

# How to be a Football Mom

They may cheer for different schools, but these Katy moms are on the same team when it comes to supporting their sons on the football field

These Katy football moms have learned what it takes to be their son's number one fan



Written by Tassie Hewitt | Photography by Sara Isola

Nothing signals fall like the first football game of the season. A group huddles together in matching jerseys while sizing up their opponents. As the first notes of the fight song blare across the field, they break and position themselves in the bleachers, pulling dark sunglasses out of their bags in one synchronized move. They are formidable, fierce, and fearless. They are the football moms.



Patti Lacy is ready to cheer for her son Jonathan Letter as he runs with the Katy Tigers

## Friday Night Fanatics

These moms are football fanatics who look forward to Friday night lights at the stadium. Many of them had a love for football long before their sons put on their first helmets.

The moms may be the most excited fans in the bleachers. They can be spotted from 50 yards away wearing their football mom uniforms, team jerseys with their son's number and name emblazoned on the back. They can be heard from the field.

"Since my number is 50, my parents always wear Hawaiian shirts to the games, because of Hawaii 5-0," says Jonathan Letter, a junior long snapper at Katy High School. "They're not quiet up there, either."

"Friday night football: Nothing beats it," says his mother, Patti Lacy, who gives Football 101 lessons to other moms in the stands. "It's not whether you win or lose, but that they're learning, and the coaches are teaching them to be good men, not just good football players."

"I used to say I bleed red because I'm a graduate of Katy High School. Now I bleed purple," says Tiffani Hughes, whose son, Colton Hughes, plays safety and corner for Morton Ranch High School and is captain of the football team. "I love the games, the camaraderie, the spirit, and everyone in the stands. They want to win, and they're super excited."

## Football Comes First

The stands are filled with fans eager for a victory, but to Katy football moms, the sport is not just fun and games. It is a way of life.

"It is extremely important to me to be a football mom," says Kristin Tinsley, whose son, Connor Tinsley, is a senior running back for Cinco Ranch High School. "I've never missed a football game, ever, and I never will," she emphasizes, even though her son has been playing since he was 4 years old. "It's part of life. I can't imagine him doing anything else."

### TIP

"Learn how to talk to the coaches. They're good men."

- Patti Lacy

Rico Perrell Jr. is grateful for his mom Keisha Lewis, and her support throughout the years

While some moms like Tinsley grew up in football families, others, like Keisha Lewis, are new to the game along with its rules and traditions.

The first game she attended made her turn red. "I was new to the area, and I wasn't aware of how big football was and how everything was done," explained Lewis, whose son, Rico Perrell, Jr., is a senior running back and wide receiver for Katy High School. "I just grabbed something out of the closet and threw it on. When we showed up, everybody had on red. I was so embarrassed."

Like other dedicated football moms, Lewis now wears her school colors and makes her son's games a priority. "Whatever I have to do, the game comes first. The kids may not act like it, but it's important to them that you're there for them every step of the way," Lewis says. "The football family at Katy is close-knit. It's a community. I've never seen anything like it. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world."

### One Big Family

With all the that time players, parents, and coaches spend together at games, pep rallies, and team events, it is no surprise that special bonds form both on the field and in the bleachers.



### TIP

"You have to pay attention. You can miss something in a split second."

- Keisha Lewis

Allergies

Asthma

Cough

Diarrhea

Earache

Fever

Vomiting

Travel Medications

Sports Injuries

Sprains/Strains

## Katy's Modern Day House Call

We treat non-emergent medical conditions using any computer, tablet or smart phone starting at just \$50 per visit. Come in for your free initial provider visit to get started.

- Affordable, Convenient Healthcare
- Ages 17 & Up
- No Long Waits

- No Lost Work Hours
- 24/7 Care
- No Waiting Rooms



Because your time matters  
**DOC-AID™**  
 Telemedicine Services  
 Virtual Medical Care 24/7

24044 Cinco Village Center Blvd. Suite 100 Katy, TX 77494 • 281-712-4722 • [www.doc-aid.com](http://www.doc-aid.com)

Sore Throat

Sinus Infections

Respiratory

Rash

Pink Eye

Nausea

Flu/Colds

Headaches

Infections

Medication Refills



Julie Schwarz will be wearing Taylor Mustang blue this season as she supports her son Eddie and his team



**TIP**  
 "We need to learn the game so we know how to cheer for our sons."  
 - Julie Schwarz

"We get to know each other through football," says Julie Schwarz, whose son Eddie Schwarz is a senior defensive lineman at Taylor High School. "I always thought Katy would be a great place to live if you didn't have family nearby, because we're like one big family. It's Texas. It's excitement. This is what it's all about."

Eddie Schwarz agrees. "We have a great brotherhood, a neat coaching staff, and great fan support," he says. "A lot of my motivation comes from my teammates. You want to play well for them. They're working hard, too."

Even players who are new to the area feel the positive spirit of Katy football. "Everyone is loving and caring," says Rico Perrell Jr., senior running back at Katy High School who moved to Katy his junior year. "The first day I came, they took me in like a brother. They didn't treat me like a stranger. It was a warm welcome. I'm really blessed and honored to be with Katy."

### Going into Overtime

Football moms go to great lengths to make sure all the players know they are superstars. Volunteers take turns hosting meals for the teams and coaches. They decorate locker rooms before the games and pack snacks for their teams to eat on the bus. They set up tunnels for their teams to run through at the games and line up on the field to cheer



**2014**  
**Turkey Dash**  
 presented by **reliant**  
 an NRG company

**GO THE DISTANCE**  
**JOIN US FOR KATY'S**  
**LARGEST FUN RUN!**

**12th Annual Thanksgiving Race**  
**November 27, 2014**

KATY FAMILY YMCA  
 22807 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, TX 77494  
 (281) 392-5055 • [ymcahooouston.org/katy](http://ymcahooouston.org/katy)

To learn more, register or volunteer,  
 visit [ymcaturkeydash.org](http://ymcaturkeydash.org)



West Campus



**Katy's Favorite Fun Spot!**

**★ TIMES SQUARE ★**  
 ENTERTAINMENT

**Bowling**  
 Now offering same day reservations!

**Fun for all ages**

**Arcade Laser Tag Billiards**

**Great Food & Full Bar**  
 Pizzas, wings, wraps, salads, kld's meals, desserts & more

Private parties  
 Family outings  
 Corporate groups  
 Sports grill  
 Daily specials

**Grand Plaza Room**  
 Reserve our private party room with six bowling lanes of your own!

**20% OFF BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES**  
 Mention Katy Magazine when booking party

[www.TimesSquareTX.com](http://www.TimesSquareTX.com)  
 402 W. Grand Pkwy. Katy, TX 77494 281-395-8555

© 2014 Katy Magazine

their players to victory. They are active members of the booster club. "I enjoy going out and supporting the whole team," says Tinsley. "As a senior parent, I really like the line that we form outside the locker room and the prayer that we say before each game. Those are things that make it special."

### *Safety is Priority*

To football moms, safety is worth more than two points. "Injury is my number one concern," says Hughes. "We're usually praying, closing one eye, and watching the game with the other."

Other moms consider the emotional health of their sons as well. "I don't want this to be the highlight of their lives," says Lacy. "I want them to know this is just a small portion of the amazing life they're going to have."

Still, the life lessons that players gain from football far exceed the risks involved. "There are a lot of lessons that come out of playing football, [including] to work hard and not give up just because the going gets tough or something is confronting you," says Letter.

### *Thanking Mom*

Players notice and appreciate the support from the coaches, fans and community, and especially from their moms. "That she comes to the games makes me play better," says Perrell. "She knows me and knows where I come from and what I've been through."

In fact, football moms know all the dirt. They are there each afternoon, holding their noses as they collect their son's practice clothes. They are there to coach and cheer.

"It's more than just the whole washing of my clothes," says Letter. "She helps me a lot with the emotional side. Not giving up is always a big thing in our family." Their support means everything to Tinsley. "It's one thing to have your team support, but it's another thing to have your family's - especially your mom's," he says. "That's the greatest support you can have."

### *Win or Lose*

Football moms stay until the last note of the fight song fades into the distance and cheer until the final player disappears from the field. On game night, whether they bandage and encourage or congratulate and celebrate, they know that every player is a winner. That's all that matters for this team behind the team. They are visible, vocal, and victorious. They are football moms. **KM**

*TASSIE HEWITT is a freelance writer and former Taylor football mom who wore blue to all the games and trained herself not to blink when her son was on the field.*

Trish Ferow can't wait to cheer for her twin Mavericks, Wolfgang and Glenn



### *More Tips for Football Moms*

- Learn the game well.
- Be ready for extreme weather.
- Order your mom spirit wear early.
- Establish fun game day traditions.
- Don't be a hover mother or a coach.
- Relax and have fun. These days will fly by!



# INDIVIDUAL CARE FOR INDIVIDUAL SMILES

GENERAL, FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Using state of the art procedures, we can handle even the most extreme dental cases. Our caring staff will put you at ease.

DIGITAL X-RAYS

SEDATION DENTISTRY

TEETH WHITENING

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

DENTAL IMPLANTS

TOTAL RESTORATION

Schedule your appointment today.



Welcoming new patients of all ages!

In-network for most PPO's

See our reviews at

CHAD CHESSON, DDS



(281) 944-4500

5131 S. Fry Rd., #800

[chessondental.com/reviews.aspx](http://chessondental.com/reviews.aspx)

*Catering & Events*

**The Iced Cupcake**

For any occasion, birthdays, and special events

**SINGLES, MINIS & BY THE DOZEN.**

**SUGAR FREE OR GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS.**

21927 Katy Freeway  
(at S. Mason Rd. by Freebirds)  
[www.TheIcedCupcake.com](http://www.TheIcedCupcake.com)  
**713-298-6767**

*Group Tastings!*

*We Deliver!*  
on orders \$30+

*We Custom Orders!*

**FOUNDATIONS Academy**

Private Preschool & After School Care

Because these years are the most critical season of a child's life, we strive to teach the whole child using a well rounded curriculum.

- Hands-on learning
- Academic concepts
- Character development
- Problem solving skills
- School readiness

Accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders

Kindergarten Readiness System

Hours 6:30 am – 6:30 pm

**281-599-1200**  
[FoundationsAcademy.com](http://FoundationsAcademy.com)

20817 Westheimer Pkwy.  
Katy, TX (near S. Fry Rd.)

- Preschool & Childcare  
6 weeks and up

- After School (to 6th grade)