

# Home Field Advantage

By: Matthew Hagnauer

It's a Sunday morning and a sports analyst is doing a pre-game show highlighting how hard the stadium is to play in. The home-field fans continue to get more outrageous as they prepare for the start of the event. Meanwhile, the visiting team's fans continue to disrupt the mood of the crowd in efforts to even the momentum. After some words are exchanged a fight breaks out.

Home-field advantage has become more than just an idea. Today, it can often be considered a strategic asset in the outcome of many sporting events. With the continued growth of importance on the notion of home-field advantage we have also seen an increase in sports-related violence and vandalism. We turn on our TV to see our favorite sports analysts talk about how callow and senseless these acts are, while hours earlier the same individuals are headlining the significance home-field advantage can have on a team, game, or series.

TV, radio, and media networks often provoke the idea of upholding a country, city, or team's reputation of maintaining such tough home-field "advantages". This idea of keeping an intimidating home-field advantage can clearly cause an effect on the mindset of that same team's fan base. As we have seen in the past this ripple effect can become negative. Instead of looking at the individuals committing these reckless and often violent acts I propose that we take a closer look at the influences the media imposes on the masses. We understand that these actions are committed by individuals, but we need to be aware of how and why the individuals choose to behave these ways.

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The media needs to be less contradicting with the arguments they are provoking us with. If you are going to feed the beast, don't punish it for eating.