

The Case for Wrestling at SUNY Cobleskill



Prepared by the National
Wrestling Coaches Association

Historical Background of Wrestling

- Intercollegiate wrestling has been in existence over 100 years.
- Wrestling was included in the ancient Olympic Games, and was one of the select sports included in the first modern Games in Athens, Greece in 1896.
- Wrestling is one of the top three medal winning sports in the last several Olympic games.
- There has been a women's World Championships in wrestling since 1987, and the US Women's National team is currently one of the top programs in the world capturing a silver and bronze medal at the 2004 Olympic Games.
- Wrestling is one of the few sports that provides opportunities for the blind and physically handicapped, as well as men and women of all sizes, weights, and socioeconomic backgrounds. (2004 US Men's Olympic Freestyle Team six of the seven athletes were minorities)

Why Wrestling Belongs on Your Campus

- I. Indigenous To Your Geographic Area
- II. Ability to Increase Your Enrollment & Diversity
- III. Opportunity For Regionally Competitive Program
- III. Increased Revenue Through Tuition/Fees to Campus
- IV. High School Participation Trends
- V. Academic Achievement of Scholastic/Collegiate Wrestlers
- VI. Modest Cost for Establishing a Program
- VII. Wrestling's Outstanding Americans

Indigenous to the Geographic Area

- Scholastic wrestling ranks sixth of all boys sports in terms of participation at the high school level with over 257,000 participants nation wide.
- There are approximately 12,900 male high school wrestlers in the state of New York.
- New York is the fourth most prominent high school wrestling state in America with over 12,900 participants.
- There are eleven NCAA Division III wrestling programs in New York sponsoring wrestling.
- Nearly one third of all scholastic wrestling participants nationwide are within SUNY Cobleskill's Region.

Ability to Increase Enrollment & Diversity

- SUNY Cobleskill will attract a diverse population of wrestlers. Historically, wrestling has been very competitive at Ivy League and pseudo Ivy League schools as evidenced by the fact that Cornell, Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Lehigh are all top 25 teams. Harvard and Stanford have both had NCAA champions over the past 4 years.
- Scholastic wrestling is very strong at the National Prep level. Many of these wrestlers will pay full tuition/fees to attend SUNY Cobleskill.
- Historically, wrestling is a “blue collar” sport so SUNY Cobleskill can expect to attract student-athletes from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.
- With the national average of collegiate undergraduate enrollment projected to be 59% female by 2010, wrestling is uniquely positioned to help colleges bolster male enrollment since roughly only 300 colleges offer wrestling..

“The addition of a wrestling program provided Tri State University the opportunity to increase enrollment with outstanding academic male student-athletes”

*Shelia Kovalchick
Vice President of Administration
Tri State University*

Ability to be Competitive on A National Level

- At the past three NCAA Division III Championships, nearly 70% of the schools competing on the Division III level were represented at the National Championships.
- 55 Schools on the NCAA Division III level had at least one All-American at the past three NCAA Championships. This is over 50% of all DIII programs.
- There are only 11 NCAA Division III wrestling programs in New York to accommodate nearly 12,900 high school wrestlers in the state. This statistic virtually assures SUNY Cobleskill a unique opportunity to recruit quality student-wrestlers from a very large population.

Ability to Generate Revenue

- SUNY Cobleskill can sponsor wrestling for minimum cost while increasing student enrollment.
- SUNY Cobleskill could attract 15-20 new full time students to campus each year, thus generating new tuition/fee dollars.

Modest Cost / Minimum Needs

- The cost of Division III wrestling programs are among the lowest of all collegiate sports
 - Principal cost is coaching staff - head coach (preferably a combined role with another duty on campus) and one graduate assistant (many schools require coaches to assist admissions officers)
 - Operating costs for wrestling programs: Less than most other athletic programs (neighborhood of \$20,000)
 - Team size: Typically 25 to 30; ten athletes travel
- Modest facilities requirements (minimally a 45ft x 45ft room and ideally a 90ft x 45ft room)
- Wrestling has one of the lowest cost per student athlete of any NCAA male sport.

(On average approximately \$1,000.00 spent per student athlete based on the NCAA Equity In Athletics Disclosure Act report).

National Trends to Support Adding Wrestling

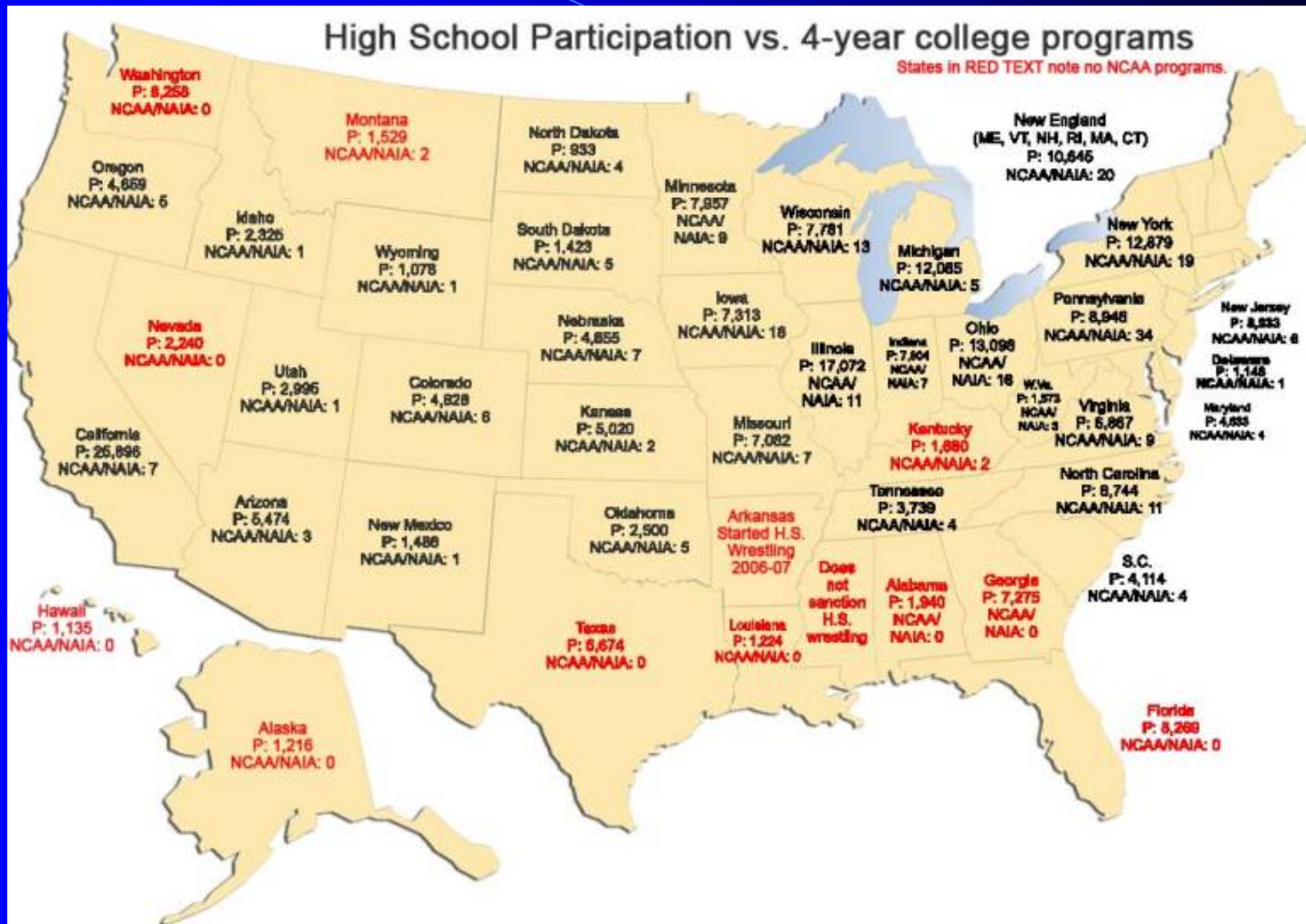
- The National High School Federation (NFHS) statistics indicate high school wrestling participation has grown by 28,000 over the last ten years.
- Since 1994, the number of women participating in high school wrestling nationally has grown from 804 to over 5,000.
- Since 1994, the number of high schools that sponsor wrestling nationally has grown from 8559 to 9445.
- Since 1994, the number of high school participants in wrestling for boys and girls has grown from 222,429 to 261,000.
- As reported by National Federation of State High School Associations, scholastic wrestling state championships are among the top five sports in terms of revenue production. This mirrors revenue production of the NCAA Championships.

High School Participation Rates

- Wrestling ranks 6th out of 33 sports in terms of individual participation (238,700 boys/5,000 girls)
- Wrestling has more participants than cross country, tennis, swimming & diving, ice hockey, lacrosse, golf, gymnastics.
- There are 462 scholastic wrestling programs in New York (ranks third in terms of greatest number of teams).

Source: National Federation of High School Associations report

Scholastic Wrestling Programs by State



Source: National Federation of High School Associations report

Wrestling's Vital Signs

52 New or Re-Instated Wrestling Programs Since 1999

Division I (5)

Binghamton, Bucknell, Liberty, Utah Valley, Sacred Heart

Division II (9)

Mercyhurst, Grand Canyon, Newberry, Limestone, New Mexico Highlands, CSU-Pueblo, St. Andrews Presbyterian, Belmont Abbey, Mesa State

Division III (3)

Stevens Institute of Technology, Tri-State University, Olivet

NAIA (18)

California Baptist, Menlo, McKendree, Grand View, Newman*, Campbellsville, Hannibal-LaGrange, Great Falls, Hastings, York (Neb.), Notre Dame College, Bacone, Oklahoma City U., Seton Hill*, Sioux Falls, King College, West Virginia Tech, Morningside

**- indicates current re-classification to NCAA Division II*

JUCO (10)

Darton College, Rend Lake, Iowa Lakes, North Iowa Area CC, Wentworth Military, Southwestern Oregon, Spartanburg Methodist, Mercyhurst NorthEast, Pratt CC, West Hills (Calif.)

WOMEN (7)

Pacific, Missouri Valley, Menlo, U. of the Cumberland, Missouri Baptist, Jamestown, Oklahoma City

Wrestlers Perform on and off the Mat

- The average G.P.A. of the nation's top elite high school wrestler competing in the High School National Championships is 3.0.
- Elite academic institutions are succeeding in Division I wrestling:
 - The Ivy league has three teams ranked in the top 25.
 - Stanford, Harvard and Lehigh each had an NCAA Champion over the past four years.
- The average GPA of the top 20 Division III Academic teams was 3.259
- The Division III All-Academic team consisted of 14 wrestlers who also achieved All-American status on the mat.



How the NWCA Can Help !

About Us

- NWCA is a 501C-3 non-profit organization established in 1928
- National headquarters in Manheim, PA
- Seven full time staff members and 34 Board of Directors
- Membership includes over 7000 coaches, wrestlers, officials, fans, affiliated organizations, college/high school institutions

Affiliated Members

- National Collegiate Athletic Association
- National High School Federation
- National Junior College Association
- California Community Colleges (COA)
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
- USA Wrestling
- Amateur Athletic Union
- National Wrestling Hall of Fame

The NWCA Can Provide Assistance with the Following:

- **Securing start up funds.**
- **Identifying qualified coaching candidates.**
- **Promoting the new program at the grass roots level.**
- **Scheduling, conference alignment, etc.**
- **Coaching development programs for coaches.**

Wrestling's Outstanding Americans

Joseph Allen- Astronaut

Hiraoki "Rocky" Aoki-President/CEO, Benihana of Tokyo Restaurants

James Biggar -Chairman & CEO, Nestle USA, Inc.

Frank Carlucci III-Ambassador, Secretary of Defense

Michael Collins-Command Pilot, Apollo 11 Mission

Dan Dierdorf-Sports Broadcaster

Dr. Kenneth J. Faust-Medicine

Robert W. Hannan-President & CEO, Eckerd Corporation

Admiral James L. Holloway, III-Military

Henry Kravis-Partner, Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Co.

James A. Leach-U.S. Congressman from Iowa

Abraham Lincoln-16th President of the USA

David S. Pottruck- Former President/CEO, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

Philip Rauch-Business

Edward B. Rust-President/CEO, State Farm Insurance

Norman Schwarzkopf-Commander in Chief, Desert Storm

Howard Taft-27th President of the USA

Joe Galli-CEO of Rubbermaid

John McCain- US Senator

Carl Albert- Speaker of the House

Roone Arledge-President, ABC-TV News & Sports

Norman E. Borlaug-Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

John Chafee-U.S. Senator from Rhode Island

Pat Day-Jockey

Kirk Douglas -Actor-Author, Diplomat

Stephen Friedman-CEO, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Dennis Hastert-Former Speaker of the US House

John W. Irving-Author of Novels and Films

General Charles Krulak-Commandant of the USMC

Peter W. Likins-President, Lehigh University

Ronald Magruder-President/CEO, Cracker Barrel

Theodore Roosevelt-26th President of the USA

Donald H. Rumsfeld-US Secretary of Defense

Arthur C. Rutzen-President, The Pacific Bank

Tom Sullivan-Author, Singer, Actor, Sportsman

Billy Baldwin- Actor

Greg Lanteris-Astronaut

Dan Cathy- President Chik-fil-A

Your Wrestling Support Staff

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