

EXPOSURE



LEADING LIKE A CHAMPION

The game-day experience through a new student's lens

Story by [Fresno State](#)

September 5th, 2018

BEYOND THE SPORT

It was a night of firsts. It was the first football game of the 2018 season. It was the first time the game opened with new students running across the field, toward victory. It was the first time they “blessed” the game ball, giving the team well wishes.

It was the first time the Bulldogs scored so many points – 79 – since 1991. The seven rushing

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It was Fresno State's 600th all-time win, and Bulldog Stadium was a sea of red. There was a buzz of excitement in the air that was undeniable. The student section was packed with life, people celebrating what it means to be part of something bigger – a University community dedicated to student success.

From the marching band to the cheering crowd, the following photos highlight the game-day experience. The night was also freshman Aamiah Finley's first football game as a student — read below to see how the night went, in her own words.



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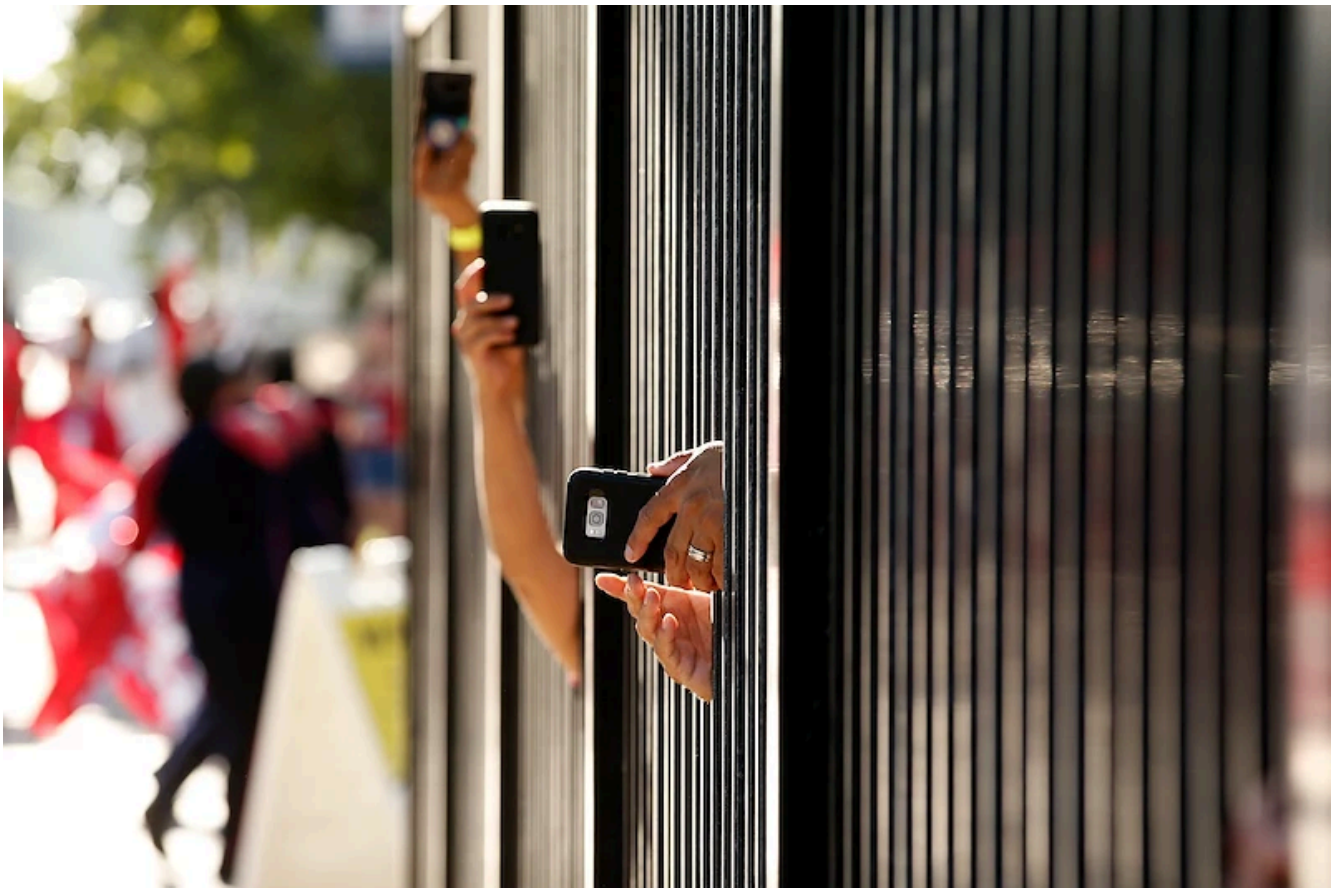
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MY RUN TO VICTORY

"I was so excited to not only attend my first Fresno State football game as a student, but to also participate in the new 'Run to Victory' this past Saturday. I have always loved this school, seeing as my mom and dad both attended, making me truly 'Bulldog Born, Bulldog Bred.'"

Going to a Fresno State game was an exciting event that I looked forward to when I was younger, and I am happy to say that the excitement I felt then hasn't disappeared.

You can imagine how great it was for me to be able to carry the beloved game ball across the field before the first football game of my college career. To think, 25 years ago my dad played football on this same field.

Can you think of any better way to start my freshman year? Me neither.

The night started with me getting super lost, having no idea where the student entrance was. After my little adventure around the stadium, I finally found the long line of eager students with tacos and shirts in their hands. First off, those tacos were delicious! Great way to make broke college kids happy. Second, the shirts are awesome, you will for sure see me rocking it around campus. That, plus a free ticket into the game? I don't get how some students missed out on this!

Running across the field with my peers, my new school family, kids just like me. Getting cheered on by the enormous crowd with all eyes on us. This is an experience I will never forget.

I really felt like I was being included and brought in to Fresno State.

Being a freshman, I was and still am a little nervous about school, with finding my way and fitting in all while passing my classes. I can happily say now that I shouldn't worry too much about it because I am a Fresno State Bulldog, surrounded with tons of opportunities and people willing to help me succeed."

— **Aamiah Finley is a freshman studying forensic behavioral science.**



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YOU CAN HAVE A HAND IN STUDENT SUCCESS.

Footnote: Photos by Cary Edmondson, Edited by Esra Hashem — University Brand Strategy and Marketing

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