

Just put the cottage cheese down and slowly back away



Home > Cincinnati Events > Story > Hunt for a Reds super-fan

Hunt for a Reds super-fan

Our search of Downtown was all about the paint

By Lori Kurtzman
Metromix
April 5, 2010

Share

1 comment



Kara Pelicano of Covington, Rachel Freytag of Villa Hills, Adam Sokolowski of Downtown and Hillary Bond of Colerian at Fountain Square on Opening Day. (Credit: David Sorcher | Special to Metromix)



Opening Day 2010 photos
The parade, the parties and more

The goal Monday was to pick through the thousands of people crowding the streets of downtown and to find, among them, the biggest Reds fan. What a fun, easy task this would be. How simple.

Uh, right.

On Opening Day, everybody looks like they've pledged their firstborn to Cincinnati's baseball team. Downtown is awash in crimson; even the babies in strollers have a mustachioed mascot on their onesies. The guy begging for beer puts a Reds sticker on his cardboard sign. Everyone's a fan.

And so staring into the crowd at the pre-game parade, we realize we are screwed. This was a terrible idea. We will never find the ultimate fan. We are so getting fired...and then, we see him.

Well, we see naked red flesh.

Across the street, across the parade route, we see The Man in Red. He's painted head to toe, with a shock of white hair on the top of his head, and he's just out of reach. In a few seconds, he disappears. Inside, we die a little bit.

There's just hope

USE WHAT SHE LIKES TO MAKE SOMETHING SHE'LL LOVE

OPEN THE PANDORA® GIFT ADVISOR

PANDORA® UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

related links



Cincinnati Reds guide
Everything you need for a ballpark trip or to cheer on the...



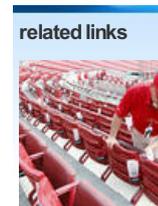
Bars by the ballpark
You don't have to walk far to find a party before or after the game



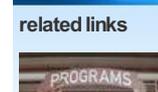
Opening Day Parties 2010
See who we spotted at parties around downtown for Opening...



Findlay Market Opening Day Parade
Opening Day begins with the 91st annual Findlay Market...



Opening Day Festivities
Some pre-game shots around the ball park



Opening Day is here
It's a little easier getting out of

There went nope.

But we press on, and not just for the paycheck. Now this is personal. Alimo pulls up in front of the In Between Tavern and we chase down its occupants, because who besides an ultimate fan takes a stretch to Opening Day?

Matthew and Christina Kollstedt, a Hamilton couple, seem a little frightened by our desperation, and quickly offer an explanation. The limo is for safety reasons, they say – it eliminates drinking and driving. And though Matthew loves the Reds – he’s got four consecutive Opening Days to back that up – he’s not going to claim any trophy.

“I’m probably not the biggest Reds fan,” he says.

OK. Fine. We re-think our strategy. Rather than find the biggest fan, we start eliminating those who are obviously not. The guys in the plaid shirts are out. Same goes for the girls in the fancy dresses. Brandon Bear, a 28-year-old from Mattawan, Mich., is eliminated, because he’s wearing a Cardinals shirt.

(By the way, he thought all you Reds fans were “surprisingly nice.” Work on that.)

Also ruled out? The guy in the Votto jersey who tells his friend, “I’m a Yankees fan.” Ditto the girl who looks at her ticket-less buddies and says, “Well, we could just go to Hooters.” And we’ll also leave out the woman walking away from the ballpark who announces, “Last year I was here, remember I got thrown out?”

In fact, things are really starting to look bleak. In desperation, we reach out to 23-year-old UC law student Christopher Stull, who’s wearing a Tampa Bay Rays shirt. Maybe he’s just trying to hide his embarrassing Reds obsession? Nope.

He likes the Detroit Tigers.

We trudge through the super-warm bar at O’Malley’s in the Alley, pick our way through the parking lot where meat king John Morrell is throwing a party, scan the Skyline line at Fountain Square. No one stands out. Defeated, we head to Head First Sports Café on Third Street.

A pickup truck filled with young, attractive women pulls up beside us, and we want to throw things at them – until we discover these are angels delivering a present. The Man in Red steps from the truck bed and onto the road.

We cry. OK, we don’t. But we practically tackle the Man in Red. He is Adam Sokolowski, 24, of Downtown, and last night he got a brilliant idea and made an 11 p.m. run to Wal-Mart, where he bought a bunch of red and white acrylic paint. He slathered that stuff on from his waist up and his knees down and used the attention to promote his company (sorry, Sokolowski, we can’t help you here).

“I’m one of those people who goes as hard as I can,” he says. “Absolutely. I am definitely the biggest Reds fan.”

And we believe him, until he asks us if we can help him score an Opening Day ticket.

With that, we give up the search. Maybe there is no ultimate fan. Maybe that person is already sitting in the best seats at Great American Ball Park. Looking around at all these Reds shirts, seeing so many people excited for a day of sun, beer and baseball, we realize it doesn’t really matter.



bed this morning for...

2011 World Champs Merchandise
St. Louis Baseball

FANATICS Shop Now

Share Add to favorites Add to playlist

What other people are saying...

1 comment | [Add Your Own](#)



mcaridi - April 05, 2010 at 2:25 PM

Adam works for us here at Emerge Technologies in Northern Kentucky. I painted him myself this morning at work. Great Job ADAM!!!!

[Report This Comment](#)

[View All Comments »](#)

[Add a comment](#)

Please [log in](#) to comment
[View All Comments »](#)

2011 World Champs Merchandise St. Louis Baseball



more on metromix.com



restaurants »
Dining Guide 2011:
Readers' Choice



bars & clubs »
80s Fink Prom



events »
Weekend party pics



music »
BRINK Show case 2011



movies & tv »
"Twilight Saga: Breaking
Dawn - Part 1" premiere
photos



deals »
Today's Top

SEARCH:

(e.g., "festival" or "comedy")



Metromix.com

About metromix.com
Blog
Jobs
Copyright & Terms of Service
Privacy policy
Contact us
Advertise with us
Get listed
Deals FAQ
Site map



Our Partners

Cincinnati.Com
CincinnatiUSA visitor's guide
NKY.com
Topix.com
Homefinder.com
apartments.com
careerbuilder.com
cars.com

More Metromix Locations:

Albuquerque	Detroit	Lehigh Valley, PA	Portland
Atlanta	Grand Rapids	Los Angeles	Raleigh
Austin	Greensboro	Louisville	Reno
Baltimore	Greenville	Memphis	Rochester
Birmingham	Gulf Coast	Marietta	Sacramento
Boston	Hampton Roads, VA	Milwaukee	Salt Lake City
Brevard, FL	Harrisburg	Nashville	San Antonio
Charlotte	Honolulu	New Orleans	San Diego
Chicago	Houston	New York	San Francisco
Cincinnati	Hudson Valley, NY	Oklahoma City	Seattle
Cleveland	Indianapolis	Orlando	South Florida
Columbus	Jackson, MS	Ozarks, MO	St. Louis
Connecticut	Jacksonville	Palm Springs	Tampa Bay
Dallas	Jersey Shore	Philadelphia	Tucson
Delaware	Kansas City	Phoenix	Twin Cities
Denver	Las Vegas	Pittsburgh	Washington D.C.
Des Moines			

Popular Searches: Restaurants

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Dallas | Detroit | Houston | Las Vegas | New York | Philadelphia | Phoenix | San Francisco | Seattle | Tampa Bay | Washington D.C. | More Cities...

Popular Searches: Bars & Clubs

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Dallas | Detroit | Houston | Las Vegas | New York | Philadelphia | Phoenix | San Francisco | Seattle | Tampa Bay | Washington D.C. | More Cities...

Popular places to go in:

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Dallas | Detroit | Houston | Las Vegas | New York | Philadelphia | Phoenix | San Francisco | Seattle | Tampa Bay | Washington D.C. | More Cities...

Popular Deals in:

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Dallas | Detroit | Houston | Las Vegas | New York | Philadelphia | Phoenix | San Francisco | Seattle | Tampa Bay | Washington D.C. | More Cities...