



# THE PAW POST



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## Girl's Wrestling

Sports | By: Addison Holman

Imagine this. You're at a wrestling meet. The room smells like a mix of popcorn and sweat. You look around when you hear a cheer from the far left mat. A Franklin athlete stands up, and the team starts celebrating the victory. But wait, something out of the ordinary catches your attention. The wrestler is a girl.

For the first time in FCMS history, girls are allowed on the wrestling team. Three female athletes went out for the team this year. Their names are Aubrey Belser, Eleanor Robertson, and Clarissa Clipp.

Being a female wrestler has its ups and downs. Cord Dorsey, FCMS 7th and 8th grade wrestling coach, said, "We didn't have enough girls to make a complete girls team. Instead, they all wrestle individually during our dual meets and tournaments." This means that the girl wrestlers compete against both male and female athletes.

7th grade wrestler Aubrey Belser says that it's difficult because, "[Sometimes] we have to wrestle someone that's 30 pounds heavier than us [...] but I tell myself that I deserve to be out on the mat as much as anyone else."

While it's true that there are difficulties in being one of the few female wrestlers in the state, for Belser, what matters more is what she takes off the mat. She explains that wrestling can toughen someone up in a way other sports can't. Belser says, "My favorite part is it makes me stronger and tougher, and I get to say that I actually wrestled, because a lot of people try wrestling and they quit on the first practice because it's too hard for them."

Some people think it would be strange and/or uncomfortable to wrestle someone of the opposite gender. Belser says, "A lot of people ask if it's awkward for me, and honestly, I don't really find it weird that I have to wrestle boys because it's just wrestling — it's not like there's anything weird; it's just a competition."

Similar to wrestling, football is also a male dominant sport. However, both of these extracurricular activities have recently opened up to female players as well. According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association website, NCAA wrestling is 3.5% girls, but that's more than 0% just 3-0 years ago. Football has even less female participation; there have only been about a dozen women that have gone on to play college level football, according to *Bleacher Report*.

Despite the association football and wrestling has with masculinity, there are still strong females defying expectations for female athletes. FCMS's Eleanor Robertson is one of them. She started wrestling to help her become a better football player. Robertson mentioned, "I started this year because the high school wrestling coach came and told the kids that play football that they should do wrestling because it helps them. So [I wrestle] to help with football."

Robertson says that her mom was her biggest inspiration to play football. "My mom kept saying I would be good at football, so I decided to try it, and I ended up really liking it."

Her advice to anyone interested in joining an athletic team is, "Just try it if you are interested, even if you are scared. I guess that goes for anyone interested, not necessarily just girls."

Although wrestling has traditionally been a sport for men, next time you attend -- whether it's a Franklin event or somewhere else -- who knows? You just might see a girl dominating the mat. ■

### What's Inside?

Scheduling.....	Special Insert
Girl's Wrestling.....	Page 1
Cub Clubs.....	Page 1
Teacher Feature.....	Page 1
Girl's Basketball.....	Page 2
World News.....	Page 2
Pawp Culture.....	Page 2
Backpacks.....	Page 2
Crossword.....	Page 2
Art Stars.....	Page 2

## Cub Clubs: Hammocks for the Homeless

Feature | By: Madi Covault, Taylor, McHenry, and Sadie Wilson



Students pose with a finished hammock.

18% of the US population is homeless, counting over 500,000 people in the nation without a safe space. Now in Indiana, 11% of the inhabitants are homeless, leaving around 7,000 homeless people in this state alone. Mrs. Tunis, the FCMS Intro to Foreign Language teacher, has been on a mission to help those numbers with her club, Hammocks for the Homeless.

Hammocks for the Homeless is a club where students cut recycled bags donated to the club, braid them together, and make a hammock. Mrs. Tunis's mother started this within her church many years ago. Tunis was inspired by her mom, who then helped her to create a whole club for it at FCMS.

Tunis shared, "There are numerous reasons why it [the club] is important. First, it gives kids some insight on how people can struggle, and it gives students an avenue to help." She then went on to explain that her goal for the club is to help others and to teach kids/students how to help others, "When we go downtown to deliver the mats, and the hammocks, and the care packages we help those people by giving them some basic needs." She wants kids to see the impact that helping others can have.

Mrs. Tunis said being part of the club is a great way to find purpose and "to do something that matters, and to care for other human beings." She (cont. on next page)

## Teacher Double-Feature

Feature | By: Ava Johnson & Atlas Kappes | Photos: Briana Bailey

In the Makwa and Nanook hallways, two new ELA teachers were welcomed into Franklin Community Schools this year.

Mrs. Ogan is new to teaching, but Mrs. Pfister is only new to FCMS. Mrs. Ogan went to Ball State for her degree, whereas Mrs. Pfister went to IU for her masters. Mrs. Pfister has also been a teacher for more than twenty years!

Mrs. Ogan always wanted to be a teacher, especially a reading teacher. When she was younger, Mrs. Ogan



Mrs. Pfister reviews the daily agenda with her students.

had a very fun and energetic teacher that sparked her love for ELA. She also always just loved learning.

Mrs. Pfister always loved teaching, and eventually that love accumulated into her becoming a reading teacher after she taught dance among other things.

Mrs. Ogan and Mrs. Pfister love their seventh graders and love teaching them. Next time you stop by the orange or red hallways, maybe stop in and say hi! ■



Mrs. Ogan reads *The Giver* to her 3rd period class.