

Wrestling is Better than Football Because:

A good-natured look at our top two contact sports

By Milt Sherman



- 1.** After you tackle your opponent you don't have to let him go.
- 2.** You don't wear a facemask, or need one.
- 3.** The helmet's are lighter.
- 4.** You never get dirt & grass stuck in your ear hole.
- 5.** A 120-pounder can be as valuable as a 220-pounder.
- 6.** There's never a rainout.
- 7.** You don't line up opposite an opponent 100 pounds heavier.
- 8.** It's never too hot or too cold in the gym.
- 9.** If you line up "off-sides" you only get a caution.
- 10.** Wrestlers never get double-teamed.
- 11.** After a 1st period pin, you don't have to go 3 more quarters.
- 12.** If your teammate gets penalized, it won't hurt your chances.
- 13.** You'll never be called for "too many players on the field."
- 14.** You can't call timeout, you have to fight out.
- 15.** No substitutions are allowed.
- 16.** Your foot touching the line didn't keep you from scoring.
- 17.** The coach is glad that he won't get soaked with Gatorade.
- 18.** There's not 60 guys on the sideline wishing they could just get in the game.
- 19.** Unlike football, every nation has wrestling.
- 20.** You can wrestle several matches per day. In football you can only play once.
- 21.** Everyone knows what a mat is, but what's a "gridiron?"
- 22.** The ancient Greeks invented democracy and their favorite sport was wrestling.
- 23.** An outstanding wrestler in the playoffs is not held back by a weak team.
- 24.** You will never see a match stopped for a TV timeout.
- 25.** The band doesn't mess up the mat at halftime.
- 26.** You can dress 3 wrestlers for the price of a football helmet.
- 27.** Wrestlers don't wear as many pads – or need them.
- 28.** There's not a player who keeps placing both hands under someone's butt.
- 29.** No kicking is allowed. Especially kicking at your ball.
- 30.** You can't score by running away from your opponent.
- 31.** Six points can be scored without moving 80 yards.
- 32.** Wrestlers are never penalized for "holding." Holding is good.
- 33.** You can drop to a knee without hearing a whistle.
- 34.** You will never get "cleated."
- 35.** Wrestlers don't "platoon," but learn both offense and defense.
- 36.** Every wrestler has a chance to score for his team.
- 37.** Why be a halfback when you can put your opponent on his back.
- 38.** An "offensive tackle" never gets to tackle anyone.
- 39.** When a wrestler runs a "reverse" he gets 2 points.
- 40.** A football field has enough space to run a heckuva wrestling tournament.
- 41.** In wrestling all "clipping" must be done before weigh-in.
- 42.** When wrestlers score, you never see them start dancing with each other.
- 43.** You never have to wait for the official in the replay booth.
- 44.** Wrestlers never get penalized for "interference," – heck they are supposed to interfere.
- 45.** A "split end" is a problem your girlfriend has with her hair.
- 46.** A wrestler on defense can bump his opponent all he wants.
- 47.** Wrestling has no zone defense, it's all man-to-man.
- 48.** There's no Tech-pin in football, and sometimes they could use one.
- 49.** Why be a "nose guard" when you can guard the whole guy?
- 50.** At the time of the first football game, the sport of wrestling was at least 4,000 years old...and still going strong.

Editor's Note: The author is a member of both the East Carolina University Athletic Hall of Fame and the North Carolina chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He can be contacted at miltsherman@hotmail.com.