Fan misbehavior's a tradition in Philly

From icing Dallas to booing Santa



BY The Daily News Staff TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

Fan misbehavior has been a tradition in Philadelphia since at least 1968, when fans booed Santa Clause and pelted him with snowballs in Franklin Field.

Here are some other (un)forgettable moments in fan history:

Sept. 11, 1983: Eagles vs. Redskins. Three fans beat the Washington Redskins' mascot and rob him of his Indian costume after the Eagles' 23-13 loss to the defending Super Bowl champions.

Dec. 10, 1989: Eagles vs. Cowboys. Fans hurl snow and ice at Cowboys players, referees, police officers, security personnel, fellow fans — even cheerleaders. Ed Rendell, elected mayor of Philadelphia two years later, acknowledged that he offered a fan \$20 to try to hit the field with a snowball.

Nov. 10, 1997: Eagles vs. San Francisco 49ers. Fans brawl in dozens of fistfights. Someone fires a flare across the stands.

April 13, 1999: Phillies home opener. Drunken boys from Monsignor Bonner High in Drexel Hill throw punches at each other and other fans in the 700 level. CNN, ESPN and Fox show shirtless high-school students and other young men clobbering guards and each other so intensely that they distract players on the field.

August 10, 1999: Phillies vs. St. Louis. Fans throw debris and batteries at Cardinals outfielder J.D. Drew, who was drafted by the Phillies but refused to sign with the team. St. Louis outfielders flee the field in protest.

August 12, 1999: Preseason Eagles game. Two drunks beat a fellow fan with a piece of lumber from a police barricade.

Oct. 10, 1999: Eagles vs. Cowboys. Fans cheer the ambulance the hauls Dallas wide receiver Michael Irvin off the field after he was badly injured.