

TEXAS STATE'S *Most Engaged Fans*

By Jordan Gass-Poore
Photos Ashley Haguewood

Calling The Play

"I was so shocked and kind of nervous because everyone was watching us and cheering"

Not since Texas State University history senior Eddie Galvan played high school football had a game been so intense.

Galvan orchestrated a "huge, massive plan" to get a ring into Bobcat Stadium. Not just any ring -- it had a diamond, and was bought to fit on the fourth finger of his girlfriend and Texas State alumna Nichole Norgrove's left hand.

A couple of people were in on the secret. They conspired to get the ring from Galvan's roommate's closet, then transport it to the stadium.

There was also the question of the banner that would serve as Galvan's voice in case he choked up. It was constructed from a king size sheet and partially sewn by hand by a mutual friend, who stayed up until 4 a.m. the day before the game to complete it.

The banner then was given to members of Texas State's Loud Crowd, the spirit organization Galvan is a member of and Norgrove an "adopted member," so they could hold it up in the stands after the third quarter.

That was the plan. And Galvan was completely freaking out.

Pre-Game Introductions

In high school, Galvan and Norgrove spent four years in the same building in Katy, Texas but never met. "I guess I knew of her, she was part of the popular crowd; I was part of the punk scene," Galvan said.

Fast forward a couple of years. Galvan transferred to Texas State in 2010 from Blinn College.

One of his friends took him to a party for a mutual friend's birthday. It was also Norgrove's birthday. The party's attendees were "literally" everyone from his high school. His friend tried to introduce him to people but, for the most part, he knew everyone there.

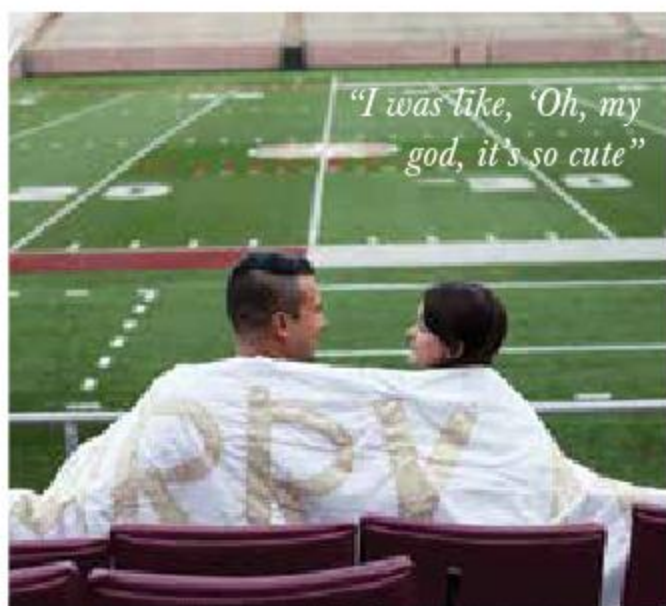
That night he and Norgrove just kind of hit it off. They argued about beer (her dislike of Guinness). They went out to The Square. Then they started dating.

2010 was a big year for Galvan and Norgrove. From stealing glances of Norgrove in the high school hallway to moving in with her a few years later, he was mindful of how important his next move was going to be for the two of them.

Thus, a year ago he set a reminder for himself on his phone to propose to Norgrove. He had the who (Norgrove), what (propose), when (in a year) and why (duh), just not the where.

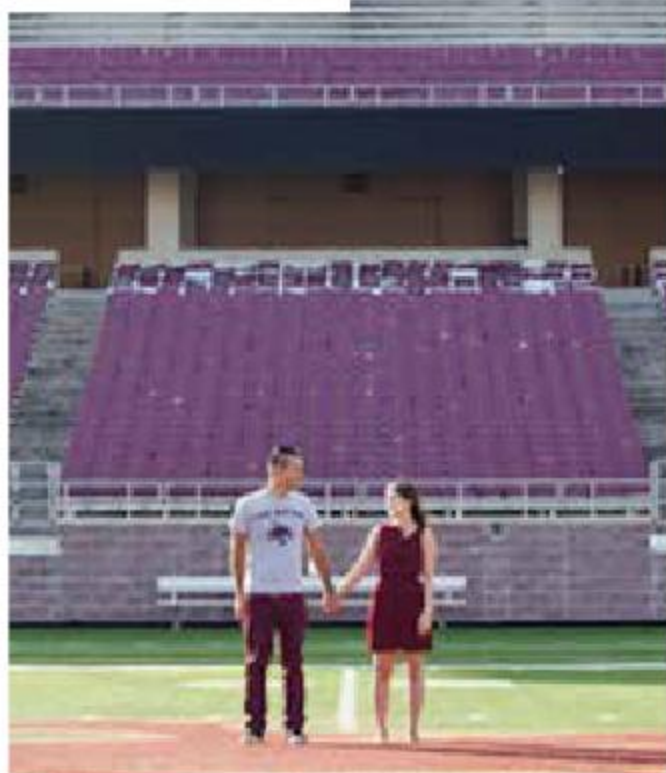
Maybe at a concert. Maybe at a family Christmas party. Maybe at home. None of these locations seemed to quite fit the couple's personalities.

They both enjoyed football and all of their friends already attended the Texas State games. Plus, Norgrove previously mentioned to Galvan that she wouldn't mind if he proposed to her during a Bobcat football game.



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"I saw it go up and it was awesome."



"I was like, 'Oh, my god, it's so cute,'" she said. "I think it's so fun.' And my girlfriends are like, 'Really? At a game?'"

Galvan got a similar response from some of his friends when he told them his engagement plan. Others said, "Oh, my god, that's so y'all."

A month away from the big day he bought the ring and called a friend about the idea for a banner. He was just thinking poster boards, but the friend told him he would handle it and periodically sent him photos of the design.

Galvan then contacted a Bobcat Club representative to find out about the logistics of proposing during a Texas State football game. The representative told him that the Texas State Marketing Department wouldn't let anyone propose on the football field or on the video board. That's when Galvan got the idea to get the Loud Crowd involved.

Going For The Win

The day of the proposal, Norgrove said it was "weird" how many people attended the football game and sat in the same section as the couple. It was Homecoming. Even her dad came down from Houston to attend the game under the pretense of celebrating her upcoming birthday.

Meanwhile, Galvan was mentally running through his list. Ring in the stadium. Check. Banner in the trusted hands of some of Texas State's most spirited youth. Check. Third quarter complete... Not so much.

It was the homecoming game against the University of Idaho, and both the Bobcats and Vandals kept taking time outs toward the end of the third quarter. With 30 seconds left in the quarter, a friend turned to him and said what Galvan had been thinking: "This is the longest 30 seconds ever."

As if members of the Loud Crowd could hear his friend across the field, they revealed the banner. "Will you marry me?" it read.

Whoa. That was not part of Galvan's plan. He was afraid everyone would notice, specifically Norgrove.

He couldn't blame members of the Loud Crowd; they had never done anything like this before. To his surprise, Norgrove told him later that she didn't notice the banner. "I was just getting antsy because it was a really close game," said Norgrove. She also had to pee.

Galvan tried to distract Norgrove as she shifted her weight from left to right foot. The game is really close, he said. I don't think you should go pee right now.

Finally, the third quarter ended and Galvan's friend handed him the ring in a small mahogany box.

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"I saw it go up and it was awesome," he said.

Norgrove, on the other hand, was talking to her dad beside her, looking in the opposite direction.

Galvan turned around and with a rush of adrenaline asked Norgrove, clad in a maroon dress fitting for the occasion, if she could read the banner.

She turned around. Read the banner. And the "cutest 'lord' came out," Galvan said with a chuckle.

He got down on one knee. In case he started to cry (or if the sun was too bright) he had sunglasses tucked inside the neck of his T-shirt.

There were so many things Galvan wanted to tell Norgrove in that moment but all that came out was "Will you marry me?"

Of course, Norgrove said yes.

"I was so shocked and kind of nervous because everyone was watching us and cheering," she said. "... I felt like I was on TV almost. I didn't cry, but I think my dad did."

The life-changing secret had finally been revealed to thousands of game attendees. People cheered for the young couple, offered congratulations and asked to see the ring after the game when Galvan and Norgrove went to thank members of the Loud Crowd for making their engagement so memorable.

The moment is immortalized on many a cell phone and on Norgrove's Facebook, and it's still fresh in the young couple's minds.

The Post-Game Show

Now Norgrove and Galvan live in Austin together with their dogs. They travel frequently to San Marcos for Texas State athletic events and donate money to the department. Bobcat games brought them closer after they were "reintroduced" in 2010 and they want to show their gratitude.

As a couple, their lives have been filled with cheer, and their goal to win each other's heart will be made official on March 21 when they'll be married at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. That leaves them plenty of time to get back before the Bobcats' Spring Game.