventually win a state title. Weiss, also a junior and also 4th last year (at 112#), is another excellent wrestler, but another boy who stands no chance against Jenkins.

I believe that Kraig White is the only "AA" 112# from the Columbus area with a chance of placing at St. John's. White's strategy is to hang on for dear life with leg rides and then escape for a 1-0 win. It may sound

gruesome (and it is to watch), but he has been very successful the last two years with it -- finishing 5th in 1978. If he gets behind early, though, he is doomed.

State runner-up May is going to wish he were a 105# this year because he will really have to scrap just to get to Columbus. Of course, last year he was 4th in his sectional, and 2nd in the state. Still Weiss, Bradley, and McGough (if he's healthy) all rate ahead of May, and state qualifier Cole, Lucas (ASV), Lint (Columbia), and Kenyon (Chardon) are all close behind.

119#

PROJECTED CHAMP: MARK ZIMMER (DeSales)

TOP CONTENDERS

Absolutely no one.

This will be Mark's fourth state title -- never done before in the over 40 years of Ohio high school wrestling. It will come on superior decisions and pins and an ease and grace in winning not matched in any other weight class. Zimmer can beat any high school or college wrestler at his weight in the state, because he has shown substantial improvement over last year. His body is stronger -- particularly legs and hips -- and his set-ups are superior to last year. This boy is good!

Some of the good wrestlers in other areas are:

Toledo -- Helminiak (Springfield)  
Cincy/Dayton -- Rose (Bethel-Tate), Gallimore (Eaton)  
Southeast -- Adams (Belpre)  
Northeast -- K. Harpster (Coventry), Smylie (Beachwood), McConkey (Orrville),  
Evangelista (Harvey), Basar (Chanel).

126#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: MATT MISSEY (Norwalk)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Hoppel (Beaver Local)
3. Huffman (Springfield)
4. Johnson (Olmsted Falls)
5. Donaldson (Kenston)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Ledet (Watterson)
7. Taggart (Bethel-Tate)
8. Colatruglio (Huron)

I kind of expected to see defending state champ Jim Derr (Cardinal Stritch) at this weight. That was before a terrible motorcycle accident put, for a time, his life in jeopardy. Passing that hurdle successfully, Derr still faces a long recovery, and his determination and skills will be missed this year in Columbus.

The last two weights were two of the easiest in history to forecast, but 126# this year plunges us into a maelstrom of confusion and mediocrity. My choice is a real long-shot -- rated only third in his own area -- and a boy with no previous state place finishes. Yes, Matt Missey doesn't have much of a past record -- at the state level -- but I think he'll rise to the top this year at Columbus.

Hoppel, 5th last year, Huffman, Johnson, and state qualifier Donaldson will be his biggest obstacles. I particularly like Huffman and feel that his long apprenticeship in the tough Toledo District is going to pay off in a high place this year. He'll be knocking heads there with Missey, Zeiler (Stritch), Colatruglio, and Storrer (Archbollo).

There are some solid long shots in Cleveland at this weight -- Garafolo (Harvey), Lann (Hoban), and Richards (Tuslaw). From around the state previous qualifiers like Roush (Belpre) can also provide an upset or two.

Ledet is the best in the Columbus area has to offer right now and he can pull the big upset -- like beating a Dan Foldesy. Whether he can maintain that kind of intensity over four matches is still in doubt. Spring (Olentangy) could be the other qualifier at this weight.

Two intriguing commodities are Ron Reeb (DeSales) and Mark Harpster (Coventry). Reeb, my choice last year at 119# until he shattered his arm, has made a slow recovery. Rumor has it that he may not even finish the season so as to undergo further corrective surgery. If healthy, he would have been a favorite to capture the title. Harpster wrestled his first varsity matches at the strong North Canton Tourney. He swept to the title winning the final by 10-2. I can't believe he's that good, but keep your eye on him anyway.

132#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: KEVIN DIECKMAN (Olmsted Falls)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Coatter (Hoban)
3. Henderson (Watterson)
4. Heinrich (Columbia Sta.)
5. Glover (Coventry)
6. Galvan (Archbold)
7. Zippert (Latin)
8. Bernhard (DeSales)
9. Marlow (Twinsburg)
10. Simpson (Kenston)
11. Zike (Loveland)
12. Haver (Claymont)
13. Remaklus (Eaton)

Another very undistinguished weight class headed by another long shot. Dieckman, you see, lost in the first round of Districts last year at 138# after a fine sophomore season. This year his only loss is to former state "AAA" champ Russ Wilhelm. Somehow, I think Kevin will do better this year and win a lot of close matches at Columbus. Besides I'm partial to twins and Kevin's twin brother goes at 138#.

An almost equal first choice is Joe Coatter. This boy has some sensational moves and is a cinch to battle anyone for six of the toughest minutes you've seen. I've almost talked myself into picking him first.

Of those others listed I particularly like Glover and Heinrich and the Northeast District will be well balanced if nothing else. That's because Zippert, Marlow, and Sumpson also exit from that selfsame area. State qualifiers Henderson, Galvan, Zike, and Haver all could be factors, but it's hard to see them winning it -- with the exception of Henderson. He has that little extra that could propel him to the winners stand.

Looking more closely at the Northeast District we see an interesting pattern. Both Dieckman and Marlow were 138's last year with Marlow going to Columbus after a mediocre season and Dieckman being upset after a great season. This year again Dieckman has been outstanding -- Marlow only mediocre. Zippert, Simpson, and Coatter all campaigned at 126# last year and all lost in the quarter finals. This year Coatter won the Revere and Hudson Tourneys while Simpson snapped up the Kenston crown. Zippert wrestles a weird schedule so it's difficult to decide how much he has improved. From what I've seen Coatter is the best of this trio. Heinrich was at 132# last year and was a Sectional champ -- his only defeat has been to Dieckman this year. Glover qualified for the state as a sophomore but could not make the great Coventry team last year. This year he was bombed by "AAA" champ Grasinger and pinned in a tight match by Coatter. A long-shot at this weight is Timmons (Highland) who wrestled at 138#, then was beaten out by Miller, and finally just made 132#. He lost at Revere to state champ Kallai 1-0 so he is certainly capable of an upset in this field.

138#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: GUS KALLAI (Coventry)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Reindel (Stritch)
3. Thames (Swanton)
4. Wolbers (Loveland Hurst)
5. Reighley (Elyria Catholic)
6. Munafo (Huron)
7. DiFeo (ASV)
8. Brockman (Chagrin)
9. Miller (Highland)

This is a good, solid, tough weight. State champion Gus Kallai would probably have less trouble defending in AAA at this weight than in AA. He has already defeated my AAA pick Ricky Horton, 9-7, but has no guarantees of victory over the tough Toledo duo of Thames and Reindel. In addition, Wolbers, with his great moves (most right to a fall) cannot be discounted either. Reighley is a dark horse contender while Munafo may well be at 145# where he qualified for state action last year.

The interesting point at this weight is the style difference. Kallai -- conservative, solid, and mistake free; Thames -- overpoweringly strong and quick; Reindel -- a punishing rider and opportunistic; and Wolbers -- a master of rolls and spins. The one thing I wonder about Kallai is if he can come back from a deficit. If Wolbers or Thames dumps him for a big move early, it may be difficult to generate the scoring punch needed to retrieve the match. But if Kallai gets the early lead, no one at this weight will be able to catch up.

This weight may be important in team scoring, too. Coventry, Stritch, and Highland all have a competitor here and if it gets close this could be a vital weight.

145#

PROJECTED CHAMP: MARK VETTER (Chardon)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. C. Kallai (Coventry)
3. Biggert (Oak Harbor)
4. Hansen (Loveland Hurst)
5. Clark (Sand Perkins)

OTHER CONTENDERS

6. Gangle (Highland)
7. Huntsberger (Orrville)
8. Hord (DeSales)
9. DiCarlo (Grandview)
10. Kasten (Swanton)

Defending champ Vetter again faces a strong field on his attempt to nail down a second state title. I think Vetter's only problem is the large amount of weight he is cutting. He might be vulnerable the first day of tourney because he can't eat much. After that his balance and strength are overpowering. Besides, he's an enormously big 145# and the way 3-time NCAA Lee Kemp (also a Chardon graduate) keeps whispering in his ear, I bet he'll go to Wisconsin.

Kallai, Biggert, and Hansen are all super kids from various areas across the state. Kallai should be opposite Vetter in the draw and this may well help his chances. Coincidentally, speaking about Lee Kemp, it was Biggert's brother Chuck, who gave Lee his toughest competition when he was going for his second state title. It could happen again.

Hansen, probably comes closest to matching Vetter in strength, but not in moves. He is the third of three boys who I think could catch Vetter "flat" and beat him.

Gangle could be an important factor in the team race and getting to Columbus will be important for him. He can score at the state level. DiCarlo is a wild man, but if it doesn't happen sooner my "big four" at this weight will tame him. Hord looked good at 155# and terrible at 145# -- it'll be interesting to see if he can "settle into the weight" and wrestle effectively. Kasten will want to squeak into that third qualifying spot behind Biggert and Clark. If he can he could pose problems for my second echelon picks in Columbus.

155#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: ROGER RICHARDS (DeSales)

(Continued on next page)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Meissner (West Branch)
3. Maggersupp (Chagrin Falls)
4. Kovacs (Stritch)
5. Nichols (Kenston)
6. Schaeffer (ASU)
7. Chenetski (Pickerington)
8. Flory (Springfield)
9. Rininger (Highland)
10. Fess (Hoban)
11. Burrer (Oberlin)

Listen, I'm not that thrilled picking Richards either, but I can't think of anybody better. It's one of those times when every name you come up with immediately brings forth the reaction "no way that guy can win it". Actually I was going to pick on name alone El Toro Colbert (Centennial) -- honest -- but I don't think he can beat Richards or Chenetski for a qualifying spot.

The two Northeast District leaders -- Magersupp and Meissner -- met last year with Magersupp winning, but with mild perversity I think that Meissner has the better shot now. With Nichols and Rininger they form the top four in the Northeast District now.

I don't remember that much of Kovacs -- and maybe if I did I'd pick him higher (or lower) -- except that he is crushingly strong. A couple of long shots in addition to those listed #5 through #11 are Nocifora (Chardon), Teece (Streetsboro), and Morocco (Brookside). I particularly like Teece and he could well place even at the state level this year.

167#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: JOHN KENNING (Huron)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Birkheimer (West Branch)
3. P. Richards (DeSales)
4. Hutnick (Coventry)
5. Linton (Circleville)
6. Moffitt (Olentangy)
7. Drain (Elida)
8. Vonier (Wauseon)
9. Prentner (Chagrin Falls)
10. Swonger (St. Paris Graham)

Boy, is this an awful weight. I've picked a lad who hasn't wrestled all year because of an football injury, because everyone I've seen I immediately knew couldn't win it. At least I couldn't say that about Kenning. John was 5th last year in what was then a tough weight class -- so he does have some solid credentials.

Of the 39 weight classes I forecast this is the one completed last because I had no feeling for who was good. I still don't. Birkheimer was a district quarter-finalist last year and was a strong 3rd at the Brunswick Tourney. Paul Richards has been at 175# most of the year, but I think he will certify at 167#. If so, he could place.

Hutnick won the North Canton Tourney while Linton and Moffitt have been decent in the Columbus area. The Elida boy, Selwyn Drain, has got to be tough with a name like that and he, Kenning, and Vonier should emerge from the Northwest District.

In the Northeast District Birkheimer and Hutnick look like good contenders, but after that it is wide open. Watch for Prentner, Burrer (Oberlin, and Srock (Doylestown) as possible contenders. Maybe Hill (Kirtland) has a chance to sneak in, too.

175#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: MIKE POTTS (Coventry)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Ciammaichella (Highland)
3. Sagan (Watterson)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Lane (Wauseon)
5. Ridder (Eaton)
6. Clawson (Chagrin Falls)
7. R. Walker (Oberlin)

I really hated to make this selection, picking against one of my favorite wrestlers -- State champion Mike Ciammaichella. Last year he was the longest of long shots and came through beautifully to make me look good, and now I reciprocate by choosing his long-time rival Mike Potts. Look, Ciammaichella is a state champion kid no matter what happens, but I think he has one other advantage going for him -- he will wrestle Potts three or four times before Columbus. This will give him time to select the best strategy for their only meeting that really counts -- the one for the state title. I hope he picks the right one.

I selected Potts -- not so much that he pinned Ciammaichella at Revere -- he was losing 2-0 at the time -- but because he pins so many opponents. It takes the element of uncertainty out of a match when you deck a guy early and Potts can do that consistently. On the other hand, Ciammaichella wrestles too many one point matches and has a far greater chance of getting bumped before the finals. If he does get to that state title bout all those close matches may hold him in good stead when he goes head-to-head with Potts. I guarantee you that while I may be televising the exciting AAA Final, I'll be keeping a close watch on a Potts-Ciammaichella final if it should develop.

Greg Sagan is the only other 175 that could beat both Mike's for the title, though some of my other contenders might upset one of the other. Lane, only a sophomore, and a state qualifier last year could make his move this year, but I expect next year will be when he really hits his stride. Russ Walker is a complete unknown who has an unblemished record -- he could be a surprise.

185#

PROJECTED CHAMPION: MIKE SCOTT (Coventry)

(Continued on next page)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Gray (Columbia Sta.)
3. Hanudel (Stritch)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Gaut (Fairless)
5. Chapman (Fostoria)
6. Fordenwalt (Orrville)
7. Mick (Thornville Sheridan)
8. Sutter (ASV)

SPECIAL NOTE: Jerry Burgy (Woodridge)

It looks pretty definite that 2-time state champ Jerry Burgy has been thrown off his team and will be unable to compete for his 3rd state title. If for some reason he were to wrestle he would no doubt win even though he's been out six weeks already. The kid is a super athelete and last year won despite missing the last six weeks of the season with a dislocated shoulder.

Another question mark is state runner-up Jay Shoemaker (DeSales) who is, as far as I know, competing at heavyweight. If at this weight he would certainly rank in the Top Three.

Back with those actually competing my choice is Mike Scott, 4th last year, and a two-time state qualifier. Certainly not flashy he is calm, unhurried, and good. I think he can grind out a state title.

Gray is just the opposite. An expert with pinning combinations he was destroying Shoemaker last year when he was reversed and pinned. Episodes like that make him a less than reliable choice to win it all, but he could beat anyone. He was 5th last year.

Hanudel is my last selection with a chance for the title. He missed going to Columbus by one point last year, and that won't happen again. The Stritch boys have a knack of winning the close matches -- Derr and Talbott did it often last year -- and I think this boy can do it, too.

My other choices are not in the same class as the top three, but some will, by necessity, place. Gaut, almost completely unknown could be one of these.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMPION: MIKE HOLCOMB (Goshen)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Shoemaker (DeSales)
3. Riehm (Highland)
4. Koschalk (Stritch)
5. Dennis (Wyoming)
6. Crippen (New Concord John Glenn)
7. Pack (Hoban)
8. Kimball (Watterson)

This should be a most interesting competition. Holcomb is big and strong and can overpower anyone I've listed -- if given the chance. He was 3rd last year and the only man to beat him was the tall, thin, quick Rohrbacher from DeSales.



Well, both Shoemaker and Riehm fit that picture, too, and either one has the tools to upset Holcomb -- especially since Holcomb is not a brilliant strategist and you know that the DeSales and Highland boys are going to get great coaching.

I don't like the way Koschalk stands when he wrestles, but he is a winner. More in the Holcomb class size-wise, he will have a lot of trouble with Riehm and Shoemaker, too. Dennis is just a good athlete who wrestles for something to do. Even with that motivation he should place.

Crippen is a mystery, but he was 4th last year so he must do something right. However, I bet he doesn't finish as high as 4th this year. Pack and Kimball are outsiders hoping to garner a low place. One of them might even do it.

#### TEAMS

1. Coventry -- The defending champs lost a lot last year -- 3 two-time state champs plus two other state place winners, but there is still a lot left. The heart of the team is the two Kallais, Mike Potts, and Scott. They could all be finalists. At most other weights the Coventry kids are good, and some will get through the tough Northeast District and score at the state level. With particularly good chances are Hughes, Glover, and Hutnick, and maybe one of the Harpsters. A good team.
2. Columbus DeSales -- A perennial powerhouse they appear to be the only team that can really challenge Coventry. Zimmer, of course, is magnificent, and Mulligan White, the Richards, and Shoemaker could all place. The little extra they need could come from Hord or Bernhard. If Reeb is suddenly, miraculously fit, they move as equal to Coventry.
3. Highland -- You'd think that this team would be built around state champ Ciammaichella and state runner-up May, but that really isn't the case. Both these boys could lose early and this team would still be strong. That's because of their great depth as indicated by Riehm, Depas, Miller, Gangle, and Rininger. If they get further help from Burton, Winters, or Timmons the sky is the limit.
4. Stitch -- Always a well disciplined team they know how to win close matches and almost never "throw away" a won bout. Team leaders are Reindel, Hanudel, and Jaksetic, but look for Koschalk, Kovacs, Zeiler, and M. Derr to help. If Jimmy Derr were only competing they might be a good shot for second place.
5. Oak Harbor -- I really like Blay, Weirich, and Biggert and its a shame that the latter two are at such tough weights. What I do wonder about is who is going to give depth to this top trio -- Mincheff and Lattimore, maybe -- but look for a surprise or two from this squad.

6. Watterson -- They had such a lovely team last year and they finished 15th, and now the 1979 doesn't look nearly as solid or sure. Why sixth? Well, this is the year I think Urse, Ledet, Henderson, Sagan, and Kimball will also score a few points, and maybe a couple will get lucky and even place. Let's just say that this team still has good chances.
7. Kenston -- The loss of Brinton was a mortal blow to their Top Five chances and may even knock them out of the Top Ten. What they have left are some potential place winners like Bartz, Simpson, Nichols, and Hissam. Maybe Battaglia if he comes back can help.
8. Loveland Hurst -- This team has only three potential scorers -- Zike, Wolbers, and Hansen -- but they could all place. And certainly somebody else might pick up a point or two in the early rounds.
9. Holland Springfield -- Helminiak, Huffman, and Flory are the heart of this team. But they could get help from Lewis, Ruiz, Lucas, and Whitten. This team could move up 3 or 4 places with good wrestling.
10. Eaton -- A nicely balanced Dayton team that always puts 5 or 6 boys into the state tourney. This year should be no exception and Emrick, Ridder, and Gallimore should lead the way. Another team that could move up.

PROJECTED CHAMP: BILL ADKINS (Richmond Hts.)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Reiter (Cardinal)
3. Kasser (Licking Hts.)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Weaver (Liberty Ct.)
5. Whitby (Mogadore)
6. Boyer (West Jefferson)
7. Carpenter (Beallsville)

The trio of Adkins, Reiter, and Kasser should dominate this weight class. Adkins, 3rd last year, is my choice because of his continuing mastery of Reiter and his wider experience than Kasser. Reiter, 2nd last year, is a solid wrestler, but the high scoring Kasser may well supplant him in that position. What is unusual is that all these boys have returned this year at 98# -- and as such they will be difficult to dislodge.

Weaver appears to be the best in the Toledo area, but may be challenged by Grotton (FSJ) and Schell (Gibsonburg) out there. Whitby with experience at this weight in 1978 is excellent, but will not get to Columbus because Reiter and Adkins stand ahead of him. DiSalvo (Columbiana) faces much the same problem.

PROJECTED CHAMP: BILL PERKINS (New London)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Strohecker (Columbiana)
3. Minister (Academy)
4. R. Beverick (S.S.M.)
5. Hanson (Rich. Hts.)
6. Colvin (N.S.P.)

This is a fine weight class with seven very evenly matched qualifiers. My choice, Perkins, is a long-shot in this competition, but I've been impressed by his consistency and determination. He qualified for state competition at 98# last year. In terms of sheer ability though, Strohecker is the best kid, but he has a lot of weight problems and is inconsistent. He qualified at 112# last year, and might wind up at that class by tourney time.

Minister and Colvin are returning state qualifiers while Ron Beverick and Tim Hanson have solid credentials. If that last name sounds familiar, this is Jimmy's brother, and he has come a long way this year. He could place. Minister was 4th last year, but does not have the stamina to beat three top contestants in a row. He should place. Colvin can be exceptional but will be hard pressed to beat the real takedown artists. He, Beverick,

and Bock (Tinora) should come out of the Toledo District. Sean Tautigan (Ottawa Hills) could well challenge Bock for the 3rd spot.

112#

PROJECTED CHAMP: MIKE STALNAKER (Jon. Alder)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Sherrill (Rich. Hts.)
3. Ballinger (Hicksville)
4. Huff (Mapleton)
5. Young (N.S.P.)
6. Ferrebee (N.L.)
7. Gintz (TCC)
8. Ferguson (Caldwell)
9. Frank (Stryker)

OTHER CONTENDERS

SPECIAL NOTE: Vince DiSabato (Ready)

This was to be the year that Vince DiSabato captured his third state title -- one of the less than dozen competitors in Ohio history to accomplish that feat. Unfortunately, serious knee problems will probably sideline Vince. And even if he wrestles it's hard to see him hobbling to victory over a healthy former state champ, Mike Stalnakar, in their one-man district. It's a real shame because DiSabato is one of the finer all-around wrestlers in the state.

Stalnakar will have to be at his best to beat Al Sherrill. Sherrill, tough on his feet and the mat, could well be a beneficiary of Richmond Hts. momentum at Columbus and beat Stalnakar for the title.

After these two boys, the quality falls off sharply. Ballinger, Ferrebee, and Ferguson have previous state experience, but have neither the verve or spark to capture more than a low place at best. I would not be surprised to see at least one "unknown" capture a place at this weight, because of the general equal competition after Stalnakar and Sherrill.

119#

PROJECTED CHAMP: BOB WATTS (Ready)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Rubish (Columbiana)
3. T. Beverick (Sandusky St. Mary)
4. Blankenship (Black River)
5. Mascarella (Ledgemont)
6. Bray (Hawken)
7. Brack (Rich. Hts.)
8. Missler (N.S.P.)
9. Racheter (Carey)
10. Piccuto (F.S.J.)
11. Batemen (West Jefferson)
12. Risacher (M.S.P.)

As in "AAA" this is the strongest weight class in the entire tourney. For an "A" competition this weight has great depth and several solid college prospects.

I've chosen Watts, runner-up last year, to take top honors at this weight in 1979. I think he should have won last year, and will remedy that defect this year -- but it won't be easy. State champion (at 105#) Mark Rubish will provide stiff competition, but he is erratic and wrestles an occasional bad match -- and this field won't let him get away with it. Tim Beverick, who in 1978, has not been as sharp this year as anticipated, but if either he or Rubish have a "hot" weekend, Watts will have all he can handle.

But Columbus will only be the last stop in some tough competition. Besides Rubish the Cleveland District features state qualifier Mascorella, and top district contenders Brack, Blankenship, and Bray. Only two boys out of five of my Top Ten will qualify and even Rubish could lose out in this struggle. Prahst (Cuy. Hts.) could pull a surprise at this weight, too.

In Toledo, much the same situation will occur. Beverick will be with state qualifiers Missler and Racherter along with Kurz (N.L.) and Piccuto. With only 3 qualifiers none of the top boys will be safe.

Other parts of the state will be shabby in comparison with the contenders I've mentioned. They will simply fill out the bracket in Columbus.

126#

PROJECTED CHAMP: GEORGE TOMPKINS (Mogadore)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. L. DiSabato (Ready)
3. McPeek (Columbus)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Grys (W.R.)
5. Hill (Elmwood)
6. Marcum (Beallsville)
7. Cooper (Alder)
8. Meade (N.L.)
9. Smith (North Baltimore)
10. Schlater (Versailles)

Defending state champion George Tompkins should successfully defend this year. My only concern is the level of weight he has to cut. I'm surprised he did not stay at 132#.

Leo DiSabato will probably be his top contender, although state place-winner McPeek could nail down 2nd because he is assured of being in the opposite half of the draw from Tompkins. DiSabato has shown tremendous improvement and will win a title next year.

The other contenders are a mixed bag with Marcum and Schlater being former state qualifiers. If Jay Kmetz (M.S.P.) chooses to compete at this weight he could become an important factor and perhaps gain a place. Cooper is down from 132# and he could give DiSabato a problem with a super effort in that one-man district.

PROJECTED CHAMPION: BOB RICHARDS (Richmond Hts.)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Bowman (New Albany)
3. Milligan (Academy)
4. Poe (Hawken)

OTHER CONTENDERS

5. Shell (Gibsonburg)
6. Dodge (Lincolnview)
7. Caldwell (Ready)
8. Carpenter (Liberty Ct.)
9. Smith (Versailles)
10. Nuzum (Bluffton)

What a record of consistency Bob Richards has -- second in the state as a freshman, second as a sophomore, and third as a junior. Yet, he has never won the championship -- and frankly I keep picking him to win it all and he keeps coming up just short. This year I see two problems for Bob -- a severely injured shoulder that may keep him from competing or will hamper him, and his trait of "freezing up" in big matches. Nobody at this weight can "go takedowns" with Richards, but sometimes he just won't shoot.

Columbus has three excellent competitors at this weight -- #2 rated Bowman, #3 Milligan, and #7 Caldwell. Only one will make it to St. John's Arena, and I'm going with state qualifier (at 138#) Mark Bowman. He will beat Richards -- he's very physical -- if Bob still has problems with that shoulder. Poe has done a lot of wrestling at 138# and could be there for sectionals. He leads after Richards a group of weak 132's in the Cleveland area, though Montague (Independence) is a real solid dark horse. He can be outstanding on occasion.

The Toledo participants are mediocre at best and Shell, Dodge, and Carpenter could well be bumped by persons presently unknown to this author. Nuzum, a past state qualifier has had an off year, but knows how to win important matches -- he could make it.

All in all, this is not a real strong weight class and if Richards is hurt and Poe at 138# the three Columbus boys (though they will not get to prove it) could well be the three best in the state.

PROJECTED CHAMP: CHUCK REDMOND (New Albany)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Calderon (SSM)
3. D'Allesandro (Rich. Hts.)
4. Franz (Edgerton)
5. Carpenter (Liberty Ct.)
6. Daily (Columbiana)

OTHER CONTENDERS

7. Lombardi (Ready)
8. Nonnemaker (Elmwood)
9. Trimble (Mechanicsburg)
10. Fletcher (Grand Valley)
11. Dever (Mapleton)

The way I see it Redmond should win this title without an inordinate amount of trouble. Very strong, a good rider, and a wrestler who can score from the top position he was probably one of the top 132's in the state last year, but got trapped behind Happ in that ridiculous one-man district.

Calderon, D'Allesandro, Franz, and Carpenter should provide most of the competition. D'Allesandro, in particular, is just as physical as Redmond though not as good on his feet. Carpenter, Calderon, and Franz are all from the Toledo District and with Nonnemaker make up a potent force at this weight. A long-shot is Daily who took D'Allesandro into overtime last year and has good physical tools. Given the right draw he could make it to the finals.

Trimble, a former state qualifier, should lead the Southwest District while either Fletcher or Dever will try to dislodge D'Allesandro or Daily for a trip to Columbus. None of that trio should be scaring Redmond out of much sleep.

#### 145#

PROJECTED CHAMP: CHARLES HEMKER (Sand. St. Mary's)

#### TOP CONTENDERS

2. Myers (Elmwood)
3. Isakson (Rich. Hts.)
4. Paulas (Versailles)

This is a weak weight. I'm not impressed with anyone as a potential state champ. I believe that the Toledo area has the best chances for a title with Hemker, Myers, and possibly Falk (Blufton).

In Cleveland, Isakson has campaigned most of the year at 155# and was very successful there. He didn't even start at Richmond Hts. last year, but at this weak weight he should gain team points for Coach Mike Papouras and could contend for the title. Hoffman (Newbury) and Hoge (Hawken) are also possibilities in the Cleveland area. Two Akron boys also contending in the Cleveland District are sectional champ Spich (NW) and Hershey (Black River).

Dupler (Lick. Hts.) and Bowers (Alder) are probably the two best in Columbus, but they will have to really hustle even to place in Columbus. A long-shot is Broome (West Jefferson) the MVP at the Findlay "A" Classic this year.

#### 155#

PROJECTED CHAMP: REX HENDERSON (Licking Hts.)

(Continued on next page)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Dulka (Cardinal)
3. Thomas (Montpelier)

OTHER CONTENDERS

4. Alt (Blufton)
5. Ward (Carey)
6. Kardules (New Albany)
7. Bodenbender (Liberty Ct.)

Yes, I know. Dulka beat Henderson 6-3 last year to take home the state title at 145#. But this year it will be different for two reasons:  
1) Henderson had an exhausting semi-final beating defending champ Falk last year -- that shouldn't happen this year, and 2) Henderson has been waiting for 12 long months for another shot at Dulka and this time he'll be ready.

However, don't worry too much about Dulka. Nobody has touched him this year and his spider-like moves and great leverage make him tough to beat. I hope the pairings are such that he and Henderson meet in the finals.

Thomas, 3rd last year, is also good and should make it a 3-man competition, but it's hard to see him beating either of the top two boys. The rest of the competitors are just not ready for the likes of these and should be pleased that they made it to Columbus.

167#

PROJECTED CHAMP: ED POTOKAR (Rich. Hts.)

TOP CONTENDERS

None

There is nobody in "A" that can challenge Potokar -- in fact, no one here that can come within 10 points of him. It's quite likely that he is the best 167#er in the State (except for maybe a healthy East -- maybe). He is also a super college prospect with his great moves and balance, though maybe a little more strength is needed. This will be his 3rd state title -- along with a 3rd place as a soph.

In Cleveland, I think that Fleming (Clearview) should get the second qualifying spot though Porter (Cardinal) and White (New bury) might dispute that claim. For the one spot out of the Columbus area Yerke (Academy), Slavens (Wehrle) and Jansen (Ready) are the top picks and the winner there should get a place. State qualifier Landers (Caldwell) will probably represent the Southeast District and has placement possibilities.

I seem to be into groups of three and the Toledo area is no exception. There Aller (Blufton), McGrain (Elmwood), and Durnwald (FSJ) seem to dominate though I think Brincefield (Lincolnview) might surprise.

Don't look for any surprise at this weight -- the only way Potokar can lose is via injury or an illegal slam.



PROJECTED CHAMPION: RON SUSZEK (Richmond Hts.)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Messer (Plymouth)
3. Beddow (Alder)
4. Block (Academy)

OTHER CONTENDERS

5. Chambers (FSJ)
6. Hillard (Elmwood)
7. Wiles (North Central)

Even though Messer was runner-up last year at this weight he really won't challenge Suszek. In fact, like his team-mate Potokar, Ron should be wrestling with the real good boys in "AAA". He is just too strong and powerful for the rest of the field in this competition, and will bring home his second state title with a minimum of effort. The thing he will probably miss are his weekly battle with his old rival Pat Day -- now at Lakeland Community College.

Messer, in fact, will have trouble making the finals. Beddow was a state qualifier in "AA" last year, and lost one of the best matches in the tourney early on 8-8, 8-7ot. He will probably beat Messer if they meet -- but Suszek -- no way.

Block is an interesting case. Fourth last year at 155# he has wrestled at 175# all year. Rumor has it that he will go down to 155# for certification, but if so Henderson will beat him out of that one district place. If he drops to 167# he will knock his highly rated team-mate out of the competition plus Potokar will destroy him. At 175# he will challenge Beddow but I think lose. He is truly a competitor facing some tough choices.

The Toledo contingent is marginal, but one of their three qualifiers could get fourth.

PROJECTED CHAMP: GARY WEISENSTEIN (Licking Hts.)

TOP CONTENDERS

2. Naufel (Sand. St. Mary)
3. Loushin (Rich. Hts.)
4. Blair (Newbury)
5. Courtney (FSJ)
6. Trusso (Cuy. Hts.)
7. Slater (Independence)
8. Frame (N. Central)

I expect the huge and very physical Weisenstein to win the crown with ease. Upset in the first round last year he will find that all the tough boys from last year have graduated. Only his own carelessness could hold him back from the crown.

Naufel, a state qualifier in 1978, leads an enigmatic Toledo group which could do very well or again completely bomb out. He and Courtney seem to be their two best shots at a place.

The Cleveland area confuses me. Loushin looks like the best possibility,

but three other names should concern him. These are Blair, a state qualifier at this weight, and Slater an unknown quantity from newly turned "A" school, Independence. Lipstreu (Berkshire) and a healthy Lukas (Cardinal) could also be potent contenders. Lukas, in particular, has good ability, and, if he recovers from injuries, a contending force at this weight.

HVY.

PROJECTED CHAMP: JOHN SCIARAPPA (Sand. St. Mary)

TOP CONTENDERS

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Tomaino (Jackson-Milton) | 6. Rose (Lockland)      |
| 3. Vowell (Alder)           | 7. Stone (Mapleton)     |
| 4. Nolan (Newcomerstown)    | 8. Loveland (Ledgement) |
| 5. Alty (Mechanicsburg)     | 9. Horvath (Rich. Hts.) |
|                             | 10. Pitcher (Cardinal)  |

I'm not that thrilled with defending champion, Sciarappa. He's short (5'9") and not real quick, but he wins and wins -- and so, even though, I'm not that impressed I'm going to go with him in 1979. He should face little real competition until Columbus -- as his district is quite weak.

Let's face facts there really has never been a good "A" heavyweight and so determined kids like Sciarappa can still win it all.

The mountainous Tomaino is a tentative second choice -- since his skills are not commensurate with his size. He faces tough competition in the District. Stone, Loveland, Horvath, and Pitcher are all roughly equal. Horvath lost to Pitcher once this year, but the calibre of teams he wrestles has got to help him. Loveland is solid while Stone is large and slow. It will make for a good competition with the two winners both having a chance to place at State.

Vowell, rated #3, was a solid 185# last year and I see him out-quicking a lot of the bigger boys. He could do very well all the way through the competition.

Alty and Rose will contend for the one Southwest District berth and I'm going with Alty even though Rose has beaten him the last two districts in a row. I don't think state qualifier Rose is getting the practice or discipline he needs to win.

TEAMS

1. Richmond Hts. -- This is a sure thing. Unless Richmond Hts. is annexed by Pennsylvania they will take the title after three second place finishes. Adkins, Sherrill, Richards, Potokar, and Suszek are the heart of the team, but D'Allesandro, Isakson, and Loushin should also easily qualify for Columbus. In addition, Hanson, Brack, and Horvath also have a chance. This team is the best "A" team in history.

2. Sandusky St. Mary's -- This team has its usual full complement of fine wrestlers. With Asiarappa and Hemker picked to win, and the Bevericks, Calderon, and Naufel to score this team should capture a runner-up crown.
3. Licking Hts. -- Not nearly as strong in recent years they still have Henderson Weisenstein, and Kasser has a solid core. Their big problem is that the one man district will so fragment the top teams there that none really have a chance to win anymore. A big help for Licking Hts. would be one more wrestler in Columbus -- maybe Dupler or Kilcoyne could help there.
4. Columbiana -- This team is something else. With injuries and weight problems nobody every wrestles at the same weight two weeks in a row. But if they get everyone healthy, and at weight, and motivated -- no small task -- they can be rugged. State champ Rubish, place-winner McPeek, and qualifier Strohecker are good wrestlers and Daily could help. Than again maybe only a couple of them will show up in Cleveland for the sectionals.
5. Cardinal -- Last year they hit the tournament trail in full stride and just never quit moving. Their performance in Columbus was of classic proportions with six out of six making the finals, this year Dulka and Reiter are back to do it again, but they need healthy productive big men like Porter, Lukas, and Pitcher to help. If they don't come through this team could drop down three or four places.
6. Jonathan Alder -- Another Columbus team hurt by the one man District. Stalnaker, Beddow, and Vowell are their bulwarks and maybe Cooper and Bower can help. They won the Licking Hts. Invitational in January, but I do not believe they're good enough to beat Licking Hts. at St. Johns.
7. Ready -- If Vince DiSabato were happy and healthy this team would have a trio of potential state champs with Vince, Watts, and brother Leo. Even then they would still have to get help from Lombardi, Jansen, and the Happs to make the Top Five. This way with Vince out, they could fall out of the Top Ten.
8. Elmwood -- This team will surprise many people (hopefully not me for picking them this high). They'll need really good performances from Hill, Nonnemaker, Myers, McGrain, and Strickland. Teams like this with no real state wrestling tradition are shaky picks because they pick up negative momentum so rapidly.
9. New Albany -- The fourth Columbus District team in my Top Ten. Redmond and Bowman are their two best, but Burley, Kardules, and Taylor are decent. Unfortunately those three are right behind Licking Hts. super trio.
10. New London -- A team I also rated as tenth last year when they surprised and took a ninth. This year the same cast of characters leads the team -- Perkins, Ferrebee, Kurz, and Meade. With a little they could move up into the Top Seven.