

Tailgate of the Week: From a live DJ to the 8-man funnel, KOCKA turns LSU Saturdays into an all-day celebration



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Few traditions capture the spirit of Louisiana quite like tailgating on LSU gamedays. Even before sunrise, the air around Tiger Stadium fills with the aromas of Cajun delicacies. Friends and strangers clad in their best purple and gold greet one another with cheers of "Geaux Tigers" throughout the day. For many, tailgating is just as important as the game itself – a time to reconnect, celebrate team pride and welcome new fans into the Tiger family.

Over the years, KOCKA Tailgating has become one of the premier tailgating groups on the LSU campus. The party starts at 5 a.m. on gamedays with a full setup that includes cornhole, washers, beer pong, a TV to watch the day's other matchups, hours of the latest music and classic hits from Brannon Simar (aka Big B The DJ) and the famous 8 Man Funnel of Death – a funnel with eight tubes where tailgaters compete to drink the most beer.

The menu can vary for each gameday, but Louisiana favorites like jambalaya and gumbo are pretty much guaranteed to be available.

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You might recognize KOCKA Tailgating from its slogan: Geaux Ugly Early – a reminder to show up well before kickoff and don't let up until after the game clock

reads all zeroes. James Roy, one of KOCKA Tailgating's main organizers, said that dedication is just the crew doing its part to honor LSU tradition.

"It's the best for a reason, so we got to live up to the standard," Roy said.

LSU tailgating is more than an event a few times a year for KOCKA. They keep the spirit alive all year long with a Facebook page and website, and new members are always welcome. Official KOCKA members pay dues to help cover the cost of supplies, although anyone can join in the gameday party. Roy said the group can range from 50 to 300 people throughout the day. In addition to Roy and Simar, other KOCKA key organizers are Brannon Ogden, Ben Bueche and Kindra Menard.

KOCKA Tailgating can be found on the Old Front Nine parking lot, their site hard to miss with a 40-foot flagpole bearing the American and LSU flags.

As for what makes the best tailgate, Roy said it's simple: "having the best time of your life every time."

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