

HOW TO DO STUFF BETTER

Part 5 of 5



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Today's Lesson:

Husk it, Ags

Want to return from the Nebraska road trip? Let us help you out.

BY SUSAN OVERCASH
The Battalion

Score! No guys, not with that cute blonde in your history class — score as in you and eight of your best friends (i.e. Corp buddies, frat brothers, angry OSU fans) score some choice seats for Saturday's football game at Nebraska. Well, "choice" may be an exaggeration, unless you count the nosebleed section in Memorial Stadium.

You know — the section at that exact, odd angle between the most rabid student section and the most rabid alumni section that makes McCown and our trusty Ags look as tiny as Peter Pan and his Wild Bunch compared to Frank Solich's corn-bred, corn-fed Midwestern farm boys.

Nevertheless, tomorrow you'll be sitting in Lincoln, Nebraska, watching your hands turn a tasty color of blue in the early Nebraska winter, sitting on an icy bench shouting until your throat is hoarse and painful amidst a sea of hostile 'Husker fans, out for blood.

In this hostile and somewhat alien environment, 'Husker fans have been known to try to explain the Texas-Nebraska series with those mysterious crop circles. A few tips may help you part the Red Sea and become the friendly football fan hiding within, as well as save your life.

Stay Alive (Part I)

Those of you wearing sandals and tanks, listen up. Nebraska is cold. Not College Station, "Oh no, its in the high 60s!" cold; Lincoln regularly records temperatures in the negatives (for those of you business majors out there, those are the numbers BELOW zero). A good football fan is always prepared for any weather conditions.

Crissy Leader, a sophomore communications studies major at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, said the weather is freezing in the morning and warms up in the afternoon.

"I started out this morning wearing a coat, it was about 28 degrees," Leader said. "But it usually warms up some in the afternoon, into the fifties."

The 50s; you don't say. According to the Weather Channel, the low temperature in Lincoln for Saturday will be about 30 degrees. For Aggies, used to summer in summer and summer in winter, a temperature under 50 degrees means, well — January.

The idea here is to take a coat, gloves, hat, ski mask and any other piece of clothing that may stave off hypothermia.

Leader, however, did have good news for students taking a date.

"We wear tons of sweats and gloves, and we stay warm through body heat," Leader said. "There's like 10,000 people in every block of seating."

Stay Alive (Part II)

Some advice: throwing objects at the Nebraska football team is a bad idea. This is not only bad form and completely cheesy (read: Texas Tech), but it may also cause you bodily harm.

A major aspect of becoming a better fan is not patronizing, or throwing things at the opposing team and their fans.

Leader said, Nebraska fans are ill-disposed to an Aggie fan trying to nail Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch with any type of fruit or vegetable.

"The team went down to Mizzou, and the crowd there threw stuff at them, oranges and batteries," Leader said. "We actually have a net to protect our players and had to pull it out at that game."

Although throwing things is not a generally accepted Aggie tradition, try to stay away from pelting the 'Huskies with an inanimate or animate object.

Kyle Noyes, a senior petroleum engineering major, also advised students that to be better Aggie fans and possibly stay out of the hospital, it is important not to start fights with Nebraska fans.

"Remember, we're in another team's stadium," Noyes said. "There's no reason to get in their faces, especially if we're kicking butt like we should be — what goes around, comes around."

A final piece of advice from Leader, do not comment on the Nebraska players' collective legal troubles.

Same Idea - Make Us Proud.

Not patronizing the 'Huskies just to save your own skin may be enough to be a good fan at another school, say, Texas. However, here in Aggieworld, you are expected to act honorably at all times to make the rest of us look good, as well.

The ugly truth is, students here are people, too, and occasionally act immaturely or irresponsibly at public events like football games.

Casey Anderson, a senior meteorology major, said he was recently embarrassed by some students' actions at the Southern Miss. game.

"I was sitting on the front row of the second deck, and a couple of intoxicated students next to me were leaning over the edge, shouting obscenities and cursing at the opposing team's fans," Anderson said.

"How can we call ourselves a world class university if we admit students who are too immature to behave responsibly in public?"

It has already been established that Nebraska fans are not particularly amiable to hearing words your mother probably didn't teach you. But you are not just putting your life in jeopardy by acting like a fool; you are also threatening the good reputation of this University and

the students that attend school here.

Nate Rodriguez, a senior petroleum engineering major, said that badmouthing coaching decisions may also make the Aggies look foolish to the opposing team.

"Don't badmouth R.C. Slocum after the third down and 15-yard draw play," Rodriguez said. "You know it's going to happen."

So be the good fan hiding deep within, and when Cornelius Anthony sacks the Nebraska quarterback for a 10 yard loss, try a simple "WHOO!" instead of shouting insults.

Also, when the Ags are up 47 to 3 over the 'Huskies, remember the Oklahoma game, and try to have some sympathy.

Wear Your Boogie Shoes.

Whether we win or lose, you're probably going to be leaving Memorial at a record pace.

The biggest difference: will you be carrying a goal post at the same time?

Also, some of those 'Huskies may be pretty good revelers, so you may end up wanting to boogie later that evening with a whole different culture, a world that uses the word "Pop" instead of "Coke."

First, students have traditionally been discouraged to tear down any parts of opposing team's stadiums in celebration of winning 47 to 3.

However, part of being a good fan is being a good winner, or loser, and caring about the game so much that the emotion sweeps you away.

Noyes said he thought students should be free to express their emotions about the game.

"I think we should be able to run on the field and tear down the goal post," Noyes said. "People say you shouldn't do that, but those people have never felt that kind of emotion for a game."

Despite winning or losing, students are also free to express their emotions after the game, boogying the night away in the nearest Midwestern bar.

Tara Pawling, a junior broadcasting major at Nebraska, said she thought both Cornhusker and Aggie fans, although a little bitter if they lose, still consider after-game partying part of being a good fan.

"Everybody here hits O Street and goes to all the bars," Pawling said. "There's usually a lot of opposing fans there, as well."

So allow the good fan within you to come out and you might survive to make the trip back to Aggieworld. Be friendly, even if the 'Husker fans aren't.

Don't throw things. Make us proud by being proud of our school.

But most of all, win or lose, have a good time, and remember, it's just a game. Oh yeah — and beat the hell outta Nebraska.

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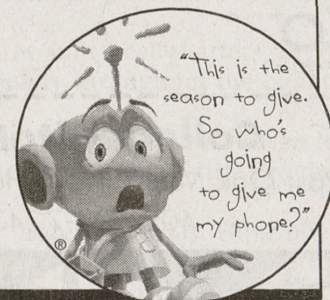
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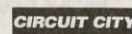
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