

MatStats Episode 39
Wednesday December 18th, 2024,
3PM EST

Be True To Your School **Part 2 of 2.**

Episode
39-1

MatStats does its 2nd annual assessment of HS wrestling numbers. We analyze the participation numbers and growth of wrestling. Part 1 deals with the National Federation of High School (NFHS) participation numbers over the years. Part 2 analyzes the state survey and questionnaire that the NWCA sent to all 50 states. A play on the Beach Boys famous song, MatStats is true to our schools' numbers and provides in depth analysis.



The Glue that held Tribe wrestling together for years. LD Davis Glues & Adhesives.

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MatStats wants to give a shout out to LD Davis Glues & Adhesives. The company will be 100 Years old in 2026. Mr. & Mrs. Davis' generosity helped Tribe wrestling so much in Tripp's 4 years wrestling at W&M.

Mr. & Mrs. Davis were also a big part at Penn Charter Wrestling in the 70's & 80's.

One hot summer Gorms worked at the plant.

Tripp Davis is now the third generation to run the family business.

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The MatStats Show is Here to Create a Library of Statistical Analysis for the NWCA.

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- Mike Moyer, the Executive Director of the NWCA, approached the MatStats gang to create a library of statistical analysis for the NWCA.
- This is an effort to help grow the sport and educate the wrestlers, coaches, and fans.
- When MatStats was created in 2020 (book) and 2021 (monthly show), there was a serious need for statistical analysis.

I Feel Like A Number

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To the fans I'm just a drone
To my wireless service I'm just another phone
I'm just a statistic on a bout sheet
To the teachers I'm just another child
To the IRS I'm just another file
I'm just a correlation on the stat sheet

I feel like a number
I feel like a number
I'm not a number, I'm not a number

Jenny, Jenny had perhaps the most famous phone number in American history.

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MatStats, MatStats, who can I turn to?
You give me something I could hold on to
I know you think I'm like the others before
Who saw your name and number on the wall.

.....

867-5309

Mat-Stats

Mat-Stats

Danny's Glass in Yorktown, VA

Are there any disclaimers MatStats needs to let everyone know about their shows?

The Opinions Expressed on this show do not necessarily reflect any policies or opinions of the NWCA. Also, the MatStats guys do not always agree on all things discussed on their shows.

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- MatStats is a subsidiary of the NWCA but is a separate entity that voices its own opinions on its statistical analysis.
 - MatStats three hosts, Gormley, Bryant, and Hazard are all equally responsible for all the good outcomes. Gormley for the bad feedback.
- Gormley writes the Power Points and selects the topics. Gormley uses the term MatStats often, but many times it is Gormley's opinion alone.
- Gormley does the stats work and then the three hosts & occasionally guests brainstorm about Gormley's findings and ideas.
 - MatStats is designed to have educated thoughts and opinions to help the world's oldest and greatest sport.
- Wrestling is all about settling disagreements. The hosts are too old to settle these disagreements on the mat.
- Sometimes we agree, sometimes we disagree. It makes the world go round.

MatStats is based on numbers, stats, and analyzing them. It starts with facts not opinions.

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- MatStats is a numbers show.
- Thus, the name MatStats. Not MatOpinions.
- Gorms was remiss not explaining this from the get-go. Gorms lives in a numbers world and is starting to get the feeling not everyone does lol.
- Feedback from the Tribe alumni during this show has made Gorms realize he needs to address this and try to educate people with numbers. Thank you, Dr. Powell, for one of your texts.

If Gorms does not have any statistical answers, where does he look next? We want answers.

MatStats is a show that revolves around stats, but there is a reason we have balance on the show. Not all answers have a numeric quantifiable component.

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- Let's have the two on the show that know wrestling weigh in on based their decades around the sport (Jason & Kevin - and at times guests).
- To paraphrase the Ramones - Gormley needs to be sedated.
- Much to the chagrin of Gorms (The Sultan of Stat), not everything can be quantified with a number(s). You can't put a number on why Babe Ruth (The Sultan of Swat) hit 714 HRs, but we can put a number on how many he hit.
- We will provide answers before the conclusion of this show. If it is not in the numbers, we will do our best to provide answers. One thing you learn in MBA school is find an answer. A consultant's answer can not be hiring a blue-ribbon panel. You went to MBA school to be the blue-ribbon panel.

Can MatStats provide the viewers with a monthly update on the number of men & women's NCAA & NAIA teams?

As of 11/29/24, there are **508** men & women's wrestling teams in the NCAA & NAIA.

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With the Help of Jason, we Removed Teams that Announced But changed their decision Due to Money or Covid.

Category	Men	Women	Total	Most ever Men's Teams	Year	Most Ever Total Teams	Years
NCAA D1	80	5	85	146	1982	146	1982
NCAA D2	74	34	108	74	2024	108	2024
NCAA D3	131	68	199	149	1982	199	2024
NCAA	285	107	392	363*	1982	392	2024
NAIA	71	45	116			122	2024
4 Year	356	152	508			508	2024

• - Note the NCAA reports 393 men's teams in 1972, but they do not know how many were "non-varsity/sub-varsity" teams.

The NCAA wrestling team and participation numbers **might** include recreational teams.

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From page #133 of the “NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report” (1956-57 through 2023-24) Updated September 19, 2024.

“Between 1956-57 and 1981-82, participation rates were collected in five-year intervals. The data for these years was not collected in the same manner as the data from 1982 to the present and it includes recreational programs. Therefore, these data are not directly comparable to the other data in this report. This information is only meant to provide a historical view.”

MatStats will always include the NCWA on this shows collegiate update. The NWCA includes the NCWA on their websites Division Sites Tab.

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- The NCWA is one of 3 of the collegiate wrestling National Governing Bodies that deal with 4-year colleges.
 - The NCWA was founded in 1997.
- In addition to athletic departments, the NCWA recognizes programs developed under alternative administrative bodies, including student services and sports club departments.
- It is a misnomer to believe the NCWA is a club sport. It is intercollegiate.
 - The C stands for Collegiate not Club.

Is NCWA a club sport team like rec teams on campus?

One Letter different. Athletics vs Wrestling

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- NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association
- NAIA - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- NCWA - National **Collegiate** Wrestling Association.
- Note the C is collegiate not club.

- Just one letter different. Athletics vs Wrestling.

The NCWA has rules & regulations much like the NCAA & NAIA.

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- NCWA teams and wrestlers must go through a clearing house process.
- The NCWA has a lower budget requirement compared to the NCAA & NAIA.
- The NAIA motto is “Maximize Your Return on Athletics”.
- NCWA takes this a step further.
- If Gorms was a grad student at UT right now, he could play on a club flag football team but could not participate in the NCWA team since he has been out of eligibility for 40 years.

How many 4-year collegiate teams are there in the 3 wrestling organizations?

As of 11/29/24, there are more 4-year collegiate men's teams than ever.

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Category	Men	Women	Total
NCAA	285	107	392
NAIA	71	45	116
NCWA	125	81	206
Total 4-Year	481	233	714

Note - The NCWA number here does not include 9 trade/juco teams nor the 4 transitioning to the NCAA. It does include the 5 Puerto Rico schools. If we count Canada, we should count PR.

Today is the Glory days of collegiate wrestling.

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- “The NCWA was designed to fill a gap in the wrestling community created by outside influences, including budgetary cutbacks and restrictive governmental legislation that forced institutions to drop NCAA wrestling programs.” - From NCWA website.
- Jin Giunta’s effort has helped us say there are more intercollegiate 4-year wrestling men’s & women’s teams than ever.
- Now let’s start the show. Gorms what did we find out from the analysis of the state’s HS survey/questionnaires?

What is the topic for Episode #39?

Episode #39 is an analysis of the NWCA surveys/questionnaires sent to the 50 states.

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- At the request our parent organization, NWCA, MatStats is reviewing and analyzing the high school state surveys/questionnaire the NWCA sent to all 50 states.
- MatStats tries to find what works for states to help grow and maintain the sport.
- We dive into both boys & girls numbers. Of course we do, wrestling is now a sport that has both boys and girls. However, there is a lot more data on boys because of a longer history, so we spend more time analyzing the boys.
- This episode also includes some extra forecasts for women's collegiate wrestling.

There are 6 questions for boys HS that MatStats analyzed for the survey answered by the 50 states.

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- 1) Do you run a state association sanctioned individual boys' tournament?
- 2) How many divisions are there in the boys' individual state tourney?
- 3) How many weight classes at the state individual tourney?
- 4) Do you keep score at the individual boys' states?
- 5) Do you run a state sanctioned boys' dual meet state tourney?
- 6) Is the boys' dual held before or after the individual tourney?

How does having a boys' individual state tourney affect the participation numbers?

Since all states have an individual tourney, we cannot determine the affect on having one with participation numbers.

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- Since all states have an individual tourney, so we cannot determine any affect on having a state tourney and participation numbers.

All 50 states have an individual state tourney.

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- Let's have all 50 states + DC have a boys (and girls) state individual tourney and then we will never need to ask this question again.
- What do we learn about the number of divisions and wrestling growth?

Is there any correlation between boys' HS participation and the number of divisions?
What about population?

There is NO correlation between the number of boys' participants and the number of divisions (+0.022), nor is there for population and divisions (-0.071).

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Correlation states - Divisions

- Boys HS participation 2024 & number of divisions at state tourney 2024 = +0.022
- Boys HS participation numeric change 2014 to 2024 & divisions at state tourney 2024 = +0.114
- Boys number of divisions at state tourney 2024 & population 2024 = -0.071

What is the participation growth rate based on the number of divisions at the individual boys' states?

Number of Divisions & the participation growth rate from 2014 to 2024

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Divisions	# states	Participation growth 2014 to 2024
1	7	+3.3%
2	12	+11.7%
3	12	+1.1%
4	11	+13.3%
5	3	+14.0%
6	2	+13.7%
7	1	+6.3%
Total	48	+7.9%

Note - 2 state gave conflicting answers on having a state individual tourney & weight classes,
So MatStats used the data for 48 states.

MatStats cannot provide any meaningful statistical answers to the number of divisions at the boys' individual states and the participation growth rate.

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- There are not enough states with 5, 6, or 7 divisions to have any meaningful conclusions.
- Granted states with only 1 division have a low growth rate, but CA has 50.5% of all the participants in 1 division states. So how CA goes, so goes 1 divisions numbers. CA saw a decrease of -4.1%.
- There are similar numbers of states with 2, 3, & 4 divisions and enough data to figure things out.
- It does not make sense that 2 & 4 are growing and 3 is not.
- IL (-17.3%), MN (-9.9%), & WI (-4.0%) are all 3 division states and have 40% of all D3. The thought that these 3 sates are pulling this number down is more believable than having 3 divisions is pulling them down.

Let the states determine the number of divisions at the boys' individual state tourneys.

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- Since we have no statistical evidence on the number of divisions affecting the growth rate and there is no correlation between participation numbers or population and the number of divisions, we should let the states determine their number of divisions.
- There also could be a logistic reason for the number of divisions (other sports, etc.).
- What did we learn about the number of boys HS weight classes and growth?

Do states have a different number of weight classes at the boys' individual state tournaments?

**41 states have 14 weight classes,
6 have 13, and 1 has 15.**

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Boys Weights Classes at Individual States	# States
13	6
14	41
15	1
Total	48

How do the states with 13 weight classes compare with the states with 14 weight classes in boys HS growth from 2014 to 2024?

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States with 13 weight classes had a growth of **-1.1%**, states with 14 weights had a growth of **+9.7%** for boys from 2014 to 2024.

States w/13 weight classes	2024 boys NFHS participants	2014 boys NFHS participants	Boys HS growth 2014 to 2024
MI	10598	10179	+4.1%
MN	7148	8236	-13.2%
ND	1121	985	+13.8%
NM	1728	1846	-6.4%
NY	11565	13668	-15.4%
PA	12025	9760	+23.2%
Total 13 weights	44185	44674	-1.1%
Total 14 weights	243615	222003	+9.7%

MatStats believes the number of weight classes should be a state-by-state decision.

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- Yes, there is a decrease in growth of states with 13 weights (-1.1%) and a growth (+9.7%) for states with 14 weights.
- There are not enough states with 13 weights to make any judgements that the number of weight classes determine growth.
- It is much more likely the growth discrepancy is a function of which states happen to select 13 weights, not the number of weight classes.
- MatStats recommendation is to let the states decide on the number of weights on their own.

Let the states decide how many weight classes they have at their boys HS state individual tournaments.

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- There are not enough states (6) with 13 weight classes to definitively say in the number of weight classes affects their growth rate.
 - Let each state decide.
- What did we learn about keeping a team score at the individual state tournament?

Do states that keep score at their individual state tourney have a larger growth rate than states that do not keep score at the boys' tourneys?

States that keep score at the individual state tourney have a much larger growth rate **(+12.46%)** from 2014 to 2024 than state that do not keep score **(-4.18%)**.

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Category - Boys	# states	growth rate 2014 to 2024
NO Individual tourney team Score	8	-4.18%
Individual team score	40	+12.46%
Total	48	+8.30%

What are the 8 states that do not keep score at the state individual tourney?

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The 8 states that do not keep score at the individual state tourney tend to be ‘mature’ wrestling states. Established and low growth.

States that do not keep score at individual state	2014 boys NFHS participants	2024 boys HS NFHS participants	State boys HS growth rate rank	State boys HS participation rank
IL	16,022	13,254	49	3
MD	4,792	5,297	23	25
MI	10,179	10,598	32	8
MN	8,236	7,148	45	16
NJ	10,276	11,579	21	6
NY	13,668	11,565	48	7
SC	5,063	5,928	17	21
WI	7,147	6,861	41	18
Total/Mean	75,383	72,230	34.5	13.0

Is it a function of the states or them keeping score?

We cannot ignore the 8 states that do not keep score and just say they are older 'mature' wrestling states.

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- This is a very interesting conundrum.
- Are these 8 states low growth because they are 'mature' wrestling states or are they not growing in part because they do not keep score at the individual state tourney.
- However, we have learned there is NO correlation between boys' participation numbers and growth (-0.147), so we can not dismiss it as 'mature' states.
- We know this much we need to worry about the mature/established states.
- There is no way the Colts/Pats ignored Peyton & Brady.
- Tribe wrestling spent a lot of time with future rocket scientists & brain surgeons. It turned out well - both on and off the mat.

Does MatStats have a recommendation for all states to keep score at the individual states?

Pending more information on their decisions, Gorms is on the side of all states keeping score at the boys' individual states.

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- It would too easy just to conclude that not keeping score is what is hurting the growth in these states.
- There are no corners on a wrestling mat.
- There must be a reason that these states do not keep score.
- A follow up questionnaire in 2025 might shed some light on it.
- There cannot be budget or logistical reasons. It would just be a simple computer solution.
- Gorms is inclined to recommend trying to keep score unless the states have a good reason not to.

States that keep score grow; states that do not have decreased. Too many factors to put it all on score keeping.

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- States that keep score grew from 2014 to 2024 by +12.46%.
 - States that did not keep score decreased -4.18%.
 - We do not know the effect on keeping score and growth.
 - We need to ask these 8 states why they do not keep score.
 - It would be great if they all did keep score, but by no means does MatStats think the score keeping has alone affected the growth by the degree we saw from 2014 to 2024.
- What have we learned on states with dual meet championships?

Does having a dual meet state tourney affect the participation growth rate or participation?

The states with a dual meet state tourney have more participants but a lower growth rate.

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Category	Dual Tourney	No Dual	Total
# states	21	29	50
# participants 2024	142,153	149,493	291,646
Mean Participants	6769.2	5143.9	5832.9
participant growth rate 2014 to 2024	+5.32%	+11.30%	+8.30%
Control IL MN NY	+13.26%		
Control 3+CA	+20.13%		

Note - IL, MN, & NY do NOT keep a team score in the individual tourney, but CA does.

There is a lot to interpret from the above table. It depends how you analyze it.

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- Why do states with a dual meet tourney have a lower growth rate?
- Is it just where the states fall once again?
- If we control for the 3 large states that have dual meets tourneys and do not keep a team score at the individual state tourney, the growth rate jumps to +13.26%, which is higher than the no dual meet growth rate of +11.30%, but not meaningfully larger.
- If we control for these 3 states + CA the growth rate is +20.13%, which is a large enough increase to explore. But does it mean anything.

There are too many moving parts in the dual meet question for MatStats to currently say if having a dual meet tourney is good for the growth of our sport.

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- So, what does it mean? Do we know what it means.
- Bottom line here - if you give a statistician enough time, they can tell you anything. How do you think we created mythical “clutch hitting” in baseball?
- Liars, damn liars, and statisticians.
- It could be a state-by-state decision based on tradition, budget, travel, season being too long, etc.
- There are so many moving parts here, they we cannot definitively say if having a state dual meet tourney affects numbers.

MatStats can not definitively say what if any affect having a state dual meet tourney has on the growth of our sport.

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- It could be which states decide to have a dual meet tourney more so than the affect the dual meet tourney has on each state's growth.
 - We can not say with certainty which is the driving force here.
 - So, let the states decide.
- What did we learn about when the states have their dual meet tourney?

Does the timing of the boys' dual meet tourney have any affect on participation numbers?

We cannot determine if the timing of the boys' dual meet state tourney has any affect on the participation numbers.

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- 21 states hold boys' dual meet state tourneys.
- Only 2 (ND & WI) of these states have their dual meet tourney after the individual tourney.
- Since there are only 2 states having their dual meet tourney after the individual, we cannot say if it has any effect on participation numbers.

Is there anything MatStats could possibly learn from the 2025 survey on this topic?

MatStats might learn something if we knew exactly when the dual meet was before the individuals.

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- There is a large chance that even if MatStats knew how long before the individuals the dual meet was that we still would have too many moving parts.
- Still worth looking at.
- There is a big difference between having the duals the week before the state qualifiers and having it 1+ to 2 months before the individual qualifiers like the NWCA collegiate multi nationals.

Summary of MatStats recommendations from the boys HS survey/questionnaire.

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- 1) All states have an individual state tourney.
- 2) Let the states decide how many divisions they have.
- 3) Let the state decide how many weight classes they have.
- 4) Do a follow up questionnaire in 2025 on the 8 states that do not keep team scores at their individual state tourney.
- 5) Too many moving parts on the dual meet tourney to say if having one help, hurts, or even affects the growth in these states.
- 6) Have a follow up questionnaire in 2025 on how long before the individual tourney the dual meet tourney is.
- Enough about the boys, let's examine the girls' survey/questionnaire.

Are there any differences in the analysis of boys & girls wrestling the viewers need to grasp to help them follow the numbers and logic.

In business terms, boys wrestling in a mature industry, girls is a growth industry. This term is a business term and has nothing to do with physical and emotional maturation.

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- Mature industries are characterized by slow growth rates, stable market shares, and established competitors, whereas growth industries experience rapid expansion, innovation, and increasing market demand. Understanding the differences between these two types of industries is crucial for analyzing and evaluating the differences in boys and girls wrestling in 2024.
- Boy's wrestling is long established so a mature business.
- Girl's wrestling is new to the party, so a growth business.

There are 7 questions for girls HS that MatStats analyzed for the survey answered by the 50 states.

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- 1) Are girls permitted to wrestle boys in your state?
- 2) Do you run a state sanctioned individual state tourney?
- 3) How many divisions are there in your individual state tourney?
- 4) How many weight classes in your girls' individual state tourney?
- 5) Do you keep a team score in the individual state tourney?
- 6) Do you run a state sanctioned dual meet championship?
- 7) When do you hold the dual meet tourney?

How do the rules on if girls must wrestle girls affect the participation numbers?

The states that force girls to always wrestle girls (1545.2) & girls must wrestle girls starting at states (1974.0) far outdistance states that allow girls to wrestle boys (690.1) in participation numbers.

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Category	Girls v girls always	Girls v girls starting at states	Girls can wrestle boys anytime
# of States	20	10	20
Total Participants	30,904	19,740	13,802
Mean	1545.2	1974.0	690.1

Where does the girl vs girl debate stand with participation and state population rank?

Girl vs girl rules affect the participation numbers.

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Category	Girls v girls always	Girls v girls starting at states	Girls can wrestle boys anytime
# of States	20	10	20
Mean state participation rank	22.9	19.9	31.3
Mean population rank	28.3	19.2	25.1

How does population affect the girls vs girls debate?

Population is a huge factor on girls' participation numbers, but we also see forcing girls to wrestle girls is a factor.

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- We learned in part 1 of this topic that the correlation between girls participants and state population is very strong (+0.814), but not as strong as the corresponding boys Pearson number (+0.917).
- The states that allow girls to wrestle boys at anytime have a state population mean of 25.1 and a state mean participation rank of 31.3 while the girls vs girls always is 28.3 & 22.9 and girls vs girls in postseason is 19.2 & 19.9.
- Does this explain the difference in correlation? Is it because states that do not allow girls to wrestle boys have more participants?
- It is most likely a combination of factors, but we should stress states enforcing girls vs girls.
- Do states allow girls to wrestle boys due to lack of numbers or are there lack of numbers because they allow girls to wrestle boys?

How does the rules enforcing girls wrestle girls affect the number of 4-year collegiate programs in those states?

States that enforce girls wrestling girls have the most 4-year collegiate programs.

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- We also learned in part 1 that the correlation between girls participation and the number of 4-year college women's teams is much higher than the reciprocal boys number (+0.483 vs +0.005).
- Of the top 10 states with the number of 4-year women's collegiate teams, only 2 (MI & NY) allow girls to wrestle boys at anytime.
- Does stressing girls wrestle girls help the growth of women's collegiate wrestling in those states?
- We are not sure of the reasons, and we are all for letting the states decide, but there seems to be enough statistical reasons to have girls wrestle girls in 2025 and moving forward.

Girls should wrestle girls.

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- It sure seems we should emphasize girls only wrestling girls.
- What did we learn about girls running an individual state tourney and growth rates?

What did we learn about the states having a girls' individual tourney and the growth?

**45 states have girls individual state tourneys, so we can not determine correlation on growth and participation.
The same as we saw on the boy's side.**

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- 45 states have an individual girls' state tourney.
- 36 states had a girls' state tourney 1 year or less after 'sanctioning'.
- Much like on the boys' side, since so many states have an individual girls' tourney, we have no idea what affect it has on growth.

State Sanctioning Just Means More!!

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	1 (2023)	2	3
8* Sanctioned States 2022	1.91X		
All States	1.57X		
* Includes 3 ES			
	1 (2022)	2 (2023)	3
6 Sanctioned States 2021	2.49X	4.44X	
All States	1.65X	2.60X	
	1 (2021)	2 (2022)	3 (2023)
6 Sanctioned States 2020	1.18X	2.44X	3.74X
All States	0.75X	1.24X	1.94X
	1 (2020)	2 (2021)	3 (2022)
7 Sanctioned States 2019	1.88X	1.65X	3.21X
All States	1.22X	0.91X	1.50X
	1 (2019)	2 (2020)	3 (2021)
7 Sanctioned States 2018	2.35X	3.37X	3.42X
All States	1.23X	1.49X	1.11X

In all cases since state sanctioning for girls HS Wrestling became vogue, the states that sanctioned far outgrew all states.

MatStats did this for a 1 to 3 year period after sanctioning.

We learned this on Episode #27 (12/20/23) *Rock 'N' Roll High School (Part 2)*.

What does state sanctioning mean?

It depends on what your definition of sanctioning is.

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- Gorms really had no idea what the term meant. Gorms understands numbers not words. He did some research with people that were instrumental in moving girls wrestling forward. Thank you, Lori Ayers, for all your help educating Gorms.
- Some states never got girls sanctioned, they just added a girl's division to a sport that was already sanctioned for boys.
- Some states might have a number of girls participants needed to have them have a state tourney.
- Gorms and others tend to lump these states in with states that were sanctioned.
- However, it happens as long as it grows the sport and gives girls the opportunity to wrestle, who really cares about the definition.
- MatStats uses a loose definition of sanctioning.

How many states have 'sanctioned' girls HS wrestling?

As of 11/21/24, 46 (2 are emerging sports) have 'sanctioned' girls HS wrestling.

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- 46 states have 'sanctioned' girls HS wrestling.
- 2 are currently emerging sports.
- When we have all 50 + DC it will be a great day.
- This has been done with a lot of hard work and grass roots efforts by many people across the country.
- A great example of many people making a great change for so many young girls.

Build it and they will come

Episode
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- It is no surprise that once the states got 'sanctioned' and had an individual state tourney that there was extreme growth.
 - Build it and they will come.
- The world's oldest and greatest sport ignored women for far too long.
 - Can't change the past, but we are changing the future.
- What did we learn about the number of divisions & weight classes in girls' individual states and the growth?

Just like on the boys' side, let the states make their own decisions on the number of divisions & weight classes.

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- The data for the number of divisions and weight classes is far too new to determine if it effects the number of participants.
- MatStats best forecast for this follows the boys' segment on these two subjects, let the states decide.

Let the states decide

Episode
39-54

- Just like with the boys, let the states decide on how many divisions and weight classes they each have in girls HS wrestling.
- What did we learn from if they keep score at the state individual tourney, if they have a dual meet tourney, and if they do when the dual meet tourney is?

What do we know about keeping score and having a dual meet tourney
has on the growth of the sport for girls?

Girls' wrestling is too new, the growth is so robust that we cannot determine any affect keeping score at the individual states or having a dual meet tourney has on its growth.

Episode
39-55

- Only 10 states do not keep score at the individual state tourney and only 4 have a dual meet tourney, so we cannot say anything about keeping score, dual meet tourney, when the dual meet tourney is and their affects on the growth of girls' HS wrestling.
- We are in a great position we are a new sport with robust growth and are taking the athletic world by storm.
- Just think of how much many collegiate teams we will have and how much we will dominate the Olympics in girls wrestling in 8-12 years from now!

A rising tide lifts all boats

Episode
39-56

- We are on the ground floor of women's wrestling.
 - The growth is huge.
 - Sit back and enjoy it.
- Gorms believes we should stress girls wrestling girls.
- The answer to the last 6 questions on the states' girls' survey/questionnaire is let the states decide and enjoy the ride.
- We have spent enough time on the boys side on this 2-part topic. Give us some other news on women for balance.

Let's give this two part show a little balance. Tell us some good news about the future of women's collegiate wrestling.

MatStats sees a bright future for women's collegiate wrestling.

Episode
39-57

- We spent most of this two-part show on the boys' side. Now it's time for a little balance.
- MatStats will use the girls' HS data and analysis we did for this show and some research on past NCAA women's sports to see what the future might hold for women's collegiate wrestling.
- The future is so bright, I gotta wear shades.



This is what Timbuk 3 singer, Barbara Kooyman was singing about when they performed "The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades" in 1986.

What is the growth of number of NCAA women's teams since 1981-82?

Women's NCAA Teams from 1981-82 to 2023-24

Episode
39-58

Girls Sport	NCAA Teams 2023-24	NCAA Teams 1981-82	% Delta	When sport became NCAA Championship
Basketball	1081	705	53%	1981-82
Volleyball	1053	603	75%	1981-82
Cross Country	1048	417	151%	1981-82
Soccer	1023	80	1179%	1982-83
Softball	982	416	136%	1981-82
Track Outdoor	959	427	125%	1981-82
Track Indoor	874	239	266%	1982-83
Tennis	848	610	39%	1981-82
Golf	704	125	463%	1981-82
Swimming	554	348	59%	1981-82
Lacrosse	519	105	394%	1981-82
Field Hockey	281	268	5%	1981-82
Rowing	147	43	242%	1996-97
Ice Hockey	117	17	588%	1985-86
Wrestling	76 (107 announced)	0	NA	Well.. We're Waiting
Bowling	100	11	809%	2003-04
Total	10,366	4,414	135%	



What is the women's participation growth for NCAA women's sports since 1981-82?

Women's NCAA Participation numbers from 1981-82 to 2023-24

Episode
39-59

Girls Sport	NCAA Participation 2023-24	NCAA Participation 1981-82	% Delta	When Sport became NCAA Championship
Track Outdoor	32,558	9,217	253%	1982-83
Track Indoor	30,540	5,046	505%	1981-82
Soccer	30,209	1,855	1529%	1982-83
Softball	21,932	7,465	194%	1981-82
Volleyball	18,982	8,418	125%	1981-82
Basketball	16,651	9,624	73%	1981-82
Cross Country	14,885	4,612	223%	1981-82
Lacrosse	13,645	2,648	415%	1981-82
Swimming	13,052	6,218	110%	1981-82
Tennis	8,318	6,599	26%	1981-82
Rowing	6,941	1,187	485%	1996-97
Field Hockey	6,472	5,701	14%	1981-82
Ice Hockey	2,947	336	777%	1985-86
Golf	1,785	1,060	68%	1981-82
Wrestling	1,226	0	NA	Not soon enough
Bowling	925	88	951%	2003-04
Total	221,068	70,074	215%	

Can MatStats provide a chart with the number of girls HS participants and the number of NCAA teams in 2024?

Women HS participants and Number of NCAA teams

Episode
39-60

Rank	Girls HS Sport	2024 HS NFHS participants	# NCAA Teams 2024
1	Track Outdoor	506,015	959
2	Volleyball	479,125	1053
3	Soccer	383,895	1023
4	Basketball	367,284	1081
5	Softball	345,451	982
6	Tennis	195,766	848
7	Cross Country	192,969	1048
8	Spirit	181,023	NA
9	Swimming	138,174	554
10	Lacrosse	101,204	519
11	Golf	82,836	704
12	Indoor Track	69,466	874
13	Wrestling	64,257	76 (107 announced)
14	Field Hockey	51,896	281
	Bowling	27,246	100
	Ice Hockey	9,023	117
	Rowing	1,042	147

Where does wrestling rank among women's HS girls' participation per number of NCAA teams?

Wrestling easily has the most HS girls' participants per NCAA teams.

Episode
39-61

Rank	Girls HS Sport	HS participation per NCAA teams	Rank	Girls HS Sport	HS participation per NCAA teams
1	Spirit	NA	10	Swimming	249
2	Wrestling	846	11	Tennis	231
3	Wrestling (announced)	601	12	Lacrosse	195
4	Track Outdoor	528	13	Field Hockey	185
5	Volleyball	455	14	Cross Country	184
6	Soccer	375	15	Golf	118
7	Softball	352	16	Indoor Track	79
8	Basketball	340	17	Ice Hockey	77
9	Bowling	272	18	Rowing	7

Any predictions by Gorms on the growth of women's NCAA teams in the next 10 years?

Can you smell what the Sultan of Stats is cooking?
By 2034-2035 there will be more NCAA women's wrestling teams than there were NCAA Division 1A & 1AA football teams in 2023-24.

Episode
39-62

- If NCAA women's wrestling grows in the next 10 years by 135% like NCAA women's sports did from 1981-82 to 2023-24, the NCAA will have 251 women's wrestling teams.
- Now granted 1981-82 to 2023-24 was 42 years and Gorms is using a 10-year time span from women's wrestling, but the growth of the number of women's NCAA teams has only grown 4.3% in the last 10 years.
- Women's wrestling might have missed the growth days of women's sports in the NCAA, but many schools are looking for more women's team currently, so women's wrestling will fit that void.
- Gorms is predicting by 2035, the NCAA will have 256+ women's wrestling teams. In 2023-24 NCAA Football Division 1A & 1AA had 255 teams.
- Yes, Gorms is saying in 2035 there will be more NCAA women's wrestling teams than there are NCAA Division 1A & 1AA football teams in 2024.

MatStats is the blue-ribbon consulting group.

Episode
39-63

- Gorms, I remember you telling me that in MBA school you learned an answer can not be, “hire a blue-ribbon consulting group”.
- MatStats is here to answer these questions.
- We need to ask a additional questions to help us solve the riddle on why some states grow and others do not.
- MatStats is in the process of formulating the best questions to provide answers that could help grow our sport.
- Our follow up MatStats show in 2025 will provide our analysis of the data we collect.

Episode 39 Kev's Notes #1

Episode
39-64

- 1) As of 11/29/24, there are 508 NCAA & NAIA 4-year college teams. If you include the NCWA there are 714 men's & women's 4-year college programs.
- 2) MatStats believes we should continue to let the states decide on the number of divisions, weight classes, keeping team score, dual meet championships, & when the dual meet championships are held.
- 3) We need some new questions for the 2025 survey to find more organic reasons that some states have better growth rates than others.
- 4) The states that have girls only wrestle girls have much better participation numbers.
- 5) Once a state 'sanctions' girls wrestling, the numbers increase drastically.

Can MatStats give the viewers their Kev's Notes to review what we just learned on this show?

Episode 39 Kev's Notes #2

Episode
39-65

- 6) All 50 states have a boy's individual state championship.
- 7) There are so many moving parts and multi-correlation issues, that we can not definitively connect the answers to the 2024 survey questions to the participation and growth numbers.
- 8) Girls have huge growth. Girls wrestling is a 'growth' sport. Boys is a 'mature' sport.
- 9) Wrestling is in a stronger position on the HS level than ever.
 - 10) The ratio of HS girls' wrestlers to the number of NCAA women's teams is higher than any girls' sport. The room for collegiate growth in women's collegiate teams is strong.

What is the topic next month (Wednesday 1/15/25 3PM EST)?

NWCA/USMC Multi-Divisional National Dual Meet Championships

Episode
39-66

- **Tune In Next Month**
 - **Same Mat Time**
 - **Same Mat Channel**
- **MatStats will review the National Dual Meet Championships.**
 - **Discuss the history of the event.**
 - **Multi-Divisionals are at UNI Dome (Cedar Falls, IA)
1/10 - 1/11/24.**