

In my 2-22-2026 weekly update, I mentioned that Gerald and I had been asked about the college offering a wrestling program. Here is what our research has found.

There are between 475 – 500 Texas high schools that offer wrestling with between 23,000 – 24,000 wrestlers. This is second only to California. There are no major universities (i.e. University of Texas, TAMU, Texas Tech, etc.) that offer wrestling. Wayland Baptist has a wrestling program and has about 70 total wrestlers (men and women).

In the Amarillo area (primarily Amarillo ISD schools and nearby panhandle schools), girls' high school wrestling is offered through the UIL (University Interscholastic League) programs. Several schools have established programs, with histories of state championships, qualifiers, and strong showings in recent seasons (including 2024-2025 and 2025-2026).

Girls' wrestling is thriving in the Texas panhandle region, particularly under the UIL (University Interscholastic League) sanctioning for high school programs. The area—centered around Amarillo and surrounding towns like Borger, Dumas, Pampa, Canyon/Randall, and others—has strong participation in Class 5A (and some in nearby alignments), with multiple schools sending athletes to regionals, state qualifiers, and championships in recent seasons (including 2025-2026).

Many Panhandle schools compete in UIL events, tournaments like the Lady Horns Classic (hosted by Caprock in Amarillo, now in its 25th year), Randall Ruckus, and duals/regionals. Here's a breakdown of prominent girls' wrestling programs based on recent results, state qualifiers, district champs, and rankings:

- Amarillo-area Amarillo ISD schools (all in 5A/Region 1):
 - Caprock High School (Lady Longhorns/Lady Horns) — Frequently tops district tournaments (e.g., District 2-5A champs), hosts major events, and has a history of team state titles (e.g., 2022).
 - Palo Duro High School (Lady Dons) — Strong in heavier weights; multiple state qualifiers/champs (e.g., Xazanya Gonzalez, Jasmine Vick ranked #1 in recent weights; historical titles in 2001, 2003).

- Tascosa High School (Lady Rebels) — Pioneered girls' wrestling in the area; state titles (2002, 2013); consistent regional/state participants.
- Amarillo High School (Sandies) — Sends wrestlers to state; part of the collective AISD success with regional champs and qualifiers.
- Borger High School (Lady Bulldogs) — Very competitive; state qualifiers (e.g., Lila Breedlove); won Class 4A girls duals titles recently (e.g., THSWCA EZ-Flex State Duals); strong in lighter weights and team events. Borger ISD recently won a state team title.
- Dumas High School (Demonettes) — Solid program; multiple state qualifiers; often in top contention at district regionals (e.g., District 2-5A battles); placed in duals (e.g., 6th in 5A state duals).
- Randall High School (Lady Raiders, in Canyon) — Rising with state qualifiers (e.g., Anisa Nuchols); strong showings in rankings and duals (e.g., 2nd in 4A state duals); part of the broader Panhandle success.
- Pampa High School (Lady Harvesters) — Active program; JV and varsity girls compete (e.g., multiple 1st places at JV District; duals against regional teams like Dumas and Palo Duro).

Other mentions include schools like Hereford or smaller ones occasionally fielding girls, but the core strength is in the Amarillo/Borger/Dumas/Pampa cluster.

Recent Highlights (2025-2026 Season)

- Panhandle athletes had strong showings at UIL 5A State Championships (Feb 2026 at Berry Center), with multiple placers and contenders.
- **44+ Panhandle wrestlers (boys/girls combined) advanced to state from regionals.**
- Tournaments like Lady Horns Classic draw teams from across Texas and beyond, boosting local exposure.
- In rankings, Panhandle schools like Palo Duro and Randall feature top-ranked girls in various weights.

BENEFITS:

- Increase of campus traditional students by approximately 33%.
- Maximize residential hall capacity.
- Provide educational and athletic opportunities for Texas students.
- Increase state funding appropriations
- Recognition as the first and only Texas juco to offer a wrestling program
- Possible price reduction on student meal plan. The more students the college has eating in the cafeteria, the lower the cost.

QUESTIONS:

Who would FPC compete with?

There are several colleges with whom FPC competes in other sports with whom we could have dual meets. These colleges include: Trinidad, Otero, Garden City, Pratt, as well as some colleges in Oklahoma with similar driving distances. Most wrestling competitions are at large tournaments. The number of meets vary from 14 – 18 which includes tournaments.

What equipment would be needed?

Initially mats would be needed. After that, uniforms (called singlets), footwear, and headgear would be the only expenses. Wrestling would be the least expensive and most ROI of any athletic program the college could offer.

How many wrestlers could the college expect?

Carl Alber Junior College and Northern Oklahoma College – Tonkawa both have over 60 wrestlers. The Carl Albert wrestling coach is of the opinion that FPC could easily get 30 wrestlers on each team (men and women) with 12 full scholarships for each team. The NJCAA scholarship limit is 20 per team. However, it is recommended the college begin with 10 scholarships on each team with the goal of between 15 – 20 wrestlers per team.

Is there space for the wrestlers to practice and to have locker rooms?

There is sufficient space in the Old Plainsman Gym for locker rooms and a practice area. Mats can be rolled out for practice and stored when not in use.

Where would the wrestlers come from?

It is anticipated that most of the wrestlers would come from Texas due to the large number of high school participants and especially the panhandle area.

Would a separate coach be required for each program?

One coach, with an assistant, can coach both programs. Sometimes an assistant needs to be sent to be with one of the teams if the teams compete in different tournaments at the same time.

Since there are no other Texas community colleges that have a wrestling program, what region or conference would FPC be in?

The NJCAA is in the process of remapping the districts. The South Central district encompasses the Kansas and Oklahoma schools. With the addition of Rose State College in OKC, the NJCAA is looking into remapping the districts if not adding a new district. There are currently 8 districts and FPC would likely be in either the South Central or the Plains district. The South Central district is the biggest district with 12 teams - 13 next year with the addition of Rose State.

Where and when would dual meets be held?

Wrestling season is from October to early March. It is anticipated the college could host 4 – 5 dual meets in the BCAC scheduling around volleyball and basketball.

How quickly could the program be implemented?

The wrestling program could begin for FY26-27. A head coach would need to be hired as soon as possible for recruiting purposes.

Attached is a revised cost analysis on a wrestling program with 10 scholarships for each team and each team having between 15 – 20 wrestlers.

The following additional questions were asked regarding a wrestling program.

1. With a minimum of 40 new student athletes where does that put the Resident Hall situation. $40 + 160 = 200$. What will be the plan for the rest of RA's?

Based on the 2025 fall semester use (the highest use) the college has 140 students using the residential halls. The use by team was as follows:

Baseball – 44
M Basketball – 20
M Rodeo - 12
Softball – 22
W Basketball – 16
Volleyball – 14
W Rodeo – 12

The goal for the wrestling program is for 15 – 20 wrestlers for each team. The combined occupancy of Goins Hall and Plainsmen Hall will be 180 and will be sufficient to accommodate a wrestling program.

2. Can the dining hall accommodate 40-60 new students?

All students do not eat at the same time due to class schedules. Jerry Odle advised that the dining hall could accommodate 40 – 60 students. The dining hall has sufficient space since the goal is for 30-40 total new students

3. What does the financials look like on possible “reduction in meal prices?”

If applicable, this will depend on the breaking points (numbers of students) based on food service bids. This information will be known on Monday when the food service bids are opened.

4. Dressing rooms in Plainsmen gym? Enough room, HVAC, men and room with baseball already there, remodel cost, share the gym space with baseball/softball?

The upstairs of the Old Plainsman Gym can be remodeled to accommodate two locker rooms similar in size to the volleyball locker room. Window units can provide AC and heat.

There is sufficient space in the Old Plainsman Gym for the team to practice. The batting nets are easily retractable on rings that can be moved back as needed. Pictures are attached of the volleyball locker room, and the upstairs and downstairs of the Old Gym.

5. Athletic insurance cost?

Gerald is checking on this.

6. Transportation arrangements for a team of 40-60?

Travel to a typical dual, tri or quad meet will be 10 – 15 wrestlers. Our 15 passenger vans can accommodate these meets. The college put two 15 passenger vans in the FY25-26 budget, but no vans were unavailable. Webb Chevrolet advised that vans had to be ordered 12 months in advance and the college requested the vans be ordered for FY26-27. A coach may take more wrestlers to a tournament which could be accommodated using the shuttle buses.

7. I noticed that scholarships stay at the \$300k amount regardless of the number of student athletes on the team. If the scholarships expense became variable then the breakeven point goes from about 50 student athletes to 30.

A revised analysis is attached reflecting 10 scholarships full scholarships for each team. It is still very possible that the college could have 15 – 20 wrestlers based on the offering of partial scholarship and/or walk-ons who wish to compete.