

2014 Ranger Report

Kentucky High School State Wrestling Championship Preview

Well, the end of another season. The competition level around the state continues to rise, but this is a very tough senior class that will take home a lot of the hardware this weekend. But we will see a lot of very good middle schoolers and underclassmen battling for spots on the podium as well. We are having more and more national level success at the high school, middle school, and youth levels. I expect this event to get better and better as the competition increases.

These are predicted finishes based on my final rankings. As usual, I'm sure I missed my fair share of results, so they are not perfect. They also do not reflect any scratches that have come in the last day or so. And even IF they were perfect rankings, upsets always happen on the big stage.

A couple interesting items we could see this weekend:

- 1) Our first ever 5-time state champion in Brock Ervin
- 2) 2 sets of brothers winning titles (Hernandez @ 106/113 and Lampe @ 152/160)
- 3) Austin Myers finish 3 years undefeated through his junior season
- 4) Can Bryce Sheffer pull a John Fahy type performance and follow up his 4 KSWA MS state titles with a KHSAA HS title as a freshman?

106 lbs.

Favorite: David Hernandez (12, Henry Clay)

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| 2. Tucker Hurst (10, Woodford County) | 14. Kaleb Sapp (10, Ohio County) |
| 3. Jake Burroughs (11, North Hardin) | 15. Joe Slone (9, Johnson Central) |
| 4. Brady Wells (9, Campbell County) | 16. Louie Regalado (9, Ft. Campbell) |
| 5. Saul Ervin (8, Union County) | 17. Zac Brooks (10, Oldham County) |
| 6. Austin Cook (9, St. Xavier) | 18. Tristan Garcia (8, Male) |
| 7. Dallas Oschenbein (10, North Oldham) | 19. Devonta Turner (9, Trigg County) |
| 8. Tyler Holub (10, Scott) | 20. Dalton Bell (8, Larue County) |
| 9. Ansar Kurbanov (10, Iroquois) | 21. Zach Goodpastor (11, Paul Dunbar) |
| 10. Mike Klein (10, Fern Creek) | 22. Wesley Whelan (9, Ashland Blazer) |
| 11. Jacob Dodd (9, Wayne County) | 23. Adam Yashinto (10, Doss) |
| 12. Matthew Quintanilla (12, Southern) | 24. Will Keeney (8, Madison Central) |
| 13. Michael Mattox (9, Harrison County) | |

The random draw was kind at 106 and spread the talent fairly evenly. It will be interesting to see if the young guns (Wells, Ervin, Cook) can step up under the bright lights and knock off the older top 3 (Hernandez, Hurst, Burroughs). With their prior KHSAA placement experience, Hernandez and Burroughs should hold up to the pressure. But Wells and Ervin have wrestled plenty of big matches in their young careers as well. The best early match should be Hernandez-Ervin in the quarters.

This will be a weight that will impact the team race with 5 kids from the top teams with potential to finish on the podium. Upsets will be huge. Ervin and Cook have the toughest road to a medal out of these guys.

Hearing rumblings that Burroughs is out this weekend. If so, I truly hate to hear that. Jake is a great, great kid. And everyone know Joe B. is one of the best coaches and men you will ever meet. Jake, I hope to see you on the mat tomorrow. If not, I'm sure all these years of wrestling has taught you well to keep battling.

113 lbs.

Favorite: John Hernandez (12, Henry Clay)

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| 2. Bryce Sheffer (9, Union County) | 14. Corey Jacobs (10, Franklin County) |
| 3. AJ Bindner (10, St. Xavier) | 15. Skyler Martinson (10, Daviess County) |
| 4. Jorge Vega (11, Fern Creek) | 16. Hussein Hussein (Valley) |
| 5. Jason Hall (12, Moore) | 17. Nick Wise (10, Oldham County) |
| 6. Joey Scaggs (11, Dixie Heights) | 18. Jordan Lydick (12, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 7. Mason Smith (8, Walton Verona) | 19. Derrick Soper (10, Bryan Station) |
| 8. Joey Roberts (9, Woodford County) | 20. Kainen Grimm (10, Atherton) |
| 9. Clayton Hanson (9, North Hardin) | 21. Froilan Agulto (10, Christian County) |
| 10. Brad Krebs (10, Campbell County) | 22. David Maldonado (10, Meade County) |
| 11. Jeff Moreman (12, Jeffersonton) | 23. Cameron Dearmond (9, Hopkinsville) |
| 12. Austin Pinkerman (12, Ashland Blazer) | 24. Austin Nance (10, Thomas Nelson) |
| 13. Derek Ringlen (9, Doss) | |

This was one of the most up and down weights this season as returning state champ Vega took a few losses, including some due to injury, and some young guys (Smith, Roberts, Hanson) all have big wins over returning state placers in this bracket. A few of these guys have split head-to-heads. And as nice as the random draw was at 106, it was not at 113. The bottom half includes #2 Sheffer, #3 Bindner, defending state champion #4 Vega, and #6 Smith. This is a quarterfinal and semifinal weight you don't want to miss. Match of the opening round, bout #23 puts #5 Jason Hall against #7 Joey Scaggs; two guys that some expected to challenge for a title this season (one is going to the consolation round early).

120 lbs.

Favorite: Nathan Boston (12, Woodford County)

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| 2. Bobby Poynter (11, Moore) | 14. Jordan Monroe (10, Cooper) |
| 3. Logan Erdman (10, Ryle) | 15. Cedric Binford (11, Fern Creek) |
| 4. Derek Miller (10, Paducah Tilghman) | 16. Taymarcus Taylor (12, Bryan Station) |
| 5. Robert Dezember (12, Union County) | 17. Bradon Sego (12, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 6. Zach Phillips (11, Danville) | 18. Hunter Baum (12, Holy Cross) |
| 7. Dylan Gray (8, Caldwell County) | 19. Chase Highlander (10, Harrison County) |
| 8. Michael Beets (11, St. Xavier) | 20. Danten Rice (11, Trinity) |
| 9. Cameron Nevels (10, Wayne County) | 21. Braden Mills (10, Sheldon Clark) |
| 10. Moses Williams (11, Apollo) | 22. Bryan Holden (9, Campbell County) |
| 11. Henry Crowdus (12, Johnson Hardin) | 23. Brad Colwell (11, Perry County Central) |
| 12. Alex Holt (10, Montgomery County) | 24. Keenan John (9, South Oldham) |
| 13. Jake Peace (10, Walton Verona) | |

This is a weight with some experienced kids at the top. But while there is experience, they are all a step behind Boston who will likely take home his second KHSAA state title (third overall including his title as a freshman in Indiana). Erdman is very dangerous and his match with Poynter in the semis should be a great one (probably the hardest pick I had of all the brackets).

126 lbs.

Favorite: Trae Blackwell (12, Union County)

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| 2. Caleb Austin (11, Christian County) | 14. George Pumphrey (11, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 3. David Carr (8, Woodford County) | 15. Davon Adams (11, Central) |
| 4. Keegan Duncan (10, Trinity) | 16. Marcus Bucerzan (12, Franklin County) |
| 5. Elijah Owens (11, Simon Kenton) | 17. Bryan Spahr (10, Campbell County) |
| 6. Chris Beeler (11, Meade County) | 18. Dylan Francis (11, Johnson Central) |
| 7. Brady Emerson (10, Oldham County) | 19. Dallas Miles (9, St. Xavier) |
| 8. Trent Johnson (8, John Hardin) | 20. Jacob Power (10, Madison Southern) |
| 9. Colin Roth (12, Walton Verona) | 21. Chance Collins (10, University Heights) |
| 10. Ethan Frank (11, Scott) | 22. Brandon Leak (9, North Hardin) |
| 11. Lucas McCain (11, Boyle County) | 23. Braden Wyatt (9, Bourbon County) |
| 12. Nathan Lopez (10, Harrison County) | 24. Connor Cambron (9, Fern Creek) |
| 13. Justin Torgenson (9, Lafayette) | |

Blackwell is favored to take home his second title with multiple wins over #2 ranked Austin. Explosives on day 1 will be Austin and 8th grader Carr (ranked #3) in round 2. Along with Carr there is a lot of young talent here (Duncan, Emerson, Johnson, Lopez, Torgenson, Spahr, Miles) who will challenge for spots on the podium. Spahr has the potential to wrestle above this slot if he is 100% healthy and challenge for a medal. With so many young wrestlers at this weight anything can happen, but it will be tough for guys outside the top 10 to challenge for a medal as most of these kids are battle tested.

132 lbs.

Favorite: Brock Ervin (12, Union County)

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| 2. Anthony Ashford (11, Scott) | 14. Shane Wilson (10, South Oldham) |
| 3. Hudson Heidorf (10, Trinity) | 15. Alex Schraba (10, Montgomery County) |
| 4. Jake Erdman (11, Ryle) | 16. Derrick Smallwood (8, North Hardin) |
| 5. Daniel Lannum (12, Danville) | 17. Adam Rivera (11, Moore) |
| 6. Stephen Maggard (12, Campbell County) | 18. Tristin Bird (11, Central Hardin) |
| 7. Max Korfhage (12, St. Xavier) | 19. Chris McDaniel (12, Anderson County) |
| 8. Jeremy Henehan (10, Fern Creek) | 20. Chris Morrow (10, Madison Central) |
| 9. Douglas Johnson (12, Oldham County) | 21. BJ Miller (11, Ohio County) |
| 10. Liam Mitchell (11, Woodford County) | 22. Kevin Vasquez (8, Lafayette) |
| 11. Colton Elkins (12, Desales) | 23. Connor Jaschen (12, Hopkinsville) |
| 12. Blake Gamble (8, Johnson Central) | 24. Dakota Hoskins (10, Meade County) |
| 13. Blake Cundiff (12, Male) | |

Yes, he is finally done. Brock is all set to become the first win #5 and help his team win a title while he is at it. We didn't really see a mass exodus of this weight as many probably expected. That is partially because Ervin wrestled both 132 and 138 this season, but also because we have some pretty tough kids both above and below this weight as well. A big surprise this season is #3 ranked Ashford who beat Erdman and Maggard to win a region title and put him in line for a spot with Ervin in the finals. We will see #1 Ervin v. #2 Heidorf in the quarters.

Huge team title implications here with Heidorf, Maggard, Korfhage, and Mitchell all battling for spots on the podium. Their order of finish could be huge in the final tally.

138 lbs.

Favorite: Sean Fausz (12, Campbell County)

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| 2. Jackson Oxford (10, Union County) | 14. Brian Hedrick (12, Ft. Campbell) |
| 3. Dylan West (10, North Hardin) | 15. Nathan Haddad (11, St. Xavier) |
| 4. Raymundo Perez (12, Larue County) | 16. Bryce Dean (12, Sheldon Clark) |
| 5. Chris Gilkey (12, Caldwell County) | 17. Cameron Bryant (11, Eastern) |
| 6. Angel Vasquez (10, Lafayette) | 18. Elisha Mtayongwa (12, Tates Creek) |
| 7. Connor Wilkerson (12, Oldham County) | 19. Diion Leavell (8, Christian County) |
| 8. Wade Beeler (10, Meade County) | 20. Jacob Brett (12, Newport) |
| 9. Ben Barton (10, Trinity) | 21. Tristan Sanders (11, Fairdale) |
| 10. Nathan Thompson (12, Desales) | 22. Elijah Jackson (9, Simon Kenton) |
| 11. Geordan Blanton (9, Johnson Central) | 23. Aaron Valentine (10, Franklin County) |
| 12. Leland Phelps (11, Male) | 24. Austin Sutphin (10, Montgomery County) |
| 13. David Tuduri (12, Henry Clay) | |

Fausz will battle a relatively young field for his second title (only half of the top 10 are seniors, the other half are sophomores). Every quarterfinal match here could be exciting with a lot of talented young wrestlers. One on my radar is #2 Oxford v. #6 Vasquez. My boy Angel has come on this year and will be a tough out for anyone.

145 lbs.

Favorite: Clay Brown (12, Walton Verona)

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| 2. Mike Whalen (12, Henry Clay) | 14. Jared Branch (9, Fern Creek) |
| 3. Ian Kahl (12, Trinity) | 15. Austin Phillips (11, Anderson County) |
| 4. Kevi Matlock (12, Christian County) | 16. Nick Smart (11, St. Xavier) |
| 5. Chad Gahafer (12, Union County) | 17. Ryan Gallogly (12, Trigg County) |
| 6. Max Andreoni (9, Woodford County) | 18. Cain Edwards (11, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 7. Josh Jude (12, Johnson Central) | 19. Dmitri Hubbard (12, Franklin County) |
| 8. Isaiah Frank (12, Calloway County) | 20. Trey Woodley (11, Montgomery County) |
| 9. Andrew Bailey (10, Cooper) | 21. Kris Guillen (12, Lafayette) |
| 10. Jonathon Little (10, North Hardin) | 22. Billy Ranney (10, Male) |
| 11. Shawn Stacy (11, Sheldon Clark) | 23. Griffin Dulak (8, Larue County) |
| 12. Jesus Fuentes (12, Ft. Knox) | 24. Tyran Cobble (10, Central) |
| 13. Jack Dorne (11, Ryle) | |

Brown has been on the cusp of winning a title for years, but fell short. Now as a senior he is poised to win a state championship. But he will face a few tough challenges with multiple previous state placers and a state champion (Whalen). A couple of very good quarterfinal matches here with #6 Andreoni v. #2 Whalen and #3 Kahl v. #4 Matlock. The semis here could be some of the best of the day. This is a senior dominated weight class, but Andreoni is a tough, tough freshman who can compete with anyone.

152 lbs.

Favorite: Justin Lampe (12, St. Xavier)

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| 2. Kegan Agnew (12, Caldwell County) | 14. Cristian Salas (12, Central) |
| 3. Jon Belk (11, Ryle) | 15. Sam Gnadinger (10, Oldham County) |
| 4. Robert Bussell (12, Hopkinsville) | 16. Bryce Hoffman (11, Fern Creek) |
| 5. Jon Green (11, Lafayette) | 17. Tanner Stuart (10, Paul Dunbar) |
| 6. John Reitnauer (10, North Oldham) | 18. Mick Marshall (12, Franklin County) |
| 7. Trey Norton (11, Fairdale) | 19. Kobe Perry (10, Christian County) |
| 8. Dru Schroer (12, Boone County) | 20. Eli Sowder (11, Scott) |
| 9. Austin Jackson (12, Dixie Heights) | 21. Colin Coy (10, Harrison County) |
| 10. Alex Wright (11, Bourbon County) | 22. Joseph Montgomery (12, Western) |
| 11. Zach Thompson (12, Belfry) | 23. Tim Pike (10, Union County) |
| 12. Andrew Ackley (10, Nelson County) | 24. Warren Tucker (10, John Hardin) |
| 13. Riley Hawes (11, Eastern) | |

This is quite a deep weight class with about a dozen very good wrestlers all of which could push Lampe. Agnew lost to Bussell (who I have heard a lot of great things about) at region and set him up for a state finals run (I believe). He has plenty of battles along the path, but nothing like the top half which is loaded with #1 Lampe, #2 Belk, and #3 Bussell. I'm anxious to see the quarterfinal match-up with Lampe and Bussell.

160 lbs.

Favorite: Dominic Lampe (11, St. Xavier)

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| 2. Jordan Young (12, Johnson Central) | 14. Will Jennings (Oldham County) |
| 3. Mitch Rusch (12, North Oldham) | 15. Mason Fryman (12, Harrison County) |
| 4. Sam Schwacter (12, Scott) | 16. Lee Johnson (10, Central) |
| 5. Casey Cornett (9, Simon Kenton) | 17. Robert Reidling (11, North Hardin) |
| 6. Cole Overman (11, Central Hardin) | 18. Kenneth Sells (11, Christian County) |
| 7. Cecil Nevels (11, Wayne County) | 19. Ruben Rojas (11, Moore) |
| 8. Tim Kellam (12, Pleasure Ridge Park) | 20. Matthew Munoz (10, Dixie Heights) |
| 9. Frederick Agyeman (12, Franklin County) | 21. Sam Quigney (12, Lafayette) |
| 10. Nathan Williams (11, Hopkinsville) | 22. Colton Miller (10, Montgomery County) |
| 11. Josh Garner (11, Desales) | 23. Malik Saunders (11, Iroquois) |
| 12. Brandon Devins (11, Boyle County) | 24. Will Allen (Ryle) |
| 13. Avery Buckman (9, Union County) | |

160 is not an extremely deep weight class. In fact, I see a big drop off after Lampe and again after the top 10. Don't expect this weight to have much team race impact, short of Buckman making a run to the podium and stretching out Union's lead.

Schwacter pulled a slight upset at region over Cornett and was rewarded with a quarterfinal match with Lampe. Lampe will face #2 ranked Rusch in the semis.

170 lbs.

Favorite: Johnny Meiman (10, Ryle)

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| 2. Dustin Turner (12, Campbell County) | 14. Xavier Pate (11, Christian County) |
| 3. Lucas Miozza (11, Trinity) | 15. Jeffrey Whalen (12, Bourbon County) |
| 4. Ki Ryder (12, Ft. Campbell) | 16. Thomas Ray (11, Doss) |
| 5. Max Emerson (10, Oldham County) | 17. Joshua Case (12, Eastern) |
| 6. Caleb Barrett (11, Southern) | 18. Collin Portman (10, North Oldham) |
| 7. Caleb Ray (11, St. Xavier) | 19. Kane Morris (11, Union County) |
| 8. Zach Roland (12, Montgomery County) | 20. Storm Savage (12, Madison Central) |
| 9. Derek Hicks (12, Simon Kenton) | 21. Hunter Bailey (12, Cooper) |
| 10. Jackson Avant (12, Lafayette) | 22. Darien Bauer (12, Perry County Central) |
| 11. Isaac Lawson (12, Hopkinsville) | 23. Kyle Perkins (12, Franklin County) |
| 12. Dalton Parr (10, Central Hardin) | 24. Connor Judd (12, Daviess County) |
| 13. Casey Mink (12, Wayne County) | |

After their down-to-the-wire battle at the regional tournament, I see a #1 Meiman v. #2 Turner rematch here. Meiman seems to just find a way to win and did just that at region. Will he be able to do the same thing throughout a deep 32-man bracket. Turner has a long road there with possible match-ups against #10 Roland, #3 Miozza, and #4 Ryder to face the top guy in the finals.

182 lbs.

Favorite: Tyler Frankrone (10, Trinity)

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| 2. Mikey Smith (11, Moore) | 14. Gino Haywood (11, Ft. Campbell) |
| 3. Wyatt Courtney (12, Woodford County) | 15. Jacob Harris (12, Christian County) |
| 4. Jonah Shacklett (12, Meade County) | 16. Aaron Conway (12, Holy Cross) |
| 5. Eli Matthews (11, Campbell County) | 17. Trey Jaco (12, Central Hardin) |
| 6. Kohl Dodd (11, Fern Creek) | 18. Chris Risch (12, Dixie Heights) |
| 7. Devin Smith (12, Union County) | 19. Ed Hernandez (10, Larue County) |
| 8. Mike Saunders (12, Bullitt Central) | 20. Ben Leaton (10, Oldham County) |
| 9. Braden Jones (12, Boone County) | 21. Grant Krueger (10, Ashland Blazer) |
| 10. Andre Farris (12, John Hardin) | 22. Seamus Sallee (10, Danville) |
| 11. Aaron King (10, Johnson Central) | 23. Eli Gawthorp (11, Henry Clay) |
| 12. Dameon Black (11, Lafayette) | 24. Walker Keaton (12, Tates Creek) |
| 13. Gage Jones (11, Newport) | |

This could be the weight class with the most talent on the podium and definitely the most fireworks all weekend. Frankrone stepped it up at region after Smith appeared to be the top dog. #2 Smith v. #4 Matthews in the quarters will be one to watch. An underlying theme as this weight plays out are the team point impacts with all of the top teams (except St X) fighting for spots on the podium and critical points.

In the end I expect to see a regional rematch that can go either way.

195 lbs.

Favorite: Darrius Parrott (12, North Hardin)

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| 2. Trevor Thompson (12, Conner) | 14. Jordan Graham (12, Southern) |
| 3. Elijah Miller (11, Scott) | 15. Koy Lindsey (11, Larue County) |
| 4. Mark Saunder (12, Bullitt Central) | 16. Austin Weird (11, Fairdale) |
| 5. Devin Morrow (12, Wayne County) | 17. Brett Graziani (10, Campbell County) |
| 6. Jake Fooks (12, Bourbon County) | 18. Emir Bernabe (10, Woodford County) |
| 7. Aaron Stevens (12, Trigg County) | 19. Kajwan Major (9, Christian County) |
| 8. Connor Sherman (10, Union County) | 20. Nathan King (10, Johnson Central) |
| 9. Alex McIntosh (10, Oldham County) | 21. Brett Rafn (12, Central Hardin) |
| 10. Colton Collins (12, Montgomery County) | 22. Justus Williams (10, Madison Southern) |
| 11. William Bossart (11, Lafayette) | 23. Bradley Easterling (12, Ohio County) |
| 12. Francisco Perez (10, Franklin County) | 24. Alan Cehrs (12, Simon Kenton) |
| 13. Marco Ruiz (11, Moore) | |

We have a couple undefeated wrestlers here in Parrott (31-0) and Morrow (46-0). Injuries have prevented Parrott from showing his ability the last couple years. But the two guys to watch could be Thompson and Miller, both of whom are top notch wrestlers. Miller looked great winning at the region. Could be an exciting rematch if they can pull off the big wins. #1 Parrott v. #2 Miller in the quarters could be for the title.

Union, Campbell, and Woodford have guys here who could score important team points; they must get consolation wins for the team.

220 lbs.

Favorite: Austin Myers (11, Campbell County)

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| 2. Tucker Mueller (10, Simon Kenton) | 14. Nathaniel Prosser (11, McCreary Central) |
| 3. Cameron Mattingly (12, John Hardin) | 15. Justin Nichols (12, Fern Creek) |
| 4. Bryan Carter (12, Union County) | 16. Joseph Green (11, St. Xavier) |
| 5. Chris Neice (12, Johnson Central) | 17. Ian Fullerton (10, Oldham County) |
| 6. Zach Farris (11, Ohio County) | 18. Kellon Williams (10, Harrison County) |
| 7. Landon Corolla (11, Trinity) | 19. Matthew Bramel (12, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 8. Denwan Hall (11, Franklin County) | 20. Hutch Howard (10, Madison Southern) |
| 9. Nathan Moore (12, Henry Clay) | 21. AJ Ogburn (11, Ft. Campbell) |
| 10. Garrett Chandler (10, Male) | 22. Ben Fooks (9, Bourbon County) |
| 11. Anthony Hamblin (12, Central) | 23. Christia Jones (12, Western) |
| 12. Derek Clemens (12, Spencer County) | 24. Ryan Gibson (12, Ft. Knox) |
| 13. Taylor Widmer (10, Apollo) | |

Myers is the most dominant wrestler in the state. He has already pinned Mueller a number of times this season; don't see anything changing this weekend and he finishes his third undefeated season. And I expect Mueller earn a spot in the finals for one more rematch.

After the top 2, this group of kids is probably the least celebrated in the tournament, so anything can happen when the pressure is on.

285 lbs.

Favorite: Landon Young (10, Lafayette)

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| 2. Matt Daugherty (12, Central Hardin) | 14. Kermit Gibbs (12, Fern Creek) |
| 3. Zack Lawson (12, Nelson County) | 15. Sam Lawrence (12, Pleasure Ridge Park) |
| 4. Brandon Johnson (11, Dixie Heights) | 16. Jordan Caldwell (12, Henry Clay) |
| 5. Isaac Mason (11, Anderson County) | 17. Hayden Vinegar (11, Dupont Manual) |
| 6. Alexander Peters (12, Pike County Central) | 18. Dominic Walker (12, Harrison County) |
| 7. Jorge Mendes (10, Bourbon County) | 19. Daniel Sheridan (11, St. Xavier) |
| 8. Jake Jorstad (11, Ft. Campbell) | 20. Devonte Duncan (11, Meade County) |
| 9. Noah Kennaday (12, Caldwell County) | 21. Jeremy Fow (11, Male) |
| 10. Matt Davis (11, South Oldham) | 22. Alex Caldwell (12, Whitley County) |
| 11. Raynel Brown (11, Union County) | 23. Ian Roberts (10, Trinity) |
| 12. Nick Sinclair (12, Campbell County) | 24. Austin Raisor (11, Woodford County) |
| 13. Luke Shaffer (11, Ohio County) | |

This is an interesting year for heavyweight. Big Landon Young (30-0) comes in as the undefeated #1 ranked kid and has been the frontrunner all year after a runner-up finish last season. Without a lot of state experience from the other guys it looks like they are battling for second. Although I will say Young will have to earn his championship potentially having to beat #2 Lawson, #3 Daugherty, and #4 Johnson (in the quarters) along the way.

An interesting kid to follow will be Brown. Not sure how he fell to 4th in the region, but that is a bad draw for almost any region champ. He could score some unexpected points or nothing at all coming in as a 4. Sinclair can also be a wild card for Campbell to have a shot at staying ahead of St X and chasing Union.

Big shout out to Covington Catholic's first state qualifier, Joe Marino.

Team Champions

Favorite: Union County (4 finalists, 2 champs)

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| 2. Campbell County (3 finalists, 2 champs) | 14. Oldham County |
| 3. St. Xavier (2 finalists, 2 champs) | 15. Simon Kenton (1 finalist) |
| 4. Trinity (1 finalist, 1 champ) | 16. Christian County (1 finalist) |
| 5. Woodford County (2 finalists, 1 champ) | 17. Caldwell County (1 finalist) |
| 6. Henry Clay (3 finalists, 2 champs) | 18. Walton Verona (1 finalist, 1 champ) |
| 7. Ryle (1 finalist, 1 champ) | 19. Central Hardin (1 finalist) |
| 8. North Hardin (1 finalist, 1 champ) | 20. North Oldham |
| 9. Lafayette (1 finalist, 1 champ) | 21. Wayne County |
| 10. Johnson Central (1 finalist) | 22. Meade County |
| 11. Scott (1 finalist) | 23. John Hardin |
| 12. Moore (2 finalists) | 24. Dixie Heights |
| 13. Fern Creek | 25. Ft. Campbell |

Union, Campbell, X. Does that story sound familiar. Yes, the same 3 teams will be battling it out at the top again this season. With one HUGE difference. I see Union running away with the top spot this year; likely winning by 40+ points. I also see Trinity and Woodford sneaking up to challenge CC and X for that runner-up spot. Given the likely number of finalists from CC, X, Woodford, and even Henry Clay it looks like the team race will be quite exciting until the bitter end.