

MatStats Episode 34

Wednesday July 24th, 2024, 3PM EDT

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same. Part 1

Episode
34-1

MatStats takes on the new rule change for Takedowns in collegiate wrestling. We do our normal statistical analysis of how the new rule has affected our sport. The gang shoots deep into the Men's NCAA D1 & D2 Championships to see what results we can find. It is such an important topic that we are doing a two-part series.

This quote is attributed to French novelist, Alphonse Karr. Fitting since the Olympics are in Paris in a few weeks.

I Feel Like A Number

Episode
33-2

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.

Episode
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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 6/24/24, there are **506** 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	130	64	194	149	1982	194	2024
NCAA	285	100	385	363*	1982	385	2023
NAIA	74	47	121			121	2024
4 Year	359	147	506			506	2024

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

#ItJustMeansMore

The National Champion is Clad in Big Orange!!

Episode
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An Estimated
50K fans flock
downtown for
The NCAA
Championship
Baseball
Parade on
Rocky Top



Rocky Top, you'll
Always be home
Sweet home to me
Good ol' Rocky Top
Rocky Top, Tennessee
Rocky Top, Tennessee

Happy Birthday Kevin Hazard!!

Episode
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- The patriarch of MatStats & Tribe Wrestling turns 75 today.
- He claims he is turning 25 for the 3rd time.
- If Kevin was AD at W&M, we would still have a team.

In 2024, College Takedowns were worth 3 points.

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- We saw the biggest scoring change in the world's oldest and greatest sport in collegiate wrestling for the 2023-24 season.
- MatStats is here to analyze data and statistics and let the viewers know our results.
 - What did we learn from our exhaustive study?

Who compiled all this data for MatStats?

Hazard & Phipps did a massive amount of data collection for this project.

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- MatStats needs to give a shout out to Kevin Hazard and Jon Phipps for doing the research and enabling Gorms to analyze it.
- They provided the data by researching (watching and collecting the scoring sheets) for all matches at the 2023 & 2024 NCAA D1 and D2 Championships.
- We all know Hazard, but many of you don't know Phippsy. He was football player at W&M and wrestled in HS. He won 2 IM Wrestling titles at W&M. He was known to have a great ball and chain. Sweez showed him that technique.

The 3 Point TD & scoring per match.

- MatStats has covered the decrease in scoring in collegiate wrestling over the years.
- What were the changes in scoring from 2023 to 2024 at the Men's D1 Championships?

What matches did the points per match and moves/categories come from?

The points per match and moves come from the Men's NCAA D1 Championships 2023 & 2024.

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- All the points per match were determined from the following data:
- 620 matches in the 2023 & 2024 Men's D1 NCAA Championships. There were not score cards at our disposal for 2 bouts per weight - the championships & consolation rattail bouts.
- We do not include the pins or defaults since there is no numerical final score.
- All the moves were then also taken from the 620 bouts that were not pins or defaults.

Was there a change in the amount of scoring at Men's NCAA D1 Championships after the 3-point TD rule?

We saw a **23.8%** increase in scoring at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships from 2023 to 2024.

Episode
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Year	Winner	Loser	Total	Margin
2023	6.73	2.51	9.24	4.22
2024	8.58	2.86	11.44	5.73
% Change	+27.5%	+13.9%	+23.8%	+35.8%

We saw an increase in scoring from 2023 to 2024.

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- **We saw a 23.8% increase in scoring at the Men's D1 NCAA Championships from 2023 to 2024.**
- **Where did this scoring come from?**

Why did we see a scoring increase per match from 2023 to 2024 in the Men's NCAA D1 Championships?

The total points per match increased by **2.20 (23.8%)** from 2023 to 2024 in the Men's D1 NCAA Championships. The increase came from TD's (**2.40** points or a **55%** increase).

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Total Points NCAA Tourney 2023 & 2024 By Move							
Year	TD	Rev	Escape	NF	Stall	Riding	Total
2023	4.36	0.54	2.64	0.91	0.22	0.58	9.24
2024	6.76	0.45	2.67	0.84	0.27	0.44	11.44
Delta	2.40	-0.09	0.03	-0.07	0.05	-0.14	2.20
% Change	+55.0%	-17.1%	+1.0%	-8.0%	+21.9%	-24.5%	+23.8%

Note: There were no available score cards for the Championship or Consolation rattails, so this has the Results for the 620 matches per year (except defaults & pins).

What is the percentage of total points in each category from 2023 to 2024 at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships?

The Percentage of TD Points to total points saw a **25.2% (47.2% to 59.1%)** increase from 2023 to 2024. TDs are more important than ever.

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Percentage of Total Points Men's NCAA Tourney 2023 & 2024 By Move							
Year	TD	Rev	Escape	NF	Stall	Riding	Total
2023	47.2%	5.9%	28.6%	9.9%	2.4%	6.3%	100.0%
2024	59.1%	3.9%	23.3%	7.3%	2.3%	3.8%	100.0%
% Change	+25.2%	-33.0%	-18.4%	-25.7%	-1.6%	-39.1%	0.0%

Takedowns & scoring moves?

Episode
34-18

- The scoring went up by 23.8%, but did the number of TDs increase a lot?
- Where there a lot more scoring moves and action?

In the NCAA Men's D1 Championships in 2023 & 2024 how many moves scoring points per match did we see?

After increasing a TD to 3 points, we only saw **3.1%** more TDs in the Men's NCAA D1 Championships from 2023 to 2024. The scoring moves only increased **0.8%**.

Episode
34-19

NCAA Men's Tourney 2023 & 2024 Moves Per Match

Year	TD	Rev	Escape	NF4	NF3	NF2	Stall & Penalty	Riding	Scoring Moves
2023	2.18	0.27	2.64	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.22	0.58	5.31
2024	2.25	0.22	2.67	0.14	0.05	0.08	0.27	0.44	5.36
Delta	0.07	-0.05	0.03	-0.04	0.05	-0.03	0.05	-0.14	0.05
% Change	+3.1%	-17.1%	1.0%	-20.8%	#DIV/0!	-31.0%	+21.8%	-24.5%	+0.8%

Note: Scoring moves do not include stalling, penalties, or riding time.

If the TD was still 2 points in 2024, how many PPM would there have been?

If the TD was still worth 2 points in 2024, it would have been close to identical of 2023.

Episode
34-20

Year	Points Per Match
2023	9.24
2024	9.19

Note - This is just a hypothetical to help viewers see the big picture. One can not say for sure how the Matches would have played out with a different score. We will explain the riding time issue later in the Show.

When lawyers & media use examples like this to prove a point without fully explaining, it makes statisticians cringe. Yes, there is a Laffer Curve.

Did the 3-point Td have any significant affect on the number of TDs and scoring moves?

The 3-point TD did NOT have any significant affect on the number of TDs or scoring moves.

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34-21

- There were 0.067 more TDs per match (not counting pins or defaults) for all the Men's NCAA D1 Championship bouts (except rattails no data on these) from 2023 to 2024.
- This mean in a random 15 matches you saw 1 more TD.
- There were 0.042 more scoring moves per match from 2023 to 2024.
- This means in a random 24 matches you saw 1 more scoring move.
- There is a great chance if you think you saw more action, your mind is playing games with you.
- Even with the increased points for a TD, we saw 11.44 pts/match in 2024 and 11.21 in 2018. There were more scoring moves in 2018 than in 2024 by a long shot.

What did we learn on points per match and weight classes?

Episode
34-22

- Is there any correlation between weight classes and increase in scoring?
- Can we determine from the data what weight class it is?

Were there any changes in the winner's points per match from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **28%** increase in the winner's points per match from 2023 (**6.73**) to 2024 (**8.58**) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-23

Winner Pts/Match Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	6.56	6.75	3%
133	7.33	8.07	10%
141	6.35	8.76	38%
149	6.61	9.52	44%
157	6.72	8.34	24%
165	7.26	9.66	33%
174	6.80	7.87	16%
184	6.62	9.63	45%
197	7.09	9.59	35%
285	5.93	7.68	30%
Mean	6.73	8.58	28%

Correlation
Between weight
and
Percent change
in winner's
points = +0.30.

Were there any changes in the loser's points per match from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **14%** increase in the loser's points per match from 2023 (**2.51**) to 2024 (**2.86**) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-24

Loser Pts/Match Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	2.63	2.03	-23%
133	2.78	2.74	-2%
141	2.35	3.33	42%
149	2.77	3.43	24%
157	2.54	2.86	13%
165	2.75	3.06	11%
174	2.68	3.05	14%
184	2.26	2.94	30%
197	2.81	2.76	-2%
285	1.48	2.40	62%
Mean	2.51	2.86	14%

Correlation
Between weight
and
Percent change
in loser's points =
+0.66.

Were there any changes in the total points per match from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **24%** increase in the total points per match from the 2023 (**9.24**) to 2024 (**11.44**) in the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-25

Total Pts/Match Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	9.19	8.78	-4%
133	10.12	10.80	7%
141	8.70	12.09	39%
149	9.39	12.95	38%
157	9.26	11.20	21%
165	10.02	12.72	27%
174	9.48	10.92	15%
184	8.89	12.57	41%
197	9.89	12.34	25%
285	7.41	10.08	36%
Mean	9.24	11.44	24%

Correlation
Between weight
and
Percent change in
Total points =
+0.45.

Were there any changes in the margin of victory per match from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **36%** increase in the margin of victory from 2023 (**4.22**) to 2024 (**5.73**) in the margin of victory at the Men's D1 NCAA Championships.

Episode
34-26

Margin of Victory Per Match Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	3.92	4.71	20%
133	4.55	5.33	17%
141	4.00	5.43	36%
149	3.84	6.09	58%
157	4.19	5.48	31%
165	4.51	6.60	46%
174	4.13	4.82	17%
184	4.36	6.69	53%
197	4.28	6.83	59%
285	4.45	5.28	19%
Mean	4.22	5.73	36%

Correlation
Between
weight and
Percent
change in
MOV = -0.03.

What is MatStats summary for the weights and the points scored?

In 2024 it was one sport with 10 weight classes and one can not determine the weight from the data.

Episode
34-27

- We learned in Episode #11 that there was a normal curve for the distribution of points (except 285) with a random distribution of the weights on the x axis.
- The increase in points in 285 in 2024 help make the whole deal a normal curve.
- The correlations between weight and increases in points is nonexistent for MOV, moderate for winner's points, and somewhat strong for losers and total points.
- In summary it is one sport with different weight classes. It is near impossible from the 2024 data on these categories to determine the weight class.
- Would anyone have guessed that in 2024, 285 scored more points per match than 125.
- This is good for the sport.

Majors, Techs, Pins, & Defaults

Episode
34-28

- Was there an increase in Majors & Techs at the 2023 & 2024 Men's NCAA D1 Wrestling Championships?
 - Was this the result of increased points for TDs?
 - How was the change in frequency of pins and defaults?
- Can we definitively say it was the result of the 3-point TD?

Were there any changes in the percentage of majors from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **23%** increase in the frequency of major decisions from 2023 (13.87%) to 2024 (17.10%) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-29

Major Decision Percentage Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	9.68%	14.52%	50%
133	19.35%	22.58%	17%
141	12.90%	11.29%	-13%
149	11.29%	20.97%	57%
157	12.90%	17.74%	25%
165	16.13%	17.74%	10%
174	14.52%	9.68%	-33%
184	14.52%	19.35%	33%
197	9.68%	17.74%	83%
285	17.74%	19.35%	9%
Mean	13.87%	17.10%	23%

Were there any changes in the percentage of techs from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **588%** (or a **6.8X** multiple) in tech falls from 2023 (**1.29%**) to 2024 (**8.87%**) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-30

Tech Falls Percentage Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	1.61%	1.61%	0%
133	0.00%	4.84%	#DIV/0!
141	0.00%	9.68%	#DIV/0!
149	0.00%	9.68%	#DIV/0!
157	3.23%	9.68%	200%
165	1.61%	11.29%	600%
174	1.61%	6.45%	300%
184	1.61%	16.13%	900%
197	1.61%	16.13%	900%
285	1.61%	3.23%	100%
Mean	1.29%	8.87%	588%

Why was there such a large decrease in the number of riding time points per match?

The Riding time points per match decreased mainly because of the drastic increase in techs.

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34-31

- Since there was a drastic increase in techs from 2023 to 2024, naturally the number of riding time points decreased.
- A riding time point is only awarded if the match goes the full 7 minutes. Very rare for a tech to go 7 minutes.
- If we control for techs (assume all techs would get a RT point), the riding time points per match are much closer (2023 - 0.59 vs 2024 - 0.54).
- Compared to the numbers we learned on slide #34-16, where we saw in 2023 there were 0.58 RT points per match and 0.44 in 2024.

Were there any changes in the percentage of pins from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a decrease of **-18%** in the frequency of pins from 2023 (**9.84%**) to 2024 (**8.06%**) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-32

Fall Percentage Men's NCAA Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	11.29%	4.84%	-57%
133	17.74%	0.00%	-100%
141	9.68%	9.68%	0%
149	8.06%	8.06%	0%
157	11.29%	9.68%	-14%
165	6.45%	14.52%	125%
174	9.68%	3.23%	-67%
184	11.29%	9.68%	-14%
197	4.84%	6.45%	33%
285	8.06%	14.52%	80%
Mean	9.84%	8.06%	-18%

Were there any changes in the percentage of defaults from the 2023 Men's D1 Championships
To the 2024 Men's D1 Championships?

We saw a **50%** decrease in the frequency of defaults from 2023 (**1.94%**) to 2024 (**0.97%**) at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.

Episode
34-33

Default Percentage Men's NCAA D1 Championships			
Weight	2023	2024	% Change
125	4.84%	0.00%	-100.00%
133	0.00%	1.61%	#DIV/0!
141	3.23%	3.23%	0.00%
149	0.00%	1.61%	#DIV/0!
157	1.61%	0.00%	-100.00%
165	1.61%	0.00%	-100.00%
174	0.00%	0.00%	#DIV/0!
184	3.23%	3.23%	0.00%
197	3.23%	0.00%	-100.00%
285	1.61%	0.00%	-100.00%
Mean	1.94%	0.97%	-50.00%

Can MatStats provide the viewers with 1 table on the type of match decisions at the 2023 & 2024 Men's NCAA Championships?

The biggest difference by far in the categories of the match is tech falls **(+588%)**.

Episode
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Category	2023	2024	% Change
Pin	61	50	-18%
Default	12	6	-50%
MD	86	103	+20%
Tech	8	55	+588%
Decision	453	406	-10%

The new TD rule has resulted in more majors and techs. No clear-cut reason for fewer pins and defaults.

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34-35

- Since we learned earlier on the show that the only significant increase from scoring was from TDs, it is safe to say the increase in the frequency in majors and techs are from the new 3-point TD rule.
- The decrease in pins is tougher to pinpoint. It could be from the massive increase in techs. It is clearly easier to get a TD than a pin.
- We can not determine from this study if more people wanted to go “Take ‘em down, let ‘em up”. Since you now need less TDs to get to your goal.
- The default rates are so low, we can not draw any conclusions. As a fan, I am happy the number of defaults went down.
- It is difficult to draw firm conclusions and trends from a two-year comparison.

Comparing 1988-92 & 2017-22 to 2023 & 2024

Episode
34-36

- We learned in previous shows that the scoring was going down in the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.
- Can MatStats explain to the viewers how the 3-point TD might have heled reverse the lower scoring trends?

Can we see average scoring per match for all 10 years?

The average scoring through the years and the mean for the ten years. From Ep. # 11

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Year	W	L	Total	Pin	Margin
1988	8.95	3.45	12.40	10.26%	5.50
1989	8.28	3.47	11.75	10.53%	4.81
1990	8.16	3.57	11.70	8.95%	4.59
1991	8.55	3.44	12.00	10.30%	5.11
1992	8.30	3.66	11.96	10.71%	4.64
2017	8.18	2.88	11.05	10.94%	5.30
2018	8.13	3.08	11.21	10.94%	5.05
2019	8.08	2.97	11.05	9.84%	5.11
2021	7.74	2.77	10.51	9.38%	4.97
2022	7.24	2.85	10.09	9.22%	4.39
2023	6.73	2.51	9.24	9.84%	4.22
Mean 1988-92 & 2017-22	8.16	3.21	11.37	10.11%	4.95

What was our main takeaway from an old MatStats show we did on scoring in July 2022?

We learned in Episode #11, “If winning isn’t important why do they keep score? -Vince Lombardi” from 7/20/22 that scoring has decreased through the years.

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Year(s) Men’s NCAA D1 Championships	Mean Points/match	MOV
1988-92	11.96	4.93
2017-22	10.78	4.96
2023	9.24	4.22
2024	11.44	5.73

Have the types of victories changed over the years?

In 2024 we saw a huge increase in tech falls in 2024. In 2023 we saw a much lower number of majors than in other years.

Episode
34-39

Category	1988-92	2017-22	2023	2024
Reg Dec	67.37%	67.64%	73.06%	65.00%
Major	17.07%	17.32%	13.88%	17.10%
Tech	3.77%	3.97%	1.29%	8.87%
Pin	10.00%	9.72%	9.84%	8.06%
Default	1.78%	1.34%	1.94%	0.97%
Sum	100%	100%	100%	100%

Scoring by Round

Episode
34-40

- What did we learn from the scoring changes round by round at the 2023- & 2024-Men's NCAA D1 Championships?

Was there more of an increase in scoring in the championships or consolation bracket?

We saw an almost identical increase in scoring in the Championships & Consolation Rounds. The round in the Championship bracket seems to be random.

Episode
34-41

Round	2023 Points Per Match	2024 Points Per Match	Percent Change
CH 1 st Round	9.90	11.95	20.7%
CH 2 nd Round	8.78	11.51	31.1%
CH Quarters	8.85	10.35	16.9%
CH Semis	9.70	11.05	13.9%
CH Finals	7.60	11.10	46.1%
Championships	9.39	11.57	23.2%
Consolations	9.11	11.33	24.4%
Total	9.25	11.44	23.7%

What was the mean MOV for 2023 & 2024?

In 2024 we had a mean MOV of **5.73** points per match, a **35.8%** increase over 2023. The small number of semi bouts is most likely the reason for the anomaly here.

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Round	2023 MOV	2024 MOV	Percent change
CH 1 st Round	4.74	6.42	35.4%
CH 2 nd Round	4.47	6.16	37.8%
CH Quarters	3.68	5.02	36.4%
CH Semis	5.30	5.35	0.9%
CH Finals	3.40	4.90	44.1%
Championships	4.52	6.03	33.4%
Consolations	3.91	5.43	38.9%
Total	4.22	5.73	35.8%

We saw an increase in points, but at what price?

Higher scoring has resulted in a much larger MOV. This can be a double-edged sword.

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34-43

- We saw a 23.7% scoring increase from 2023 to 2024.
- We also saw a 35.8% increase in MOV.
- The MOV in 2024 was 5.73 points per match.
- The increased scoring might make the fans happy but will the more lopsided scores cause fans to lose interest?
- If so, we do have 7 other mats to watch in many rounds. But in dual meets, there is only 1 mat.

Are there any logistical reason the scoring per match might have been higher in 1988-92?

Some of the higher scoring in 1988-92 was due to not having the full consolation rounds we see today.

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- We have learned in past shows that in 1988-92 the Championships rounds were about 1.5 points per match above the Consolation rounds.
- Not having the modified double elimination in 1988-92 is partially responsible for the higher average scoring in 1988-92.
- In 1996 we introduced the current modified double elimination.
- In 2023 and 2024 the championships rounds were only 0.28 (2023) and 0.13 (2024) points more per bout than the consolation rounds.

Will the fans enjoy the higher scoring per match?

The 3-point TD might be an answer for the decrease in scoring, it will take time to see the long-term results.

Episode
34-45

- We discussed in episodes #11 & #12 that there was a decrease in scoring from 1988-92 to 2017-22 and saw a decrease in the 5-year period from 2017-22 (There was no 2020 NCAA Men's D1 Championships).
- On Rocky Top (we have become Home Run U), there is an expression, "chicks dig the long ball".
- Does anyone not love the HR friendly confines of Wrigley Field? Gorms & Larmore have spent some great times in the bleachers there.
- Perhaps more scoring in wrestling will help bring in more fans.
- Winning and HRs has certainly brought in many more fans on Rocky Top.

Collegiate Basketball 3-point shot & shot clock.

Episode
34-46

- Hazard & Gorms are old enough to remember collegiate basketball before the 3-point shot and shot clock.
- How has the 3-point rule & shot clock changed collegiate basketball's scoring?

NCAA Basketball did not always have a 3-point line and a shot clock.

Episode
34-47

- Following the 1981-82 season, Men's D1 Basketball started different 3-point lines in different conferences. The length was based on the conference rules.
- Starting in 1986, the 3-point FG was standardized.
- In 1985 the shot clock came to college basketball. It started at 45 seconds it is now at 30 seconds.
- For this study we used a 2 ten-year increments. From 1972-73 to 1981-82 (the last 10 years before any shot clocks) and from 2014-15 to 2023-24 (the most recent 10-year period).
- As we learned in Episode #33 (6/19/24), "*The Boys of Winter*", the number of Men's NCAA D1 Basketball teams increased from 273 in 1981-82 to 352 in 2022-23 (+29%).

How has the implementation of the 3 Point FG changed the scoring in NCAA Men's D1 Basketball?

The 3-point FG has not significantly changed the total scoring in NCAA Men's Basketball! It is actually down **-2.2%**.

Episode
34-48

NCAA Men's D1 Basketball			
Year	PPG	Year	PPG
1981-82	67.6	23-24	73.5
80-81	70.1	23-24	71.7
79-80	72.0	22-23	71.0
78-79	74.0	20-21	71.7
77-78	74.5	19-20	71.2
76-77	74.9	18-19	72.7
75-76	75.7	17-18	73.8
74-75	76.6	16-17	73.4
73-74	74.8	15-16	73.0
72-73	75.5	14-15	67.6
Mean	73.57	Mean	71.96
Before & After Percent Change			-2.2%

How has the 3-point FG affected scoring plays in NCAA Men's D1 Basketball?

The scoring plays in NCAA Men's D1 basketball has decreased by **-10.3%** since the 3-point FG became implemented.

Episode
34-49

NCAA Men's D1 Basketball			
Year	FG + FT	Year	FG + FT
81-82	41.0	23-24	39.9
80-81	42.3	23-24	38.7
79-80	43.5	22-23	38.0
78-79	44.4	20-21	38.6
77-78	44.4	19-20	38.6
76-77	44.6	18-19	39.2
75-76	44.8	17-18	40.0
74-75	44.9	16-17	40.2
73-74	42.9	15-16	40.4
72-73	43.2	14-15	37.6
Mean	43.60		39.12
Before and After Percent Change			-10.30%

How has the 3-point shot changed the percentage of total scoring in each category?

Total scoring from 2-point FG went from **81% to 50%**. 3-point scoring went from **0% to 31%**.

Episode
34-50

NCAA D1 Basketball Percentage of Points		
Category	1972-73	2014-15
FT	19%	19%
2 Pt FG	81%	50%
3 Pt FG	0%	31%
Total Pts Per Game Per Team	73.57	71.96

Did the 3-point shot and shot clock improve college basketball.

College Basketball has changed drastically since the advent of the 3-point shot (and shot clock), but the scoring has stayed the same.

Episode
34-51

- Yes, the game of college basketball has changed drastically, but scoring has remained the same.
- Is the game better, worse, or the same for the fans and teams?
- Who knows. Not many people as old as Hazard and Gorms that remember the game pre-1982. And our memories play tricks on us.
- Since the 1st weekend of March Madness is almost always the NCAA Men's D1 wrestling championships, most of us don't see that weekend of March Madness.
- The game has evolved to what we see now.
- Can you imagine a basketball game without the 3-point line and shot clock?
- MatStats is not here to analyze college basketball, it is used as an example of what happens after major rule changes.

The World is turning & rules are changing.

Episode
34-52

- The new 3-point TD rule doesn't mean the world is ending and it doesn't mean the world is saved.
- We have seen major rule changes in sports to help the sport.
- It sounds good that wrestling is trying to improve the sport.

Major Sports Rule Changes

Episode
34-53

- MLB DH (1973).
- MLB Interleague play (1997).
- MLB lowers the mound (1969).
- NFL allows forward pass (1906). Even Hazard doesn't remember that change.
- Instant Replay. Gorms still against it.
- PED testing.
- Targeting rule. Gorms loves the rule.
- Tuck rule. Does anyone understand it? Its like soccer's offsides rule.
- College football adopting a playoff 1998. **Vols were the first champions!!**

Wrestling Rule Change & what it means.

Episode
34-54

- What can *MatStats* say about the new rule change and what does it mean long term?

The new rule is too new to draw any conclusive conclusions.

Episode
34-55

- Our analysis shows there are more points per match, a higher MOV, the same number of TDs and scoring moves.
- A statistical analysis over a two-year period of the change in scoring after a major rule change is not sufficient to say wrestling is better, worse, or the same.
- The stats do not prove one way or the other.
- The world changes, wrestling is part of the world.
- MatStats supports the effort to implement a major rule change.

The Moneyball of wrestling!!

Episode
34-56

- Billy Joel list many major world events in his famous song, "*We Didn't Start the Fire.*" Joel does a better job than MatStats could possibly do.
- We saw a major changes in basically every sport over the years.
- Wrestling will evolve with the rule change.
- MatStats is here to help wrestlers, coaches, and fans adapt to the new rules by using stats and analyzing them.
- MatStats is the Moneyball of wrestling!! MatStats didn't light the fire and we are not trying to fight the rule change.

Does MatStats have any additional data and analysis on the rule change?

MatStats will dive into the men's NCAA D2 Championships and the change in MOV in part 2.

Episode
34-57

- Hazard was the MatStats beast of burden on the work done for the Men's NCAA D2's. We have a lot of data and analysis as a result.
- Hazard was the OW (Outstanding Worker).
- MatStats will also dive back into the Margin of Victory effects the new TD rule had.

Episode 34 Kev's Notes #1

Episode
34-58

- 1) There was a major change in Men's Collegiate wrestling in 2024, Takedowns (TDs) are now worth 3 points. How has this effected scoring?
- 2) We saw an increase in points per match of almost 24% from 2023 to 2024 in the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.
- 3) Most of these scoring increases came from TDs. We saw an increase of 55% of TD points per match and now TDs are 59% of scoring. Coaches note: TDs are now more important than ever.
- 4) While TD points increased 55%, the number of TDs only increased 3%, and the number of scoring moves only increased 0.8%.
- 5) There was not a lot of difference in the number of points per match when looked at through different weight classes.

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

Episode 34 Kev's Notes #2

Episode
34-59

- 6) Worth considering - The Margin of Victory (MOV) went up 36% or about 1.5 points per match.
- 7) Interestingly, 285 averaged more points per match than 125 at the 2024 Men's NCAA D1 Championships. Anomaly and/or good for the sport?
 - 8) Major decisions increased 23% and tech falls almost 600%.
- 9) The rule changes have reversed the decrease in points per match we have witnessed in the last 10 years.
- 10) It's going to be interesting watching the change over the next couple of years. We will see if the sport changes much like NCAA Men's Basketball has but the number of scoring moves remain the same.

How can I get a hold of MatStats with questions, requests, and observations?

MatStats encourages our viewers to contact us with questions, topic requests, and observations.

Episode
34-60

- Contact MatStats at NWCAMatStats@gmail.com or on Twitter @NWCAMatStats
- Moneyball changed Baseball. MatStats is here to help wrestling.
- MatStats believes there is a lot wrestlers, coaches, fans, and family can learn from our exhaustive research on the sport.
- If you are at the NWCA Convention, feel free to visit MatStats at booth #29. Gorms & Hazard will be there. Jason not able to make the convention due to the Olympics.

What is MatStats doing at the 2024 NWCA Convention?

MatStats has a live “Game Day” type show at the 2024 NWCA Convention.

Episode
34-61

- The MatStats “August” show will be live at the 2024 NWCA Convention on Thursday July 25th from 8:45-9:15 PM EDT.
- The voice of our sport, Jason Bryant will be at the Olympics in August, so our August show is in July.
- The show will be a preview of the Olympics and some predictions from Gorms & Hazard. Jason can not make predictions since he is the announcer.

What is the topic next month (Wednesday 9/18/24 3PM EST)?

How did the 3 Points TD and the New Near Fall Rules Affect the World's Oldest & Greatest Sport. Part 2.

Episode
34-62

- **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.**