

WRESTLING IS BETTER THAN BASKETBALL BECAUSE:

A less than serious look at the top winter sports

By Milt Sherman. Reprinted with permission from *Wrestling USA* Magazine.

1. You can crossface your opponent without being called for a personal foul.
2. The participants wear headgear. . . and need it.
3. A five point play is better than a three point play.
4. The last two minutes of a match lasts two minutes. The last two minutes of a basketball game lasts about 15 minutes.
5. A wrestler in trouble can't call time out but must fight out.
6. In wrestling, dribbling, double-dribbling and other messy habits are not allowed.
7. In wrestling, only the visiting team has to worry about traveling.
8. Wrestlers don't develop a basketball head, hard on the outside but empty on the inside.
9. You can step on the out-of-bounds line and not hear a whistle.
10. You don't have to be six feet tall to wrestle.
11. A chin and hook is better than a sky hook.
12. Spectators can have a ball without seeing one all night.
13. It is easier to follow the action of two athletes than 10.
14. In wrestling both the body slam and slam dunk are illegal.
15. Seeing a half nelson is better than seeing a half of basketball.
16. In wrestling only man-to-man defense is allowed.
17. A body press is better than a full-court press.
18. While people fall down in both sports, in wrestling they fall on a mat.
19. On defense, the wrestler has to guard his opponent closely for more than a five second count.
20. A pin dramatically ends the contest; a slam dunk doesn't.
21. It is better to shoot takedowns than baskets.
22. Wrestling is the world's oldest sport, for good reason.
23. Basketball was originally played with a peach basket with the bottom still intact. A ladder had to be used to remove the



- ball. That should tell you something about the intelligence of the inventor.
24. Being able to touch the rim is not much of a childhood ambition.
25. Charity stripes should be for hospital volunteers only.
26. Wrestling has few athletes named "Stretch" or "Dr. Dunk."
27. You can wrestle several matches a day. In basketball they let you play only once.
28. Rims should be for cars, nets for fishing and hoops for needlework.
29. You are not allowed to double-team a wrestler.
30. A box-and-one or triangle-and-two sound more like geometry than sport.
31. A wrestler would never allow his opponent a free throw.
32. Wrestlers are mostly muscle. Basketball players are mostly bone.
33. Wrestlers look better in their uniforms.
34. Wrestling has mat-men while basketball has gym-rats.
35. After a wrestler scores he gets to try to score again. Basketball players have to give the ball to the other team.
36. Basketball players run back and forth for forty minutes and end up back in the same place.
37. Wrestling coaches rarely throw chairs out onto the floor.
38. It takes two or three coaches for five starters in basketball. Just why is not known.
39. Only one basketball game is played at a time. This is a waste of space which could be used for three or four wrestling mats.
40. Wrestlers shake hands before and after a contest. Whether they feel like it or not.
41. Basketball players are taught to be passive and "take a charge" when this is a great setup for a pancake or lateral drop.
42. Basketball would be better if you could get a front headlock on their best shooter.
43. The four-corners stall is not allowed in wrestling. Wrestlers can only stall in one corner at a time.
44. You probably know several basketball fans yourself, but are not sure whether you can really trust them.

45. The ancient Greeks invented democracy and their favorite sport was wrestling.
46. An outstanding wrestler in the playoffs is not hindered by a weak team.
47. Running and jumping too much on a hard wood floor jostles the brain.
48. Basketball players often injure themselves on the rim or backboard. This rarely happens to wrestlers.
49. Anyone who says that basketball is a non-contact sport, will lie about other things as well.



50. Wrestling terms make more sense. Some suggested changes for basketball are:
 - A "Fall" should be called when the ball falls through the basket.
 - It should be a "near fall" when the ball rolls off the rim.
 - Instead of goal tending, a "technical fall" should be called.
 - When a basketball player steals the ball it should be called a "reversal."
 - When a player jumps up and catches the ball after a missed shot, it should be called a "takedown."
 - It should be called an "escape" when basketball fans finally get to go home!

Milt Sherman is a member of 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