



It's a good time for everyone who stops by the Olson's tailgating spot.



Each fall PR and Karla Olson set up the YHS Nation tailgating site at the YHS football games.

Tailgating...it's 'fan'tastic

A weekly ritual is seeing massive growth across the country – Tailgating. Many have been doing it for years, while some are newbies to the event that has turned into a sport in itself. Here we take a look at those who tailgate at the high school, college, and NASCAR levels.

PR Olson had been to various tailgates when he decided at a Yankton Bucks football game, that at the next home game, it was time to host his own.

He admits there were several skeptical people at first, those who thought he was a little off the wall to do this at a Yankton Bucks football game. According to PR, he still has some that think it is a little different. But PR, his wife Karla and their tailgating group have a good time with people, friends, fans, and even raise a little money for the YHS Booster Club.

PR and Karla, along with friends, have been tailgating at the Yankton Bucks home games for 5 years now.

“We have even taken it on the road to the Dome for the finals a couple years back against O’Gorman,” said PR. The first road trip only consisted of PR’s son just Ryan, Tyler Guthmiller and himself.

The set up for these Yankton tailgaters is in the northeast corner of the parking area, north of Crane-Youngworth Field. Setting up is definitely a team effort. Help is needed unloading the grill and more. They first started with a 1973 RV for the tailgating rig. Since then they have updated to a “fine newer unit” — appropriately named the “FANbulance.” Everyone should come out once to a tailgate, just to experience it. And all good tailgaters have a flag pole. PR and Karla have one with the Yankton Bucks on it. In the past, they have even hung an American flag with a light shining on it after dusk.

The tailgate has progressed to something bigger and better every year. The meat is ordered a couple of days in advance. They arrive two hours before kick-off to set up and start cooking. The first one had only cheesy brats on the menu. They still do cheesy brats, but have added a bigger variety to pick from: burgers, brats, hot dogs, chili, chicken breasts, and kabobs. Friends bring salads, cookies, drinks, chips, salsa, scotch-a-roos, rice krispie bars, warm pecan pie, and Vision dogs.

The local radio station sets up with us too, and interviews stu-



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~ PR Olson

dents for various other school activities that they participate in during the pre-game festivities. The kids hang out there, throwing around the football. Fall is in the air and it’s just a fun time, EVERY TIME! “And I always wonder if the tailgater will even make it into the event,” said PR. “We really just have a good time and sometimes some of us don’t even make the game, we just stand or sit around in chairs and listen to the game on the radio. Everyone brings chairs so we can eat and do a little visiting.”

They’ve had good response to their tailgating idea. They are on the north side of the field, so many people may not know they are there, but they always get some new faces.

“Some are just football fans,” (PR and Karla tailgate for other sporting events too) “and we don’t see them till the next year.” said PR, “or we get to know people as friends, like Buddy and Mary Jo, who just came one time and now are regulars.”

So far they have just tailgated at home games. They did once tailgate for a Yankton volleyball game and are always looking for new events to tailgate at.

“We have a free will donation bucket for the meal and we donate back to the Yankton Booster Club. We really enjoy seeing the fans, friends, coaches, teachers, and others who come out for football tailgating. The weather, competition, and food is great” said PR.

PR and Karla are always looking for new events to tailgate. If you readers have any ideas they would like you to contact them at Olson’s Pest 665-5181, e-mail pr@800kilbugs or just stop by the tailgate and check things out.