

# MatStats Episode 37

Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024,  
3PM EDT

The More Things Change,  
The More They Stay The Same.  
Part 3 of 3.

Episode  
37-1

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 three-part series.

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

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

Episode  
37-2



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

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

One hot summer Gorms worked at the plant.

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

# In This Episode

Episode  
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## Episode 37 10/16/24 The More Things Change, The More they stay the same part 3

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

Episode  
37-4

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

## I Feel Like A Number

Episode  
37-5

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  
37-6

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

.....

867-5309

Mat-Stats

Mat-Stats

Danny's Glass in Yorktown, VA

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

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

Episode  
37-7

- 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  
37-8

- 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.**

Episode  
37-9

- 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 10/13/24, there are **514** men & women's wrestling teams in the NCAA & NAIA.

Episode  
37-10

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	132	69	201	149	1982	201	2024
NCAA	287	105	392	363*	1982	392	2024
NAIA	74	48	122			122	2024
4 Year	361	153	514			514	2024

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

# As of 10/13/24, the last time the NCAA had more Men's Wrestling teams was 1988.

Episode  
37-11

- As of 10/13/24 there are 287 announced men's NCAA Wrestling teams.
- The last time there were more Men's NCAA Wrestling teams was 1988.
- To put this in perspective if you wrestled at an NCAA college in 1988 you were born in 1970 or later.
- If you are 54 or younger you never wrestled in college at a time when there were more NCAA Men's teams than there are today.
  - So today is the glory days for you.

# The new 3-point TD rule.

Episode  
37-12

- Gorms, the topic of this episode is on the new TD rule.
  - On 4/19/23, the NCAA released a statement saying, “Wrestling Rules Committee members think increasing the scoring for a takedown by an additional point will enhance the sport by rewarding offensive actions and risk taking.”
- Could you give the viewers a quick recap of part 1 & 2 of this topic.
  - Then give us a quick preview on part 3.

# Review of Part 1 & 2 on the new TD rule.

From 2023 to 2024 -

- TD points per match went about 50% in D1 & D2, but the number of TDs remained relatively constant.
- The percentage of all points from TDs went up over 20%, they are now more than half of all scoring.
- Pins and Exposures went way down.
- Techs went way up in D1 but remained close in D2.
- The number of scoring moves per match remained relatively constant in D1 & D2.

Can MatStats give the viewers a quick preview on part 3?

# Preview of part 3 on New TD rule.

Episode  
37-14

MatStats will explore in part 3 -

- The change in Margin of Victory at the NCAA Men's D1 & D2 from 2023 to 2024 after the 3-point TD rule.
- Points per minute.
- The scoring moves per minute. Only MatStats would dive into this.
- A review on how the new rule affected the world's oldest and greatest spot.

# Margin of Victory (MOV)

Episode  
37-15

- MatStats has spent a lot of time in previous episodes on the MOV.
- We would be remiss if we did not dive back into this topic after the TD point rule change.
  - Gorms what did we learn?

# Can MatStats show the viewers a table of the MOV for the Men's 2023 D1 Championships?

## MOV table 2023 NCAA Men's D1 Championships

Episode  
37-16

2023 NCAA D1 Men's Championships			
Margin of Victory	# of matches	% of all matches	Cumulative frequency
0	3	0.48%	0.48%
1	96	15.48%	15.97%
2	120	19.35%	35.32%
3	74	11.94%	47.26%
4	53	8.55%	55.81%
5	54	8.71%	64.52%
6	36	5.81%	70.32%
7	17	2.74%	73.06%
8	26	4.19%	77.26%
9	23	3.71%	80.97%
10	17	2.74%	83.71%
11	6	0.97%	84.68%
12	11	1.77%	86.45%
13	3	0.48%	86.94%
14	0	0.00%	86.94%
15	7	1.13%	88.06%
16	0	0.00%	88.06%
17	1	0.16%	88.23%
18	0	0.00%	88.23%
19	0	0.00%	88.23%
20	0	0.00%	88.23%
21	0	0.00%	88.23%
Pin	61	9.84%	98.06%
Default	12	1.94%	100.00%
Total	620	100.00%	100.00%

Note- There are 620 matches in this chart and not the full 640, because there were no scorecards for the 2 rattail matches at D1 in 2023 & 2024 that we could analyze.



# MOV table 2024 NCAA Men's D1 Championships

2024 NCAA Men's D1 Championships			
Margin of Victory	# of matches	% of all matches	Cumulative frequency
0	3	0.48%	0.48%
1	73	11.77%	12.26%
2	78	12.58%	24.84%
3	89	14.35%	39.19%
4	45	7.26%	46.45%
5	49	7.90%	54.35%
6	37	5.97%	60.32%
7	29	4.68%	65.00%
8	30	4.84%	69.84%
9	27	4.35%	74.19%
10	21	3.39%	77.58%
11	18	2.90%	80.48%
12	4	0.65%	81.13%
13	3	0.48%	81.61%
14	3	0.48%	82.10%
15	32	5.16%	87.26%
16	19	3.06%	90.32%
17	3	0.48%	90.81%
18	0	0.00%	90.81%
19	1	0.16%	90.97%
20	0	0.00%	90.97%
21	0	0.00%	90.97%
Pin	50	8.06%	99.03%
Default	6	0.97%	100.00%
Total	620	100.00%	100.00%

Can MatStats show the viewers a table of the MOV for the Men's 2023 D2 Championships?

# MOV table 2023 NCAA Men's D2 Championships

Episode  
37-18

2023 NCAA Men's D2 Championships			
Margin of Victory	# of matches	% of all matches	Cumulative frequency
0	1	0.29%	0.29%
1	49	14.41%	14.71%
2	54	15.88%	30.59%
3	31	9.12%	39.71%
4	30	8.82%	48.53%
5	23	6.76%	55.29%
6	21	6.18%	61.47%
7	11	3.24%	64.71%
8	10	2.94%	67.65%
9	12	3.53%	71.18%
10	4	1.18%	72.35%
11	8	2.35%	74.71%
12	4	1.18%	75.88%
13	3	0.88%	76.76%
14	1	0.29%	77.06%
15	6	1.76%	78.82%
16	6	1.76%	80.59%
17	1	0.29%	80.88%
18	2	0.59%	81.47%
19	0	0.00%	81.47%
20	0	0.00%	81.47%
21	0	0.00%	81.47%
Pin	54	15.88%	97.35%
Default	9	2.65%	100.00%
Total	340	100.00%	100.00%

Can MatStats show the viewers a table of the MOV for the Men's 2024 D2 Championships?

# MOV table 2024 NCAA Men's D2 Championships

Episode  
37-19

2024 NCAA Men's D2 Championships			
Margin of Victory	# of matches	% of all matches	Cumulative frequency
0	3	0.88%	0.88%
1	21	6.18%	7.06%
2	48	14.12%	21.18%
3	49	14.41%	35.59%
4	26	7.65%	43.24%
5	27	7.94%	51.18%
6	24	7.06%	58.24%
7	18	5.29%	63.53%
8	16	4.71%	68.24%
9	14	4.12%	72.35%
10	16	4.71%	77.06%
11	6	1.76%	78.82%
12	7	2.06%	80.88%
13	3	0.88%	81.76%
14	3	0.88%	82.65%
15	11	3.24%	85.88%
16	2	0.59%	86.47%
17	3	0.88%	87.35%
18	0	0.00%	87.35%
19	0	0.00%	87.35%
20	1	0.29%	87.65%
21	0	0.00%	87.65%
Pin	37	10.88%	98.53%
Default	5	1.47%	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

With the TD now being worth 3-points are the same number of matches in a one possession margin?

# The one possession argument does not work as well in wrestling.

Episode  
37-20

- We hear on TV constantly about a one possession game.
- What works in Football and Basketball neatly does not work this way does in wrestling.
- Of course, if you are down by 0-8 points in FB it is technically a one possession difference maker. But getting a TD and a 2-point conversion is harder than kicking a FG.
- Same with Basketball, a 3-point shot is harder than a 2-point shot.
- In wrestling there are no possessions. There is no ball.
- No telling what position you will be in on the mat with 30 seconds to go.

What if the wrestlers are on their feet in the last 30 seconds?

The new TD rule resulted in fewer close matches at both the NCAA D1 & D2 Men's Championships but could create more buzzer beater TDs.

Episode  
37-21

If you compare the cumulative frequency of 2023 (2-point MOV) & 2024 (3-point MOV) in Men's NCAA D1 & D2 -

- D1 there are 11% (24) more matches with a 3-point MOV in 2024 (243) than a 2-point MOV in 2023 (219).
- For D2 it is 16% (14) - 2024 (118) 2023 (104)
- That is a significant difference. About 12% more matches within a TD over the D1 & D2 tourneys.
- In layman's terms there are fewer close matches after the new TD rule, but more matches within a TD difference.
- There could be more possibility of a buzzer beater TD in 2024 after the new TD rule.

# A Picture is worth a thousand numbers

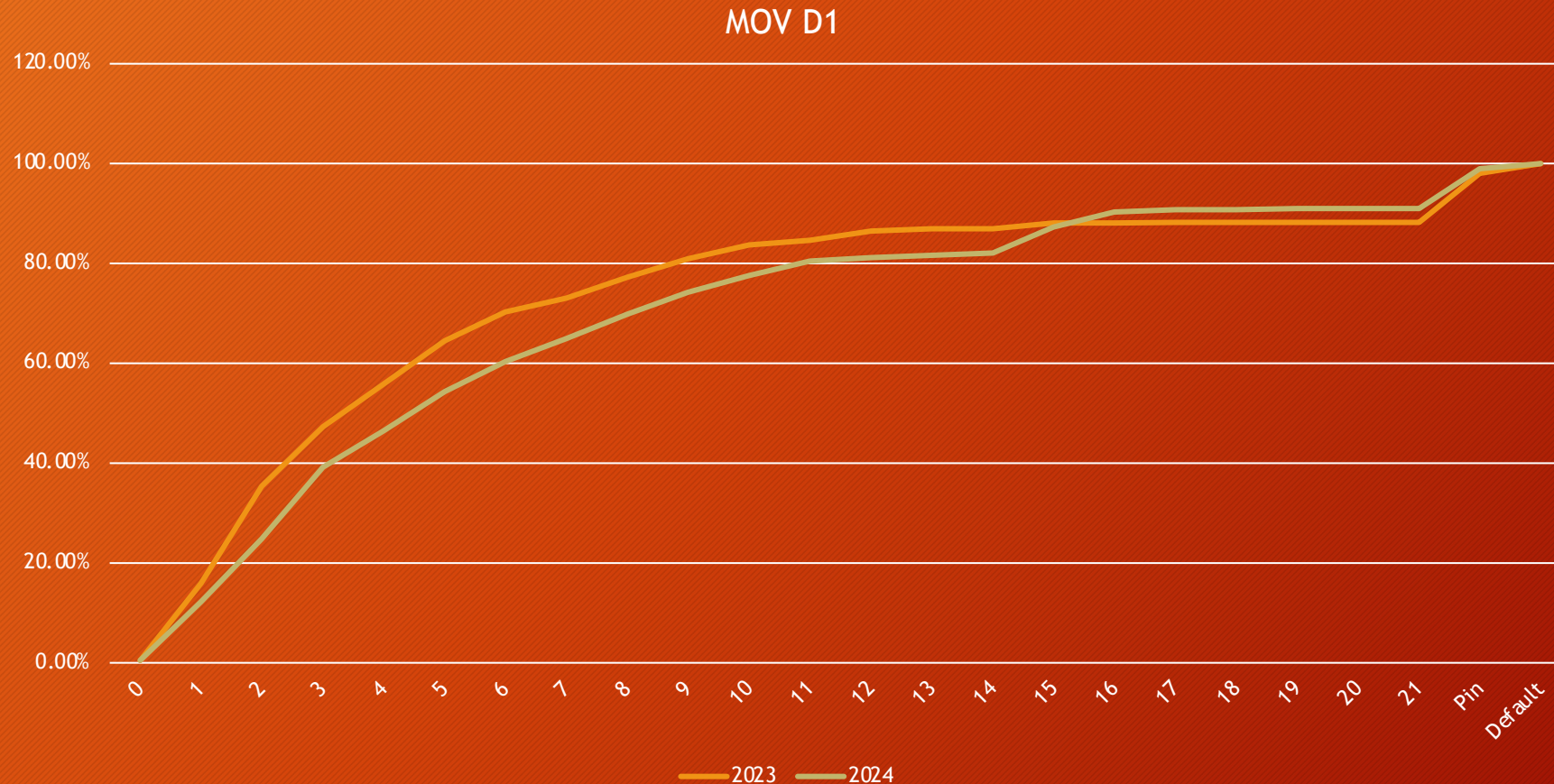
Episode  
37-22

- Gorms, most people are not numbers guys like you.
  - Talk our language.
- Show us some charts and explain them.

# Can MatStats show the viewers a chart of the MOV for D1 in 2023 & 2024?

In D1, there are more close matches in 2023 and more pins. In 2024 there are significantly more techs.

Episode  
37-23

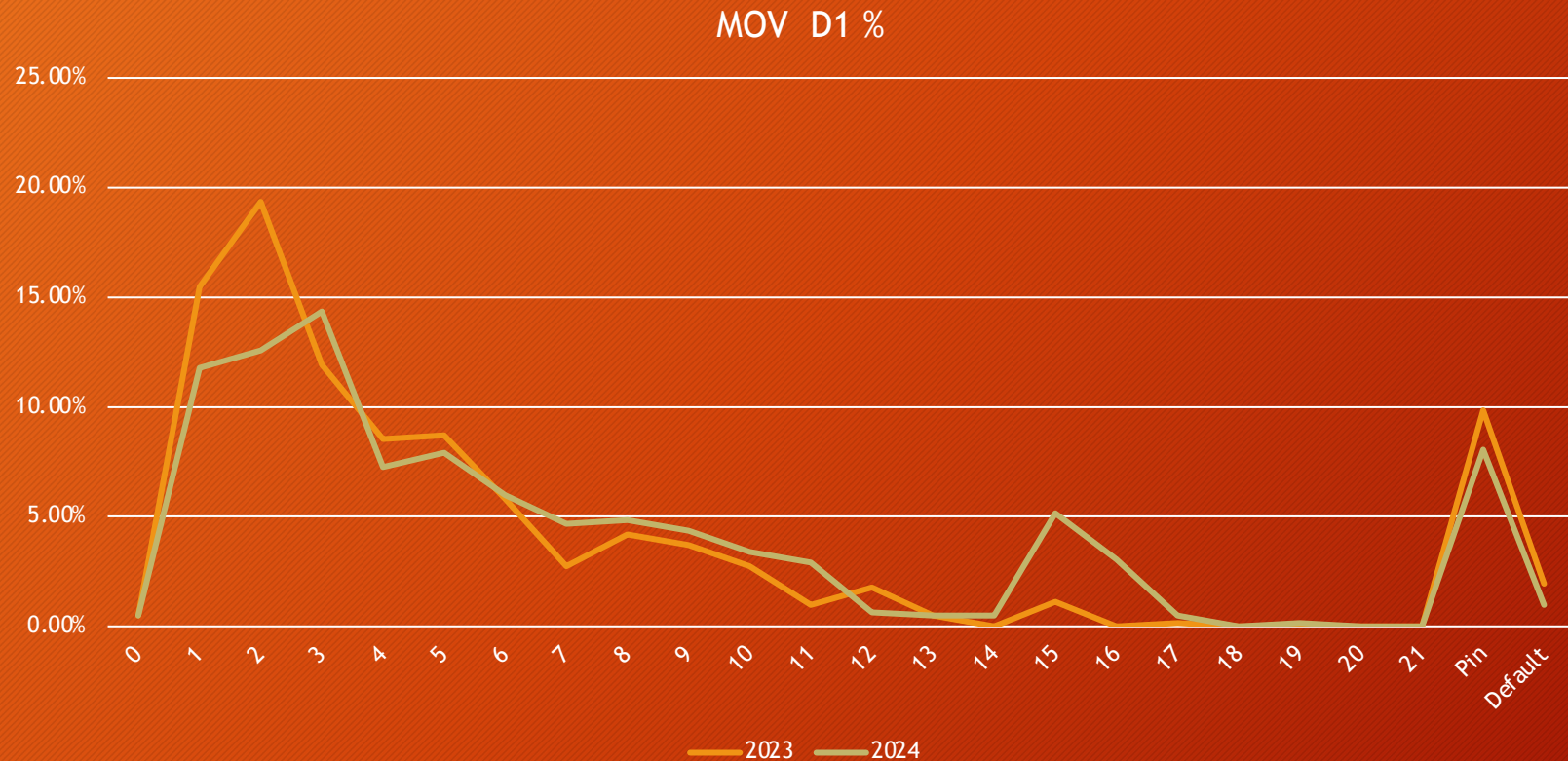


X-Axis - MOV  
Y-Axis -  
Cumulative  
Frequency

It might be easier for the viewers if you showed us an individual percentage chart

With a chart of individual percentage of MOV it is easier to see in 2023 there were more close matches & pins in 2023 and in 2024 many more techs at D1s.

Episode  
37-24



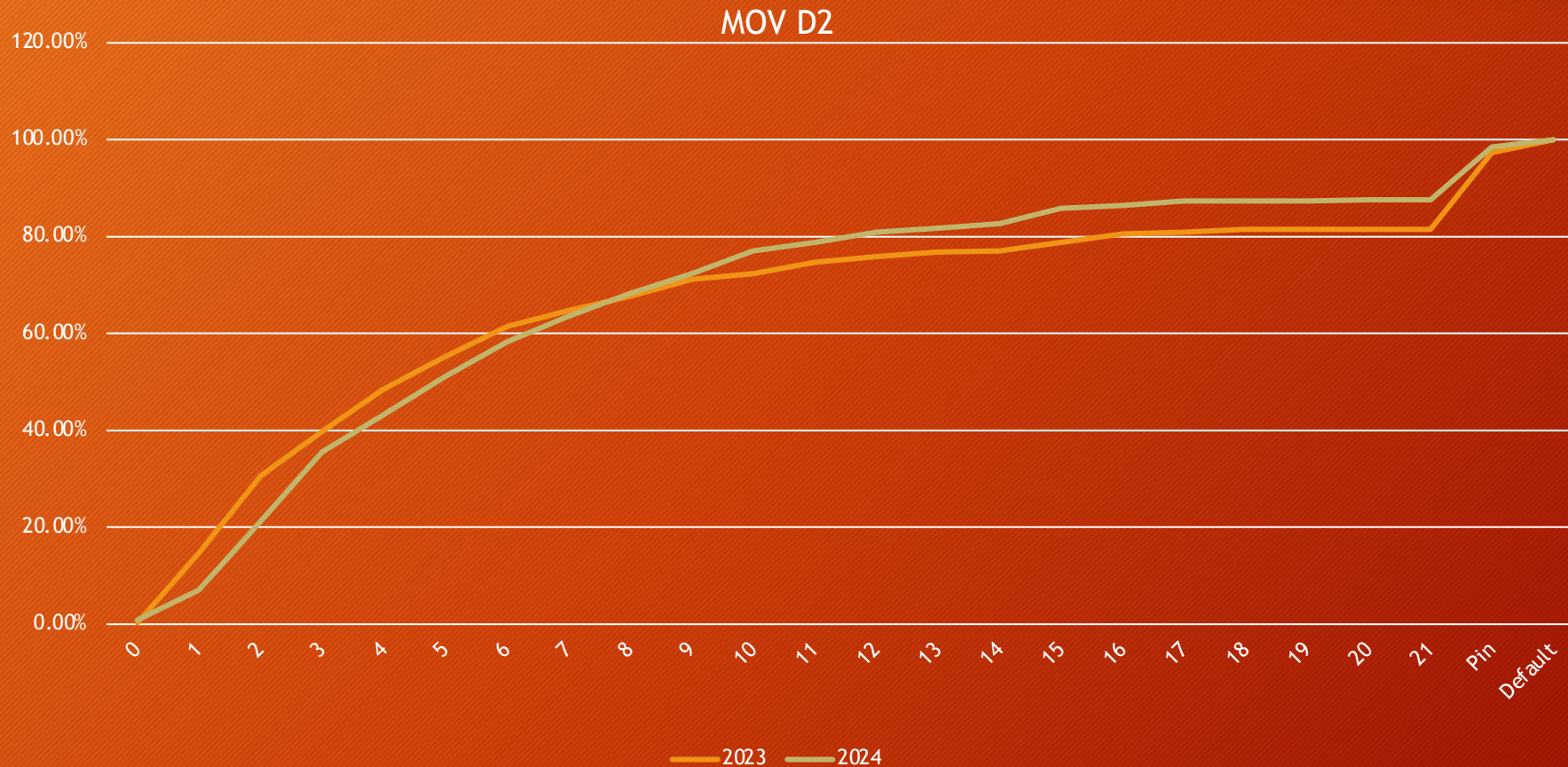
X-Axis - MOV  
Y- Axis -  
Individual  
Percentage



Can MatStats show the viewers a chart for the MOV in D2 from 2023 & 2024?

D2 is closer in MOV in 2023 & 2024 than D1 but has the same with more close matches and more pins in 2023.

Episode  
37-25

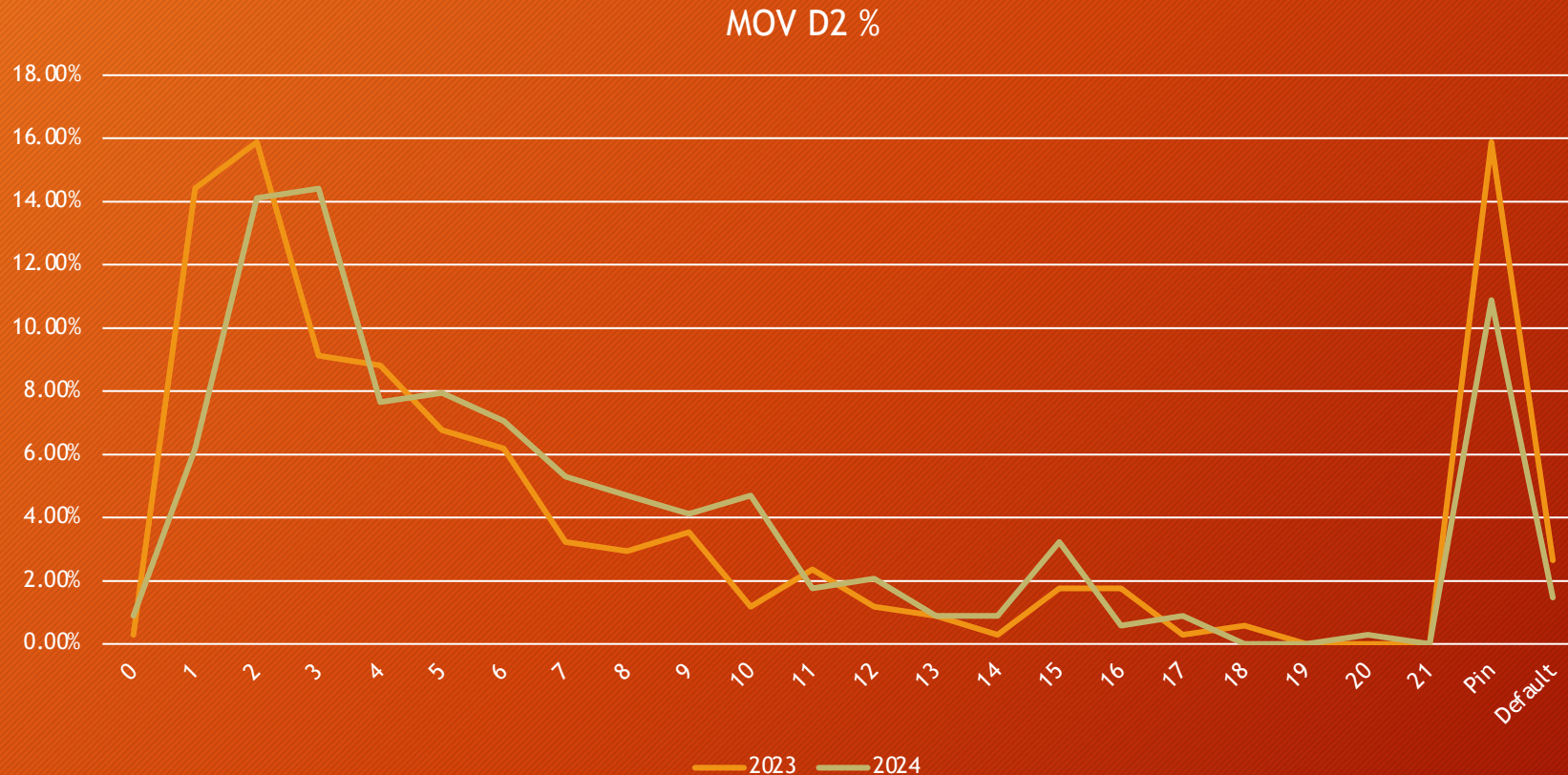


X-Axis - MOV  
Y-Axis -  
Cumulative  
Frequency

# Can the viewers have an individual percentage chart for D2s also?

D2 follows D1 with more close matches and pins in 2023 and more techs (but not as big of a jump as D1) in 2024.

Episode  
37-26

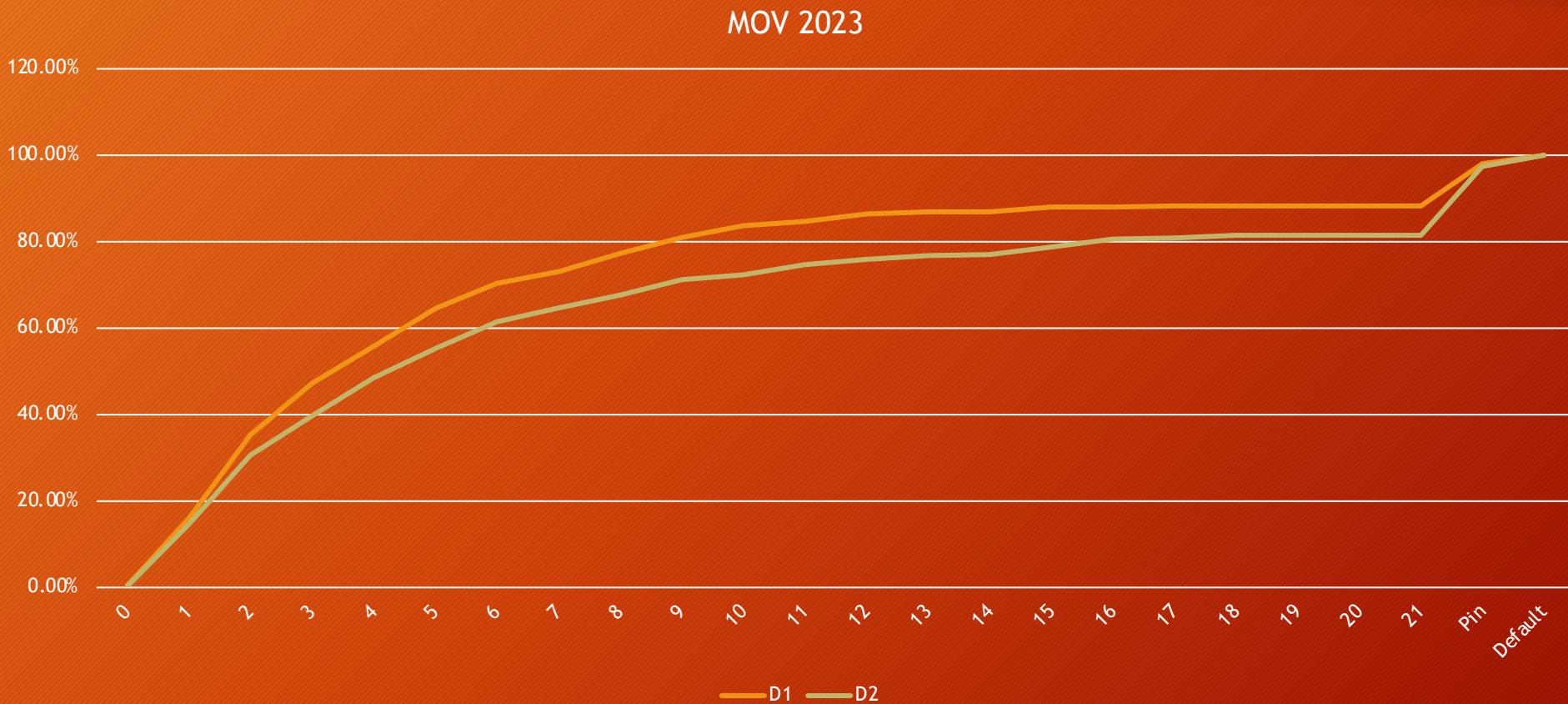


X-Axis - MOV  
Y- Axis -  
Individual  
Percentage

Can MatStats show the viewers a chart for MOV in 2023 for D1 & D2?

**D1 has more close matches in 2023 than D2, but D2 has more pins.**

Episode  
37-27

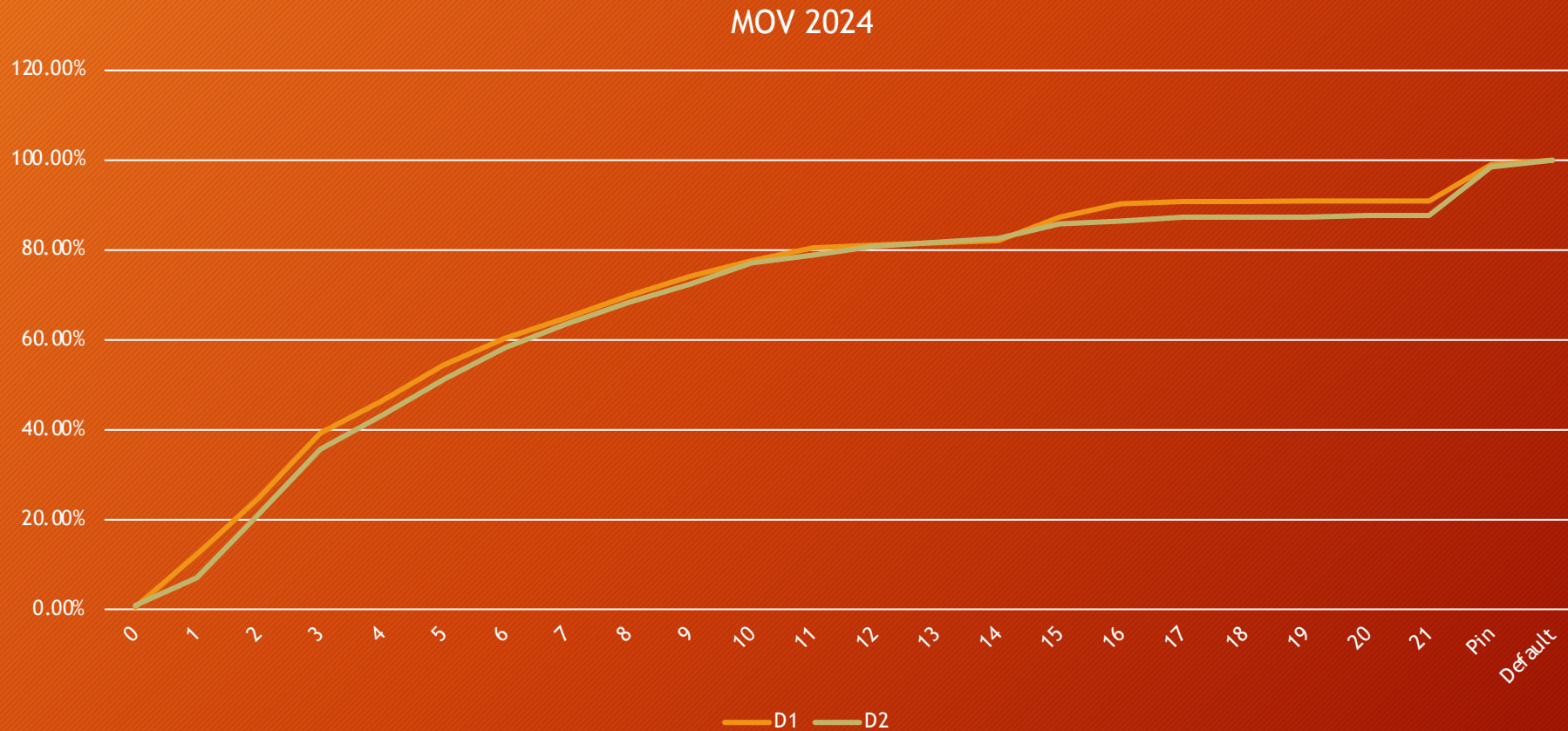


X-Axis - MOV  
Y-Axis -  
Cumulative  
Frequency

Can MatStats show the viewers a chart of MOV for 2024 in D1 & D2?

After the new TD rule, the MOV in 2024 basically mirror each other in D1 & D2.

Episode  
37-28



# Fewer close matches & fewer pins in 2024.

Episode  
37-29

- So, what we have learned is there were more close matches and more pins in 2023 than there were in 2024.
  - This could be contrary to logic.
- We already learned in D1 there were significantly more techs in 2024.
- Do we want to move away from close matches and pins? Does this pattern help our fan base? Or would possibly hurt our attendances?

## Points Per Minute & scoring moves per minute

- Gorms, Hazard spent a lot of time collection data on the length of all matches to determine the points per minute & scoring moves per minute.
- Let's see your analysis on this.

# MatStats Methodology for this episode.

- Part 2 of this topic deals with the Men's NCAA D2 Championships in 2023 & 2024.
- There are 340 matches each year. 34/weight.
- Kevin did massive research on the D2s. MatStats has the scoring for each match.
- This includes all scoring even in matches that end in a pin.
- By definition a pin ends before the 7 minutes (unless it is in OT).
- This will bring the arithmetic mean of total point, scoring moves, etc. per match down.
- The NCAA D1 does not include pins on the points per match nor scoring moves.
- MatStats then analyzed all the data Kevin & Phipps compiled to help educate the wrestling fans.

What was the increase in points per minute at the NCAA Men's D1 Championships from 2023 to 2024?

The Men's NCAA D1 Championships saw an increase from 2023 to 2024 of **+27.42%** in points per minute.

Episode  
37-32

Year	Points Per Minute
2023 D1	1.3293
2024 D2	1.6938
Delta	+0.3645
% Delta	<b>+27.42%</b>

Note: In the Men's NCAA D1s, MatStats is controlling for pins. For laypeople/attorneys that means pins are not included for Pts per minute or scoring moves per minute.



Was there any change in the number of scoring moves per minute from 2023 to 2024 at the Men's NCAA D1s?

There was statistically **NO change** in the number of scoring moves per minute at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships from 2023 to 2024.

Episode  
37-33

Year	Scoring Moves Per Minute
2023 D1	0.7648
2024 D2	0.7683
Delta	+0.0035
% Delta	+0.46%

# The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Episode  
37-34

- We naturally saw more points per minute at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships from 2023 to 2024 because the TD is now worth 3-points.
- We also saw there was no significant change statistically in the number of scoring moves per minute from 2023 to 2024 at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.
- We can safely say as of 2024, the new TD rule had no affect on the number of scoring moves per minute at the Men's NCAA D1 Championships.
- It will be interesting to see how coaches and wrestlers adapt to the new rule in the upcoming years.

# Men's NCAA D2 Championships

Episode  
37-35

- MatStats did even more research on the Men's D2 Championships in 2023 & 2024.
  - What did we learn from this?

## What was the total increase in number of points at the men's NCAA D2 championships from 2023 to 2024?

There were **+619** more points at the 2024 NCAA D2 Championships than there were at the 2023 NCAA D2 Championships. However, that is only **1.71** more points per match.

Episode  
37-36

Year	Total Points	Points Per Match
2023 D2	3317	10.06
2024 D2	3936	11.77
Delta	<b>+619</b>	<b>+1.71</b>
% Delta	<b>+18.66%</b>	<b>+17.00%</b>

Note: the % change is not identical due to the different number of defaults.

Was there any change in the total number of scoring moves from 2023 to 2024 at the NCAA D2 Championships.

No real change in the total number **(+4)** of scoring moves at D2s from 2023 to 2024.

Episode  
37-37

Year	Scoring Moves	Pins	Scoring Moves+Pins	Matches
2023 D2	1794	54	1848	331
2024 D2	1798	37	1835	335
Delta	<b>+4</b>	-17	-13	-4
% Delta	+0.22%	-31.48%	-0.70%	+1.12%

Was there any change in the length of a wrestling match at the NCAA Men's D2 from 2023 to 2024?

The average match is **+13** seconds longer at the 2024 NCAA D2s over the 2023 D2s.

Episode  
37-38

Year	Total Minutes	Average Match Length
2023 D2	2118.90	6:24
2024 D2	2217.25	6:37
Delta	+98.35	<b>+0:13</b>
% Delta	+4.64%	+3.42%

That is almost 37 Hours of wrestling. What a great way To spend a weekend.

What was the change in points per minute at the Men's NCAA D2s from 2023 to 2024?

There was **+13.4%** more points per minute at the NCAA D2 Men's 2024 than in 2023.

Episode  
37-39

Year	Points Per Minute
2023 D2	1.5654
2024 D2	1.7752
Delta	0.2098
% Delta	<b>+13.40%</b>

Was there any change in the number of scoring moves per minute at NCAA Men's D2s from 2023 to 2024?

The scoring moves per minute (-4.23%) and the scoring moves + pins per minute (-5.11%) both decreased in 2024 at the Men's NCAA D2 Championships.

Episode  
37-40

Year	Scoring Moves Per Minute	Scoring Moves + Pins per Minute
2023 D2	0.8467	0.8722
2024 D2	0.8109	0.8276
Delta	0.0358	0.0446
% Delta	-4.23%	-5.11%

Ironically, a pin is not a scoring move since you don't get back points after the Pin.

This decrease is not statistically significant enough for alarm yet. MatStats will continue to analyze future tourneys to see if it becomes a trend.



# The illusion of more points and an extreme example.

Episode  
37-41

- Two great games in the “Third Saturday in October” both decided by a late FG breaking a tie.
- In 2005, the #5 Tide kicked a FG with 0:13 to beat the #17 Vols 6-3 in Tuscaloosa.
- In 2022, the #6 Vols kicked a FG with 0:00 to beat the #1 Tide 52-49 on Rocky Top.
- Both were games for the ages, but many feel the 2022 game was much better game because of the high score.
- Gorms thinks the 2022 game was much better because the Vols won.
- The 2005 game still haunts Gorms and everyone on Rocky Top.
- One year the action was on offense, the other on defense.
- Vols were 9-1 against Bama in the previous 10 years of the rivalry. They were the good old days.

Are scoring and action +1 correlated? Is this correlation measurable?

Episode  
37-42

## Scoring and Action are not +1 correlated

- Scoring and action are not +1 correlated. It is impossible to definitively say what the correlation would be. Action is subjective, you can't put a definitive number on that.
- Vols stripping the ball from the Gators on the 1-yard line Saturday night is another great example. 102K fans at Neyland thought it was the most exciting and important play of the game.
- In the famous 1959 upset of #1 LSU in Neyland, the Vols stopped Heisman trophy winning running back Billy Cannon on an attempted 2-point conversion in the game that resulted in a Vol 14-13 victory. Gorms was not at that game, but has heard the story so many times, he is beginning to think he was there that famous 11/9/59 Saturday Down South.

# The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Episode  
37-43

- We learned at the D2s that the new TD did NOT have an effect to create more scoring moves.
- By no means does that say there was less action and excitement.
- In all sports there is plenty of action that does not necessarily result in points.
- The two “Third Saturdays in October” and two goal line stands at Neyland are great example of this.

# Gorms Statistical Summary of The New TD Rule for Non-stats People.

Episode  
37-44

From 2023 to 2024 at the NCAA Men's D1 & D2 Championships -

- We saw more points, but no real change in the number of TDs.
- We saw a small decrease in the number scoring moves per minute in D2. Not enough to panic but requires follow up.
- We saw fewer close matches and less pins, but more techs.
- We did see the possibility of more buzzer beater TDs.
- Gorms is all for the rule change to see what happens, but this needs to be monitored over the years by MatStats.
- Scoring and action are not +1 correlated.
- Wrestling is still the world's oldest and greatest sport.

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

# Episode 37 Kev's Notes #1

Episode  
37-45

- 1) As of 10/13/24, there are 514 4-year collegiate wrestling teams (NCAA & NAIA - men's & women) and 287 NCAA teams (Slide # 37-10).
- 2) The last time we had this many men's NCAA teams was 1988 (37-11).
- 3) TD points went up about 50% from 2023 to 2024 and are now over 50% of all scoring (37-13).
- 4) D1 had a lot more tech falls in 2024, but D2 did not see this same spike (37-24 & 37-26). Is this just a 1-year anomaly?
- 5) Margin of Victory (MOV) was almost identical in 2024 between D1 & D2 (37-32).

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

# Episode 37 Kev's Notes #2

Episode  
37-46

- 6) D1 saw an increase of 27% points per minute from 2023 to 2024 (37-32) but statistically no increase in scoring moves per minute (37-33).
- 7) Although there was a slight decrease in scoring moves per minute in D2 from 2023 to 2024, there were over 600 more match points scored. This could cause a perceptual feeling of more action (37-36).
- 8) More scoring, same overall number of scoring moves in D2 Championships (37-37).
  - 9) The more things change, the more they stay the same (37-43).
  - 10) MatStats is happy to share our work and analysis with the rules committee to help make our sport better (37-44).

What is the topic next month (Wednesday 11/20/24 3PM EST)?

# High School Participation Numbers

Episode  
37-47

- Tune In Next Month
  - Same Mat Time
  - Same Mat Channel
- At the request of the heads of state at the NWCA, MatStats will do a show on the HS boys and girls participation numbers.
  - Are they increasing? Are they decreasing? Are they constant?
    - What is working what isn't?
  - Where do we see the largest growths?