



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Commissioner Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.

Winter Sports Championship Release No. 1 (of 6) - February 23, 2010

4080 Roselea Place • Columbus, Ohio 43214 • 614-267-2502 • Fax: 614-267-1677 • www.ohsaa.org
Contact: Tim Stried, Director of Information Services, tstried@ohsaa.org

OHSAA 2010 Winter Sport Tournaments Overview

Sport	Week of Feb. 7	Week of Feb. 14	Week of Feb. 21	Week of Feb. 28	Week of Mar. 7	Week of Mar. 14	Week of Mar. 21
Swimming & Diving	Sectional	District	State				
Wrestling		Sectional	District	State			
Bowling		Sectional	District	State			
Gymnastics		District	District	State			
Ice Hockey		District	District	District	State		
Girls Basketball		Sectional	Sectional	District	Regional	State	
Boys Basketball			Sectional	Sectional	District	Regional	State

OHSAA 2010 Winter Sports State Championships Information

Wednesday, February 24

Boys and Girls Diving - C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton
9:00 a.m. - Girls Div. I Diving Prelims, Semifinals & Finals
2:00 p.m. - Boys Div. I Diving Prelims, Semifinals & Finals

Thursday, February 25

Boys and Girls Diving - C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton
9:00 a.m. - Girls Div. II Diving Prelims, Semifinals, Finals
2:00 p.m. - Boys Div. II Diving Prelims, Semifinals, Finals

Friday, February 26

Boys and Girls Swimming - C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton
9:00 - Girls & Boys Div. I Prelims
5:00 - Girls & Boys Div. II Prelims

Saturday, February 27

Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving - C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton,
9:00 - Girls & Boys Div. I Finals
5:00 - Girls & Boys Div. II Finals

Thursday, March 4

Wrestling - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
3:00-Division III Preliminaries; 4:20-Division II Preliminaries; 5:50-Division I Preliminaries; 7:25-Division III Consolation Round 1; 8:00-Division II Consolation Round 1; 8:45-Division I Consolation Round 1

Friday, March 5

Wrestling - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:00-Division III Quarterfinals; 10:40-Division II Quarterfinals; 11:25-Division I Quarterfinals; 12:15-Division III Consolation Round 2; 1:00-Division II Consolation Round 2; 1:45-Division I Consolation Round 2; 6:30-All Divisions Semifinals and Consolation Quarterfinals

Gymnastics - Hilliard Bradley H.S, 3:30-Team Competition

Girls Bowling - Shawnee Lanes, Chillicothe
11:00 - Team Qualifying Round and Individual Competition; 4:15 - Team Championship Competition

Saturday, March 6

Wrestling - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:00-All Divisions Consolation Semifinals; 11:10 - All Divisions Third, Fifth, Seventh Place Matches; 5:30-All Divisions First Place Matches

Boys Bowling - Shawnee Lanes, Chillicothe
11:00 - Team Qualifying Round and Individual Competition; 4:15 - Team Championship Competition

Gymnastics - Hilliard Bradley High School
12:00 p.m. - Individual/All-Around Competition

Saturday, March 13

Ice Hockey - Nationwide Arena, Columbus
10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - Semifinals

Sunday, March 14

Ice Hockey - Nationwide Arena, Columbus
12:00 p.m. - Finals

Thursday, March 18

Girls Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
1:00 & 3:00 p.m. Division III Semifinals
6:00 & 8:00 p.m. Division II Semifinals

Friday, March 19

Girls Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
1:00 & 3:00 p.m. Division IV Semifinals
6:00 & 8:00 p.m. Division I Semifinals

Saturday, March 20

Girls Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:45-Division III; 2:00-Division II; 5:15-Division IV; 8:30-Division I

Thursday, March 25

Boys Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:45 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Division III Semifinals
5:15 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Division II Semifinals

Friday, March 26

Boys Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:45 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Division IV Semifinals
5:15 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Division I Semifinals

Saturday, March 27

Boys Basketball - Value City Arena, Jerome Schottenstein Center, OSU
10:45-Division III; 2:00-Division II; 5:15-Division IV; 8:30-Division I

Girls Swimming & Diving State Tournaments

ADMISSION

Diving - \$8.00 per person per day available at main entrance

Swimming: Seating is limited. There are no walk-up ticket sales to the general public. Tickets may only be obtained through a participating high school coach. Once state qualifiers have been determined each participating school is permitted to purchase a predetermined number of tickets based on the number of qualifiers. Coaches must submit their ticket request form with payment by Tuesday, Feb 23. Tickets are sold as all-session ticket books only for \$16.00 each per division.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials are available by clicking here. The deadline for submitting a request is noon Tuesday, Feb. 23. Credentials will be held for pickup at the Branin Natatorium.

GIRLS SWIMMING - DISTRICT QUALIFIERS TO STATE

District	Division I	Division II
Central/East/Southeast	3	4
Northeast	5	3
Northwest	1	3
Southwest	4	3

*13 automatic qualifiers plus 11 at-large swimming qualifiers will be selected on the basis of times recorded in the District Tournaments.

GIRLS DIVING - DISTRICT QUALIFIERS TO STATE

District	Division I	Division II
Central/East/Southeast	6	7
Northeast	9	5
Northwest	2	6
Southwest	7	6

QUALIFIERS, RESULTS ONLINE

State tournament qualifiers are available on the OHSAA web site by clicking here. State tournament results will be posted daily following each tournament session. To find the information on the Web site, go to "Swimming/Diving" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page.

GEERING UP FOR HISTORY

Having won three previous state titles in both the 50 and 100 freestyle, Margo Geer (Milford Center Fairbanks) could become the first Ohio high school swimmer, boy or girl, to win four state titles in two different events. Two more state titles would give her eight in her prep career and tie her for the 10th most state titles in girls swimming history.

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 34th Annual OHSAA Girls State Swimming & Diving Tournaments

WHEN: Wednesday, February 24 - Saturday, February 27

WHERE: C.T. Branin Natatorium (2323 17th St. N.W., Canton).

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys Division I Diving

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. - Girls Division I Diving

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys Division II Diving

Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - Girls Division II Diving

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys and Girls Division I Prelims

Friday, 5:00 p.m. - Boys and Girls Division II Prelims

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys and Girls Division I Finals

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. - Boys and Girls Division II Finals

2009 IN REVIEW

Girls Division I - Upper Arlington tied the Division I record for consecutive state titles by claiming its fifth straight title and sixth overall, scoring 349 points to outdistance Columbus Bishop Watterson (176).

The Bears swept the three relays, while senior Darcy Fishback won her fourth title in the 100 butterfly, setting a state record during the prelims (53.38).

Watterson junior Gracie Finnegan defended her championships in both the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. Olentangy Liberty senior Ashley Specht took her third title in the 100 breaststroke.

Girls Division II - Gates Mills Hawken won its 19th state championship in the past 26 years, tallying 334 points. Hawken has won 11 titles in a row and 13 out of 14, and only Cincinnati St. Xavier's boys swimming and diving team (30) and Lakewood St. Edward's wrestling team (24) have won more championships in state history.

Hawken senior Brittany Rospierski set a state record in the 100 breaststroke (1:03.98), repeating as winner in that event. Sophomore Alana Arnold won the 100 butterfly, and Hawken finished first in both the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Milford Center Fairbanks junior Margo Geer broke her own state records in both the 50 freestyle (22.58) and 100 freestyle (49.39), and she has won both events each of her three years. Bay Village Bay junior Nikki Craft set a new state tournament mark in one meter diving as well (475.40).

2009 STATE CHAMPIONS

Division I	Event	Division II
Gracie Finnegan, Columbus Bishop Watterson, 23.33 (r2)	50 Freestyle	Margo Geer, Milford Center Fairbanks, 22.58 (r3*)
Gracie Finnegan, Columbus Bishop Watterson, 50.47 (r2)	100 Freestyle	Margo Geer, Milford Center Fairbanks, 49.39 (r3*)
Breann McDowell, Cincinnati Ursuline Academy, 1:49.66	200 Freestyle	Samantha Zuch, Napoleon, 1:50.34
Sarah Andrews, Centerville, 4:50.87	500 Freestyle	Samantha Zuch, Napoleon, 4:59.17
Darcy Fishback, Upper Arlington, 53.83 (r*#)	100 Butterfly	Alana Arnold, Gates Mills Hawken, 59.96 (r)
Ashley Specht, Powell Olentangy Liberty, 1:01.89 (r*#)	100 Breaststroke	Brittany Rospierski, Gates Mills Hawken, 1:03.98 (r*#)
Kate McNeilis, Dublin Scioto, 54.30 (*#)	100 Backstroke	Celia Oberholzer, Cincinnati Wyoming, 56.91
Breanna McCann, Akron Firestone, 2:01.11	200 Ind. Medley	Molly Dengler, New Albany, 2:05.34
Upper Arlington (Hammerberg, Fulcher, Armitage, Fishback) 1:34.24 (r*#)	200 Freestyle Relay	New Albany (Young, Fr. Mandy, Fa. Mandy, Dengler) 1:37.70
Upper Arlington (Fulcher, Warmolts, Sullivan, Chin) 3:25.85 (r)	400 Freestyle Relay	Gates Mills Hawken (Bitterman, Cohara, Harris, Rospierski) 3:34.54 (r)
Upper Arlington (Armitage, Wagner, Fishback, Hammerberg) 1:44.03 (r*#)	200 Medley Relay	Gates Mills Hawken (Cohara, Rospierski, Arnold, Shaker) 1:47.57 (r*#)
Molly Elkins, Centerville, 401.90	One-Meter Diving	Nikki Craft, Bay Village Bay, 475.40 (r*)
Upper Arlington, 349.00 (r)	Team Champion	Gates Mills Hawken, 334.00 (r)
r - repeat champion from 2008, * - state tournament record, # - state interscholastic record, BOLD - 2010 State Qualifier		

Boys Swimming & Diving State Tournaments

ADMISSION

Diving - \$8.00 per person per day available at main entrance

Swimming: Seating is limited. There are no walk-up ticket sales to the general public. Tickets may only be obtained through a participating high school coach. Once state qualifiers have been determined each participating school is permitted to purchase a predetermined number of tickets based on the number of qualifiers. Coaches must submit their ticket request form with payment by Tuesday, Feb 23. Tickets are sold as all-session ticket books only for \$16.00 each per division.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. A list of those media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The deadline for submitting a request is noon Tuesday, Feb. 23. Credentials will be held for pickup at the Branin Natatorium.

BOYS SWIMMING - DISTRICT QUALIFIERS TO STATE

District	Division I	Division II
Central/East/Southeast	3	3
Northeast	5	3
Northwest	1	4
Southwest	4	3

*13 automatic qualifiers plus 11 at-large swimming qualifiers will be selected on the basis of times recorded in the District Tournaments.

BOYS DIVING - DISTRICT QUALIFIERS TO STATE

District	Division I	Division II
Central/East/Southeast	5	6
Northeast	10	5
Northwest	2	8
Southwest	7	5

QUALIFIERS, RESULTS ONLINE

State tournament qualifiers are available on the OHSAA Web site by clicking here. State tournament results will be posted daily following each tournament session. To find the information on the Web site, go to "Swimming/Diving" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page.

2009 IN REVIEW:

Boys Division I - Cincinnati St. Xavier regained the state championship, besting 2008 champion Columbus St. Charles 322 to 265.

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 83rd Annual OHSAA Boys State Swimming & Diving Tournaments

WHEN: Wednesday, February 24 - Saturday, February 27

WHERE: C.T. Branin Natatorium (2323 17th St. N.W., Canton).

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys Division I Diving

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. - Girls Division I Diving

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys Division II Diving

Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - Girls Division II Diving

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys and Girls Division I Prelims

Friday, 5:00 p.m. - Boys and Girls Division II Prelims

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Boys and Girls Division I Finals

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. - Boys and Girls Division II Finals

It's the 30th state title for St. Xavier's swimming and diving team, already the winningest program in state history.

St. Xavier took first in both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays, and junior Matt Columbus won the 500 freestyle.

St. Charles junior Sandy Whitaker won a pair of titles, placing first in both the 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Upper Arlington senior Eric Huffman defended his titles in the 50 and 100 freestyle as well.

Boys Division II - In the first year featuring a second division in boys swimming and diving, Hunting Valley University School scored 288 points to fend off Cincinnati Wyoming, the runner-up with 180 points.

University School, which took third in the 2008 Division I competition, became the first Cleveland-area boys swimming team to win a state title since Cleveland Heights in 1965.

Seniors Ian Stewart-Bates and Tyler Bailey led the way for the Preppers, as both swam on the winning 400 freestyle relay team, Stewart-Bates won the 200 and 500 freestyle, and Bailey took home the 100 freestyle title.

Wyoming senior Jonathan Proffitt won the 100 breaststroke, while New Albany had a pair of titles as Brian Barrett won the 50 freestyle, and Barrett was also a member of the winning 200 freestyle relay team.

2009 STATE CHAMPIONS

Division I

Eric Huffman, Upper Arlington, 20.14 (r)

Eric Huffman, Upper Arlington, 44.35 (r)

Roman Willets, Toledo St. Francis deSales, 1:38.68

Matt Columbus, Cincinnati St. Xavier, 4:28.10

Sandy Whitaker, Columbus St. Charles, 49.48

Joe Albers, Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller, 57.46

Sandy Whitaker, Columbus St. Charles, 50.36

Joe Albers, Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller, 1:52.35

Cincinnati St. Xavier (Lipari, Schoenling, Louis, Lawley), 1:23.61

Cincinnati St. Xavier (Louis, Miller, Columbus, Lawley), 3:05.04

Columbus St. Charles (Schuh, Mai, Whitaker, Grunden), 1:33.21

Christian Holstein, Upper Arlington, 484.45

Cincinnati St. Xavier, 322.00

r - repeat champion from 2008, * - state tournament record, # - state interscholastic record, **BOLD** - 2010 State Qualifier

Event

50 Freestyle

100 Freestyle

200 Freestyle

500 Freestyle

100 Butterfly

100 Breaststroke

100 Backstroke

200 Ind. Medley

200 Freestyle Relay

400 Freestyle Relay

200 Medley Relay

One-Meter Diving

Team Champion

Division II

Brian Barrett, New Albany, 20.98

Tyler Bailey, Hunting Valley University School, 45.44

Ian Stewart-Bates, Hunting Valley University School, 1:38.64

Ian Stewart-Bates, Hunting Valley University School, 4:31.02

Carl Svagerko, Columbus St. Francis DeSales, 50.40

Jonathan Proffitt, Cincinnati Wyoming, 57.20

Patrick McHugh, Springfield Catholic Central, 50.78

Garrett Trebilcock, Canfield, 1:53.00 (Division I in 2010)

New Albany (Gleason, Sybert, Sliwowski, Barrett), 1:25.16

Hunting Valley University School (Bailey, Stewart-Bates, Crane, Stewart Bates), 3:06.70

Sandusky Perkins (Chapman, Harris, Waldock, Mulvin), 1:35.39

Jeff Craig, Mogadore Field, 481.70

Hunting Valley University School, 288.00

Boys Wrestling Tournaments

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

District tournaments in all three divisions will be held Friday and Saturday in preparation for the 72nd Annual OHSAA State Wrestling Tournaments, which take place March 4-6 at Value City Arena in the Jerome Schottenstein Center at The Ohio State University.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager. Names and telephone numbers of district managers are posted on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the managers on the Web site, go to "Wrestling" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the lefthand corner of the home page followed by "2010 Sectional and District Tournament Information."

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The approved list will be posted no later than Wednesday, March 3. Some credentials will be mailed ahead of time to those media outlets who normally cover the entire state tournament. Those who do not have their credentials mailed will pick them up at the media entrance to the arena. The deadline for submitting a request is noon Tuesday, March 2.

PAIRINGS AVAILABLE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Pairings for the State Wrestling Tournament will be available on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org) no later than 2:00 p.m. Sunday. To find the pairings, go to "Wrestling" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page.

2009 IN REVIEW

A pair of four-time state champions was crowned, two team records were set and the closest race in almost 30 years came down to the final hour of the championships at the 2009 OHSAA wrestling championships at the Jerome Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

Of the 14 weight classes, Division II power St. Paris Graham qualified nine wrestlers to title matches, winning a state record seven of them. The Falcons had 13 total Top-8 placers on their way to a state record 282 team points. That total is 53 points better than the previous team total of 229 set by Division I Lakewood St. Edward in 2007, and the seven individual titles breaks the record of six set by Cleveland West in 1951.

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 72nd Annual State Wrestling Tournaments

WHEN: Thursday, March 4 - Saturday, March 6

WHERE: Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Session 1:

Championship Prelims and Consolation Round 1

Friday, 10:00 a.m. - Session 2:

Championship Quarterfinals and Consolation Round 2

Friday, 6:30 p.m. - Session 3:

Championship Semifinals and Consolation Quarterfinals

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - Session 4:

Consolation (3rd, 5th, 7th place matches), Hall of Fame

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Session 5:

Parade of Champions, All Finals

Graham's David Taylor and Lakewood St. Edward's Collin Palmer became the 17th and 18th four-time state champions in OHSAA history. Taylor won state titles at 103 pounds as a freshman and sophomore, 112 pounds in 2008 and 135 pounds in 2009. Palmer won titles in four different weight classes, including 112, 125, 135 and 140 in 2009.

Building on its record for state wrestling titles, St. Edward won the Division I championship with 111.5 points. It marks the 25th title for the Eagles and their 13th in a row.

The Division III race was not decided until Troy Christian senior Zach Toal's major decision victory at 160 pounds clinched the Eagles' third-consecutive championship with 113 points. Challenging Troy Christian for the Division III title was runner-up Monroeville, which finished with 112 points, marking the closest team race since Bluffton won the Class A title by half a point over Summit Station Licking Heights in 1981, 67.5 to 67.0.

Toal's individual title was his third in a row to go along with his team's third-straight title.

Also factoring into the Division III race was Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy with 108 points.

Massillon Perry finished second in Division I with 91 points and Uhrichsville Claymont was the Division II runner up with 81 points.

2009 STATE CHAMPIONS

Event	Division I	Division II	Division III
103 Pounds	Kory Mines, Maple Heights	Nick Brascetta, St. Paris Graham Local	Nick Goebel, Bloomdale Elmwood
112 Pounds	Jerome Robinson, Cleveland St. Ignatius	Ty Mitch, Aurora	Bryce Baker, Mechanicsburg
119 Pounds	Jamie Clark, Lakewood St. Edward	Johnni DiJulius, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit	Hunter Stieber, Monroeville
125 Pounds	Sam White, Massillon Perry	Zach Neibert, St. Paris Graham Local	Logan Stieber, Monroeville
130 Pounds	Shawn Fayette, Miamisburg	Felipe Martinez, St. Paris Graham Local	Cam Tessari, Monroeville
135 Pounds	Robert Shepherd, Mason	David Taylor, St. Paris Graham Local	Tyler Powers, Cuyahoga Falls CVCA
140 Pounds	Collin Palmer, Lakewood St. Edward	Harrison Hightower, Hunting Valley University Sc.	Zac Hancock, Troy Christian
145 Pounds	David Habat, Cleveland St. Ignatius	Brian Stephens, St. Paris Graham Local	Chris Burns, Troy Christian
152 Pounds	Josh Demas, Westerville North	Jonathan McGookey, Sandusky Perkins	Jake Howe, Blanchester
160 Pounds	Kyle Lang, Brecksville-Broadview Heights	Kyle Ryan, St. Paris Graham Local	Zach Toal, Troy Christian
171 Pounds	Nick Heflin, Massillon Perry	Zach Garbrandt, Uhrichsville Claymont	Chris Phillips, Monroeville
189 Pounds	Andrew Tumlin, Harrison	Max Thomusseit, St. Paris Graham Local	Corby Running, Clarksville Clinton-Massie
215 Pounds	Orlando Scales, Cincinnati Elder	Tyler Houska, Medina Highland	Stuart Miller, Delphos Jefferson
285 Pounds	Jeremy Johnson, Brecksville-Broadview Heights	Josh Jackson, Uhrichsville Claymont	Nick Hamilton, Greenwich South Central
Team Champion	Lakewood St. Edward, 111.5 (r)	St. Paris Graham Local, 282.0 (r)	Troy Christian, 113.0

r - previous state champion, r4 - four time state champion, **BOLD** - 2010 State

Boys and Girls Bowling Tournaments

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

District tournaments for girls and boys bowling take place this week in preparation for the Fourth Annual OHSAA State Bowling Tournaments, which will be held March 5 and 6 at Shawnee Lanes in Chillicothe.

BOWLING - DISTRICT QUALIFIERS TO STATE

District	Boys	Girls
Central/East/Southeast	3	3
Northeast	6	5
Northwest	2	2
Southwest	5	6

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager. Names and telephone numbers of district managers are posted on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the managers on the Web site, go to "Bowling" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by "2010 Sectional and District Tournament Information."

STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The boys state tournament takes place Friday, March 5, while the girls compete for the state title the following day. Sixteen teams and 16 individuals will qualify from the district tournaments in each tourney.

Starting each day at 11:00 a.m., individual qualifiers and all 16 teams will bowl three games of regulation 10-pin bowling totaling all pins. An individual medalist and runner-up will be determined

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 4th Annual Boys and Girls Bowling State Tournaments

WHEN: Boys Tournament - Friday, March 5
Girls Tournament - Saturday, March 6

WHERE: Shawnee Lanes, Chillicothe

EVENT SCHEDULE: March 5 and 6

11:00 - Team Qualifying Round and Individual Competition

4:15 - Team Championship Competition

from these rounds. In addition, the top eight teams with the highest total pin counts following the qualifying round will go on to the championship rounds. They will be placed on a bracket and seeded 1 through 8 based on their qualifying round scores and will compete head-to-head in the best of five Baker games. The head-to-head competition will continue until a champion is determined.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

No advance reservations are needed. Media members with valid company identification cards or a letter from a superior on company letterhead will be admitted at the pass gate at Shawnee Lanes.

QUALIFIERS AVAILABLE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Qualifiers for the state tournaments will be available on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the qualifiers, go to "Bowling" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page.

Girls Gymnastics Tournaments

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

All four district tournaments take place Saturday in preparation for the 37th Annual OHSAA State Gymnastics Tournament, which takes place March 5 and 6 at Hilliard Bradley High School.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager. Names and telephone numbers of district managers are posted on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the managers, go to "Gymnastics" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by "2010 Sectional and District Tournament Information."

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The approved list will be posted no later than Wednesday, March 3. Some credentials will be mailed ahead of time to those media outlets who normally cover the entire state tournament. Those who do not have their credentials mailed will pick them up at the media entrance to the arena. The deadline for submitting a request is noon Tuesday, March 2.

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 38th Annual Girls Gymnastics Tournament

WHEN: Friday, March 5 - Saturday, March 6

WHERE: Hilliard Bradley High School

EVENT SCHEDULE: March 5 - Team Competition
March 6 - Individual Competition

2009 IN REVIEW

Brecksville-Broadview Heights won its fifth consecutive championship, its seventh in eight years and its eighth overall. But the meet came down to the final performer in the final event, and senior Andrea Kinzer's 9.725 in the vault gave the Bees 147.400 points, edging Rocky River Magnificat, which had 147.050. The margin of victory was the second closest in tournament history, and Brecksville-Broadview Heights tied Worthington Thomas Worthington's record for most consecutive state titles.

Magnificat senior Kayla Kmiecik not only won her third straight uneven parallel bars title but won the all-around as well with 37.825 points. Freshman teammate Kelly Nortz was second with 37.625. Kmiecik also took top honors in the floor exercise, while Nortz won the vault and Columbus St. Francis DeSales senior Morgan Spellacy won the balance beam.

Ice Hockey Tournaments

COMPLETE STATEWIDE BRACKETS AVAILABLE

Complete statewide brackets for all four district tournaments are available on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org) by going to the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by the "Ice Hockey." The Web site also includes score updates the day following each game.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager: Brooklyn Rec Center—Mike Hadl (216-642-3664); Kent State University—Bill Switaj (330-672-2415 or wswitaj@kent.edu); Sylvania Tam O'Shanter—Tim Erickson (419-536-8429 or ohhs_tge@nwoca.org), and Nationwide Ice Haus—Jeremy Rogers (614-791-9999, ext. 123 or jrogers@thechiller.com).

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The approved list will be posted no later than Wednesday, March

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 33rd Annual Ice Hockey State Tournament

WHEN: Saturday, March 13 - Sunday, March 14

WHERE: Nationwide Arena, Columbus

EVENT SCHEDULE:

March 14 - Semifinal #1 - 10:30 a.m. - Brooklyn District Winner vs. Kent District Winner; Semifinal #2 - 1:00 p.m. - Sylvania District Winner vs. Columbus District Winner
March 15 - 12:00 p.m. - Finals

10. The deadline for submitting a request is noon Tuesday, March 9. Credentials will be held at the media pass gate, which is located at the Tower Entrance at the corner of Nationwide Blvd. and Front St. Stations interested in broadcasting must request credentials through the OHSAA and also contact Russ Mollohan with the Columbus Blue Jackets (614-246-4304) to review setup and details.

Girls Basketball State Tournaments

COMPLETE STATEWIDE BRACKETS AVAILABLE

Complete statewide brackets for all divisions — beginning at the sectional tournament level — are available on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org) by going to the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by the "Basketball-Girls." The Web site will also include score updates the day following each game.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR SECTIONAL, DISTRICT AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager. Names and telephone numbers of tournament managers are posted on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the managers on the Web site, go to "Basketball-Girls" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by "2010 Sectional and District Tournament Information."

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The approved list will be posted by noon Wednesday, March 17. Some credentials will be mailed ahead of time to those media outlets who normally cover the entire state tournament. Those who do not have their credentials mailed will pick them up at the media entrance to the arena. The deadline for submitting a request is 3:00, Tuesday, March 16.

2009 IN REVIEW

Division I

Mt. Notre Dame beat Toledo Start in the finals, 52-38, to become the second school in history to win four consecutive titles. They were paced by Kathryn Reynolds and Gabby Smith with 13 points each. Kendall Hackney scored 12 despite sitting out much of the second half in foul trouble.

Start was paced by Yolanda Richardson's 15 points and Maleeka Kynard's 12 points, including three 3-pointers.

Following a stretch of sloppy play and ineffectiveness - much of which came after Hackney picked up her third foul midway through the second quarter - Mount Notre Dame found itself and returned to form to run away with the ballgame in the fourth quarter.

Speaking of juxtaposition, check out the first half of this game. After jumping out to a 9-0 lead, Mount Notre Dame led 17-5 after the first eight minutes. Mount Notre Dame thrived off of 10 Start turnovers re-

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 35th Annual Girls State Basketball Tournaments

WHEN: Thursday, March 18 - Saturday, March 20

WHERE: Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday, March 18	Friday, March 19
1:00 & 3:00 - Division III Semis	1:00 & 3:00 - Division IV Semis
6:00 & 8:00 - Division II Semis	6:00 & 8:00 - Division I Semis
Saturday, March 20 - Finals: 10:45 a.m. - Division III, 2:00 p.m. - Division II, 5:15 p.m. - Division IV, 8:30 p.m. - Division I	

sulting in 14 points.

And therein lies the difference. In the second quarter, Start cut down their turnovers with just five in the quarter and Mount Notre Dame scored 0 points off those five turnovers. It also didn't help the Cougars that they lost Hackney to her third foul. Hackney scored seven first half points before being forced to the bench.

Start got seven points from Richardson in the first half, though she could have had more following some missed layups. Kynard contributed six as Start cut the halftime deficit to 21-15.

Division II

The Division II state final pitted Wapakoneta, a school that had never won a state championship in any sport, against Hathaway Brown, a team trying to avoid becoming the first team to lose three straight state championship games.

As it turns out, neither team made history.

Hathaway Brown claimed the Division II championship with a 52-46 win over Wapakoneta in Value City Arena in Columbus. The Blazers, who trailed throughout the first half, were paced by Erica Almady's 13 points. Heidi Schlegel scored 17 points for the Redskins.

Hathaway Brown came out of the locker room strong in the second half to lead for most of the third quarter. All was not well for the Blazers, however, as Mylan Woods picked up her fourth foul with 4:36 to play. Wapakoneta seized the momentum and retook the lead at 34-33 at the break. Still, the Redskins may look back on the Blazers' 10-14 shooting in the third quarter and their own nine turnovers that led to 14 Hathaway

Brown points as the beginning of the end.

Alanna Guy and Devon Golden traded shots early in the fourth, with Golden accounting for Wapakoneta's first seven points. Guy scored 10 in the quarter. Then, with 4:13 to play, Woods, who had returned just 13 seconds earlier, picked up her fifth foul and was forced to watch the remainder of the evening.

Her teammates stepped up, especially Almady, who made four free throws to seal the game and the championship - and to help her team avoid the type of history in which it didn't want to be associated.

"We just had some kids step up and play major roles [when Mylan Woods] fouled out," said Blazers' head coach Paul Barlow. "Our kids got a little more focused on defense and we won the basketball game."

Division III

The Regina Royals were Division III state champions for the sixth time. This time around, they did it without a loss but not without a fight from a resilient Oak Hill team.

The Oaks were behind 55-38 after three quarters but proceeded to make things interesting in the fourth, running off eight straight points to start the quarter and playing ferocious defense to stifle a Regina team that was previously cruising on offense. The Royals turned the ball over eight times in the final quarter, matching their total for the first three quarters combined.

In the end, though, Regina had too much talent while Oak Hill had too little shooting. The Royals were aided by 3-for-19 3-point shooting from the Oaks, while the Royals connected on 6-for-10, including six from Amber Boyd to win the ball game, 63-48.

Regina was paced by Boyd's 23 points and got 12 points from Riley McCormick. Oak Hill got 15 points and 8 rebounds from Rebecca Puckett and 16 points and seven rebounds from Lakin Caudill.

Oak Hill was able to stay within striking distance in the first quarter thanks to 6-for-12 shooting from the field. The Royals thrived off of four Oaks turnovers leading to six points on the other end. Regina took an 18-13 lead to the second quarter.

That second quarter was the Oaks' unraveling. Oak Hill shot just 4-for-16 in the quarter and turned the ball over five more times. The Oaks also only made 1-of-9 three pointers in the quarter. Regina, meanwhile, continued to shoot well, making 5-of-10 in the second quarter including three 3-pointers highlighted by Boyd's 30-foot shot at the half-time buzzer. Boyd scored 15 first half points including four 3-pointers.

Division IV

The Division IV state championship rematch looked like it was going to go the same way it did in 2008. Trailing by 15 points at the half, Columbus Africentric outscored Berlin Hiland 44-20 in the second half to prevent a repeat from happening.

"Last year, I think we just came into the game thinking we were just going to win it," said Raven Ferguson. "We told ourselves we've got to come back next year and we can not fall short."

Led by Ferguson's 17 points and Ashar Harris' 14 points and 15 rebounds, the Nubians completed an improbable comeback to stun the Hawks, 55-46, at Value City Arena in Columbus.

The Nubians dialed up the defensive pressure in the third quarter in scoring 24 points in the frame. A Harris steal and layup with 1:55 to play cut the Hiland lead to 38-29. By the time Chelsea Chambers (five points) made a three with five seconds to play, Africentric had made a game of it, ending the quarter trailing 40-35.

Africentric struggled from the field throughout the first half, shooting just 5-for-29. The Nubians first basket of the game didn't come until the 2:04 mark of the first quarter when Brein Babbs scored to end Hiland's 7-0 run to start the game. Chambers hit a shot at the buzzer for Africentric to cut the first quarter deficit to 9-4.

The second quarter belonged to Hiland, outscoring Africentric 17-7. The Hawks shot 6-for-12 from the field in the quarter and continued to capitalize on Africentric turnovers, finishing the half with seven points off of six Nubians turnovers.

Hiland expanded their lead to 26-11 heading into the locker room. In the end, though, Africentric took the momentum and the title.

Boys Basketball State Tournaments

COMPLETE STATEWIDE BRACKETS AVAILABLE

Complete statewide brackets for all divisions — beginning at the sectional tournament level — are available on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org) by going to the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by the "Basketball-Boys." The Web site will also include score updates the day following each game.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR SECTIONAL, DISTRICT AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Contact the specific tournament manager. Names and telephone numbers of tournament managers are posted on the OHSAA Web site (www.ohsaa.org). To find the managers on the web site, go to "Basketball-Boys" under the "Sports & Tournaments" dropdown box in the left-hand corner of the home page followed by "2010 Sectional and District Tournament Information."

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Fax requests to Tim Stried at the OHSAA at (614) 267-1677. Credential applications as well as a list of media members who have been approved for credentials is available by clicking here. The approved list will be posted by noon Wednesday, March 24. Some credentials will be mailed ahead of time to those media outlets who normally cover the entire state tournament. Those who do not have their credentials mailed will pick them up at the media entrance to the arena. The deadline for submitting a request is 3:00 Tuesday, March 23.

2009 IN REVIEW

Division I

There's an old adage in sports that says "big-time players make big plays."

Jared Sullinger hit two free throws with 2.7 seconds left to give Northland a dramatic 60-58 victory over Princeton and the Division I state

QUICK INFO

WHAT: 88th Annual Boys State Basketball Tournaments

WHEN: Thursday, March 25 - Saturday, March 27

WHERE: Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday, March 18	Friday, March 19
10:45 & 2:00 - Division III Semis	10:45 & 2:00 - Division IV Semis
5:15 & 8:15 - Division II Semis	5:15 & 8:15 - Division I Semis
Saturday, March 20 - Finals: 10:45 a.m. - Division III, 2:00 p.m. - Division II, 5:15 p.m. - Division IV, 8:30 p.m. - Division I	

championship.

Ohio's Mr. Basketball, playing on his future home court at Ohio State, stepped up to the line and calmly sank his first two free throws after he was fouled on a three-pointer.

The junior 6-foot-8 center, who finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, received the inbounds pass at midcourt with 7.5 seconds left and the score knotted at 58-58. He drove to his right and pulled up at the top of the key where he was raked across his shooting arm, sending hysteria into the crowd of 12,104.

"I went into the huddle and said 'I want the ball,'" explained Sullinger about what occurred during the timeout prior to his game-winning play. "Not trying to be selfish, but I wanted the ball (in that spot)."

It was an appropriate finish for the two evenly matched programs that finished first and second, respectively, in the final AP regular season poll.

Each team had to modify its attack in the early going as two mar-

que players got into early foul trouble. Princeton's Marquise Horne and Northland's J.D. Weatherspoon each picked up two fouls in the first four minutes and were relegated to the bench the remainder of the half.

Orlando Williams sank two free throws to stake Princeton to a 10-9 lead early in the second, but freshman Jordan Potts - seeing increased playing time due to Weatherspoon's foul issues - hit his second three of the game to put Northland back on top.

Despite Northland retaining a slim lead, head coach Satch Sullinger wasn't pleased with the ever-quickening pace of the game. He prompted his players to "slow down!" during a timeout following a turnover.

Northland must have listened to their venerable coach, as they focused on slowing the tempo and feeding the ball into Jared Sullinger in the post. It resulted in a 21-15 halftime lead with Sullinger leading the way with eight points and six boards.

Sullinger bumped the lead out to double-digits at 30-20 with a fierce two-handed dunk off an offensive rebound and free throw midway through the third. Weatherspoon's inside presence allowed Sullinger to see fewer double teams and he took advantage of the extra breathing room.

A Jordan Sibert layup off a steal cut it to 30-24 with three minutes left, but any momentum was lost when Weatherspoon threw down a crowd-pleasing two-handed dunk off an alley-oop on the ensuing possession.

Sibert did his best to keep Princeton in the game, scoring five quick points in the fourth including a deep three from the corner. But Northland failed to yield, finding a way to respond usually behind Sullinger or Weatherspoon in the paint.

The Vikings continued to push the issue, generating easy baskets off transition. Sibert's layup with 3:51 remaining cut the Northland lead to just four at 50-46.

Once again, however, Weatherspoon silenced the raucous Princeton faithful with a monstrous dunk. Dimonde Hale dished it to Weatherspoon on the fast break and he hammered a one-hander to push the lead back out to seven.

With under a minute remaining, Sibert sank two free throws to cut the Northland lead to 57-53. Following a timeout, Northland was called for a five-second violation under its own basket and turned the ball over.

Princeton's Williams parlayed the gaffe into a crucial three-pointer and Princeton trailed by only one with 27.6 seconds remaining.

After Trey Burke split a pair of free throws, Williams was fouled on three-point attempt and sank two-of-three, tying the game at 58-58 with 7.5 seconds left on the clock and setting up Sullinger's heroics.

Division II

It's always good to have the King on your sideline.

With Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James cheering on his alma mater from behind the bench, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary overcame a big-time performance by Thurgood Marshall junior Juwan Staten to capture the Division II state championship with a hard-fought 59-53 victory at The Ohio State University's Value City Arena.

Daylen Harrison scored 21 points for the Fighting Irish, which captured its first state title since 2003 (James' senior year), and fifth overall.

"This is about a tradition that's grown bigger than any of us," said St. Vincent-St. Mary head coach Dru Joyce after the game. "We just had the opportunity to write another chapter."

"(LeBron) is part of the program and he believes in what we do," Joyce said of his former player and NBA megastar in attendance.

The teams battled back and forth throughout the first quarter as the lead changed four times. Staten, Thurgood Marshall's dynamic point guard, got off to a blazing start. The University of Dayton recruit scored nine of the Cougars' 13 first-quarter points and his reverse layup at the first quarter buzzer gave Thurgood Marshall a 13-11 lead.

Staten continued his stellar shooting in the second. He canned two 3's as Thurgood Marshall pushed its lead out to six when Staten found DeAngelo Gates streaking in for a layup and a 24-18 lead with 1:40 left in the half.

The All-Ohio guard wasn't done there, however, adding two more buckets in the final minute as the Cougars went to the locker room with a 29-24 halftime lead. Staten scored 20 first-half points on 8-of-13 shoot-

ing, including four three-pointers.

The Fighting Irish chipped away at the Cougars' lead in the third quarter and found ways to slow down Staten. Senior Michael Hammonds' three-pointer from the left baseline with 2:10 left in the third tied it up at 36-36.

"In the locker room (at halftime) we knew we had to play some defense or we weren't going to win," admitted Harrison.

The Irish rally continued as Ricky Johnson Jr. banked in a driving layup down the lane to give the Fighting Irish their first lead since early in the game and they extended the lead out to four on Hammond's layup.

Thurgood Marshall ended the quarter on an (unlikely) high note. Junior center Tremayne Scott, who just checked in the ballgame, calmly drilled a three-pointer from the left wing at the buzzer, cutting the Cougars' deficit to just one at 40-39 heading into the final eight minutes.

SVSM pushed its lead back out to four, but resilient Thurgood Marshall wouldn't fold, reeling off six straight to recapture a 47-45 lead.

The lead continued to change hands, as the Fighting Irish went back on top with two straight Hammond layups. But Gates responded with a three-pointer and Staten followed with layup for a 52-49 Marshall lead with just over two minutes left.

With LeBron biting his nails from his courtside seat, Johnson tied it with a clutch three-pointer with 1:40 left. His steal and outlet pass to Beard for a layup on the next possession put St. Vincent-St. Mary back out on top 54-52.

From there the Irish were able to cling to their miniscule lead and held off Staten down the stretch. The Irish iced the game when Harrison stroked four free throws in the final 10 seconds to clinch the victory.

Staten was only able to muster eight points in the second half but still finished with a game high 28 to go along with four assists.

"He's a great player," said Hammond following the game. "I think we just wore him out in the second half."

LeBron took Staten aside as the teams shook hands following the game and had a few personal words with the budding star.

Joyce perhaps summed up the contest best.

"It was said to me in 2002 when we lost the state title 'you had a great player but they had a great team,'" Joyce said, referring to the Irish dropping the championship to Roger Bacon despite having James.

"Tonight we had a great team and they had a great player."

Division III

When you set a state championship game record for fewest points allowed in a game, victory is a sure thing.

Such was the case for Cleveland Central Catholic, which used a stifling early defensive effort to capture the Division III state championship with a 45-38 victory over Defiance Tinora at Value City Arena.

The Ironmen held Tinora scoreless in the first quarter, limited the Rams to 27 percent shooting (14-of-52), and forced 17 turnovers. Tinora's 38 points were the fewest in Division III title game history. Belpre High School scored 39 in 1993.

"I thought our pressure was fantastic," said emotional Central Catholic head coach Kevin Noch in his post-game press conference.

"Our quickness and a few of our blocked shots made them not shoot the ball with a lot of confidence."

Central Catholic got out of the gates quickly, capitalizing off five Tinora turnovers in the first four minutes. Two Chall Montgomery jumpers and an Anton Grady putback gave the Ironmen an early 6-0 advantage.

Things didn't go well at all for Tinora early, as it had to overcome an injury to emotional leader Treg Lymanstall, who got tangled up with Montgomery with 3:49 left in the first on a loose ball. Lymanstall rolled his right ankle and had to be helped off the court, but he would return in limited action.

Tinora missed their first nine shots of the game, allowing Central Catholic to get out in space and take advantage of their athleticism. Grady's two-handed dunk off the fast break and Shawni Jackson's running jumper at the buzzer pushed the Ironmen's lead out to 11-0 after one.

Tinora's goose egg in the first quarter tied a record for the fewest points ever in a quarter in state title game history. The last time it hap-

pened was 1931.

"Its always defense," said Montgomery. "That's what we always work on in practice."

The Rams battled back mightily in the second, going on a 14-1 run to open the quarter. Gregg Gerken and Jon Garmyn keyed the rally, combining to score the first 11 points in a four minute span to bring Tinora back to 12-11. Senior Taylor Wiemken then gave the Rams their first lead of the game with a layup with 3:30 left in the half.

"They're a good team," explained Grady when asked how Tinora was able to fight back. "They didn't get here by mistake."

Montgomery ended the Central Catholic scoring drought with a three-pointer to put the Ironmen back up to stay entering intermission.

Gerken nailed four free throws in the first minute of the second half to give the Rams an 18-17 lead, but Central Catholic responded with a 14-5 run over the next six minutes to push the lead back out to eight points.

The Ironmen saw their lead grow to double digits at 40-28 in the fourth. Montgomery sank a three-pointer, Brandon Campbell put in a layup and Grady was able to lay-in a spinning underhand shot off a feed from Campbell.

Grady, who recorded a game-high 19 points and eight rebounds in the Ironmen's semifinal win, was held in check by Tinora. He finished with just six points (3-of-11 FG), but did add three blocks and two steals.

Montgomery, Derrick Bufford and Campbell certainly picked up the slack. Montgomery posted a team-high 16 points and six rebounds while Bufford and Campbell each tallied 10. Campbell also dished out six assists.

"I say Chall really showed what he could do (today)," said Noch, when asked who he thought was the game's MVP. "But it was really our defense."

It was the first boys state title for Cleveland Central Catholic in any sport. The small parochial school on the Cleveland's eastside only has 182 boys, but played much bigger.

"I've never been more proud of 13 guys in my life," Noch stated triumphantly.

Division IV

Ryan Borden sank three-pointers in the final seconds of both regulation and the first overtime as Oak Hill captured its first ever state championship with a dramatic 48-43 double overtime victory over Kalida in the Division IV title game Saturday morning at Value City Arena.

Borden, a 6-foot-2 senior, hit a falling-away three-pointer from the left corner with 17 seconds left in regulation to knot the score at 33-33 and force the first overtime.

"I've seen him hit shots like that," said Oak Hill head coach Norm Persin. "When he gets in a rhythm he can hit shots like that."

In the first extra session, the Oaks again faced a three point deficit at 38-35 after Kalida's Jordan Basinger converted two free throws. But Borden came to the rescue again, calmly sinking a contested three-pointer from the left wing with 30 seconds remaining.

"Not very good at all," admitted Borden when asked of his look at the basket on the shot. "My feet were tangled and I basically shot it falling down."

Oak Hill then pulled away in the second overtime period. Borden gave the Oaks the lead for good at 42-41 with a backdoor layup and Western Hale and Kyle Ondera iced the game with four straight free throws down the stretch.

"God, did they battle," Persin said. "They just refused to lose. It's a tremendous feeling."

The first four quarters featured a series of back-and-forth scoring runs but hardly the drama of the final eight minutes.

Kalida opened up quickly out of the gate, scoring the first seven points of the contest. Senior guard Justin Kahle nailed a three-pointer from the left baseline to open the scoring and added a driving layup two possessions later.

Up 9-3 with just over a minute remaining in the first quarter, Kalida was happy to let the air out of the ball as Oak Hill was content to sit in its trademark 2-3 zone defense. Kahle let the final minute of the clock run

out dribbling uncontested near midcourt, leading to the surprisingly low score at the end of one.

"We knew if they had the lead they would try to sit on (the ball)," said Persin.

Oak Hill roared back, going on a 7-0 run of its own to open the second quarter. The teams then volleyed back-and-forth behind the sharpshooting of Kalida's Matt Warnecke and Oak Hill's Hale. The guards each sank a pair of three-pointers, forcing a 15-15 tie with 3:09 left in the half.

The Wildcats reeled off two straight buckets behind the strong inside play of Basinger to grab a 19-15 lead, but the Oaks' Jesse Slone rattled in a three-pointer in the final minute to pull his team to within one at 19-18 entering halftime.

Just like it did in the first, Kalida opened the second half with seven straight points. Basinger's solid play carried over, as the 6-foot-3 junior scored five of the seven Wildcats' points, even stepping out and drilling a three-pointer from the top of the arc.

Again the Oaks fought back on the strength of the three point shot. Borden nailed one to end the Kalida scoring run while Hale, just a sophomore, stroked his third of the contest to pull Oak Hill to within 26-24 entering the fourth quarter.

Oak Hill grabbed their first lead since the first quarter midway through the fourth when J.D. Hale found a cutting Borden under the basket for a layup and 30-28 advantage. But Kalida's Scott Schnipke sank a jumper from the lane to knot the score. It was Schnipke's first basket of the game after scoring a game-high 24 in the semifinals.

Schnipke then hit a tough one-hander from the block, giving the Wildcats' a 32-30 lead with two minutes left. Warnecke split a pair of free throws in the final minute to extend the lead to three, setting up the dramatic conclusion.

Borden and Western Hale were the high scorers for Oak Hill with 13 apiece. Ondera added seven points and 10 rebounds.

Kalida (23-5) got 19 points and five rebounds from Basinger. Schnipke chipped with nine points and seven boards.