

Final 'DDN' boys basketball ratings

Friday, February 27, 2009

FINALS BOYS POLL

(Regular-season records)

DIVISION I

1. Centerville (17-3): The Elks, who repeat as the area's D-I poll champ, won their fifth straight Greater Western Ohio Conference title and are top seeded in the postseason. Now all they have to do is play Trotwood, dodge whatever awaits from the Cincinnati area and be the first Centerville team to advance to state.

2. Trotwood-Madison (17-3): A tremendous effort in Mark Baker's first season as the Rams coach. Benefited from a Sidney meltdown to Vandalia Butler to win GWOC North.

3. Wayne (15-5): Warriors hoops is where it belongs, thanks to coach Travis Trice.

4. West Carrollton (16-4): If only the Pirates could land in a league.

5. Sidney (12-8): Tough to figure the Yellow Jackets out. Capable of a 79-74 stinging of Trotwood, then lost 66-58 to lowly Butler with North title at stake.

DIVISION II

1. Graham (20-0): Consecutive 20-0 regular seasons, a state poll title and the Falcons still take a back seat in school to the nationally ranked wrestling team.

2. Wilmington (18-2): Lumped in the Fort Ancient Valley Conference, the Hurricane doesn't venture this way too often. But a 54-49 defeat of Centerville earned some r-e-s-p-e-c-t.

3. Thurgood Marshall (16-4): Cougars beat Centerville, Jefferson and split with Dunbar. Best might be yet to come.

4. Dunbar (12-5): Injuries had a lot to do with the Wolverines' late four-game skid. Best effort might have been a 61-55 loss at Columbus Northland (19-1), Ohio D-I poll champ.

5. Franklin (13-7): Wasn't long ago that athletes were bailing from the school for levy concerns. Chalk up football and hoops as fully recovered.

DIVISION III

1. Anna (18-2): Rockets lost only to unbeaten New Knoxville and two-loss Lehman Catholic by a total of seven points.

2. Miami East (19-1): If coach Allen Mack isn't mayor of Casstown yet, he should be.

3. St. Henry (17-2): All the Redskins have to do is beat New Knoxville in Friday's dramatic regular-season Midwest Athletic Conference final and this poll will be revised.

4. Dayton Christian (16-4): It's official, first-year coach Chip Glass has lifted the Warriors back to respectability.

5. Waynesville (15-5): Tough stuff, the SWBL. Spartans have Buckeye title to prove it.

DIVISION IV

- 1. New Knoxville (19-0):** Defending state champ, state poll champ and small-ball at its finest, any era.
- 2. Jefferson (16-4):** Broncos still provide plenty of hoo-rah for the community.
- 3. Lehman Catholic (18-2):** If only the Cavs could find a league.
- 4. Southeastern (18-2):** A late loss to Northeastern only blemish on Trojans' OHC slate.
- 5. Tri-Village (14-6):** Six straight wins to complete the regular season will do wonders for any program.