

The Dominion Post

# Mountaineer 2021 FAN GUIDE



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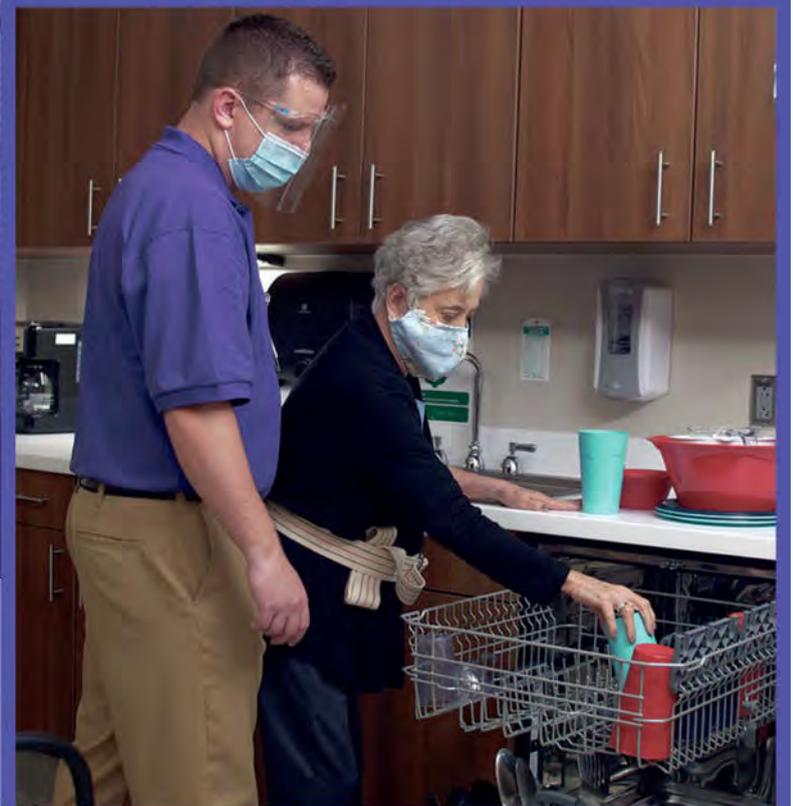
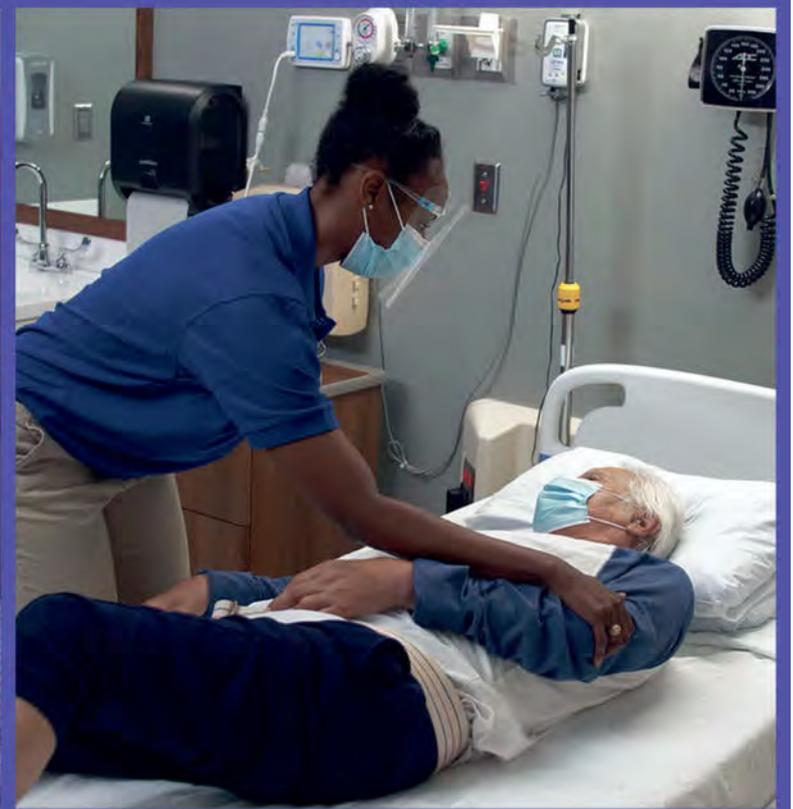
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## Karen, Joey Spencer are steeped in Mountaineers tradition

BY ERIC HERTER

Sports@DominionPost.com

Pizza and a navy-blue toilet certainly seem like an odd combination. But not when it comes to the WVU fandom of Karen and Joey Spencer.

It's the pizza and the toilet that are part of superstitions and displays of Mountaineers affection for the Spencers as they enter the 2021 football season with renewed hopes of a successful season.

Karen, 68, and her son Joey, 39, have both been fans of the Mountaineers all of their lives and if you take one look inside Karen's home — where Joey grew up — it's easy to see that Joey had little choice in the matter.

"(The Mountaineers) are the biggest part of Morgantown,"

Karen said. "They represent the entire state."

WVU may represent the entire state but it's Karen's "Mountaineer room" that represents her passion for the school and its teams. The room features blue and gold carpet, a pool table with blue felt and yes, a bathroom with a blue toilet and sink.

"It's harder to find a blue sink than you would think," Karen said. "I used to have a roll of toilet paper that said 'Go Mountaineers (&%\$#) on Pitt' but someone stole it. You talk about mad; I was irate."

The Spencer family has been season ticket holders since the 1980s and Karen missed just four games prior to last season when COVID-19 restricted attendance.



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Karen Spencer poses for a photo with WVU memorabilia at her home.

SEE SPENCER, P-5



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## SPENCER

FROM PAGE P-4

In fact, the Spencers do not really mark time traditionally in their household. Much of their lives is marked by events that happen at Milan Puskar Stadium. If Karen can't remember the detail about a game, it's Joey that finishes the thought or vice versa.

For two of the games that Karen missed, it was due to a trip to the Bahamas.

"My husband (Bill) won a trip to the Bahamas, and I didn't want to go," Karen said. "The second game was right around the time that my daughter (Stephanie Farber) was pregnant with our granddaughter."

Joey, an IT specialist at The Dominion Post, said that second game missed was especially tricky because it was the 2005 Virginia tech game.

The other two games she missed might have resulted from her love of the Mountaineers. She broke her ankle after the game walking from the stadium to her car and had to miss two games.

"We were walking on the sidewalk and things were going slow," Karen said. "Bill said, 'Let's move around these people.'"

But the grass was slippery, and Karen fell and broke her ankle.

"I didn't want to miss the games," Karen said. "I was going to have Joey take me on crutches, but Bill sold my tickets."

Both Spencers have their favorite memories and superstitions when it comes to games.

Karen fondly remembers a win over Penn State in 1984 and she has to have a Kahlua and cream before each game.

"I just like that we beat them," Karen said. "I dislike Pitt, but I



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

The Spencers have an entire room dedicated to WVU.

SEE SPENCER, P-6

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## SPENCER

FROM PAGE P-5

really hate Penn State. I don't know why; I just hate them."

For Joey, his favorite game is the 1993 Miami contest.

"Probably the biggest game that I have been to for us," Joey said. "One of the first big games that I remember, I was down on the field for that one. On the Miami sideline. We knew some people that worked the gate there and they let us go down there and stand."

Joey even made an appearance in The Dominion Post for that game — his left leg was in a photo from the contest.

As for superstitions, Joey has to have a pizza before every contest. Not just any pizza though, it has to be from Milano's on Green Bag

Road, although that choice has evolved over time. He's not quite sure where the tradition started but it seems to revolve around the Pizzeria Italia that used to be below Kegler's and when that closed, he followed those same employees to Milano's and has stayed with that franchise even after a move to Green Bag Road.

"It's not about the pizza, it's about the people," Joey said.

He mentions that he knows everyone at the store by name and runs through the history of the store and where the children of the owner live and work. It truly is more than a superstition for Joey, it's a passion. In fact, he used to have a picture of a pizza as his Facebook profile.

"I know the whole family," Joey said. "It's the best pizza in town. A lot of times, I am fin-

ishing a pizza as I am walking in the gates at the stadium. I don't even tell them my name when I call in the order — they know."

As the years have gone by, Karen and Joey have stuck together with their seats even though there used to be a bigger group of eight to 10 people who would get together. As the 2021 season kicks off, both have high hopes for a quality season. Karen was hoping for an undefeated year while Joey was a little more realistic with hopes of seven to eight wins.

At the end of the day, it's not just about blue toilets or pizza for the Spencers; it's about spending time together and enjoying something they are passionate about.

"I grew up with it, it's our team," Joey said.



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

The Spencers' famous blue toilet.

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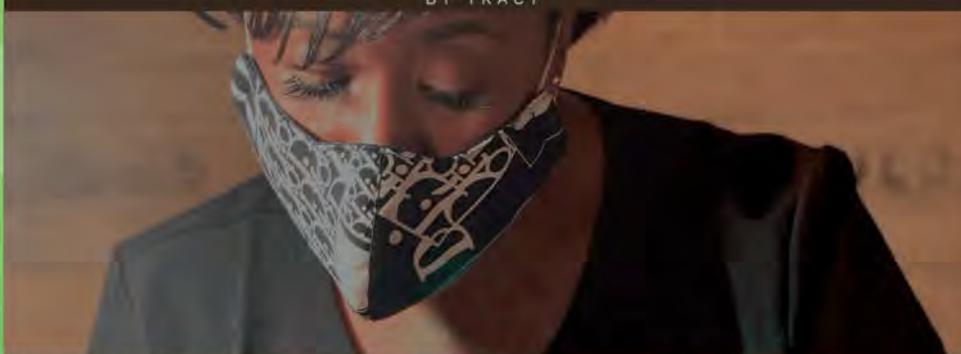
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## Tailgaters cautiously optimistic but wary as season starts

Associated Press

This usually is the time of year that Mississippi alumnus Sid Seal is putting the final plans in place for the pregame tailgate parties he has organized for the last two decades.

Ole Miss bills itself as the school that offers “the most iconic tailgating in college athletics” with fans flocking to The Grove, a 10-acre plot on the center of campus. Seal is looking forward to getting back to that this fall after the pandemic all but halted tailgating last season.

But the 60-year-old pharmacist also regularly follows the progress of the pandemic, which has him delaying his preparations. He doesn't know how tailgating in 2021 might differ from the way it was done before the coronavirus was on

any football fan's mind.

“I couldn't say we have everything planned out right now,” said Seal, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1985. “It's going to change daily. It's going to be a very, very fluid situation.”

Schools across the country remain cautiously optimistic that pregame atmospheres around campus will remain close to normal as they monitor the delta variant. Some, such as LSU, Oregon and Oregon State, require proof of vaccination or a negative test to get into the stadiums, but tailgating is another matter altogether.

About three dozen Power 5 schools responded to questions from The Associated Press regarding their tailgating policies, and a clear consensus emerged.

Nearly all the schools that responded are tentatively planning to restore the tailgating policies they had in 2019, though many of them noted that's subject to change based on the status of COVID-19 cases in their area.

That's a major shift from last year, when even the schools that allowed spectators at games either prohibited or strongly discouraged tailgating.

For example, last year South Carolina didn't open its parking lots until 2 1/2 hours before kickoff, prohibited tents, asked large gatherings of people to disperse and discouraged the use of any grills, coolers or buffet-style spreads. This year, South Carolina is returning to its pre-2020 policies.

WVU previously stated that it will go back to “pre-pandemic” lev-

els, beginning with Saturday's home opener against Long Island.

The return of tailgating is great news for tens of thousands of fans who consider that a vital part of the college football experience.

Tony Young is a 1990 Florida State graduate who says he has missed a total of five home games since 1971. Young holds tailgates before every home game and even serves fried gator before matchups with Florida. His traditional parking spot is so ideal that he says “we could throw a baseball and hit the stadium.”

“All of our friends who go to the games, they know where we park and they know that they can always stop by and socialize,” Young said.

For programs that don't win

SEE TAILGATERS, P-10

P



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## TAILGATERS

FROM PAGE P-8

very often, the tailgates often are more anticipated than the games themselves.

“We’ve got a big banner that we put up that’s got our motto: ‘If you’re not going to win the game, win the tailgate,’” said Scott Feinstein, a Vanderbilt fan from Mount Juliet, Tenn.

The pregame tailgates are so special to Erin Kraak and other Wisconsin fans that they tried creative ways to replicate the atmosphere last year when Big Ten rules prohibited fans from attending home games.

“We did a couple of tailgates in neighbors’ driveways where someone would bring a TV outside and you were able to socially distance and bundle up,” said Kraak, a 1998 Wisconsin alum. “We did that for two of the games just because we missed the tailgating so much, but it was a totally different experience.”

Now those tailgates are back, at least in some form.

Andy Bolgzds of Norwood, Ohio, doesn’t expect many changes. The 1982 Cincinnati graduate said he believes all the people who regularly attend his tailgates are vaccinated.

“People are finally getting out and finally living life again,” Bolgzds said.

Young and Feinstein said they plan to have hand sanitizer available at their tailgates or in their

cars. Kraak says she will feel safe as long as she stays outside and doesn’t go inside any of the crowded bars on Regent Street near Wisconsin’s campus.

“I don’t anticipate spending any time indoors for any reason,” Kraak said. “Maybe we would have before, especially when it gets colder, and it’s a little cold to tailgate when you get those November games. You’d have to reassess then. But as long as we’re outdoors, I don’t see it being very different.”

Peter West, a 1984 Ole Miss alum who’s been tailgating for 25-plus years, wonders if there might not be as many people as usual. West is considering whether to recommend the use of masks at his tailgates and having them available. He also wonders if he should move away from a buffet-type food distribution setup.

“I think a lot of people are going to be leery about crowds,” said West, a dentist from Tupelo, Mississippi.

Seal agreed that things might not be quite the same as before, particularly if the impact of the delta variant doesn’t subside over the next couple of weeks. He wonders whether it will be safe to have kids at such large gatherings a year after he didn’t attend a single Ole Miss home game for the first time in a quarter century.

This pandemic has taught him not to assume anything.

“I would love to say we’re going to do everything full force like we did four or five years ago,” he said. “But it’s just really hard to say.”



William Wotring/The Dominion Post file photo

According to WVU, tailgating will be back to the level it was prior to the pandemic in 2019.



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## Fans head back to stadiums, some with vax cards and masks

### WVU does not currently require proof of vaccination

Associated Press

College football fans headed back into stadiums Saturday, some of them for the first time in two years. Along with binoculars, sunscreen and other essentials, some packed face masks and proof of vaccination.

With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, the pomp and pageantry of fall Saturdays are expected to return in all their glory nearly everywhere across the country.

As far as Nebraska fan Capp Anson, of Omaha, is concerned, it beats the alternative. Last season, the Big Ten and Pac-12 allowed no fans and ACC, Big 12 and SEC teams limited stadium attendance to a fraction of their vast capacities.

"It's nice to be able to sit and watch it on a big screen TV at home and have the bathroom by you or go grab a cold beer if you need to, but to me there's nothing like the experiences at the stadium," he said. "It brings out a good time for sure."

Anson's Cornhuskers were among the handful of teams kicking off their seasons Aug. 28, losing 30-22 at Illinois in front of 41,064. New

Illini coach Bret Bielema said his players felt a strong vibe from the fans during the team's traditional Illini Walk through the Grange Grove tailgating area.

"I appreciate everybody that came out and made this happen today," Bielema said. "I thought our players really reacted to that and during the course of the game you really felt them. It had been so long since they were able to feel a crowd. Even though it wasn't totally sold out, it was definitely an energetic crowd."

There wasn't quite as much electricity at the Rose Bowl, where the announced crowd was 32,982 for UCLA's 44-10 win over Hawaii. It was the second-lowest attendance at the Rose Bowl since the Bruins started playing there in 1982.

Fans tailgated and took in the UCLA band's pregame performance at the Fan Zone. Many fans tried to go to the top level of the stadium, where there was shade from the scoreboard, trees and press box.

The crowd was held down by 95-degree heat in Los Angeles, a noon-hour kickoff, an undistinguished opponent and the fact students haven't returned to school.

It also didn't help that UCLA has not had a winning season since 2015 and coach Chip Kelly came in 0-6 in non-conference games.

Schools are eager to fill seats



Joshua L. Jones/Athens Banner-Herald file photo via AP

Security reminds fans to mask up before entering Sanford Stadium before the start of the Georgia-Tennessee game last season in Athens, Ga.

again after the massive financial hits they took in 2020.

Power 5 teams bring in an average of \$18.6 million annually from football ticket sales in a typical year, according to research by Patrick Rishe, director of the Business of Sports Program at

Washington University in St. Louis. Top teams that play in the biggest stadiums generate more than twice that.

Rishe said he expects the surge in COVID-19 cases tied to the more

**SEE MASKS, P-13**

# GOOD LUCK, MOUNTAINEERS!

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## MASKS

FROM PAGE P-12

easily transmissible delta variant to prevent a full return to normal. He noted most college football season ticket holders are over 50, a group more susceptible to becoming seriously ill.

"I don't expect revenues will return to pre-pandemic levels even in the best of circumstances this year," Rische said.

Hawaii will not allow fans when it hosts Portland State next week because of a Honolulu ordinance barring large outdoor gatherings. No other school has announced an attendance limit, though specific attendance rules differ across the country.

San Jose State asked fans to show proof of vaccination when they entered the stadium for a game against Southern Utah. Unvaccinated fans, or those who can't prove they've been vaccinated, were let in but were required to wear masks at all times.

LSU, Oregon, Oregon State and Tulane have announced proof-of-vaccination requirements starting with their home openers next month. LSU will allow unvaccinated fans the option of showing proof of a negative COVID-19 test in the previous 72 hours.

WVU recommends fans wear a mask, but does not currently require fans to have proof of vaccination.

The Oregon schools and Tulane also mandate fans wear face cov-

erings at all times, even though they play outdoors. Many schools have told fans they must wear masks while indoors at their stadiums.

Daniel Rascher, director of academic programs for the Sport Management Program at the University of San Francisco, said people might be turned off by the screening process when coupled with delays caused by fans new to digital ticketing fumbling with smartphones to display barcodes.

"They don't want to wait in line, or some of the fans aren't vaccinated and don't want to go out and get a COVID test and bring it with them," Rascher said. "You have to show your card or QR code and I don't know if the schools are equipped to quickly scan that. You're probably going to see the dip in demand because people don't want to deal with it."

Of 10 fans interviewed by The Associated Press, six said they have no hesitancy about returning to stadiums, even amid a spike in virus cases across the nation. Three said the risk of contracting COVID-19 is in the back of their minds, and one said he is taking a wait-and-see approach before deciding whether to go to games. All said they are vaccinated.

Eric Boggs of Edmond, Oklahoma, said he plans to attend games at Nebraska, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State this year. Boggs said even though he's vaccinated, seeing pictures of more than 90,000 people at the Aug. 14 Garth Brooks concert



William Wotring/The Dominion Post file photo

Fans, even young ones, watched the Gold-Blue spring game last April.

at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, gave him pause.

"I'll still go," Boggs said. "I just don't know yet if I will wear a mask. I'll probably have one in the pocket. It makes you re-think it a little bit when you start seeing the pictures and the numbers and stuff like that."

Alabama and Auburn are in a state with one of the lowest vaccination rates in the country and rabid fan bases. Neither has announced stadium screenings or mask requirements, though Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban has been among those urging vaccinations.

Alabama State Health Officer Scott Harris said it's concerning that fans will be gathering in stadiums soon.

"Outdoor events are safer in general than indoor events but having hundreds of thousands of people getting together during a pandemic is going to result in some disease transmission," Harris said. "We hope people are vaccinated enough that that can be minimized, but with really large-scale outbreaks going on, you wonder how long those stadiums are going to stay full."

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14

My favorite memory happened years ago when Natalie Tennant, the first female Mountaineer, was walking through the crowd making her way into Scott Stadium at the University of Virginia.

A UVA student yelled, "Hey! I want a man!"

And immediately, Natalie, with a big smile, turned to him and yelled, "So do I."

Fans laughed, cheered and applauded!

— *Judith Smith Wilkinson*



Natalie Tennant photo



WVU photo

Natalie Tennant was selected as the first female Mountaineer mascot in 1990.



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WVU photos

Rebecca Durst (top photo) became the second female Mountaineer mascot when she was selected in 2009. She speaks with Tennant (left photo) during a football game at Milan Puskar Stadium that season.



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When I was much younger than I am now, a dear friend to my parents and I always bought season tickets to the basketball games. He would buy some extra ones once in a while and he would take me with him to the games when Damian Owens and Seldon Jefferson were playing. Damian was my favorite player.

Then, I went to my very first football game and let me tell you, the energy inside that stadium was crazy and so much fun. The game that I went to was when WVU played James Madison which they have played many times. WVU won of course, why wouldn't they? It was a very amazing experience.

I then would work the games as event staff with CDC for basketball and football. I remember one time against Louisville, we were losing, and then we scored and it was then tied.

Well, the clock ran out and we went into overtime, both scored again, then another overtime. My boss said everyone that is at the gates come in and watch the rest of this game because it was just too good to miss and he wanted us to enjoy the last part of the game.

Then, the third overtime came and we scored and then the other team got the ball and failed to score and WVU won in triple overtime. It was amazing.

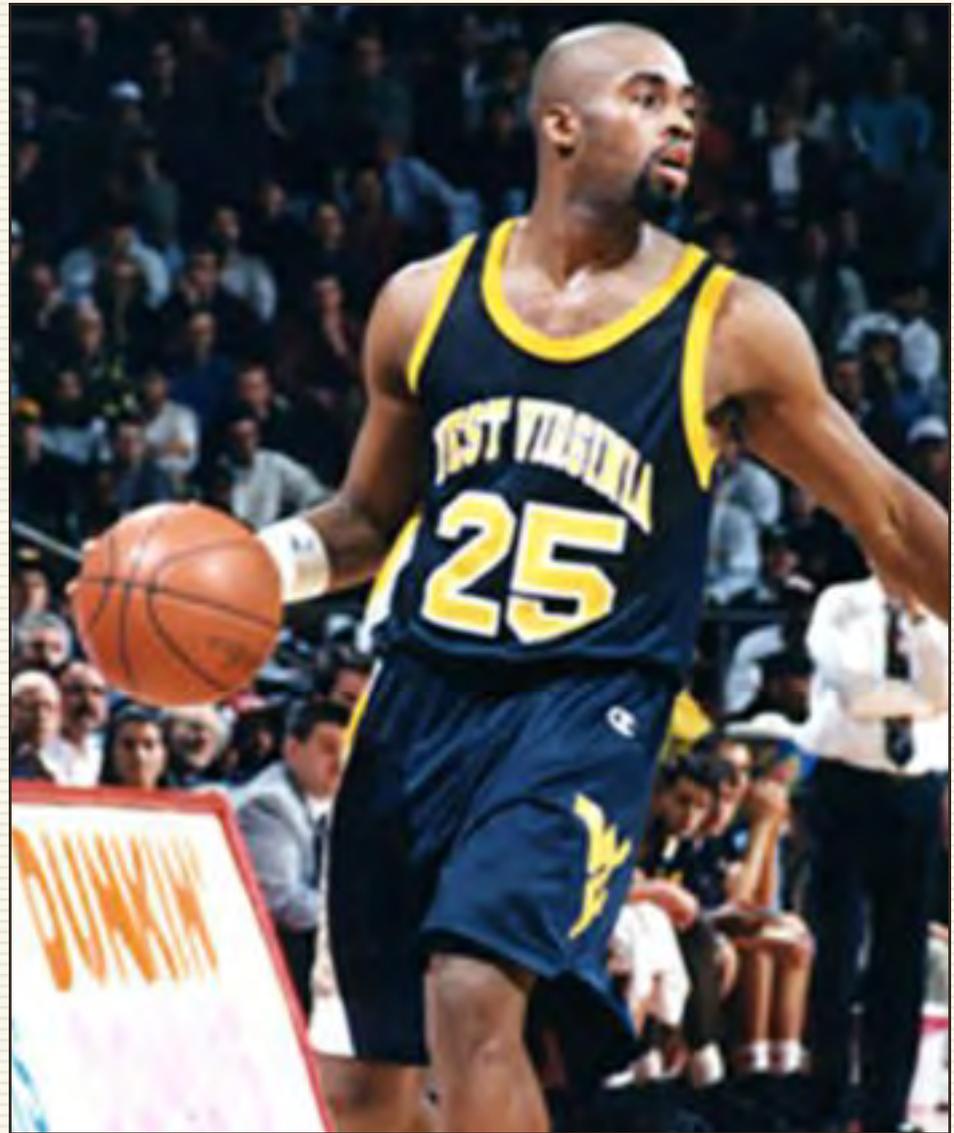
I enjoyed watching the games as a fan and as part of the event staff. I can't enjoy them in person now because I live in Florida and I just have to watch them on TV. I will be a Mountaineers fan till the day I die. Let's goooooo Mountaineers!

— Amanda Landers



WVU Men's Basketball/Twitter

Former WVU star Damian Owens poses with the Mountaineer in 2018.



WVU Athletics

WVU's Seldon Jefferson starred for the Mountaineers in the mid- to late-1990s.

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Let's Go Mountaineers!



WVU Athletics photos

Thanks in large part to true freshman running back Steve Slaton (above), the Mountaineers rallied to beat Louisville in triple overtime in 2005.



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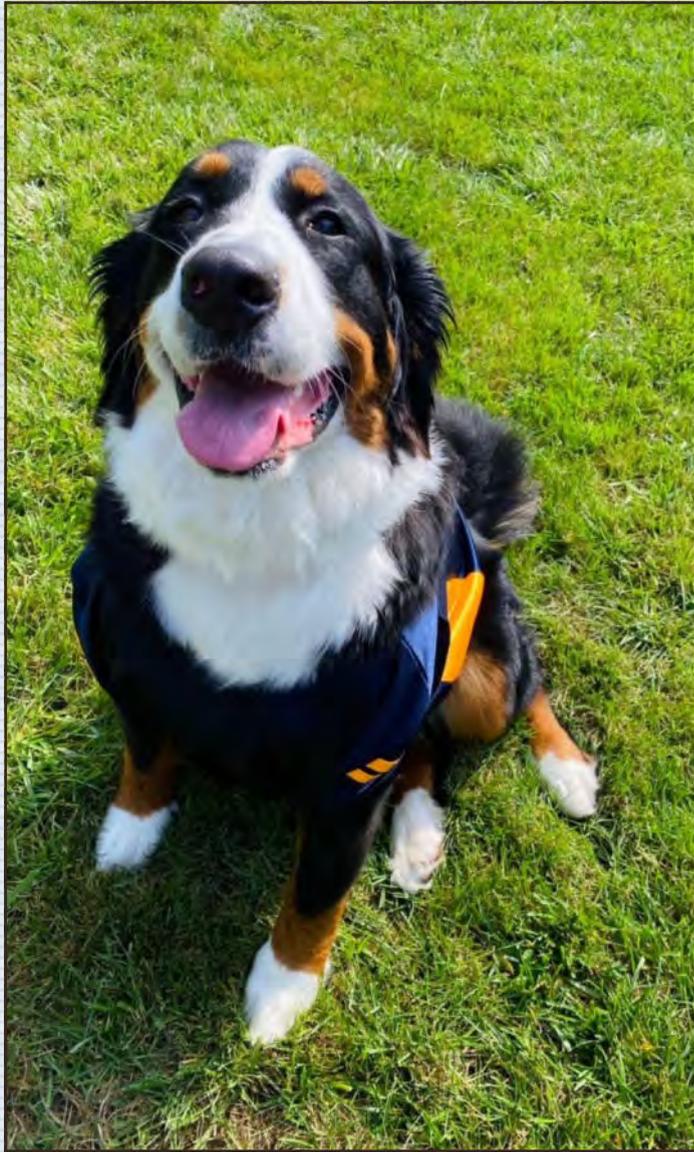
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WVU Athletics

Woodburn and Chitwood halls loom over Old Mountaineer Field.

Back in the late 1970s, when football games were still played downtown in the old stadium, area organizations could raise money by helping to sell the programs. My sister, JoAnna Cyphert, and I were in junior high at St. Francis Grade School and were in the school's ski club. Sponsor of the ski club was Dave Smith, who went on to coach boys' basketball at St. Francis High School before leav-

ing education to go to medical school.

He set it up so the club would make money for ski trips by selling programs at the home football games. I signed up thinking it would be fun to try skiing. Not sure what I ended up liking the least — skiing or selling programs. Skiing requires cold weather. Selling programs meant dealing with people who were there to watch football, not buy a

program from some kid. Then, there were ones who tried to scam a kid by saying you owed more change than you did or by gluing the corner of \$5 onto \$1 so you'd give them \$4, when you really owed them nothing. Yes, that happened to me once. And, yes, at one time programs were \$1.

My sister signed up because if you sold programs, you got into the games for free.

One of our parents would drop us off on University Avenue in Sunnyside about three hours before kickoff and we'd go into the bowels of Mountaineer Field to get our money aprons and our first bundle of programs. I rarely took more than one bundle. Selling that 20 was enough for me. My sister, on the other hand, would return for bundle after bundle until it was

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WVU photo

The Pride of West Virginia marching band comes out of a single tunnel at Old Mountaineer Field.

about time for kickoff. I think she had a competition with herself to sell more programs each week.

Though I didn't like selling those programs and ended up not liking the skiing reward either, I am glad I participated. I have those memories of what Sunnyside and the stadium were like on football Saturdays when there was excitement in the air.

I remember what it was like to walk around under that stadium and across the bridge that carried

University Avenue along one side of the stadium. Woodburn and Chitwood halls loomed above the field and you felt like you were in the middle of everything.

I talked to JoAnna recently about these memories and turns out she sold those programs for more reasons than just getting to see the Mountaineers play.

"I enjoyed walking around the streets of Morgantown and watching people come into town," she told me.

"Most were chanting against Pitt even if we weren't playing Pitt."

You know, Sweet Caroline and all that. It doesn't matter where you are when that song is played, WVU fans have a special chorus involving Pitt Panthers.

JoAnna also liked the Pride of West Virginia. But, who doesn't?

"I also liked watching the band practice before the game because, many years, they were the best part of the team," she said. "Back then,

the band came out of a single tunnel. It was impressive."

She's right about that. Although The Pride is still impressive, seeing the members run from a tunnel and onto the field was always an exciting experience. It's something they've tried to replicate at Milan Puskar Stadium, but it's just not the same.

— Pam Queen

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# Take Me Home



WVU photos

John Denver sings "Country Roads, Take Me Home" prior to the first game at Mountaineer Field in 1980.

Almost heaven, West Virginia  
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River  
Life is old there, older than the trees  
Younger than the mountains, growin' like a breeze  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain  
momma  
Take me home, country roads

All my memories, gather 'round her  
Miner's lady, stranger to blue water  
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky  
Misty taste of moonshine, teardrops in my eyes  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain  
momma

Take me home, country roads  
I hear her voice in the mornin' hour she calls me  
Radio reminds me of my home far away  
Drivin' down the road I get a feelin'  
That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain

momma  
Take me home, country roads  
Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain  
momma  
Take me home, country roads  
Take me home, down country roads  
Take me home, down country roads



Susan D. Brown,  
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Let's give a rah for West Virginia  
 And let us pledge to her anew,  
 Others may be black or crimson,  
 but for us it's Gold and Blue.  
 Let all our troubles be forgotten,  
 Let college spirit rule,  
 We'll join and give our loyal efforts  
 For the good of our old school.  
 It's West Virginia, It's West Virginia  
 The Pride of every Mountaineer.  
 Come on you old grads, join with us young lads,  
 It's West Virginia now we cheer!  
 Now is the time, boys, to make a big noise  
 No matter what the people say,  
 For there is naught to fear; the gang's all here,  
 So hail to West Virginia, Hail!

**WVU Alma Mater**

Alma, our Alma Mater,  
 The home of Mountaineers  
 Sing we of thy honor  
 Everlasting through the years  
 Alma, our Alma Mater,  
 We pledge in song to you  
 Hail, all hail! Our Alma Mater,  
 West Virginia U.



WVU photos

 *Brook Valley*  
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# WELCOME BACK, FANS!



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# University releases stadium protocols for COVID-19

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The following information will assist fans attending West Virginia's football home opener on Saturday at Milan Puskar Stadium. Game time against Long Island is 5 p.m.

As the stadium will return to normal operations, including pregame tailgating and the complete game-day experience, WVU strongly encourages all fans to be vaccinated. A COVID-19 vaccination is the single-most important and successful tool to protect fans from the virus and its many variants. Increased vaccination rates, coupled with proven preventative measures such as masks, physical distancing, self-symptom monitoring, COVID-19 testing and good personal hygiene (e.g. handwashing and hand sanitizer), are the proven tools fans can use to fight COVID-19 and the spread of the disease to others.

The university is following CDC and Monongalia County Health Department guidelines, which do outline additional protection measures in light of the Delta variant. The CDC, the Monongalia County Health Department and the university recommend fully vaccinated people and unvaccinated individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings, particularly in



William Wotring/The Dominion Post file photo

Fans are asked to wear masks at Milan Puskar Stadium for the home opener against Long Island.

crowded areas. Those not fully vaccinated are also encouraged to wear a mask outdoors, including in the parking lots and in the stadium.

All fans should self-evaluate prior to game day or before arriving at the stadium. Fans who might be sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and contact a physician.

The athletics department, in

conjunction with local, state and university officials will continue monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and make changes to the stadium protocols, if needed, based on current health conditions.

With the return to 100% capacity, the following pregame schedule will be in effect. The parking lots will open at 7 a.m. with tailgating permitted. Football's new

Hall of Traditions will open to the public three hours before game time and close at kickoff. The Chick-fil-A Kids Zone returns to the Caperton Indoor Practice Facility for four games starting 2½ hours before kickoff, and the Mountaineer Mantrip will take place about 2 hours and 45 min before game time.

WVU's Clear Bag Policy remains in effect, and the athletics department invites and encourages fans to visit [wvusports.com/clearbag](http://wvusports.com/clearbag) for more information, to view pictures of permissible and non-permissible items and to obtain answers to frequently asked questions about the clear bag policy.

Fans are asked to reduce what they bring to the stadium to minimize contact points and bag searches. When security personnel check bags at the gate, they will not be divesting the bags – each fan will be responsible for showing the contents of his/her individual bag. This includes fans removing all items from their bag for inspection as needed. For quicker entry, do not bring bags inside the stadium.

Additional home game information and updates will be provided on Tuesday afternoons of game week.

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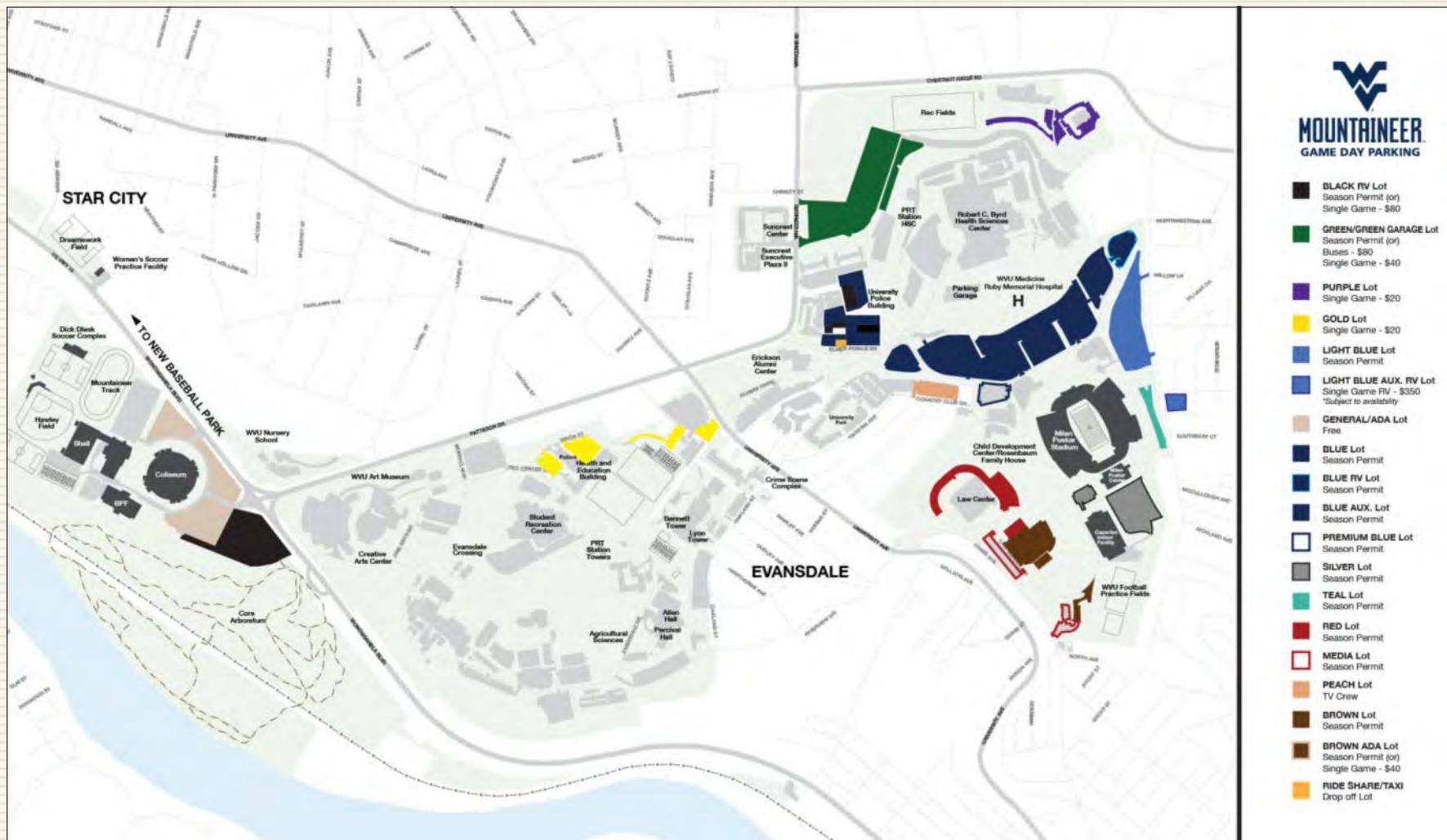
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**Single game parking (vehicles)**

- Brown lot (ADA parking) lot \$40/game - limited space available
- Gold lot \$20/game
- Green lot \$40/game
- Green Garage lot \$40/game - no tailgating
- Purple lot \$20/game
- Coliseum - free and first come, first served

**Parking/tailgating policies**

■ Parking lots operated by the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics open at 7 a.m. for Saturday games.

■ Any vehicles, with or without a permit, left in permit lots before 7 a.m. on gameday will be towed.

■ All RVs must be removed by 12:00 p.m. (noon) the day following a game (excludes weeknight games where all vehicles and RVs must exit the lots immediately following the game).

■ The original parking permit holder is responsible for any tailgate activity that is conducted while using that parking permit.

■ Small canopies may be erected in designated areas only and may not be larger than 10'x10'. All canopies must be secured. A parking permit for the designated lot is required to erect a canopy and the vehicle must be parked adjacent to such canopy. Parking permit holders may only erect canopies after 7 a.m. on game day. Canopies may not obstruct sidewalks, drive lanes or pedestrian walkways.

■ Open fires are prohibited.

■ Trailers are permitted in the Light Blue Auxiliary RV, Red and



William Wotring/The Dominion Post file photo

Fans line the sidewalk outside of Milan Puskar Stadium to welcome players during the Mountaineer Mantrip.

**Green lots only.**

■ Car passes may not be upgraded to RV passes.

■ RV passes may not be used for cars (only for weeknight games).

■ Vans 19' and under are considered cars.

■ Please observe and obey instructions from parking attendants when parking your vehicle. Vehicles will be able to occupy only the area necessary for parking as space permits.

■ Parking is first come, first served. Saving spots is prohibited.

■ RV parking is designated in

specific areas for parking lots.

■ Commercial cargo-type trucks are not permitted in any lot.

■ Music must be turned off or turned down by 11 p.m. to be respectful to other surrounding neighborhoods.

■ Beverage kegs or excessive alcohol is not permitted in or around the stadium.

■ Games involving the consumption of alcohol are not permitted.

■ Individuals are responsible for compliance with all local and state laws governing alcohol consumption.

■ Any person damaging univer-

sity property will be responsible for cost of repairs.

■ Ticket scalping or solicitation of any kind is not permitted in the parking lots.

■ Pets are not allowed to run at large in tailgating sites or on campus and must be leashed at all times according to local leash laws. Furthermore animals shall not be left unattended or secured to university property. Please clean up after your pet.

■ Dispose of all trash in receptacles located in tailgating areas.

■ Removal of any barricade, barrel or other traffic control devices is prohibited.

■ The original owner of the parking pass is responsible for any tailgate activity that is conducted while this permit is in use.

■ The WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics may revoke the parking pass, eject, or refuse entry to Holder, and/or take further action for failure to comply with terms and conditions, WVU or venue policies and procedures, or illegal activity. Holder voluntarily assumes all risk of personal injury or damage to property arising out of attending the event and further agrees that WVU and/or its employees or agents shall not be responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss suffered as a result of Holder attending the event.

■ WVU is not responsible or liable for accidents, damage, loss or theft of materials, items or personal property brought into our parking areas.

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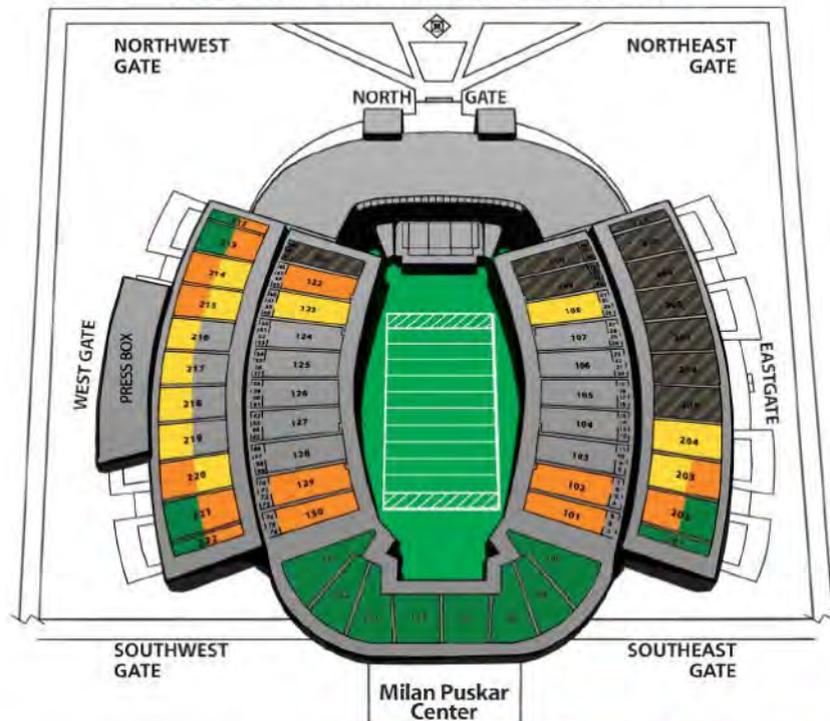
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Texas Tech - Oct. 2	\$85	\$75	\$65
Iowa State - Oct. 30	\$100	\$85	\$70
Oklahoma State - Nov. 6	\$85	\$75	\$65
Texas - Nov. 20	\$100	\$85	\$70
Gold Mini (VT/TT/OSU)	\$265	\$225	\$195
Blue Mini (TT/ISU/UT)	\$255	\$220	\$190

\*Sections shaded in gray are not available on a single game basis. Fans interested in learning more regarding availability of season tickets in these sections can contact the Mountaineer Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU GAME.

### WVU Athletics

The Mountaineer Mantrip signals the start of the day as the team arrives at Milan Puskar Stadium. As the players prepare to start their day, the band and cheerleaders lead them into the stadium as they walk through the fans.

Prior to entering the locker room, players touch a piece of coal, paying respect to the people who travel down to the mine on their mantrip to begin their work day.

As the Mountaineers begin their warmup routine, 60,000 fans leave their designated tailgate areas and pack the double-tiered structure.

The faithful welcomes "The Pride of West Virginia" as its music and choreographed performance prepares and excites everyone in anticipation of the game.

The stadium gets loud as the ball is kicked off and doesn't stop as each score is celebrated until another WVU victory is signaled with the playing of "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

Each fan has an unobstructed view of the playing field. Plenty of restrooms, concession and souvenir stands add to the fan comfort of the facility. Lights for night games, ADA seating and plenty of room for tailgating add to the stadium's list of accessories.

A touch of class and history was added at the north end of the complex in 2018 with the addition of the Mountaineer Legends Park. As fans journey into the stadium, walking through the park, they stroll down memory lane, gleaning information and remembering memories about each legend who helped build and shape the history and tradition of WVU football. Each of these legends are also on display throughout the stadium concourse on the pillars of the stadium for fans to see.

Multi-million dollar facelifts took place on the east side in 2016 and west side in 2017, widening the concourses and constructing entrance gates, as well as adding and modernizing the concession venues and restroom facilities. Funding was made available through a \$75 million facilities bond, \$25 million in private donations through the Mountaineer Athletic Club and \$6 million from West Virginia's multimedia rights contract with IMG.

A new playing surface, FieldTurf Revolution 2.5, was installed in 2016, giving West Virginia one of the country's safest and most comfortable surfaces. It has been highly regarded for its softness, durability, safety and lack of abrasiveness.

Just above the skyboxes on the west side is the West Virginia press box. Complete with a dining area, private booths and a camera deck, the spacious three-story structure gives media a great place to cover

SEE STADIUM, P-31



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WVU Athletics

## STADIUM

FROM PAGE P-30

Mountaineer football.

Below the press box, 12 luxurious stadium suites under the camera deck offer reception, dining, kitchen, restroom and seating areas to WVU fans, providing a great view of the playing field and the entire facility. An additional set of 18 stadium suites in a two-story structure were completed in the north end zone in time for the 2004 season, giving more fans and businesses an opportunity to socialize and enjoy games in first-class comfort - offering WVU a great way to generate revenue, increase ADA accessible

seating and restrooms, and update the look of the stadium. South end zone suites were constructed and in use for the 2008 season.

In 2017, a new, HD video board was added in the north end of the stadium. The new board works in conjunction with the current south end zone video board, which was installed in 2008, providing additional live action, replays, statistics, scores, in-game entertainment and advertisements.

The new high definition video board that sits atop Touchdown Terrace is 37.2 feet high by 97.2 feet long for a total of 3,616 square feet. The square footage dwarfs the current board, which is 23.6 feet high by 85 feet long for a total of 2,006 square feet.

Light-emitting diode (LED) boards run down each sideline and provides in-game statistics, scoring, messaging and sponsor advertising. Facia LED boards also were implemented along the bottom of the stadium and in each end zone through West Virginia's IMG agreement, as well as new graphic coverage on the stadium's field walls, giving a much-needed updated look to the edifice.

In 2008, score/video boards, complete with high resolution video and expanded messaging capabilities, became part of the fan experience. A partnership between the WVU Foundation and Panasonic helped the global electronics maker install a new video board system. The sys-

tem, valued at about \$5 million, was made available to WVU in part through a generous commitment from alumnus Ben Statler and his wife, Jo, and a donor who wished to remain anonymous. Panasonic, together with WVU, uses the new video board systems as a showcase to feature the latest state-of-the-art video and audio technology. The video board system enhanced the experience for fans, and more importantly, provides opportunities for increased revenue for the athletic department from advertising.

The Puskar Stadium makeover included a new video system that is three times wider than the old south end zone system and with higher resolution LED quality.

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