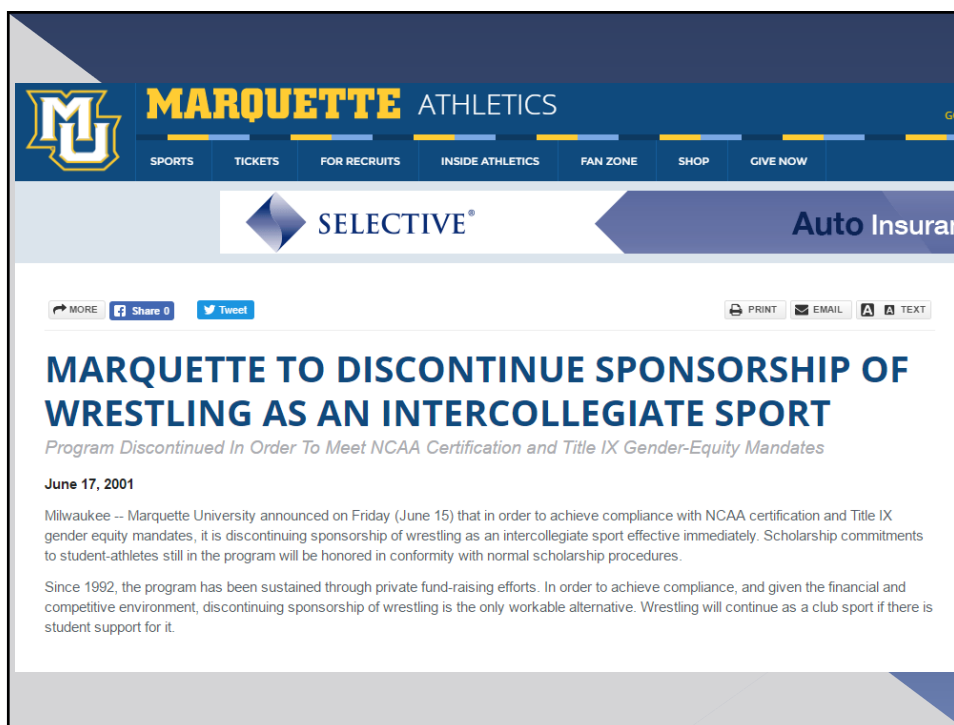


# The Future of Olympic Sports within Collegiate Athletics

## A Panel Discussion



**MARQUETTE ATHLETICS**

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### MARQUETTE TO DISCONTINUE SPONSORSHIP OF WRESTLING AS AN INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT

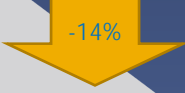

*Program Discontinued In Order To Meet NCAA Certification and Title IX Gender-Equity Mandates*

**June 17, 2001**

Milwaukee -- Marquette University announced on Friday (June 15) that in order to achieve compliance with NCAA certification and Title IX gender equity mandates, it is discontinuing sponsorship of wrestling as an intercollegiate sport effective immediately. Scholarship commitments to student-athletes still in the program will be honored in conformity with normal scholarship procedures.

Since 1992, the program has been sustained through private fund-raising efforts. In order to achieve compliance, and given the financial and competitive environment, discontinuing sponsorship of wrestling is the only workable alternative. Wrestling will continue as a club sport if there is student support for it.

## Participation in NCAA Wrestling

- 1981-82
  - Teams = 363 (D1-146) | Participants = 7,914 (D1-3,659)
- 
- 1991-92
  - Teams = 275 (D1-110) | Participants = 6,819 (D1-3,287)
- 
- 2000-01
  - Teams = 235 (D1-90) | Participants = 6,240 (D1-2,754)

## Why Decline? 3-part test?

- Kelly v. Bd. of Trustees, 35 F.3d 265 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1994)
  - Not in compliance since 1982
  - Illinois cut 4 teams, including men's swimming
  - **Even after cutting still not proportionate participation**
- Cohen v. Brown University, 809 F. Supp. 978 (D. R.I. 1992), *affirmed & remanded*, 991 F.2d 888 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1993).
  - Brown University dropped women's volleyball and gymnastics and men's golf and water polo because of budget restrictions.
  - The female student-athletes sued for reinstatement of their teams
  - Brown failed to effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of its students
  - Identified the first prong of the three part test as a "safe harbor"

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2001 5C

# Title IX proving to be more fatal than fruitful

By LORI NICKEL  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

This is not what women fought for, but this was never the intention of Title IX. What has happened in colleges across the country and at Marquette University, is disturbing to a lot of supporters of men's non-revenue sports.

Another team, Marquette wrestling, has been eliminated because of budget cuts and equity laws.

How could this happen?

Women just wanted the same chances men have to compete. They didn't want to take away men's opportunities, thus setting men's athletics back 20 years to where women's athletics were. Title IX was supposed to make things fair for women in the classroom and on the field.

Instead, men's programs die out by the dozens in an ugly side effect to the federal law. NCAA wrestling alone has lost 56 teams in the last 20 years.

What can be done?

Maybe men's athletics suffer from excess that aren't needed anymore. Weren't women thriving in sports?

Maybe people should pressure the Office of Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., and Congress to change Title IX. Maybe football should be excluded from Title IX proportionality requirements until sixth-grade girls' football teams become the rule rather than the exception. Maybe we could ease up a bit on the proportionality requirements. Maybe things don't have to be 50-50.

Realistically, it is just not that simple.

First of all, Marquette's wrestling program suffered its first major setback in 1992, when a campuswide financial budget crunch meant that every department had to limit its expenses. The athletic department picked wrestling and stopped funding the program.

Incredibly, the program survived another seven years without a dime from the school because of loyal alumni who raised scholarship money themselves. The coach made more money at his second job as a personal trainer. Two or three scholarships were shared among all 35 wrestlers on the roster, barely putting a dent in Marquette's \$18,000 a year tuition.

But the problem with wrestling was that MU wasn't competitive, athletic director Bill Cordis said.

Although a few individuals qualified for the NCAA Championship tournament, as a team MU had just two winning seasons in the last 11 years. Pitting the schedule was also a challenge, as Marquette was the only school in Conference USA with a wrestling team.

The final straw was when Marquette, like all schools, was forced to meet equity requirements by the NCAA in order to be certified by the organization and compete for its championships. MU tried everything to avoid dumping the program.

Cordis said he did not want to add, as he called it, "a token sport," such as badminton or water polo, not major sports in this state.

"Obviously, it was a disappointment for all of us. We were happy to keep it alive as long as we did."

Mike End, former Marquette wrestler

Instead, MU put roster limits on its men's track, soccer, tennis and golf teams. But that wasn't enough. It looked into adding a legitimate women's sport such as swimming or golf, then weighed the costs of equipment, getting a facility up to NCAA standards, a coaching staff and scholarships, and decided, ultimately, that it was too expensive.

It was an agonizing choice for the MU staff, but the only practical one.

So even though the wrestling team was privately funded, even though those wrestlers brought in money to the school by paying their own way, even though the team was also an academic success, the sport was dropped because it skewed the male-to-female proportionality requirement of Title IX.

"Obviously, it was a disappointment for all of us," said Mike End, a former Marquette wrestler and one of the key people in keeping the program afloat. "We were happy to keep it alive as long as we did."

End, a lawyer, and the other wrestling supporters have decided not to try to sue Marquette to reinstate the program. Several men's teams at universities across the nation have filed reverse-discrimination lawsuits. Not one has succeeded, according to Dennis Lopiano, the former women's athletic director at Texas before she became the executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation in 1999.

Lopiano, a former college football star and nine-time All-American at four different positions, agreed that Title IX did force schools to make tough decisions, but she strenuously rejected the argument that starting a women's sports team costs too much.

"It's not OK to have an economic excuse for discrimination," Lopiano said. "When you remedy discrimination, you bring the disadvantaged gender or race up to the level of the advantaged gender or race."

"Sue the women's faculty at Marquette because a lawsuit against the school for salary discrimination. Marquette wouldn't say, 'OK, we're going to cut half of the men's faculty positions. Marquette wouldn't even say to the men's faculty, 'I'm going to reduce your salary by 50%.'"

Lopiano also said there wasn't a quota with Title IX. She said a recent study showed that most schools used two other methods to comply with Title IX, not the proportionality rule.

Marquette could, in theory, keep all of its men's programs if it dropped to Division II status, thus saving scholarship money, Lopiano said.

But you can imagine the uproar from the alumni, fans and the student-athletes if that happened.

When MU wrestling was dropped in June, there was barely a fuss beyond those closely tied to the program.

So on Saturday, instead of hearing for a third season, Marquette wrestling had an emotional final fund-raiser at the Alumni Memorial Union. Former Olympic wrestlers from all over the country made the trip, including some who wrestled in the 1960s. This time, the money went to USA Wrestling. Cordis was there and said although he hoped wrestling would return one day, he would not forget the final farewell.

While some find it troublesome that sport so popular at the high school level in Wisconsin will have one fewer college team, it was not the women's cross country or volleyball teams that killed Marquette wrestling.

Title IX forces schools to give its women as many opportunities as its men. College presidents and athletic directors make difficult decisions on how to prioritize the money they have.

Is it fair? What is fair? If you have a son and a daughter, shouldn't things be equal? Would you buy your boy hockey equipment and then sell your daughter's no more money left for her softball pitching lessons?

Thirty years ago, before Title IX, never had the dilemma, because girls were not given the opportunities to compete in the first place.

## Why Decline?

- Intercollegiate Athletes: Four-Year Colleges' Experiences Adding and Discontinuing Teams (March 2001)
  - Cutting teams
    - 1,919 teams added for women, 702 for men
    - 386 teams cut for men, 150 for women
  - Majority added women's teams without cutting men's teams (72%)
    - Relied on other revenue from other sports or outside sources
  - Factors cutting men's team
    - Lack of student interest (31%)
    - Gender equity concerns (30%) (D1 schools biggest factor - 54%)
    - Need to reallocate athletic budget

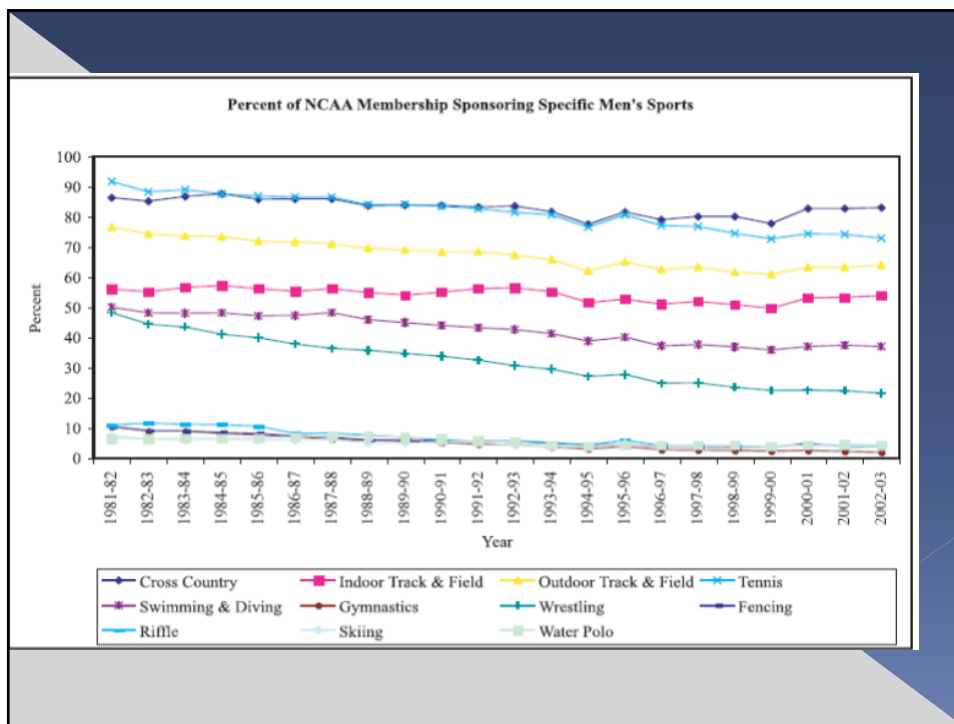
## Why Decline? Title IX?

- Miami University Wrestling Club v. Miami University, 302 F.3d 609 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002)
  - > Not in compliance since 1984
  - > Cut golf, soccer, tennis and wrestling
  - > Validated that 3-part test can be used to comply with Title IX
  
- National Wrestling Coaches Association v. United States Department of Education, 366 F.3d 930 (D.C. Cir. 2004)
  - > Sued to get rid of 3-part test and contest validity of GAO Report
  - > No standing to sue – sue the schools
    - *In other words, schools still may cut even without 3-part test*

## Summary of NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Data Related to the Decline of Sponsorship of Olympic Sports (2003-2004)

Net Change in Sports Sponsorship 1988-89 to 2003-04

Division	Men's Teams	Women's Teams
Overall	+42	+1,971
Division I	-239	+661
Division II	+40	+477
Division III	+241	+833




**CONFOUNDING FACTORS**

A variety of factors may affect sports participation and sponsorship rates at the collegiate level. For example:

- a. changes in high school and college student populations;
- b. budget fluctuations;
- c. changes in the value of private institution endowments;
- d. insurance costs;
- e. the popularity of any one sport;
- f. gender-equity concerns; and
- g. NCAA rules.

SPONSORSHIP

Summary of NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Data Related to the Decline in Sponsorship of Olympic Sports






**Report of the  
NCAA/USOC  
JOINT TASK FORCE**

September 1, 2005

The mission of the NCAA/USOC Task Force (the "Task Force") is to develop recommendations for implementation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (the "NCAA") and the United States Olympic Committee (the "USOC") designed to protect and expand the opportunities for American student-athletes and coaches to realize the benefits associated with participation in collegiate athletic programs and sports traditionally included in the program for the Olympic Games.



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## Olympic Sports Liaison Committee

The purpose of the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee is to facilitate communication and understanding between the NCAA, the USOC and the national governing bodies. Through this communication the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee will assist the USOC and the national governing bodies in facilitating the best possible development of elite athletes within the context of the NCAA's commitment to education and a broad-based development of all student-athletes. The Olympic Sports Liaison Committee will provide an avenue of communication and access for the USOC and national governing bodies into the NCAA process and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the NCAA membership. Finally, the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee will strive to provide education to the USOC, national governing bodies and student-athletes regarding NCAA rules and regulations as they apply to world-class athletes.

## Recent Trends in Teams and Participants in National Collegiate Athletic Association Sports (July 2007)

- Findings
  - Men's & women's teams increased with women showing greater gains
    - Have been more women's than men's teams since mid-to-late 1990s for all schools
    - Men's wrestling declined (20%)
    - Men gained in Cross Country, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Indoor & Outdoor Track
    - Women gained in all but Basketball or Gymnastics static
  - Men's increases over this time greater than women's



## Wrestling #'s now

- 2013-2014
  - Teams = 226 (D1-77) | Participants = 6,982 (D1-2,554)
  - PARTICIPATION
    - Lowest 2004-05 = 5,939 | Highest = 1984-85 = 8572
  - % change overall (to 13-14)
    - From 1981-82 = -12%
    - From 1991-92 = 2.4%
    - From 2000-01 = 12%
  - D1 –
    - From 1993-94 (Cohen) = -18%
    - Lowest 2011-12 = 2,438



## Beach Volleyball

### ● NCAA Emerging Sports for Women

- > Created 1994
- > Emerging sport has a decade to grow to 40 varsity programs – a lower threshold than nonemerging sports – in order to reach championship status
  1. 5 sports have earned full NCAA championship status: rowing in 1996, ice hockey in 2000, water polo in 2000, bowling in 2003 and beach volleyball in 2015.
  2. Triathlon, Rugby, Equestrian → still emerging
  3. Archery, Badminton, Synchronized swimming, Squash and Team handball → fell short
- > 4 years for Beach
- > Championship in 2016

## NCAA D1 Sports (at 2020 Olympics)

- Division I Fall Sports
  - > Cross Country (M/W)
  - > Field Hockey
  - > Football
  - > Soccer (M)
  - > Soccer (W)
  - > Volleyball (W)
  - > Water Polo (M)
- Division I Winter Sports
  - > Basketball (M)
  - > Basketball (W)
  - > Bowling
  - > Fencing
  - > Gymnastics (M)
  - > Gymnastics (W)
  - > Ice Hockey (M)
  - > Ice Hockey (W)
  - > Rifle (M/W)
  - > Skiing (M/W)
  - > Swimming and Diving (M/W)
  - > Indoor Track and Field (M/W)
  - > Wrestling
- Division I Spring Sports
  - > Baseball
  - > Golf (M)
  - > Golf (W)
  - > Lacrosse (M)
  - > Lacrosse (W)
  - > Rowing
  - > Softball
  - > Tennis (M/W)
  - > Outdoor Track and Field (M/W)
  - > Beach Volleyball (W)
  - > Volleyball (M)
  - > Water Polo (W)



## The Future of Olympic Sports within Collegiate Athletics?

- MODERATOR: **Gary L. Johansen**, Associate General Counsel, NGB Governance and Athlete Affairs, United States Olympic Committee, Colorado Springs, Colorado
  
- PARTICIPANTS
  - > **Paul Anderson (L'95)**, Director, National Sports Law Institute and Sports Law program, Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
  - > **Rich Bender**, Executive Director, USA Wrestling, Colorado Springs, Colorado
  - > **John Long (L'09)**, of counsel, Jackson Lewis, P.C., Dallas, Texas
  - > **Peter Prigge (L'12)**, Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance, University of Wyoming Athletics, Laramie, Wyoming
  - > **John Ruger**, Senior Director, Beach Programs, USA Volleyball, Ombudsmen 1999