

BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM, ALABAMA

- ➔ **Location:** Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- ➔ **Opened:** 1929
- ➔ **Seats:** 101,000
- ➔ **The Tide's record at Bryant-Denny Stadium:** 228-46-3

NO. 1—AGAIN

ALABAMA not only has the best team in college football, it has the best place to watch a team—according to 70 former coaches, current coaches and broadcasters who voted based on each school's **STADIUM, FANS, CITY/SURROUNDINGS, TRADITIONS and HISTORY**

Photos by Bob Leverone / SN



STADIUM

A masterpiece of mixing history and modern updates, the stadium's most recent renovation, completed this summer, finished the upper bowl and moved the capacity over 100,000. True story: The visitor's locker room is named "The Fail Room" after longtime donor James Fail, who has said that it is the most appropriate use of his name.

1974 NFL MVP and former Tide All-American QB Ken Stabler says: "You have all the footprints and handprints of all the Alabama captains at the bottom of Denny Chimes. You walk in the stadium and it's (101,000), I guess, this season. The first thing that is displayed is maybe the biggest big screen in the country, and it's got coach (Bear) Bryant talking about winning. ... It's the whole atmosphere at the school. You feel winning; you feel Coach Bryant there."



BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM'S 5 BIGGEST MOMENTS

- 1 BLOCK PARTY: October 24, 2009.** Alabama nose tackle Terrence Cody blocks two field goal attempts, the second as time expires, to preserve a 12-10 victory against Tennessee. The Tide remain undefeated and go on to win the national title.
- 2 THE LEGEND BEGINS: OCTOBER 11, 1958.** Bear Bryant gets his first win at Bryant-Denny when the Tide beat Furman, 29-6. He goes on to compile a 72-2 record at Bryant-Denny in his 25 years as Alabama coach.
- 3 AN IRON-CLAD WIN: NOVEMBER 29, 2008.** In the Tide's first Iron Bowl victory at Bryant-Denny, they shut out Auburn, 36-0, end a six-year losing streak in the series and clinch a spot in the SEC title game.
- 4 TOPPLING TENNESSEE: OCTOBER 22, 2005.** With 13 seconds left, Jamie Christensen hits a 34-yard field goal, and Alabama wins, 6-3. Tennessee had won nine of the 10 previous games in the series.
- 5 BARKER'S BIG DAY: OCTOBER 1, 1994.** After trailing Georgia by nine points in the fourth quarter, a 32-yard field goal by Michael Proctor with just over a minute left gives the Tide a 29-28 win. Alabama's Jay Barker throws for a stadium-record 396 yards, and the Tide go on to finish the regular season with a perfect record.

TRADITIONS

Sure, there are the plain crimson jerseys and the numbers on the helmets and Denny Chimes. But the best game-day tradition: a stirring pregame video that looks at Alabama's history, complete with a rousing orchestral theme that ends with the Bear himself mumbling, "I ain't never been nuthin' but a winner." And the place goes nuts.

Atlanta Falcons and former Tide All-American OL Mike Johnson says: "There are so many traditions that make Alabama what it is. ... But to me, the one thing that stands above all is that crimson jersey. There are high school stars who skip scholarships from other schools to walk on at Alabama to wear that jersey. I can remember the first time I put it on; I got chills. It's hard to explain; it becomes who you are and what you stand for. And who you play for. It's something I will always cherish and never forget."

HISTORY

Eight national championships (the school claims 13) and 22 SEC championships. Then add in 57 bowl appearances (32 wins) and 97 first-team All-Americans and Bryant-Denny seeps history. It will play an even bigger role in Alabama lore going forward; after years of playing some games at Birmingham's Legion Field, the Tide moved all home games to Bryant-Denny in 2004.

Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Tide All-American WR Ozzie Newsome says: "When you're recruited at Alabama, the players tell you that you come here to play in a major bowl, play for an SEC championship and for a national championship. ... You are told that you have a chance to be a part of something special because playing at Alabama was something special. ... While you're there, you want to make sure you maintain that tradition and history. You don't want to be that group or that class that loses and takes the program backward."

CITY/SURROUNDINGS

T-Town, as the locals fondly call Tuscaloosa, may be the most traditional college campus in America. A 70-minute drive from Birmingham (on nongame days, of course), it's a beautiful slice of the old South. A main attraction is the Bryant Museum, where you could stumble upon a lot of Bryants celebrating the fact they're named after, yep, legendary coach Bear Bryant.

Former NFL and Tide All-American QB Jay Barker says: "(Fans) tailgate from morning to midnight around the Quad by Denny Chimes, and people pay for those spots in advance for a full year. We'd stay at a local hotel on game weekends, and there were three ladies we called the huggers. Every time they saw you, they'd hug you. And you know what? I see them today, and they hug me. The game is so important, but experiencing all there is on game day is just as thrilling."

FANS

At the end of every Alabama victory, Tide fans sing the "Rammer Jammer" cheer with the Million Dollar Band: "Rammer Jammer, Yellow Hammer, gave 'em hell, Alabama!" Alabama fans, in a nutshell: obsessive, obnoxious and utterly, unfailingly loyal. In 2007, 92,000 showed up for the *spring* game.

2005 NFL MVP and former Tide All-American RB Shaun Alexander says: "My sophomore season ... an old lady who might've been in her 80s or 90s came up to me one day that season and said, 'Shaun, if y'all beat Auburn, I'll die a happy woman.' And I thought to myself, *Ma'am, I'm 19*. ... Alabama fans are about the game and winning. That's why there's no pro team in Alabama, and why most kids play their pee-wee games not on Saturdays but on Tuesdays—parents aren't going to watch their kids' games over Alabama games."

A FAN'S VIEW MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM



By Jim Nabors,
actor and
Alabama alum

- 1 THE SPIRIT OF ALABAMA.** It has always been the greatest. They just love football there—it makes you feel good. It's a real upper.
- 2 THE UPDATED STADIUM.** It is incredible. It's really state of the art. They showed me all around—it was phenomenal.
- 3 THE TAILGATING.** Alabama has an art on that. They go for miles and miles. I live in Hawaii and went to the game when Hawaii played Alabama. The Hawaii people were saying, "Hey, everybody's so wonderful." They were inviting them to eat even though they were different teams.

—As told to Matt Crossman



NOTRE DAME STADIUM, NOTRE DAME

- ➔ **Location:** South Bend, Ind.
- ➔ **Opened:** 1930
- ➔ **Seats:** 80,795
- ➔ **The Irish's record at Notre Dame Stadium:** 308-103-5

Photos by Jay Drowns / SN

STADIUM

Originally patterned after Michigan Stadium, Notre Dame Stadium is the last true vestige of college football yesteryear: no replay boards, no stadium signage, no color scheme paint in the end zones. And yes, real grass. The brick exterior and quaint interior (aluminum benches and fans less than 10 feet from the field in some spots) complete the storied facility.

Former NFL and Irish All-American OL Aaron Taylor says: "It has a brick-and-ivy old school feel to it, and I'm an old school guy. ... There are no replay boards, no advertising signage like you see in other stadiums. It's football at its best: green grass, white chalk lines and two teams going at it in an intimate experience. No loud crazy music; just the teams and the bands and the fans. ... When you step inside that place, even the Notre Dame haters can't deny the aura you feel."

FANS

It's not the loudest place, nor the most intimidating. The crowds are, for the most part, wine and cheese. In fact, one of the rowdiest moments was two years ago, when fans pelted Irish players with snowballs during a poor performance—and eventual loss—to Syracuse. Fortunately, there's a corner quadrant of the stadium filled with students (see: snowballs) to keep the juice flowing.

Four-time Super Bowl champion and former Irish RB Rocky Bleier says: "For a long time, Notre Dame captured that imagination

from coast to coast. You had immigrant families that had no experience with this other than that they were Catholic. So they identified with Notre Dame. And even though it's not like that anymore, there's still tremendous emotion. No one is ambivalent. No one takes Notre Dame with a shoulder shrug. That sets the school apart. The fans that love Notre Dame are as passionate as any at any school in the country."

CITY/SURROUNDING

The scenery is breathtaking. From the east side of Notre Dame Stadium looking out over the campus, the view is striking: The golden dome is at 1 o'clock, and the Hesburgh Library with the Touchdown Jesus mural is at 3 o'clock. But once you step off campus, South Bend is pretty much like every other Rust Belt town.

Denver Broncos and former Irish QB Brady Quinn says: "One of the greatest things about Notre Dame is obviously the history and the tradition it carries. The people in that area and that neighborhood really buy into that. That's something that they make so special for everyone. You see the tailgating. As a player and student, you kind of see the enthusiasm and excitement, like stores being closed down because they're going to the game. It's a special thing."

TRADITIONS

Cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame... There's nothing quite like the Notre Dame Victory March, the most recognizable fight song in college sports. And that's just the beginning for the

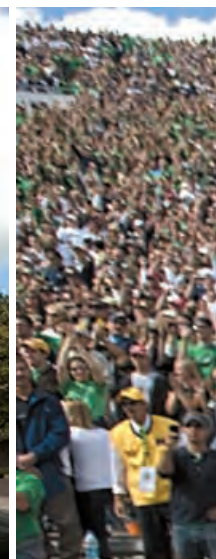
school with some of the most revered traditions in the game: the Four Horsemen, pep rallies in the Joyce Center, the gold helmets, "Play Like A Champion Today." And, of course, the Leprechaun.

1983 NFL MVP and former Irish All-American QB Joe Theismann says: "You start down that tunnel, and I'm sure everyone has seen that tunnel a thousand times on television. It's not wide; it's tight in there. It's like you're going through a dungeon, and after you slap the 'Play Like A Champion Today' sign, you go out of this dungeon and are thrust into what looks and feels like a Colosseum atmosphere. ... We'd run out and the place would explode."

HISTORY

The Irish have 11 consensus national championships, the second-highest winning percentage in history of the game (.734) and seven Heisman winners (one, Paul Hornung, on a losing team). But Notre Dame isn't so much remembered for its teams as its coaches: Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian, Lou Holtz—all members of the College Football Hall of Fame.

Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Irish Heisman Trophy-winning QB Paul Hornung says: "I don't think anything else in college football compares to game day at Notre Dame. It's what the college experience is all about. You walk into that stadium, and there's so much history and tradition, so many big games and great coaches and players ... you can just feel it. It's one of a kind. If you're a young guy playing your first game there, I imagine it's part inspiring and intimidating."





NOTRE DAME STADIUM'S 5 BIGGEST MOMENTS

- 1 "CATHOLICS VS. CONVICTS":
OCTOBER 15, 1988.** With 45 seconds remaining, No. 1 Miami scores to cut its deficit to 31-30. The Hurricanes go for the win, but Pat Terrell knocks down the 2-point conversion attempt. The Irish go on to win the national title.
- 2 REVENGE: OCTOBER 27, 1973.** USC is led by Anthony Davis—who had six TDs against the Irish in 1972—and is on a 23-game winning streak. The Irish hold Davis to 55 yards rushing in a 23-14 upset. The win is the key to Notre Dame's national championship.
- 3 SOMEONE HAD TO LOSE:
NOVEMBER 13, 1993.** No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame are on 16-game unbeaten streaks. Shawn Wooden bats down a pass from Charlie Ward to preserve a 31-24 Notre Dame win.
- 4 GREEN MACHINE: OCTOBER
22, 1977.** After warming up in blue uniforms, the No. 11 Irish find green jerseys in the locker room. They wear them and stun No. 5 USC, 49-19, with four TDs (two passing, two rushing) from Joe Montana.
- 5 THE BUSH PUSH: OCTOBER 15,
2005.** No. 1 USC enters the game on a 27-game winning streak, but Notre Dame leads, 31-28, with less than 2 minutes to go. On the last play of the game, USC QB Matt Leinart tries to sneak into the end zone, and when he is stopped by the Irish, teammate Reggie Bush pushes him in for the game-winning score.

A FAN'S VIEW

MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT NOTRE DAME STADIUM



By **Bob McDonnell**,
Virginia
governor and
Notre Dame
alum

- 1 THE HISTORY.** It's "the House That Rockne Built." You walk in and you get the sense of the echoes of gridiron greatness that go back decades—we just wish they were a little louder today.
- 2 THE VIEWS.** Having sat all over the stadium through the years, I can say that every seat is a good seat.
- 3 TOUCHDOWN JESUS.** You can't beat the marvelous view of Touchdown Jesus looking down over the field. It's a great blend of football and the spiritual components of Notre Dame.

— As told to Matt Crossman





BEAVER STADIUM, PENN STATE

- ➔ **Location:** State College, Pa.
- ➔ **Opened:** 1960
- ➔ **Seats:** 107,282
- ➔ **The Nittany Lions' record at Beaver Stadium:** 245-59-0



Photos by Bob Leverone / SN

STADIUM

Beaver Stadium has gone through numerous phases of construction. It began at 46,000 seats, and the last renovation pushed the capacity to more than 100,000. The addition of Pennsylvania limestone to the walls around the stadium is about as sexy as it gets at Penn State. And that's the way they like it.

Two-time Pro Bowl selection and former Nittany Lions All-American RB Larry Johnson says: "Beaver Stadium is like no other place. I remember the Nebraska game in 2002. It was a night game, and the whole scene was insane. It felt like we were playing for the national championship, even though it was the second game of the season. Just to stand in the huddle and look into the crowd and see the sea of white T-shirts. We were in the huddle, and I looked at everybody and just said, 'It gets no better than this.'"

FANS

The "S-Zone" is a cult classic: a small section of students at the 20-yard line is given white and blue T-shirts to create an "S" in the stands. These are the same passionate students who camp out in "Paternoville" all week before games and snatch up tickets in record time.

Tennessee Titans and former Nittany Lions All-American QB Kerry Collins says: "The atmosphere that's in that stadium on a beautiful fall day is something I'll always remember. ... You see the RVs coming in on a Tuesday or Wednesday of game week, and on

game days there are cars parked as far back as the eyes can see. One of the cool things about Penn State was on game days we'd take a bus from where our lockers were and go through the crowd and everyone would line the road. You could see how much they were behind you."

CITY/SURROUNDINGS

The State College area originally was given the name Happy Valley during the Great Depression because it wasn't hit as hard as the rest of the Northeast. Roll down College Avenue and throughout the beautiful campus and experience another reason why: It's the safest college town in America.

Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Nittany Lions All-American LB Jack Ham says: "After the games, I work on a postgame show at a place on College Avenue. And there are times it doesn't look like I'm going to get there in time because there are so many people. The games really are an event for everybody in State College. The Winnebagos start showing up (during the week), and that's when things start to change. You see guys dressed up as (Joe) Paterno, and everywhere you go, you see Paterno masks. It takes over the town."

TRADITIONS

It begins and ends with the Coke bottle glasses, khaki flood pants and white shirt and blue tie of one Joseph Vincent Paterno. And the no-nonsense blue and white uniforms his teams wear. Traditions run from the storied (Linebacker U, the *We Are...*



Penn State! chant) to the more modern (whiteout games).

Buffalo Bills and former Nittany Lions All-American LB Paul Posluszny says: "One of the best traditions that we have is we ride to the stadium in one of those old school blue buses, and the path we take is lined with fans. When we arrived at the stadium there was a huge crowd waiting to greet us as we walked into the stadium. ... The most visible one is Joe Paterno running out of the tunnel. That's a great tradition at Penn State. It's a symbol that people have seen for 40 years now."

HISTORY

Six times in school history, Penn State has finished a season unbeaten and untied. Only twice have the Lions been national champions (1982, 1986). Most recently, the 1994 team—possibly Paterno's best—missed out when Nebraska was named national champion. In the last 60 years, Penn State has had two coaches (Paterno and Rip Engle) and five losing seasons.

Three-time Pro Bowl selection and former Nittany Lions All-American RB Curt Warner says: "The stadium plays a significant role, especially with regards to the athletes that might come in. ... I remember clearly walking into that stadium and seeing (75,000) at that time, in the late 1970s. It was so impressive to me as a recruit. What's most impressive is when you enter State College, you see that stadium from a distance and there's nothing else around. It stands out like a sore thumb, and you go, 'Whoa.'"

BEAVER STADIUM'S 5 BIGGEST MOMENTS

- 1 ALL THE MAKINGS OF A THRILLER: SEPTEMBER 25, 1982.** Down by three, Penn State's Todd Blackledge throws a TD pass to Kirk Bowman with 4 seconds left to beat No. 2 Nebraska. Setting up the TD is a pass to Mike McCloskey, who is later revealed to have been out of bounds.
- 2 JOEPA PASSES THE BEAR: OCTOBER 27, 2001.** After trailing by 18, Penn State rallies to knock off Ohio State, 29-27. With the win, the 324th of his career, Joe Paterno passes Bear Bryant for the top spot on the D-I all-time coaching wins list.
- 3 A HEISMAN FOR THE LIONS: NOVEMBER 10, 1973.** John Cappelletti runs for 231 yards and cements his case for the Heisman Trophy—still Penn State's only. The Nittany Lions go unbeaten that season.
- 4 TALIAFERRO WALKS AGAIN: SEPTEMBER 1, 2001.** A year after he was paralyzed while making a tackle, cornerback Adam Taliaferro leads the team through the tunnel for its game against Miami.
- 5 WHITEOUT: OCTOBER 8, 2005.** In front of a Beaver Stadium filled with white-clad fans, the No. 16 Nittany Lions upset No. 6 Ohio State, and it marks Penn State's return to the nation's elite. The Nittany Lions go on to an 11-1 record and a No. 3 ranking.

A FAN'S VIEW MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT BEAVER STADIUM



By Ty Burrell,
star of ABC's
Modern Family
and Penn State
alum

- 1 THE WALK TO THE STADIUM.** It was always a different place in the morning than it was when you went to sleep on a Friday night—100,000 people walking, driving and riding to one place is pretty cool.
- 2 THE UNIFORMS.** I loved and will always love the uniforms. I hope that we never succumb to the pressure of "making them more exciting."
- 3 JOEPA.** I love JoePa. I loved watching him bark at the refs. I loved watching him kick at the grass with his supremely inflexible legs. I truly admire the university for respecting his legacy and letting him leave on his own terms. I wish he could coach forever.

— Ryan Fagan



TIGER STADIUM, LSU

- ➔ **Location:** Baton Rouge, La.
- ➔ **Opened:** 1924
- ➔ **Seats:** 92,400
- ➔ **The Tigers' record at Tiger Stadium:** 375-143-18

Photos by Bob Leverone / SN

STADIUM

From the outside, it looks like a piece of ancient Greek architecture. It's a magnificent treasure that has been renovated and updated over the years while still keeping the integrity of the original facility.

Eight-time Pro Bowl selection and former Tigers C Kevin Mawae says: "I played in some of the darker years, and even then, there were 65,000 people there. My second (recruiting) trip was 1988 against Auburn. The earthquake game. Eddie Fuller, who went to my high school, caught the touchdown pass, and the stadium got that loud. That's when I knew where I wanted to go to school. I didn't even take an official recruiting visit. I made up my mind right there."

FANS

There's a reason LSU plays better at night than in the day. Let's just say a later game gives LSU's passionate fans more time to soak in the surroundings. The student section in the corner quadrant arrives early, gets situated in the stadium and taunts the opponent from the moment they step on the field.

Kansas City Chiefs and former Tigers All-American DT Glenn Dorsey says: "They're a bunch of crazy people, die-hards. They're camping out two days before the game. I think we enjoyed playing in the evening because they'd be at it all day and just be obnoxious come game time. ... We may be losing, and they're still making a lot of noise. When you're tired and you see the fans are still going nuts, it makes you want to suck it up. They give you extra energy."

CITY/SURROUNDINGS

Baton Rouge isn't a typical college town; it's more of an industrial port town. But on game days, it may as well be Mardi Gras on Bourbon Street. Just outside the North Gates of Tiger Stadium sits the Varsity Theatre, the best sports bar in the city—and the best place to watch the game if you don't have a ticket.

Indianapolis Colts and former Tigers RB Joseph Addai says: "I went back and I was amazed how the atmosphere was. There was a lot of tailgating, crazy stuff. The food, all of that goes together. It's that Southern-type atmosphere, plus you've got football. Everything works together, and it starts with everybody waking up in the morning. Guys are outside at 8 in the morning, and the game isn't until that night. It's an experience."



TRADITIONS

In Death Valley, it's all about the night games: Since 1960, LSU is 217-60-4 at night and 22-26-3 during the day. The "H"-style goalposts (white, not yellow), the white home jerseys, Mike the Tiger and the field yard lines marked on the 5s —5, 10, 15, 20, etc.—also are part of the unique flavor.

New England Patriots and former Tigers All-American RB Kevin Faulk says: "Every game after we win, we sing the fight song. Whenever the band starts to play (the fight song), that's what gets me fired up. ... Walking into the stadium on game day ... Night games. Night games. ... They're just out there drinking all day, from Friday until Saturday night."

HISTORY

LSU's history is significant—it won a national championship in 1958, and Billy Cannon took home the Heisman in 1959—but it has played its best football in the past decade. The Tigers won two national titles and three SEC championships in the 2000s with two different coaches, Nick Saban and Les Miles.

Seven-time Pro Bowl selection and former Tigers RB Johnny Robinson says: "When we played in 1958, the LSU-Ole Miss game, we ended up packing the stadium. Attendance had been down, and all of a sudden the 1958 team started winning and the place filled up. I went to games when I was in high school, and they had 28,000 people. I think the stadium has pretty much been full ever since the 1958 team."

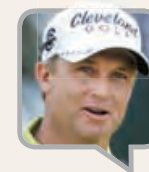


TIGER STADIUM'S 5 BIGGEST MOMENTS

- 1 THE HALLOWEEN RUN: OCTOBER 31, 1959.** LSU is No. 1 and riding an 18-game winning streak, but trails No. 3 Ole Miss, 3-0, in the fourth quarter. That's when Billy Cannon runs a punt back 89 yards, breaking seven tackles, for the game-winning TD. The Tigers win, 7-3, and Cannon goes on to win the Heisman.
- 2 THE EARTHQUAKE GAME: OCTOBER 8, 1988.** Down, 6-0, to Auburn with 1:47 to go, LSU is facing a fourth-and-10 when Tommy Hodson completes a TD pass to running back Eddie Fuller. The crowd reaction registers as an earthquake on the LSU geology department's seismograph.
- 3 THE NIGHT THE CLOCK STOPPED: NOVEMBER 4, 1972.** No. 6 LSU trails Ole Miss, 16-10, with 4 seconds left, but after a long incompleteness, the clock still shows 1 second. On the next play, Bert Jones hits Brad Davis in the end zone as time runs out, and LSU goes on to win, 17-16.
- 4 TAKING DOWN NO. 1: OCTOBER 11, 1997.** An interception by Raion Hill seals LSU's 28-21 win over unbeaten Florida, its first over a No. 1-ranked opponent. LSU fans tear down the goal posts for the first time.
- 5 SATURDAY NIGHT IN DEATH VALLEY: OCTOBER 3, 1931.** To increase attendance and avoid the heat, the Tigers play their first night game, a 35-0 win over Spring Hill. Nearly 80 years later, the tradition continues.

A FAN'S VIEW

MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT TIGER STADIUM



By David Toms,
PGA Tour golfer
and LSU alum

- 1 THE FANS.** I love that our tailgating starts on Thursday and that our student section is filled hours before kickoff.
- 2 THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.** I love that we registered on a Richter scale after scoring a touchdown and that our live Bengal tiger mascot makes an appearance before every game.
- 3 THE UNIQUENESS.** We are the only stadium that marks the yard lines in 5-yard increments. I just love Saturday nights in Tiger Stadium.

— As told to Matt Crossman



5

OHIO STADIUM, OHIO STATE

- **Location:** Columbus
- **Opened:** 1922
- **Seats:** 102,329
- **The Buckeyes' record at Ohio Stadium:** 395-107-20

Photos by Jay Drowns / SN

STADIUM

The massive horseshoe-shaped facility, nestled on the banks of the Olentangy River, is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The unique aerial view of the field is surpassed only by that of the grand rotunda entrance at the north end: designed after the Pantheon and full of stained glass.

Carolina Panthers and former Buckeyes CB Chris Gamble says: "The first time I was in the stadium for a visit, I couldn't believe how big it was. It was wild seeing 100,000 people like that. When you are standing on the field, it feels like everyone is right on top of you. It's a crazy feeling, a real good time."

FANS

Everyone wears scarlet at Ohio Stadium—and they have for decades. They're proud and passionate, and they embrace—and reflect—the personality of the coaches: from Woody Hayes' wild yet fiercely loyal aura to Jim Tressel's buttoned-down businesslike persona.

New York Jets and former Buckeyes WR Santonio Holmes says: "The families that had their kids there at the game, wearing Ohio State uniforms at the age of 2, newborns at the game—everbody just bled (scarlet and gray). ... The student section was enormous, and the chant of O-H-I-O before the game, during the game, during breaks, whenever—it was probably one of the best moments of playing there."



OHIO STADIUM'S 5 BIGGEST MOMENTS

- 1 GAME OF THE CENTURY: NOVEMBER 18, 2006.** Unbeaten Ohio State and Michigan meet for the first time as Nos. 1-2 in the BCS rankings. The Buckeyes get the 42-39 victory, win the Big Ten title and earn a spot in the BCS championship game.
- 2 PAYBACK: NOVEMBER 21, 1970.** After losing its No. 1 ranking in the Michigan game the previous year, undefeated Ohio State beats the Wolverines, 20-9, and goes on to the Rose Bowl.
- 3 THE SNOW BOWL: NOVEMBER 25, 1950.** Despite the fact the Buckeyes will be awarded the Big Ten title if they cancel the game, they play it—in a snowstorm. The game features 45 punts and 68 yards of offense. Michigan wins, 9-3, but Ohio State's Vic Janowicz, who punts for 685 yards and kicks a field goal, goes on to win the Heisman.
- 4 A RETURN TO POWER: NOVEMBER 23, 2002.** Will Allen intercepts a Michigan pass near the end zone as time expires to preserve a 14-9 victory—and the Buckeyes' undefeated season. In coach Jim Tressel's second year, they go on to win the program's first national championship since 1968.
- 5 ARCHIE'S ARRIVAL: SEPTEMBER 30, 1972.** After fumbling in his first game, freshman Archie Griffin breaks an Ohio State record with 239 yards rushing in his second. The Buckeyes beat North Carolina, 29-14.

A FAN'S VIEW

MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT OHIO STADIUM



By Jack Nicklaus, winner of 18 major golf championships and an Ohio State alum

- 1 THE FANS.** The fans are dyed-in-the-wool Buckeye fans. When there is a game in Columbus, 100,000 of them come together and it's 100 percent scarlet and gray.
- 2 THE TRADITION.** Once you have gone to Ohio State, you love it for life. I love the band when they come out and the drum major starts down the field with the "Buckeye Battle Cry."
- 3 THE PASSION.** From age 6 to 20, I missed only one game—the Northwestern game in 1947. That's what you lived for—from football season to football season in Columbus, Ohio. I don't care whether you are 85 or 18, it's O-H-I-O forever.
—As told to Ryan Fagan

CITY/SURROUNDINGS

If you can't get into the game—good luck scoring a ticket—you can head to High Street in downtown Columbus (blocks away from the stadium) and soak it all in. If the bar and restaurant scene doesn't work, try the Buckeye Hall of Fame Cafe, a bar/restaurant/living museum not far from the stadium where legendary heroes are immortalized—and sometimes show up.

Arizona Cardinals and former Buckeyes RB Beanie Wells says: "Whatever it was, 105,000, inside the stadium, it was probably double, triple that outside. The game was at noon and they probably got there about 7 o'clock. ... It made you want to go out there and prove yourself and have fun in front of the whole Buckeye nation."

TRADITIONS

It's all about the Band. That's right, the Best Damn Band in the Land—or as it's commonly known, TBDBITL (pronounced ti-biddle). From the Skull Session at the old St. John Arena to the unmistakable Script Ohio formation before kickoff to the singing of "Carmen Ohio" with the team after every game, it's what college football is all about.

Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Buckeyes RB Paul Warfield says: "When you see that band come out ... the military precision, the click of the drum line hitting their sticks, the Script Ohio; there's nothing else like it. I learned to respect the band when I was a player. When we were doing two-a-days, they were doing two-a-days. Their training is just as strenuous. If you're a band member, you're an athlete. You're not only a great musician, you're an athlete."

HISTORY

We can talk about Heismans (six winners, seven trophies), Big Ten championships (34) or consensus national titles (five). But nothing embodies Ohio State history like the Ten-Year War (1969-78) between Woody Hayes and Michigan coach Bo Schembechler. In four of their games from 1970-75, both teams were in the top five. The Buckeyes won all three at home.

Former NFL and Buckeyes two-time Heisman Trophy-winning RB Archie Griffin says: "Ohio Stadium is the centerpiece of all the history of Ohio State football. It goes back to 1922 and Chic Harley, who did so many great things as an athlete and an alumnus, raising (over) a million dollars to get the stadium built. Ever since, it's really taken off. The great Jesse Owens ran his track in that stadium. People love the tradition, and it's huge part of the program and the university."



6 BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM, FLORIDA

→ **Location:** Gainesville, Fla. → **Opened:** 1930 → **Seats:** 88,548
 → **Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Gators All-American DE Jack Youngblood** says: "The Swamp may be the most intense stadium in the country. The initial roar of the 90,000-plus is not only heard but felt. And when you invite the Northern teams down, you can count on the heat factor to come into play about the second quarter."



9 MEMORIAL STADIUM, NEBRASKA

→ **Location:** Lincoln, Neb. → **Opened:** 1923 → **Seats:** 81,067
 → **Former NFL and Cornhuskers Heisman Trophy-winning WR Johnny Rodgers** says: "It's overwhelming that we always have that fan support every week no matter who we're playing. We'll be sold out, and we'll be the third-largest city in the state on Saturday game day. Everybody will be dressed in red and white, and the first touchdown we'll get, the stadium will be filled with balloons."



12 KYLE FIELD, TEXAS A&M

→ **Location:** College Station, Texas → **Opened:** 1929 → **Seats:** 82,600
 → **Five-time Pro Bowl selection and former Aggies DL Ray Childress** says: "What I think is unique about watching college football at Kyle Field is the (12th Man) tradition lives on with all students standing the entire game, symbolizing they are ready and available to enter the game if needed."



7 MICHIGAN STADIUM, MICHIGAN

→ **Location:** Ann Arbor, Mich. → **Opened:** 1927 → **Seats:** 109,901
 → **Green Bay Packers and former Wolverines Heisman Trophy-winning CB Charles Woodson** says: "You know you are in a special place when other stadiums around the country try to emulate the atmosphere you have. They may add more seats, but they will never be the 'Big House.'"



10 ROSE BOWL, UCLA

→ **Location:** Pasadena, Calif. → **Opened:** 1922 → **Seats:** 91,136
 → **Bruins coach and former Bruins Rose Bowl MVP Rick Neuheisel** says: "The Rose Bowl is situated in one of the most beautiful athletic settings in the nation. ... One also can't help but feel the history, as for nearly a century this venue has been the host to 'The Granddaddy of Them All.'"



13 DARRELL K ROYAL-TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM, TEXAS

→ **Location:** Austin, Texas → **Opened:** 1924 → **Seats:** 100,119
 → **Five-time Pro Bowl selection and former Longhorns All-American LB/G Tommy Nobis**: "My favorite game-day experience is when 80,000 to 100,000 Longhorns stand to sing "The Eyes of Texas"! This still gets old No. 60 fired up. Hook 'em Horns."



8 NEYLAND STADIUM, TENNESSEE

→ **Location:** Knoxville, Tenn. → **Opened:** 1921 → **Seats:** 102,037
 → **Former Vols coach and All-American RB Johnny Majors** says: "I've never taken a measuring stick to see how far it is from the concrete stands to the field, but the end zone is so close to the stands that you have to pad them up for when people run into them. That proximity of the fans to the field, looking virtually straight down on the players, it's just the best place I've ever been to watch a game."



11 SANFORD STADIUM, GEORGIA

→ **Location:** Athens, Ga. → **Opened:** 1929 → **Seats:** 92,746
 → **Denver Broncos and former Bulldogs RB Knowshon Moreno** says: "No. 1 is the fans, No. 2 is how loud the stadium gets when everyone gets into it—especially for one of the big games. The blackouts are always nice, when everyone is wearing all that black and everyone is in there pumped up."



14 JORDAN-HARE STADIUM, AUBURN

→ **Location:** Auburn, Ala. → **Opened:** 1939 → **Seats:** 87,451
 → **Samford coach and former Tigers Heisman Trophy-winning QB Pat Sullivan** says: "With Auburn, it's the passion of the people. It starts with the students coming early to the stadium, all the tailgating going on early, just the whole atmosphere. If you're a player, obviously, it's gotta excite you to play on that kind of stage."



15 MEMORIAL STADIUM, CLEMSON

→ **Location:** Clemson, S.C. → **Opened:** 1942 → **Seats:** 80,301
 → **Denver Broncos and former Tigers S Brian Dawkins says:** "You're rubbing that rock, standing on top of that hill, looking down on all the fans and you're looking down on the opponent that you're about to go and do battle with. To me, there is not another entrance in college or professional football that can rival that."



17 DOAK CAMPBELL STADIUM, FLORIDA STATE

→ **Location:** Tallahassee, Fla. → **Opened:** 1950 → **Seats:** 82,300
 → **11-time Pro Bowl selection and former Seminoles All-American LB Derrick Brooks says:** "I love the pregame ritual. Starting with the infamous ankle walk to Chief Osceola throwing the burning spear. It's intimidating to opponents. Also, the band in that stadium gets the (War) Chant going, and its game on, baby!"



19 LANE STADIUM, VIRGINIA TECH

→ **Location:** Blacksburg, Va. → **Opened:** 1965 → **Seats:** 66,233
 → **Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Hokies All-American DE Bruce Smith says:** "Lane Stadium is unique in itself, the structure of it, the Hokie Stone around it. It has to be one of the most beautiful settings for a college football game."



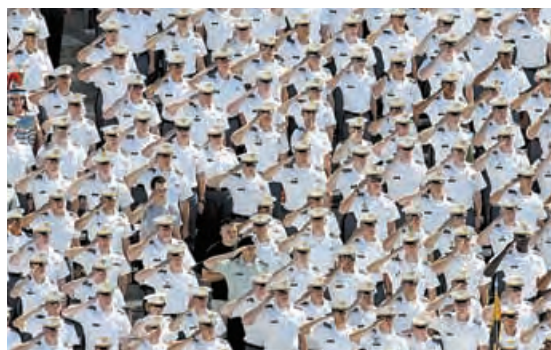
16 CAMP RANDALL STADIUM, WISCONSIN

→ **Location:** Madison, Wis. → **Opened:** 1917 → **Seats:** 80,321
 → **Former NFL and Badgers All-American TE Pat Richter says:** "It is always exciting in and around the stadium with all the red and the crazy outfits you'll see. But the best part is just joining up with friends at the pregame tailgates ... and getting pumped up for the game, especially when it's against Michigan, Ohio State, Iowa or Minnesota."



18 KINNICK STADIUM, IOWA

→ **Location:** Iowa City, Iowa → **Opened:** 1929 → **Seats:** 70,585
 → **Former Hawkeyes athletic director Bump Elliott says:** "I like it because it's comfortable: right on campus, with a friendly attitude amongst the fans there. But my favorite part is how close you are to the field: The difference between the sideline and the stands can't be more than 10 yards."



20 MICHIE STADIUM, ARMY

→ **Location:** West Point, N.Y. → **Opened:** 1924 → **Seats:** 40,000
 → **Former Black Knights Heisman Trophy-winning RB Pete Dawkins says:** "The setting is, in a word, majestic: sitting up high overlooking the Lusk Reservoir. And there is such pageantry, with the Corps of Cadets marching in and standing for the entire game."
 — Ken Bradley, Matt Crossman, Dave Curtis, Ryan Fagan, Steve Greenberg, SN correspondents

THE PANEL

CURRENT COACHES

Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
Bret Bielema, Wisconsin
Larry Blakeney, Troy
Terry Bowden, North Alabama
Tim Brewster, Minnesota
Mack Brown, Texas
Larry Coker, Texas-San Antonio
Bill Curry, Georgia State
David Cutcliffe, Duke
Butch Davis, North Carolina
Randy Edsall, Connecticut
Kirk Ferentz, Iowa
Jimbo Fisher, Florida State
Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern
Jim Grobe, Wake Forest
Dan Hawkins, Colorado
Skip Holtz, South Florida
Danny Hope, Purdue
Butch Jones, Cincinnati
Brian Kelly, Notre Dame
Mike London, Virginia
Bill Lynch, Indiana
Dan Mullen, Mississippi State
Houston Nutt, Ole Miss
George O'Leary, UCF
Stan Parrish, Ball State
Chris Petersen, Boise State
Joker Phillips, Kentucky
Paul Rhoads, Iowa State
Mark Richt, Georgia
Mike Riley, Oregon State
Charlie Strong, Louisville
Bob Toledo, Tulane
Jim Tressel, Ohio State
Dave Wannstedt, Pitt
Kyle Whittingham, Utah
Ron Zook, Illinois

FORMER COACHES

Gary Barnett
Rich Brooks
John Cooper
Fisher DeBerry
Gerry DiNardo
Terry Donahue
Jim Donnan
Vince Dooley
Mike DuBose
LaVell Edwards
Bump Elliott
Pete Elliott
Danny Ford
Lou Holtz
Roy Kidd
Dick MacPherson
Johnny Majors
Glen Mason
Don Nehlen
Tom Osborne
Jack Pardee
Ray Perkins
George Perles
Bobby Ross
R.C. Slocum
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