Awestruck, students celebrate a great play by the wildcats with waving pom-poms and loud cheers.

Looking back, at the roaring crowd, a student admires the full stadium and game day excitement.

Cheering loudly, the student section roars to life as the cats take the field at the Refill the Bill home opener against Southern Illinois.

Tailgating and laughing, students take part in pre-game festivities and soak in some late summer sun at the first tailgate of the season.

Under the bright lights, students watch as the clock winds down on the first full home game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium in a year and a half. Photos by Kendall Spencer.
"Students have brought so much more energy to the stadium this season."

PARKER STEVENS JUNIOR IN MARKETING

The Wabash Cannonball, a stadium filled with purple, an energetic student section and band and Willie the Wildcat are all expected at K-State football games any year, but they returned for the 2021 season better than ever after having strict COVID-19 regulations the previous year.

Bill Snyder Family Stadium reopened to full capacity, compared to the 25% capacity of the 2020 season. Tailgating and re-entry also returned, bringing back the game days Wildcat fans know and love. Students and fans have noticed a big difference in game days this year compared to last year.

“Last year, you would score and it wasn’t loud or anything,” Peyton Weixelman, sophomore in business administration, said. “It didn’t seem like the game had any emotion to it.”

The stadium also expanded by opening its new Shamrock zone and beer garden. Stadium additions such as these were created to continue to bring new entertainment to fans on game days. On top of the stadium opening to full capacity, the Pride of Wildcat Land also moved back to the middle of the student section after almost five years. This change has only added to the electrifying game day energy of the stadium.

“It’s one of K-State’s many traditions that involves student life and the band,” Weixelman said. “I’m sure it means a lot to them to be right there with students as well.”

“Caturdays” at the Bill are a tradition that many students have grown up knowing and experiencing with their families.

“It’s definitely like its own culture with Saturday and Sunday being all day football.” Parker Stephens, a junior in marketing, said. After missing many game day traditions last year, students have brought so much more energy to the stadium this season.

“When somebody makes a big hit or runs a kick off back, the energy skyrockets,” Weixelman said. “That’s a feeling that you can’t really replace and covid kind of took that away so it’s a little sweeter now that it’s back.”

STORY BY MADISON RIEBEL.

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