
Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by justmyperspective - 2008/05/12 14:49

I heard about 2 mins of commentary this weekend about the Jazz/Lakers series on ESPN radio. The commentators (I didn't hear their names) were talking about how Jazz fans are the "most vile" of any they had experienced (and that the opinion is widely held). One asked why that would be - suggesting that, because of the majority LDS population, you'd think the fans would be amongst the most polite in the league. They were a bit perplexed and critical of the way many of the Jazz fans behave. They talked about fan treatment of Derek Fisher, who (in their opinion) left the Jazz to go to LA so he could be closer for his daughter's medical treatments. Yet, he was heavily booed when introduced. They mentioned seeing a couple (in their 60's) standing behind a commentator desk flipping off the camera. I know that people hate the Lakers, but I get the impression the fans are like this to all teams. About yesterday's game being on Sunday (and Mother's Day), espn.com reported the following (quoting Phil Jackson):

"I don't think there's going to be a less vociferous crowd out there," Jackson added before the game. "I still think they'll be as rabid as ever if I can judge from the greeting we got coming into the building. I would be very concerned if I was living in the Mormon community and the Salt Lake community at the quality of those signs that were out there. They were rather amoral and probably a little raucous - on Mother's Day and on Sunday. So, it will be an interesting game."

"This is a rare Sunday playoff game. I've only participated in two or three of them before (in Utah). I don't think it will change the nature of the crowd." It didn't.

So, my questions -

Are these comments/perceptions about Jazz fans true? Why? Is anyone there embarrassed by this? It's one thing to be devoted and intense and have fun. But, it is possible to do that with class.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/12 15:07

Anybody who thought that the crowd was going to be quieter on Sunday was just not thinking. I'm sure that there was a large contingent of LDS people in the stands yesterday, but I think that there were probably some that stayed home.

The crowd noise is helped by the poor acoustics that bounce noise off of everywhere (anyone who has ever been to a concert there knows that unless it is the main act, the sound is going to be terrible). The seating is right on top of the court, and goes up at a steep incline, instead of out, like at most other arenas (look at the difference in the configuration of the arena in Phoenix and even the Staples center). The signs in the crowd are no worse than you would find in any arena.

Phil Jackson is just a whiner. They booed Fisher because of all the teams he could have picked to go to, he picked the team that everyone hates. I really have never liked him as a player (have great respect for him as a person), and I felt that he hurt the Jazz more than he helped them last year, especially against the Spurs, and then on top of that he goes back to the Lakers.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by justmyperspective - 2008/05/12 15:27

I don't know that anyone was thinking the fans would be quieter because it was a Sunday (I'm guessing Phil Jackson was taking a shot at the fans with his comment). And my questions are not about the "loudness" of the arena - I don't think that's what the commentators were getting at either. They were talking about the "vileness" of the fans. Their claim is that the fans aren't like in any other NBA arena, but much worse, personal, crude and unsportsmanlike. And they claim it's widely known throughout the league. Maybe that's a generalization based on their expectation that it would be more friendly than normal. But, if they're right (or partly right), why is that?

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/05/12 15:55

I think it's partly a generalization based on expectation. I think people underestimate the number of Non-LDS in Utah and especially in SLC, though I'm not going to blame them, just as I don't think LDS fans should shoulder the blame either. It's probably a mix and I'm not going to begin to speculate the reason for their behavior.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Slugger - 2008/05/12 16:27

Just because you're in Utah doesn't mean everyone around you are Mormon. I've been to quite a few Jazz games, and I've noticed that the lower bowl sections are typically less Mormon than the nosebleeds. Down low you get the mid-30's guy in his cheesy Don Johnson suit sipping a beer and screaming "f**k you ref!". While up top you have the cute little Mormon family with 6 kids just happy to be there with their free and/or discounted Jr Jazz tickets. I went to a Jazz/Lakers game last year and sat on the 4th row (free tickets from a client..woo hoo!). Everyone around us were drinking beer and appeared to be either long-time inactives or non-members from out of state. I don't doubt that fans in SL (or Provo for that matter) can be hostile, but I still don't buy any argument that sports fans in Utah are more vile and vulgar than other places in the US. It is just their way of spinning it into a mentionable story or fabricated fodder for an opponent to chew on and have something to play for.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/05/12 18:06

I had no idea that the behavior at Jazz games is a commentary of the greater LDS culture. That sounds like a Jon Krakauer leap of logic to me.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2008/05/12 19:28

Phil Jackson's quote is the dumbest thing I've ever heard. He's just upset that his Lakers suck in Utah.

I've been to NBA games in a few different venues, and SLC has had the best-behaved fans in my experience.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Yndian - 2008/05/12 19:45

"I don't think there's going to be a less vociferous crowd out there," Jackson added before the game. "I still think they'll be as rabid as ever if I can judge from the greeting we got coming into the building. I would be very concerned if I was living in the Mormon community and the Salt Lake community at the quality of those signs that were out there. They were rather amoral and probably a little raucous - on Mother's Day and on Sunday. So, it will be an interesting game."

"This is a rare Sunday playoff game. I've only participated in two or three of them before (in Utah). I don't think it will change the nature of the crowd." It didn't.

This whole complaint would make a lot more sense if Phil Jackson and the Lakers were either (a) God, or (b) mothers. Those are the only people that deserve more respect than usual on Mother's Day. It's the stupidest complaint in the world. If you think about it, the Jazz fans, Mormon or not, who would be less raucous on a Sunday just because it's Sunday probably wouldn't go to a Sunday game at all!

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/05/12 20:20

stuckinbig10country wrote:

They booed Fisher because of all the teams he could have picked to go to, he picked the team that everyone hates.

I think it is funny to listen to ESPN laud Larry Miller and the Jazz for releasing Fisher from his contract, and for Derek for being a family man first, and then the next sentence they are talking about how Fisher's daughter goes to NYC 2+ times a month for her treatments.

Last I checked, LA is farther from NYC, where Fisher continues to take his daughter for treatment, and a lot of the booing the fans do is because of the impression--valid or not--that he leveraged his daughter's condition to benefit himself professionally since (at least on the surface) he actually moved farther from the doctors rather than closer, and being closer to treatment was his grounds for asking for a release.

It would be an interesting topic for OTL or a more investigative journalistic piece to put the issue to rest, but I doubt there are many sports journalists with enough clout to risk questioning Fisher about using his daughter's condition to get out of Utah and back to California, where he never made any bones about wanting to be, even prior to the manifestation of the illness.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by decloucog - 2008/05/12 22:55

I say good riddance to the Fish. Granted the guy is a "good person". I was happy he left and still am. I feel he is by and large overrated with a great story about his daughter (and I do hope everything turns out fine as far as that goes). But like Sno said, interesting that he would go to LA after getting out of a contract to be closer to the doctors taking care of his daughter. Are the flights better from LA? more frequent? I doubt it. On top of that, I'm confident that SLC has some of the finest cancer doctors in the world with the Huntsman center and all the cash that oozes from that place. EDIT: ALSO!!!! I remember hearing last year during the playoffs that KOBE and FISHER were calling each other having conversations and giving advice on each others play during the playoffs. I'm not against that but I DO wonder if, "hey fisher, why don't you think about coming back to LA and playing for the Lakers. Talk to Miller and see what you can work out" ever came up.

Bottom line- I'm glad that Fisher is gone, but would have loved to get something back when he left. Good luck to ya Fisher.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by jbar1221 - 2008/05/13 01:45

My father has a good friend who is an NBA official and he also regularly tells us that Salt lake has the loudest foulest fans. Take it for what its worth but this is nothing new and Phil Jackson is not the first NBA employee to make this statement.

As for Fisher, Jazz fans make me sick! The man made a choice he felt was best for his family during a VERY difficult time. Regardless of why and regardless of the medical facilities available in Utah he made a decision that he felt was best for his family. Im so disappointed that in a community that promotes itself as family first fans would begrudge D Fish for making a professional decision with his family in mind. Any suggestion that it was some sort of selfish ploy to play in LA is wrong and nothing more then sour grapes!!

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2008/05/13 06:24

jbar1221 wrote:

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Has he officiated a Pistons game? That place is a zoo, with only slightly less throwing of monkey feces.

Jazz fans may be the loudest (good for them), but I'll forever disagree that they are the foulest. My experience has been different.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/13 07:26

declocoug wrote:

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There are more flights, and more direct flights from LA to NY than from SLC. It actually probably takes less travel time from LA to NY than from SLC to NY.

Here's another reason why Jazz fans are pissed off. There were rumors (true or not) in the media that the same day Fisher was released from his contract he already had a deal in place to go back to the Lakers. (Seems like the Jazz could have a case of tampering there, but I digress.)

I don't care. I thought he was a waste last year, and was happy to see him move on. I honestly feel that he wanted to go be with the Lakers, but I feel it was more of a comfort thing for his wife and children. As I have said many times, since her family is from SoCal, it just makes sense for her to be around family since he travels half the time during the season.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Slugger - 2008/05/13 09:13

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You are totally right. Fisher made a choice he felt was best for his family...play for a big market NBA team or stay in little old Salt Lake City? Yup, sounds like a big move to me. TIC. :unsure: DF manipulated Miller into feeling sorry for him and letting him out of his contract, with the purpose that it would allow him the time and logistics he needed to take care of his daughter. So what happened? He moved farther away from NYC and still lives a 82-game NBA season. Fisher is a con man.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Slugger - 2008/05/13 09:17

stuckinbig10country wrote:

declocoug wrote:

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Who are if his wife's family is in SoCal? He's a highly-paid professional, under contract, living with luxuries we can only dream about. By this logic, all NBA teams should be made up of locals so that the poor wives and families can be close to home. Gosh, how do you think AK and Mehmo's wives feel? Heck, let's just let everyone out of their contracts so they can be close to mommy! Ridiculous. I don't care how anyone argues it, I think Fisher worked the system and played on the sympathies of a generous owner. And I used to admire the guy.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Hawkwing - 2008/05/13 09:39

Don't forget that Phil Jackson is anti-mormon, and has made many comments in the past about the cult of Mormonism. Anything he can say to upset someone LDS he will jump on.

Besides, being a fan involves being loud to help your team and understanding the fundamentals of the game. Two things Jazz fans understand far better than the celebrities that attend Lakers games, who go to get their pictures in the magazines.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by PP3 - 2008/05/13 09:43

jbar1221 wrote:

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As for Fisher, Jazz fans make me sick! The man made a choice he felt was best for his family during a VERY difficult time. Regardless of why and regardless of the medical facilities available in Utah he made a decsion that he felt was best for his family. Im so disappointed that in a community that promotes itself as family first fans would begrudge D Fish for making a professional decision with his family in mind. Any suggestion that it was some sort of selfish ploy to play in LA is wrong and nothing more then sour grapes!!

Hey jbar, you can't know what Fisher's reason for leaving Utah was unless you are Fisher. He told Utah, and the media, that he was leaving Utah to go somewhere where his daughter could get better care. He then went to LA. now I am not an expert on the best places to get care for cancer, but look at it from our perspective, and here are the facts:

1. Fisher made no secret that he didn't want to come to Utah when he was first traded here, (though he changed his tune later for the media.)
2. Fisher's daughter was getting treated for cancer in New York last I, or any Utah Jazz fan knew.
3. I don't know if Utah has as many flights to NY or not, I haven't done any research, but Utah has a nice big airport, which is pretty close to downtown. I don't imagine flights from LA to NY are that much better, or more frequent than Utah to NY. Again I haven't done the research, but as far as I can tell neither has anyone criticizing the Utah fans.
4. Fisher is very good at telling the media what they want to hear.

I haven't seen anywhere where Fisher or anyone else has shown that moving to LA has done anything to improve the care for his daughter.
People boo Boozer because they feel he took advantage of the soft heartedness of the Cavs team owner. From the point of view of a Utah fan can you give me any reason not to suspect Fisher of the same motives?

There have been NBA players in the past who have refused to come play for Utah, at least they were honest and said I don't want to play/live there.

Fisher and the media want us to feel bad because he has a daughter with cancer, I feel bad for him Cancer is terrible for anyone especially parents, BUT Until you or someone (maybe Fisher) can explain to me how living in LA (the most hated team in Utah, even before Fisher) improves the care for his daughter, I see it as he is using his daughters illness for his own personal ends, and I think that is despicable.

That said, I am willing to hold out some feeling for Fisher, because I am not completely convinced that that is what he did. I am just not completely convinced that that isn't what he did. So I can see why fans would boo him. I don't boo him, but I don't cheer for him either.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by jbar1221 - 2008/05/14 00:37

Cougy_Monster wrote:

jbar1221 wrote:

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Has he officiated a Pistons game? That place is a zoo, with only slightly less throwing of monkey feces.

Jazz fans may be the loudest (good for them), but I'll forever disagree that they are the foulest. My experience has been different.

He has been officiating in the NBA for close to 20 years. Hes been in more NBA arenas on more occasions the pretty much anyone who isnt a player or coach. Salt Lake is the only place that he has had beer spilled on him, wether it was onpurpose or not is the real debate, and he makes it clear his is not the minority opinion among officials.

Where did jazz fans pick up this persecution complex?? Its kind of ridiculous!

=====

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Gymcoug318 - 2008/05/14 03:06

A good explanation of why "All" jazz fans are very vulgar. Well it is in Salt lake. And what's in salt lake? The puke university. Aka that other school up north. When you talked about people throwing beer onto other people. It reminds me of stories that I've heard when Byu fans go up too Salt lake for the the byu game against the pukers! Having beer thrown at them. And all kinds of vulgar stuff being thrown there way. Anyways. whenever I have been too jazz games everyone I've been around have been loud but not vulgar. Granted I've never had seats really close. But I've had pretty good seats before and the fans are passionate but not vulgar. At least in my experience.

In regards to Phil Jackson and Derek fisher. Phil Jackson I can't stand him! All I ever see him doing on the sidelines is to

that triangle signal. Or whistle with his pinkies! The dude is a punk! Derek fisher. I agree. that I was glad too see him leave. He helped us. But him leaving as really helped the development of Ronnie Brewer! Plus Deron is a way better point guard then Fisher. Plus Fisher is a big flopper. Every time on a screen he gets hit a little bit he acts like he's getting hammered. The thing with his daughter I understood when he did it. But now that I found out that he's not even getting treatment in LA. I think the whole thing is bogus! But if he didn't want too be here. I say good riddance! We're better off without him!:angry:

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/05/14 08:54

jbar1221 wrote:

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Dumbest statement since the last time airwolf posted.

So Jazz fans aren't sold unarguably suspicious details and that means we have a "persecution complex"?

Answer this, If you were wanting better care for you daughter, would you move FARTHER away than from she was getting treatment?

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by CougarBandit - 2008/05/14 09:34

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Here's an article that gives better detail than others I've read on the subject.

<http://deseretnews.com/article/content/mobile/1,5620,695276874,00.html>

Points from the article:

1. Fisher had no reason to want to leave Utah except for his daughters treatment. The money, the camaraderie, and the family support and environment were all there in Salt Lake.
2. He's not moving further away from treatment. He doesn't explain why he couldn't stay in New York, but the next best situation for his daughter, as the article explains, was with a former colleague of the doctor who initially treated her who works in LA. He also alludes to the constant monitoring his daughter's tumor requires and the critical expertise and experience his current doctor provides.
3. You either believe him or you don't. He's either sincere in saying he is doing what he's done for the welfare of his family or you've got to think he's one of the greatest con men to ever don an NBA uniform. Either way leaves no room for complaining about him not staying with the Jazz.

Maybe it's time to move on...

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by LaytonCougar - 2008/05/14 10:26

Guys, I think we might be missing the point here. Whether or not he had a legitimate reason to leave Utah, he is playing for LA. Everyone here hates them and boos everyone on the team not just Fisher. Did Fisher expect to get a standing applause because he played here for ONE year? He didn't do anything for the jazz to deserve that. He is now an opponent, therefore will get booed.

As far as Utah having the most unsportsmanlike crowd.. It just shows the ignorance of people like Phil Jackson. They think every single person at the Jazz game is a Mormon!

These people haven't been to the Mountain West Tournament in Vegas! I guess alcohol just does that to people...;)

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by MajorCougar - 2008/05/14 10:27

CougarBandit wrote:

Metallicat wrote:

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Great find and good points, Cougarbandit.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by treck - 2008/05/14 10:41

Right on the money. Nicely put.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/05/14 10:58

MajorCougar wrote:
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Great find and good points, Cougarbandit.

Yes, those are great points. It still doesn't explain how Jazz fans have a "persecution complex" though.

Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by MajorCougar - 2008/05/14 11:11

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Great find and good points, Cougarbandit.

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Having been a Jazz fan since John Stockton was drafted, I would have to say that it PROBABLY stems from a couple of things:

- 1) The apparent discrepancies in officiating over the years. YES, there are several instances to support this.
- 2) Why for YEARS, you couldn't pay supposed good to great players to come to Salt Lake. (It apparently is a small, white, non-alcoholic location that nobody wants to play in, let alone live in).
- 3) Because the Jazz typically play as a team, and because Jerry Sloan is the Head Coach, many NBA players feel they could "not fit in".
- 4) Because the Mormon faith is predominantly in Utah, there is a carry-over from the total history of that, whether it is justified or not.

Does that help a little bit? (Please feel free to add to or elaborate more on what I've mentioned here).

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/05/14 11:21

Yeah, I can see that. I was thinking that he meant "persecution complex" as in we (Jazz fans) were persecuting DF etc because I've heard that rumbling on different forums and the original topic was "vulgar Jazz fans".

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by jaga97 - 2008/05/14 11:24

Anyone buying a ticket can boo or cheer all they want. Shut your trap, PC gastapo. Obviously there are people that cross the line and those people are thrown out of the arena.

Phil Jackson complains more than my 2 year old. The bears motorcycle is going to cause us to pass out, the Jazz fans are mean, the refs are out to get Turiaf, Kobe's teammates bailed on him, Matt Harpring is trying to hurt us.

Who cares about Fisher? I hope the best for him as a person but I still boo him and every other dude in a Laker uniform. I will even boo the Laker cheer leaders and the Joker.

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Re:Nature of Jazz Fans?

Posted by stgeorgefan - 2008/05/16 02:49

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Who cares about Fisher? I hope the best for him as a person but I still boo him and every other dude in a Laker uniform. I will even boo the Laker cheer leaders and the Joker.

Right on brother!!!!

Fisher si booed more for being a laker than a so-called trader.

BTW Fisher takes a private jet to go back and forth to NYC. He doesn't take his sick child on domestice flights out of SLC. The guy is a Millionaire... PLZ. This was already explained last year.

Why is it such a bad thing for Utah to be know as a hard place to play where fans are mean, vulger etc???? What the HELL happened to the 12th man????? REAL Utah Jazz fans take pride in the fact we are the hardest place to play in..nuff said... FYI Utah is about 60% LDS. which would mean that 900,000-1,000,000 people in Utah are Non-LDS. Most of which live in the SLC metro area. ESA seats 19911. Do the math.... Phil Jackson is an arrogant uneducated Loser when it comes to his comments about Utah. In fact most people are uneducated about Utah. Most info they get is second hand and is only 1/2 way true.

In my area of work I deal with alcohol and the Laws related to it every day. It is so mis-understood it is ridiculous.

Phil Jackson should look into the Utah jazz's fan base and the state before making such general comments.

Phil Jackson=worst coach with the best record.

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