



# College Sports Traditions: Picking Up Butch, Silent Night, and Hundreds of Others

*Stan Beck, Jack Wilkinson*

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Every year since 1961, football and basketball players at Middlebury College in Vermont pick up their wheelchair-bound fan, Butch, and bring him to the stadium sidelines to watch their games. At John Brown University, the volleyball team distributes candy to fans before each match. For years, fans attending a University of Maryland football game rubbed the bronze statue of their terrapin mascot, Testudo. Traditions like these are visible statements of school loyalty, and they are part of why college sports are unforgettable.

*College Sports Traditions: Picking Up Butch, Silent Night, and Hundreds of Others* details not only the well-known traditions of major universities, but also the obscure customs of smaller schools. Approximately 1,200 traditions are captured, covering almost every college sport. It depicts such traditions as The Ohio State University's "Script Ohio," University of Kansas's "Waving the Wheat," Linfield College's "End Zone Couches," and even a list of traditions that involve streaking. The wide variety of traditions covered in this book are grouped thematically, including:

- Before the game
- During the game
- After a score
- After the game
- Mascot traditions
- Preseason traditions
- Traditions probably not university sanctioned
- Rivalries
- Yells, cheers, and chants

From the crazy and eccentric to the touching and meaningful, these traditions connect fans and athletes across generations. The first of its kind, this comprehensive volume encompasses hundreds of universities and colleges throughout the U.S. Featuring 75 photos that bring many of these events to life, *College Sports Traditions* will be an entertaining read for every sports fan.

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