

Defining School Spirit

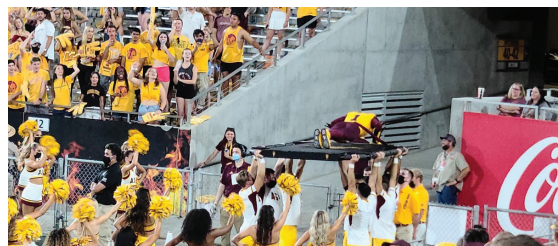
By Stephen Demel

School spirit is defined as the sense of identity and community shared by members of an educational institution. College football is the epitome of school spirit, as you are quickly involved with all events associated with the game. On September 25, 2021, I attended the Pac-12 opener at Sun Devil Stadium where ASU battled against the Colorado Buffaloes, and I learned what makes the school tick.

The stadium was nearly full, and from the moment the players stepped onto the field, the crowd was filled with awe and amazement as we waited for the opening kickoff. Feeling a sense of belonging and importance in the moment defines that school spirit. I felt immediately at home as I yelled at the top of my lungs and participated in all of the antics of the college alumni around me. I had assumed that I would be surrounded by students, so it was wonderful to see full families, past alumni, and diehard fans all embracing the Sun Devil way.

As ASU scored their first touchdown, the stadium shook with glory as Sparky the Sun Devil hyped up the crowd and did pushups for every point the team scored. As the game approached halftime, the score had reached 14, while Colorado was only able to score 3 points. After halftime the scoring did not stop, with ASU scoring 21 and Colorado scoring another 10 points. Everyone knew this game was over by the 4th quarter and the minutes dwindled down. Surprisingly, I didn't see people leaving. Usually, with a blowout in a sports event, the fans start to leave, knowing that their team has won; not with ASU fans, though! The fans remained elated as the final seconds fell off the clock.

With the final score coming of 35 to 13, we all rejoiced in our school's victory. As I exited the stadium and into the parking lot, I noticed that not everyone was going home. Many students went back to their tailgate parties to celebrate the huge win over Colorado. I encourage all students to get involved with these sporting events. Although our campus is more than 3 hours from the stadium, it is worth the travel to embrace school spirit with other ASU college football fanatics.



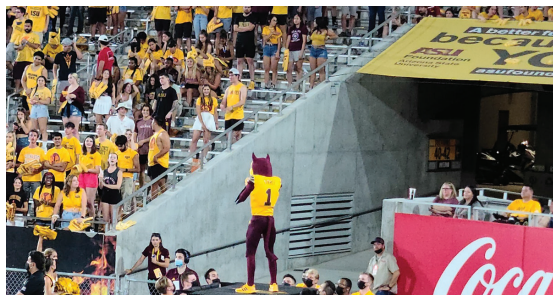
Sparky energized the crowd with push-ups for each of the 35 points scored by the Sun Devils.



3rd down stoppages were common as the Sun Devils continually stopped the Buffaloes' advance with their fantastic defense.



Sun Devil students waved the flag before the players stepped on the field.



More crowd hype from Sparky the Sun Devil.



Author: Stephen Demel. Photo taken by Anel Atilano