

## 2016 Ranger Report

### Kentucky High School State Wrestling Championship Review

Another exciting state tournament in the books. The weather was great for us and the wrestling was pretty darn good as well. For me personally this was one of the most up and down roller coaster emotional state tournaments I have been a part of. I felt a lot of excitement and happiness for some kids reaching their goals and a lot of disappointment as others fell short. This sport is so tough physically AND mentally, but that is a big part of what makes it great. If the kids are able to transition even a portion of the lessons they learn in the sport over to their everyday life they will be much better and much stronger people just by participating in the sport of wrestling.

As I do these write-ups, I keep reaching back to a 4 year gap review. Essentially, looking to see how the current seniors performed as 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the MS level. The bottom line is many of these guys have been competitive for a long time and continue to work hard to make the podium on the high school level (11 of the 14 state champs were top 3 in MS 4 years ago). But there are the occasional surprises. None other than the MOW Dallas Ochsenbein who did not place as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at 92 pounds (although that was a pretty monstrous bracket back in 2012).

Interesting item follow up:

- 1) Does Saul continue the family tradition (an Ervin has won a state title since like 2006)?
  - a. It took an OUTSTANDING effort, literally the MOW, to knock him off, but Dallas Ochsenbein ended the streak.
- 2) Can anyone stop Sheffer from going 4-for-4 (and 8-for-8 overall)?
  - a. A tech followed by 3 first period pins and another pin in the finals. Bryce is well on his way to 4.
- 3) 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.
  - a. Another year of craziness at this weight with the Erdman upset and AJ pulling it out in OT over the defending champ.
- 4) Who will step up to win a wide open 195 weight class with the injury to Tyler Frankrone?
  - a. The lowest ranked champ since I started this, Grant Krueger came in ranked 7<sup>th</sup> but left #1.
- 5) Can anyone hang with Union County?
  - a. They held a massive lead most of the way and eventually won by almost 50 points.
- 6) How late will the final round go with the new format? Will the upper weights wrestle Saturday night or Sunday morning?
  - a. The final round format was not at all popular with the folks I spoke with, but we did get out before midnight.

## Report Audit

How the predicted individual champions fared?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Won title	8.75	62.5%	9.80	70.0%	9.33	66.7%	8	57.1%
Finished 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.50	10.7%	2.20	15.7%	1.89	13.5%	2	14.3%
Finished 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.75	19.6%	1.00	7.1%	1.78	12.7%	4	28.6%
Finished 4 <sup>th</sup>	0.25	1.8%	0.20	1.4%	0.22	1.6%	0	0.0%
<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>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	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>, 2015 – Hudson Heidorf 145 Trinity 5<sup>th</sup>)

Who won the individual state title?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.75	62.5%	9.80	70.0%	9.33	66.7%	8	57.1%
Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.25	16.1%	2.80	20.0%	2.56	18.3%	2	14.3%
Ranked 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.40	2.9%	0.67	4.7%	1	7.1%
Ranked 4 <sup>th</sup>	1.00	7.1%	0.40	2.9%	0.67	4.7%	2	14.3%
<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>	<u>1</u>	<u>7.1%</u>
TOTAL	14	100%	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 106 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Geordan Blanton Johnson Central 145 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Grant Krueger Ashland Blazer 195 7<sup>th</sup>)

### Who placed?

	2007-2010		2011-2015		9 Year Average		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Predicted Top 8	83.0	74.1%	81.2	72.5%	82.0	73.2%	87	77.7%
Predicted 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	15.0	13.4%	16.0	14.3%	15.6	13.9%	21	18.8%
Predicted 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	7.5	6.7%	7.0	6.3%	7.2	6.4%	2	1.8%
Predicted below 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.5	5.8%	7.8	7.0%	7.2	6.4%	2	1.8%
TOTAL	112	100%	112	100%	112	100%	112	100%

### Results by Region

	Team Pts	%	Champs	Finalists	Placers	%
Region 6	470.5	16%	2	3	21	19%
Region 5	442.0	15%	3	6	20	18%
Region 4	419.0	14%	4	7	16	14%
Region 1	381.0	13%	2	4	12	11%
Region 7	379.0	13%	1	5	14	13%
Region 2	298.5	10%	0	0	12	11%
Region 8	281.0	10%	1	1	10	9%
Region 3	243.0	8%	1	2	7	6%
TOTAL	2,914.0	100%	14	28	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>

2016

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

\*North Oldham finished 6<sup>th</sup>, Campbell Co finished 7<sup>th</sup>

## 4 YEAR GAP COMPARISON

### 2012 Middle School

**70**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tanner Yenter (Campbell Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Zach Holub (Turkeyfoot)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brock Whorton (North Hardin)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Isaac Pledger (River City)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Sawyer (Fern Creek)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Tylan Tucker (Woodford Co)
- DNP – Preston Mattingly (Apollo)
  - Bradley Miller (Hayes)

**75**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ryan Moore (Campbell Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Blake Roth (Walton-Verona)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Zac Brooks (Oldham Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Nate Wheeler (East Oldham)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Clay Fitzhugh (River City)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Tristin Garcia (Fern Creek)
- DNP – Adam Bender (Bluegrass)
  - Micah Ervin (Union Co)
  - Nathaniel Lawrence (Elkhorn)

**80**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brady Wells (Campbell Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Konner Kraeszig (River City)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saul Ervin (Union Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ian Creech (Walton-Verona)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Zane Brown (Shamrock)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Joey Roberts (Woodford Co)
- DNP – Jakob McClintic (East Oldham)

### 2016 High School

**106**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Chase Yost (Woodford Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cagen Wallace (Wayne Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nate Wheeler (St. Xavier)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Adam Bender (Lexington Catholic)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Ketchen-Carter (Campbell Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Bradley Miller (Henry Clay)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Blake Roth (Walton-Verona)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Preston Mattingly (Apollo)

**113**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tanner Yenter (Campbell Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Konner Kraeszig (St. Xavier)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Colton Lampe (Fern Creek)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Brandon Miller (Henry Clay)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Michael Mattox (Harrison Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Drew Johnson (North Oldham)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Austin Grant-Hall (Christian Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Brody Haverstick (John Hardin)

**120**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Dallas Ochsenbein (North Oldham)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saul Ervin (Union Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brady Wells (Campbell Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Tucker Hurst (Woodford Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Ryan Moore (Walton-Verona)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Tyler Storck (Henry Clay)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Austin Cook (St. Xavier)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Dodd (Wayne Co)

## 86

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bryce Sheffer (Union Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Clint Chaffee (Ryle)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Austin Cook (River City)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Matthew Fallon (Woodford Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Dodd (Wayne Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Michael Mattox (Harrison Co)
- DNP – Connor Cambron (Fern Creek)
  - Nick Wise (East Oldham)
  - Clayton Hanson (North Hardin)

## 92

- 1<sup>st</sup> – AJ Bindner (River City)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tyler Holub (Turkeyfoot)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Trent Johnson (North Hardin)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Mason Smith (Walton-Verona)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Dylan Gray (Caldwell Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Bryan Holden (Campbell Co)
- DNP – Dallas Ochsenbein (North Oldham)
  - Brandon Leak (North Hardin)

## 98

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mike Meyer (Walton-Verona)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Chance Oxford (Union Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dallas Miles (River City)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Christian Downing (Summit View)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Tanner Cochran (North Oldham)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Spencer Jacobs (Fern Creek)
- DNP – Jordan Monroe (Walton-Verona)

## 126

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bryce Sheffer (Union Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Connor Cambron (Fern Creek)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dante Castellano (Simon Kenton)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jake Peace (Walton-Verona)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Dwayne Johnson (Eastern)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jakob McClintic (Oldham Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Alex Holt (Montgomery Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Skyler Martinson (Daviess Co)

## 132

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Keegan Duncan (Trinity)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Zane Brown (Male)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Justin Torgerson (Lafayette)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Monroe (Cooper)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Joey Roberts (Woodford Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Cameron Nevels (Wayne Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Micah Ervin (Union Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Cody Shultz (Scott)

## 138

- 1<sup>st</sup> – AJ Bindner (Fern Creek)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Angel Vasquez (Lafayette)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Logan Erdman (Ryle)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Trent Johnson (John Hardin)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Henley (Oldham Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Nathaniel Lawrence (Franklin Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Austin Alemi (North Oldham)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Tristin Garcia (Male)

## 105

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Logan Erdman (Ryle)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brady Emerson (Oldham Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jeremiah Kline (Trigg Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Geordan Blanton (Johnson Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Grant Farwick (Gray)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Brad Krebs (Campbell Co)
- DNP – Derek Wiley (Conner)

## 113

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Robert Smith (Union Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bryan Spahr (Campbell Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hudson Heidorf (North Oldham)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Kyrie Glover (Holmes)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Chance Collins (University Heights)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Ben Barton (Shamrock)
- DNP – Alex Holt (McNabb)

## 121

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Keegan Duncan (North Oldham)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Angel Vasquez (Five Star)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Camrin Cole (Christian Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Michael Eldridge (Woodford Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Colton Cooper (Summit View)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jeremy Henahan (Fern Creek)
- DNP – Sam Griffith (Johnson Central)
  - Elijah Allgeier (River City)
  - Jordan Kidwell (Cooper)

## 145

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jackson Oxford (Union Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cody Huston (Cooper)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mason Smith (Walton-Verona)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Dallas Miles (St. Xavier)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jared Branch (Fern Creek)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Dakota Hoskins (Meade Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Brandon Leak (North Hardin)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Max Powell (Doss)

## 152

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ben Barton (Trinity)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brady Emerson (Oldham Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Geordan Blanton (Johnson Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Tristin Badida (Conner)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Isaiah Lawson (Hopkinsville)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Corey Knoth (Meade Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Kidwell (Cooper)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – John Reitnauer (North Oldham)

## 160

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Hudson Heidorf (Trinity)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Max Andreoni (Woodford Co)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Andrew Ackley (Nelson Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Matthew Munoz (Dixie Heights)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Dylan Gray (Caldwell Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Lee Johnson (Central)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Lucas Carrillo (Oldham Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Cameron Blankenship (Male)



## 130

- 1<sup>st</sup> – David Rich (Ryle)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Reitnauer (North Oldham)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dylan West (Larue Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Avery Buckman (Union Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Max Andreoni (Woodford Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Santo Biddix (Shamrock)
- DNP – Aaron Valentine (Elkhorn)
  - Jared Branch (Fern Creek)
  - Jay Layne (Ashland Verity)

## 140

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jackson Oxford (Union Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tyler Frankrone (River City)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Casey Cornett (Turkeyfoot)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ben Leaton (East Oldham)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Keyven Sells (Christian Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Kobe Perry (Christian Co)
- DNP – Matt Munoz (Turkeyfoot)

## 152

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Johnny Meiman (Ryle)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Isaiah Lawson (Hopkinsville)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Max Emerson (Oldham Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ben Thome (North Oldham)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Seth Hille (Holmes)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Dalton Parr (Central Hardin)
- DNP – Hunter Ruber (Walton-Verona)

## 170

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Casey Cornett (Simon Kenton)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christopher Morrow (Madison Cen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Avery Buckman (Union Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Michael Eldridge (Woodford Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Raymond Williams (North Hardin)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Sam Griffith (Johnson Central)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Aaron Valentine (Franklin Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Warren Tucker (John Hardin)

## 182

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Max Emerson (Oldham Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Elijah Allgeier (St. Xavier)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Matt Steven (Larue Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Cole Sherman (Union Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Josh Robbins (Boyle Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jay Layne (Ashland Blazer)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Colton Miller (Montgomery Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Kadin Kulmer (Trinity)

## 195

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Grant Krueger (Ashland Blazer)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ray Karl Irving (Henry Clay)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brett Graziani (Campbell Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Emir Bernabe (Woodford Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Alex Olvera-Vancini (Holmes)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Kimbell (Oldham Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Bilal Mamedov (Iroquois)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Alex Horn (Johnson Central)

## 168

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Alex McIntosh (Oldham Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grant Krueger (Ashland Verity)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nathan King (Johnson Central)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Sam Anderson (Elkhorn)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Angel Silva (Christian Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Cobe Calhoun (River City)
- DNP – Alex Vancini (Holmes)
  - Collin Portman (North Oldham)

## 190

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brett Graziani (Campbell Co)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Aaron King (Johnson Central)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Conner Sherman (Union Co)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Garrett Chandler (Fern Creek)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Seth Watkins (Johnson Central)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Seamus Sallee (Danville Bate)
- DNP –

## 230

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tucker Mueller (Twenhofel)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Landon Young (Five Star)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gunner Slone (Johnson Central)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – JJ Mendez (Bourbon Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Coltyn Kearns (Conner)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Taylor Widmer (Apollo)
- DNP – Cole Sherman (Union Co)

## 220

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Garrett Chandler (Male)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Chance Orr (Paducah Tilghman)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brandon Reed (Iroquois)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Colby Culver (Calloway Co)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Kellon Williams (Harrison Co)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Collin Portman (North Oldham)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Kairus Washington (Dixie Heights)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Damorean Travel (Jeffersontown)

## 285

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Landon Young (Lafayette)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Landin Jones (North Oldham)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Justus Williams (Madison Southern)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Hunter Ruber (Walton-Verona)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Sean Sanders (Bullitt Central)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jorge Mendez (Bourbon Co)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Ahmad Hameidan (Boone Co)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Bryce Chandler (Union Co)

## **106 lbs.**

**Champion: Chase Yost (8, Woodford County)**

Runner-up: Cagen Wallace (10, Wayne County)

3. Nate Wheeler (9, St. Xavier)

4. Adam Bender (10, Lexington Catholic)

5. Tom Ketchen-Carter (7, Campbell County)

6. Bradley Miller (9, Henry Clay)

7. Blake Roth (10, Walton-Verona)

8. Preston Mattingly (9, Apollo)

Bloodround: Zeke Escalera (7, Union County), Kaleb Sapp (12, Ohio County), Derek Ringlen (11, Doss), Aaron Brossart (10, Ryle)

Highlight matches of the tournament: Quarter-finals and Semi-finals for Chase Yost, beating Bender (2-1) and Wheeler (3-2). Both were nail biters that could have gone either way, but the state champ pulled them out.

Surprises at this weight: Ketchen-Carter knocking off Klein and Miller to finish 5<sup>th</sup>. Mike Klein finishing his career by not placing.

Ironman: Miller losing round 2 (to Wheeler) placing 6<sup>th</sup>

Predictions were 6 of 8. This was a tough bracket with four returning state placers (three placed this year). Wheeler came in as the favorite, but after a couple tough battles with Miller and Roth he fell short against eventual champ Yost. Chase had a couple of close battles beating Sapp (8-2), Bender (2-1), Wheeler (3-2), before pulling out the OT win in the finals over Wallace (4-2). Wallace came into the weekend undefeated and cruised into the semis where he won a tight match with Ketchen-Carter to make the final. The two 7-graders proved they belong; Ketchen-Carter finished 5<sup>th</sup> beating Klein and Miller, and Escalera went 2-2 losing to Wallace and Miller. Bender finishes 4<sup>th</sup> for the second year in a row losing to Yost and Wheeler. After losing to Yost in the quarters, he beat Ringlen, Roth, and Ketchen-Carter to make the consolation finals. Roth beat somewhat surprise placer Mattingly in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> match to make the podium again.

## **113 lbs.**

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

Runner-up: Konner Kraeszig (10, St. Xavier)

3. Colton Lampe (10, Fern Creek)

4. Brandon Miller (10, Henry Clay)

5. Michael Mattox (11, Harrison County)

6. Drew Johnson (11, North Oldham)

7. Austin Grant-Hall (7, Christian County)

8. Brody Haverstick (11, John Hardin)

Blood round: Bailey Parker (12, Atherton), Cauy Wallace (8, Wayne County), Seth Lutes (8, Scott), Shay Horton (9, Ryle)

Highlight match of the tournament: Lampe avenging his early loss to Miller to take 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Surprises at this weight: The biggest surprise was Tucker out due to injury. The second would be Kraeszig finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. He wrestled a great tournament.

Ironman: Lampe losing tough quarter match to Miller. Lampe battled back to avenge his loss to Miller and took 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Predictions were 8 out of 8. Did we mention that we were also 8 of 8 last year for 113 predictions? Just thought we would throw that out there. Now back to the commentary.

Most of the talk was surrounding the scratch of Tucker. Tucker was the heavy favorite considering he had convincing wins over all the top guys at this weight. With that being said Yenter immediately moved to the number one spot and took care of business. Coming in for the runner-up spot was Kraeszig who navigated a tough bracket to reach the finals. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> had two wrestlers Lampe/Miller, who initially met in the quarters; Miller knocked off Lampe on the front side. However Lampe got his revenge over Miller to take a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. Coming in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> were Johnson and Mattox. Every year Mattox gets on the podium. To quote a friend of mine about Mattox placing. "you can bank on it". He is like Zane Brown in middle school. Every year he finds a way. Finally 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> was Haverstick and Grant-Hall. We personally thought that Haverstick would place higher but we felt they would both make the podium. This was a talented group of wrestlers who should all make a run again next year. I would imagine this group will move up to the 120 pound class next year. Who will come out on top? Stay tuned.

## **120 lbs.**

**Champion: Dallas Ochsenbein (12, North Oldham)**

Runner-up: Saul Ervin (10, Union County)

3. Brady Wells (11, Campbell County)

4. Tucker Hurst (12, Woodford County)

5. Ryan Moore (10, Walton-Verona)

6. Tyler Storck (10, Henry Clay)

7. Austin Cook (11, St. Xavier)

8. Jacob Dodd (11, Wayne County)

Blood round: Clayton Boyd (9, Conner), Stiles Metcalf (11, Larue County), Jake Insko (8, Apollo), Chance Caldwell (11, Dupont Manual)

Highlight match of the tournament: Semi Final Moore vs. Ochsenbein.

Surprises at this weight: Ochsenbein knocking off the state champ to win his first title.

Ironman: Hurst losing 2<sup>nd</sup> round to Ervin and wrestling back to 4<sup>th</sup>.

Predictions were 8 of 8. We are on a roll. This bracket was loaded 5 returning state placers. Once again, all 5 made the podium. This year's champ/MOW was Ochsenbien. With a tough 3-2 win over Moore and a 7-3 win over Ervin. This ended the 10 year steak of an Ervin being crowned champion. Ervin did not have an easy road to the finals. He had to get past Hurst, Wells, and Stork. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> featured two returning state placers. Wells/runner up and Hurst previous champ. Wells had a tough overtime win over Moore. He finished up with a 8-2 win over Hurst to take 3rd. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> was Moore with a Tech Fall over Storck "the Dork". We believe most of the state was anticipating a Moore/Ervin finals. Finally Cook won 3 in a row in consolations to take 7<sup>th</sup> over Dodd.

With 6 of the 8 placers returning next year this should be another very competitive weight class. Will Ervin, Wells, and Moore be in the same weight class again? We could see all these guys at 126 next year. Here is the quote from the old movie (The Highlander) "There can only be one". Who will it be?

## 126 lbs.

**Champion: Bryce Sheffer (11, Union County)**

Runner-up: Connor Cambron (11, Fern Creek)

3. Dante Castellano (11, Simon Kenton)

4. Jake Peace (12, Walton Verona)

5. Dwyane "Rock" Johnson (11, Eastern)

6. Jakob "Squid" McClintic (9, Oldham County)

7. Alex Holt (12, Montgomery County)

8. Skyler Martinson (12 Daviess County)

Blood Round: Alex Lee (12 Meade Co), Scott Ruttman (12, Calloway Co), Marik Black (11, Woodford Co), Ryan McManus (10, Madison Central)

Highlight match of the tournament: Jake Peace coming off a 3<sup>rd</sup> place regional finish and taking 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Good job Jake!!

Surprises at this weight: Dwayne "Rock" Johnson taking 5<sup>th</sup>. Can you smell what the Rock is cooking?

Ironman: Once again Dwayne "Rock" Johnson. He lost first round and came back for 5<sup>th</sup>.

Predictions were 5 of 8. This is the same total we had from last year. Seems like every year a wrestler or two at this weight decides they don't like our predictions. We know any bracket that involves Sheffer is usually the first one picked in the bracket challenge. Once again Sheffer does not disappoint.

Considering Sheffer knocked off 4 of the 8 state placers to win the bracket. Oh, did I mention he had TF, MD, Fall, Fall, and Fall over Cambron in the finals. Wonder if anyone can stop the streak? I wouldn't bet against Sheffer. Coming in for 3<sup>rd</sup> was Castellano over Peace. There was a lot of talk about the possible match up of Sheffer and Castellano. Unfortunately, Cambron must have heard the talk and decided it wasn't going to happen on his watch. Castellano has to be one of the most improved wrestlers in the state. We will see him again for one more season. As for Peace it was a great run. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> featured "The Squid" McClintic over "The Rock" Johnson. We did not have either one of the guys placing. We thought we should apologize and say "We were wrong". We will never under estimate any wrestler with a nickname. Finally 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> was Holt over Martinson in a crazy 12-10 match.

## 132 lbs.

**Champion: Keegan Duncan (12, Trinity)**

Runner-up: Zane Brown (9, Male)

3. Justin Torgerson (11, Lafayette)

4. Jordan Monroe (12, Cooper)

5. Joey Roberts (12, Woodford)

6. Cameron Nevels (12, Wayne)

7. Micah Ervin (8, Union County)

8. Cody Shultz (11, Scott)

Blood Round: Braden Wyatt (11, Bourbon Co.), Louie Regalado (11, Ft. Campbell), Collin Barrett (11, Campbell Co), Jaython Elliot (12, Southern)

Highlight match of the tournament: Torgerson vs. Monroe. A tough battle and Torgerson coming out on top 4-3

Surprises at this weight: Cody Schultz making the podium, from #7 seed at region to a state placer

Ironman: Cody Schultz losing 1<sup>st</sup> round and fighting back for a podium spot.

Predictions were 7 of 8. This bracket started with the return of 4 state placers. I believe most people felt it would be Brown vs. Duncan in the finals. It was almost seeded perfectly. Duncan took home his 2<sup>nd</sup> state title with a win over Brown. That's two final appearances in a row for Brown. Can he get the title next year? Coming in for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> was another rematch of Monroe/Torgerson. They met in the quarters but both battled back for placement. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Featured Roberts/Nevels. After a WWE type choke out, Roberts was able to continue and put on a clinic. In the future I would not suggest choking out Roberts. He doesn't take too kindly to that. Finally we had another Ervin on the podium. He got a fall over Schultz. Considering he lost 1<sup>st</sup> round I would say he wrestled a great tournament.

## 138 lbs.

### Champion: AJ "Big Announcement" Binder

Runner-up: Angel Vasquez (11, Lafayette)

3. Logan "The Birman" Erdman (12, Ryle)

4. Trent Johnson (9, John Hardin)

5. Jacob Henley (12, Oldham County)

6. Nathaniel Lawrence (8, Franklin County)

7. Austin Alemi (12, North Oldham)

8. Tristin Garcia (10, Male)

Blood Round: Bryan Spahr (12, Campbell Co), Nathan Lopez (12, Harrison Co), Chance Oxford (11, Union Co), Wesley Whelan (11, Ashland Blazer)

Highlight match of the tournament: The finals had to be the premier match. Any finals that goes to overtime is a good one.

Surprises at this weight: Erdman losing first round to Kostecki. Nobody would have seen that coming.

Ironman: Erdman being upset in the first round. He wrestled all the way back to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This is a very tough thing to do for these elite kids that expect to win it. Erdman has been a Finalist and a State Champ. Not to mention he had to beat Taylor, Collins, Gibson, Oxford, Alemi, Henley, and Johnson to take 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is a true Ironman.

Predictions were 6 of 8. Most people called this the toughest bracket in the state going into the tournament. One side of the bracket got a real break with the upset of Erdman in the first round. Vasquez and Binder was a great finals match. We had these guys picked to be in the finals. After a few injury time outs, Binder got the win in overtime. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> had a determined Erdman who just won 6 in a row. He pulled out the win over a tough Johnson. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Henley with a major decision over the 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lawrence. Henley also made huge strides this offseason and is right there with the most improved across the state. Coming in for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> was Alemi with a 4-2 decision over Garcia. Two years in a row 138 has been a tough one. Will it be next year? Only time will tell.



## 145 lbs.

**Champion: Jackson Oxford (12, Union County)**

Runner-up: Cody Huston (11, Cooper)

3. Mason Smith (10, Walton Verona)

4. Dallas Miles (11, St. Xavier)

5. Jared Branch (11, Fern Creek)

6. Dakota Hoskins (12, Meade County)

7. Brandon Leak (11, North Hardin)

8. Maximilian Powell (10, Doss)

Blood Round: Blake Gamble (10, Johnson Central), Braden Sperry (12, Caldwell Co), Nick Wise (12, Oldham Co), Dalton Bell (10, Larue Co)

Highlight match of the tournament: The semi-final of Oxford/Smith. We thought the winner of this match would win a state title.

Surprises at this weight: Nick Wise not placing. Looking at the draw we missed on this prediction.

Ironman: Hoskins losing first round and wrestling back to 6<sup>th</sup>.

Predictions 5 of 8. Another bracket we missed a few. We thought the top of the bracket was up for grabs. Huston navigated past Hoskins, Wise, Gamble, and Branch to make the finals. On the lower half we had the #1 Oxford, #2 Smith, and #3 Miles fighting for the finals appearance. Maybe one day they will seed the bracket. Oxford got past Leak, Smith, and Huston to win his first state title. One side note. If you can beat Smith at the state tournament you will win a state title. (Sheffer, Duncan, Oxford) It would be safe to say his time is coming. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> was Smith over Miles. These two met in the quarters and once again in the consolation finals. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> was our Ironman Hoskins vs. Branch. Branch pulled out a close 2-1 match over Hoskins. Finally was Leak over Powell. Leak was runner-up last year who bounced back from his loss to Oxford. Powell lost 2<sup>nd</sup> round to Smith and wrestled back for 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 152 lbs.

**Champion: Ben Barton (12, Trinity)**

Runner-up: Brady Emerson (12, Oldham County)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3. Geordan Blanton (11, Johnson Central) | 4. Tristin Badida (12, Conner)       |
| 5. Isaiah Lawson (12, Hopkinsville)      | 6. Corey Knoth (11, Meade County)    |
| 7. Jordan Kidwell (12, Cooper)           | 8. John Reitnauer (12, North Oldham) |

Blood round: Christian Shelby (11, Henry Clay), Jermaine Barber (12, Scott County), Jacob Dawson (12, Lafayette), Jacob Bratcher (10, Dupont Manual)

Highlight match of the tournament: Semifinal between the 2 defending state champs, Ben Barton (152) and Geordan Blanton (145). You don't see too many of these brackets with multiple returning state champs.

Surprises at this weight: Shelby just barely missing the podium; we had him pegged for a 1-2 or 2-2 guy at best. Way to prove us wrong. 😊

Ironman: Knoth and Reitnauer losing 2<sup>nd</sup> round and coming back to place

Predictions 7 of 8. Barton's injuries and an early season loss to Oxford had many doubting he could repeat, but he proves he is the man and gets it done. Good luck down at Campbell with Kolat; hope he doesn't have to get the cattle prod out on you. Emerson was sort of the forgotten guy here. He is tough, a multiple time state placer, we knew he would be competitive and he pushed the finals match to the last whistle, just missing the title his brother won. Lawson drops down from 170 a season ago and again makes the podium beating Knoth for 5<sup>th</sup>. Kidwell repeats his 7<sup>th</sup> place performance from a year ago by beating one of those steady North Oldham boys Reitnauer. This weight losses the most seniors in the rankings, so early predictions may be a bit sketchy. But this is generally a fairly deep weight so I expect the rankings will fill up fairly quickly.

## 160 lbs.

**Champion: Hudson Heidorf (12, Trinity)**

Runner-up: Max Andreoni (11, Woodford County)

3. Andrew Ackley (12, Nelson County)

4. Matthew Munoz (12, Dixie Heights)

5. Dylan Gray (10, Caldwell County)

6. Lee Johnson (12, Central)

7. Lucas Carrillo (10, Oldham County)

8. Cameron Blankenship (12, Male)

Blood round: Cody Roland (11, Scott), Joe Jackson (9, Johnson Central), Evan Cannon (12, Henry Clay), Isaac Nichols (11, North Hardin)

Highlight matches of the tournament: A lot of people were looking forward to the Heidorf / Andreoni finals, but the Heidorf / Ackley semi was probably a better match from a fan perspective.

Surprises at this weight: Carrillo stepping up and making the podium; from unranked to begin the season to outside the top 12 heading into state, Lucas showed the hard work he has put in during the last year

Ironman: Dylan Gray loses in round 2 to Lee Johnson then battles back to beat Johnson for 5<sup>th</sup> place

Predictions 6 of 8. The top tier in this weight is as solid as it gets. Heidorf finally wrestled like a hippie and showed his talent at the big show. He has always been considered one of the most talented kids in the state, but hasn't put it together at the state tournament. The final was not without its controversy, but we shouldn't let that overshadow the two great wrestlers on the mat. Hudson is the champ. That makes Andreoni 2-for-2 as a high schooler making the finals (bogus skin condition kept him out as a freshman). Max is a beast and will be tough to beat in his final season. Ackley fell to a Trinity boy for the second year in a row, losing a tight battle to Heidorf in the semis (6-4). Then Nick did what Nick does and pinned and teched his way back to 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the consolation final he pinned Munoz. Dixie Heights had a rather surprising solid post season performance (23<sup>rd</sup> @ state) lead by Munoz. As mentioned above Gray and Johnson hit in round 2 (a 9-8 win by Johnson) before both battled their way back to conso semis and eventually a rematch for 5<sup>th</sup>. Surprise Carrillo won a tight match 7-6 over Blankenship for the final spots on the podium. This weight had some solid kids finish just short in the blood round who will be returning. Keep your eye out for those three.

## 170 lbs.

**Champion: Casey Cornett (11, Simon Kenton)**

Runner-up: Christopher Morrow (12, Madison Central)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3. Avery Buckman (11, Union County)      | 4. Michael Eldridge (12, Woodford County) |
| 5. Raymond Williams (11, North Hardin)   | 6. Sam Griffith (12, Johnson Central)     |
| 7. Aaron Valentine (12, Franklin County) | 8. Warren Tucker (12, John Hardin)        |

Blood round: Justin Voelker (11, St. Xavier), Dakota Santiago (10, Taylor County), Seth Hille (11, Holmes), Aaron Duncan (12, Central)

Highlight match of the tournament: Probably have to go with Morrow / Buckman quarterfinals and Morrow / Griffith semis. Cornett was the prohibitive favorite and majored or pinned everyone, so these battles decided who would make the finals

Surprises at this weight: Devins pulling out match after match to earn his shot at a title. He won in OT in round 2, 3-2 in quarters, and 6-4 in semis.

Ironman: Buckman and Eldridge both lost in the quarters to the eventual finalists, but battled back to meet in the consolation finals; Tucker lost in round 2 and won 2 con matches to make the podium

Predictions 5 of 8. Cornett was the heavy favorite all year and Casey finished the job in a calm, cool, collected fashion the way he usually does. A nice in-state showcase to all of the hard work and national success we have seen from him over the last year. I believe Morrow was the first finalist for the Madison Central program. Wouldn't it be nice if we highlighted nice moments like this at our premier event of the year? Ah, I guess not. This is only wrestling and in Kentucky. Anyway, a great year for Morrow, coming out of nowhere (preseason #12 @ 160) to be the second best kid in the state at this weight. Buckman is rock solid for Union County and will be an important part of their upper weights next year with a lot of graduations. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup> ahead of one of the surprise kids at this weight, Michael Eldridge. Eldridge was actually not on the board for us until a little birdie in Versailles gave us the hint that he would be competitive. And that he was. Even without his All Star meet teammate (Little) and in the midst of a lot of chaos and change at North Hardin, Williams made the podium placing 5<sup>th</sup> ahead of Griffith. Williams jumped a couple weight classes this season, so it will be interesting to see where he ends up as a senior. Rounding out the podium was Valentine over Tucker.

## **182 lbs.**

**Champion: Max Emerson (12, Oldham County)**

Runner-up: Elijah Allgeier (12, St. Xavier)

3. Matt Steven (11, Larue County)

4. Cole Sherman (12, Union County)

5. Josh Robbins (12, Boyle County)

6. Jay Layne (12, Ashland Blazer)

7. Colton Miller (12, Montgomery County)

8. Kadin Kulmer (9, Trinity)

Blood round: Evan Rademaker (12, South Oldham), Blake Denny (10, Henry Clay), Katayvon Anthony (11, Hopkinsville), Collin Waples (12, North Oldham)

Highlight match of the tournament: Only matchup of returning placers was Emerson-Steven in the quarters, won by pin from Emerson; best match of this bracket was the final

Surprises at this weight: Kadin Kulmer, lowest ranked wrestler to make the podium. ALTHOUGH, I have to say on two occasions I told Trinity folks (Ben Barton in July and Alex Shearer in December) that I thought Kulmer had the potential to be a difference maker in their run for a team state title. And the freshman definitely held up his end of the bargain.

Ironman: somewhat a tie here, with Steven losing in the quarters to Emerson and winning 4 straight to take 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kulmer losing in round 2 and battling back to make the podium

Predictions 6 of 8. It wasn't always pretty, but Shrek got it done. Very happy for Max and his entire family. His grandmother has been attending the KY state tournament as a fan back to my days. If this is her last, I am glad she got to see her boys in the state finals. For anyone that watched much of Max over the last year, we knew he would be tough to beat (even with a Meiman in the bracket). Further evidence is given by the fact that he pinned to the finals. Allgeier is a big, strong kid at 182, who pushed Emerson a couple times this season, but in the end just didn't have enough to change that goose egg in the loss column for Max. Steven was tough all year and will definitely be a force at this weight next year after a third place finish. In the consolation finals he beat Sherman who was a big part of the Union domination, especially their solid upper weights. 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> were seniors making their first appearance on the podium. And finally, Kulmer takes home a medal as a freshman. Expect big things from him down the road.

## 195 lbs.

**Champion: Grant Krueger (12, Ashland Blazer)**

Runner-up: Ray Karl Irving (10, Henry Clay)

3. Brett Graziani (12, Campbell County)

4. Emir Bernabe (12, Woodford County)

5. Alex Olvera-Vancini (12, Holmes)

6. Daniel Kimbell (10, Oldham County)

7. Bilal Mamedov (12, Iroquois)

8. Alex Horn (9, Johnson Central)

Blood round: Ross Hicks (10, Union County), Steve Brown (11, Doss), Kevin Shantz (10, Meade County), Philip Bradley (12, University Heights)

Highlight match of the tournament: Quarterfinal Irving vs. Graziani and Semis Irving vs. Bernabe. Ray Karl forced his style and strategy on his opponents and made his way to the finals.

Surprises at this weight: This weight was pretty wide open once Frankrone was declared out, but Krueger really stepped up and won his title fairly easily. Also, after losing his region final by dq, Irving pulled off a couple upsets to make the final.

Ironman: Freshman Alex Horn lost in round 2 and battled back to make the podium

Predictions 7 of 8. Can't talk about 195 without first discussing the beast Tyler Frankrone and his injury at the regional tournament. Praying for a full and speedy recovery and great success at the next level. With Frankrone out of the tournament, I was looking forward to hearing that loud roar from Graziani after winning a championship. But when he met up with Ray Karl in the quarters the match played right into Ray's strategy. And instead, we have the lowest ranked kid (#7) to win a title since we have been doing this (wink, wink, he was #2 preseason, so we didn't totally bomb on that one). Krueger shows up big for an Ashland team that doesn't make the big stage often and wins handily (3 falls, a major, and a 5-1 decision in the semis). The returning placers here are all young (sophomores in Irving and Kimbell and blood round kids Hicks and Shantz, then freshman Horn) so this weight and those that move up to 220 will be interesting for the next couple seasons. Speaking of Horn, where in the world does Johnson County get all of these monster big kids? Kings out; no problem, let's just plug in a couple other king kong boys. My boy Spencer has suggested we just keep an annual placeholder from 170-195 for whomever Johnson Central puts on the mat. Vancini and Mamedov make the podium as seniors for less heralded programs that seem to be making strides. The Holmes program is growing with some quality athletes, but not sure what is in store for the Iroquois team. This is probably the weight class where we whiffed the most in the preseason; Bernabe, Kimbell, and Horn were not even on our radar. That is some indication as to how wide open this weight was all year.

## 220 lbs.

**Champion: Garrett Chandler (12, Male)**

Runner-up: Chance Orr (11, Paducah Tilghman)

3. Brandon Reed (11, Iroquois)

4. Colby Culver (11, Calloway County)

5. Kellon Williams (12, Harrison County)

6. Collin Portman (12, North Oldham)

7. Kairus Washington (10, Dixie Heights)

8. Damoreon Travis (10, Jeffersontown)

Blood round: Caleb Boyles (12, Anderson County), Vachean Jones (12, Fairdale), Conner Sherman (12, Union County), Ian Roberts (12, Trinity)

Highlight match of the tournament: Garrett Chandler all day Saturday; 2-1 battle with Reed, 12-11 war with Portman, and then a 5-3 win in the finals over Orr

Surprises at this weight: Another young kid stepping up out of nowhere as Orr beats Sherman at region and makes the finals

Ironman: Washington losing in round 1 and battling back to make the podium

Predictions 6 of 8. We wondered who would follow in the footsteps of Austin Myers void and while no one can fill that sort of void, this was a deep group of tough kids. Similar to 120, it took a MOW worthy effort for Chandler to win his title. We came into the season talking like this was a 2 horse race between Reed and Portman, but Chandler did the unthinkable and beat them both on his way to the finals. Orr had a favorable draw on the top, but did his job to take the runner-up spot. After a disappointing loss in the quarters, Reed battled back to take 3<sup>rd</sup> and solidify himself as a frontrunner again next year. Another region 1 kid stepped up to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in Culver. Coming in as one of the favorites, Portman struggled through an injury most of the weekend and eventually defaulted to 6<sup>th</sup> place. Hoping for a speedy recovery for Collin and success at the next level (I am assuming football?). A couple of sophomores rounded out the podium finishers with Washington and Travis. With 5 of 8 placers returning, 220 might be an interesting weight class to watch in the post-Myers era.

## **285 lbs.**

**Champion: Landon Young (12, Lafayette)**

Runner-up: Landin Jones (11, North Oldham)

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3. Justus Williams (11, Madison Southern) | 4. Hunter Ruber (11, Walton-Verona)  |
| 5. Sean Sanders (12, Bullitt Central)     | 6. Jorge Mendez (12, Bourbon County) |
| 7. Ahmad Hameidan (12, Boone County)      | 8. Bryce Chandler (12, Union County) |

Blood round: Jonah Welch (11, Danville), Cole Spencer (11, Trinity), Gavian Hernandez (12, Scott County), Elijah Watkins (12, Valley)

Highlight match of the tournament: Quarterfinal match between Young and Hernandez. With Young missing most of the season due to injury, no one knew how his conditioning would hold up. While most kids couldn't push him to wrestle a 6 minute match, Landon had to gut out a 4-1 decision and prove his championship heart.

Surprises at this weight: Hameidan getting pinned by Williams in the quarters

Ironman: Mendez losing in round 2 and battling back to finish top 6

Predictions 5 of 8. Landon did it. He had numerous injuries and obstacles over the years, but he came back against the odds (senior with an injury who has big football plans in his future) and got the job done. Well-deserved championship and the best of luck at UK! Jones comes in 2<sup>nd</sup> again losing to an unstoppable force. Jones will have one more shot next year and obviously comes in as the favorite. He was a solid anchor for that tough North Oldham team this year. Another couple juniors battled for the 3rd spot and Williams and Ruber both stepped up big time on the big stage making the semis and consolation finals. This should be fun to watch as 3 of the top 4 at this weight return next season. The guys finishing 5th through 8<sup>th</sup> were all seniors. Mendez was the ironman winning 4 consolation matches to get into the top 6. Hameidan came in as the one kid I thought might surprise the big boys at the top, but fell short in the quarters and placed 7<sup>th</sup>. Chandler was somewhat a surprise placer for Union County and was a big part of their run away championship.



## Team Champions

**Champion: Union County (3 finalists, 2 champs, 7 placers)**

Runner-up: Woodford County (2 finalists, 1 champ, 6 placers)

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

As expected Union County was in control of the team race from start to finish. Their lineup was solid from top to bottom (7<sup>th</sup> graders through seniors) and I believe they would have been just as dominant in a full state dual format. Not only did they show up with their state champs and placers, but they also had their usual surprises (see Chandler at 285). When comparing the stats above it appears as though Woodford only needed their hammer 113 (Tylan Tucker) to make up the difference. While that would have narrowed the gap, the “extra” points scored by kids like Escalera and Chance Oxford were too much for one kids to make up. But the Woodford kids really stepped it up, down a man, to finish in the runner-up spot. A great showing from the Oldham schools, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> putting 5 kids in the finals and bringing home 4 state titles. While both teams lose a lot of talented seniors, these are programs built more around depth and should be able to reload and remain competitive. Trinity and their 3 big guns put up big points, but just didn’t have enough from the other guys to get to the top spot. Similar to Woodford, if we add in points from their missing stud Frankrone, they still come up short of Union. St. Xavier gave us a St. Xavier performance. No champs, but they know how to score points at the state tournament. Fern Creek battled through attrition in their lineup and still managed a top 10 finish. This will be a team with a whole new look as this graduating class has been the face of the program for a while. The highest placing team without a finalist, Walton-Verona pulled off a St. X style team effort. A young team that will be competitive for the next few years.