

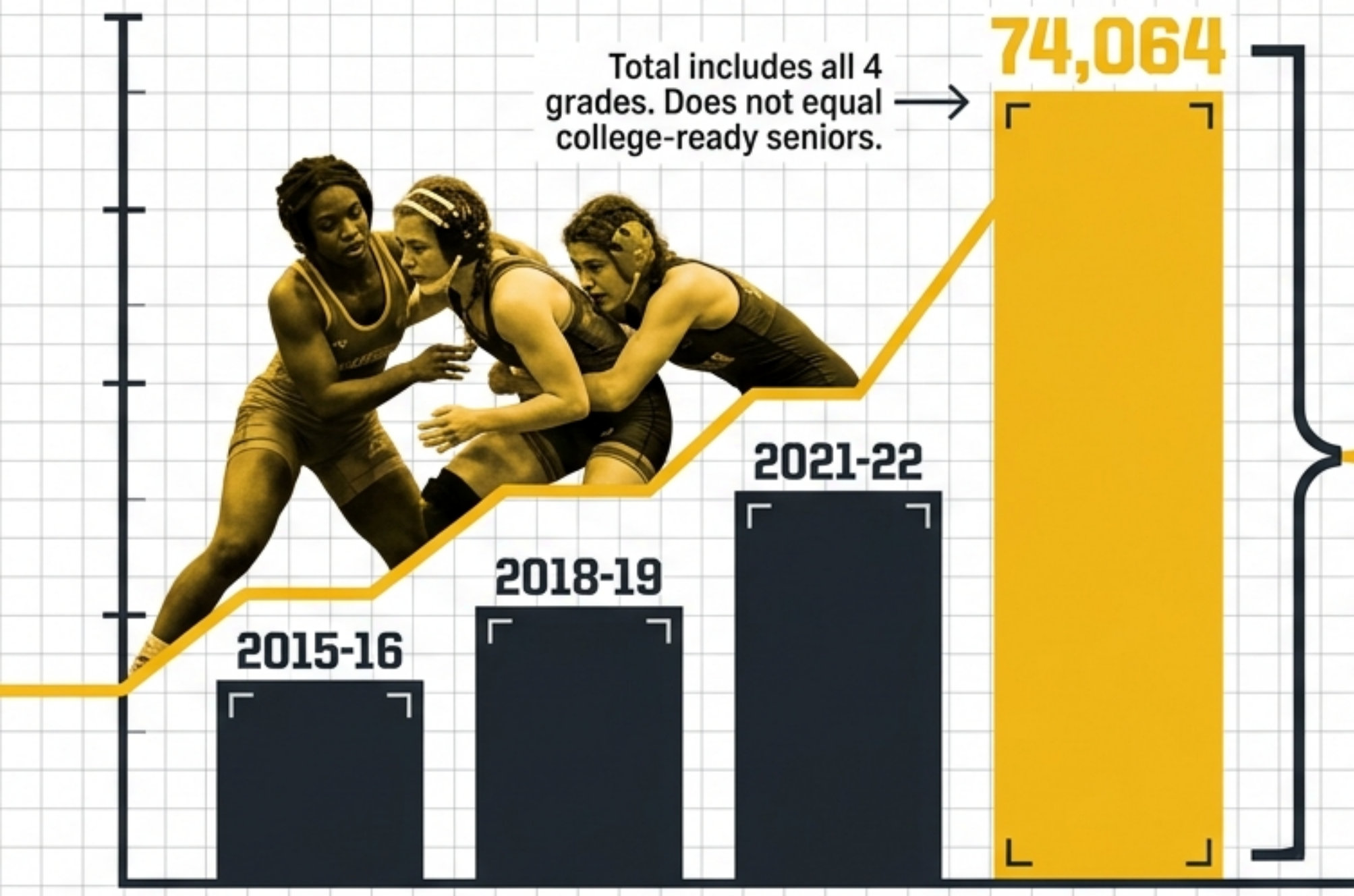
THE OPPORTUNITY SURPLUS IN WOMEN'S COLLEGE WRESTLING

Deconstructing the high school pipeline, athletic attrition, and the mathematical reality of collegiate roster capacity.

A Performance
Intelligence Report



THE 74,000 MILESTONE MASKS THE TRUE RECRUITING POOL



1 **74,064**
Record female high school participants (2024-25 season)

2 **8,100**
High schools currently sponsoring girls' wrestling

3 **+15%**
Year-over-year participation jump

High school girls' wrestling has exploded from 11,500 a decade ago to over 74,000 today. However, treating this multi-grade total as the collegiate prospect pool creates a false illusion of hyper-competition.

THE ATTRITION REALITY THINS THE SENIOR COHORT

TOTAL BASE: 74,064 PARTICIPANTS

FRESHMEN:
~25,700

SOPHOMORES:
~21,500

JUNIORS:
~17,100

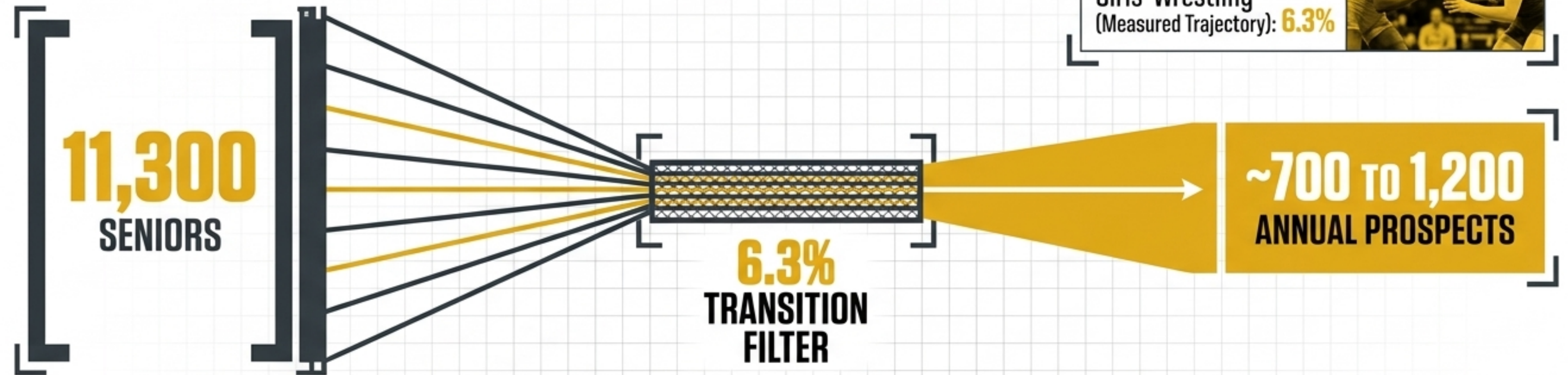
SENIORS:
~11,300

**~56%
DROP-OFF**

Historical data indicates girls' wrestling experiences up to a 56% attrition rate from 8th to 12th grade due to burnout, injury, and changing interests.

A linear decline model proves the **true pool of graduating seniors** is closer to **11,300**—roughly **65% smaller** than what a naive flat-division estimate suggests.

DISTILLING THE COLLEGE-BOUND RECRUITING POOL



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION RATES

Boys' Wrestling: **5.2%**

Girls' Wrestling
(Measured Trajectory): **6.3%**



$$[\sim 11,300 \text{ SENIORS }] \times [6.3\% \text{ TRANSITION RATE }] = \sim 1,100 \text{ ANNUAL RECRUITS}$$

The actual national recruiting pipeline consists of roughly 1,100 highly motivated, college-ready seniors annually.

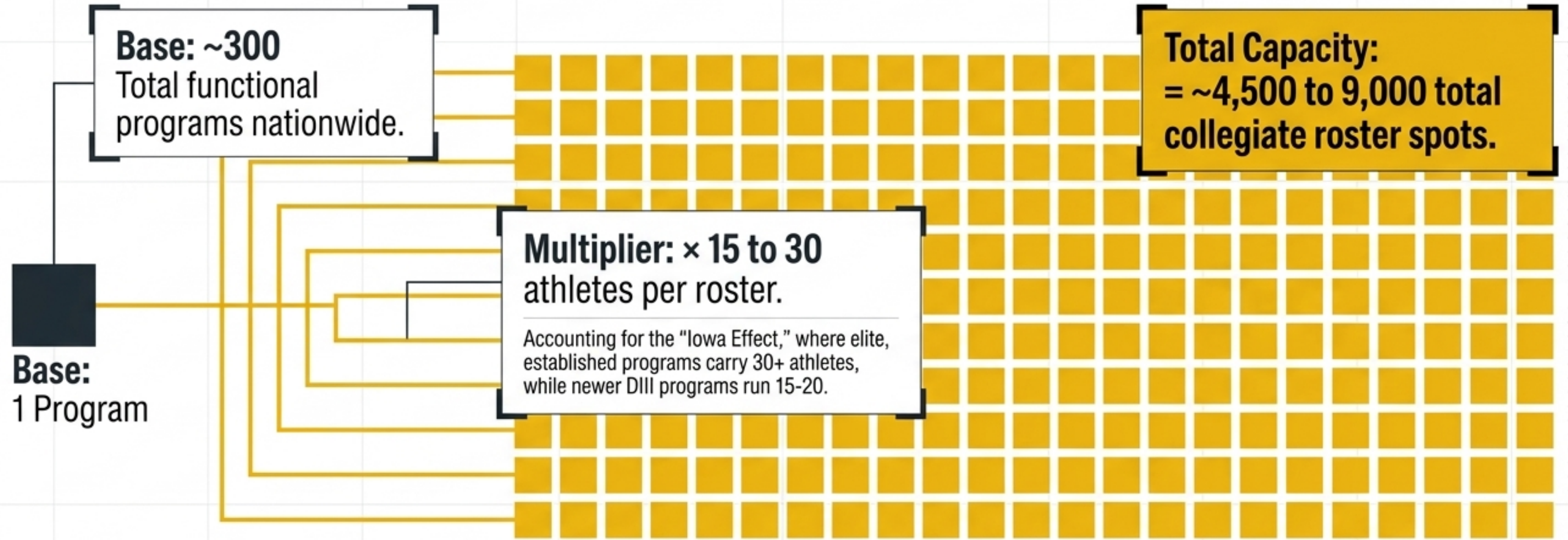


THE RAPID EXPANSION OF COLLEGIATE INFRASTRUCTURE

GOVERNING BODY	SANCTIONING STATUS	ESTIMATED PROGRAMS
NCAA (D1, D2, D3)	Official championship sport (2025-26)	~126 Programs
NAIA	Own national championship	~49 Programs
NJCAA / CCCAA	Junior college pathways	~50+ Programs
NCWA	Varsity/Club developmental tier	~86+ Programs

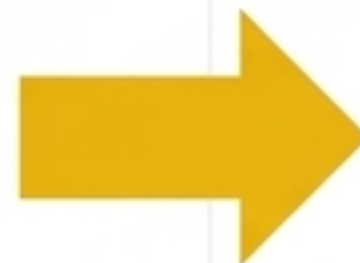
Over 300 functional collegiate programs are actively building women's rosters today across all governing bodies.

CALCULATING TOTAL COLLEGIATE ROSTER CAPACITY



Annual Turnover Calculation

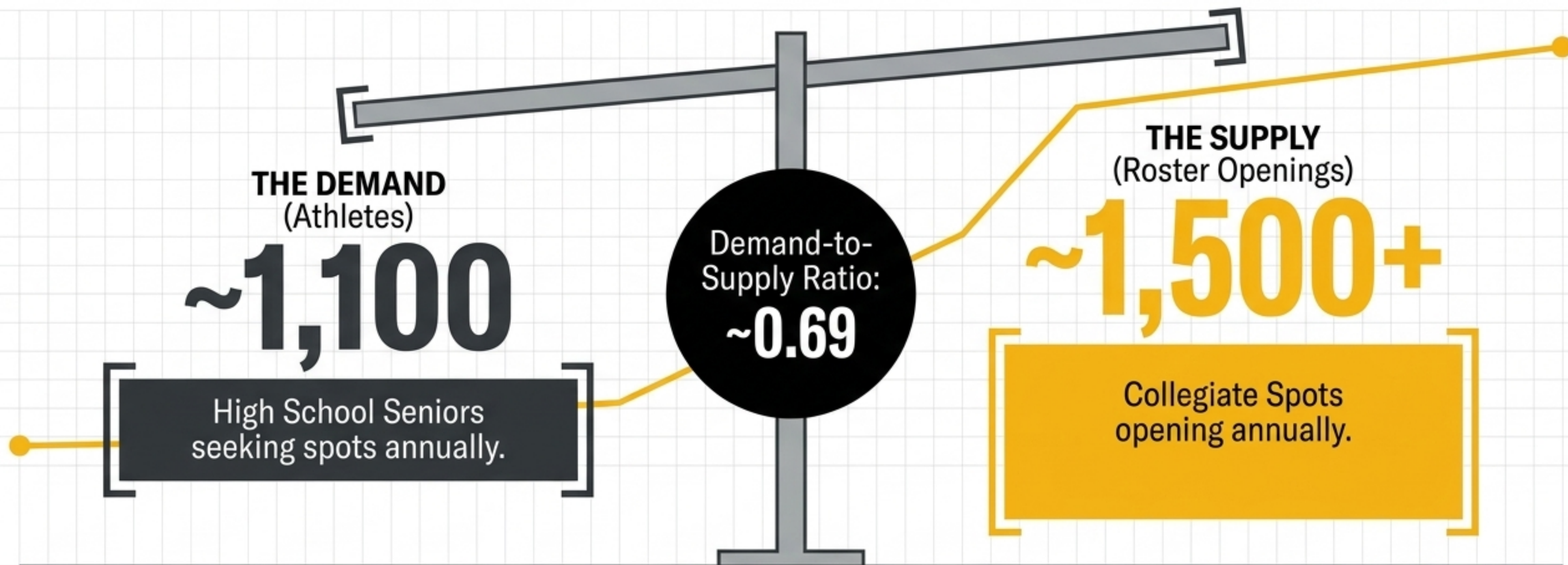
Assuming a standard 4-year career,
~25% of these spots open every year.



~1,125 to 2,250
annual roster openings.



THE OPPORTUNITY SURPLUS: SUPPLY OUTPACES DEMAND



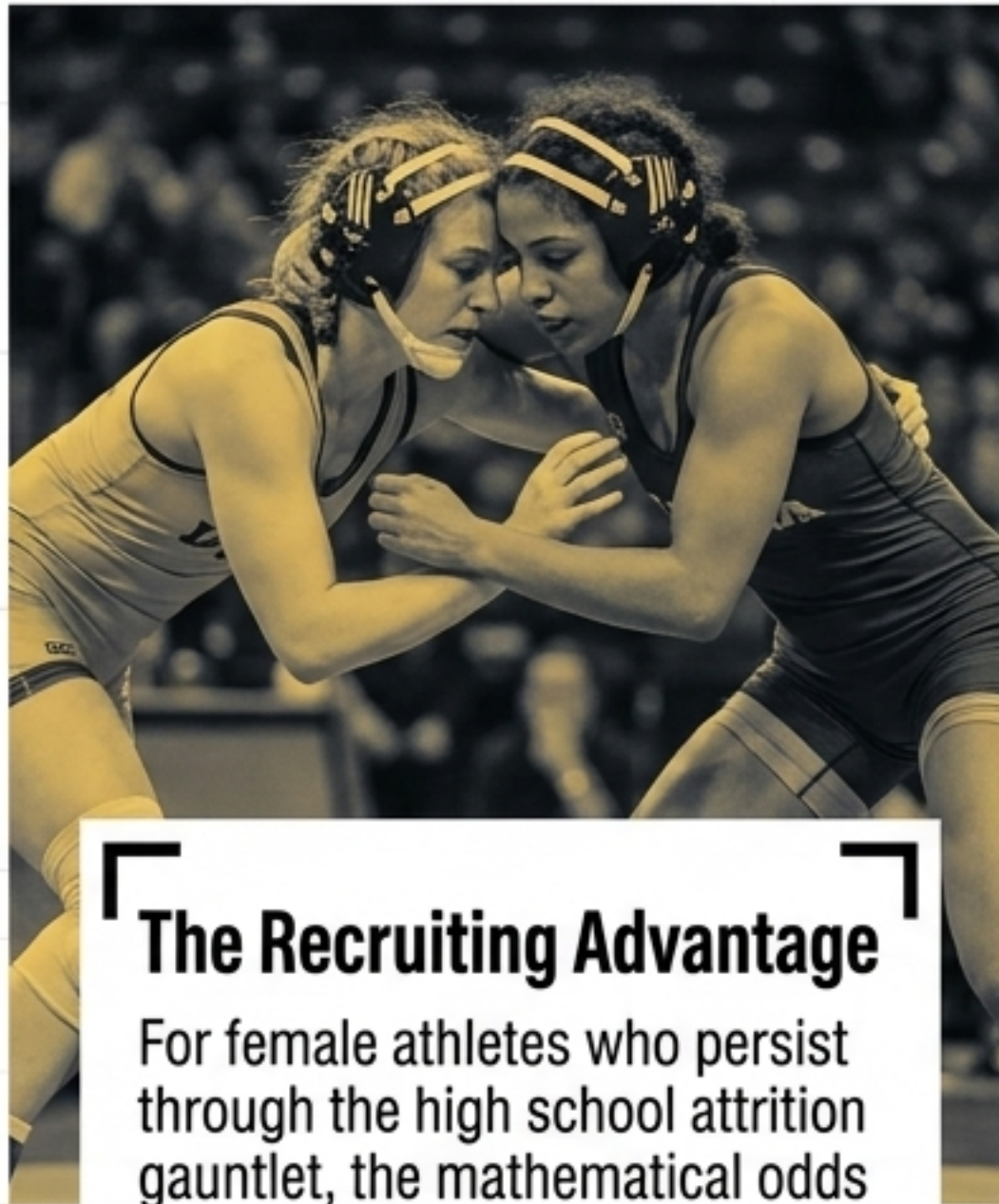
There is no shortage of college opportunities. Currently, there are more collegiate roster spots opening each year than there are dedicated high school seniors to fill them. The crisis is high school retention, not college capacity.

The Imperative for Coaches & Athletes



Retention Over Expansion

The high school pipeline's base is wide enough. The focus must now shift to creating elite training environments that retain athletes through their senior year.



The Recruiting Advantage

For female athletes who persist through the high school attrition gauntlet, the mathematical odds of securing a collegiate roster spot are historically favorable.



Inclusive Excellence

Maximizing this surplus requires inclusive, high-performance coaching that breaks down demographic barriers and builds technical mastery for all athletes.