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English 101

### Bryant Denny Stadium

It's 6 o'clock and hundreds of people are walking up to Bryant-Denny Stadium to find their gate to enter. There are people from age two to eighty-two going to watch The Tide take on the Aggies. Once inside, I am one in a crowd of people passing concessions and vendors to get to my section. Finally, I make it to my seat on the fifty yard line. The view I have is like no other, I can see the whole field perfectly. One thing that really stands out to me is the fact that everyone is getting along with one another. If you have that Alabama logo on your shirt, it is like you are a part of one big family no matter what you look like. The energy that is given throughout the whole stadium is something that really separates game days at Bryant-Denny Stadium from all the others. From the led lights that change colors, to every single fan screaming the lyrics to DixieLand Delight, nothing else comes close to this electric energy that goes throughout Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The roar of the crowd signifies the start of the game. The whole stadium yells the signature "Roll Tide Roll" as kickoff happens. The sound is so loud you can hear it far outside the stadium. The moment everyone has been anticipating is finally here and it is the beginning of sixty minutes of active competition. This specific game is even more exciting as it is an SEC game. The SEC is arguably the best conference in college football and the fans are some of the most passionate. Every win of the season is important but a conference win is just a little sweeter. Hopes are high for the home team, but every game is a battle where the players have to leave it all on the field. With all of this in mind, the fans are not only here to experience the fun of watching great athleticism but to support and cheer on their team.

Through every second that runs on the clock, the whole stadium is on the edge of their seats. The tension is recognizable to anyone, and everyone is engaged with every snap of the ball. A first down for the home team is followed with excitement and a big “Roll Tide”. You can also feel the disappointment with an incomplete pass or failed third down. After a scoreless first quarter, Alabama scores first on a ten yard pass, and a wave of relief falls over the fanbase. Texas A&M follows up with a touchdown shortly after and the tension rises again. It is clear from this point forward that this will not be another Bama blowout game. Still, we are able to go into halftime with a lead of seventeen to fourteen.

The fun doesn’t pause for the twenty minute halftime break. The attendees get to experience something that those watching at home do not get to see. The halftime show put on by the talented Million Dollar Band does not fall short. The sound of the instruments fill the stadium, and the way they change formations is impressive to say the least. The fans don’t only cheer for the football team. Applause is given for the band throughout their performance. This break from the tension is refreshing and prepares the crowd for another two quarters of competition.

In the third quarter, The Tide maintains their lead and closes it out with a score of twenty-four to seventeen. Then, everyone can hear the band play “Basket Case” and all over you can see fans holding up four fingers to signify the beginning of the fourth quarter. The bright lights go down, and the LED lights flash red and white. The crowd cheers with enthusiasm. This is one of the most exciting points of any game, but in a close game like this, fans are on the edge of their seats. The game continues with the songs during every timeout. Signature songs like “DixieLand Delight” and “Mr.Brightside” play like they do in every other game, and the crowd sings every word with smiles on their faces. The Crimson Tide keeps the lead through the

remainder of the game, and win with a score of twenty-four to twenty. The celebration begins immediately after the time runs out on the clock.

Now, it is time for the post win fight song, “Rammer Jammer”. This is one of many long running traditions for the Alabama football fanbase. The band begins to play and everyone in the stands are on their feet. The stadium erupts with the sound of thousands of voices singing to the losing team at the top of their lungs. For Alabama fans, it feels good to win, and it feels just as good to tell the other team that we just beat them. After that, it is time to move on to whatever is next. The electric energy from the experience carries with us through the rest of the night. Everyone is sure to be in good spirits on campus the following week.

The environment was not created overnight, and Bryant-Denny Stadium has a rich history. The stadium is a very special landmark to the city of Tuscaloosa Alabama. There has been a lot of history made inside of this stadium. From coaches, players and national championship teams, this stadium has seen it all. Bryant-Denny Stadium was originally built in September, 1929. When the stadium was first built, its original name was “Denny Stadium” in honor of the ex-president here at the University of Alabama, George H Denny. But a few years later, in 1975, the stadium would be renamed “Bryant-Denny Stadium” after the Paul “Bear” Bryant coaching era. With all this being said, Bryant-Denny is a very special place and is very unique in its own ways. There is no place like Bryant-Denny Stadium on any game day here in Tuscaloosa, but especially on the very hyped up Texas A&M game day.

There is no place like Bryant-Denny stadium. It is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. Any Alabama fan is welcome to come together and enjoy the biggest draw on The University of Alabama campus. We may be strangers any other day of the year, but on gameday, we are a part of one big family there to cheer on the Crimson Tide. From the intense

gameplay and great athleticism to the fun traditions and eye catching light shows, an Alabama football game is sure to be a great time.