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NCAA VOTES YES ON FULL EMERGING SPORTS STATUS FOR WOMEN'S WRESTLING IN DIVISION II AND III

ANAHEIM, CA (1-25-2020) --Today, Saturday, January 25th, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), gathered at the Anaheim Convention Center in California and voted Full Emerging Sports Status for Women's Wrestling in Divisions II and III. The wrestling community applauds and thanks the NCAA for its governance and vision. This is a momentous and historic mark in women's wrestling.

"Today's a very monumental day in history of women's collegiate wrestling!" Julia Salata, Wrestle Like A Girl's Collegiate Initiative Programs Manager stated. "Opportunities continue to expand and this is another step in the right direction. We've had an excellent group of stakeholders, administrators, and personnel who have worked hard to make this possible and will continue to help us move forward to full Championship Status."

Lisa Goddard McGuirk, Chair of Women's Wrestling Executive Committee and Gannon University Athletic Director, shared her excitement stating, "I am excited that the Division II membership has supported women's wrestling as an Emerging Sport. This will afford additional opportunities for female student-athlete to pursue their academic and athletic passion at the collegiate level."

Last year on June 3rd, 2019, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA) "recommended that all three divisions of the NCAA governance structure add women's wrestling as an NCAA emerging sport, effective August 1, 2020." This recommendation is a grand step towards the accomplished vote established today; full Emerging Sports Status. The NCAA Division I vote will take place in April 2020.

Now, with Full Emerging Sports Status both Divisions II and III need obtain 40 programs each to reach Championship Status. As of now, there are 22 programs competing across Divisions I, II and III collectively, with an additional 11 announced for the 2020-21 season bringing the number to 33 total programs. The next step would be to maintain Championship Status for one full year to receive an official NCAA Women's Wrestling Championship.

"Michael Duffy, the Athletic Director for host college of the inaugural National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships (NCWWC), Adrian College stated his excitement on the newly voted Emerging Sport Status, saying "it gives our young woman that opportunity to compete for an NCAA Championship at some point. Which is very exciting for any young woman and any young man. Absolutely excited about the opportunities this will bring to all the young woman at Adrian and all NCAA schools.

"Today is a great day for women's wrestling, and all of wrestling. A day women's wrestling will be forever grateful to everyone involved who made this possible," Mike Moyer, Executive Director of the National Wrestling Coaches Association as he states his enthusiasm on the historic day.

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ABOUT WRESTLE LIKE A GIRL

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