

## 2016 Ranger Report

### Kentucky High School State Wrestling Championship Preview

Well at least we aren't faced with a bunch of snow and a delayed tournament...

Remember a year ago and the complete chaos of the weather and delaying the event until MARCH? What a mess. Instead this year we are looking at sunny and 60. Only in Kentucky. Hopefully the up and down weather doesn't aggravate any allergies worse than they already are before the kids get to the horse park. Speaking of worse, the injuries and missing wrestlers keep mounting. The regional tournament took a toll on some of our top ranked kids with a couple major injuries. A short list of the kids unable to compete due to injury or just unwilling to wrestle includes top ranked Tylan Tucker, highly ranked kids such as Clayton Hanson, Derek Wiley, Derrick Smallwood, state champ Alex McIntosh, 2x state champ Johnny Meiman, and 2x state champ Tyler Frankrone to name a few. That is a lot of firepower to be missing from our state tournament. Keep those injured in your thoughts and prayers and hope for the best for the kids who are dealing with other struggles in their life.

I can't fail to mention a huge boost to the Kentucky wrestling community recently. A huge boost to the success of many of the kids mentioned in this report (as well as many top middle school wrestlers) can be directly related back to the training and top coaching they are receiving at their club teams. Clubs such as ETC, No-Ox, Carr Wrestling, and Knable Wrestling are providing a great service to kids around the state as they seek out opportunities to improve and reach their goals. Kudos to those coaches and programs.

These are **predicted finishes** based on my final rankings. The early round matchups are based on rankings, not predicted finish. 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) beyond the major injuries that I was notified about. And even **IF** they were perfect rankings, upsets always happen on the big stage. Dutch and I have put in hours and hours on this report. Thanks to Stacy for not meeting me at the door with a gun over the last few very late nights and Amber for actually letting me back in the house at 2 am night after night. It is impossible to pull all of this information together alone. And Dutch has been a huge part of getting this great report out.

A couple interesting items we could see this weekend:

- 1) REPEAT: Is Saul able to continue the family tradition (an Ervin has won a state title since like 2006)? He has been the guy to beat here all season and appears to be a heavy favorite to win title #2.
- 2) REPEAT: Can anyone stop Sheffer from going 4-for-4 (and 8-for-8 overall)? Another Union County heavy favorite.
- 3) REPEAT: Who will win 138? The deepest weight class in the tournament from 1-10 with multiple state champs and finalists should have the crowd's attention from the opening round.
- 4) REPEAT with a slight variation: Who will step up to win a wide open 195 weight class with the injury to Tyler Frankrone?
- 5) Can anyone hang with Union County? I believe they were the best dual team in the state (winning small school) and this weekend I see it as a large margin between them and second place, especially with Trinity down a big gun.
- 6) The annual finals drama: How late will the final round go with the new format? Will the upper weights wrestle Saturday night or Sunday morning?

## Report Audit

How the predicted individual champions fared?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Won title	8.75	62.5%	9.80	70.0%	9.33	66.7%
Finished 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.50	10.7%	2.20	15.7%	1.89	13.5%
Finished 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.75	19.6%	1.00	7.1%	1.78	12.7%
Finished 4 <sup>th</sup>	0.25	1.8%	0.20	1.4%	0.22	1.6%
<u>*Lower than 4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>0.75</u>	<u>5.4%</u>	<u>0.80</u>	<u>5.7%</u>	<u>0.78</u>	<u>5.6%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	14	100%	14	100%

\*total of 7 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>, 2015 - Hudson Heidorf Trinity 145 5<sup>th</sup>)

Who won the individual state title?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.75	62.5%	9.80	70.0%	9.33	66.7%
Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.25	16.1%	2.80	20.0%	2.56	18.3%
Ranked 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.40	2.9%	0.67	4.7%
Ranked 4 <sup>th</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.40	2.9%	0.67	4.7%
<u>*Lower than 4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>0.60</u>	<u>4.3%</u>	<u>0.78</u>	<u>5.6%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	14	100%	14	100%

\*total of 7 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 106 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Geordan Blanton Johnson Central 145 6<sup>th</sup>)

### Who placed?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Predicted Top 8	83.0	74.1%	81.2	72.5%	82.0	73.2%
Predicted 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	15.0	13.4%	16.0	14.3%	15.6	13.9%
Predicted 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	7.5	6.7%	7.0	6.3%	7.2	6.4%
Predicted below 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.5	5.8%	7.8	7.0%	7.2	6.4%
TOTAL	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

# 2015

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

\*St. Xavier finished 8<sup>th</sup>

## 106 lbs.

**Favorite: Nate Wheeler (9, St. Xavier)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Cagen Wallace (10, Wayne County)         | 14. Derek Ringlen (11, Doss)             |
| 3. Chase Yost (8, Woodford County)          | 15. Daylon Stafford (9 Sheldon Clark)    |
| 4. Adam Bender (10, Lexington Catholic)     | 16. Darius Calloway (10, Central)        |
| 5. Mike Klein (12, Fern Creek)              | 17. Tristan Ballinger (9, Oldham County) |
| 6. Bradley Miller (9, Henry Clay)           | 18. Brendan Pye (9, Scott)               |
| 7. Blake Roth (10, Walton-Verona)           | 19. Landon Lenhart (8, North Oldham)     |
| 8. Kaleb Sapp (11, Ohio County)             | 20. Brent Hudgins (9, Harrison County)   |
| 9. Zeke Escalera (7, Union County)          | 21. Virgil Garcia (8, Male)              |
| 10. Tom Ketchen-Carter (7, Campbell County) | 22. Thomas Hoppes (7, Larue County)      |
| 11. Aaron Brossart (10, Ryle)               | 23. Chris Dues (10, Moore)               |
| 12. Preston Mattingly (9, Apollo)           | 24. Robert Martin (10, Letcher Central)  |
| 13. Daniel Knight (11, Christian County)    |  |

Returning placers: Adam Bender 4<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Cagen Wallace 5<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Mike Klein 6<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Blake Roth 8<sup>th</sup> @ 106.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #5 Klein vs. #9 Ketchen Carter, #1 Wheeler vs. #6 Miller, #3 Yost vs. #10 Sapp. **Quarters:** #2 Wallace vs. #7 Escalera, #1 Wheeler vs. #8 Roth, #3 Yost vs. #4 Bender

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Tom Ketchen-Carter – kid wrestles hard and just like Zeke expects to win

Team title race implications: There are a number of kids that could help push their team ABOVE the pack by making the podium. Tom KC has the best draw to make a major impact, but Lenhart and Ballinger could make a difference. Wheeler, Yost, and Klein are critical to their team having a shot at a trophy. If Escalera steps it up, Union County could lock up the title early.

106 is loaded with state placers from last year. 4 of the top 8 placers from this weight will be returning for another shot at the title. There has been a lot of talk about Escalera making a run. How will the talented 7<sup>th</sup> grader match up with some of the larger contenders? Wallace seems to be on a mission this year coming in with a 51-0 record. Wheeler has been at the top majority of the year. Will he be able to run through the gauntlet of Miller, Roth, Yost/Bender to win his first state title? There will be some fireworks for sure at the 106 weight class. As TO says “get your popcorn ready”.

## 113 lbs.

**Favorite:** Tanner Yenter (11, Campbell County)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Colton Lampe (10, Fern Creek)           | 14. Cauby Wallace (8, Wayne County)      |
| 3. Brody Haverstick (10, John Hardin)      | 15. Trevor Pogue (8, Union County)       |
| 4. Brandon Miller (10, Henry Clay)         | 16. Brett Shea (10, Oldham County)       |
| 5. Drew Johnson (11, North Oldham)         | 17. Morgan Salee (8, Danville)           |
| 6. Michael Mattox (11, Harrison County)    | 18. Ray Hamilton (9, Paducah Tilghman)   |
| 7. Konner Kraeszig (10, St. Xavier)        | 19. Bailey Medley (9, Meade County)      |
| 8. Austin Grant-Hall (7, Christian County) | 20. Peter Mark (9, Central Hardin)       |
| 9. Bailey Parker (12, Atherton)            | 21. Dylan Harkins (9, DeSales)           |
| 10. Shay "Broomstick" Horton (9, Ryle)     | 22. Aarion McGinnins (8, Male)           |
| 11. Seth Lutes (8, Scott)                  | 23. David Ashley (11, North Bullitt)     |
| 12. Maktub Amir (12, Valley)               | 24. Clayton Polley (12, Letcher Central) |
| 13. Joseph Morgan (9, Apollo)              |  |

Returning placers: Tanner Yenter 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 106, Brandon Miller 7<sup>th</sup> @ 106, Michael Mattox 5<sup>th</sup> @ 113

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #8 Mattox vs. #9 Parker, #5 Kraeszig vs. #10 Horton **Quarters:** #3 Haverstick vs. #5 Kraeszig, #2 Lampe vs. #4 Miller, #1 Yenter vs. #6 Grant-Hall, #7 Johnson vs. #8 Mattox.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Michael Mattox – the kid just finds a way to make the podium every year

Team title race implications: Again it is teams in the 3-8 pack battling it out. Could a Yenter-Lampe final determine the Campbell-Fern Creek team finish? St. Xavier guys tend to pick it up this time of year; can Kraeszig pull off a couple mild upsets and push his team into a trophy spot? North Oldham is solid from top to bottom, but they need a podium finish from Johnson to stay ahead of the chasing teams.

With injury to Tylan Tucker the layout of this bracket has changed dramatically. Tucker was a heavy favorite to win this bracket. That puts Yenter at the top and favorite to win his first title after last year's runner up performance. Miller and Mattox are returning state placers looking to improve on last years finish. We have a few young guns making their first attempt at a high school state title. Grant-Hall and Lutes met in the middle school state finals this year. Grant-Hall pulled off a late take down to get the win over Lutes that day. Can they hang with the high school competition? We say yes they can.

## 120 lbs.

### **Favorite: Saul Ervin (10, Union County)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Ryan Moore (10, Walton Verona)         | 14. Jake Insko (8, Apollo)                  |
| 3. Brady Wells (11, Campbell County)      | 15. Matt Mills (12, Sheldon Clark)          |
| 4. Tucker Hurst (12, Woodford County)     | 16. Cameron Dearmond (11, Hopkinsville)     |
| 5. Dallas Ochsenbein (12, North Oldham)   | 17. Adam Yoshinto (12, Doss)                |
| 6. Tyler Storck (10, Henry Clay)          | 18. Nick Dickerson (10, Calloway County)    |
| 7. Jacob Dodd (11, Wayne County)          | 19. Logan Henry (11, Bullitt East)          |
| 8. Austin Cook (11, St. Xavier)           | 20. Luke Polin (11, DeSales)                |
| 9. Chance Caldwell (11, Dupont Manual)    | 21. Jakerion Merritt (8, Christian County)  |
| 10. Clayton Boyd (9, Conner)              | 22. Jackson Grimsley (8, Taylor County)     |
| 11. Nicholas Curtis (11, Bullitt Central) | 23. Chase Wallace (9, John Hardin)          |
| 12. Stiles Metcalf (11, Larue County)     | 24. Sheridan Willoughby (9, Bourbon County) |
| 13. Toby Siddens (12, Moore)              |   |

Returning placers: Brady Wells 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 113, Ryan Moore 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 113, Tucker Hurst 4<sup>th</sup> @ 113, Austin Cook 6<sup>th</sup> @ 113, Dallas Ochsenbein 7<sup>th</sup> @ 113.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #1 Ervin vs. #5 Hurst, #3 Wells vs. #7 Siddens, #2 Moore vs. #8 Cook.

**Quarters:** #1 Ervin vs. #3 Wells, #4 Ochsenbein vs. #10 Caldwell, #2 Moore vs. #6 Dodd.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Tyler Storck “The Dork” – nice draw that sets him up to place higher than his current ranking

Team title race implications: Not only do you have one of the deepest individual weights here, but virtually all of the predicted placers are from top 12 teams. The order of finish will play a role in how the team race unfolds. The timing of some of these huge matchups and how the kids recover from tough losses will be critical to scoring the expected team points from these big guns from Campbell County, St. Xavier, North Oldham, and Henry Clay.

Saul is looking to continue the family tradition of titles. Standing in his way is a loaded field of 120 pound wrestlers. Can he navigate through the loaded half of the bracket? This includes Wells and former state champ Hurst. The lower half of the bracket has Moore looking to win his first state title. He will have to get past a tough Cook, Dodd, and Ochsenbein to get his rematch with Saul. The quarters on the top half of the bracket will be matches you will not want to miss. Once again what will it take to get the state to seed the bracket? Maybe with the additional parking funds we could hire someone to seed the tournament. Just a thought.

## 126 lbs.

### **Favorite: Bryce Sheffer (11, Union County)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Connor Cambron (11, Fern Creek)            | 14. Chris Vaske (12, Boone County)         |
| 3. Dante Castellano (11, Simon Kenton)        | 15. Jimmy Kraeszig (9, St. Xavier)         |
| 4. Derrick Soper (12, Bryan Station)          | 16. Marshall Royce (9, North Oldham)       |
| 5. Skyler Martinson (12, Daviess County)      | 17. Joe Slone (11, Johnson County)         |
| 6. Dakota Lillie (12, Campbell County)        | 18. Devonta Turner (11, Trigg County)      |
| 7. Jake Peace (12, Walton Verona)             | 19. Kainen Grimm (12, Atherton)            |
| 8. Scott Ruttman (12, Calloway County)        | 20. Zachary Taylor (11, Trinity)           |
| 9. Jakob "Squid" McClintic (9, Oldham County) | 21. Marik Black (11, Woodford County)      |
| 10. Alex Lee (12, Meade County)               | 22. Ryan McManus (10, Madison Central)     |
| 11. Camerin Cole (12, Christian County)       | 23. Chase Highlander (12, Harrison County) |
| 12. Dwayne "Rock" Johnson (11, Eastern)       | 24. William Albin (12, Valley)             |
| 13. Alex Holt (12, Montgomery County)         |  |

Returning placers: Bryce Sheffer 1<sup>st</sup> @ 120, Derrick Soper 6<sup>th</sup> @ 120, Dakota Lillie 8<sup>th</sup> @ 120, Conner Cambron 5<sup>th</sup> @ 126, Scott Ruttman 8<sup>th</sup> @ 126.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #8 McClintic vs. #10 Ruttman, #5 Soper vs. #7 Peace, #4 Martinson vs. #6 Lillie. Quarters: #3 Castellano vs. #8 McClintic, #2 Cambron vs. #9 Lee, #1 Sheffer vs. #4 Martinson.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: The FIELD – much less proven group of wrestlers here opens up spots on the podium to a wide range of kids

Team title race implications: More typical team impacts here with Sheffer likely rolling through to the finals. Can McClintic make a push for a high placement and get Oldham County within striking distance of Union? And where will Lillie finish? He surprised most of us last year; does he have any magic left this go around to push Campbell near the top?

Bryce Sheffer is looking for number 3. Who will stand in his way? Looking at the bracket it looks like Sheffer will pick up some bonus on the way to the finals. Looking at the other side of the bracket, we believe it will come down to Castellano and Cambron. Castellano has been on a mission this year. Our opinion is that he is the most improved wrestler in the state. Cambron is a returning state placer looking to improve on last years placement. Let's not forget about the young up and coming McClintic (also known as Squid).



## 132 lbs.

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

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2. Zane Brown (9, Male)               | 14. Roger "Ole School" Young (11, Meade)  |
| 3. Joey Roberts (11, Woodford County) | 15. Cody Schultz (11, Scott)              |
| 4. Jordan Monroe (12, Cooper)         | 16. Will Keeney (10, Madison Central)     |
| 5. Justin Torgerson (11, Lafayette)   | 17. Collin Barrett (11, Campbell County)  |
| 6. Cameron Nevels (12, Wayne County)  | 18. Salim Mardis (10, Simon Kenton)       |
| 7. Micah Ervin (8, Union County)      | 19. Levi Goodin (11, Larue County)        |
| 8. Kaden Darbro (10, St. Xavier)      | 20. Elliott Kelly (12, Central)           |
| 9. Braden Wyatt (11, Bourbon County)  | 21. Dylan Martin (9, McCracken County)    |
| 10. Ansar Kurbanov (12, Iroquois)     | 22. Mason Donner (11, Oldham County)      |
| 11. Louie Regalado (11, Ft. Campbell) | 23. Nikeem Avent (11, Fern Creek)         |
| 12. Brandon Powers (12, Apollo)       | 24. Garrett McCloud (11, Johnson Central) |
| 13. Jaython Elliot (12, Southern)     |   |

Returning placers: Zane Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 120, Joey Roberts 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 120, Jordan Monroe 4<sup>th</sup> @ 126, Keegan Duncan 1<sup>st</sup> @ 132

Early round matches to watch: **Round 1:** #10 Regalado vs. #11 Barrett. **Round 2:** #2 Brown vs. #9 Kurbanov, #1 Duncan vs. #10 Regalado, #7 Nevels vs. #8 Wyatt. **Quarters:** #4 Monroe vs. #5 Torgerson, #2 Brown vs. #6 Ervin, #3 Roberts vs. #7 Nevels

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Kaden Darbro – doesn't have the best early draw, but I believe his consolation draws set up nice for him to make a run.

Team title race implications: Similar to Zeke at 106, Micah can score some icing points for Union County here. He is young, but very talented. As mentioned above, Darbro is set to give St. Xavier a major boost like we have seen from so many X kids over the years. Barrett could be an X-factor for Campbell County as he wrestled very tough at the regional and comes in with a lot of momentum. Trinity is heavily dependent on their big guns, so Duncan bonus points will drive them up the leader board.

Once again Duncan is the favorite at 132. Standing in his way is some very talented/seasoned state placers. Brown was on a roll last year and has a few injury issues this year. If he is 100%, he could be in the state finals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Roberts and Monroe both placed last year and might have other plans for the state finals. Lets don't forget about the young man Ervin looking to following in big brothers footsteps. Will he pull off some magic?

## 138 lbs.

**Favorite: Angel Vasquez (12, Lafayette)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2. AJ "The Big Announcement" Binder (12, Fern Creek) | 14. Brady Gibson (10, Tates Creek)      |
| 3. Logan "Birdman" Erdman (12, Ryle)                 | 15. Jared Kelsay (9, Scott)             |
| 4. Jacob Henley (12, Oldham County)                  | 16. Seth Ritchie (10, Atherton)         |
| 5. Trent Johnson (10, John Hardin)                   | 17. Noah Davis (10, Larue County)       |
| 6. Chance Oxford (11, Union County)                  | 18. Shamon Moore (12, Conner)           |
| 7. Bryan Spahr (12, Campbell County)                 | 19. Aaron Flenner (11, Madison Central) |
| 8. Austin Alemi (12, North Oldham)                   | 20. JD Criswell (11, Wayne County)      |
| 9. Chance Collins (12, University Heights)           | 21. Cameron Rice (11, Johnson Central)  |
| 10. Nathaniel Lawrence (8, Franklin County)          | 22. Wesley Whelan (11, Ashland Blazer)  |
| 11. David Maldonado (12, Meade County)               | 23. Matt Kostecki (12, Trinity)         |
| 12. Tristian Garcia (10, Male)                       | 24. Desmond Lewis (11, Valley)          |
| 13. Nathan Lopez (12, Harrison County)               |   |

Returning placers: Logan Erdman 1<sup>st</sup> @ 126, Jacob Henley 7<sup>th</sup> @ 126, AJ Binder 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 132, Chance Collins 5<sup>th</sup> @ 132, Angel Vasquez 1<sup>st</sup> @ 138, Trent Johnson 4<sup>th</sup> @ 138, Bryan Spahr 7<sup>th</sup> @ 138.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #1 Vasquez vs. #8 Collins, #3 Erdman vs #4 Johnson, #9 Alemi vs. #10 Lopez. **Quarters:** #1 Vasquez vs. #5 Spahr, #3 Erdman vs. #9 Alemi, #2 Binder vs. #7 Oxford.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jacob Henley – kid isn't flashy, but just solid. And in a deep, tough bracket it will take some solid wrestling to navigate through this minefield.

Team title race implications: Another weight where the Camels have an X-factor. Spahr pulled off the upset at region and showed he has the potential to score big this weekend, but this weight is deep and it won't be easy. North Oldham needs Alemi to put up solid points here; could be a dangerous spot for them. This could also be a spot where Union County takes a hit. We haven't seen Oxford against many of these kids in this field, so where he finishes will be somewhat a surprise to all of us.

138 here we go again. 2 years in a row, arguably the toughest bracket in the state. Lets start at the top. Vasquez looking for his 3<sup>rd</sup> finals appearance in a row at 138. We also have returning champion "Birdman" Erdman and state finalist "The big announcement" Binder. Will they be able to knock off the proven champion of this weight? With the regional final upset of Spahr over Erdman, this sets up a big match Friday night of Erdman and Johnson.

## 145 lbs.

### **Favorite: Jackson Oxford (12, Union County)**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2. Nick Wise (12, Oldham County)      | 14. Odeh Eyal (11, Bates Creek)              |
| 3. Mason Smith (10, Walton Verona)    | 15. Kobe Perry (12, Christian County)        |
| 4. Dallas Miles (11, St. Xavier)      | 16. Jim Morrison (11, Madison Central)       |
| 5. Blake Gamble (10, Johnson Central) | 17. Dax Hays (12, Montgomery County)         |
| 6. Jared Branch (11, Fern Creek)      | 18. Dalton Bell (10, Larue County)           |
| 7. Brandon Leak (11, North Hardin)    | 19. Braden Sperry (12, Caldwell County)      |
| 8. Kevin Vasquez (10, Lafayette)      | 20. Matthew Fallon (12, Woodford County)     |
| 9. Cody Huston (11, Cooper)           | 21. Rawleigh Richardson (12, Jefferson Town) |
| 10. Max Powell (10, Doss)             | 22. Spencer Carpenter (11, Simon Kenton)     |
| 11. Dakota Hoskins (12, Meade County) | 23. Darius Maldonado (12, Trinity)           |
| 12. Harry Jenkins (12, North Oldham)  | 24. Charles Juras (11, Fairdale)             |
| 13. Jack Haynes (11, Calloway County) |  |

Returning placers: Mason Smith 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 132, Nick Wise 4<sup>th</sup> @ 132, Kevin Vasquez 8<sup>th</sup> @ 132, Brandon Leak 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 138, Dallas Miles 6<sup>th</sup> @ 138, Jackson Oxford 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 152.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 1:** #6 Huston vs. #11 Hoskins. **Round 2:** #4 Wise vs. #6 Huston, #2 Smith vs. #10 Powell. **Quarters:** #7 Branch vs. #9 Vasquez, #4 Wise vs. #5 Gamble, #1 Oxford vs. #8 Leak, #2 Smith vs. #3 Miles

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Nick Wise – with top 3 ranked kids on opposite side, Wise has a good shot to make the finals

Team title race implications: Oxford doesn't have the best of draws to put up bonus throughout the bracket, but I wouldn't count it out. Wise, Miles, and Branch all have opportunities for big wins along the way, but in a deep weight there is danger there as well. Jenkins could be a surprise big scorer here for North Oldham. This is sort of the beginning of the Johnson Central run of hammers. Do they have enough to make a push for the top 5? If it is to happen, Gamble will need to come up big.

At the start of the season 145 appeared to relatively soft compared to 138 below and 152 above (as evidenced by AJ's interest to bump up to 145). But as the season progressed and weights fell into place, this became a loaded bracket. While it doesn't have a returning state champ, it does have 6 high state placers. Leading the field is Oxford who is unbeaten in KY. The unbalanced bracket has the top 3 wrestlers Oxford, Smith, Miles and state runner up Leak on the same side. Who comes out on top?

## 152 lbs.

**Favorite: Geordan Blanton (11, Johnson Central)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Brady Emerson (12, Oldham County)             | 14. Elias Egal (12, Tates Creek)         |
| 3. Ben Barton (12, Trinity)                      | 15. Cameron Ward (10, St. Xavier)        |
| 4. Tristin Badida (12, Conner)                   | 16. Ryan Strunk (11, McCreary Central)   |
| 5. Isaiah Lawson (12, Hopkinsville)              | 17. Jermaine Barber (12, Scott County)   |
| 6. Jacob Dawson (12, Lafayette)                  | 18. Diion Leavell (10, Christian County) |
| 7. John Reitnauer (11, North Oldham)             | 19. Austin Bowen (12, Sheldon Clark)     |
| 8. Corey Knoth (11, Meade County)                | 20. Christian Shelby (11, Henry Clay)    |
| 9. Jacob "Axe Murderer" Bratcher (Dupont Manual) | 21. Braden Mulcahy (9, Walton Verona)    |
| 10. Aaron Chandler (12, Central Hardin)          | 22. Devaughn Richardson (12, Fern Creek) |
| 11. Jordan Kidwell (12, Cooper)                  | 23. Colin Stevens (8, Trigg County)      |
| 12. Tyran Cobble (12, Central)                   | 24. Marquis Franklin (12, Larue County)  |
| 13. Kyrie Glover (12, Holmes)                    |  |

Returning placers: Brady Emerson 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 138, Geordan Blanton 1<sup>st</sup> @ 145, Ben Barton 1<sup>st</sup> @ 152, Tristen Badida 6<sup>th</sup> @ 152, Jordan Kidwell 7<sup>th</sup> @ 152, Isaiah Lawson 8<sup>th</sup> @ 170.

Early round matches to watch: Round 2: #1 Blanton vs. #7 Reitnauer, #3 Emerson vs. #10 Chandler. Quarters: #1 Blanton vs. #5 Lawson, #2 Barton vs. #8 Knoth, #3 Emerson vs. #9 Bratcher, #4 Badida vs. #6 Dawson.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Jordan Kidwell – slight upset at region didn't hurt him much in the draw; he could make a little run to make the podium

Team title race implications: Blanton may need to open up and put up bonus points for his team early. Emerson is funky and poised to make the final with a few of his teammates that will propel them near the top of the team race. Barton looks to repeat as the 152 champ and keep Trinity in the running for a trophy.

Will the headline read "Blanton/Barton does it again"? Which one of these two will repeat? If they both reach the semis, all eyes should be on this incredible match up. Our best guess says the winner will have Emerson waiting in the circle looking to claim his first state title. However, the senior Badida might have other plans. This should be an emotional tournament for his grandfather, Coach Badida. Do they go out on top? Coach Badida has coached multiple state champions. You will be missed. Finally, can Kidwell bounce back from his slip at regionals? This bracket should not disappoint.

## 160 lbs.

### **Favorite: Hudson Heidorf (12, Trinity)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2. Max Andreoni (11, Woodford County)      | 14. Cruz Murphy (12, Boyd County)           |
| 3. Andrew Ackley (12, Nelson County)       | 15. Ivan Lawson (12, Hopkinsville)          |
| 4. Cameron Blankenship (12, Male)          | 16. Cody Roland (10, Scott)                 |
| 5. Lee Johnson (12, Central)               | 17. Lucas Carrillo (10 Oldham County)       |
| 6. Evan Cannon (12, Henry Clay)            | 18. Johnny Lee (11, Meade County)           |
| 7. Matthew Munoz (12, Dixie Heights)       | 19. Chubaka "Arrrrr" Mutayongwa (12, Tates) |
| 8. Joey Scribano (12, Madison Southern)    | 20. Isaac Nichols (11, North Hardin)        |
| 9. Eli Daviau (12, Boyd County)            | 21. Justin Girtten (12, Union County)       |
| 10. Dylan Gray (10, Caldwell County)       | 22. Logan James (12, North Bullitt)         |
| 11. Joe Jackson (9, Johnson County)        | 23. Jared Stadtmiller (12, Campbell County) |
| 12. Kaleb Oakley (11, Harrison County)     | 24. Sam Jenkins (9, North Oldham)           |
| 13. Austin Sutphin (12, Montgomery County) |   |

Returning placers: Max Andreoni 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 145, Hudson Heidorf 5<sup>th</sup> @ 145, Andrew Ackley 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 152, Joe Jackson 6<sup>th</sup> @ 160.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #8 Scribano vs. #7 Munoz, #4 Johnson vs. #10 Gray. **Quarters:** #5 Blankenship vs. #7 Munoz, #2 Andreoni vs. #4 Johnson, #3 Ackley vs. #9 Daviau, #1 Heidorf vs. #6 Cannon.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Joe Jackson – placed here last year as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, but has taken a couple losses. Could get hot again at the horse park and make a run to the podium.

Team title race implications: The final Trinity hammer needs to come out on top, but it will likely come down to the final installment of his rivalry with Andreoni. Another great final that could determine the Trinity-Woodford order of finish. Carrillo has to be solid and grind out those hard earned consolation points for Oldham County.

Could this be the year Heidorf does it? Does he follow the advice of Boston to wrestle like a "Hippie"? All the years of pressure finally come down to this. Andreoni took a loss to Heidorf a few weeks ago. Will he be able to avenge that loss to win his first state title? We also can't forget about Ackley. Coming off last year's state finals appearance, Ackley should believe he can go all the way this year.

## 170 lbs.

### **Favorite: Casey Cornett (11, Simon Kenton)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Chris Morrow (12, Madison Central)     | 14. Lucas Soard (12, Franklin County)     |
| 3. Sam Griffith (11, Johnson Central)     | 15. Zach Chandler (9, Male)               |
| 4. Avery Buckman (11, Union County)       | 16. Eli Soeder (11, Oldham County)        |
| 5. Raymond Williams (11, North Hardin)    | 17. Jacob Volbrecht (11, Ryle)            |
| 6. Aaron Duncan (12, Central)             | 18. Seth Hille (11, Holmes)               |
| 7. Nathan Prosser (10, McCreary Central)  | 19. Justin Voelker (11, St. Xavier)       |
| 8. Andrew Pritchett (12, Trinity)         | 20. Hunter Parnell (11, Campbell County)  |
| 9. Michael Eldridge (12, Woodford County) | 21. James Wharton (12, Doss)              |
| 10. Colin Coy (12, Harrison County)       | 22. Austin Scarberry (11, Ashland Blazer) |
| 11. Warren Tucker (12, John Hardin)       | 23. Niko Bussell (8, Christian County)    |
| 12. Aaron Valentine (12, Franklin County) | 24. Mario Perez (12, Calloway County)     |
| 13. Dakota Santiago (10, Taylor County)   |   |

Returning placers: Avery Buckman 7<sup>th</sup> @ 160, Sam Griffith 6<sup>th</sup> @ 170, Casey Cornett 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 182.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #2 Morrow vs. #8 Pritchett, #5 Williams vs. #6 Prosser, #1 Cornett vs. #10 Coy. **Quarters:** #2 Morrow vs. #4 Buckman, #5 Williams vs. #7 Duncan, #1 Cornett vs. #9 Eldridge.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Colin Coy – okay, we are being a little biased here, but Colin is a great kid who we would love to see go out with a state medal

Team title race implications: Not as much here for the top teams. Both Pritchett and Eldridge are set to put up big points for their team. But in a bracket with few proven state contenders, can they make a jump to a higher finish? Soeder, Voelker, and Parnell could be huge for their teams if they can fight back through the consolations for a couple extra wins and maybe pull out a top 8 finish.

Cornett has been the talk of the state this year due to his off season success. Coming down from 182 a season ago, he is a solid 170. The talk of his main competition is Morrow from Madison Central. The bracket is set up perfectly for these two to meet in the finals. However, Buckman, Williams and Duncan might have other plans. This is one bracket we believe will play out like it should. Then again we have those crazy upsets every year.

## 182 lbs.

### Favorite: Max “Shrek” Emerson

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Elijah Allgeier (12, St. Xavier)      | 14. Alex Billiter (12, Christian County) |
| 3. Josh Robbins (12, Boyd County)        | 15. Katayvon Anthony (11, Hopkinsville)  |
| 4. Matt Steven (11, Larue County)        | 16. Blake Denny (10, Henry Clay)         |
| 5. Cole Sherman (12, Union County)       | 17. David Woods (10, Calloway County)    |
| 6. Evan Rademaker (11, South Oldham)     | 18. Kadin Kulmer (9, Trinity)            |
| 7. Collin Waples (12, North Oldham)      | 19. Daylan Bailey (10, Cooper)           |
| 8. Colton Miller (12, Montgomery County) | 20. Matthew Horn (9, Johnson County)     |
| 9. Dylan Mays (11, Madison Central)      | 21. Andrew Varble (11, Woodford County)  |
| 10. Jordan Childers (12, Meade County)   | 22. Andrew Marchal (9, Atherton)         |
| 11. Jay Layne (12, Ashland Blazer)       | 23. Timothy Fisher (10, Letcher County)  |
| 12. Roy Bowers (11, Dixie Heights)       | 24. Brendan Becker (11, North Hardin)    |
| 13. Bradley Rafn (12, Christian County)  |  |

Returning placers: Max “Shrek” Emerson 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 160, Matt Steven 7<sup>th</sup> @ 170.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #3 Sherman vs. #9 Rafn, #2 Allgeier vs. #6 Mays. **Quarters:** #2 Allgeier vs. #3 Sherman, #7 Rademaker vs. #10 Childers, #1 Emerson vs. #5 Steven

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Colton Miller – possibility for a great run through the consolations

Team title race implications: Oldham County is primarily relying on solid placers to drive their team score. But this is the one weight where they have the top guy. Shrek is tough and can be the leader this team needs. But Allgeier is pretty darn tough as well and could give his team a state champ boost late in the night. Waples is another North Oldham kid who needs to come through with those placement points. Kulmer is a young guy at this big boy weight. He could surprise a lot of kids and make a run for Trinity to help make up for the loss of Frankrone.

182 is loaded with experienced upper classman. Leading the way is Max “Shrek” Emerson. No, he is not green and doesn’t hang out with a little donkey either. However, he is a monster on the mat. Allgeier, who came down from 195, is fairly monstrous himself. Allgeier is a big/physical wrestler who has the skills to win this weight class. Robbins, Steven, and Sherman are also in the hunt. With only 2 returning state placers, it is hard to guess how things will play out as the pressure mounts on some of these kids.

## 195 lbs.

### **Favorite: Brett Graziani (12, Campbell County)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2. Daniel Kimble (10, Oldham County)   | 14. Phillip Bradley (12, University Heights) |
| 3. Emir Bernabee (12, Woodford County) | 15. Desean Stratton (10, Western)            |
| 4. Ray Karl Irving (10, Henry Clay)    | 16. Jake Miller (11, Hopkinsville)           |
| 5. Grant Krueger (12, Ashland Blazer)  | 17. Brad Bailey (11, South Oldham)           |
| 6. Alex Olvera-Vancini (12, Holmes)    | 18. D'Andre Allen (10, Valley)               |
| 7. Bilal Mamedov (12, Iroquois)        | 19. Jack Lindsey (11, Madison Central)       |
| 8. Kevin Shantz (10, Meade County)     | 20. RJ Boies (10, Anderson County)           |
| 9. Steven Brown (11, Doss)             | 21. Seth Keller (12, Cooper)                 |
| 10. Grover Russell (10, Central)       | 22. Allen Anderson (9, Moore)                |
| 11. Ross Hicks (10, Union County)      | 23. Fatu Sevelo (12, Madison Southern)       |
| 12. Alex Horn (9, Johnson County)      | 24. Seth Estes (12, McCracken County)        |
| 13. Ed Hernandez (12, Larue County)    |  |

Returning placers: Grant Krueger 5<sup>th</sup> @ 195.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #4 Irving vs. #8 Russell, #6 Krueger vs. #7 Brown. **Quarters:** #1 Graziani vs. #4 Irving, #2 Bernabee vs. #5 Mamedov, #3 Kimble vs. #6 Krueger

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Kevin Shantz – see Miller above

Team title race implications: The top 3 are right there in the team race. Graziani is Campbell's final big hammer. Can he score enough bonus points to lead the team near the top? Woodford needs Bernabee to be solid here to keep them in the race. Kimble has come out of nowhere for OC. If he fades under the bright lights it will be a huge hit in the team race.

First off, we have to take a moment to give some love to Tyler Frankrone. Thank you Tyler Frankrone for all the great years of wrestling. He was poised to walk away with his 3<sup>rd</sup> title on Saturday and go down as one of the best in recent memory. A freak injury has taken away his 2016 state title, but should not impact how we remember Tyler. Hope for a speedy recovery and we wish you the best in college. Now, that really opens this weight class up. I wonder how many guys would be at 195 if this announcement would have come two weeks ago. Graziani is the favorite; a very physical wrestler with a huge heart and a great kid. But I can see this weight opening up with everyone feeling like they now have a shot. Again, only a single returning state placer, so not many of these young men come to Lexington with the credentials to be overwhelming favorites.



## 220 lbs.

### **Favorite: Brandon Reed (11, Irquois)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Kellon Williams (12, Harrison County)  | 14. Hamilton Young (12, Danville)            |
| 3. Collin Portman (12, North Oldham)      | 15. Stephen Kaiser (12, John Hardin)         |
| 4. Garrett Chandler (12, Male)            | 16. Vachean Jones (12, Fairdale)             |
| 5. Chance Orr (11, Paducah Tilghman)      | 17. Brady Taylor (11, Johnson County)        |
| 6. Caleb Boyles (12, Anderson County)     | 18. Josh Van Strein (12, Conner)             |
| 7. Damorean Travis (10, Jeffersontown)    | 19. Will Preston (11, Henry Clay)            |
| 8. Caleb Ayres (12, Oldham County)        | 20. Jose Martinez (11, Tates Creek)          |
| 9. Connor Sherman (12, Union County)      | 21. Zachariah Jones (9, Christian County)    |
| 10. Ian Roberts (12, Trinity)             | 22. Jonathan Gregory (9, Wayne County)       |
| 11. Kairus Washington (11, Dixie Heights) | 23. LeAnder Beckley (12, Nelson County)      |
| 12. Colby Culver (11, Calloway County)    | 24. Dustin Osborne (10, Pike County Central) |
| 13. Ben Fooks (11, Bourbon County)        |  |

Returning placers: Collin Portman 4<sup>th</sup> @ 195, Brandon Reed 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 220, Connor Sherman 5<sup>th</sup> @ 220, Kellon Williams 6<sup>th</sup> @ 220, Garrett Chandler 7<sup>th</sup> @ 220.

Early round matches to watch: Round 2: #3 Williams vs. #9 Roberts, #5 Orr vs. #7 Travis, #8 Sherman vs. #10 Washington. Quarters: #5 Orr vs. #6 Boyles, #1 Reed vs. #4 Chandler, #2 Portman vs. #8 Sherman.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Caleb Ayres – one more see above

Team title race implications: Hated to see Reed-Portman on the same side. For that match-up, but also for the team race. Portman is a hammer and can score similar points from 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sherman took a loss at region, but could finish much higher this weekend; again those would be free points to Union County. Ayres and Roberts are wild cards for their teams, but in this deep weight it will be tough to move many spots.

Out first Myer-less year at 220 since 2011. But the loss of Austin brought us some great depth at this weight. Unfortunately, the awesome Reed-Portman championship that I was looking forward to will take place in the semis. Don't miss that one. But also lurking in that half of the bracket is a tough competitor in Chandler. He has been patiently waiting for the year when Myers was gone to push for his title. To earn it, he will have to go through Reed AND Portman. Orr pulled off the upset at region over Sherman. Does he have what it takes to beat Williams and make the finals?

## 285 lbs.

### **Favorite: Landon Young (12, Lafayette)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. Landin Jones (11, North Oldham)        | 14. Jonah Welch (11, Danville)           |
| 3. Sean Sanders (12, Bullitt Central)     | 15. Byron Pierce (9, Johnson County)     |
| 4. Lacorey Robinson (12, North Hardin)    | 16. Mahlon Ray (12, Christian County)    |
| 5. Ahmad Hameidan (12, Boone County)      | 17. Ian Fullerton (12, Oldham County)    |
| 6. Cole Spencer (11, Trinity)             | 18. Trevon Wright (11, John Hardin)      |
| 7. Lawrence Malala (11, Jeffersontown)    | 19. Josh Whitworth (12, Caldwell County) |
| 8. Jorge Mendes (12, Bourbon County)      | 20. Bryan Pratt (9, Meade)               |
| 9. Justus Williams (11, Madison Southern) | 21. Austin Gibbs (12, Belfy)             |
| 10. Hunter Ruber (11, Walton Verona)      | 22. Blake Powell (12, Simon Kenton)      |
| 11. Gavin Hernandez (12, Scott County)    | 23. Tristan Sanders (12, Seneca)         |
| 12. Bryce Chandler (12, Union County)     | 24. Quetin Coombs (12, Western)          |
| 13. Clayton Engle (12, Larue County)      |  |

Returning placers: Ahmad Hameidan 4<sup>th</sup> @ 220, Landin Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 285, Jorge Mendes 5<sup>th</sup> @ 285.

Early round matches to watch: **Round 2:** #3 Sanders vs. #7 Malala, #8 Mendes vs. #9 Williams, #6 Spencer vs. #10 Ruber. **Quarters:** #2 Jones vs. #3 Sanders, #5 Hameidan vs. #8 Mendes, #1 Young vs. #4 Robinson.

Kid who might out wrestle their ranking: Bryce Chandler – big, tough kid who could ride the momentum of a team title and all the energy around that to pull off a few upsets.

Team title race implications: Jones back in the finals for big points for North Oldham. Spencer for Trinity has been a bit of a surprise. Can he come through? Also, Chandler is a big, tough kid giving Union just more consolation points. Fullerton could pull out a few wins here and give Oldham County a small boost.

Oh, the big boys. Actually, this year it seems like we have a few extremes. The favorite to finally get his championship is the monster Landon Young. A UK football signee, will be right at home in Lexington looking to go out on top. While there are a few other large heavyweights that will be in the mix, there are also a few smaller athletic kids who believe they can compete. Hameidan is coming up from 220 and will be a force against these true heavies. I only hope they are NOT wrestling their placement matches well after midnight. Maybe a good reason for the random start weight for finals?

## Team Champions

**Favorite: Union County (3 finalists, 3 champs, 7 total placers)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Oldham County (4 finalists, 1 champ, 6 placers)    | 14. Harrison County (1 finalist, 2 placers)       |
| 3. North Oldham (1 finalists, 0 champs, 7 placers)    | 15. Wayne County (1 finalist, 3 placers)          |
| 4. Campbell County (2 finalists, 2 champs, 5 placers) | 16. Meade County (2 placers)                      |
| 5. Trinity (2 finalists, 2 champs, 5 placers)         | 17. Simon Kenton (1 champ, 1 finalist, 2 placers) |
| 6. Woodford County (1 finalist, 0 champs, 6 placers)  | 18. John Hardin (2 placers)                       |
| 7. St. Xavier (2 finalists, 1 champ, 6 placers)       | 19. Central (2 placers)                           |
| 8. Fern Creek (3 finalists, 0 champs, 5 placers)      | 20. North Hardin (3 placers)                      |
| 9. Lafayette (2 finalists, 2 champs, 5 placers)       | 21. Iroquois (1 champ, 2 placers)                 |
| 10. Johnson Central (1 finalist, 1 champ, 3 placers)  | 22. Madison Central (1 finalist, 1 placer)        |
| 11. Henry Clay (5 placers)                            | 23. Larue County (1 placer)                       |
| 12. Walton-Verona (1 finalist, 4 placers)             | 24. Christian County (1 placer)                   |
| 13. Male (1 finalist, 3 placers)                      | 25. Ryle (1 placer)                               |

After coming up a little short last season mostly due to a great team effort from Fern Creek, Union County is coming back to the horse park this year on a mission. I don't want to go out on a limb and say they can't be beat, but I truly believe it is theirs to lose. Oldham County has a solid hold on the runner-up spot bringing their team of a generation. The middle of that lineup is as strong as anyone in the state and they are showing some extra strength in the upper weights as well. While I don't see them catching Union County, I also don't think the pack can catch the Colonels. Now to the pack. I see the next 5 teams (North Oldham, Campbell County, Trinity, Woodford County, St. Xavier) within 10 points of each other and Fern Creek not far behind them. All of those teams have 2-3 hammers that will put up big points so it will come down to the role players pulling out those big consolation wins that add up to a team trophy. Really hate to see injuries to Tucker and Frankrone; horrible for the kids who have worked so hard for years, but also has a huge impact on team points as those boys would likely put up a ton of bonus points on their way to the finals and likely titles. Since I am somewhat obsessed with correlating kids/teams middle school performance to the high school level, this was set up to be the first of two championship runs for Campbell County. They put up over 170 points 4 years ago at middle school state with 4 champs and 5 finalists. While one is no longer in purple and gold (Moore), the other 4 (Yenter, Wells, Spahr, Graziani) are poised to put the team in position for a high finish.