

The Whacky World of Sports Fans

by: Duane Cobb

The Wall Street Journal offers today's health advice for "fandom." In this excerpt from [The Biology of the Sports Fan](#), USM football fans (whose team is currently at 0 - 20) may learn why they are feeling "stressed" and maybe a bit "crazy."

Sports matter so much because fandom is closely related to social status, says Leander van der Meij, an assistant professor of psychology at VU University Amsterdam who studies the link between hormones and behavior. He adds, "When watching a match, your social self-esteem is at stake and is threatened if you lose, so you get stressed."

USM encourages this artificial and irrational environment. It spends a fortune in student and taxpayer money on it, too. And after many decades, USM football has not advanced USM's educational mission. If anything, it has crippled it.

As an educational institution, that makes sense...not.