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The Allure Of Texas High School Football

By Joseph Kenny

Even if you've never been to a Texas high school football game, you probably know that these

games and the fans who follow them are somewhat different than other high school football games and fans. In Texas, football isn't a sport and it isn't an extra-curricular activity. No, it's almost been elevated to the level of a religion. To say that Texas high school football fans are passionate about the sport would be an understatement; a huge understatement.

Friday Night Lights may have been first a popular book and then a film but it all started with the true story of one season with the Odessa Permian Panthers. Hollywood didn't need to pump up the real life story of this Texas high school team with fabrication; the real story was already enough of a legend to carry it all the way to the silver screen.

If you think you know high school football, you haven't seen anything until you've seen it from the Lone Star State. Even the smaller schools really get involved. It's not uncommon to see entire caravans traveling the Texas highways on Friday nights; the football team, drill team, cheerleaders, marching band and sponsor. All of that can easily require a dozen buses or so. And that's not even including the hordes of parents and fans that travel right along with them. In relatively few other events will you see devoted fans travel hundreds of miles for a playoff game; and keep in mind that in Texas that's entirely possible. The border from east to west stretches almost one thousand miles.

So, what is it exactly about Texas high school football in particular that seems to appeal to such a mass audience? While there may be no definitive answer for that question, there is definitely one certainty: nothing else on earth has quite the same intensity and passion to it. You can feel it reverberating in the air when you step into any high school football stadium throughout the state.

High school football fans in Texas are not just passionate about football; they live it and breathe it. On any given Friday night during football season in Texas you're likely to see just about as much violence in the stands as you are on the turf if one fan happens to aggravate another.

And that's not even mentioning the rivalry that can take place between teams in Texas. While it's not uncommon at all for neighboring towns throughout the country to form high school football rivalries,

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Texans take it to a whole new level. In many cases, extra policeman have to be called out during big rival games just to keep the peace among the crowd. In a few instances, some towns had to stop even playing one another at all because of the violence that ensued between fans in the stands and on the sidelines during rival games.

The exact allure of Texas high school football may be somewhat difficult to describe, but one thing is certain: you feel it when you experience it.

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Joe Kenny writes for his beloved soccer forum

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Vince Young

By Bob Johnson

Born on May 18, 1983 in Houston, Texas, Vince Young began his quarterback career at Madison High School. It was here that he participated in the school's football program and quickly began his road to athletic stardom. Among the honors that he received include the National Player of the Year as named by both PARADE and Student Sports, 2001 Texas Offensive Player of the Year, The Sporting News top high school prospect and was the proud recipient of the Pete Dawkins trophy. In addition to Young's love of football, he also managed to letter as varsity in both basketball and track and field during his high school years. While his athleticism was apparent in any sport that he chose, football remained a constant in his life and one that he would carry with him throughout college and beyond.

After high school, Vince Young was accepted to the University of Texas where he immediately joined the Longhorns football team. In 2004, during his sophomore year, Vince Young led the Longhorns to a season record of 11–1 and the University's inaugural participation, and win, in the Rose Bowl. In 2005, he was one of the top three finalists for the coveted Heisman Trophy, but finished second to Reggie Bush. That same year, Vince Young was recognized once again as he was named the best college football player of 2005 by College Football News.

In January 2006, Vince Young announced his plans to enter the NFL draft. After deciding to decline his last year of NCAA eligibility, Young began preparing for the next National Football League draft. Experts predict that he will be selected early in the first round. Even though he decided to forego his

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final season of college football, the awards continued to roll in. In 2006, Young was presented with the Manning Award and also the Rose Bowl MVP for the 2005 season.

His love for the game is evident in his actions, as are his talents on the field. No matter where the road leads this Texas native, he will never forget his hometown of Houston. And how could he? In his honor, Houston declared January 10 as 'Vince Young Day.' It appears that his hometown will never forget him, either. If history does repeat itself, then both college and NFL football fans are sure to see more of Vince Young and his award-winning athleticism in the years to come.

Bob writes for

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