

## 2015 Ranger Report

### Kentucky High School State Wrestling Championship Preview

As we all watch more and more snow fall and wonder how and when our season finale will take place, here is one more write-up for the 2014-15 season. This state tournament doesn't have the high end firepower of last year. We saw the following all-time greats graduate and move on to the next level: Brock Ervin (@ Illinois), Nathan Boston (@ Iowa State), Sean Fausz (@ North Carolina State), and Trae Blackwell (@ Oklahoma). But I have witnessed the growth and progression of our next line of hammers and given the hard work and effort these kids are putting in 12 months a year, I believe Kentucky wrestling is in good hands moving forward. It will be interesting to see how the delay of the event and difficult practice conditions affects the performance of certain individuals and/or teams. Coaches' ability to adjust their plan and get their kids to peak a couple weeks later than originally planned will be key to success in Lexington.

These are predicted finishes based on my final rankings. As usual, I'm sure I missed my fair share of results, so they are not perfect. They also do not reflect any scratches that have come in the last day or so (I haven't seen any posted by KHSAA). And even **IF** they were perfect rankings, upsets always happen on the big stage. Dutch has been a huge asset this season keeping up with all of the ups and downs of the season. He has also helped me get this report back to a higher quality product.

A couple interesting items we could see this weekend:

- 1) Does Saul continue the family tradition (an Ervin has won a state title since like 2006)?
- 2) Can anyone stop Sheffer from going 4-for-4 (and 8-for-8 overall)?
- 3) Who will win 138? The deepest weight class in the tournament should have the crowd's attention from the opening round.
- 4) Who will step up to win a wide open 170 weight class with the suspension of Dominic Lampe?
- 5) Austin Myers becoming a 4-time, undefeated (in season) state Champion.
- 6) Can Union County go back-to-back?
- 7) Where will the finals be wrestled? On one end of the arena? In the center? In the parking lot?

**Report Audit**

How the predicted individual champions fared?

	2007-2010		2011-2014		8 Year Average	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Won title	8.75	62.5%	9.25	66.1%	9.00	64.3%
Finished 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.50	10.7%	2.50	17.9%	2.00	14.3%
Finished 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.75	19.6%	1.25	8.9%	2.00	14.3%
Finished 4 <sup>th</sup>	0.25	1.8%	0.25	1.8%	0.25	1.8%
<u>*Lower than 4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>0.75</u>	<u>5.4%</u>	<u>0.75</u>	<u>5.4%</u>	<u>0.75</u>	<u>5.4%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	14	100%	14	100%

\*total of 6 predicted champs have finished outside the top 4 in the last 8 years (2007 – Korey Shotwell Campbell Co 130 DNP, 2010 - Jake Lee Campbell Co 160 7<sup>th</sup>, Tyler Crow Meade Co 215 DNP, 2012 – Trevor Ford Desales 285 DNP, 2013 – Cody Stephens McCreary Central 106 DNP, Sam Preston Johnson Central 195 6<sup>th</sup>)

Who won the individual state title?

	2007-2010		2011-2014		8 Year Average	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.75	62.5%	9.25	66.1%	9.00	64.3%
Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.25	16.1%	3.25	23.2%	2.75	19.6%
Ranked 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.50	3.6%	0.75	5.4%
Ranked 4 <sup>th</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.50	3.6%	0.75	5.4%
<u>*Lower than 4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>0.50</u>	<u>3.6%</u>	<u>0.75</u>	<u>5.4%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	14	100%	14	100%

\*total of 6 individuals won the state title who were predicted to finish outside the top 4 in the last 8 years (2007 - Darwin Perez Larue Co 130 6<sup>th</sup>, Derek Nickel Doss 215 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - Shane Parks Woodford Co 125 8<sup>th</sup>, Dakota Choate PRP 152 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Thomas Buckman Union Co 189 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Jorge Vega Fern Creek 5<sup>th</sup>)

Who placed?

	2007-2010		2011-2014		8 Year Average			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Predicted Top 8	83.0	74.1%	80.8	72.1%	81.9	73.1%		
Predicted 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	15.0	13.4%	15.5	13.8%	15.3	13.7%		
Predicted 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	7.5	6.7%	7.3	6.5%	7.4	6.6%		
Predicted below 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.5	5.8%	8.5	7.6%	7.5	6.7%		
TOTAL	112	100%	112	100%	112	100%	112	100%

How the predicted team champions fared and who placed high?

2007

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Woodford Co.	Union Co.	Larue Co.	Paul Dunbar*	Fern Creek
Actual	Union Co.	Woodford Co.	North Hardin	Fern Creek	Larue Co.

\*Paul Dunbar finished 8<sup>th</sup>

2008

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Union Co.	Campbell Co.*	Ryle	Trinity	Wayne Co.
Actual	Union Co.	Ryle	Woodford Co.	Trinity	Wayne Co.

\*Campbell Co. finished 6<sup>th</sup>

2009

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Trinity	Ryle	Campbell Co.	Union Co.	Larue Co.*
Actual	Trinity	Union Co.	Ryle	Campbell Co.	Johnson Central

\*Larue Co. finished 7<sup>th</sup>

2010

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Ryle	Trinity	Campbell Co*	Johnson Cen	Larue Co
Actual	Trinity	Ryle	Union Co	Johnson Cen	Larue Co

\*Campbell Co finished 6<sup>th</sup>

2011

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Trinity	Union Co	Ryle	Larue Co	Johnson Central*
Actual	Union Co	Trinity	Ryle	Larue Co	St. Xavier

\*Johnson Central finished 7<sup>th</sup>

2012

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Campbell Co	Larue Co	Union Co	Johnson Cen*	Trinity
Actual	Campbell Co	Union Co	Trinity	Larue Co	Simon Kenton

\*Johnson Central finished 6<sup>th</sup>

2013

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Campbell Co	Union Co	St. Xavier	Simon Kenton	Johnson Central*
Actual	St. Xavier	Campbell Co	Union Co	Woodford Co	Simon Kenton

\*Johnson Central finished 14<sup>th</sup>

2014

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Predicted	Union Co	Campbell Co	St. Xavier	Trinity	Woodford Co
Actual	Union Co	Campbell Co	Trinity	St. Xavier	Woodford Co

## 106 lbs.

### **Favorite: Saul Ervin (9, Union County)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Adam Bender (9, Lexington Catholic)   | 14. Nate Wheeler (8, South Oldham)       |
| 3. Tylan Tucker (9, Woodford County)     | 15. Kaleb Hammons (11, Caldwell County)  |
| 4. Mike Klein (11, Fern Creek)           | 16. Stiles Metcalf (10, Larue County)    |
| 5. Konner Kraeszig (9, St. Xavier)       | 17. Jake Insko (7, Apollo)               |
| 6. Tanner Yenter (10, Campbell County)   | 18. Zach Taylor (10, Trinity)            |
| 7. Brody Haverstick (10, John Hardin)    | 19. Zac Brooks (11, Oldham County)       |
| 8. Blake Roth (9, Walton-Verona)         | 20. Blake Evans (9, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 9. Kaleb Sapp (11, Ohio County)          | 21. Zach Holub (9, Cooper)               |
| 10. Cagen Wallace (9, Wayne County)      | 22. Daylon Stafford (8, Sheldon Clark)   |
| 11. Daniel Knight (10, Christian County) | 23. Allen Powers (8, Moore)              |
| 12. Drew Johnson (10, North Oldham)      | 24. Luke Polin (10, Desales)             |
| 13. Brandon Miller (9, Henry Clay)       |  |

Returning placers: Saul Ervin 4<sup>th</sup> @ 106

Early round matches to watch: Round 1 Miller #9 vs. Roth #11, Round 2 Klein #3 vs. Sapp #7, Quarters Tucker #2 vs. Kraeszig #6, Klein #3 vs. Yenter #4

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Daniel Knight (Christian County)

Team title race implications: How many bonus points will Ervin rack up? As the prohibitive favorite, Union will be looking for big points here. Klein vs. Yenter will be a key match as CC and FC battle it out on the leaderboard. Another big question, will Taylor be able to add “bonus” points to Trinity’s total?

106 Is full of young talent as usual. A number of middle school studs looking to transfer those results to the next level. Saul Ervin is a heavy favorite this year with wins over the top ranked kids at 113. Right behind is Tucker, Klein, Yenter, Bender, and Kraeszig. All of these guys have gone back and forth this year. Excluding Saul, any of these guys are capable of beating each other. With only one returning state placer, this bracket should be exciting from start to finish. There are 3 juniors (Klein, Sapp, and Hammons) looking to place for the first time. The semi’s with Ervin/Tucker and Klein/Bender will be exciting.

## 113 lbs.

### **Favorite: Jorge Vega (12, Fern Creek)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Tucker Hurst (11, Woodford County)   | 14. Micah Ervin (7, Union County)       |
| 3. Ryan Moore (9, Walton-Verona)        | 15. Jonathan Gadd (11, Madison Central) |
| 4. Brady Wells (10, Campbell County)    | 16. James Arbaca (12, Jeffersontown)    |
| 5. Austin Cook (10, St. Xavier)         | 17. Derek Ringlen (10, Doss)            |
| 6. Dallas Ochsenbein (11, North Oldham) | 18. Hussein Hussein (11, Valley)        |
| 7. Dante Castellano (10, Simon Kenton)  | 19. Kevin Richards (11, Henry Clay)     |
| 8. Michael Mattox (10, Harrison County) | 20. Chance Caldwell (10, Dupont Manual) |
| 9. Louie Regalado (10, Ft. Campbell)    | 21. Eddie Agulto (9, Christian County)  |
| 10. Tyler Ward (12, Apollo)             | 22. Jared Ray (10, Meade County)        |
| 11. Jacob Dodd (10, Wayne County)       | 23. Jordan Barber (11, Anderson County) |
| 12. Joe Slone (10, Johnson Central)     | 24. Chase Wallace (8, John Hardin)      |
| 13. Lonnie Usleaman (10, Newport)       |   |

Returning placers: Tucker Hurst State Champion @ 106, Brady Wells 4<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Austin Cook 5<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Michael Mattox 7<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Louie Regalado 8<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Jorge Vega 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 113 (state champ @ 106 in 2013)

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Cook #5 vs. Ochsenbein #7 , Regalado #6 vs. Wells #4, Hurst #3 vs. Castellano #8. Quarters Vega #1 vs. Cook #5. Semis Vega #1 vs. Moore #2

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jacob Dodd (Wayne County)

Team title race implications: Fern Creek will be looking for some bonus points from their only predicted state champion Vega. Campbell County is counting on Wells to be solid and in finishing high on the podium.

This bracket features two previous state champions in Vega and Hurst as well as 4 other previous state placers. Leading the way is Vega with a record of 45-1; his only loss to Saul Ervin. Moore and Hurst have split their head to heads. They both have a loss to Vega and wins over the rest of the top ranked guys. The seeding this year has the top 4 guys meeting in the semi's. This should be a must see round for this bracket. This could also be a bracket that is impacted by the delay and kids having to make weight for another couple weeks.

## 120 lbs.

### **Favorite: Bryce Sheffer (10, Union County)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Zane Brown (8, Male)                   | 14. Dakota Lillie (11, Campbell County)     |
| 3. Joey Roberts (10, Woodford County)     | 15. Derrick Soper (11, Bryan Station)       |
| 4. Cody Huston (10, Cooper)               | 16. Levi Goodin (10, Larue County)          |
| 5. Michael Beets (12, St. Xavier)         | 17. Chris Vaske (11, Boone County)          |
| 6. Alex Holt (11, Montgomery County)      | 18. Matt Mills (11, Sheldon Clark)          |
| 7. Zach Phillips (12, Danville)           | 19. Jacob Bellah (9, Calloway County)       |
| 8. Dwayne Johnson (10, Eastern)           | 20. Nathaniel Lawrence (7, Franklin County) |
| 9. Cedric Binford (12, Fern Creek)        | 21. Tyler Storck (9, Henry Clay)            |
| 10. Joey Scaggs (12, Dixie Heights)       | 22. Chase Highlander (11, Harrison County)  |
| 11. Skyler Martinson (11, Daviess County) | 23. Nicholas Curtis (10, Bullitt Central)   |
| 12. Frolian Agulto (11, Christian County) | 24. Cody Thomas (11, Central Hardin)        |
| 13. Ansar Kurbanov (11, Iroquois)         |   |

Returning placers: Bryce Sheffer state Champion @113, Joey Scaggs 6<sup>th</sup> @113, Joey Roberts 7<sup>th</sup> @113, Alex Holt 6<sup>th</sup> @120, Michael Beets 7<sup>th</sup> @120

Early round matches to watch: Round 1 Skaggs #8 vs. Johnson #10, Round 2 Sheffer #1 vs. Beets #4, Roberts #3 vs. Skaggs #8. Quarters Bindford #7 vs. Huston #5, Brown #2 vs. Phillips #6, Roberts #3 vs. Holt #9

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Dakota Lillie (Campbell County)

Team title race implications: Sheffer should rack up some bonus points to propel Union to the top of the pack. Campbell will be counting on Lillie to score team points and Fern Creek needs Binford to make the podium to stay in the hunt.

Sheffer, the overwhelming favorite in this weight class, is looking to add another state title to his resume which includes 4 MS titles and 1 HS title. Coming in ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> is a young gun in Zane Brown. Zane has some big wins this year over Roberts, Beets, Huston, and the majority of the top 10 guys. Huston and Brown will avoid the chaos of the bottom half of the bracket which has Sheffer, Roberts, Beets, Scaggs, and Holt all looking to advance.

## 126 lbs.

### **Favorite: Logan Erdman (11, Ryle)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Bobby Poynter (12, Moore)              | 14. Brett Salings (12, Dupont Manual)  |
| 3. Jeremiah Kline (11, Trigg County)      | 15. Braden Wyatt (10, Bourbon County)  |
| 4. Brad Krebs (11, Campbell County)       | 16. Wesley Whelan (10, Ashland Blazer) |
| 5. Jordan Monroe (11, Cooper)             | 17. Trevor Edmonson (12, Wayne County) |
| 6. Danten Rice (12, Trinity)              | 18. Dalton Bell (9, Larue County)      |
| 7. Connor Cambron (10, Fern Creek)        | 19. Rylan Ervin (10, Union County)     |
| 8. Jake Burroughs (12, North Hardin)      | 20. Josh Cagle (10, Henry Clay)        |
| 9. Jake Peace (11, Walton-Verona)         | 21. Kaden Darbro (9, St. Xavier)       |
| 10. Daniel Dyess (12, University Heights) | 22. Jaython Elliott (11, Southern)     |
| 11. Jacob Henley (10, Oldham County)      | 23. Griffin Hall (8, Taylor County)    |
| 12. Scott Ruttman (11, Calloway County)   | 24. Dalton Lowe (10, Belfry)           |
| 13. Jack Fallon (12, Woodford County)     |  |

Returning placers: Logan Erdman runner-up @120, Bobby Poynter 3<sup>rd</sup> @120

Early round matches to watch: 2nd Round Krebs #4 vs. Cambron #6, Kline #3 vs. Monroe #5, Poynter #2 vs. Fallon #8. Quarters Poynter #2 vs. Kline #3, Krebs #4 vs. Burroughs #7

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jacob Henley (Oldham County)

Team title race implications: Krebs and Cambron placement will be key for the Campbell/Fern Creek team totals. How healthy Krebs is will be key in Campbell's chances. Rice (Trinity) will need to make the podium to help Trinity keep pace with Union.

This might be the year of the Birdman, I mean the Erdman. Finishing runner-up last year to the top ranked 120lber in the country Nathan Boston. Erdman should cruise to the finals. Waiting for him should be Poynter looking to avenge his loss to Erdman in OT in the semis last year. Region 6 is bringing a strong group to Lexington; all who could make the podium. Hope to see Jake Burroughs finally get his shot at a state championship. Medical issues have prevented him from competing every year, but I hear he is ready to go this time. Great kid, great family. Joe B is one of my favorite coaches on the planet. Pray for the best for Jake.

## 132 lbs.

### **Favorite: Keegan Duncan (11, Trinity)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. AJ Bindner (11, Fern Creek)             | 14. Brad Collwell (12, Perry County Central) |
| 3. Mason Smith (9, Walton-Verona)          | 15. Jack Lucas (8, Male)                     |
| 4. Chance Collins (11, University Heights) | 16. Garrett Haggerty (12, Taylor County)     |
| 5. Kyle Steiner (12, Cooper)               | 17. Clint Chaffee (10, Ryle)                 |
| 6. Dale Hensley (12, Scott)                | 18. Camerin Cole (11, Christian County)      |
| 7. Chance Oxford (10, Union County)        | 19. Jordan Kerr (11, Henry Clay)             |
| 8. Kevin Vasquez (9, Lafayette)            | 20. Max Powell (9, Doss)                     |
| 9. Nick Wise (11, Oldham County)           | 21. Ben Green (12, Dupont Manual)            |
| 10. Dax Hayes (11, Montgomery County)      | 22. Jack Haynes (10, Calloway County)        |
| 11. Joey Insko (12, Apollo)                | 23. Noah Davis (9, Larue County)             |
| 12. Nathan Lopez (11, Harrison County)     | 24. Matthew Fallon (11, Woodford County)     |
| 13. Cameron Nevels (11, Wayne County)      |  |

Returning placers: Mason Smith 4<sup>th</sup> @113, AJ Binder 8<sup>th</sup> @113, Keegan Duncan 3<sup>rd</sup> @126

Early round matches to watch: Round 1 Oxford #8 vs. Hensley #6, Round 2 Steiner #4 vs. Vasquez #9, Hensley #6 vs. Wise #7, Quarters Binder #2 vs. Hensley #6, Steiner #4 vs. Hays #10, Duncan #1 vs. Smith #3

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Cameron Nevels (Wayne County)

Team title race implications: Oxford with a tough draw will need to place to keep Union ahead of Trinity. If Fern Creek steps up, a Duncan-Bindner finals could be huge in the team race.

A multi-time placer, Duncan will be looking for his first state title. He is the first of the four top ranked Trinity wrestlers. I know a lot of people are expecting an exciting finals rematch between Duncan and Bindner (I believe they've had 3 tight battles this season). But, we have a few young guys (freshman Smith and Vasquez, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lucas) looking to fight for a spot on the podium next to the upper classmen. This is another weight class where Region 6 was tough as nails (won by Smith) as Campbell County lost a tough state placer and big point scorer in Holden.

## 138 lbs.

### **Favorite: Angel Vasquez (11, Lafayette)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Bryan Spahr (11, Campbell County)   | 14. Blake Gamble (9, Johnson Central)      |
| 3. BJ Miller (12, Ohio County)         | 15. Dalton Putty (12, University Heights)  |
| 4. Trent Johnson (9, John Hardin)      | 16. Lucas McCain (12, Boyle County)        |
| 5. Tristin Bird (12, Central Hardin)   | 17. Derek Wiley (11, Conner)               |
| 6. Brandon Leak (10, North Hardin)     | 18. Ethan Frank (12, Scott)                |
| 7. Derek Miller (11, Paducah Tilghman) | 19. Trey Woodley (12, Montgomery County)   |
| 8. Adam Rivera (12, Moore)             | 20. Davon Adams (12, Central)              |
| 9. Dallas Miles (10, St. Xavier)       | 21. Jordan Justice (12, Sheldon Clark)     |
| 10. Tristan Sanders (12, Fairdale)     | 22. Hunter Berry (10, Woodford County)     |
| 11. Brady Emerson (11, Oldham County)  | 23. Braden Mulcahy (8, Walton-Verona)      |
| 12. Nathan Thompson (12, Valley)       | 24. Anigius Mcintyre (12, Franklin County) |
| 13. Jeremy Henehan (11, Fern Creek)    |  |

Returning placers: Derek Miller 4<sup>th</sup> @120, Trent Johnson 6<sup>th</sup> @126, Dallas Miles 7<sup>th</sup> @126, Brady Emerson 8<sup>th</sup> @126, Jeremy Henehan 6<sup>th</sup> @132, Angel Vasquez 2<sup>nd</sup> @138, Nathan Thompson 8<sup>th</sup> @138

Early round matches to watch: Round 1 Leak #7 vs. D. Miller #4. Round 2 Johnson #5 vs. Rivera #9, Sparh #2 vs. D. Miller #4, Quarters Vasquez #1 vs. B. Miller #3, Semi's Vasquez #1 vs. Johnson #5, Sparh #2 vs. Bird #6.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: **The Field!!!!!!**

Team title race implications: With Union and Trinity not having a top guy at 138 this is an opportunity for Campbell, St. X, and Fern Creek to make up some badly needed points. All three teams have kids who could win it or not place in this tough, tough bracket.

This is the most competitive bracket from top to bottom. With 7 returning state placers this is the most difficult bracket to breakdown. Vasquez has a way of winning the big matches when it counts. Spahr has been wrestling great all year. Not sure if the lay-off was a good thing for him or not. B. Miller and Johnson will make very few mistakes and stay in solid position making it difficult for anyone to score. Miles and Leak are very dangerous. They both have that Mike Tyson "One punch knock-out power".

## 145 lbs.

### **Favorite: Hudson Heidorf (11, Trinity)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2. Anthony Ashford (12, Scott)           | 14. Justin Torgerson (10, Lafayette)      |
| 3. Max Andreoni (10, Woodford County)    | 15. Jared Branch (10, Fern Creek)         |
| 4. Leland Phelps (12, Male)              | 16. Austin Alemi (11, North Oldham)       |
| 5. Jack Dorne (12, Ryle)                 | 17. Tim Poynter (12, Moore)               |
| 6. Zach Richerson (12, Taylor County)    | 18. Dylan Gray (9, Caldwell County)       |
| 7. Andrew Bailey (11, Cooper)            | 19. Brennon Ball (12, Henry Clay)         |
| 8. Jerome Jones (11, Doss)               | 20. Elias Eqal (11, Tates Creek)          |
| 9. Geordan Blanton (10, Johnson Central) | 21. Noah Mitchell (12, Harrison County)   |
| 10. Chris Morrow (11, Madison Central)   | 22. Jermaine Barber (11, Scott County)    |
| 11. Larry Broaden (12, Valley)           | 23. Aaron Valentine (11, Franklin County) |
| 12. Derrick Smallwood (9, North Hardin)  | 24. Jaquez Avery (12, Union County)       |
| 13. Nicholas Walls (12, Calloway County) |   |

Returning placers: Hudson Heidorf 3<sup>rd</sup> @132, Jack Dorne 7<sup>th</sup> @145

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Dorne #4 vs. Heidorf #1, Andreoni #3 vs. Bailey #5. Quarters Blanton #6 vs. Ashford #2, Andreoni #3 vs. Morrow #9. Semi's Heidorf #1 vs. Andreoni #3

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jared Branch (Fern Creek). Branch, who has been battling injury all season, scoring big points is a must for Fern Creek to have a shot at a team title.

Team title race implications: Heidorf should put some points up for Trinity's title run, but he will face a tough draw that could limit his bonus point potential.

After running into Brock last year, this should be the time for Heidorf to shine. He will have to get past a tough Andreoni who could not compete last year due to the dreaded "Ring Worm". After a runner up finish at Virginia Beach Nationals this summer, Andreoni will be looking for a title. Great Semi match to watch. Most people are predicting a Heidorf/Ashford finals. Ashford walked thru regions and looks like he is peaking at the right time. Should be an exciting finals.

## 152 lbs.

### **Favorite: Ben Barton (11, Trinity)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Andrew Ackley (11, Nelson County)     | 14. Will Jennings (12, Oldham County)        |
| 3. Jackson Oxford (11, Union County)     | 15. Griffin Dulak (9, Larue County)          |
| 4. Tristin Badida (11, Conner)           | 16. Fernando Rebolledo (12, Franklin County) |
| 5. Jon Belk (12, Ryle)                   | 17. Aaron Chandler (11, Central Hardin)      |
| 6. Alex Wright (12, Bourbon County)      | 18. Austin Phillips (12, Anderson County)    |
| 7. Bryce Hoffman (12, Fern Creek)        | 19. Jordan Kidwell (11, Cooper)              |
| 8. Raymond Williams (10, North Hardin)   | 20. Odeh Eqal (10, Tates Creek)              |
| 9. John Reitnauer (11, North Oldham)     | 21. Samim Alokozai (12, Iroquois)            |
| 10. Edmond Collins (11, Johnson Central) | 22. Kobe Perry (11, Christian County)        |
| 11. Shawn Stacy (12, Sheldon Clark)      | 23. Jacob Dawson (11, Lafayette)             |
| 12. Caleb Ray (12, St. Xavier)           | 24. Braden Sperry (11, Caldwell County)      |
| 13. Riley Hawes (12, Eastern)            |  |

Returning placers: Ben Barton 3<sup>rd</sup> @138, Tristin Badida 8<sup>th</sup> @145, Andrew Ackley 3<sup>rd</sup> @152, Alex Wright 4<sup>th</sup> @152, Jon Belk 6<sup>th</sup> @152, John Reitnauer 8<sup>th</sup> @152.

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Oxford #3 vs. Badida #5, Hoffman #7 vs. Williams #9. Quarters Reitnauer #8 vs Ackley #2, Belk #4 vs. Collins #10, Oxford #3 vs Barton #1, Hoffman #7 vs. Wright #6. Semi's Ackley #2 vs. Belk #4, Barton #1 vs. Wright #6.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: winner of Hoffman-Williams in round 2; I think the winner pulls off an upset at some point.

Team title race implications: Oxford is a hammer, but has a tough road here. Barton is key and should be that "extra" champ that Trinity will need to pull out the title. Ray is just shy of scoring big placement points for St. Xavier.

Barton has been the guy to beat this year at 152. He has a motor that seems to outlast his opponents. He will be looking to put some bonus points up. He will have to get past a tough Oxford in the quarters to keep his title hopes alive. Oxford will be looking to bounce back from last year. The draw once again was not kind for him. Ackley is a force to be reckoned with and comes in undefeated and the highest returning placer. With 6 prior state placers, this entire bracket will not disappoint.

## 160 lbs.

### **Favorite: Johnny Meiman (11, Ryle)**

2. Nathan Haddad (12, St. Xavier)
3. Cole Overman (12, Central Hardin)
4. Max Emerson (11, Oldham County)
5. Jonathan Little (11, North Hardin)
6. Avery Buckman (10, Union County)
7. Nathan Williams (12, Hopkinsville)
8. Kenneth Sells (12, Christian County)
9. Cecil Nevels (12, Wayne County)
10. Lee Johnson (11, Central)
11. Jacob Bratcher (9, Dupont Manual)
12. Andrew Pritchett (11, Trinity)
13. Trey Norton (12, Fairdale)
14. Josh Garner (12, Desales)
15. Colton Miller (11, Montgomery County)
16. Warren Tucker (11, John Hardin)
17. Joe Jackson (8, Johnson Central)
18. David Lynam (12, Newport)
19. Austin Bowen (11, Sheldon Clark)
20. Johnny Lee (10, Meade County)
21. Mark Taylor (12, Harrison County)
22. Matthew Munoz (11, Dixie Heights)
23. William Crabtree (12, University Heights)
24. Joshua Morris (12, Western Hills)

Returning placers: Johnny Meiman State Champ @170, Cole Overman 4<sup>th</sup> @160

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Meiman #1 vs. Sells #9, Overman #2 vs. Nevels #7. Quarters Meiman #1 vs. Emerson #4, Overman #2 vs. Williams #8, Haddad #3 vs. Little #5. Semi's Meiman #1 vs. Overman #2, Haddad #3 vs. Buckman #6

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jacob "The Ax Murderer" Bratcher (Dupont Manual), he is a pinner and could surprise a few guys.

Team title race implications: Buckman has a chance to advance in the bracket and get into a huge showdown with Haddad in the semis. Big points toward the team race for the winner.

With only two returning state placers spots on the podium will be up for grabs. Meiman being the returning 170lb state champ is down a weight and looking to repeat. But he will have to run the gauntlet to do so, meeting Sells in round 2, Emerson in quarters (who beat him at state duals), then Overman. Overman has been on a roll this year, but after taking his only loss to Little at region he will look to bounce back with a solid state performance. The Meiman/Overman match should determine the state champ. However, with team momentum behind them, Haddad and Buckman might not be ready to concede the title just yet.

## 170 lbs.

**Favorite: Alex McIntosh (11, Oldham County)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2. Sam Griffith (11, Johnson Central)    | 14. Josh Walls (11, Bullitt Central)          |
| 3. Ryan Woolf (12, Ryle)                 | 15. Jordan Childers (11, Meade County)        |
| 4. Thomas Ray (12, Doss)                 | 16. Aaron Duncan (11, Central)                |
| 5. Eli Sowder (12, Scott)                | 17. Christian Bowling (11, Montgomery County) |
| 6. Brandon Devins (12, Boyle County)     | 18. Collin Waples (North Oldham)              |
| 7. Bryson Jones (12, Scott County)       | 19. Colin Coy (11, Harrison County)           |
| 8. Isaiah Lawson (11, Hopkinsville)      | 20. Keyven Sells (11, Christian County)       |
| 9. Gino Haywood (12, Ft. Campbell)       | 21. Cameron Blankenship (11, Male)            |
| 10. Dakota Jones (11, Central Hardin)    | 22. Lucas Soard (11, Henry Clay)              |
| 11. Yo Majesty Warfield (12, Fern Creek) | 23. Alex Hideg (12, McCracken County)         |
| 12. Nathan Prosser (9, McCreary Central) | 24. Gage Cumella (12, St. Xavier)             |
| 13. Matt Steven (10, Larue County)       |   |

Returning placers: None

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Ray #3 vs. Haywood #9. Quarters McIntosh #1 vs. Woolf #2, Jones #7 vs. Sowder #5, Devins #6 vs. Griffith #4. Semi's Ray #3 vs. McIntosh #1, Sowder #5 vs. Griffith #4.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Yo Majesty Warfield (Fern Creek), yes we just like saying his name.

Team title race implications: Not much here for the top teams. If Warfield can surprise a few people, he could put Fern Creek over the top.

This is the first bracket with no returning state placers. Partly due to the fact that Lampe was at 170 all year, there was some movement out of this weight. Next to Myers, Lampe was the odds on favorite to win a state title. Lampe's suspension came too late for the teams to adjust, so 170 becomes a toss-up. Alex McIntosh is heading into the state tournament as the favorite. He should have his hands full with Ray and Woolf being on his side of the bracket. Any of these guys are capable of beating each other. has found some Hopefully the delay of the state tournament doesn't become an issue. On the lower half of the bracket are Sowder and Griffith looking to make their first state placement.

## 182 lbs.

### **Favorite: Tyler Frankrone (11, Trinity)**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2. Mikey Smith (12, Moore)            | 14. Jay Layne (11, Ashland Blazer)         |
| 3. Eli Matthews (12, Campbell County) | 15. Adrian Shifflett (12, Bullitt Central) |
| 4. Casey Cornett (10, Simon Kenton)   | 16. Dalton Jett (10, Meade County)         |
| 5. Gage Jones (12, Newport)           | 17. Bilal Mamedov (11, Iroquois)           |
| 6. Xavier Pate (12, Christian County) | 18. Aric Hamblin (11, Central)             |
| 7. Aaron King (11, Johnson Central)   | 19. Cody Roundtree (9, Grant County)       |
| 8. Dameon Black (12, Lafayette)       | 20. Conner Keenan (12, Ft. Campbell)       |
| 9. Josh Robbins (11, Boyle County)    | 21. Alex Olvera-Vancini (11, Homes)        |
| 10. Talor Hines (12, Scott County)    | 22. Caleb Ayres (11, Oldham County)        |
| 11. Michael Calhoun (11, St. Xavier)  | 23. Randy Norris (11, Apollo)              |
| 12. Louis Hollings (12, John Hardin)  | 24. Dustin Dotson (12, Phelps)             |
| 13. Ray Karl Irving (9, Henry Clay)   |  |

Returning placers: Tyler Frankrone State Champ @182, Casey Cornett 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 160, Elisiah Matthews 2<sup>nd</sup> @182, Mikey Smith 5<sup>th</sup> @182, Aaron King 8<sup>th</sup> @182.

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Frankrone #1 vs. Cornett #4, Matthews #3 vs. Black #9, Smith #2 vs. Pate #7. Quarters Frankrone #1 vs. Hines #10, Robbins #8 vs. Jones #6, King #5 vs. Smith #2. Semi's Frankrone #1 vs. Jones #6, Matthews #3 vs. Smith #2.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Bilal Mamedov (Iroquois)

Team title race implications: Trinity will need some bonus points from their top ranked Frankrone. Calhoun could be a wild card here if he can wrestle back.

This bracket is full of heavy hitters. 3 of which placed last year @182. They should be very familiar with each other. Frankrone returning as the state champ is looking to repeat. Cornett took a tough loss to Matthews in the Regional Finals. That loss caused him to run into Frankrone 2<sup>nd</sup> round. On the other side Matthews and Smith will be a barn burner. This will be one of the best matches in this bracket.

## 195 lbs.

### **Favorite: Elijah Miller (12, Simon Kenton)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Kohl Dodd (12, Fern Creek)              | 14. Brett Graziani (11, Campbell County)     |
| 3. Lucas Miozza (12, Trinity)              | 15. Dylan Knowlton (12, Meade County)        |
| 4. Cole Sherman (11, Union County)         | 16. Ed Hernandez (11, Larue County)          |
| 5. Collin Portman (11, North Oldham)       | 17. Caleb Boyles (11, Anderson County)       |
| 6. Nathan King (11, Johnson Central)       | 18. Phillip Bradley (11, University Heights) |
| 7. William Bossert (12, Lafayette)         | 19. Eli Thacker (12, Bullitt Central)        |
| 8. Daylen Eichenberger (12, Dupont Manual) | 20. Chris Beets (11, St. Xavier)             |
| 9. Marco Ruiz (12, Moore)                  | 21. Eugene Butler (12, Hopkinsville)         |
| 10. Grant Krueger (11, Ashland Blazer)     | 22. Hamilton Young (11, Danville)            |
| 11. Lacorey Robinson (11, North Hardin)    | 23. Sean Mullikin (12, Harrison County)      |
| 12. Daniel Kimble (9, Oldham County)       | 24. Josh Efinger (10, Calloway County)       |
| 13. Ben Lippert (12, Ryle)                 |  |

Returning placers: Lucas Miozza 2<sup>nd</sup> @170, Elijah Miller 4<sup>th</sup> @195, Kohl Dodd 4<sup>th</sup> @182, Cole Sherman 8<sup>th</sup> @195

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Dodd #3 vs. Ruiz #9, Portman #5 vs. Krueger #10. Quarters Eichenberger #8 vs. King #7, Sherman #4 vs. Dodd #3, Miozza #2 vs. Miller #1, Portman #5 vs. Bossert #6. Semi's King #7 vs. Dodd #3, Miller #1 vs. Portman #6

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Brett Graziani (Campbell County), must get by Nathan King in round 2. He has the physical tools and practice partners, but can he put it on the mat.

Team title race implications: Right behind Miller you have kids jockeying for position on the podium. In a tight team race, their order of finish could be critical.

Elijah Miller has been a monster this year competing with the best at every event including SWOWCA and GMVWA. After finishing in the top 4 last year he will be looking to go all the way. He will be tested in the Quarters versus Miozza. They both only have 2 losses this year. This is an issue of "why don't they seed". The winner should make their way to the finals. On the other side Dodd looks like he has the draw to make it to the finals. Sherman will meet up with Dodd in the quarters. Same situation as Miozza/Miller. The winner should be on center stage looking for a title.

## 220 lbs.

### **Favorite: Austin Myers (12, Campbell County)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Zach Farris (12, Ohio County)            | 14. Denwan Hall (12, Franklin County)      |
| 3. Garrett Chandler (11, Male)              | 15. Justus Williams (11, Madison Southern) |
| 4. Connor Sherman (11, Union County)        | 16. Clayton Engle (11, Larue County)       |
| 5. Ahmad Hameidan (11, Boone County)        | 17. Ben Fooks (10, Bourbon County)         |
| 6. Joseph Green (12, St. Xavier)            | 18. Josh Mullins (12, Newport)             |
| 7. Kellon Williams (11, Harrison County)    | 19. Brentton Ervin (12, Trinity)           |
| 8. Brandon Reed (10, Iroquois)              | 20. Chance Orr (10, Paducah Tilghman)      |
| 9. Nathaniel Prosser (11, McCreary Central) | 21. Malik Williams (12, North Hardin)      |
| 10. Noah Ewing (12, Dupont Manual)          | 22. Josh Van Strien (11, Conner)           |
| 11. Trevin Montgomery (12, Meade County)    | 23. Tommer Nauert (12, Desales)            |
| 12. Ian Fullerton (11, Oldham County)       | 24. Logan Coleman (11, Pikeville)          |
| 13. Austin Weird (12, Fairdale)             |  |

Returning placers: Austin Myers State Champ @220, Zach Farris 3<sup>rd</sup> @220, Garrett Chandler 4<sup>th</sup> @220

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 Williams #6 vs. Weird #10, Sherman #4 vs. Prosser #8. Quarters Chandler #2 vs. Myers #1, Williams #6 vs. Sherman #4, Green #7 vs. Reed #9, Hameidan #5 vs. Farris #3

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Austin Weird (Fairdale)

Team title race implications: I don't expect this weight to create any waves in the team race unless Ervin (the one at Trinity) surprises us. Myers should nearly max out points and I don't see enough depth at this weight to affect the placement of Sherman or Green all that much.

This bracket has Austin Myers winning his 4<sup>th</sup> State Title. I believe we have heavy favorites, then we have Myers. Chandler will face Myers in the quarters. As well as Chandler has been wrestling I believe he will make it back to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. Hameidan, who dropped down from Heavyweight and wrestled very tough in the region 6 finals, should battle Farris for a chance to face Myers in the finals.

## 285 lbs.

### **Favorite: Brandon Johnson (12, Dixie Heights)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Luke Shaffer (12, Ohio County)       | 14. Nolan Bowman (12, Southern)        |
| 3. Raynel Brown (12, Union County)      | 15. Deric Applegate (12, Newport)      |
| 4. Landon Young (11, Lafayette)         | 16. Rodney Rednour (12, Wayne County)  |
| 5. Lamichael Johnson (12, North Hardin) | 17. Jorge Mendes (11, Bourbon County)  |
| 6. Daniel Sheridan (12, St. Xavier)     | 18. Jonah Welch (10, Danville)         |
| 7. Hayden Vinegar (11, Dupont Manual)   | 19. Spencer Warren (12, Bullitt East)  |
| 8. Landin Jones (10, North Oldham)      | 20. Josh Hayes (11, Nelson County)     |
| 9. Jeremy Fow (12, Male)                | 21. Andre Williams (12, Doss)          |
| 10. Sean Sanders (11, Bullitt Central)  | 22. David Nikolao (10, Ft. Campbell)   |
| 11. Isaac Mason (12, Anderson County)   | 23. Jordan Mason (12, Campbell County) |
| 12. Matt Davis (12, South Oldham)       | 24. Seth Watkins (11, Johnson Central) |
| 13. Ian Roberts (11, Trinity)           |  |

Returning placers: Branden Johnson State Champ @HWT, Landon Young 4<sup>th</sup> @HWT, Raynel Brown 8<sup>th</sup> @HWT

Early round matches to watch: Round 2 L. Johnson #6 vs. Fow #7, Brown #4 vs. Sanders #10. Quarters Shaffer #3 vs. Sheridan #8, L. Johnson #6 vs. Jones #9, Young #2 vs. Vinegar #5, B. Johnson #1 vs. Brown #4. Semi's Shaffer #3 vs. L. Johnson #6, Young #2 vs. B. Johnson #1.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: I have to go with my guy Jordan Mason (Campbell County). He is a small heavyweight, but has a ton of heart.

Team title race implications: Brown losing at region put him in a mess at state. Battling through that tough bracket is essential for Union's title hopes.

Finally up to the big boys. A lot of college football talent on display here. Branden Johnson took most of the year off after winning the title last year. Since his return he has not missed a beat, but he will definitely have to earn his second title if he can pull it out. The bracket is bottom heavy with B. Johnson, Young, Brown, and Vinegar (yes that is 4 of the top 5 kids in the state) on one side. I'm not usually a huge fan of heavyweight wrestling, but I am really hoping to see a Young-Brown rematch at some point. That was an awesome battle at the Raider Rumble.

## Team Champions

### **Favorite: Union County (2 finalists, 2 champs, 8 placers)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Trinity (4 finalists, 4 champs, 6 placers)         | 14. Moore (1 finalist, 2 placers)                 |
| 3. Fern Creek (3 finalists, 1 champ, 6 placers)       | 15. Cooper (4 placers)                            |
| 4. Campbell County (2 finalists, 1 champ, 6 placers)  | 16. North Oldham (3 placers)                      |
| 5. St. Xavier (1 finalists, 0 champs, 6 placers)      | 17. Simon Kenton (1 champ, 1 finalist, 3 placers) |
| 6. Ryle (2 finalists, 2 champs, 5 placers)            | 18. Walton Verona (3 placers)                     |
| 7. Woodford County (1 finalist, 0 champs, 4 placers)  | 19. Scott (1 finalist, 3 placers)                 |
| 8. Oldham County (1 finalist, 1 champ, 2 placers)     | 20. Central Hardin (2 placers)                    |
| 9. Lafayette (1 finalist, 1 champ, 5 placers)         | 21. Christian County (2 placers)                  |
| 10. Johnson Central (1 finalist, 0 champs, 3 placers) | 22. Dupont Manual (2 placers)                     |
| 11. North Hardin (5 placers)                          | 23. John Hardin (2 placers)                       |
| 12. Ohio County (2 finalists, 3 placers)              | 24. Dixie Heights (1 champ)                       |
| 13. Male (1 finalist, 3 placers)                      | 25. Harrison County (2 placers)                   |

I know it sounds like a broken record, Union County at the top. With the most predicted state medalists (8) and a couple state title favorites (Ervin and Sheffer), the Braves have a solid chance to finish the tournament on top. But in almost a dead heat, we have the return of Trinity as a title competitor. The Four Horsemen (Duncan, Heidorf, Barton, Frankrone) lead the way for the Shamrocks who will need a few other qualifiers to step up for them to steal the trophy away from Union. After a number of years out of the title spotlight, Coach Hitchings has Fern Creek in the running. While they don't have the top end firepower of Trinity, they have a strong, balanced lineup with a number of kids who could surprise us in Lexington and put them in the battle for the top spot. Campbell County and St. Xavier have been at head of the pack the last few years, but appear to be going into state a step behind the top teams. But with their experience and coaches who have won in all circumstances, both teams have a shot to take advantage of any opportunity that opens up for them. This was the year Ryle had circled when this group ran through middle school as 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders. They aren't bringing quite as much firepower to state as they did back then, but they do have a few guys that are title contenders with Erdman, Belk, Meiman, and Woolf so look out for them to hang out near the top of the leaderboard.