

WRESTLING



Since 1994 the number of female high school wrestlers in the US has grown from 800 to more than 50,000. Thirty-eight states, including Wisconsin, now host a girls' high school championship tournament. More than 150 colleges now sanction varsity women's wrestling programs.

2019-2020 was the inaugural season for women's wrestling at UWSP. For the first three seasons, the women shared Head Coach Johnny Johnson with the men's team. Jake Wozniak, a former assistant coach, became the first full-time Head Women's Wrestling Coach in 2022.

UWSP wrestlers have earned All-American honors (top 8 in the nation) nine times. All-Americans include Jade Herzer, Abby Nelson, Alice Todryk, Megan Struble and Rose Ann Marshall. Brooke Thurber is a 3-time All American and Jessika Rottier won a national championship in 2020.

UWSP adds women's wrestling program

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STEVENS POINT - The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point athletic department announced Tuesday the addition of a women's wrestling program to its sport offerings.

Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country and UWSP will be the first public institution in the Midwest to offer the sport.

"I think this is a tremendous opportunity for our campus to be the first public institution in the Midwest to add women's wrestling," said UWSP athletic director Brad Duckworth. "Our university goals include increasing enrollment and improving retention of our students, and this is another way our athletic department can help."

UWSP men's wrestling coach Johnny Johnson will also coach the women's program, which is scheduled to begin competition in 2019-20.

The UWSP women's program intends

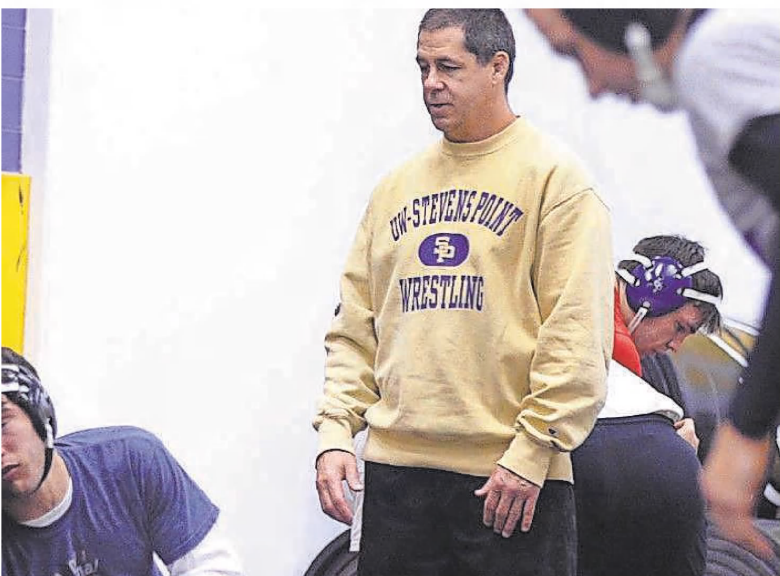
to join and compete in the Women's Collegiate Wrestling Association, the governing body of women's college wrestling.

"I am very excited about the addition of women's wrestling at UW-Stevens Point," Johnson said. "I think this is a positive move for UWSP, our athletic department and the women wrestlers in the Midwest looking for collegiate wrestling opportunities."

Women's wrestling has grown from around 800 participants in high school in 1994 to more than 16,000 this year. In the U.S., 13 states sponsor a high school state championship in women's wrestling.

In 2004, women's wrestling became a recognized Olympic sport. The National Collegiate Wrestling Association is currently in the process of pursuing emerging sports status for women's wrestling in the NCAA.

Upon acceptance, the Pointers would be the 50th member of the WCWA. UWSP's program will be open to current and prospective students.



Johnny Johnson, coach of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's wrestling team, will coach the women's team that will begin competition in 2019-20. USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

