

COMMENTARY

Steelers Nation: from coast to coast

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staff reporter

Have you walked around downtown Pittsburgh lately? If not, let me paint the picture for you. The whole town is covered in black and gold. Everywhere you look, you'll find that famous symbol with the three diamonds, one blue one red and one yellow, strategically placed so that you can see the shape of a football between them. This town is all about the Steelers! Western Pennsylvania is not the only place where you can find this famous symbol. You can go almost anywhere in the country and find someone representing the black and gold. This is what we, Steelers fans, call the Steelers Nation. It's spreading like wild fire!

It actually amazes me how many Pittsburgh fans there are in this country. It doesn't matter where the Steelers are playing, whether it's

at home or in Dallas, just look to the crowd and you'll see those Terrible Towels waving. Seeing Steelers fans at random games is my favorite thing. I was watching the Detroit vs. New England game on Thanksgiving Day with my family. What is to pop up on the screen right before they go to a commercial break but a man wearing a James Harrison jersey and covered in black and gold. My entire family started cheering and going crazy, and we weren't even watching a Steelers game.

I can tell you from personal experience that Steelers fans are some of the most dedicated people around. It doesn't matter if it's 80 degrees or 20 degrees, those crazy Pittsburgh fans will be at the games. I never said these people would be dressed like average sports fans either. They will be covered from head-to-toe in black and gold with a Troy Polamalu wig on with their

faces painted carrying signs with the cleverest sayings about the Steelers. I can be your perfect example. Open up my closet and half of what you will find is black and gold, including jerseys, t-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants. Take a look in my jewelry box, you'll find Steelers necklaces, earrings and bracelets. Then, you can just look around my room. You'll see my Terrible Towel hanging above my bed, a Steelers sign on my desk, Steelers hats and even a Heath Miller bobble-head.

Steelers fans go above and beyond to show support for their team and these people are everywhere.

My favorite experience was going on vacation with my family to Orlando, Florida in mid-September of 2008. Sunday comes around and my whole family is decked out in their Pittsburgh gear. To be honest, I thought we would be the only ones dressed

in black and gold. I expected to see Miami fans everywhere, but I was wrong. Everywhere I turned, there were Steelers fans. Even the bar in our resort, JimmyZ, was a Steelers bar! We were so excited to be surrounded by fans just like us so far away from Pittsburgh. There are bars that support the Steelers all around the country, and it seems to be that the Steelers have the largest fan base in the country.

Steelers fans truly are everywhere you go. They are extremely passionate about the sport, the city, and most importantly their team. Don't be surprised if you're traveling the country and you happen to find a few Pittsburgh fans here and there. They are just showing their support so that everyone around knows that they are a proud member of the Steelers Nation.



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