

# MatStats - The Moneyball of Wrestling

## Episode #54

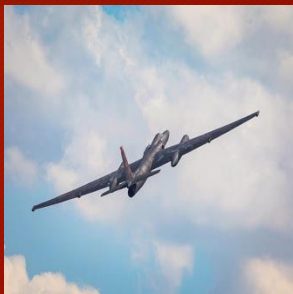
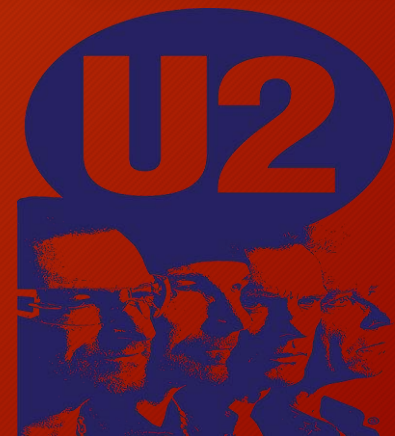
Wednesday April 29th, 2026

3PM EST

# I Still Haven't Found What I am Looking For.

Episode  
54-1

The boys at MatStats does their annual research on the affect the new 3-point TD has had in collegiate wrestling. MatStats analyzes the past 6 NCAA Men's Wrestling Championships. This is an effort to see what changes we have seen and if it was a good idea. It is a three-part series. Episode #54 deals with the change in the number of TDs and other moves. Episode #55 will deal with the change in Margin of Victory and total points scored. Episode #56 will cover the weight classes and rounds of the tourney.



# In This Episode

Episode  
54-2

**Episode 54 - 4/30/26 - I Still Haven't Found What I am Looking For.**

Topic	Slide #		Topic	Slide #
Why we do this	3		Other Scoring Categories	31
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Number of TDs	19		Next Show	50
Methodology with Pins	29		<b>Wrestling is the Best Sport!!</b>	

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

Episode  
54-3

- 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.

## 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  
54-4

- 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.

## How is MatStats different than most shows we see on TV/Internet in today's world?

Episode  
54-5

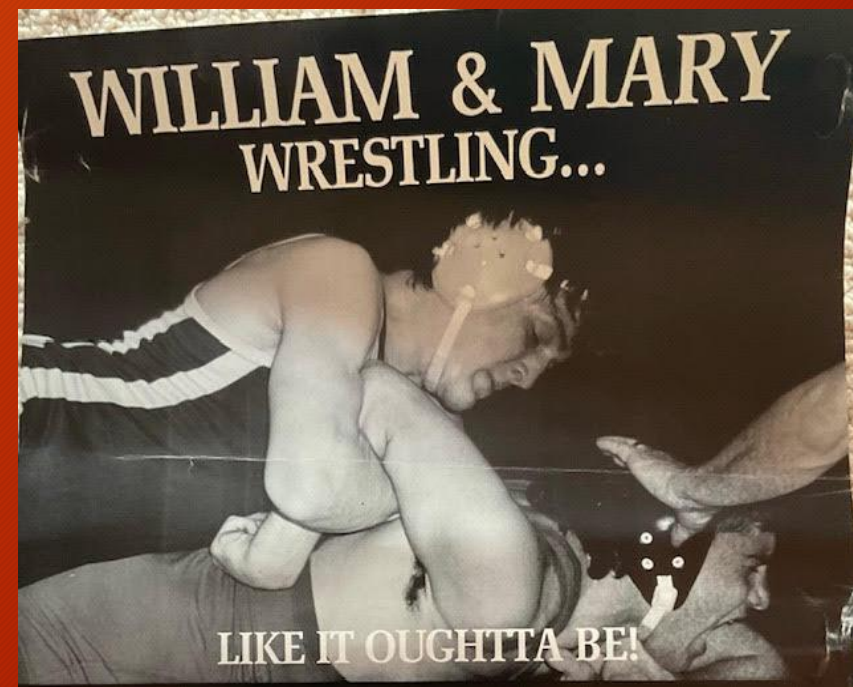
**MatStats is based on numbers, stats, and analyzation. It starts with facts not opinions.**

- 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.

## How is wrestling involved in Artemis II?

One of the Astronauts, Victor Glover, wrestled at Cal Poly. Great news that NASA is charting space exploration again.

Episode  
54-6



A shout out to W&M Wrestler, Buzz Wincheski, a NASA rocket Physicist and everyone at NASA that made this possible.

Who is the 2026 W&M Wrestling Athlete of the Year?

# Another year, still the same W&M wrestling Athlete of the Year - Kelly Powell.

Episode  
54-7



Kelly Powell running the 2026 Boston Marathon.

Due to injuries, she could not train for 9 weeks and still ran a 3:50:51!!

That is 8:49/mile pace. Wow!!



How many 4-year collegiate teams are there in the 3 wrestling organizations?

Iowa State adds women's wrestling becoming the 9<sup>th</sup> NCAA D1 women's team and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Power 4 school with women's wrestling.

Episode  
54-8

Category	Men	Women	Total
NCAA	291	131	422
NAIA	76	54	130
NCWA	125	81	206
<b>Total 4-Year</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>758</b>

Note - The NCWA number here does not include 9 trade/juco teams nor the 4 transitioning to the NCAA. It does include the 5 Puerto Rico schools. If we count Canada, we should count PR.

## How many JUCO wrestling teams are there in the USA?

As of 4/1/26, there are 144 Junior College & Community Colleges with wrestling teams.

Episode  
54-9

JUCO	Men	Women	Total
NJCAA	67	37	104
CCCAA	23	17	40
Total	90	54	144

There are 4 Championships on this level and 5 team champions. The NJCCA has a scholarship team Champion and a non-scholarship team champion on the men's side.

## Updates “*On A Clear Day, You Can See College Athletics.*”

Episode  
54-10

- Gorms, could you give us a quick update on some major events that we dealt with in our 3-part series, “*On A Clear Day, You Can See College Athletics.*”

# Is the transfer portal all about money?

Episode  
54-11

- A new part of NCAA sports is the transfer portal.
- We hear about it constantly. Some fans love the gossip. It does make for interesting speculation for many fans.
- We always hear it is all about the money.
- But is it?

## How many players are in the Men's basketball portal in 2025?

About **64%** of all players eligible to return in NCAA Men's D1 basketball have entered the portal. **26%** in D2 & D3.

Episode  
54-12

NCAA Men's Basketball 2025	Players in Portal	Total Players	Returning Players Estimate 75%	% In the Portal
D1	2,754	5,769	4,327	<b>64%</b>
D2 & D3	2,684	13,848	10,386	<b>26%</b>
All NCAA	5,438	19,617	14,713	37%

# No, the portal is not all about money!

Episode  
54-13

- If it was all about money, we would not see 64% of D1 players enter the portal.
- Wouldn't some stay at their current school and negotiate?
- Why would there be 26% in D2 & D3. hard to imagine that much money flowing in the D2 & D3 levels. They can't all go to D1.
- Is it about taking some time off?

# Episode # 54 - Topic

Episode  
54-14

- What is this month's topic?
- Why is it titled' *“I Still Haven't Found What I was Looking For”*?

## What is this month's topic?

# Topic - The new TD 3-point rule.

Episode  
54-15

- This month's topic is the first of a three-part series on the new TD rule and the effect it has had on the sport.
- MatStats analyzes the Men's NCAA D1 Championships from 2021 to 2026.
- The first episode deals with the number of TDs and other scoring categories. Part 2 deals with the Margin of Victory. Part 3 goes into the scoring by weight and rounds.

A shout out to Hazard, Captain Mclaughlin, and Phippsy for all the research that made this series possible.

Why is this series called “*I Still haven’t found What I Was Looking For*”?

# The famous U2 song, captures the feeling after much research on the new TD rule.

Episode  
54-16

- Two years ago, MatStats started their annual dive into the effects of the new TD rule.
- One of the objectives to this analysis was to possibly see if stats could show if the rule change is good.
- You can’t find all the answers in a mathematical world.
- The band U2 was named for the famous Spy Plane and even the famous activist, Bono, who moonlights as an entertainer, can’t find what he was looking for.

# Methodology

Episode  
54-17

- MatStats broke down the NCAA Men's D1 Championships from 2021 to 2026.
- There were 3,840 matches in the 6 NCAA Men's D1 Championships.
- 2 Years did not have a box score for the 20 Rattail Championships & Consolations, so MatStats used 620 matches per year to analyze.
- For a total of 3,720 matches.

How did MatStats deal with the defaults when analyzing the 3,720 matches.

MatStats analyzed the **3,659** matches that were not defaults. There were 61 defaults in the 6-year span at the NCAA Men's D1 Championships.

Episode  
54-18

Year	Matches	Defaults	Matches Analyzed	Matches Analyzed per year
2021-23	1,860	37	1,823	607.27
2024-26	1,860	24	1,836	612.00
Total	3,720	61	<b>3,659</b>	609.83

# How the number of TDs changed after the 3-point rule.

Episode  
54-19

- Gorms, can you explain the data analysis you found from the research provided to you for the last 6 NCAA Men's D1 Championships?
- 2021-23 when it was 2-point TD and 2024-26 when the TD was a 3-point move.

How did the number of TDs change since the new 3-point TD was implemented?

Anyway you look at it, the frequency of TD's has decreased after the 3-point rule was implemented in 2024.

Episode  
54-20

Year	TD Total	TD PM	Minutes	TD/min
2021-23	4296	2.357	12,334.70	0.348
2024-26	3956	2.155	12,237.45	0.323
Delta	-340	-0.202	-97.25	-0.025
Delta %	-7.91%	-8.57%	-0.79%	-7.18%

## What was the decrease in the number of TDs over the last 6 NCAA Men's D1 Championships?

From 2021-23 to 2024-26, we saw a **-7.18%** decrease in TDs per minute, **-8.57%** decrease TDs per match, & **-7.91%** decrease in total TDs.

Episode  
54-21

- Since there are different number of non default matches and different total match times in the two 3-year time frames we analyzed, the percentage differences will be different to a small degree.
- The bottom line is we have seen a decrease in TDs since the new 3-point rule was created.
- Choose which percentage decrease you want to stress. The most meaningful is the **-7.18%** decrease in TDs per minute.

# Correlation Does Not Prove Causation.

Episode  
54-22

- Gorms has used this famous stats phrase in many previous shows.
- A third factor can influence both variables being studied.
- The main goal in every match is to win and advance. The new TD value could give reason not to score more.
- Although the significant decrease in TDs following the rule change can not be ignored. Time will tell how long this lasts and if it becomes larger there is reason for concern.

## Is the new TD rule a good idea?

Despite the decrease in the number of TDs, a strong argument can be made to keep the 3-point TD.

Episode  
54-23

- We saw -340 fewer TDs from 2021-23 to 2024-26. A percentage decrease between -7.18% and -8.57% in TDs.
- This does not mean the rule change was not good for the sport.
- What it does mean is that over these two 3-year time spans, the increase in points for a TD resulted in fewer TDs.
- A strong argument can be made that a TD should be worth 3-points.

Can MatStats provide a table for the viewers in the change in TDs per minute from their analysis the past 3 years?

As our data points increase, the decrease in TDs per minute is more pronounced.

Episode  
54-24

Years	Tourneys	Delta % TD per Min
23 to 24	2	+5.07%
22 to 25	4	-6.05%
21 to 26	6	-7.18%

Since these are randomly selected time ranges, don't spend too much time worrying about the decreases. But on the other hand, it should not be ignored either. As we have a larger data set the decrease is more pronounced.

Can MatStats provide the viewers with a table with the TDs per minute from 2021 to 2026?

**TDs per minute from 2021 to 2026. It is normal to see some variances when you have an increasing number of data points (years).**

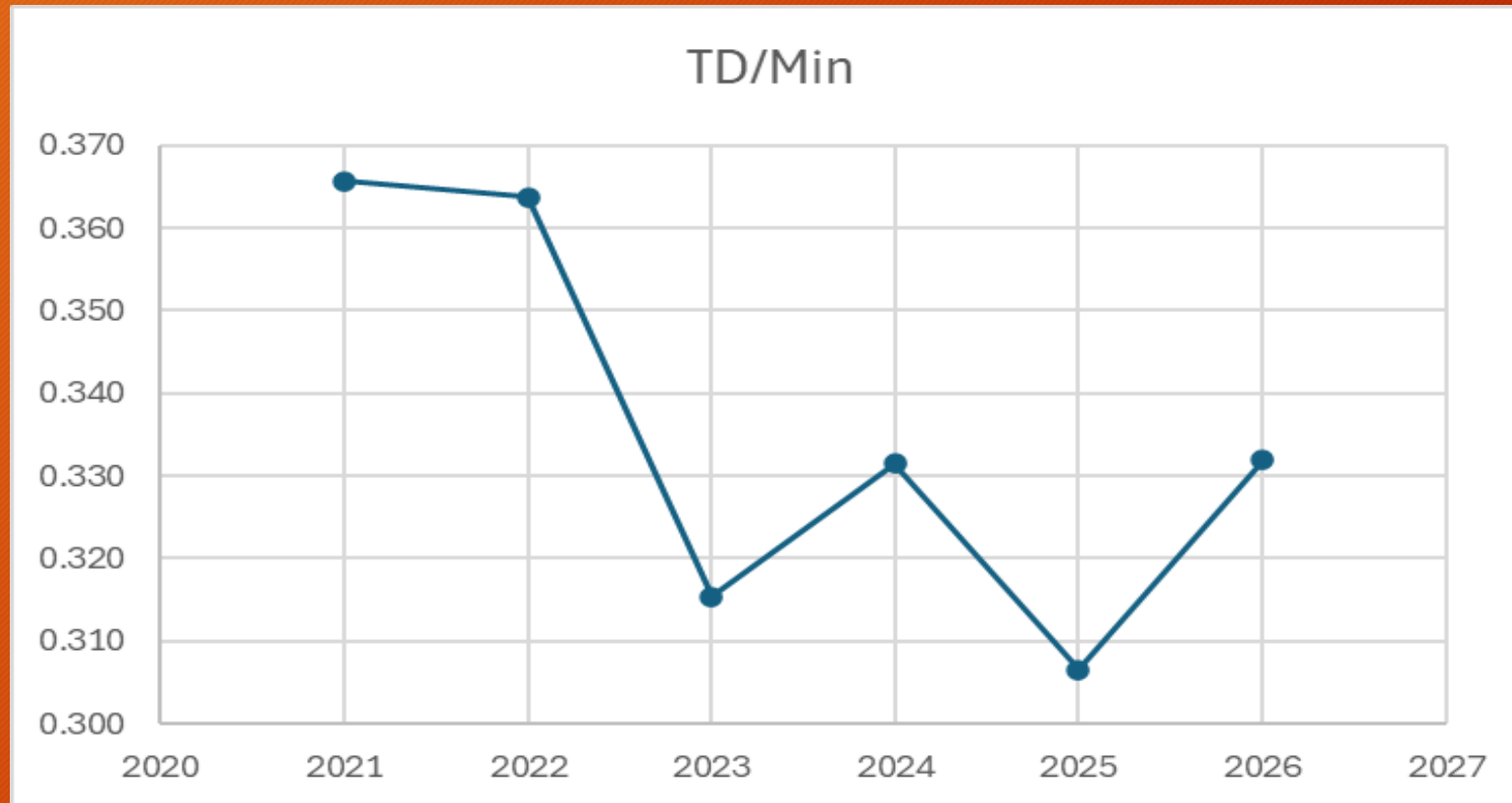
Episode  
54-25

<b>Year</b>	<b>TD/Min</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>0.366</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>0.364</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>0.315</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>0.331</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>0.307</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>0.332</b>

Can MatStats provide a graph for the TD per minutes for the 6 NCAA Men's D1 Championships?

A graph with a smaller field makes the decrease look more noticeable.

Episode  
54-26



Can MatStats provide the viewers with a table with the total TDs from 2021 to 2026?

# Total TDs from 2021 to 2026. Why such a large decrease in 2023 (still 2-point TD)?

Episode  
54-27

Year	TDs
2021	1,487
2022	1,513
2023	1,296
2024	1,350
2025	1,255
2026	1,351

MatStats does not have an Explanation for the decrease in 2023.

Other than, that is just the way numbers work.

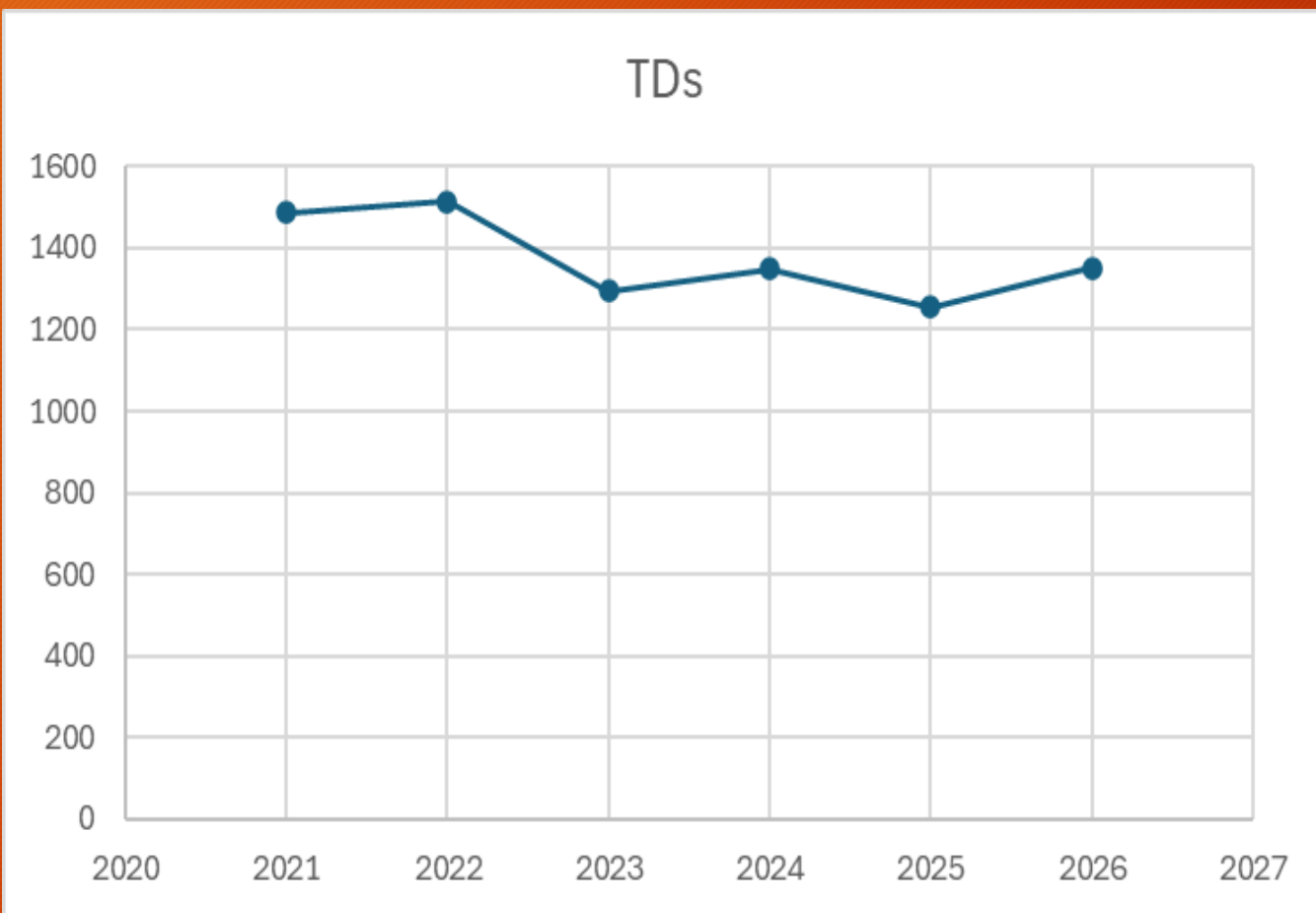
A lifetime .300 hitter doesn't Bat .300 every year.

Nor do they go 3-10 every 10 AB Increment.

Can MatStats provide a graph for the total TD for the 6 NCAA Men's D1 Championships?

**A graph with a much larger field, does not make the decrease look as dramatic.**

Episode  
54-28



# Methodology With Matches That End With a Fall.

Episode  
54-29

- Gorms, can you let the viewers know how MatStats handled the matches that end in a pin?
- Let the viewers know how comprehensive this exhaustive study is.

## Why did MatStats include the pins?

MatStats includes all 322 pins (8.66% of all matches) from 2021 to 2026 in this analysis.

Episode  
54-30

- In all the matches that end with a pin, MatStats compiled all the points and scoring categories for those matches.
- Just like we did with all the matches that ended in a Regular Decision, Major, or tech.
- If the object of the sport is a pin and it is 8.66% of all matches, not including them would be absurd.

# Other Scoring Categories

Episode  
54-31

- Gorms, we have seen a decrease in the number of TDs from 2021-23 to 2024-26 at the NCAA Men's D1 Championships.
- Can you show us what has happened with the other scoring categories?

How many scoring categories saw an increase in absolute numbers from 2021-23 to 2024-26?

In absolute numbers, the only scoring category that saw an increase from 2021-23 to 2024-26 was stalling & penalties.

Episode  
54-32

Year	TD	Rev	Esc	NF4	NF3	NF2	Stall & Penalty	Riding	SM	SM w/Pin
2021-23	4,296	522	4,698	364	0	245	434	952	10,073	10,239
2024-26	3,956	432	4,605	272	75	138	507	749	9,452	9,604
Delta	-340	-90	-93	-92	75	-107	73	-203	-621	-635
Delta %	-7.91%	-17.24%	-1.98%	-25.27%	#DIV/0!	-43.67%	16.82%	-21.32%	-6.16%	-6.20%

Note - There was no NF3 category from 2021-23. That rule was implemented in 2024.

## How many scoring categories saw an increase per match from 2021-23 to 2024-26?

Stalling & Penalties were the only category that saw an increase per match from 2021-23 to 2024-26. Because the different number of defaults the percentages are slightly different from absolute numbers and per match.

Episode  
54-33

Year	TD Per Match	Reversal PM	Escape PM	NF4 PM	NF3 PM	NF2 PM	Stall & Penalty PM	Riding PM	Scoring Move PM	SM w/Pin PM
2021-23	2.357	0.286	2.577	0.200	0.000	0.134	0.238	0.522	5.526	5.617
2024-26	2.155	0.235	2.508	0.148	0.041	0.075	0.276	0.408	5.148	5.231
Delta	-0.202	-0.051	-0.069	-0.052	0.041	-0.059	0.038	-0.114	-0.377	-0.386
Delta %	-8.57%	-17.83%	-2.67%	-25.80%	#DIV/0!	-44.07%	15.99%	-21.88%	-6.83%	-6.87%

What were the total points scored in each category from 2021-23 to 2024-26?

Total TD points & Stalling points were the only increases we saw from 2021-23 to 2024-26.

Episode  
54-34

Years	Tot Pts	TD Pts	Rev Pts	Esc Pts	NF4 Pts	NF3 Pts	NF2 Pts	Stall & Penalty Pts	Riding Pts	SM Total	SM w/Pin
2021-23	17,666	8,592	1,044	4,698	1,456	0	490	434	952	10,073	10,239
2024-26	20,182	11,868	864	4,605	1,088	225	276	507	749	9,452	9,604
Delta %	14.24%	38.13%	-17.24%	-1.98%	-25.27%	#DIV/0!	-43.67%	16.82%	-21.32%	-6.16%	-6.20%

Why do we see more TD points with a decrease in the number of TDs?

The reason we see more total TD points despite fewer TDs is because the point value went up 50%.

Episode  
54-35

Years	Tot Pts	TD PPM	Rev PPM	Esc PPM	NF4 PPM	NF3 PPM	NF2 PPM	Stall & Penalty PPM	Riding PPM	SM Per M	SM w/Pin
2021-23	17666	4.713	0.573	2.577	0.799	0.000	0.269	0.238	0.522	5.526	5.617
2024-26	20182	6.464	0.471	2.508	0.593	0.123	0.150	0.276	0.408	5.148	5.231
Delta %	14.24%	37.15%	-17.83%	-2.67%	-25.80%	#DIV/0!	-44.07%	15.99%	-21.88%	-6.83%	-6.87%

What is the percentage of TD points in 2021-23 & 2024-26?

TDs went from **48.64%** of all points to **58.8%** of all points with the 3-point TD. A **20.91%** increase.

Episode  
54-36

Years	Tot Pts	TD Pts %	Rev Pts %	Esc Pts %	NF4 Pts %	NF3 Pts %	NF2 Pts %	Stall & Penalty Pts %	Riding Pts %
2021-23	17,666	48.64%	5.91%	26.59%	8.24%	0.00%	2.77%	2.46%	5.39%
2024-26	20,182	58.80%	4.28%	22.82%	5.39%	1.11%	1.37%	2.51%	3.71%
Delta %	14.24%	20.91%	-27.56%	-14.20%	-34.59%	#DIV/0!	-50.70%	2.26%	-31.13%

Note - From 2024-26, TDs and Escapes were 82.62% of all points.

Why is the percentage of TD points so important when evaluation the rule change?

One way to analyze the new TD rule is do you think TDs should be **58.8%** of all points or are you happier with the old **48.64%**.

Episode  
54-37

- We know there is not more action because of the rule change.
- Now that we know the new percentage of points from TDs, do we like the rule.
- All other scoring categories (except stalling) went down.
- Perhaps you like the new percentages or maybe you were a top/bottom guy and don't like the new rule.

It's not a wrestling match without hearing "STALLING" loudly and repeatedly.

# STALLING!! STALLING!!

Episode  
54-38

- Gorms has been to a few wrestling matches. Gorms has done no study on this but is convinced the most popular word he hears from the stands are "STALLING".
- Even with the increase in TD value, we have seen a slight increase(2.26%) in the number of stalling points from 2021-23 to 2024-26.
- We have seen a 16% of stalling points per match. What has caused this change? Is it good?
  - KH thinks we need a MatStats show on stalling.



Looks like the Legend  
Is asking for stalling!

# Gorms saw so many bricks being thrown at NCAAs, we could have built the Great Wall of China.

Episode  
54-39

- Reviews are part of the sports world.
- The NFL adopted this in the 80's and eventually it seems all sports followed.
- Gorms is an anomaly here. Gorms thinks “upon Further Review” are close to the worst three words in the English Language.
- Listening to people complain that are drinking, not paying complete attention, and don't know the rules is part of our culture.

# Scoring Moves Per Minute (with a Pin)

Episode  
54-40

- Gorms, can you review the scoring moves per minute?
  - Can you explain what you mean by scoring move?
- Can you explain how you handled pins in this situation since no NF points are awarded if there is a pin?

# MatStats definition of a scoring move for this study.

Episode  
54-41

- A scoring move is all TDs, Reversals, Escapes, & Near falls
- It does not include stalling or Riding time. One is an opinion , the other a cumulative award.
- If there is a pin, MatStats imputes a scoring move to be added to the total since no NF were awarded. This is not included in the NF totals.
- A pin is the ultimate scoring move.

Can MatStats provide a table for the scoring moves (with pins) per minute the last 6 years?

The scoring moves (with pins) per minute are generally decreasing the last 6 years.

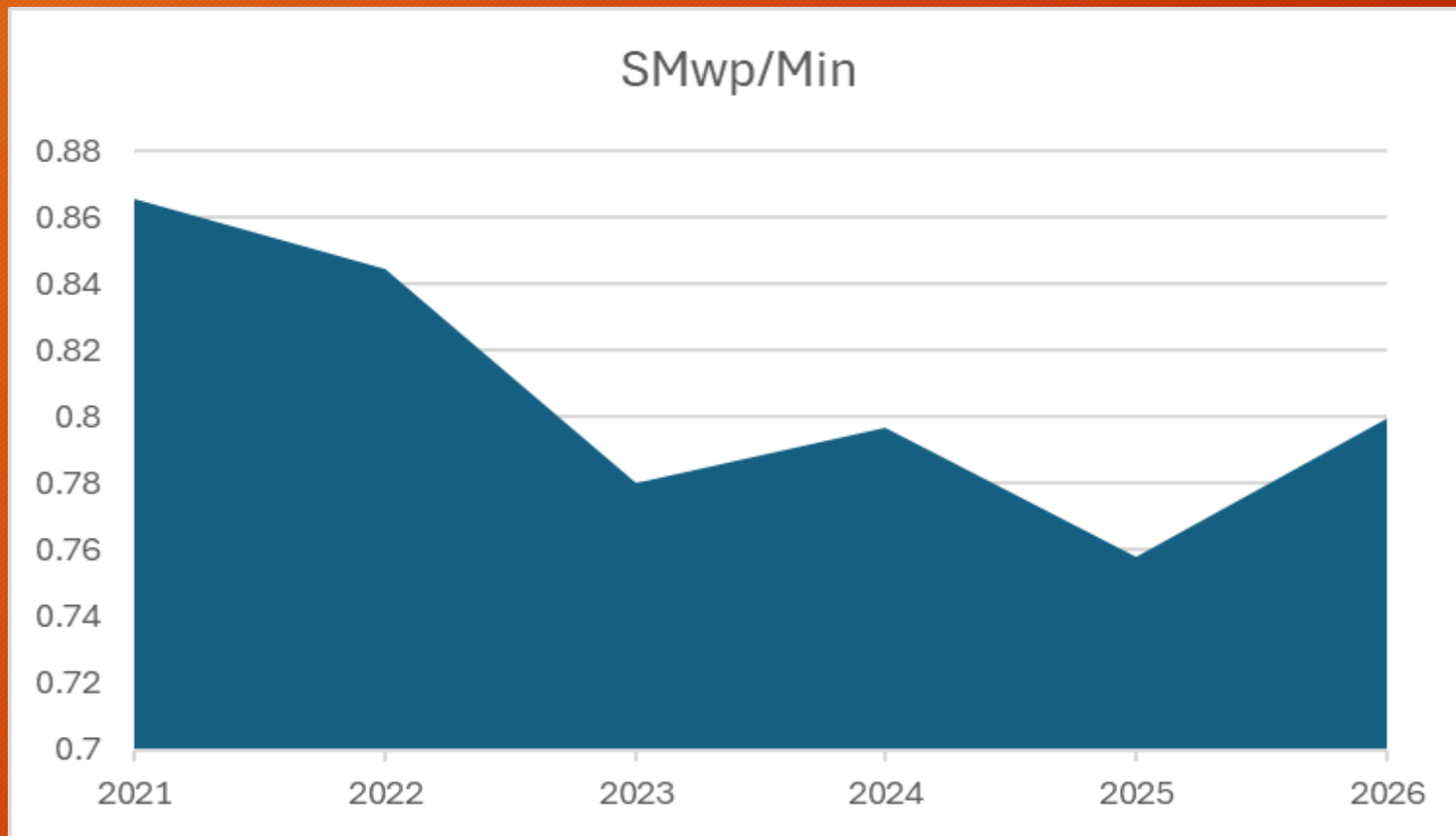
Episode  
54-42

Year	Scoring Move (w/pin)/minute
2021	0.865
2022	0.844
2023	0.780
2024	0.797
2025	0.758
2026	0.799

Can MatStats provide a graph to show the decrease in Scoring Moves (with Pins) per minute from 2021 to 2026?

A graph might be easier for the viewers to see the general decrease in scoring moves (with pins) per minute from 2021 to 2026.

Episode  
54-43



Was there a change in scoring moves per minute (with pins) from 2021-23 to 2024-26?

There was a decrease of **-5.46%** of scoring moves per minute (with pins) from 2021-23 to 2024-26.

Episode  
54-44

Years	SMwp/mi
2021-23	0.83016
2024-26	0.78485
Delta	-0.04531
Delta %	<b>-5.46%</b>

Is the decrease in scoring moves (with pins) significant from 2021-23 to 2024-26?

The **-5.46%** decrease in scoring move per minute (with pins) is not significant but is certainly needs to be monitored as the years go by.

Episode  
54-45

- It is too soon to tell if the **-5.46%** decrease in scoring moves per minute (with pins) is significant, but it can not be ignored.
- Is it an unintended consequence?
- Is it a product of more parity?
- Or the product of the new TD rule?

In statistics, a result is considered significant if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance.

# Episode # 54 Summary

Episode  
54-46

- Gorms, can you give the viewers a quick summary of part 1 of this 3-part series?

# Now 3-points, but less TDs.

Episode  
54-47

- We increased the TD to 3-points.
- We saw less TDs.
- Less scoring moves per minute.
- We can't say from what we learned if it was a good idea or not to increase the TD to 3-points.

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

# Episode 54 Kev's Notes #1

Episode  
54-48

- 1) 54-8 Iowa State became the 9<sup>th</sup> NCAA D1 school to add Women's Wrestling.
- 2) 54-12 64% of eligible D1 Men's Basketball players entered the portal in 2025. Is part of the reason getting time off?
- 3) 54-15, 18, & 24 We now have updated stats from the 2021-26 NCAA Men's D1 Championships for the effects of the 3-point TD rule. We analyzed 3,659 matches for our conclusions.
- 4) 54-20 From 2021-23 to 2024-26, we have seen a decrease of -7.18% of TDs per minute.
- 5) 54-32 The only scoring category that saw an increase in the number from 2021-23 to 2024-26 was stalling & penalties (16.82%).

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

# Episode 54 Kev's Notes #2

Episode  
54-49

- 6) 54-36 With the new TD rule, TDs account for 58.8% of all points scored, a 21% increase from 2021-23 to 2024-26. TD and Escapes now account for almost 83% of all scoring.
  - 7) 54-38 Let the MatStats guys know if you want a show on stalling.
- 8) 54-42 Scoring moves have decreased over 5% from 2021-23 to 2024-26.
- 9) 54-45 The -5.46% decrease in scoring moves is not statistically significant, but MatStats will continue to monitor this over the years.
- 10) 54-47 In summary, we increased the TD to 3-points. This resulted in less TDs and less scoring moves. This does not mean it was a bad idea to have a 3-point TD rule. Time will help us decide.

**What is the topic next month (Wednesday 5/20/26 3PM EST)?**

**The next episode is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of our 3-part series on the new TD rule.**

**Episode  
54-50**

- **Tune In Next Month**
  - **Same Mat Time**
  - **Same Mat Channel**
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this series deals with the change in Margin of Victory since the implementation of the 3-point TD.**