

Colorado and sports fandom

C: So what is it like to live in Colorado?

M: So Colorado if I took Norway and folded it into a box it fits exactly in Colorado. So it's the same size and the same amount of people.

C: Oh, that's amazing. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Like little Norway compacted. And I also know it's really mountainous.

C: Very high mountains. A little bit like Norway.

M: Yep, absolutely. Colder than Halden. So right now we're in a cold spell. I don't know it in Celsius. I only know it in Fahrenheit. And it was like nine degrees Fahrenheit in Halden and it was negative seven in Colorado.

C: That's much colder.

M: Yeah, it's much, much colder.

C: But it's inland, so inland gets much colder. Halden is by the sea.

M: Oh, that's true.

C: Because inland in Norway, you have areas where it gets really, really cold. As long as you are by the sea, the sea kind of...

M: Warms it?

C: It cools it in the summer and it warms it in the winter.

M: Okay, that's nice.

C: So it kind of makes it more average.

M: ... temperate. And then it's hard to live in Colorado if you are not a sports fan. And that's the same in most states, you know, Massachusetts, New York, California. So regardless of how cold it is, people will sit outside to watch a football game in the fall and they'll sit outside to watch baseball in the spring when it's snowing and everyone almost it's you'll know when it's like opening season for baseball people are coming to work with their baseball shirts on... Everyone's, yeah, yeah, yeah.

C: So when you said it's hard to live there if you're not sports fan, I thought you have to practice sports. And no, you just have to engage in watching sports.

M: That's a big deal in America because we have sports in the videregående skole, in the high schools. So they're part of high school. So most kids play sports, but you're raised usually by a family. Not always, right? Not all families, but a lot of families watch sports. And that's a thing to do. Like I would call you up and say, hey, Carla, you know, there's a basketball game on tonight. You want to go watch? And we would go to a bar and the games would be playing on many TVs and you'll see tons of people there screaming, yelling, rooting for their teams. It's a whole experience.

C: Well, I suppose it happens sometimes in Norway as well, but I don't think it happens in like so many people at the same time.

M: Maybe because... You know, my son is a fan of the Lakers basketball team. And some kids listening to this might know them. And so we would go to L.A., Los Angeles and California to watch the games.

C: That's like the Rebels.

M: The streets would be filled with people who are wearing Lakers jerseys, Lakers hats, everything Lakers, pants, whatever they can do, filled with it. So that's what I don't see here. Like if there's a game, I don't see people wearing the jerseys of the players. And that you would see every, like if Halden had a team and they were playing.

C: Halden has a team.

M: Give me a team here in Halden.

C: Kvikk Halden.

M: Okay. If they had a game, you would see people on the streets wearing the jerseys of the players and really excited and going to a bar to watch or going to the actual game. Does that happen here?

C: I mean, I'm not that into watching sports myself, so I wouldn't know. I think some people go to watch sports, but I don't think it's so often. But I think it happens more with skiing.

M: Oh, yeah.

C: Because many people are fans of skiing. And if there are, like... Yeah, like ski races in Oslo. Yeah, I have like heard on the news that the traffic might collapse and might be difficult to get there, get back because there is so many people.

M: So, yeah. But do you have bars where you go specifically to watch the skiing?

C: I have actually never done that myself, so I don't know.

M: Oh, you don't know.

C: I think, well, what I know that a lot of people, if they cannot go and watch the skiing where it happens, I mean, it might be really far. If you live like in Northern Norway and there is a ski run in, yeah, in Oslo. You will watch it on TV.

M: Oh, at your home. So it's, yeah, that's what's different. People will go out to a bar to watch with other fans. That's pretty normal.

C: So that's different. Yeah, so a lot happens at home in Norway that happens kind of outside in the US.

M: Yeah, we're outside a lot.

C: Hmm, I see. So being a sports fan, yeah, that would be difficult. But also because you have so many mountains, do many people practice sports in Colorado?

M: Yes, yeah, definitely. Depending on where in Colorado. So Denver and Boulder. Boulder is a city right up against the mountains. In Colorado Springs against the mountains, we have a huge Olympic training center. So it's not unusual to be walking and see a runner and it's an Olympic runner. Or an Olympic skier or an Olympic biker. And people are out walking and biking all over the place in Boulder. And really, really good athletes. So, yeah. But then there's other places in Colorado where no one practices sports. So it just depends where you live.

C: I understand.