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(Neb.)- NSAA Board Of Directors Approves Girls Wrestling, Added As Emerging Sport

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 05/21/2020 03:17 PM

(Chadrad Sports)- Sanctioned high school girls wrestling in Nebraska will have to wait, after the NSAA representative assembly failed to pass a vote that would have given it the green light. A 3/5th's vote was needed to implement sanctioned girls wrestling, but fell three votes short, 28 to 23.

Girls wrestling was approve however by the NSAA board of directors, 7-1, as an emerging sport for the next three seasons, meaning that girls can compete in their schools wrestling program and the emerging girls wrestling program. There will not be an NSAA girls wrestling state championship, but one could be added over the course of the three years.

All five Panhandle members of the representative assembly, Troy Unzicker of Alliance, Mike Brockhaus of Sidney, Kari Gifford of Banner County, Dave Hoxworth of Scottsbluff, and Tim Cody of Minatare, voted no.

Hoxworth, Athletic Director at Scottsbluff Public Schools and first time member of the representative assembly said, "We cast our votes according to how our district voted in January, I just happened to be one of the No votes to represent all of our District." He went on to say, "For me personally, I am excited that it is going in as an emerging sport at this time. I feel that is the best plan for the state of Nebraska to implement the sport for ALL the girls across the state that are already currently wrestling and especially for those that will be starting as a "newbie"."

Unzicker, who is also a member of the board of directors stated, "I voted yes earlier in the day during our board meeting. Girls wrestling passed the board of directors 7-1 to begin as an emerging sport."

At the District 6 (Panhandle) meeting back in January, it was a 23-2 vote against sanctioning girls wrestling.

Gifford echoed the statements of Hoxworth, "My family is a wrestling family, and I have seen, first hand, the benefits of the sport of wrestling. I am looking forward to girls wrestling in Nebraska. The Board of Directors on Thursday voted to approve girls wrestling as an emerging sport. This will allow our state to develop a program that provides girls who are interested, a program that can be implemented successfully."

Chadron Public Schools had seven girls competing in wrestling last year between high school and junior high, most notably Paige Denke, who qualified for the state tournament. Denke was the B4 district runner up at 106-lbs last season clinching her spot at the state meet, the first state qualifier in Chadron High history.