DESTINATION: COLUMBUS
2020 high school basketball tournament preview

The Lima News
Ten things to watch in the boys tournament

By Jim Naveau
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Ten things to watch in the upcoming high school boys basketball tournament:

1. Can Shawnee take the next step and get to the state tournament?
   The Indians went all the way to the Bowling Green Division II regional championship game last season before being beaten by eventual state runner-up Columbus South. They have several of the key players, led by George Mangas, back from that team and have built on that success.
   The Columbus district, which sent teams to the BGSU regional last year, will feed into a different regional this year and will be replaced by the North Ridgeville district from northeast Ohio.

2. Can Lima Senior get to its fourth regional in the last six years and take another run at the state tournament?
   The Spartans have struggled in matchups against good non-league opponents such as Canton McKinley, Ottawa-Glandorf and Shawnee but have dominated the Three Rivers Athletic Conference. They might end up facing a TRAC team for the third time this season to win another district. Or they could have to get past teams like Perrysburg, Sylvania Southview or Toledo Start.

3. The Division IV regional tournament at Bowling Green just got even tougher.
   The winner of the Wapakoneta Division IV district will go to the Bowling Green regional this year instead of going to the Dayton regional, where it has played for many years. This means the Midwest Athletic Conference could be part of the equation at BGSU.
   It also reduces the chances of area Division IV teams getting to the state tournament. Last year, Crestview and St. Henry both played in the state tournament because they came out of different regionals. If they both had gone to Bowling Green, only one would have been in Columbus.
   Two years ago, Marion Local and Pandora-Gilboa would have been in the same regional instead of both of them being state semifinalists.
   Three years ago Perry and Delphos St. John’s both would have played in the Bowling Green regional instead of both of them going to the state tournament.

4. Will there be a team that puts everything together at just the right time after some early struggles, like Coldwater?
   The Cavaliers started 4-7 but won 13 of their next 15 games, upset Ottawa-Glandorf, Archbold and Willard in the tournament and were the runner-up in the Division III regional at Bowling Green.

5. Can Columbus Grove do what the 2006 Bulldogs did and get to the state tournament?
   That would be the second trip to the state tournament in school history. The 2006 team was Division IV state runner-up. Columbus Grove was a Bowling Green Division IV regional semifinalist last season so it has tournament experience.

6. Will any of the top talent in the state be on display in the state tournament?
   According to 247sports.com, the top five seniors.
playing at Ohio high schools are Jon Hugley (Lyndhurst Brush), Grant Huffman (Lakewood St. Edward), Gavin Clarke (Euclid), Josiah Fulcher (Lima Senior) and Mo Njie (Centerville).

It says the top five juniors playing at Ohio high schools are Malaki Branham (Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary), Kalen Etzler (Crestview), Logan Duncomb (Cincinnati Moeller), Seth Wilson (Lorain) and Jalen Billingsley (Cleveland Lutheran East).

7. Can Ottawa-Glandorf add to its tradition of tournament success?

If history is any indicator, it’s a pretty good bet it can. No one in northwest Ohio has won more sectional titles (28) since 1988 than the Titans. And only Lima Central Catholic has won more district titles (12) in that time span.

8. Is Ottoville a team that could be a factor in the postseason?

The Big Green started the season 4-3, but once they got Josh Thorbahn and Ryan Suever healthier they went on a long winning streak.

9. No team has ever won a boys basketball state championship in Ohio after losing more than 10 games in the regular season in the last 70 years. If your team accomplishes that, it will make a little history.

Youngstown Ursuline won the Division III title in 1994 with 10 losses, and Dayton Jefferson won the 2010 Division IV championship with 10 losses. Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph won the Division II title in 1992 with nine losses, and Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary was the 2011 Division II champ with nine losses. Fort Loramie won the 1977 Class A title with eight losses and Columbus Linden McKinley won the 1975 AAA championship with eight losses.

10. Every team in the Putnam County League has appeared in the boys basketball state tournament. Can one of the other area leagues add another team to its list of state tournament teams this year?

Here are how many schools from the other area leagues have reached the state tournament: Midwest Athletic Conference (9), Western Buckeye League (8), Three Rivers Athletic Conference (7), Northwest Conference (6), Blanchard Valley Conference (5), Northwest Central Conference (2).

Columbus Grove students celebrate Blake Reynolds reaching 1,000 points for his varsity career during a game against Delphos Jefferson. Reynolds and the Bulldogs hope to go to the state tournament for the second time in school history.

Ottawa-Glandorf’s Will Kaufman (left) and Jarrod Beach (right) fight with Bluffton’s Mason Soper for a rebound.
Ten things to watch in the girls tournament

By Jose Nogueras
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Who are some of the frontrunners to make a run at state?
Ottawa-Glandorf always comes to mind. Frequent visitors to Columbus the last several years and even though some might have thought that this was going to be a transition year, Ottawa-Glandorf produced another outstanding season. Another Putnam County team who could make a deep run is Columbus Grove. The Bulldogs won both the Putnam County League and the Northwest Conference. Bath is another team poised to make a run. The Wildkittens’ only Western Buckeye League loss was to O-G.

Who is coming out of the MAC?
Minster, the Division IV state champion the last two years, might have a chance, though it is perhaps not as formidable as last year’s squad. Marion Local and Fort Recovery are also up there among the MAC leaders.

Who are some of the dark horses that could make a postseason run?
Invariably there is a team that hits its stride in the playoffs. Ottoville, no strangers to the big games the last several years, put together a six-game winning streak late in the season. Spencerville has a lot of talent that could be dangerous in the postseason, along with Paulding.

What awaits Ottawa-Glandorf?
Ottawa-Glandorf begins the Division III tournament against the winner of Allen East vs. Hicksville Feb. 22. The Titans will have to watch for Liberty-Benton in the top half of that bracket with teams like Spencerville and Paulding in the lower half of the bracket. If they make it past districts things will get more difficult with teams like Berlin Hiland, Columbus Africentric and Ellyia Catholic to name a few.

What does Columbus Grove need to do to advance?
The Bulldogs begin their postseason play when they face the winner of the Fort Jennings/Holgate contest Feb. 20 at 6:15 p.m. The Bulldogs will likely see some tough competition in the upper half of the bracket against Miller City or Leipsic and then could eventually face NWC rival in the district finals. The Bulldogs’ three losses have come to ranked opponents, Bath, Ottawa-Glandorf and Liberty Benton. Columbus Grove has played excellent defense but will need some additional scoring to make a serious run in the regionals.

What does Bath’s tournament trail look like?
Bath will have to beat WBL opponents including St. Marys who they squeezed by 45-44 in the regular season to make it to the district finals where they will probably have to face No. 2...
Napoleon in the district finals. The Wildcats have won their last four out of five games and are still developing as a squad.

Can Lima Senior make a run?
The Spartans have a lot of talent but it hasn’t seem to translate into wins this season. Lima Senior has had a rollercoaster of a season with big wins coupled with some bad losses. The Spartans will face stiff competition early in the Division I bracket when they face Toledo Start in the first round on Feb. 22 in Genoa. The Spartans will have to be more consistent if they are going to be successful in the postseason.

Can Ottoville make it back to state?
New head coach Michelle Leach took over a program that was state runner-up two years in a row but a lot of that talent was lost to graduation including Brynlee Hanneman, Haley Horesten, Kasey Knippen and Quinley Schlagbaum. Ottoville will face a lot of talented teams in their sectional/district bracket including Wayne Trace. The Big Green have been close in a lot of the big games against Ottawa-Glandorf and will need to step up their game if they are going to advance in the postseason.

What are some key match ups in the early rounds?
In Division III, Ottawa-Glandorf will probably face Liberty-Benton in the district semifinals. The Titans beat Liberty Benton 36-21 on Feb. 1 but never underestimate the Eagles who are known to come through in big games. If things go according to the seeding Bath could face Napoleon in the district finals at Paulding Feb. 29. Napoleon sports a 19-0 mark overall. Other matchups of interest could be the Bluffton vs. Columbus Grove and Ottoville against Wayne Trace for district titles. But there are no guarantees because as every coach, player and fan knows anything can happen in the postseason.

Who are some of the players to watch in the postseason?
Starting with Ottawa-Glandorf, the Titans feature a well balanced attack that starts with Kelsey Erford, Bri Schimoeller and Erin Kaufman. The same can be said about Columbus Grove who has Angel Schneider as inside presence and the versatile Kenzie King. Staying in the NWC. Libby Schaadt has been a force for the Priates this year. Other players include Ottoville’s Nicole Knippen, Lima Senior’s Nakiya Sigman and LCC’s Rosie Williams. Bath’s Chandler Clark, Ruby and Esther Bolon and Madelyn Renner.

Spencerville’s Emma Leis is one of the players to watch in the postseason.
Boys University of Toledo District

Sectional at Genoa H.S.

#5 Sylvania Southview
1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#6 Tol. St. Francis de Sales
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26

#12 Toledo Whitmer

#8 Toledo St. John’s
2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#10 Holland Springfield

#12 Toledo Whitmer
1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#6 Tol. St. Francis de Sales
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26

#10 Holland Springfield

Sectional at Fostoria H.S.

#15 Ashland
1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#13 Fremont Ross
8 p.m. Thursday, March 5

#1 Lima Senior
2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#19 Toledo Waite

District at University of Toledo

#3 Sylvania Southview
6:15 p.m. Thursday, March 5

#8 Toledo St. John’s
2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#10 Holland Springfield

District at University of Toledo

#1 Lima Senior
2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29

#19 Toledo Waite

District at Lake H.S., Millbury

#4 Toledo Start

Division I

Girls Toledo and Millbury Districts

District at Lake H.S., Millbury

#5 Anthony Wayne
6:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

#13 Wapakoneta
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19

#6 Sylvania Northview

#7 Sandusky
8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

7 p.m., Wednesday, March 11

Winner to Akron/Toledo regional semifinal vs. at University of Toledo vs. Toledo 1 district winner

Winner to Akron/Toledo regional semifinal vs. at University of Toledo vs. Toledo 1 district winner

7 p.m., Wednesday, March 11
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Boys Lima District

Sectional at Miller City H.S.

#13 Bath

#12 Allen East

#6 Liberty-Benton

#8 Coldwater

#7 Tinora

#4 Riverdale

Sectional at Elida High School

#9 Fairview

#10 Spencerville

#11 Paulding

#5 Lima Central Catholic

Winner to Lexington regional semi at Ohio Northern vs. Whitehouse winner, 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 3

Girls Elida District

Sectional at Bluffton H.S.

#12 Allen East

#11 Hicksville

#13 Tinora

Sectional at Lincolnview H.S.

#6 Patrick Henry

#8 Coldwater

#5 Spencerville

#7 Van Buren

District at Lima Senior High School

#3 Wayne Trace

#2 Bluffton

District at Elida High School

#3 Paulding

#4 Fairview

Winner to Bowling Green regional semifinal at Bowling Green State University vs. Norwalk district winner

8 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
## Boys Elida District

**Sectional at Van Wert H.S.**
- **#9 Pandora-Gilboa**  
  7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25  
  6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  
  6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 3  
- **#11 Continental**  
  6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26  
- **#4 Kalida**  
  6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26  
- **#13 Patrick Henry**  
  8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26  
- **#5 Lincolnview**  
  6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  
  8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3  
- **#6 Miller City**  

**Sectional at Bluffton University**
- **#8 Crestview**  
  6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  
  8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3  
- **#7 Leipsic**  
- **#10 Ada**  
  8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26  
- **#12 Fort Jennings**  
  8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  

**District at Elida H.S.**
- **#2 Ottoville**  
  6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  
- **#3 Delphos St. John’s**  
  6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28  
  8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3  
- **#1 Columbus Grove**  
  7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29  
  6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27  
  Winner to Elida regional semifinal at Elida High School  
  vs. Defiance district winner  
  8 p.m. Thursday, March 5

## Girls Ottawa District

**District at Ottawa-Glandorf H.S.**
- **#5 Bluffton**  
  6:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22  
  8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22  
- **#11 Cory-Rawson**  
- **#3 Kalida**  
  6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20  
  8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

## Division IV

**Sectional at Patrick Henry H.S.**
- **#12 Fort Jennings**  
  6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20  
  7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17  
  Winner to Bowling Green regional semifinal at Bowling Green State University vs. Defiance district winner, 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 10
- **#13 Holgate**  
- **#6 Miller City**  
  6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18  
  7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17  
  vs. Defiance district winner  
  8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18
- **#7 Delphos St. John’s**  
- **#4 McComb**  
  8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20  
- **#9 Leipsic**  

**Sectional at Bluffton University**
- **#2 Arlington**  
  7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17  
  6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20  
  8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20  
  vs. Defiance district winner  
  8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20
- **#14 Pandora-Gilboa**  
- **#8 North Baltimore**  
  8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20  
- **#10 Continental**  

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The Lima News

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**Boys Findlay District**

- **Sectional at Heidelberg Univ.**
  - #11 Hardin Northern
  - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25
  - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25

- **Sectional at Fostoria H.S.**
  - #2 Arlington
  - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25

- **Sectional at Bryan H.S.**
  - #5 Gorham Fayette
  - 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

**Girls Defiance District**

- **District at Defiance High School**
  - #4 Stryker
  - 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27

**Division IV**

- **Winner to Bowling Green regional semifinal at Bowling Green State University vs. Wapakoneta district winner, 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10**

- **Sectional at Paulding H.S.**
  - #11 Lincolnview
  - 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22
  - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25
  - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 3

**Why wait to see who won the big game?**

The Lima News has you covered! Check out LimaScores.com on your phone on game night for live scoring updates. Follow that up with complete coverage of the region’s top games in Saturday’s The Lima News.
# Boys Wapakoneta District

**Sectional at St. Marys H.S.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Matchup</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>#13 Temple Christian</td>
<td>#9 Marion Local</td>
<td>7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25</td>
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<td>#6 Ridgemont</td>
<td>#8 New Bremen</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26</td>
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<td>#7 St. Henry</td>
<td>#11 New Knoxville</td>
<td>8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26</td>
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**Sectional at Coldwater H.S.**

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<th>Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>#5 Upper Scioto Valley</td>
<td>#10 Spencerville</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25</td>
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<td>#4 Perry</td>
<td>#12 Waynesfield-Goshen</td>
<td>8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25</td>
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Winner to Elida regional semifinal at Elida High School vs. Fostoria district winner 6:15 p.m. Thursday, March 5

# Girls Wapakoneta District

**District at Wapakoneta H.S.**

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<th>Team</th>
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<th>Date/Time</th>
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<td>#1 Fort Recovery</td>
<td>#3 Minster</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13 Temple Christian</td>
<td>#9 Parkway</td>
<td>6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22</td>
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**Division IV**

**Winner to BGSU regional semifinal at Bowling Green State University vs. Findlay district winner 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10**

**Sectional at Bath H.S.**

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<th>Team</th>
<th>Matchup</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>#11 New Knoxville</td>
<td>#4 Perry</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4 New Bremen</td>
<td>#12 Hardin Northern</td>
<td>8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19</td>
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