



INTERCOLLEGIATE WRESTLING IN GEORGIA

A GOOD "MATCH"

**The Case for Adding/Reinstating
Intercollegiate Wrestling in Georgia**

August 2006

GEORGIA INTERCOLLEGIATE WRESTLING COALITION

Steering Committee

- **Jeff Bowyer**, Fmr. Director of Operations of the National Wrestling Coaches Association and former Head Wrestling Coach of James Madison University, Manheim, PA
- **Shawn Fields**, President of Team Georgia, the Georgia state association of USA Wrestling, Flowery Branch, GA
- **Pete Fritts**, Georgia State Representative of the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) and former Head Wrestling Coach, Woodward Academy, Peachtree City, GA
- **Jerry Goldstein**, Former Georgia Tech wrestler and assistant coach and Member of the Georgia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame, Atlanta, GA
- **Mitch Hull**, Director of National Teams, USA Wrestling, and former Coach at the University of Wisconsin and Purdue University, Colorado Springs, CO
- **Susan Knox**, parent of former Georgia high school and collegiate wrestlers, Dublin, GA
- **Leo Kocher**, Head Wrestling Coach, University of Chicago, Chicago IL
- **Alan Leet**, Parent of former Georgia high school and collegiate wrestlers, Atlanta, GA
- **Mike Moyer**, Executive Director of the National Wrestling Coaches Association and former Head Wrestling Coach at George Mason University, Manheim, PA
- **Shane Owens**, Faculty Advisor to the Georgia Tech Wrestling Club, Atlanta, GA
- **Eric Pearson**, Executive Director of the College Sports Council and Former Head Wrestling Coach of Princeton University, Washington, DC
- **Cliff Ramos**, Vice President of the Georgia Wrestling Coaches Association and Head Wrestling Coach at Collins Hill H.S., Suwanee, GA
- **Billy Saville**, Former captain of the Georgia Tech wrestling team, member of the Georgia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame and High School Wrestling Referee, Chattanooga, TN

NO INTERCOLLEGIATE WRESTLING OPPORTUNITY IN GEORGIA

- Georgia Tech, UGA and Georgia State All Discontinued their Programs in 1980s and 1990s
- None of the In-Excess of 100 Public and Private Colleges and Universities in Georgia Have Intercollegiate Wrestling
- Similar Lack of Opportunity in Most Other SE States:
 - **Florida** -- No Programs
 - **Alabama** -- No Programs
 - **Mississippi** -- No Programs
 - **Louisiana** -- No Programs
 - **South Carolina** -- Four Programs (The Citadel, Limestone, Newberry and Anderson)
 - **Tennessee** -- Three Programs (UTC, Carson-Newman and Cumberland)
 - **North Carolina** -- The exception, with nine collegiate programs



POPULARITY OF AMATEUR WRESTLING IN GEORGIA

- Over 6,200 High School Participants
 - Similar in Size (Number of Participants) to Soccer and Softball
 - Significantly More Participants Than Cross-Country, Volleyball, Golf, Tennis and Swimming
- Growing Youth Age-Group Sport, Through USA Wrestling and AAU Programs
- Wrestling's Popularity Crosses Geographic and Socio-Economic Boundaries - - Illustrated by Strong Georgia High School Programs Both in Public and Private Schools and in Metro-Atlanta and "Upstate" and "Downstate" High Schools

2005-06 Georgia State Wrestling Champions

AAAAA

Parkview (Metro Atlanta)

AAAA

Ringgold (NW Georgia)

AAA

Cass (North Georgia)

AA

West Laurens (South Georgia)

A

Jefferson (NE Georgia)



GEORGIA COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITY


GENERALLY MIRRORS INTEREST AT HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL,
EXCEPT FOR WRESTLING

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Number of Georgia Collegiate Programs</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Football	12	-
Basketball	42	41
Baseball/Softball	40	33
Track	18	16
Soccer	26	24
Wrestling	0	0
Cross Country	27	27
Competitive Spirit	-	31
Volleyball	-	29
Tennis	29	43
Golf	23	7
Swimming	5	6



HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLERS

AN UNDER-RECRUITED TALENT POOL

<u>Sport</u>		<u>High School Participants</u>	<u>College Participants</u>	<u>Percent HS to NCAA</u>
1. Football		1,002,734	57,646	5.8
2. Basketball		541,130	15,870	2.9
3. Track and Field (outdoor)		480,791	21,044	4.4
4. Baseball		451,701	26,122	5.8
5. Soccer		330,044	18,571	5.6
6. Wrestling		239,105	6,138	2.6
7. Cross Country		183,139	11,131	6.1
8. Golf		165,857	7,772	4.7
9. Tennis		139,507	7,728	5.5
10. Swimming/Diving		<u>86,640</u>	<u>7,559</u>	<u>8.7</u>
TOTALS		3,620,648	179,581	5.0

GEORGIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO ADD WRESTLING

- **Growing Interest at GHSA and Youth Levels**
- **Highly Under-Recruited Talent Pool (in GA and in SE)**
- **Ability to Build Regionally and Nationally Competitive Program**
- **Modest Cost and Facilities Needs**
- **Enhance Diversity**
- **Serving the Georgia Taxpayers**



UNIQUE ABILITY TO QUICKLY BUILD A NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

- **Numbers Advantages:**

- For Example, There are Only 87 Division I Wrestling Programs – Versus 306 Division I Cross Country Teams, 290 Golf Teams, 269 Tennis Teams and 199 Soccer Teams
- Elite Wrestlers are the Most Under-Recruited Student-Athlete!

- **Elite Academic Institutions Are Succeeding in Division I Wrestling:**

- Lehigh, Penn, Cornell, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin are Perennial Top 20 Programs
- Stanford, Harvard and Lehigh Each Had 2004 National Champions
- Elite Wrestlers Succeed in Classroom - - Nine of the 20 NCAA Finalists in 2004 Were Also Academic All-Americans

- **Ability to “Own” the Southeast and Be an Attractive Program/Location to Student Athletes From the NE and Midwest**

- Year after year in Georgia and Florida Alone There Are Numerous High School Wrestlers Ranked Among the Top Seniors Nationally in Their Respective Weight Class
- Georgia Will Attract Coaching Talent and Elite Student-Athletes Due to Quality of Living Considerations and Limited Wrestling Opportunities Elsewhere

MODEST COST AND FACILITIES NEEDS

- **Cost of Wrestling Program Among Lowest of Collegiate Sports**
 - Principal Cost is Coaching Staff - - Head Coach and One or Two Assistants
 - Operating Costs for Typical Collegiate Wrestling Program: Generally Less Than All Other Intercollegiate Athletic Programs
 - Team Size: Typically 25 to 30; Ten Athletes Travel
 - With ACC (Duke, Maryland, N.C. State, UVA, Virginia Tech and UNC), Southern Conference (UTC, VMI, Davidson, App. State, Citadel & UNC Greensboro) and Other Collegiate Teams in the Region, Bus Travel is Feasible
 - Typically No Additional Support Staff Necessary
- **Modest Facilities Requirements**
- **Scholarship Support Not Essential**
 - Most D-I Programs Not fully Funded (Only 30 of 86 Division I Programs Are Fully Funded)
 - Ivys and Duke Are Competitive Without Scholarships
 - Addition of Wrestling Program Can Attract Tuition-Paying Student Athletes
 - Hope Scholarship Provides a Big Advantage in Attracting In-State Recruits
 - Unlike Some Sports (e.g., Soccer), Not Necessary to Recruit Foreign Student-Athletes to Be Competitive
- **Summer Camps and Clinics a Meaningful Source of Income**
- **Georgia Would Be Attractive Venue for National and Regional Tournaments**

EXAMPLE OF RELATIVELY LOW OPERATING COST OF INTERCOLLEGIATE WRESTLING

(BASED ON GEORGIA TECH OPERATING EXPENSE DATA⁽¹⁾)

Varsity Teams	GA. Tech Men's Teams			GA. Tech Women's Teams			Total Operating Expenses
	Participants	Operating Expenses per Participant	By Team	Participants	Operating Expenses per Participant	By Team	
Baseball	33	\$5,425	\$179,023				\$179,023
Basketball	15	\$23,132	\$346,976	15	\$15,705	\$235,576	\$582,552
Football	117	\$7,372	\$862,505				\$862,505
Golf	7	\$12,828	\$89,795		\$0		\$89,795
Softball				17	\$4,618	\$78,504	\$78,504
Swimming and Diving	25	\$3,700	\$92,488	21	\$4,301	\$90,325	\$182,813
Tennis	8	\$8,917	\$71,335	9	\$6,865	\$61,782	\$133,117
Track and Field,X - Country	112	\$1,007	\$112,839	91	\$1,214	\$110,509	\$223,348
Volleyball		\$0		12	\$12,609	\$151,308	\$151,308
Total Operating Expenses	317		\$1,754,961	165		\$728,004	\$2,482,965
Wrestling (ACC Avg.) ⁽²⁾	30	\$1,625	\$48,740				

(1) 2002/03 reporting year from U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education website does not include coaches' salaries and scholarships.

(2) Represents an average of the data reported by the six ACC schools with wrestling programs.

ENHANCE DIVERSITY

- Historically a “Blue-Collar” Sport, Wrestling Attracts Students From all Socio-Economic Backgrounds
- Composition of 2004 Olympic Freestyle Wrestling Team Reflected Wrestling’s Diversity
- Sport Provides Opportunity to Physically Smaller Athlete Due to Weight Classification Competition
- One of the Few Sports to Provide Mainstream Opportunity to the Blind, Deaf and Physically Handicapped Student-Athlete

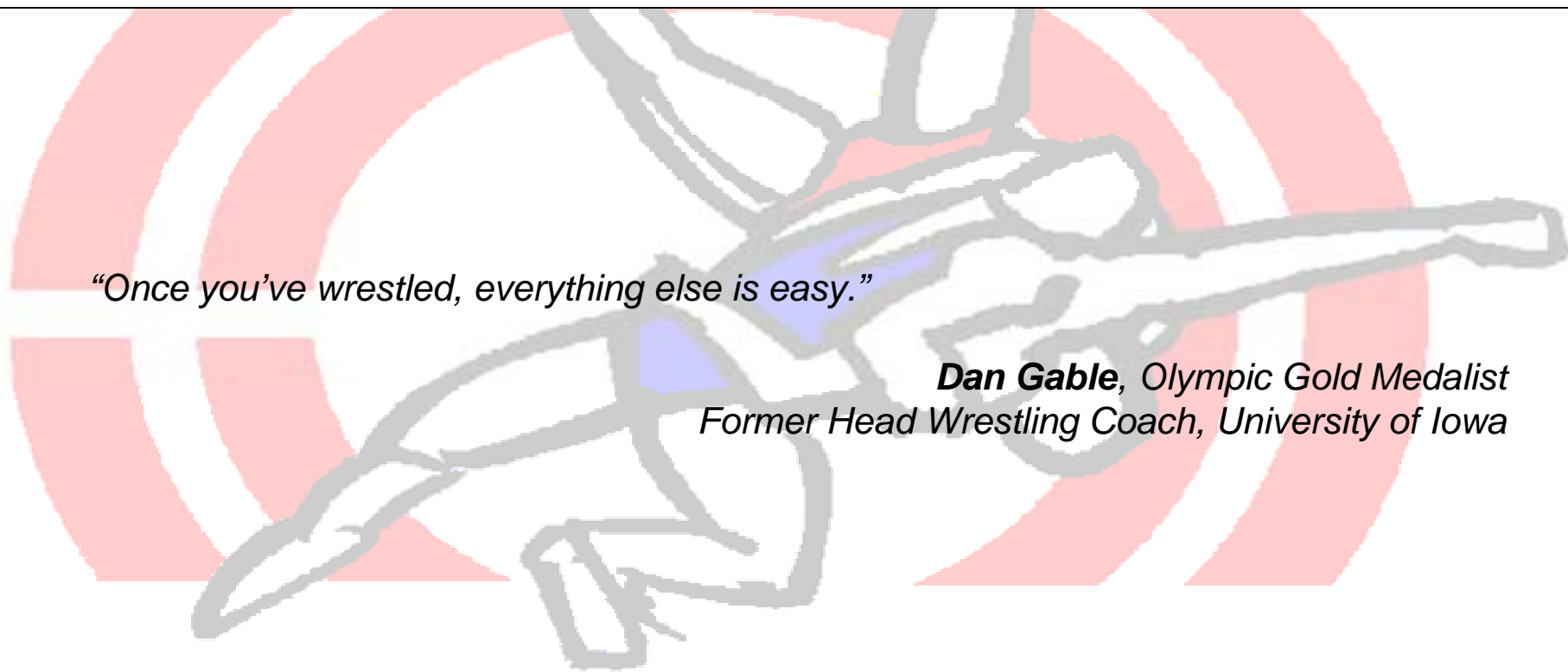


SERVING THE GEORGIA TAXPAYERS

- **Thousands of Georgia Families Involved in the Sport**
- **Provide State With Coaching Talent and Role Models**
- **Opportunity to Further Mission of Georgia Colleges and Universities to Serve Our State and its Talented and Highly Motivated Young People**

“Once you’ve wrestled, everything else is easy.”

Dan Gable, Olympic Gold Medalist
Former Head Wrestling Coach, University of Iowa



CONTACT INFORMATION

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