

PRESS RELEASE

The Triumph of Talent: Recap of the 5th Annual Wonder Women Wrestling Tournament

From the Mat to Scholarships, How a High School Tournament Founder Transformed a vision into empowering Futures.



December 2023, Columbia, MO

Greetings,

I am Mike Wakim Jr, the proud founder of The Wonder Women Girl's Wrestling Tournament, established in 2018 during the inaugural season of sanctioned girls' wrestling by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. As the founder, my vision was clear from the outset: to create the largest and most formidable girls' high school wrestling tournament in the nation. Since our inception, The Wonder Women Tournament has evolved into a powerhouse event, reflecting the growth and passion for girls' wrestling. From our humble beginnings with 30 schools and 189 wrestlers in 2019, we have flourished into a tournament of immense

magnitude, hosting 80 schools from seven states, featuring 30 nationally ranked wrestlers, and showcasing five top 25 teams in 2023.

In the winter of 2023, we took a transformative step forward by transitioning into a non-profit entity known as The Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation. This transition marked a commitment to not only provide a platform for these extraordinary young women to showcase their skills but also to extend support beyond the wrestling mat.

A pivotal addition to our foundation is the essay contest, offering senior wrestlers who compete in the Wonder Women Tournament the chance to vie for a \$1000 scholarship. In the spring of 2023, we proudly awarded our first three scholarships to three deserving young women, acknowledging their dedication, resilience, and academic excellence.

Our mission is clear and resolute. We are dedicated to maintaining The Wonder Women Tournament as an unparalleled stage for these young women to compete against the best in the nation. Simultaneously, we aim to grow our scholarship program, ensuring that the legacy of The Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation extends far beyond the tournament, empowering the next generation of female athletes to pursue their dreams both on and off the mat.

Together, we forge ahead, championing the spirit of Wonder Woman wrestling and fostering an environment where excellence is not only recognized but also nurtured. Join us as we continue to provide extraordinary opportunities for these young athletes, shaping a future where the strength, skill, and tenacity of Wonder Women wrestlers shine brightly for all to see.

Sincerely,

Mike Wakim Jr

Founder & Foundation President, The Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation

MISSION

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[BRANDING, LOGOS, AND IMAGES](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Founding Date: March, 2018

- Location: Columbia Missouri
- Size of company or number of employees: 4
- [Background information](#)
- Press Contact Email: Wonderwomanwrestle@gmail.com
- PressContact Phone: (314)580-8691

MEET THE WONDER WOMEN TEAM

[Our Team](#)

As the President of our foundation, I am honored to introduce the dedicated individuals who form the backbone of our team. Lee Furnace Jr., our Vice President, spearheads our scholarship opportunities and brings a wealth of experience to our cause. Our journey extends back to coaching together and competing against each other in high school, and Lee's extensive background in wrestling and nonprofit management makes him an invaluable asset.

Taking charge as our Logistics Director is Chris Kyle, who joined us in 2022 after a successful coaching career. His contagious enthusiasm for the tournament and unwavering love for the sport aligns seamlessly with our mission. Chris is a vital member of our team, contributing his passion and expertise to help us fulfill our goals.

Serving as the Secretary of the Foundation is Jake Lapinski, a trusted ally with whom I've shared coaching experiences for years. Jake's commitment to our cause, coupled with his ability to contribute business acumen, makes him an instrumental force in building our brand and advancing our mission.

When assembling our team, I sought individuals who share a profound passion not only for organizing exceptional events but also for fostering the growth of women's wrestling. Each member brings unique skills, dedication, and a shared vision for the sport's future. Together, we are united in our commitment to putting on outstanding tournaments and propelling the sport of women's wrestling to new heights.

PRESS RELEASES

[Foundation Logos](#)

[2023 Tournament Recap](#)

PAST ARTICLES AND PRESS COVERAGE

- <https://www.flowrestling.org/events/11598835-2023-wonder-woman-wrestling-tournament>
- <https://www.missouriwrestling.com/the-wonder-woman-girls-wrestling-tournament/>
- https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/girls-wrestling/girls-wrestling-spotlight-sanabria-develops-plan-e-xtinguishes-disappointment-at-wonder-woman/article_3683580c-8b8a-11ed-b26c-5b56cd75d1e0.html
- <https://krdo.com/news/2023/01/03/st-louis-teen-earns-title-of-wonder-woman-at-girls-wrestling-tournament/>

- <https://www.missouriwrestling.com/wonder-woman-roundup/>
- <https://www.flowrestling.org/articles/11797173-five-big-things-happening-in-high-school-girls-wrestling>
- <https://www.newstribune.com/news/2023/dec/31/girls-wrestling-berghold-leads-southern-boone-at-wonder-woman/>
<https://www.newstribune.com/news/2023/dec/31/girls-wrestling-capital-city-competes-at-wonder-woman-tournament/>
- https://www.komu.com/news/battle-high-school-hosts-first-all-women-wrestling-tournament/article_0c099eee-aa5e-5013-b0cf-dee037c1f60d.html

SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Total Program Donations: \$14,600

- \$6,000 to Battle High School
- \$2,100 to Hickman High School
- \$2,500 to Holt High School
- \$1,000 to Lift For Life Academy

Additionally, we are proud to announce that we have granted \$3,000 in scholarships as part of our ongoing commitment to support these schools and further the development of young athletes in our community.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND OTHER WAYS TO FOLLOW

For reliable and up-to-date information, check in on [our website](#) and follow our official social media channels. Our Facebook page, "[The Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation](#)," boasts a dedicated community with 1.2k followers, while our Instagram account, "[@WWOWfoundation](#)," engages with 605 followers.

Over the past two years, "[the Sunshine Mafia](#)", a dynamic media group, has created compelling videos showcasing their journey from Florida to Columbia to compete in the Wonder Women Wrestling Tournament. These videos have collectively accumulated over 64k views, providing an exciting glimpse into the tournament experience.

Stay connected with the action by tuning in to our live event stream on [Flowrestling.org](#), recognized as the largest wrestling streaming site in the US. This ensures that you don't miss a moment of the Wonder Women Wrestling Tournament, and you can count on our social media platforms for consistent and accurate updates.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://wonderwomenwrestling.org>

Facebook: [The Wonder Women of Wrestling Foundation](#)

Instagram: [@WWOWfoundation](#)