

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 over 15,000 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.
- 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 on 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

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.

What equipment would be needed?

Initially mats would be needed. After that, uniforms (called singlets) and headgear would be the only expense. 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.

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 and stored when not in use.

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

Attached is a cost analysis on a wrestling program.