

MatStats Episode 33

Wednesday June 19th, 2024, 3PM EDT

The Boys of Winter

The boys at MatStats deliver a statistical state of the sport address. MatStats concentrates on Men's NCAA wrestling. We are all aware women's wrestling is booming. The gang dives into the data and analyze the numbers to help educate the viewers and wrestling fans on where the sport is on the collegiate level and where it was.

Roger Kahn had the Boys of Summer. Kenny Chesney (pictured here) had The Boys Of Fall. MatStats has the Boys (& Girls) of Winter.

Episode
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I Feel Like A Number

Episode
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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.

867-5309

Episode
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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

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.

As of 5/27/24, there are **504** men & women's wrestling teams in the NCAA & NAIA.

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Category	Men	Women	Total	Most ever Men's Teams	Year	Most Ever Total Teams	Years
NCAA D1	81	4	85	146	1982	146	1982
NCAA D2	74	32	106	74	2024	106	2024
NCAA D3	129	64	193	149	1982	193	2024
NCAA	284	100	384	363*	1982	384	2023
NAIA	73	47	120			120	2024
4 Year	357	147	504			504	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 statistical state of Collegiate wrestling.

Episode
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- At MatStats we feel it is important to show the fans the statistical state of collegiate wrestling.
- The NCAA has traditionally been great at keeping many records. Since 1981-82 they have published their data annually.
- Men's wrestling has had an NCAA Championships since 1928.
 - Let's start with NCAA Men's wrestling.

Where does MatStats get their data for this episode?

MatStats knows you need reliable and accurate data to have a meaningful statistical analysis.

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- This data comes from the NCAA Sports Sponsorship & Participation Rates Report most recent edition (9/29/23).
- MatStats, Jason Bryant, & the NWCA keep wrestling numbers updated on close to a daily basis, so MatStats uses the most recent numbers for wrestling (5/27/24).

Can MatStats provide the viewers with the number of NCAA Men's wrestling teams since 1981-82?

History of NCAA Men's Teams since the NCAA provided annual data in 1981-82.

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Year	D1	D2	D3	Total	Year	D1	D2	D3	Total
1981-82	146	68	149	363	2003-04	86	39	98	223
1982-83	136	69	146	351	2004-05	86	39	99	224
1983-84	136	62	144	342	2005-06	87	44	97	228
1984-85	136	52	137	325	2006-07	88	46	95	229
1985-86	133	51	133	317	2007-08	89	46	92	227
1986-87	124	46	130	300	2008-09	86	46	92	224
1987-88	121	41	127	289	2009-10	82	47	88	217
1988-89	117	43	126	286	2010-11	80	56	88	224
1989-90	112	44	122	278	2011-12	77	55	87	219
1990-91	111	49	120	280	2012-13	77	55	88	220
1991-92	110	48	117	275	2013-14	77	58	91	226
1992-93	108	44	113	265	2014-15	76	59	94	229
1993-94	107	49	108	264	2015-16	76	60	96	232
1994-95	104	46	107	257	2016-17	76	61	101	238
1995-96	106	52	119	277	2017-18	76	60	105	241
1996-97	97	44	107	248	2018-19	75	62	108	245
1997-98	96	44	106	246	2019-20	78	64	108	250
1998-99	94	43	105	242	2020-21	77	65	111	253
1999-00	90	40	104	234	2021-22	76	67	116	259
2000-01	90	41	104	235	2022-23	77	69	121	267
2001-02	87	43	101	231	2023-24*	81	74	129	284
2002-03	85	38	99	222	82-24 Mean	96.0	51.8	110.0	257.8

Red Highlighted
Is best year
Since 1981-82

Green Highlighted
Is worst year
Since 1981-82

Purple shows more
Teams in 2023-24
Since 1988-89.

* - 2023-24 is as
Of 5/27/24.

Where do the last 5 years rank this century on the number of NCAA Men's wrestling teams.

The most recent 5 years are the Camelot days of NCAA Men's D2, D3, & Total wrestling this century.

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Top 5 21 st Century	D1	Year	D2	Year	D3	Year	Total	Year
1	90	1999-00	74	2023-24	129	2023-24	284	2023-24
2	90	2000-01	69	2022-23	121	2022-23	267	2022-23
3	89	2007-08	67	2021-22	116	2021-22	259	2021-22
4	87	2001-02	65	2020-21	111	2020-21	253	2020-21
5	87	2005-06	64	2019-20	108	2019-20	250	2019-20

Red Highlighted all in the last 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24)

What are the worst 5 years this century for number of NCAA Men's wrestling teams?

Sadly, NCAA Men's D1 Wrestling is still struggling recently with number of teams this century.

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Bottom 5 21 st Century	D1	Year	D2	Year	D3	Year	Total	Year
21	76	2021-22	41	2000-01	91	2013-14	223	2003-04
22	76	2017-18	40	1999-00	88	2010-11	222	2002-03
23	76	2016-17	39	2004-05	88	2012-13	220	2012-13
24	76	2015-16	39	2003-04	88	2009-10	219	2011-12
25	75	2018-19	38	2002-03	87	2011-12	217	2009-10

Red Highlighted all in the last 5 years (2019-20 to 2023-24)

NCAA D2, D3 & total teams are better the last 5 years than anytime this century. There are more NCAA teams currently than any point since 1989.

Episode
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- As of 5/27/24, there are more NCAA Men's wrestling teams (284) since 1988-89 (286).
- If you are 35 or younger, it is the most NCAA men's teams in your lifetime.
- If you are 50 or younger, this is the most men's teams since you have wrestled in college.
- The Top 5 years this century for NCAA D2, D3, and total teams have all been in the last 5 years.
- The bad news is D1 is not at the same level as the smaller divisions.

NCAA Men's Teams for 1981-82, 1999-00, 2009-10, 2022-23

Episode
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- Where does wrestling stand compared to other male sports in the NCAA with number of teams since 1981-82 till 2022-23?
- Can MatStats also break this down this century (1999-00) and from 2009-10 (the NCAA minimum number of wrestling teams since 1981-82) till 2022-23?

What are the number of NCAA teams in the top Men's 16 Championship Sports in 1981-82?

The number of Men's NCAA Teams in 1981-82

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NCAA Men's Sports 1981-82	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	254	148	240	642
Basketball	273	190	278	741
Cross Country	256	161	233	650
Football	187	121	189	497
1A	137	N/A	N/A	137
1AA	50	N/A	N/A	50
Golf	263	134	193	590
Gymnastics	59	10	10	79
Ice Hockey	48	24	58	130
Lacrosse	50	18	70	138
Soccer	182	106	233	521
Swimming	181	57	139	377
Tennis	267	172	251	690
Track Indoor	209	96	117	422
Track Outdoor	230	140	207	577
Volleyball	33	15	15	63
Water Polo	28	8	13	49
Wrestling*	146	68	149	363
Rowing**	31	6	11	48
Individual Sports	1611	838	1299	3748
Team Sports	1055	630	1096	2781
Total	2666	1468	2395	6529

* Wrestling Numbers are Through 5/27/24

** - Men's Rowing Is NOT an NCAA Championship Sport. These Numbers are Not included In the totals.

What are the number of NCAA teams in the top Men's 16 Championship Sports in 1999-00?

The number of Men's NCAA Teams in 1999-2000

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NCAA Men's Sports 1999-00	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	284	231	342	857
Basketball	321	287	381	989
Cross Country	302	211	298	811
Football	235	155	220	610
1A	113	N/A	N/A	113
1AA	122	N/A	N/A	122
Golf	287	179	253	719
Gymnastics	21	1	2	24
Ice Hockey	53	7	66	126
Lacrosse	55	30	118	203
Soccer	196	164	355	715
Swimming	149	48	177	374
Tennis	276	175	307	758
Track Indoor	242	92	184	518
Track Outdoor	264	139	232	635
Volleyball	22	17	36	75
Water Polo	23	5	14	42
Wrestling*	90	40	104	234
Rowing**	25	4	26	55
Individual Sports	1631	885	1557	4073
Team Sports	1189	896	1532	3617
Total Sports	2820	1781	3089	7690

* Wrestling Numbers are Through 5/27/24

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What are the number of NCAA teams in the top Men's 16 Championship Sports in 2009-10?

The number of Men's NCAA Teams in 2009-10

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NCAA Men's Sports 2009-10	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	294	242	374	910
Basketball	335	289	414	1038
Cross Country	306	238	384	928
Football	238	157	238	633
1A	120			120
1AA	118			118
Golf	291	216	291	798
Gymnastics	16	0	1	17
Ice Hockey	58	6	72	136
Lacrosse	58	38	166	262
Soccer	197	181	404	782
Swimming	138	60	201	399
Tennis	258	166	328	752
Track Indoor	252	117	232	601
Track Outdoor	270	165	271	706
Volleyball	23	14	53	90
Water Polo	22	5	14	41
Wrestling*	82	47	88	217
Rowing**	28	3	30	61
Individual	1613	1009	1796	4418
Team Sports	1225	932	1735	3892
Total	2838	1941	3531	8310

* Wrestling
Numbers are
Through 5/27/24

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What are the number of NCAA teams in the top Men's 16 Championship Sports in 2022-23?

The number of Men's NCAA Teams in 2022-23

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NCAA Men's Sports 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	295	260	388	943
Basketball	352	308	417	1077
Cross Country	317	279	396	992
Football	254	170	242	666
1A	130	N/A	N/A	130
1AA	124	N/A	N/A	124
Golf	295	216	298	809
Gymnastics	12	0	3	15
Ice Hockey	58	9	84	151
Lacrosse	72	79	244	395
Soccer	203	210	413	826
Swimming	131	79	239	449
Tennis	235	154	312	701
Track Indoor	269	194	309	772
Track Outdoor	292	236	336	864
Volleyball	25	34	114	173
Water Polo	26	9	16	51
Wrestling*	81	74	129	284
Rowing**	31	2	24	57
Individual Sports	1632	1232	2022	4886
Team Sports	1285	1079	1918	4282
Total	2917	2311	3940	9168

* Wrestling Numbers are Through 5/27/24

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What is the increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

The increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 1981-82 to 2022-23

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NCAA Men's Sports Delta 1981-82 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	41	112	148	301
Basketball	79	118	139	336
Cross Country	61	118	163	342
Football	67	49	53	169
1A	-7	N/A	N/A	-7
1AA	74	N/A	N/A	74
Golf	32	82	105	219
Gymnastics	-47	-10	-7	-64
Ice Hockey	10	-15	26	21
Lacrosse	22	61	174	257
Soccer	21	104	180	305
Swimming	-50	22	100	72
Tennis	-32	-18	61	11
Track Indoor	60	98	192	350
Track Outdoor	62	96	129	287
Volleyball	-8	19	99	110
Water Polo	-2	1	3	2
Wrestling*	-65	6	-20	-79
Rowing**	0	-4	13	9
Individual Sports	21	394	723	1138
Team Sports	230	449	822	1501
Total	251	843	1545	2639

* Wrestling
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Through 5/27/24

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What is the Percentage increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

The Percentage increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 1981-82 to 2022-23

Episode
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NCAA Men's Sports Delta Percentage 1981-82 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	16%	76%	62%	47%
Basketball	29%	62%	50%	45%
Cross Country	24%	73%	70%	53%
Football	36%	40%	28%	34%
1A	-5%	N/A	N/A	-5%
1AA	148%	N/A	N/A	148%
Golf	12%	61%	54%	37%
Gymnastics	-80%	-100%	-70%	-81%
Ice Hockey	21%	-63%	45%	16%
Lacrosse	44%	339%	249%	186%
Soccer	12%	98%	77%	59%
Swimming	-28%	39%	72%	19%
Tennis	-12%	-10%	24%	2%
Track Indoor	29%	102%	164%	83%
Track Outdoor	27%	69%	62%	50%
Volleyball	-24%	127%	660%	175%
Water Polo	-7%	13%	23%	4%
Wrestling*	-45%	9%	-13%	-22%
Rowing**	0%	-67%	118%	19%
Individual Sports	1%	47%	56%	30%
Team Sports	22%	71%	75%	54%
Total	9%	57%	65%	40%

* Wrestling
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Through 5/27/24

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What is the increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 1999-00 to 2022-23?

The increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 1999-00 to 2022-23

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NCAA Men's Sports Delta 1999-00 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	11	29	46	86
Basketball	31	21	36	88
Cross Country	15	68	98	181
Football	19	15	22	56
1A	17	N/A	N/A	17
1AA	2	N/A	N/A	2
Golf	8	37	45	90
Gymnastics	-9	-1	1	-9
Ice Hockey	5	2	18	25
Lacrosse	17	49	126	192
Soccer	7	46	58	111
Swimming	-18	31	62	75
Tennis	-41	-21	5	-57
Track Indoor	27	102	125	254
Track Outdoor	28	97	104	229
Volleyball	3	17	78	98
Water Polo	3	4	2	9
Wrestling*	-9	34	25	50
Rowing**	6	-2	-2	2
Individual Sports	1	347	465	813
Team Sports	96	183	386	665
Total	97	530	851	1478

* Wrestling
Numbers are
Through 5/27/24

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Totals.

What is the Percentage increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 1999-00 to 2022-23?

The Percentage increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 1999-00 to 2022-23

Episode
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NCAA Men's Sports Delta Percentage 1999-00 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	4%	13%	13%	10%
Basketball	10%	7%	9%	9%
Cross Country	5%	32%	33%	22%
Football	8%	10%	10%	9%
1A	15%	N/A	N/A	15%
1AA	2%	N/A	N/A	2%
Golf	3%	21%	18%	13%
Gymnastics	-43%	-100%	50%	-38%
Ice Hockey	9%	29%	27%	20%
Lacrosse	31%	163%	107%	95%
Soccer	4%	28%	16%	16%
Swimming	-12%	65%	35%	20%
Tennis	-15%	-12%	2%	-8%
Track Indoor	11%	111%	68%	49%
Track Outdoor	11%	70%	45%	36%
Volleyball	14%	100%	217%	131%
Water Polo	13%	80%	14%	21%
Wrestling*	-10%	85%	24%	21%
Rowing**	24%	-50%	-8%	4%
Individual Sports	0%	39%	30%	20%
Team	8%	20%	25%	18%
Total	3%	30%	28%	19%

* Wrestling
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Through 5/27/24

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What is the increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 2009-10 to 2022-23?

The increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 2009-10 to 2022-23

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NCAA Men's Sports Delta 2009-10 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	1	18	14	33
Basketball	17	19	3	39
Cross Country	11	41	12	64
Football	16	13	4	33
1A	10	N/A	N/A	10
1AA	6	N/A	N/A	6
Golf	4	0	7	11
Gymnastics	-4	0	2	-2
Ice Hockey	0	3	12	15
Lacrosse	14	41	78	133
Soccer	6	29	9	44
Swimming	-7	19	38	50
Tennis	-23	-12	-16	-51
Track Indoor	17	77	77	171
Track Outdoor	22	71	65	158
Volleyball	2	20	61	83
Water Polo	4	4	2	10
Wrestling*	-1	27	41	67
Rowing**	3	-1	-6	-4
Individual Sports	19	223	226	468
Team Sports	60	147	183	390
Total	79	370	409	858

* Wrestling
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Through 5/27/24

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What is the Percentage increase/decrease in number of Men's NCAA teams from 2009-10 to 2022-23?

The Percentage increase/decrease in number of men's NCAA teams from 2009-10 to 2022-23

Episode
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NCAA Men's Sports Delta Percentage 2009-10 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	0%	7%	4%	4%
Basketball	5%	7%	1%	4%
Cross Country	4%	17%	3%	7%
Football	7%	8%	2%	5%
1A	8%	N/A	N/A	8%
1AA	5%	N/A	N/A	5%
Golf	1%	0%	2%	1%
Gymnastics	-25%	#DIV/0!	200%	-12%
Ice Hockey	0%	50%	17%	11%
Lacrosse	24%	108%	47%	51%
Soccer	3%	16%	2%	6%
Swimming	-5%	32%	19%	13%
Tennis	-9%	-7%	-5%	-7%
Track Indoor	7%	66%	33%	28%
Track Outdoor	8%	43%	24%	22%
Volleyball	9%	143%	115%	92%
Water Polo	18%	80%	14%	24%
Wrestling*	-1%	57%	47%	31%
Rowing**	11%	-33%	-20%	-7%
Individual Sports	1%	22%	13%	11%
Team Sports	5%	16%	11%	10%
Total	3%	19%	12%	10%

* Wrestling
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Through 5/27/24

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Summary of NCAA Men's Sports team growth from 1981-82 to 2022-23.

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- Team sports grew in 20th century faster than individual sports. In the 21st century their growth was very close (team 18% Individual 20%).
- Men's NCAA D1 wrestling was down -45%. Only Gymnastics was lower.
- Men's NCAA D2 wrestling was up 9%, however all D2 sports were up 57%.
- Men's NCAA D3 wrestling was down -13%, all D3 sports were up 65%.
- Men's NCAA Total wrestling was down -22%, all sports up 40%. Only Gymnastics saw a larger percentage decrease.
- NCAA Football saw a decrease in 1A teams from 137 to 130 (-5%).
- To sum in up I'll quote Coach Phillip Fulmer on a Sunday game review show after a Vol interception, "Oh, That's not good." Note - Vols 31 USAFA 30 that day.

Summary of NCAA Men's Sports team growth from 1999-00 to 2022-23.

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- NCAA Men's D1 down by 10%.
- NCAA Men's D2 grew by 85%. That is the 4th highest percentage of growth for NCAA Men's Sports.
- NCAA Men's D3 grew by 24%. Men's Lacrosse & Volleyball lead the way.
- Total Men's Wrestling grew by 21%. Men's VB & Lax are the top percentage growth.
- Football & Men's Basketball both grew at 10% and 9%.
- Women's VB had the 2nd most women teams in 2009-10 & 2022-23.
- Women's Lax grew 132% from 2009-10 to 2022-23.

Summary of NCAA Men's Sports team growth from 2009-10 to 2022-23.

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- Men's D1 Wrestling down 1%. All Men's D1 Sports up 3%.
- Men's D2 Wrestling up 57%. All Men's D2 Sports up 19%.
- Men's D3 Wrestling up 47%. All Men's D3 Sports up 12%.
- Men's NCAA Wrestling up 31%. All Men's NCAA Sports up 10%.
- Fastest Percentage growing men's sports in the NCAA are Lacrosse & Volleyball. How much of this is due to the growth in women's Lacrosse & Volleyball?

Since 2009-10, NCAA men's wrestling has grown more teams (67) than Men's Basketball (39) & Football (33)!!

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Total NCAA Men's Teams	From 2009-10 to 2022-23*
Men's NCAA Sport	Increase Number of Teams
Wrestling	67
Basketball	39
Football	33
Football & Basketball	72

I hope Moyer doesn't run for Prez; we need him too much in our sport.

Episode
33-29

- I want our viewers to digest this stat.
- The NCAA has added more wrestling teams since 2009-10 than either football or Men's basketball.
- Football & Basketball have ESPN, Pro Leagues, March Madness, College Game Day, MNF, etc.
- Wrestling has Mike Moyer, the NWCA, the advent of women's wrestling, and we are the world's oldest and greatest sport.

Men's NCAA Wrestling Participation numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23.

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- What are the participation numbers from 2009-10 (our low point in number of teams) to 2022-23?
 - What are the top 5 years since 1981-82 for each division?
 - What are the bottom 5 years since 1981-82 for each division?
 - What are the average squad sizes? How do they compare to the past?

What are the participation numbers across Men's NCAA Sports in 2009-10?

NCAA Participation numbers for Men's Sports 2009-10.

Episode
33-31

NCAA Men's Participants 2009-10 Men	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	9,964	8,543	11,858	30,365
Basketball	5,182	4,602	7,224	17,008
Cross Country	4,796	2,946	5,734	13,476
Football	26,325	16,320	23,668	66,313
1A	14,319	N/A	N/A	14,319
1AA	12,006	N/A	N/A	12,006
Golf	2,973	2,254	3,158	8,385
Gymnastics	311	-	22	333
Ice Hockey	1,605	178	2,162	3,945
Lacrosse	2,685	1,453	5,706	9,844
Soccer	5,579	5,019	11,172	21,770
Swimming	3,877	1,163	3,985	9,025
Tennis	2,639	1,587	3,714	7,940
Track Indoor	9,758	4,021	8,285	22,064
Track Outdoor	10,812	5,350	9,187	25,349
Volleyball	471	235	1,367	2,073
Water Polo	586	69	270	925
Wrestling*	2,567	1,454	2,376	6,397
Rowing**	1,303	64	909	2,276
Individual	37,733	18,775	36,461	92,969
Team	52,397	36,419	63,427	152,243
Total	90,130	55,194	99,888	245,212

* Wrestling Numbers are From NCAA report In 2022-23 like the Other sports.

** - Men's Rowing Is NOT an NCAA Championship Sport. These Numbers are not Included in the Totals.

What are the participation numbers across Men's NCAA Sports in 2009-10?

NCAA Participation numbers for Men's Sports 2022-23.

Episode
33-32

NCAA Participants 2022-23 Men	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	11,712	11,616	15,521	38,849
Basketball	5,516	5,585	8,112	19,213
Cross Country	5,023	4,086	5,678	14,787
Football	30,722	20,414	26,068	77,204
1A	16,671	N/A	N/A	16,671
1AA	14,051	N/A	N/A	14,051
Golf	2,889	2,349	3,364	8,602
Gymnastics	249	-	55	304
Ice Hockey	1,649	271	2,468	4,388
Lacrosse	3,657	3,526	8,847	16,030
Soccer	6,441	7,564	13,279	27,284
Swimming	3,821	1,778	4,346	9,945
Tennis	2,370	1,691	3,488	7,549
Track Indoor	10,516	7,212	10,809	28,537
Track Outdoor	11,399	8,512	11,367	31,278
Volleyball	528	617	1,788	2,933
Water Polo	666	195	295	1,156
Wrestling*	2,672	2,205	3,432	8,309
Rowing**	1,446	76	721	2,243
Individual	38,939	27,833	42,539	109,311
Team	60,891	49,788	76,378	187,057
Total	99,830	77,621	118,917	296,368

* Wrestling Numbers are From the NCAA Report in 2022-23 Like the other Sports.

** - Men's Rowing Is NOT an NCAA Championship Sport. These Numbers are not Included in the Totals.

What are the increases/decreases in NCAA Men's sports participation numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23?

Participation Increase/decrease in Men's Sports from 2009-10 to 2022-23.

Episode
33-33

NCAA Participants Delta 2009-10 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	1,748	3,073	3,663	8,484
Basketball	334	983	888	2,205
Cross Country	227	1,140	(56)	1,311
Football	4,397	4,094	2,400	10,891
1A	2,352	N/A	N/A	2,352
1AA	2,045	N/A	N/A	2,045
Golf	(84)	95	206	217
Gymnastics	(62)	-	33	(29)
Ice Hockey	44	93	306	443
Lacrosse	972	2,073	3,141	6,186
Soccer	862	2,545	2,107	5,514
Swimming	(56)	615	361	920
Tennis	(269)	104	(226)	(391)
Track Indoor	758	3,191	2,524	6,473
Track Outdoor	587	3,162	2,180	5,929
Volleyball	57	382	421	860
Water Polo	80	126	25	231
Wrestling*	105	751	1,056	1,912
Rowing**	143	12	(188)	(33)
Individual	1,206	9,058	6,078	16,342
Team	8,494	13,369	12,951	34,814
Total	9,700	22,427	19,029	51,156

* Wrestling Numbers are from The 2022-23 NCAA Report like the Other sports.

** - Men's Rowing Is NOT an NCAA Championship Sport. These Numbers are not Included in the Totals.

What are the Percentage increases/decreases in NCAA Men's sports participation numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23?

Percentage increase/decrease in NCAA Participation numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23.

Episode
33-34

NCAA Participation Delta Percentage 2009-10 to 2022-23	D1	D2	D3	Total
Baseball	18%	36%	31%	28%
Basketball	6%	21%	12%	13%
Cross Country	5%	39%	-1%	10%
Football	17%	25%	10%	16%
1A	16%	N/A	N/A	16%
1AA	17%	N/A	N/A	17%
Golf	-3%	4%	7%	3%
Gymnastics	-20%	#DIV/0!	150%	-9%
Ice Hockey	3%	52%	14%	11%
Lacrosse	36%	143%	55%	63%
Soccer	15%	51%	19%	25%
Swimming	-1%	53%	9%	10%
Tennis	-10%	7%	-6%	-5%
Track Indoor	8%	79%	30%	29%
Track Outdoor	5%	59%	24%	23%
Volleyball	12%	163%	31%	41%
Water Polo	14%	183%	9%	25%
Wrestling*	4%	52%	44%	30%
Rowing**	11%	19%	-21%	-1%
Individual	3%	48%	17%	18%
Team	16%	37%	20%	23%
Total	11%	41%	19%	21%

* Wrestling Numbers are from The 2022-23 NCAA Report Like the other Sports.

** - Men's Rowing Is NOT an NCAA Championship Sport. These Numbers are not Included in the Totals.

Can MatStas sum up the status of participation numbers from 2009-10 to 2022-23?

From 2009-10 to 2022-23, men's wrestling has seen the 3rd highest Participation percentage growth of all NCAA Men's Championships Sports.

Episode
33-35

- Since 2009-10, the wrestling participation numbers understandably follow the team growth.
- Wrestling has seen the third highest participation percentage growth of all men's NCAA sports. Trailing only Men's Lacrosse & Volleyball.
- Of course, the vast portion of the growth comes from D2 & D3.
- Despite D1 seeing a -1% decrease of in the number of teams, D1 has seen a 4% increase in the number of participants.

What are the top 5 years in NCAA Men's wrestling participation numbers since 1981-82? Squad size?

In terms of participation numbers (from 1981-82 to 2022-23) in D2 & D3 and Squad Size we are in the Camelot days. The glory days of participation in D1 were in the 80's.

Episode
33-36

Top 5	D1	Year	D2	Year	D3	Year	Total	Year	Squad Size	Year
1	4192	1985-86	2243	2021-22	3432	2022-23	8572	1984-85	32.2	2021-22
2	4190	1984-85	2205	2022-23	3430	2021-22	8417	1983-84	31.1	2022-23
3	4050	1983-84	2009	2020-21	3279	1986-87	8401	1985-86	31.1	2012-13
4	3766	1986-87	2001	2019-20	3124	2019-20	8338	2021-22	30.9	2013-14
5	3659	1981-82	1946	2015-16	2981	1984-85	8309	2022-23	30.8	2014-15

Red Highlight most recent 6 years 2017-18 to 2022-23.

Purple highlight from 20th Century.

What are the bottom 5 years in NCAA Men's wrestling participation numbers since 1981-82? Squad size?

The bad days for participation numbers (from 1981-82 to 2022-23) in D2, D3, and Squad Size are a distant memory. Sadly, D1 has not seen the same participation trend.

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33-37

Bottom 5	D1	Year	D2	Year	D3	Year	Total	Year	Squad Size	Year
37	2479	2018-19	1085	1989-90	2332	1997-98	6139	2005-06	24.4	1988-89
38	2473	2002-03	1084	1988-89	2284	1991-92	5986	2002-03	24.3	1987-88
39	2470	2001-02	1070	2003-04	2192	1992-93	5983	2001-02	24.2	1989-90
41	2451	2017-18	1049	2004-05	2076	1994-95	5943	2003-04	23.2	1982-83
42	2438	2011-12	999	1987-88	2041	1993-94	5939	2004-05	21.8	1981-82

Red Highlight most recent 6 years 2017-18 to 2022-23.

Purple highlight from 20th Century.

We need some good news about Men's NCAA D1 wrestling. What can you tell us?

The squad size in Men's NCAA D1 wrestling (from 1981-82 to 2022-23) has never been larger than it is in recent years.

Episode
33-38

Rank	Year	D1 Squad Size
1	2021-22	35.1
2	2022-23	34.7
3	2014-15	33.2
4	2018-19	33.1
5	2013-14	33.0
6	2015-16	32.9
6	2016-17	32.9
8	2012-13	32.5
9	2017-18	32.3
10	2010-11	32.1
Average	Top 10	33.2
Average	1981-82 to 90-91	29.1

Every year from 2010-11 had a Larger squad size Than any previous Year in NCAA Men's D1!

Statistically this is Known as first order Stochastic Dominance.

NCAA Men's D2 & D3 are very strong in historical participation numbers. D1 is struggling. Team sizes have never been larger.

Episode
33-39

- The years with 4th & 5th highest numbers of participation in NCAA Men's wrestling across all levels are the latest two years we have data for (2021-22 & 2022-23).
- The top 4 years in NCAA Men's D2 participation numbers are the most recent 4 years.
- 3 of the top 4 years in NCAA Men's D3 are from the latest 4 years.
- All the top 5 years in D1 in participation were from the 80's. 2 of the worst years are in the last 6 years.
- The 2 largest average squad size in wrestling are from the two most recent years.
- The smallest team squad sizes come from the 80's and early 90's.
- The largest squad sizes in Men's NCAA D1 wrestling have all been in recent years.

Will we soon see more Men's NCAA wrestlers than at anytime since 1981-82?

Gorms stands by his prediction from 2022 that by 2025 we will have more men's NCAA varsity wrestlers since our known history started in 1981-82.

Episode
33-40

- During Episode #7 (3/16/22), “Is this Heaven? No, it’s Camelot”, Gorms predicted we would have more men’s wrestlers by the NCAA National tournaments in March 2025.
- We don’t have the numbers for the 2023-24 season from the NCAA yet. They should come out this Fall.
- Hopefully, we break our current record since 1981-82 this year.
- Gorms is doubling down on his prediction that by March 2025, we will surpass the NCAA participation record of 8,572 (1984-85).
- We had 8,338 Men NCAA wrestlers in 2021-22 and 8,309 in 2022-23.

What do we know from the NCAA prior to the 1981-82 season?

When women were included in the NCAA in 1981-82, the NCAA started keeping much more complete records. Prior to 1981-82 they were 5-year intervals with a lot less data points.

Episode
33-41

- Prior to 1981-82, the NCAA released reports in 5-year intervals and in 1971-72 the numbers for wrestling as 393 teams and 9,437 wrestlers.
- In the 2022-23 report in the section on the numbers prior to 1981-82 the NCAA states, “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 recreation 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.”
- This is why MatStats usually starts with 1981-82 in analyzing NCAA data.

NCAA Data on wrestling in 5-year intervals from 1956-57 to 1981-82.

Episode
33-42

Years	Total Members Institutions	Wrestling Teams	Wrestling Participants
1956-57	395	186	4765
1961-62	536	289	7630
1966-67	577	332	7889
1971-72	663	393	9437
1976-77	722	379	8712
1981-82	753	363	7914

Hopefully, this chart helps put to bed some of the rumors of the good old days that have been heard for years.

NCAA Men's Teams & participants per school.

Episode
33-43

- What are the number of Men's NCAA teams per school? How has this changed from 1981-82 to 2022-23?
- What are the number of Men's NCAA participants per school? How has this changed from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

How has the number of Men's teams per school in the NCAA changed from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

The number of NCAA Men's teams per school has decreased in D1 (-17.5%), D2 (-3.8%), and Total (-4.4%). Only D3 (+10.2%) has seen an increase in this category.

Episode
33-44

NCAA	Men's	Sports	Per	School
Year	D1	D2	D3	Total
1981-82	10.3	7.9	8.8	9.1
2022-23	8.5	7.6	9.7	8.7
% Change	-17.5%	-3.8%	10.2%	-4.4%

How has the number of Men's Participants per school in the NCAA changed from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

The number of Participants in NCAA Men's Sports per team has increased **23.7%** from 1981-82 to 2022-23.

Episode
33-45

NCAA	Men's	Participants	Per	School
Year	D1	D2	D3	Total
1981-82	273.5	185.8	206.5	225.8
2022-23	288.9	254.3	290.2	279.5
% Change	5.6%	36.9%	40.5%	23.7%

Total NCAA Men's Teams and Participants from 1981-82 to 2022-23.

Episode
33-46

- If there are fewer NCAA Men's teams per school in 2022-23 than there were in 1981-82, why are there now more NCAA Men's college teams?
- I have been hearing "The Sky is falling" on NCAA Men's Sports. Is this accurate?

How do the number of NCAA Men's teams compare from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

There are **2,639** more Men's NCAA college teams in 2022-23 than there were in 1981-82. That is a **40%** increase.

Episode
33-47

NCAA Men's	Team	Numbers	1981-82 to	2022-23
Years	D1	D2	D3	Total
1981-82	2666	1468	2395	6529
2022-23	2917	2311	3940	9168
Delta	251	843	1545	2639
% Increase	9%	57%	65%	40%

How do the number of NCAA Men's Participants compare from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

There are **132,317** more Men's NCAA athletes in 2022-23 than there were in 1981-82. That is an **81%** increase. Green Bay, WI has a **107,395** population.

Episode
33-48

NCAA Men's	Participation	Numbers	1981-82 to	2022-23
Years	D1	D2	D3	Total
1981-82	72,161	35,141	56,749	164,051
2022-23	99,830	77,621	118,917	296,368
Delta	27,669	42,480	62,168	132,317
% Increase	38%	121%	110%	81%

How does the increase in Men & women participants compare in the NCAA from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

From 1981-82 to 2022-23, NCAA Men have seen **+132,317** more participants. Women have an increase of **+161,701**.

Episode
33-49

Sex - Single Sex Sports	Participant Increase from 1981-82 to 2022-23
NCAA Men (Championship Sports)	+132,317
NCAA Women (Championship Sports)	+161,701

How does the increase in Men & women participants compare in the NCAA from 1999-00 to 2022-23?

From 1999-00 to 2022-23, NCAA Men have seen **+89,539** more participants. Women have an increase of **+79,472**.

Episode
33-50

Sex - Single Sex Sports	Participant Increase from 1999-00 to 2022-23
NCAA Men (Championship Sports)	+89,539
NCAA Women (Championship Sports)	+79,472

“It is easier to fool people, than to convince them they have been fooled” - Mark Twain

Episode
33-51

- There are liars, damn liars, and statisticians. One could easily point to a specific sport and a specific school and find “evidence” that Title IX has hurt Men's sports. If we examine the “Big Picture”, Men's NCAA Sports have never been statistically stronger.
- Gorms thinks it is short sighted to simply blame Title IX.
- MatStats is here to dig deep into numbers and explore the status of men's (& women's) collegiate wrestling.
- There are 2,639 more Men's NCAA teams. That is 1 new team every 5.7 days since 1981-82.
- There are 132,317 more Men's athletes. That is almost 9 per day since 1981-82.
- In the 21st Century, there was a larger increase in NCAA Men's athletes than NCAA women's athletes.

Where the additional NCAA Men's teams and Participants come from.

Episode
33-52

- Why do we see such a dramatic increase in the number of NCAA Men's Teams and participants and there is a decrease in the number of teams per school?
- Where do these teams come from?

How many NCAA Member schools are there in 2022-23? How many were there in 1981-82?

Episode
33-53

There are **349** more NCAA Member schools an increase of **46.4%** from 1981-82 to 2022-23.

NCAA Year	Number D1	Of D2	Member D3	Schools Total
1981-82	276	192	284	752
2023-24	352	312	437	1101
Delta 1982 to 2024	76	120	153	349
% Change 1982 to 2024	27.5%	62.5%	53.9%	46.4%

What percentage of the member schools are D1, D2, & D3?

There are more NCAA D3 **(40%)** members than D1 (32%) or D2 (28%).

Episode
33-54

Percent	of	NCAA	Members
Year	D1	D2	D3
1981-82	37%	26%	38%
2023-24	32%	28%	40%

Are the NCAA Member schools more Public or Private schools?

56.3% of NCAA Member schools are Private. There is a shift from D1 (Public dominated **66.8%**) to D3 (Private dominated **79.6%**).

Episode
33-55

2023-24	D1	D1 %	D2	D2 %	D3	D3%	Total	Total %
Public	235	66.8%	157	50.0%	89	20.4%	481	43.7%
Private	117	33.2%	155	50.0%	348	79.6%	620	56.3%
Total	352	100.0%	312	100.0%	437	100.0%	1101	100.0%

Are the Revenue Sports (Football & Basketball) dominating the NCAA men's growth?

Episode
33-56

- Many people have feared the only Men's NCAA Sports that would grow after 1981-82 and the passing of Title IX would be Football and Basketball.
- Is there any accuracy in this thought?
- How many more NCAA D1A football teams are there from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

What is the team growth of Football & Basketball compared to the other Male NCAA Sports?

In 1981-82, Football and Basketball teams were **19%** of all Men's NCAA teams. In 2022-23, that number fell to **16%**.

Episode
33-57

NCAA Sports	Number 1981-82	Of Teams % of Teams	1981-82 & 2022-23	2022-23 % of Teams
FB & Basketball	1238	19%	1743	16%
Other 14	5291	81%	7425	84%
Total	6529	100%	9168	100%
FB 1A & BB D1	410	6%	482	5%

What is the participation growth of Football & Basketball compared to the other Male NCAA Sports?

In 1981-82, Football and Basketball teams were **32%** of all Men's NCAA teams. In 2022-23, that number fell to **22%**.

Episode
33-58

NCAA Sports	Participation 1981-82	Numbers % of Participants	1981-82 to 2022-23	2022-23 % of Participants
FB & BB	52,311	32%	65,695	22%
Other 14	111,740	68%	230,673	78%
Total	164,051	100%	296,368	100%
FB 1A & BB D1	18,234	11%	22,187	7%

What type of growth has 1A football saw from 1981-82 to 2022-23?

From 1981-82 to 2022-23, there were two male sports that saw a decrease in the total number of teams (Wrestling & Gymnastics), 1A Football also saw a decrease.

Episode
33-59

1AA Football
Started in
1978

NCAA	Number	Of	Teams
Year	FB 1A	FB 1AA	Total D1
1981-82	137	50	187
1982-83	104	85	189
2022-23	130	124	254
Delta % 1981-82 to 2022-23	-5%	148%	36%
% D1 teams 1981-82	2%	1%	3%
% D1 teams 2022-23	2%	2%	3%

Football and Men's Basketball have seen a decrease in the percentage of Men's sports from 1981-82 to 2022-23.

Episode
33-60

- The percentage of total Football & men's Basketball teams compared to other men's NCAA sports teams have decreased from 19% in 1981-82 to 16% in 2022-23.
- The percentage of total Football & men's Basketball participants compared to other men's NCAA sports participants have decreased from 32% in 1981-82 to 22% in 2022-23.
- In 1981-82 the percentage of 1A Football & Men's basketball was 11% of all NCAA athletes. In 2022-23 it was 7%.
- From 1981-82 to 2022-23, 1A Football saw a decrease from 137 teams to 130 teams. All the football D1 growth came from 1AA.
- 1A Football & D1 Basketball might get almost all the media attention, but other sports are growing faster.

Men's Rowing

Episode
33-61

- Why does MatStats elect to include Men's Rowing despite it not being an NCAA Championship Sport in many tables above in this Episode?
- Is there anything we can learn and why it might be a lesson to give us confidence on the continuing growth of NCAA Women's Wrestling?

A real Quick Collegiate Rowing History

Episode
33-62

- Rowing is the oldest intercollegiate sport in the US.
- First race was between Harvard & Yale in 1852.
- There has been an organized collegiate championship since 1871.
- In 1996-97, women's rowing became an NCAA Championship Sport.
- According to Wiki, Men's Rowing declined to join the NCAA as a Championship Sport.

From 1981-82 to 1996-97, NCAA Men & Women rowing had almost identical growth. Once women became and NCAA Championships sport & Men did not, women saw growth (+48 teams) and men saw a decrease (-33 team).

Episode
33-63

Years	Men's NCAA Rowing Teams	Women's NCAA Rowing Teams	Years	Men's NCAA Rowing Teams	Women's NCAA Rowing Teams
1981-82	48	43	1996-97	90	98
1996-97	90	98	2022-23	57	146
Delta	42	41	Delta	-33	48

Being an NCAA Championship Sport seems to have aided the growth in women's rowing.

Episode
33-64

- It sure seems that being an NCAA Championship sport is a reason that women have grown, and men have decreased.
- Men & women mimic each other in growth until Women became an NCAA Championship Sport and Men did not.
- This is potentially good news for wrestling.
- Hopefully, Men & Women's wrestling keeps growing.

Any updates on the Tribe Wrestling Family?

Congrats to Larry Connolly and Dornoch for winning the 2024 Belmont Stakes.

Episode
33-65



Larry Connolly, a proud member Of the W&M Tribe Wrestling Family, is one of the founding Members of West Paces Racing LLC.

Dornoch, the 2024 Belmont winner Is part of the West Paces Racing Stable.

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

Episode 33 Kev's Notes #1

Episode
33-66

- 1) Kenny Chesney is a dead ringer for Roger Staubach.
- 2) The NCAA has kept great records since 1981-82. (Jason Bryant keeps compiles a mine of data for wrestling).
- 3) As of 5/27/24, there are more NCAA Men's wrestling teams since 1988-89.
- 4) Men's wrestling and men's gymnastics are the only NCAA men's sports to see a decrease in the total number of teams since 1981-82.
- 5) There has been explosive growth in the number of NCAA D2 (57%) and D3 (47%) wrestling teams since 2009-10.

Episode 33 Kev's Notes #2

Episode
33-67

- 6) In 2021-22 & 2022-23 we saw the 4^t & 5th most men's wrestlers in the NCAA since 1981-82. Gorms predicts by 2024-25 we will have the most.
- 7) Men's wrestling squad sizes are larger today than at any time since 1981-82.
 - 8) This century the NCAA has seen a larger increase in men's athletes (+89K) than women's athletes (+79K)
 - 9) Since 1981-82, the NCAA had an increase of 2,639 men's teams and 132K+ male athletes.
- 10) Since 2009-10, Men's wrestling has a larger increase in teams (67) than either football (33) or men's basketball (39).

What is the topic next month (Wednesday 7/24/24 3PM EST)?

How did the 3 Points TD and the New Near Fall Rules Affect the World's Oldest & Greatest Sport.

Episode
33-68

- **Tune In Next Month**
 - **Same Mat Time**
 - **Same Mat Channel**
- **In 2023-24 Collegiate Wrestling adopted a 3-point Takedown rule and a 2,3,4-point Near Fall Rule.**
 - **This is a seismic shift in the rules.**
- **MatStats takes this opportunity to do a deep statistical dive into the new rules.**