

## 2024 OHSAA Girls Wrestling State Tournament Preview

March 8-10

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Last winter, the next step in the rapid expansion of girls wrestling in Ohio continued when its state tournament was administered by the OHSAA for the first time.

The fact many of the state's top competitors a season were underclassmen should provide more depth to the second run of the state event that's set to run simultaneously with the boys tournament March 8-10 in Ohio State's Schottenstein Center as it did a season ago.

There are nine returning champions, including two seniors – Harrison's Chloe Dearwester (105 pounds) and Whitmer's Savannah Isaac (190) – who also won state titles in 2021 and 2022 when the state tournament was sponsored by the Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association.

Dearwester is 34-0 and Isaac is 31-0 heading into state.

Dearwester also will attempt to lead her team to the top again after the Wildcats scored 97 points to win the inaugural OHSAA event. Olentangy Orange (69), Vincent Warren (65) and Marysville (61) rounded out the top four last season, and Harrison, Orange and Marysville all enter state after winning regional team titles March 3.

While Harrison scored 225 points and had eight state qualifiers from the regional on its home mats, Marysville scored 164 and had six state qualifiers from its home regional, and Orange had nine state qualifiers and scored 236 at its home regional.

The other regional team champion was Alliance, which scored 135 points and had four state qualifiers from the Mentor regional.

The others who return to defend their state titles are Jackson junior Makenna Craft (100), Akron Manchester senior Jadyne McKinney (135), Batavia Clermont Northeastern senior Jesse Foebar (145), Warren senior Kylee Tait (155), and Loveland sophomore Elizabeth Madison (170).

In addition, Harrison senior Raegan Briggs won at 125 last season and is now at 120, and Casstown Miami East junior Kira Cole is competing at 135 after winning last year's title at 115.

Dearwester's toughest competition could come from Vermilion senior Lauren Ficker, who is 39-2 and won the Marysville regional. She was fifth last season. Mount Vernon freshman Ashlyn Brokaw (37-3) and Minerva junior Bridget Hilliard (36-4) were the other regional champions at 105.

Findlay junior Laney Oliver (21-3) could be Isaac's biggest hurdle again after losing to Isaac in last year's state final as well as in regional finals last winter and this season. The other regional champions at 190 are Lakewood junior Zayna Muntaser (43-2), Orange senior Kascidy Garren (21-0) and Dayton Carroll sophomore Brooklynn Newton (30-3).

Craft takes a 29-0 record into state and leads a weight that includes seven freshmen among its participants, including a trio of regional champions in Poland Seminary's Ella Thomas (37-0), Urbana's Libertie Nigh (32-4), and Liberty Township Lakota East's Camryn Gresham (19-2).

McKinney is 35-1 but figures to be challenged at 135 by Cole (21-1), who won the Harrison regional, as well as fellow regional champions Kiera Depinet (39-2) from Attica Seneca East and Madilynn Riddle (32-8) from Jackson.

Foebar is 33-4 but enters state as a regional runner-up after falling 9-0 to Eaton junior Caroline Klawon (34-1) in the Harrison championship bout. The other regional champions at 145 are East Liverpool senior Makyah Newlun (45-2), Fremont Ross senior Emma Gutierrez (23-6), and Pickerington North junior Reagan Knapp (44-4). Newlun was third at 155 last season.

Tait takes a 51-0 record into state after losing just two matches a season ago. The other regional champions at 155 were Ashland Crestview freshman Naomi Gearheart (27-3), Ravenna Southeast senior Lauren Carver (9-1), and Bellbrook junior Jada Weiss (37-2).

At 170, Madison is 35-1 heading into state and won the Harrison regional. The other regional champions were Marysville junior Lori Grimes (41-10), Orange junior Lydia Heinrich (38-4), and Mogadore senior Mia Gaetjens (38-2).

Briggs takes a 32-1 record into state at 120 after winning the Harrison regional. Also at that weight after winning regional titles are Central Crossing senior Addison Rudolph (40-11), Doylestown Chippewa freshman Kayla Moroschan (41-2), and Marion Elgin sophomore Hallie Winslow (25-3).

There are five other weights that will have new champions.

Brookville senior Molly Luebke was third at 110 last season and takes a 37-3 record into state at the same weight after winning the Harrison regional. The other regional champions at 110 are Steubenville freshman Talea Guntrum (34-0), Canal Fulton Northwest sophomore Madelyn Begert (41-6), and Rossford junior Noel Reinhart (30-7).

Gibsonburg junior Morgan Leonhardt is 39-2 and could be the favorite at 115 after winning the Marysville regional. The other regional champions are Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit freshman Bella Ndinga Mbappe (39-5), Dresden Tri-Valley sophomore Kandice Spry (39-8), and Harrison sophomore Leah Willen (38-7). Willen was third at 100 last season.

At 125, Clayton Northmont sophomore Lacie Knick (42-1) was runner-up at 120 last season and comes in as a regional champion. The other regional champions were Chippewa junior Gabi Gartin (37-9), Olentangy junior Cory Young (34-8), and Marysville sophomore Lauren Mobley (34-10). Hanoverton United sophomore Auston Brown (41-5) enters as a No. 3 seed but was fourth at state last winter. Senior Sienna Sanborn is 42-2 and heads into state as a No. 1 seed at 130 after finishing fifth at 125 last winter. Also winning regional titles were Tipp City Tippecanoe senior Emma Hanrahan (35-3), Napoleon junior Evanie Shank (34-6), and Alliance junior Abigail Mozden (47-5).

Junior Rejan Alhashash (46-2) could be the favorite at 140 after finishing running-up at 135 last season and winning the Mentor regional. The other regional champions at 140 are Bryan senior Marlee Yoder (27-7), Brookville senior Rita Carey (41-2), and Gahanna Lincoln freshman KyLee Tibbs (37-3).

At 235, junior Dakota McCracken (12-1), Archbold sophomore Gabby Oregon (33-4), Hamilton Township junior Audrina Pack (31-6), and Fairborn senior Akiaya Rhinehart (41-1) look to be the top contenders.