



Yellow Socks With Turtles

Pre-game traditions, more popular than you think

Jaclyn Mansheim
Junior Staff Writer



Do you groom your fingernails in the middle of a competition? Former NBA point guard Mike Bibby would clip his fingernails during halftime of a basketball game. Students and staff at Thunder Basin also have many weird pre-game superstitions.

“I listen to the song I’m going to perform,” sophomore violinist Haley Mooney said. “It gets ingrained in my head.”

“I started drinking Pedialyte before my races,” junior Kendall Bellon said. “It helps so I don’t get cotton mouth.”

“I have to wear these socks,” freshman swimmer Callie Blair said, showing off her camel socks. “If I don’t wear them, I feel very lonely.”

“I had a pair of lucky underwear and lucky socks that I wore for every game,” Science teacher Amy Muzzarelli said, who competed in high school volleyball.

It’s not just individual competitors who have traditions, teams also have rituals.

“I love pasta dinners,” runner Bellon said. “Everyone on the team loves pasta dinners.”

“It’s the team itself that makes the cross country dinners special,” senior Caleb Schlekeway said. “I honestly do think that team dinners help with my performance.”

“We do the Hokey Pokey before shows,” senior actress Misteen English said. “At the end, we put our hands in the middle and say one-two-three todo!”

“We do our We Are Thunder chant,” junior basketball player Molly Strub said. “It makes our team get into the competitive mindset.”

Many competitors don’t find forgetting (if they do forget) to do their ritual fatal to their performance, but rather a habit that they need to do.

“We were just messing around before the first show,” senior Shae Klamm said. “And did it every time after.”

“The socks are my thing,” swimmer Blair said. “I take my socks off before I get up behind the block.”

“I didn’t want to test the fates,” Muzzarelli said, when asked about forgetting to do her ritual.

Whether it’s as normal as wearing the same pair of socks for a game, or stuffing as much food as you can with your team the night before a race, you’re not alone in your strange pre-game traditions.