

si.com
Hillsborough County
Tampa, FL
Circulation: 700,000
Frequency: Daily
October 22, 2021

'Spirit Day': Rangers LGBTQ+ Anti-Bullying Message an Embarrassment to MLB

 [si.com/mlb/rangers/news/spirit-day-texas-rangers-anti-bullying-lgbtq-embarrassment-mlb](https://www.si.com/mlb/rangers/news/spirit-day-texas-rangers-anti-bullying-lgbtq-embarrassment-mlb)

Richie Whitt

WHITT'S END: 10.22.21

Whether you're at the end of your coffee, your day, your week or even your rope, welcome to Whitt's End ...

***Texas Rangers lost 100 games this season. Make it 101.** Before they can gear up for the Hot Stove, they've jumped into hot water. The organization earned its most embarrassing L of 2021 Thursday when it blatantly went off-script from Major League Baseball's social media participation in #SpiritDay, an international campaign to bring awareness and hopefully stop bullying of teens in the LGBTQ+ community.

Oh, the Rangers sent out a tweet alright. But – unlike other teams – they conveniently left out the #LGBTQ+ hashtag. Also missing: The link to the GLAAD organization's "Spirt Day" website.

Cowboys have to be careful with Dak Prescott. Just ask Gallup, who pulled a calf against the Buccaneers and hasn't been able to practice for six weeks. Or Browns' running back Kareem Hunt, who suffered a similar injury to the Cowboys' quarterback last Sunday and was carted off the field and immediately pronounced out at least three weeks. Or McCarthy, who was coaching the Packers in 2015 when his quarterback (Aaron Rodgers) tore his calf but managed to limp his way to 316 yards and three touchdowns in a divisional playoff win against, yep, the Cowboys.

(In case you are wondering, there is no logical etymology for calling the muscles in the back of your lower leg a "calf.")

***Fifty years ago Sunday one of the most iconic landmarks in the history of DFW opened** – Texas Stadium. I was fortunate to attend the stadium's first game, a 44-21 Cowboys' win over the Patriots on Oct. 24, 1971. Though it was imploded in 2010 and is now just an unsightly patch of industrial pieces and parts, I still slow down at the intersection of Loop 12 and Highway 183 in Irving to breathe in the history.

Thanks to the Irving Archives and Museum, you don't have to cause an accident to relive the stadium via its "50 for 50" Texas Stadium moments.

Among the highlights: The stadium was built for \$35 million (AT&T Stadium for \$1.2 billion) ... Cowboys played there for 37 years, going 219-99 and winning all five of their Super Bowls ... It was also home to Billy Graham crusades, SMU football, soccer's Dallas Tornado, the 1973 Pro Bowl (O.J. Simpson was the MVP), lacrosse, wrestling, motocross and concert tours including Madonna, Michael Jackson and Farm Aid ... Featured in the opening to the hit series *Dallas*, the movie *Any Given Sunday* and the legendary Coke commercial where "Mean Joe Greene" tosses his jersey to a kid.

***Admittedly I'm a neophyte when it comes to NFTs.** It stands for non-fungible token. And here I am not even aware of fungible tokens. Where the investment rage of NFTs immediately loses me is the fact that, well, it's a scam. No tangible product. Convince me that buying an NFT is different than falling for one of those companies wanting you to pay money to name a star. You get a certificate maybe, but that means zilch. There is no recognized library of star names. There are merely multiple companies claiming so. Same with NFTs, whose owners just boast that their units of digital data have value. The common denominator between star-naming and NFTs? Gullible, lazy consumers. Lord knows the past couple of years have proven we're up to *here* with those. Same with cryptocurrency. Just ask the 13,000 local investors scammed out of \$24 million.

***Credit the Rangers. Or, blame them?** It was 2010 when they – first to do it was Nelson Cruz – began celebrating important hits or stolen bases via base-runners sending a "Claw" or "Antlers" hand gesture toward the dugout.