



11 The History of Wrestling



Ancient History

- Ancient History
- Evolution
- “Modern” Times
- Famous Wrestlers



Ancient History

- **The Oldest Sport traces back to the dawn of civilization**
- **Cave drawings in France over 15,000 years old**
- **Babylonian reliefs and Egyptian paintings show holds still used today**
- **It was the number one sport in Ancient Greece**

Ancient History

- Ancient Olympics
- Greece
 - Original Pentathlon (discus, javelin, long jump, foot race then wrestling)
 - Wrestlers wore olive oil and a light layer of sand
- Rome
 - Adopted wrestling
 - Expanded it throughout Europe
 - Less Brutality



Evolution

- **European mainland**
 - Greco-Roman
 - All holds above the waist
 - Not allowed to attack the legs
 - To this day it is enormously popular in Europe
- **One of the Olympic forms of wrestling**
 - Great Britain
 - Collar and Elbow ... Ireland
 - Catch as Catch Can ... Scotland
 - Forerunner of our Folk-style and Freestyle

Evolution

- **United States**
 - **Came with early Settlers**
 - **Catch as catch can**
 - **Collar and elbow**
 - **Very popular with Native Americans**
 - **Amateur Wrestling very popular**
 - **Holiday celebrations**
 - **County fairs**
 - **Competitions throughout the country**
 - **First National Tournament in NYC in 1888**



Evolution

- **Modern Olympics**
 - 1896–Modern Olympics–Greece
 - Greco Roman but not Freestyle
 - 1900–No Wrestling
 - 1904–Freestyle but not Greco-Roman
 - 1908–Both Styles
 - 2004–added Women’s Freestyle
 - Cut 3 weight classes each from Men FS & GR
 - Added 4 weight classes for women FS
 - 2016–Weight class adjustment
 - 6 Weight classes each for Men’s FS & GR and Women’s FS



“Modern” Times

- **Collegiate wrestling**
 - **1903 First intercollegiate dual**
 - **1905 First tournament EIWA (Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association)**
 - **1912 first CNCAA Wrestling Championships in Ames, Iowa**
 - **1927 first rules published**
 - **1928 first NCAA Team Championship**
 - **1941 first scoring system**
 - **1942 mats to the floor instead of the raised boxing ring**



“Modern” Times

- Ohio High School Wrestling
 - First Ohio High School wrestling match—**1926**
 - **4 weight classes wrestled**
 - First State Championship in Ohio in **1938**
 - Single class from **1938-1971**
 - Three classes from **1971-present**
 - First State Dual Team Championship in **2013**
 - Four-Time State Champions—**28**
 - Three-Time State Champions—**58**
 - Two-Time State Champions—**259**



“Modern” Times

- **Ohio High School Wrestling**
 - **Most Team Championships**
 - **Lakewood St Edward–30**
 - **St. Paris Graham Local–18**
 - **Maple Heights–10**
 - **Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit–8**
 - **Sandusky St. Mary’s CC–7**
 - **Delta-7**
 - **Akron Coventry-5**
 - **Bedford St. Peter Chanel-5**
 - **Cleveland West Tech-5**



“Modern” Times

- **Ohio High School Wrestling**
 - **Most Dual Team State Championships**
 - **Delta–4**
 - **St. Paris Graham Local–4**
 - **Lakewood St. Edward–3**
 - **Massillon Perry–1**



“Modern” Times

- **Governing Bodies for Wrestling**
 - **United World Wrestling (UWW) for FS & GR (formerly FILA) World Championships and Olympics**
 - **USA Wrestling for international styles for men and women**
 - **NCAA and NCWA for collegiate (Folkstyle)**
 - **NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) for High School (Folkstyle)**
 - **OHSAA for Ohio High School (Folkstyle)**



Famous American Wrestlers

- **Presidents**

George Washington	Dwight Eisenhower
John Adams	Andrew Jackson
Abraham Lincoln	William Howard Taft
Dwight Eisenhower	John Tyler
Zachary Taylor	Chester Arthur
Franklin Pierce	U. S. Grant
Teddy Roosevelt	Calvin Coolidge



Famous Wrestlers in America

- Chief Justice John Roberts
- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld
- George Stephanopoulos
- Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci
- Senator John McCain
- Secretary of Defense and Senator Chuck Hagel
- Jay Leno
- General Norman Schwarzkopf
- Senator Lincoln Chafee
- Commandant of the Marine Corps Chuck Krulak
- John Irving
- Bruce Willis
- Senator Al Franken
- Ohio Representative Jim Jordan
- Ashton Kutcher

