

The Names of the Game

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Each time college football season rolls around, I begin to ponder whether people can hold their own against wild animals, pets, elements, and colors. You may call it sports,

but I say it's a jungle out there. Bears, Wildcats, and Tigers abound, as we know, and frankly there are too many

of them. Tigers

can be found at Clemson, LSU, Missouri, Auburn, and Princeton, not to forget Memphis State, Jackson State, Texas Southern, Doane, Occidental, Sewanee, Trinity, and Morehouse. Wildcats are evidence at Kentucky, Northwestern, Arizona and Kansas State, Villanova, Davidson, New Hampshire, and Baker. And hey, after this year, who can forget the BYU Cougars and Michigan Wolverines? Bears hibernate at Cal, Baylor, and Brown, but there are Bruins at UCLA as well as Grizzlies at Montana and Polar Bears at Bowdoin. Berkeley's Bears are Golden, by the way.

There are numerous pets in existence in the form of Georgia and Yale Bulldogs, Washington Huskies, Oregon Ducks, Oregon State Beavers, Minnesota Gophers, Wisconsin Badgers, Virginia Tech Gobblers, Boston U Terriers, Texas Longhorns, Colorado Buffaloes, Rice and Temple Owls, BC Eagles, and some may even concede the Florida Gators, TCU

Horned Frogs, and Maryland Terrapins. Well, alright, perhaps pets wasn't the best of words.

What about the elements, you may ask? I'll give you elements. There are the Hurricanes at Miami and Tulsa, though how a hurricane would get to Tulsa is unclear, and the Cyclones at Iowa State. At the same time, there are at least three oceans: the Crimson Tide of Alabama, the Green Wave of Tulane, and the Waves of Pepperdine.

But there are plenty of people out there, make no mistake. Cornhuskers are people, for instance. So are Mountaineers, Trojans, Rebels, Deacons, and Tarheels. Even an Aggie is a person. Other people include Cavaliers, Volunteers, Hoosiers, Cowboys, Spartans, Middies, Crusaders, Illini, Jayhawks, and Boilermakers.

Which brings up something. Nothing against Purdue, but can you imagine a time in our nation's history when a student body

would actually choose Boilermakers for a nickname? Was it during the Industrial Revolution?

Among people, many seem to be Indians. Bands of Indians roam the campuses of William & Mary, Arkansas State, McMurry, Catawba, Northeast Louisiana (which is located in Monroe, Louisiana, where





Perhaps the one "name of the game" with which we all are very much familiar.

Courtesy of the Notre Dame Bookstore

I went to high school, by the way), and Juniata, while bands of Redskins are at Miami of Ohio, and Redmen roam the campuses of Ripon and Carthage. In addition there are the Seminoles of Florida State, Aztecs at San Diego State, Sioux at North Dakota, Chippewas at Central Michigan, Choctaws at Mississippi College, and the Savages (pre-Orangemen) at Syracuse.

There are many colors around, to be sure. There is Red and Blue at Penn, Big Red at Cornell and Denison, and some Maroons here and there. The Big Green at Dartmouth and Stanford Cardinals (which is a color) are other instances, though both teams were at some point the Indians.

Of equal interest is the fact that in a modern society, there are no Fighting Sheet Rockers, Fighting Tree Planters, Fighting Pest Controllers, Fighting Roofers, Fighting

Plumbers, or Fighting Wallpaperers to suit up on Thanksgiving Day to do battle against their traditional rivals, the Fighting Pool Cleaners, the Fighting Real Estate Agents, the Fighting Loan Officers, the Fighting Defense Attorneys, and the Fighting Appraisers. Nope, none of that; Just the good'ol Notre Dame Fighting Irish. So the next time some Wolverine, or Eagle, or Cougar makes some wisecrack about how they're better than us, just remember: We Are ND.... Enough said!

PS: If I've left out any of your favorite college teams, tough. There is always the option of penciling it in. After all, as Mom always said, "if you want something done right, you gotta do it yourself!!!"