

April

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2025

University of
Tennessee
Volunteer
Wrestling

VolWrestling

Introduction to Volunteer Wrestling Leadership

President:

Robert Huber

Vice President:

Austin Pugh

Treasurer:

Nicholas Horn

Secretary:

Matthew Custer

Public Relations:

Jonathan Gelb

Advisor/Coach:

Joe Smith

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2024-2025 Season Comes to a Conclusion

As the 2024-2025 Wrestling Season comes to an end, we would like to start with an earnest thank you for the 3 alumni that donated to help us with the hotel costs for the national tournament. Qualifying 8 wrestlers logistically changed what we were able to do, and the \$350 donated very much helped to offset the \$1,918 in hotel fees. Thank you for your support of UT Wrestling!

For background, the 2023-2024 season saw us qualify 2 wrestlers for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Championships. We sent 2 freshman, Robert Huber (184) and Austin Pugh (285) who went 1-2 and 2-2 at the tournament in Shreveport, Louisiana. This may not sound like a lot, but in context the 2022-2023 season had the national tournament held in Puerto Rico, and the student leadership that year elected not to compete in the NCWA due to costs associated with that travel. Numbers were low due to this in 2022-2023, and we have continued to build membership since.

The 2024-2025 season featured 5 official competitions. The Newberry Open (Newberry, SC) opened the season, followed by duals with Auburn, Alabama, and Clemson at the Auburn Duals (Auburn, AL). Shortly before the conference tournament we sent 4 wrestlers to the Carolina Duals (Columbia, SC) to compete against the University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, as well as Clemson University to qualify more for the conference tournament (2 official weigh-ins are required for conference tournament eligibility). We did not attend the Cumberland open in Franklin TN, this year. It was offered the same weekend as the Newberry Open.

Participation in the club continued to grow this season, with 71 different students listed on the club sports website, and a total of 12 wrestlers representing the university and the NCWA in official competition. We have 2 graduating seniors this year in Brady McMillian (149) and Ryan Branham (235), so we will be returning a core that we can continue to build with in 2025-2026.

2024-2025 Leaders

Wins

- 7; Scout Holguin (124)
- 6; Austin Pugh (285)

Pins

- 6; Scout Holguin (124)
- 5; Austin Pugh (285)



At the 2025 MAC Conference tournament, from left to right: Ryan Branham (235), Chase Johnson (174), Holden Roaten (157), Austin Pugh (285), Robert Huber (184), Scout Holguin (124, above), Brandon Krul (141), Jared Wood (133), Parker Wyatt (184), Jon Gelb (Injury redshirt) and Brady MacMillian (149).

At the Mid-Atlantic Conference tournament we sent 10 wrestlers to compete:

- Scout Holguin, 124
- Jared Wood, 133
- Brandon Krul, 141
- Brady MacMillian, 149
- Holden Roaten, 157
- Chase Johnson, 174
- Robert Huber, 184
- Wyatt Parker, 184
- Ryan Branham, 235
- Austin Pugh, 285

Placing at the conference tournament was: Scout Holguin (1st), Austin Pugh (4th), Brandon Krul (6th), Ryan Branham (6th), Jared Wood (8th), Brady MacMillian (8th) and Robert Huber (8th). Holden Roaten did not place at the conference tournament, his

to earn a wild card bid for the National Tournament. As a men's team UTK finished 6th overall with 46.5 team points, which was good for 4th out of the Division 2 NCWA programs in the conference. Despite only having one wrestler on the women's roster, Scout's (bottom right) 16 points placed UTK at 3rd behind Liberty University and the Apprentice School (tied at 40 points).

After the Mid-Atlantic Conference Tournament we prepared for the NCWA National Championships. We had injuries at 141 and 235 that prevented Brandon and Ryan's participation in the National Championships, so 6 wrestlers represented the University of Tennessee in Shreveport. Winning matches at the NCWA tournament were: Scout Holguin (3-2; 124); Austin Pugh (1-2, 285) and Jared Wood (1-2, 133).

Right:
Junior Scout Holguin on the podium in first place for the 124 pound division at the conference tournament





2024-2025 Dual Meet Season

The 2024-2025 Dual meet season consisted of two events: the Auburn Duals (Auburn, AL) and the Carolina Duals (Columbia, SC). Volunteer Wrestling went 4-0 at the Auburn duals with the men's team going 3-0 with wins over Auburn University, the University of Alabama, and Clemson University. The women's team won a dual over Clemson University. Going 3-0 on the day was Austin Pugh (285), Ryan Branham (235) and Brandon Krul (141/149).

In an effort to qualify more wrestlers for the 2025 NCWA Mid Atlantic Conference Tournament (2 weigh-ins are required) UTK sent a partial team to the Columbia Duals. Despite only sending 4 wrestlers, UTK had a 1-2 record with a win over Clemson University and losses to the University of South Carolina and the University of Georgia.

Dual Results from the 2024-2025 Season (5-2)

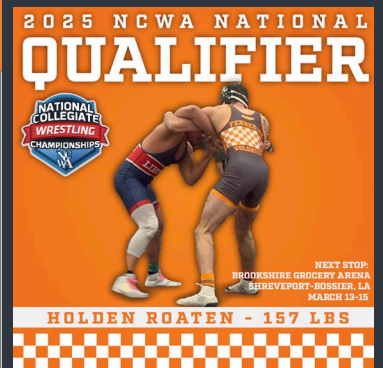
2025 Auburn Duals, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 2/15/2025

Tennessee-Men (W)	24	Auburn	6
Tennessee-Men (W)	33	Alabama	18
Tennessee-Men (W)	36	Clemson	6
Tennessee-Women (W)	6	Clemson	0

2025 Carolina Duals, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2/22/2025*

Tennessee-Men (L)	3	South Carolina	42
Tennessee-Men (W)	24	Clemson	12
Tennessee-Men (L)	6	Georgia	30

*UTK sent a team of only 4 wrestlers to the Carolina Duals to qualify more wrestlers for conference. We were unable to send a full team to this event.





Are you familiar with the NCWA?

-The University of Tennessee competes as a division 2 school in the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA). Our conference affiliation is the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC).

-The NCWA was founded in the late 1990s as an attempt to maintain wrestling opportunities for tomorrow's leaders as more programs were being cut by universities and colleges to maintain compliance with gender quotas for Title IX.

-At the 2025 NCWA National Championships over 500 men's wrestlers and 196 women's wrestlers from over 300 programs competed. This made this tournament the largest college folkstyle national championship ever.

-The NCWA format allows for each team to send 3 wrestlers per weight to the conference tournament, and from there qualify 2 wrestlers per weight for the national championship tournament.

[-NCWA Website](#)

Upcoming Events

- We took a team to the "Old Dawg Open" at Bearden High School in Knoxville on May 10th.

Plans for the 2025-2026 Season

- Replace the Newberry Open with a multiple dual meet with other NCWA teams. This will help with seeding for the conference tournament which uses head to head as a percentage of seeding criteria.
- Competing at the Pepsi Patriot Open in the fall semester. This will allow for more flexibility to gain the required 2 weigh-ins for the conference tournament.
- Expanding the women's team.
- Hosting a home dual meet with another NCWA team. We plan on attending the Auburn and Carolina Duals if possible.
- This summer we will be looking into setting up a not for profit to support the club, so that if we receive donations we can make them tax-deductible. If we pursue this we may need local alumni to serve on the board.
- Fundraising. We will be having additional merchandise sales next season, and will be campaigning for funds during the Big Orange Give (BOG) event in the fall of 2025.
- We look forward to continued collaboration with Ross Bendik of the Foundation for Wrestling Art and Innovation (<https://www.thefoundationforwrestlingart.org/>) for graphic needs. Ross and his team made our national qualifier graphics, created the logo for the Auburn duals (bottom right) and featured UT's program on an alternate singlet design.
- We are looking for ways to connect and update our Alumni, both NCAA and NCWA. Primarily we are using the Instagram platform, but we are open to considering other ways to keep everyone updated as well.

2024-2025 Season Honors

- Scout Holguin, 124 Pounds- Champion and Outstanding Wrestler at the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Conference Tournament
- 6 Volunteer Wrestlers Earn National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Scholar All-American Honors:

Scout Holguin, 124

Jared Wood, 133

Brady MacMillian, 149

Holden Roaten, 157

Robert Huber, 184

Ryan Branham, 235



New Singlets for 2025-2026

-Jon Gelb took over designing new singlets for UT's team. They arrived too late for this year's post season, but we will be unveiling them next year.

Front:



Side:



Back:



Notes From Our Leadership



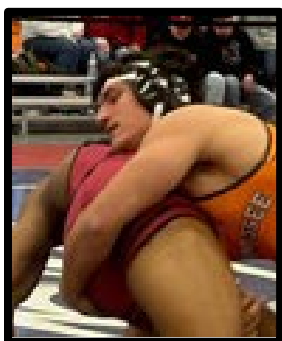
"We are really excited about the growth we have seen from last year to this year. We definitely want to keep the momentum going into next season, and it looks like we will be able to do so. We have seen a much stronger and consistent turnout this year for practices. We had wrestlers who competed and did not compete this year in practice. Some of the wrestlers who did not compete this year have expressed interest in competing next year, and our numbers for next year look very promising.

Money from merchandise sales and fundraising helped us out this year in paying for our hotel rooms for conference and nationals as well as other expenses for the club. We were able to get a new wrestling mat this year, which was a long time coming. Everyone was very excited when we got the new mat; it almost felt like Christmas morning. We are planning on doing at least two merchandise stores next year. One in September and another one in December. A small percentage of the sales goes straight to the club for us to use for expenses.

Looking forward to next year, we are really excited for everything to come. We hope to possibly host our first home dual since 2019. We do not have any details on the dual at this time but we are excited to bring wrestling back to Rocky Top! We also hope to get even more matches in next season than we had this season.

We will be posting regular updates on tournament and dual dates as well as results on Instagram. We will also be posting links to the merchandise store when available on Instagram. We can be found on Instagram by the handle vol_wrestling."

-Jonathan Gelb, 2024-2025 Public Relations Officer



"As the president of the club, I am so excited to see the growth our leaders have fostered. Not only do we have more competitors registering with the NCWA and competing at the conference and national level, but we also have many more outstanding athletes coming to practices. We are fortunate to have a great coach who not only helps us at practice, but sacrifices time and money to allow us to compete. We hope we can continue to have more competitors and national qualifiers next season, and our chances of this will be aided by attending more NCWA competitions. Unfortunately we have limited funding and it is hard for us, as college students, to spend the money it takes to make these trips possible between registration, hotel, and vehicle fees. We are working with the university's Sports Clubs department to improve the program and increase the funding provided by the university. This season, we were able to fundraise and campaign for a new mat that our wrestlers love. We are working with the university's Sports Clubs department to improve the program and increase the funding provided by the university. This season, we were able to fundraise and campaign for a new mat that our wrestlers love. We were blessed by the alumni that supported us this season and hope that our success gives more people a reason to fund our growth!"

-Robert Huber, 2024-2025 President