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How to fake it as a Bulls fan

How about those Bulls!

Oh, who am I kidding? I haven't watched a full NBA game since the days of the three-peats, and that was just so I could stay up past my bedtime.

But now I find myself wanting to join in on the fun. Every day I hear about how great the Bulls are doing, some guy named Derrick Rose who keeps winning prizes, and how Boozer keeps upsetting fans. Is Boozer the bull mascot?

I want to cheer like a Luvabull, but I fear those die-hard Bulls fans who bleed red for their team, looking to sacrifice any innocent bandwagoner who comes along. I don't understand why people get so riled up when I try to root for a Chicago team when it reaches the playoffs, but I dare not to expose myself for fear of getting exiled to Indiana.

Life's not easy for a bandwagoner, but I've become something of an expert at it. You have to sound like you know what you're talking about, show a ton of emotion and hope that no one calls you out on being the fraud that you are.

Luckily, I've devised some helpful tips on how to fake it to the finals.

- » Be vague. Trying to memorize a bunch of stats or highlights to prove you watched last night's game when really you were watching the newest episode of "Glee" isn't going to work. Instead, find out if the Bulls won or lost and reply accordingly. And if you were too busy to find out the results, keep it super vague. For example, "Man, I can't believe that game last night!" works whether they win or lose.
- » Show lots of emotion. Say you're talking to a coworker the night after a loss (which you found out by Googling "Bulls score"). If he slams his mug down, you kick the coffee pot over. He punches his desk; you punch a hole through the wall. Clearly you are a better fan than he.
- » Always have a way out. Just like in basketball, every player needs to know how to rebound after a fumble, which is why it's always important to have a backup excuse. Say your friend just called you out for saying there are five quarters in a game. Simply reply, "Oh, sorry, I must be out of it from staying up all night with the sick foster puppies I've been taking care of." Just make sure you know something about puppies.
- » Stick to your roots. Whether you've been watching the Bulls for years or just realized they're in the playoffs, living in Chicago gives you the authority to cheer for your team. If someone tries to tell you that you're not a true fan, go one step further and accuse him of hating Chicago. Then throw a deep-dish pizza in his face.

Once you've mastered these strategies, you are well on your way to earning that grocery store generic "Bulls" T-shirt. Wear it proudly.

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