

## **2025 Ranger Report**

### **Kentucky High School State Wrestling Championship Preview**

As I realize my time coaching wrestling is quickly coming to an end, I am beginning to take note of the many things I will miss about being stuck in a hot and smelly gym for 10-12 hours every Saturday for 3 straight months. Near the top of that list is catching up with so many great people around wrestling. It was great to see one of those men receive a career's worth of recognition and accolades on Thursday. Coach William Green at Lafayette is a tremendous coach, mentor, and man (young man, did you know he is only 39 years old?). I still remember him sitting in the corner 30 years ago in the early 90s as I battled Jamal Shalash of Tates Creek; back when we hated every coach and wrestler that wasn't part of our team. And now Coach Green is building an amazing girls program at Lafayette after coaching a number of champions on the boys side. Such a humble guy, I'm sure it was overwhelming to get all of the recognition recently, but it is so well deserved and it gets me excited to see how quickly he has put together a state title winning team. So if you are one of the many coaches that I truly enjoy chatting with over these days in February each year, thank you. I'm generally a pretty quiet guy, but talking wrestling is something I do enjoy.



## 106 lbs.

**Favorite: Braxton Corbett (12, Union Co)**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2. Bryant Brinkman (9, Ryle)          | 9. Josh Waufle (8, Paducah Tilghman)   |
| 3. Talon Sanderlyn (10, Boyle Co)     | 10. Jeremy Mollett (9, Martin County)  |
| 4. Keaton Dicken (11, Conner)         | 11. Aidan Ruiz (12, Tates Creek)       |
| 5. Aydn Votaw (9, Nelson Co)          | 12. Landyn Smith (12, North Hardin)    |
| 6. Ryker Kramer (11, Fort Campbell)   | 13. Kevin Lopez (10, Apollo)           |
| 7. Lincoln Maynard (11, North Oldham) | 14. Logan Plummer (11, East Jessamine) |
| 8. Dillon Lewis (10, Fairdale)        | 15. Wyatt Smith (9, Wayne Co)          |

**Returning placers: Braxton Corbett 5th @ 106**

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #6 Votaw v. #7 Waufle. Quarters: #1 Corbett v. #4 Dicken

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Josh Waufle - the 8th grader didn't come into the rankings until the very end of the season as I didn't know he would be the starter for region. Without a ton varsity matches under his belt there is still some unknown, but he has already shown a few flashes that he can compete.

**Team title race implications:** Right out of the gate, Union has the opportunity to get a ton of points at the first weight. As the only returning placer and a senior with significant experience, Corbett is a clear favorite to bring home the title at 106. Brinkman has looked really tough for Ryle and has a favorable path to the semis. JC lost Matney late in the year; could have been significant points here. Waufle is a wild card here and could play a key role in PT's team hopes.

It's not that unusual to have limited returning placers at 106, but this seems to be a particularly unproven group. That seems to open up opportunities for young guys like Waufle (discussed above). A high placement by him could pave the way for PT to make a run at the runner-up finish. We did see some head-to-head match-ups during the season, so I won't say this is a total guess, but with so many young guys here there is often a lot of development and jumping levels late in the year. So don't be surprised to see someone, or a couple guys, upset the apple cart here. Also of note, our favorite is an experienced senior. There are a few more juniors and seniors in this bracket. That maturity and experience could play a role in some high intensity matchups late in the tournament. I have a Dicken-Waufle blood round match that could be very interesting. Note this bracket is bottom heavy with #1, #3, #4, and #5.

## 113 lbs.

**Favorite: Jackson Wells (10, Harrison Co)**

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2. Jaxson Mayberry (11, Union Co)     | 9. Blake Lemaster (8, Martin County)  |
| 3. Case Simmons (8, Paducah Tilghman) | 10. Nolan Favorite (9, Oldham Co)     |
| 4. Peyton Vowels (9, Meade Co)        | 11. Lane Griffin (8, North Bullitt)   |
| 5. Payton Elkins (12, North Hardin)   | 12. Jah Patterson (9, Daviess Co)     |
| 6. Mason Gipson (10, South Oldham)    | 13. Deacon Cano (10, Great Crossing)  |
| 7. Cameron Underwood (9, Somerset)    | 14. Evan Martin (10, Mason Co)        |
| 8. Aiden Brinkman (9, Ryle)           | 15. Anthony Velasco (9, Christian Co) |

**Returning placers:** Jackson Wells 1st @ 106

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #3 Mayberry v. #6 Gipson, #1 Wells v. #5 Elkins.

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Aiden Brinkman - with the layout of this bracket, I am confident one of the 13/14/15 will make the podium. I feel like the momentum of brother Bryant making a run to the finals will propel Aiden to go on a run of his own. Ryle could also have a lot of momentum as a team.

**Team title race implications:** While I have picked Mayberry to make it a second straight lightweight in the finals for Union, he will have to run a gauntlet to get there. His path could include #12, #6, #8, and #4. See above for info on Ryle possibly making up some ground at this weight. PT has a young guy here, but he has been very solid for them this season and should be set to score significant points.

Jackson Wells is well on his way to finishing off another undefeated season capped with a state title. He has seen most of the top competitors, but you still have to get it done in the horse park. Aside from Elkins (senior) and Mayberry (junior), this is a weight with almost exclusively young talent. I could see 120-132 being very deep in the next couple years. But for this year, will these young guys hold up to the pressure or will we see some letdowns? Because again, we only have 1 returning state placer who has been here and done it.

## 120 lbs.

**Favorite: Ethan Davis (12, Grant Co)**

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|---|--|
| 2. Mat Wasson (11, Harrison Co)             | 9. Cullen White (9, Boyle Co)          |
| 3. Roman Valera (12, Trinity (Louisville))  | 10. Wyatt Payne (12, Henderson Co)     |
| 4. Clayton Badida (11, Conner)              | 11. Hayden Drexler (11, Oldham Co)     |
| 5. Henry Koller (11, South Oldham)          | 12. John Cline (10, Martin County)     |
| 6. Jeremiah Pulliam (12, Paducah Tilghman)  | 13. Nathaniel Bueter (10, St. Xavier)  |
| 7. Jake Ramsey (11, Union Co)               | 14. Brayden Donato (11, Walton Verona) |
| 8. Christian Delos Santos (12, John Hardin) | 15. Mohamed Talasow (10, Fairdale)     |

**Returning placers:** Christian Delos Santos 1st @ 113, Ethan Davis 2nd @ 120, Henry Koller 2nd @ 106, Clayton Badida 4th @ 113, Roman Valera 4th @ 106, Wyatt Payne 8th @ 106

**Early round matches to watch:** Quarters: #2 Valera v. #3 Badida (this might be the match of day 1)

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Christian Delos Santos - taking the easy pick here. The returning state champ from 113, Christian had an up and down season wrestling up at 126 most of the year. He is ranked where he is ranked, but wouldn't be surprised to see him make a run and finish top 3.

**Team title race implications:** It doesn't appear that the major team players will score big points here, but Union and PT will likely get placer points. While that's not all that important for Union, a good placement by Pulliam is key for PT.

This is a bracket that screams "seed me!". The top 3 guys in the state are all on the bottom. Depending on the outcome of that potential quarter between Valera and Badida, we could see an All Star rematch between Davis and Valera in the semis. I have to say I would love to see a Davis-Wasson finals match. To see a kid I have coached for many years at the barn back in the finals and compete against my nephew. That would be awesome to see. Very interesting to see SO many juniors and seniors at 120, but it does partially explain how we get 6 returning placers in the bracket, including 3 prior finalists.

## 126 lbs.

**Favorite: Braydan Blevins (11, Simon Kenton)**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Luke Cornwell (10, Ryle)        | 9. Landon Packard (12, Larue Co)        |
| 3. Corban Nance (11, Anderson Co)  | 10. Aeson Springer (11, Oldham Co)      |
| 4. Michael Smith (12, Scott)       | 11. Blaine Kimery (11, South Oldham)    |
| 5. Brennen Clifford (10, Union Co) | 12. Sergio Gomez (11, Lafayette)        |
| 6. Kaiden Nottingham (11, Boyd Co) | 13. Zac Scott (9, Johnson Central)      |
| 7. Ethan Masters (11, Boyle Co)    | 14. Ethan Piasecki (10, Dixie Heights)  |
| 8. Caleb Rogers (12, Woodford Co)  | 15. Julian Stafford (12, Martin County) |

**Returning placers:** Zac Scott 2nd @ 113, Luke Cornwell 3rd @ 106, Blaine Kimery 5th @ 113, Michael Smith 7th @ 126, Corban Nance 7th @ 120

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #2 Cornwell v. #6 Masters. Quarters: #1 Blevins v. #3 Nance

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Zac Scott - another easy pick. Scott was a runner-up at 113 last season and has wrestled great this year going 38-3, but really hasn't hit enough of the top 15 guys at this weight to settle higher in the rankings. But he obviously has some talent and ability and could blow up the bracket. I also have to give my guy Carson Webster a shout here. With so much parody at this weight after the top tier, Carson can compete with all those guys so don't be surprised if he makes a big jump.

**Team title race implications:** Cornwell is set to put up big points for Ryle, but has a challenging road that may limit his bonus potential and could include Clifford from Union. As mentioned above, JC doesn't have the firepower in the lower half, so Scott could be a key in making up some ground and possibly separating from the pack behind Union.

The Blevins-Cornwell Region 5 finals was absolute fire. Cornwell jumped out to a big lead only to have Blevins make a huge comeback sending the match into OT and winning in tiebreakers 12-11. If that is a state final I hope we see just as much action. That quarter matchup with Nance could impact those plans though. This has been a very interesting weight most of the season and the guys ranked #6-#13 have beat up on each other a ton. So there is a lot of opportunity to see total toss-up matches throughout this bracket. This might be the craziest blood round in the entire tournament. Another name to keep an eye on is Mikey Smith. He pushed Blevins to the limit in the region semis, so don't be surprised to see him knock someone off at some point this weekend.

## 132 lbs.

**Favorite:** Jayden Raney (11, Union Co)

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2. Jonah McCloskey (12, Simon Kenton)     | 9. Ian Tucker (10, Wayne Co)          |
| 3. Travis Votel (12, Highlands)           | 10. Jagger Irvin (10, Ryle)           |
| 4. Nolan Link (11, Meade Co)              | 11. Jacob Brown (8, Lafayette)        |
| 5. Blake Luttrell (10, Fairdale)          | 12. Braden Woolridge (11, St. Xavier) |
| 6. Dakota Ferguson (12, Johnson Central)  | 13. Colton Motta (11, South Oldham)   |
| 7. Kalob Wise (10, Moore)                 | 14. Austin Brinegar (11, Harrison Co) |
| 8. Jayven Williams (11, Paducah Tilghman) | 15. Lucas Oliverio (11, DeSales)      |

**Returning placers:** Jayden Raney 1st @ 126, Jonah McCloskey 2nd @ 126, Jayven Williams 4th @ 126, Dakota Ferguson 4th @ 132, Jagger Irvin 6th @ 132, Blake Luttrell 8th @ 126

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #3 Votel v. #4 Link, #1 Raney v. #7 Motta, #6 Wise v. #8 Williams  
Quarters: #1 Raney v. #3 Votel

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Rickey Garcia - senior on his last run at the Horse Park. Rickey has been around a lot of good role models over the years at JH so he knows how to get it done.

**Team title race implications:** With a top 3 guy in the country at this weight, you know big points are in the bank, but JC/PT/Ryle all have similar level guys here who each could make the podium or could just miss. How that plays out could be huge for that trophy battle.

Once of the wildest draws. The top quarter has #1, #3, #4, and #7 while the second quarter has no top 8 wrestlers. Wow. Doesn't really matter much to a kid like Raney, in fact, he probably welcomes the challenge. But that could create some very good early consolation matches. It looks like we could get a rematch of the 2024 126 lb finals between Jayden and Jonah. I'll take it. Jonah is tough and will give Jayden as good a battle as anyone. Middle schooler Brown has been really tough for Lafayette and wouldn't surprise me if we see him in the top 6 at this weight.

## 138 lbs.

**Favorite: Jordyn Raney (11, Union Co)**

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|--|--|
| 2. Landon Evans (12, Ryle)               | 9. Ian Lawrence (12, Simon Kenton)       |
| 3. Anthony Condi (12, Frederick Douglas) | 10. Emory Dix (10, Madison Central)      |
| 4. Kayson White (9, Highlands)           | 11. Charles Smith (12, Central)          |
| 5. James Morris (11, Johnson Central)    | 12. Aiden Zuniga (8, Taylor Co)          |
| 6. Logan Brown (12, Caldwell Co)         | 13. Jaylin Bellamy (9, Paducah Tilghman) |
| 7. Parker Maynard (9, Martin County)     | 14. Bracken King (8, Harrison Co)        |
| 8. Andrew Pomeroy (11, Male)             | 15. Taner Woodman (10, Rowan County)     |

**Returning placers:** Jordyn Raney 1st @ 132, Landon Evans 3rd @ 120, Anthony Condi 3rd @ 126, James Morris 5th @ 138, Parker Maynard 6th @ 144, Andrew Pomeroy 8th @ 132

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 1: #4 White v. #6 Maynard. Quarters: #1 Raney v. #4 White

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Charles Smith - don't really have a strong feeling about anyone here, but I did see this kid working his tail off this summer and wouldn't mind seeing him earn some hardware for his efforts.

**Team title race implications:** Again a top 5 national guy is going to rack up max points, even coming off injury. PT seems to be the one team who might have some room to make up points here, especially with a head-to-head with JC in round 2.

With an illegal slam at the Region 5 tournament, Kayson White has created a couple things to watch this weekend. First, he has a wild round 1 top 10 matchup to start the day. Second, is Lawrence fully healthy and able to go or will we have some late bracket adjustments? Bracket changes drive me crazy, but it is what it is. Hopefully he is able to go as I believe he is a podium level guy. For the record, I thought the slam was the right call although I didn't have a perfect view standing behind the score table. But it obviously didn't do White any favors in the draw.

## 144 lbs.

**Favorite: George Dennis (11, Harrison Co)**

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|---|--|
| 2. Kaygen Roberts (10, Boyle Co)          | 9. Logan Cantrell (12, Madison Central)    |
| 3. TJ Meyer (12, Walton Verona)           | 10. Liam Gutierrez (12, Frederick Douglas) |
| 4. Dane Miller (11, Christian Co)         | 11. Miles Smith (11, East Jessamine)       |
| 5. Carson Nance (9, Anderson Co)          | 12. Brock Fernandez (10, St. Xavier)       |
| 6. Petey Graham (12, Ohio Co)             | 13. Stephen Jackson (11, Corbin)           |
| 7. Santiago Gonzalez (9, Moore)           | 14. Alex Whitt (12, Western Hills)         |
| 8. Christian Barnes (12, Johnson Central) | 15. Noah Weissbach (10, Montgomery Co)     |

**Returning placers:** George Dennis 1st @ 120, TJ Meyer 2nd @ 138, Kaygen Roberts 3rd @ 132, Deacon Heisler 5th @ 144, Logan Cantrell 6th @ 138

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #1 Dennis v. #5 Gonzalez. Quarters: #3 Roberts v. #4 Nance

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Deacon Heisler - Heisler is a returning placer at this weight, but hasn't put together a good string of wins this year as one might expect. Maybe he can get it done this weekend.

Dennis is a returning state champion and comes in as a strong favorite with wins over the top challengers. Two of those wins are tight battles against Meyer. But Meyer has this habit of wrestling under the lights on Saturday night (although it was Friday in 2024). And in order to continue that finals streak, it will take a win in the semis over Dennis. Roberts has been coming on and could provide a challenge in the final, but if Dennis gets by Meyer for a third time this season, I think he is set to repeat.

## 150 lbs.

**Favorite:** Isaac Johns (12, Woodford Co)

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Ren Birk (12, Great Crossing)    | 9. Chase Gillum (10, Boyd Co)               |
| 3. Hunter Jenkins (12, Union Co)    | 10. Judah Carey (11, Boyle Co)              |
| 4. Ryan Smith (11, Johnson Central) | 11. Xavier Gonzalez (12, Moore)             |
| 5. TJ Dixon (12, Fort Campbell)     | 12. Brandon Gist (12, Valley)               |
| 6. Parker Smith (11, Simon Kenton)  | 13. Triton Moncrief (12, Frederick Douglas) |
| 7. TJ Hicks (12, Highlands)         | 14. Chance Mills (10, Madison Central)      |
| 8. Luke Knight (12, Anderson Co)    | 15. Ethan Kessinger (12, Nelson Co)         |

**Returning placers:** Isaac Johns 1st @ 144, Hunter Jenkins 2nd @ 144, Xavier Gonzalez 8th @ 138, Ryan Smith 8th @ 120

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #4 Smith v. #7 Knight, #2 Jenkins v. #8 Gillum.  
Quarters: #3 Birk v. #4 Smith, #1 Johns v. #2 Jenkins

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Brandon Gist - Gist has been ranked very high most of the season but recently took a loss to Lampe (after multiple MFFL earlier in the year).

Johns is looking to repeat and could see a finals rematch in the quarters with Jenkins. The quarters could be really exciting on Friday. After that match, the bottom quarter doesn't have a highly ranked wrestler, so the semis should feel like a breeze. But it is state, so you can't overlook anyone. Birk jumped up to 150 late, late in the season. I feel like he will present an interesting matchup for the top guys at this weight and his side of the bracket is favorable not having the top 2 guys at the weight. I would love to see a round robin with those top 3. The blood round here looks really tough so some good guys will finish off the podium.

## 157 lbs.

**Favorite: Rider Trumble (12, Ryle)**

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|---|--|
| 2. Clayton Shaddix (12, Great Crossing) | 9. Clayton Bradley (12, Montgomery Co)   |
| 3. Micah Thompson (11, Boyle Co)        | 10. Jacob Armstead (11, Oldham Co)       |
| 4. Tony Leader (11, Boyd Co)            | 11. Aidan Maher (10, Covington Catholic) |
| 5. Jake Dowdy (12, Union Co)            | 12. Nathan Seth (11, Conner)             |
| 6. Brody McKune (12, Moore)             | 13. Corey Freihofer (10, Cooper)         |
| 7. Jayden Morris (12, Paducah Tilghman) | 14. Max Baxter (8, Bullitt East)         |
| 8. Caleb Barnes (12, Johnson Central)   | 15. Max Brewer (12, Bethlehem)           |

**Returning placers:** Rider Trumble 3rd @ 150, Micah Thompson 3rd @ 144

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #1 Trumble v. #5 Morris. Quarters: #3 Shaddix v. #4 Dowdy

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Max Baxter - total left field guess here. 8th grader at a middle weight can be tough, but for some reason I wouldn't be all that surprised if he goes on a run.

Trumble has put in a lot of work the last few years without equal returns on the state podium. But it looks like Rider has put it all together this season. After Trumble and Thompson, there are no returning placers, so I don't have a ton of confidence in the podium predictions. Shaddix, Dowdy, Morris, and Barnes are all part of some of the best, most consistent programs in the state so I think they get the hardware, but the last couple spots are anyone's guess.

## 165 lbs.

**Favorite:** Miller Brown (12, Oldham Co)

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|---|---|
| 2. Dalton Matney (11, Johnson Central)    | 9. Ben Woosley (11, Simon Kenton)         |
| 3. Jeremy Ray (12, Union Co)              | 10. John Walters (12, Boyd Co)            |
| 4. Callen Schmidt (11, Ryle)              | 11. Joseph Habimana (10, Moore)           |
| 5. Keegan Bishop (11, Covington Catholic) | 12. Cyrus Greiwe (10, Corbin)             |
| 6. Carson Herbst (10, Madison Central)    | 13. Jaylin Littleton (12, Hopkinsville)   |
| 7. Gavin Becker (11, South Oldham)        | 14. Tayvontay Martinez (12, Christian Co) |
| 8. Ben Turner (12, Cooper)                | 15. Braedan Kelley (12, Madison Southern) |

**Returning placers:** Miller Brown 1st @ 150, Dalton Matney 3rd @ 165, Carson Herbst 6th @ 165, Jeremy Ray 7th @ 150, Jaylin Littleton 8th @ 165

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #3 Ray v. #8 Woosley, #4 Schmidt v. #7 Becker.  
Quarters: #1 Brown v. #5 Bishop

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Jaylin Littleton - Littleton kept one of my guys off the podium last season and feels like he is ranked a little low.

## 175 lbs.

**Favorite:** Lucas Ricketts (11, Union Co)

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|---|--|
| 2. Zack McCoart (12, Johnson Central)   | 9. Ethan Peckenpaugh (10, Henderson Co)    |
| 3. Owen Lamer (11, Taylor Co)           | 10. Adam Sanders (12, Meade Co)            |
| 4. Wyatt Peterson (12, Larue Co)        | 11. Aiden Granito (12, Moore)              |
| 5. Ben Hall (11, Paducah Tilghman)      | 12. Andrew Crace (10, North Oldham)        |
| 6. Justice McKague (12, Corbin)         | 13. Keigan Reisenbeck (10, Ryle)           |
| 7. Vincent Busalacchi (12, Oldham Co)   | 14. Nathaniel Williams (9, Ashland Blazer) |
| 8. Christian McIntosh (12, Calloway Co) | 15. Abram Ross (12, Ohio Co)               |

**Returning placers:** Lucas Ricketts 1st @ 175, Owen Lamer 6th @ 157

**Early round matches to watch:** nothing jumps out as the top guys are separated very well in this bracket

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Ethan Peckenpaugh - I'm tired at this point and it's just like throwing darts on some of these weights

## 190 lbs.

**Favorite: DJ Wilson (11, Paducah Tilghman)**

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Cameron Vinson (12, Union Co)     | 9. Jeffrey Temprano (11, Lafayette)     |
| 3. Seth Davis (12, Johnson Central)  | 10. Garrison Messer (11, Ohio Co)       |
| 4. Travis Steiber (12, Ryle)         | 11. Blend Beqiri (12, Southern)         |
| 5. Jackson Burger (12, Boyle Co)     | 12. Beau Gordon (11, South Oldham)      |
| 6. Tyler Hillebrandt (12, Oldham Co) | 13. Collin Williams (12, Moore)         |
| 7. Darien Allen (11, Dupont Manual)  | 14. Gustavo Camarena (10, Scott Co)     |
| 8. Daniel Jaso (12, St. Xavier)      | 15. Apelu Hazelwood (9, Central Hardin) |

**Returning placers:** DJ Wilson 4th @ 165, Seth Davis 5th @ 175, Travis Steiber 5th @ 190, Jackson Burger 6th @ 190

**Early round matches to watch:** Quarters: #3 Davis v. #4 Steiber, #2 Vinson v. #5 Allen

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Travis Steiber - no doubt this is a biased pick. Early on Thursday morning as we were trying to leave the hotel for the girls weigh in, Mrs. Steiber saved the day for the Walton-Verona girls team by letting me borrow her vehicle. So I will be rooting for that kid to go out on top here.

## 215 lbs.

**Favorite: Marcus James (12, Taylor Co)**

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Luke Hyden (12, Walton Verona)     | 9. Ezra Vester (12, Seneca)                       |
| 3. Jack James (12, Paducah Tilghman)  | 10. Mac Darland (11, Lexington Christian Academy) |
| 4. Payton Lyons (12, Johnson Central) | 11. Brock Sexton (11, Harrison Co)                |
| 5. Jaxson Wallace (12, Henderson Co)  | 12. Carter Glass (12, St. Xavier)                 |
| 6. Devin Allen (11, Dupont Manual)    | 13. Carson Proctor (12, Madison Central)          |
| 7. Thomas Fox (12, Meade Co)          | 14. Wylee Elders (11, Union Co)                   |
| 8. Brady Schadt (12, South Oldham)    | 15. Alex Rittmuller (12, Trinity (Louisville))    |

**Returning placers:** Jack James 1st @ 215, Luke Hyden 3rd @ 215, Marcus James 3rd @ 175, Mac Darland 5th @ 215, Payton Lyons 8th @ 215

**Early round matches to watch:** Quarters: #1 James v. #3 James

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** Mac Darland - returning placer has been the victim of a solid weight with a lot of tough upper classmen. Has the potential to be in the #4-#8 range.

## 285 lbs.

**Favorite: Tucker Roth (12, Pleasure Ridge Park)**

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Brady Adkins (12, Johnson Central) | 9. Elijah Burriell (11, Jeffersontown)            |
| 3. Nate Manning (12, Boyd Co)         | 10. Jean Louis Mokweke (12, Henry Clay)           |
| 4. Paul McClure (12, Boyle Co)        | 11. Miles Hayward (11, Tates Creek)               |
| 5. Austin Cummings (11, Union Co)     | 12. Latravion Johnson (12, Henderson Co)          |
| 6. Joe Scarborough (12, Oldham Co)    | 13. Mason Krentz (12, Scott)                      |
| 7. Jayden Pointer (9, Boone Co)       | 14. Prosper Livingston-Holm (9, Paducah Tilghman) |
| 8. Quinn Steed (12, North Oldham)     | 15. William Galloway (10, Dupont Manual)          |

**Returning placers:** Tucker Roth 4th @ 215

**Early round matches to watch:** Round 2: #3 Adkins v. #7 Pointer. Quarters: #1 Roth v. #2 Manning, #3 Adkins v. #4 McClure

**Kid who might out wrestle their ranking:** It's heavyweight, who knows. I have been impressed with Pointer from Boone County. Young heavy with some real athletic ability. We will see if he can translate that into wrestling results this weekend.

## Team Champions

**Favorite: 1. Union Co (6 finalists, 4 champs, 12 total placers)**

2. Johnson Central	(3 finalists, 0 champs, 9 placers)	14. Meade Co	(3 placers)
3. Ryle	(4 finalist, 1 champ, 7 placers)	15. Walton Verona	(1 finalist, 0 champs, 2 placers)
4. Paducah Tilghman	(1 finalist, 1 champ, 7 placers)	16. Highlands	(3 placers)
5. Boyle Co	(1 finalist, 0 champs, 6 placers)	17. Madison Central	(1 placer)
6. Harrison Co	(3 finalists, 2 champs, 3 placers)	18. Anderson Co	(3 placers)
7. Oldham Co	(1 finalist, 1 champ, 4 placers)	19. Conner	(2 placers)
8. Simon Kenton	(2 finalist2, 1 champ, 3 placers)	20. Martin County	(1 placer)
9. Boyd Co	(0 finalists, 0 champs, 3 placers)	21. Woodford Co	(1 finalist, 1 champ, 2 placers)
10. South Oldham	(4 placers)	22. St. Xavier	(1 placer)
11. Great Crossing	(2 finalists, 0 champs, 2 placers)	23. Henderson Co	(1 placer)
12. Moore	(3 placers)	24. Fairdale	(2 placers)
13. Taylor Co	(1 finalist, 1 champ, 2 placers)	25. Pleasure Ridge Pa	(1 finalist, 1 champ, 1 placer)

I usually at least make an attempt to pump up a team race, but I feel like Union is just too tough this year to realistically have a battle for the top spot. The next few teams have all lost key pieces to their lineup during the season to further close the door on any chances at a wild upset. BUT I do think there could be some interesting twists and turns with pockets of teams. I see tiers at #2-#5, #6-#11, and #12-#25.

It is pretty exciting to see a relative newcomer in Boyd County possibly jump into the top 10 this year. They have been taking small steps over the last couple of seasons, but it looks like they are ready to make a big jump to cap off 2024-25.