

# **2009 HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING FORECAST**

**(38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EDITION)**

Written By:  
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## PREFACE

The production of this report from my handwritten copy is no easy job. I forget words, use weird punctuation, and my handwriting gets worse with each successive weight class. The typists who transform such material into what you are reading today deserve tremendous accolades. Chief among them is my long-suffering cousin, Nancy Dimitris, who oversees the work and her colleagues Vickie Billow and Gary Kanaga. Next time you see them thank them and re-express my gratitude for their work.

The first of these reports was written in 1972 in what was a much different world than today. Newspaper coverage in most areas of the state was spotty and inconsistent at best, and non-existent in many places. There was no Internet (which I believe has impacted wrestling, perhaps, more than any other sport) and teams generally wrestled within a few miles of their school. At that time I was in a unique position – working for a large company that had many newspaper subscriptions, working near the wonderful Cleveland Public Library that had multiple data sources, and developing many statewide contacts via the television shows. All this provided me with an information base that was difficult to duplicate, and provided resources for printing and distributing paper copies.

Today it has all changed. Now there is a constant flow of information. I am awash in data, as teams compete not only in statewide events, but in tournaments that bring together teams from many different areas of the country. I am amazed at the efforts made by many to disseminate data and the high quality of analysis at some sites. I admire the work done by:

**\*John Jaksetic and his website [www.Jakeswrestling.com](http://www.Jakeswrestling.com)--For a trifling number of dollars you get some unmatched look at the data**

**\*<http://ohiowrestlingsite.com> is a high quality site whose work I admire**

**\*[www.ohiowrestling.net](http://www.ohiowrestling.net) is another fine site that provides statewide information**

**\*<http://northwest-district-wrestling.blogspot.com> provides a totally comprehensive picture of Northwestern Wrestling—amazing amount of work provided by sender**

**\*[WWW.ovaecwrestling.com](http://WWW.ovaecwrestling.com) has fine coverage of the OVAC teams**

**and many others that are very worthwhile.**

Finally, over the years I kept copies, at first on film and then later on ¾" tape, of virtually all of the telecasts in which I took part. I have donated that entire collection to Cable Nine Television, who will serve as a non-profit repository of that material. They are working to provide an index of what is available, and, perhaps, how best it can be obtained. I am grateful for their help in this endeavor since much of the material is irreplaceable and my attic was a less than ideal storage place. The initial cost of this material was certainly more than a million dollars in current dollars, and its preservation seems important to me.

## Introduction

The object of these annual reports encompasses two basic goals. First is to acquaint everyone with the basic character of each weight class and identify the participants who are likely to play a major role in its resolution. In addition, each individual district is examined as to whom its representatives might be. Second is to stimulate interest in the whole State tournament process throughout Ohio. Naturally, accuracy is also of primary concern, so care is taken to develop the most comprehensive list possible of outstanding wrestlers, though of necessity, the evaluation of their final place is, in part, subjective. This report was written during a ten-day period ending January 25, based on the information available at that time. Because this material was written by that time (and in some cases somewhat earlier) and in the hands of the typists after that I have not included any information that may become available after that time. It's kind of a snapshot in time, with a picture that will surely change in many ways by tournament time. Certainly many of those listed at weight classes where they are currently ranked will move up or down for competitive reasons facilitated by the new rules which make it so much easier to do so. In fact, some of those moves may well be precipitated by information contained within this document.

There are several ways you can help make this report more accurate. First by sending me bracket sheets for tournaments you enter either by fax or mail – I'm especially interested in sectional and district bracket sheets this year and any tournaments for next year. Also, phone calls, or better yet, e-mail messages dealing with results, weight class selection, or whatever, are gratefully received. I especially appreciate coaches who provide an honest overview of their squad and superior wrestlers they've seen in competition. Already I get messages and information from too many people to name individually, but I appreciate it all.

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This report is also available on the Internet on Gary Baumgartner's website, The Ohio Wrestler, as well as Brecksville High School's website:

<http://www.baumspage.com>

<http://www.brecksvillewrestling.com>

<http://www.ohiowrestler.com>

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**And remember, my usual fee is a wrestling T-shirt – XL.  
(and that includes all you Internet readers)**

**BRAKEMAN REPORT AUDIT**  
(How first choices fared)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Won Title	27	27
Finished Second	9	7
Third	2	5
Fourth	3	1
Lower than Fourth	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	42	42

**BRAKEMAN REPORT AUDIT**  
(Won State Title)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Ranked First	27	27
Ranked Second	8	7
Ranked Third	4	2
Ranked Fourth	1	2
Ranked Lower Than 4 <sup>th</sup>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u> *
	42	42

\*Witt ranked 5<sup>th</sup>, Alexander 6<sup>th</sup>, Riedy 6<sup>th</sup>, and Pajestra 13<sup>th</sup>

**2008 PLACEMENT RESULTS**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	Total	% Placing	Pts.*
Perry	4	6	4	6	6	4	3	3	36	64.3%	173
Mentor/Harding	5	5	5	3	2	4	3	4	31	55.4%	150
Darby	2	2	3	3	3	5	4	5	27	48.2%	103
Fairfield	3	1	2	2	3	1	4	2	18	32.1%	78
Firestone	3	3	5	5	6	6	5	2	35	62.5%	154
Goshen	4	4	5	3	4	3	3	3	29	51.8%	139
Fostoria	6	4	2	5	1	3	4	4	29	51.8%	138
Steubenville	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	5	19	33.9%	73
Fairmont	5	4	2	2	3	10	3	5	34	60.7%	143
Heath	2	5	4	4	7	0	6	2	30	53.6%	137
Maple Hts.	3	2	6	3	1	2	4	7	28	50.0%	114
Owens	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	0	20	35.7%	110

\*Calculated as 8 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 points for 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so on.

**CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS STATE VICTORIES % ANALYSIS**

<u>2007</u>			<u>2008</u>		
1	Perry	61.5%	1	Mentor/Harding	59.3%
2	Maple Hts.	54.1%	2	Perry	57.7%
3	Firestone	53.2%	3	Ontario/Fostoria	55.1%
4	Ontario/Fostoria	52.8%	4	Firestone	53.9%
5	Fairmont	50.0%	5	Fairmont	52.9%
6	Heath	49.1%	6	Heath	52.7%
7	Goshen	47.5%	7	Goshen	50.0%
8	Fairfield	46.5%	8	Owens	46.9%
9	Owens	46.3%	9	Maple Hts.	46.9%
10	Steubenville	45.9%	10	Steubenville	40.0%
11	Mentor/Harding	45.8%	11	Darby	39.8%
12	Darby	43.9%	12	Fairfield	38.4%

**2008 STATE VICTORIES % BY DISTRICT ANALYSIS**

(Only Inter-District Bouts)

	<u>Perry</u>	<u>Marion Harding</u>	<u>Darby</u>	<u>Fairfield</u>
Championship Rounds	57.7%	59.3%	39.8%	38.4%
Consolation Rounds	<u>56.0%</u>	<u>45.0%</u>	<u>52.0%</u>	<u>46.2%</u>
Total	56.9%	53.4%	46.3%	42.4%

  

	<u>Firestone</u>	<u>Fostoria</u>	<u>Steubenville</u>	<u>Goshen</u>
Championship Rounds	53.9%	55.1%	40.0%	50.0%
Consolation Rounds	<u>56.2%</u>	<u>45.9%</u>	<u>42.7%</u>	<u>55.1%</u>
Total	55.0%	50.8%	41.3%	52.4%

  

	<u>Maple Hts.</u>	<u>Owens</u>	<u>Heath</u>	<u>Fairmont</u>
Championship Rounds	46.9%	46.9%	52.7%	52.9%
Consolation Rounds	<u>52.2%</u>	<u>41.6%</u>	<u>55.8%</u>	<u>49.5%</u>
Total	49.5%	44.6%	54.0%	51.3%

**STATE TOURNAMENT QUANTITY OF FALLS AND % OF TOTAL MATCHES**

	<u>Division I</u>			<u>Division II</u>			<u>Division III</u>		
	<u>Champ</u>	<u>Consy</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Champ</u>	<u>Consy</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Champ</u>	<u>Consy</u>	<u>%</u>
Falls in 2007	43	31	17.6%	39	46	20.2%	53	31	20.0%
Falls in 2008	40	37	18.3%	53	44	23.1%	58	41	23.6%

**2008 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS ANALYSIS**

	First Round			2nd/3rd/4th Round			Overall		
	W-L Record	%	Rank	W-L Record	%	Rank	W-L Record	%	Rank
Marion Harding	38-18	67.9%	1	29-28	50.9%	6	67-46	59.3	1
Massillon Perry	33-23	58.9%	4	31-24	56.4%	5	64-47	57.7	2
Fostoria	28-28	50.0%	5	26-16	61.9%	1	54-44	55.1	3
firestone	35-21	62.5%	2	20-26	43.5%	8	55-47	53.9	4
Fairmont	28-28	50.0%	5	26-20	56.5%	4	54-48	52.9	5
Heath	35-21	62.5%	2	24-32	42.9%	9	59-53	52.7	6
Goshen	25-31	44.6%	8	24-18	57.1%	3	49-49	50.0	7
Owens	21-35	37.5%	11	25-17	59.5%	2	46-52	46.9	8
Maple Hts.	28-28	50.0%	5	17-23	42.5%	10	45-51	46.9	9
Steubenville	24-32	42.9%	9	12-22c	35.3%	12	36-54	40.0	10
Darby	23-33	41.1%	10	12-20c	37.5%	11	35-53	39.8	11
Fairfield	18-38	32.1%	12	15-15	50.0%	7	33-53	38.4	12

**TOTAL STATE VICTORIES % BY DISTRICT ANALYSIS**

(Championship and Consolation Rounds)

<u>2007</u>			<u>2008</u>		
1	Perry	59.0%	1	Perry	56.9%
2	Firestone	55.8%	2	Firestone	55.0%
3	Maple Hts.	51.3%	3	Heath	54.0%
4	Mentor/Harding	51.2%	4	Mentor/Harding	53.4%
5	Heath	50.5%	5	Goshen	52.4%
6	Ontario/Fostoria	50.0%	6	Fairmont	51.3%
7	Fairmont	49.2%	7	Ontario/Fostoria	50.8%
8	Owens	48.9%	8	Maple Hts.	49.5%
9	Goshen	47.5%	9	Darby	46.3%
10	Steubenville	46.1%	10	Owens	44.6%
11	Fairfield	45.1%	11	Fairfield	42.4%
12	Darby	44.0%	12	Steubenville	41.3%

### Robert's Rules For Reading Wrestling Reports

Robert "Bob" Berg is a Cleveland native who moved to Atlanta, Georgia and, once there, began to write a wrestling preview organized like this one. It was bright and funny and about as accurate as these things can ever be. He decided this year to leave the forecasting business, but his legacy, at least a small portion of it, bears on this document as well. I am formally and alliteratively naming them Robert's Rules for Reading Wrestling Reports and am reproducing them below.

One word about the "rankings," as they are often times misunderstood. If it turns out that our #17 wrestler beat our #8 wrestler during the year, there may be several explanations as to why we have the winner at #17 and the loser at #8:

- a) We may not have that particular result in our database. Our bad, but even in this era of incredible technology and information flow, we just don't have all the results, so we operate with something less than full information. As Hyman Roth said in *Godfather II*, "this is the business we've chosen."
- b) We may have known the result, but discounted it (a very important technique in the prognosticator's bag of tricks – if a result appears to be aberrant or we don't like it, we just ignore it!) for any number of reasons, including injuries, weight issues, conditioning issues (e.g., for those wrestlers coming out after football season), SAT forfeits, etc.
- c) We may have known the result, but trumped it based on each wrestler's full body of work, rather than just that one result. As we've all come to learn, the transitive property of inequalities (if  $A > B$ , and if  $B > C$ , then  $A > C$ ) may work in algebra, but "if A beats B, and B beats C, then C will beat A" is a formula for disaster in the wrestling prognostication business.
- d) Similarly, we may know the results but, especially if it was prior to the first of the year, we may believe that the loser of that particular bout has improved substantially and would win the rematch.
- e) Or, finally (and, in all probability, most likely), we may just have gotten it wrong. To paraphrase Forest Gump, "stuff happens." That's ok, we will live with our mistakes, hope they are infrequent and, most importantly, continue to understand that, ultimately, the outcomes of wrestling contests are determined on the mats, not on the pages of this report.