

Marylin Nease

SISTERS IN ORANGE AND RED, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

“Want to wear an Oklahoma State Cowboys T-shirt for the Bedlam game?” I asked my sister Linda while searching for the best candidate among her OSU shirts.

“I already have this on,” she answered, pulling at the front of her blue T-shirt and apparently not interested in wearing her favorite university’s shirt.

“Look, I’m wearing my Oklahoma Sooners shirt.” I tugged at my OU shirt to show her the red of her archrival. “Don’t you want to wear OSU orange? Bedlam’s the biggest in-state game every year for an OU fan like me and an OSU fan like you.”

We went back and forth several times, with my sister rebuffing my attempts at persuasion. I was her weekend caregiver and wanted to use our being fans of opposing teams to make our day fun.

Finally, we compromised, and I helped her don orange over today’s blue she’d preferred.

“For fun, let’s take photos in our shirts,” I urged. “Then, we’ll get the TV on the right channel, okay?”

Linda agreed, and we made our way from her bedroom, through her dining room, down the ramp to the lower level of her home, and into the sunroom. She rode her electric scooter, and I followed.

“Let’s sit here to take our pictures,” I suggested, pointing to the raised, rocked seating that circles a central fireplace. We sat side by side on the stones, I grabbed my phone and stretched out my left arm to hold the camera before us, we tilted our heads together and smiled, and I took picture after picture trying to capture the perfect photo. “Perfect” meant our eyes were open, we were smiling, the tops of our orange and red shirts were visible, and the two of us were somewhat centered in the shot. After lots of laughter at my unsuccessful efforts, we finally had several shots we liked.

“Now, let’s get the TV on,” I said.

Linda rode across the room to her recliner, turned off her scooter and dismounted, then settled onto her chair. I sat on the recliner to her right, reached for the remote, and found the channel. Soon, the annual Bedlam game began.

What bedlam it was! First quarter, OSU ahead by 7; halftime, game tied; third quarter, OU ahead by 9. Only in the final seconds did we have a winner: OSU, 37-33. The Cowboys had beaten the Sooners for the first time since 2014.

What fun Linda and I had watching Bedlam together! Much of the game, we sat on the edges of our chairs. Every time the stadium noise increased or I shouted, she asked, “What happened? What happened?” I did my best to give play-by-play analysis. At the end, we both cheered for OSU.

Game over, she rode by my chair, stopped, pointed to her OSU shirt, and asked, “Did you get a picture of this?”

Next day, we both wore orange. I took more photos. What fun Bedlam was!