

2nd Times Better: Episode 2 Script

Date: 29th August 2025.

Revision No: 1.

For years, this was played on my TV / Mac / Phone at about 2 Minutes past 2PM UK time, either on BT Sports, or on some random online ESPN feed that I would find in the weeks when BT Sports couldn't be bothered to show College Gameday in full. This was supposed to be an episode that would come later in the year, but seeing as UK, Europe and MENA College Football fans can rejoice in having a decent slate of College Football games to watch in the year 2025 via an announcement from ESPN and DAZN (Which I've been told is the correct way of spelling the Dyslexic approach of making a sports channel name), I've decided to bump this up the list.

Coming To Your City is the second track on the album of the same name, released by American country music duo Big & Rich in November 2005. The song came out as a single in September of the same year to promote the album. As well as being worked into the Introduction Theme to ESPN's College Gameday show, it was at one point also used as theme music to the Sean Hannity Radio Show. There are some things about **not** living in America that I like, and it's not having to deal with talking head radio shows every time you turn on your car radio.

ABOUT COLLEGE GAMEDAY.

It's very hard to put into words the experience that College Gameday provides to people's TV screens, and those on campus participating in creating the classic college football tailgate atmosphere. The show debuted in 1987 as a studio style pre-game show, before being on campus (Almost) every week since 1993. The show normally goes to the most exciting college football game of the week, though this can vary depending on if ESPN / Their Disney Overlords are the broadcaster airing said game; sometimes they'll go somewhere where their own network's biggest telecast of the week is taking place.

These days, it's a three-hour show, talking about the biggest stories in the College Football world, with some fun and chaos added in, and of course a wee bit of tailgating. This all culminates in the presenting team and a guest picker choosing who they think will win a 'slate' of games, out of the 60 odd played at the highest level of College Football each week. The last of these games will be the game which will be played at the campus from which the show is hosted, which has over the years culminated in Lee Corso, the man on the show from the very beginning donning the headgear of the team he 'selects' for the game in question, with some exceptions. Notably Auburn don't allow their headgear to be used, and any time Notre Dame is on the cards, the option is dressing up as a leprechaun. Yes, College Gameday is chaos!

Sadly, this coming Saturday, 30th August 2025 will be the last time this tradition will take place, as Corso finally gets his flowers and retires from his punditory duties. The

headgear traditions started with the Ohio State Buckeyes, and regardless of how good the Texas Longhorns may be this season, I can almost guarantee that that Buckeye headgear will make one final trip onto Corso's head.

HOW I FELL IN LOVE WITH COLLEGE FOOTBALL.

There may be some who listen to this thinking 'How the hell does a British Guy know so much about College Football? This is the sport we hide from you forcing you to watch the NFL instead!'

I actually fell into the world of College Football by sheer chance. I was already a fan of IndyCar and NASCAR, as well as the NFL, and started dipping my toes into the college game around 2011. ESPN would be showing NASCAR at this point, and after the 2011 Daytona 500 won by rookie Trevor Bayne, Tony Stewart had the run of all runs in the chase, ending with one of the all time greatest clutch drives in the Ford 400 at Homestead, making a total of 118 passes after having to come from the back of the field twice.

During the IndyCar season, I would often get Marty Reid talking about Basketball on ESPN / ABC, especially during playoff season. Alan Bestwick would also do promo after promo, about upcoming College Football games, especially during conference play in the second half of the season. Remember, NASCAR fans and College Football fans in the south share a geographical region, so cross promotion is easy. It was from here that I got my first taste of the sport, which was actually during a massive change

in the sport due to constant conference realignments, and changes to the game. It was actually a good time to get into the sport, almost with a clean slate.

Then the department at the university where I worked started a partnership with Auburn university, for construction competitions. This was the ‘almost miracle’ year for Auburn, with two of the most insane finishes to games against Georgia and then Alabama. The calls for each are engrained in my brain, word for word, TV / Radio. From there I was hooked, especially as the sport moved from the BCS Era to the College Football Playoff, sponsored by Fall Out Boy’s Century track from their Album American Beauty / American Psycho. (It was played so often the band apologised).

BACK TO THE MUSIC.

The ESPN College Gameday version of ‘Comin To Your City’ has had a couple of iterations over the years. This of course has to do with changing the original lyrics with those that fit the College Football landscape, which is updated every few years, mainly to include teams who have entered the National Championship conversation, and removing those who no longer feature in Top 25 polls. Some would argue that this is proof of SEC bias, as 8 SEC teams are mentioned in the opening verse(s), though the time the current set of core lyrics were conceived, Oklahoma and ‘We promise we’re back’ Texas were in the defence optional Big-12. Add in the ‘Go Vols’ at the end of the second verse of the latest iteration of the track, and over half of the SEC teams are included, and to be fair, the missing teams left pouting due to not being included are:

- Arkansas,
- Kentucky
- Vanderbilt
- South Carolina
- Missouri
- Ol' Miss
- Mississippi State

There are multiple versions of this song from a college football perspective. [The first iteration was in 2006](#), which to be honest was very Southern, very 'Heartland' college football. There was a remake in [2008](#), [2010](#), and then the version I want to talk about, [that debuted in 2014](#).

This was the first time that Big & Rich & ESPN really brought some outside power to the intro. Despite @greghawthorne1504 on YouTube that 'i like lady in black adding a lot to the song', this isn't just some random lady in black, but Lzzy Hale, one of the most influential female guitarist and lyricists of our generation.



@greghawthorne1504 5 years ago

this was the best version–i like lady in black adding a lot to the song



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Reply

I was lucky enough to see Lzzy Hale's band Halestorm play both at festivals, and during my time being a bar supervisor at the O2 Academy Birmingham, where they supported Lacuna Coil. In the same way that there's virtually no one out there as a guest singer on the male side of things as Myles Kennedy from Creed / Alter Bridge fame, Lzzy is in a class of her own when it comes to female vocalists / guitarists. Despite this, she is humble, an advocate for mental health and sexuality, and actually

an all round nice person. I had the privilege of chatting to her after that O2 Academy gig, and she was down to earth, friendly, and none of this fake 'I'm just being nice so people like me' BS that I see across sports and Music (Looking at you Danica Patrick).

Even before you get to the actual song, you have that iconic intro of 'ESPN College Gameday..... We're coming to your city!'. Normally they'd be a 'Good Morning X' after this, unless the show made an uncouth stop at say James Maddison which wasn't on the pre-season bingo card. Lzzy adds an additional layer of depth to what otherwise is still a Country song, without overpowering it. Her vocals allows her to add magic when needed, but harmonise when more appropriate.

There are others who contribute to this track, during the 'bridge?' section of the track, with 'Cowboy Troy' doing the first half of the rap-along, followed by Travie McCoy of Gym Class Heroes. The only real change here was changing [Chris Fowler to Reece Davis as the show host](#) in 2015, and whomever joined the panel in the years the song was the active theme. You also get the twirly fingers of McCoy, and the elbow pump of Cowboy Troy if you bother to watch the screen till the end.

Whilst not part of the song, you knew it was Saturday in the fall when Chris Kelley, the name behind one of ESPN's most recognisable voices says the famous line:

'College GameDay, live from Columbus Ohio, is built by the Home Depot. Proud sponsor of college football's premier pregame show'.

Honestly, if there was a make a wish for adults, that would be my wish. To say that line at the top of Gameday. Even after over a decade of watching the show, it still makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

WHAT ABOUT NOW?

This version of the song was replaced in 2018, as a part of a wider CFB rebrand by ESPN. In terms of quality, it seems that ever since this version, the quality's gotten worse with each of the two iterations. Lzzy was replaced by ZZ Ward, which makes me question if someone got the ZZ search wrong in the 'artists to do Comin To Your City' list, but that version is bearable. Now? I'll just wait for Chris Kelley thanks.

You never know, with a completely redone graphics package and even a change to the ident music used since 2014, there may be a new intro to GameDay this year. But no matter what, Lzzy, Cowboy Troy and Travie McCoy will always be the best iteration in my most humble of opinions. It wasn't the 2nd Time Better, in fact the 4th time better of that particular song, but it stands at the top of the ESPN College Gameday podium.

P.S: Lee Corso, thank you for making Saturdays that little bit more special. Enjoy your retirement, because you deserve it.

PEACE, RAGE & LOVE XX