

# Luke Wolf

Dave and Faye's Grandson

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## 'A great moment for us': Perry boys basketball relishes first OHSAA regional in 34 years

Mike Popovich, Canton Repository  
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Boys High School Basketball

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### Key Points

- The Perry High School boys basketball team upset two opponents to reach its first OHSAA regional tournament since 1991.
- After a 9-13 regular season, the Panthers beat Amherst Steele and Solon in the district round.
- Perry will face Warren Harding in a regional semifinal Thursday at the University of Akron.

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up-and-down boys high school basketball regular season is simply an afterthought now.

It's March, and all that matters is head coach Matt Voll's team is still playing.

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"We had an opportunity and great opportunities result in great moments," Voll said. "It's a great moment for us and Perry basketball. I'm real happy for our kids.

"This is my second year, and we've been pushing toward that signature win. ... It was nice to be on the other side and feel like 'Hey, you can hang your hat on that for the program and the kids.'"



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The Panthers will play their first regional semifinal game in 34 years Thursday when [they face Warren Harding at the University of Akron](#). Tip-off is 5 p.m.

A 9-13 regular season made Perry an underdog heading into last week's Division II district tournament. The 15th-seeded Panthers raised a few eyebrows when they won their semifinal at Amherst Steele. A dramatic win over No. 9 Solon in the district final pushed the Panthers into the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1991 when they made their only state appearance.

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## Basketball

The district final was as tense as it gets.

Perry built a 10-point lead late in the third quarter. Solon roared back and led by two in the final seconds.

With one more shot, the Panthers put the ball in their best player's hands. Senior guard Luke Wolf took three or four dribbles against a Solon defender Voll says was "riding him hard." Wolf drew a foul on a 3-point shot with three-tenths of a second left. He calmly sank all three free throws to give Perry a 52-51 win.

"Luke kept his composure and kept his concentration," Voll said. "He stepped up huge and made three big foul shots to win the game."

Wolf has done everything for the Panthers this season. He leads the team in scoring at 17.2 points a game, 3-pointers made with 54, rebounds, assists and steals. As an 83% free throw shooter, it was no surprise to see him come up big from the line when it mattered.

"He's just that veteran, a guy who has been on the floor for four years," Voll said. "We have put him in multiple positions."

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Perry Athletics





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With starting point guard Mike Haley out with appendicitis, Wolf had to run the offense against Solon.

"He has run it before," Voll said. "That's kind of what makes him special. He's going to do whatever it takes for our team. Obviously we would like to have him more in a shooting and scoring role, but for that game he never came off the floor. He led us to a win."

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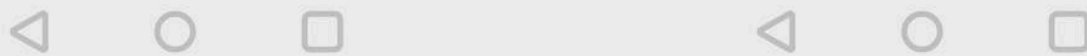
Haley also will miss Thursday's game. In addition to Wolf, the Panthers start senior guards

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Haley also will miss Thursday's game. In addition to Wolf, the Panthers start senior guards Darnell McLeod and Drake Jacobsen, junior forward Nico Martelli and junior center Preston Dazey. Jacobsen is Perry's second-leading scorer at 10.8 points a game.

The Panthers will embrace their role again when they face Warren Harding. The Raiders (19-4) are led by the athletic Chaz Coleman, the quarterback on the football team who is heading to Penn State. The 6-foot-5 senior scored 17 points in their 70-37 district final win over Hudson.

"No question he's a load," Voll said. "He's tough to keep off the



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"No question he's a load," Voll said. "He's tough to keep off the boards. It's tough to keep him out of the paint. We definitely have our hands full with a really, really good athlete."

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