

Super Bowl Celebration

Easy and inexpensive party ideas

By Candace Leigh

If you're in a new apartment, and haven't had a chance to christen it with all of the holiday to-do, throw out the welcome mat for the lowest-fuss February fete. If you're planning to leave your pad for better digs, throw one last hurrah before they calculate your damage deposit. The Super Bowl is a great excuse to bring old and new friends together for food, football and fun.



Decorate your place with balloons and streamers in team colors. If you have divided loyalties among guests, halve the floor in tape and decorate each side of the room in competing colors. Keep a cooler in the den so you don't have to miss a play. Refill at commercials. Choose snacks that don't require any utensils and lay them out in sight of the TV. In addition to plenty of beer, relax and provide simple snacks: crackers, cheese, chips, dips, veggies, cold cuts, and sodas. If you're preparing appetizers, assume 12 pieces per person. Provide three types for 8 to 10 guests, four to five for 14 to 16. Have an equal amount of hot and cold snacks.



A super snack (This may look disgusting, but it tastes delicious.)

TOUCHDOWN TOASTS

1 tube of uncooked sausage (sage flavored is best)
 1 lb. brick of Velveeta
 1 Tbs. Worcestershire Sauce
 1 loaf of "party" rye (miniature loaf)
 Dash of ketchup
 Dill, oregano, or garlic powder to taste
 Red pepper flakes or Tabasco for spice

Crumble and brown sausage in a large saucepan. Carefully strain excess grease, and drain on paper towels. On low heat, melt Velveeta in a pot, add Worcestershire and ketchup, and other spices as desired. Add sausage to melted mix. Space mini rye on a cookie sheet and spread a large spoonful on each slice. Bake at 350° until cheese browns and the bread gets a little toasty. After toasts have set, they can be frozen in plastic zipper bags and reheated closer to game time.

A game-day drink (In lieu of a full bar make pitchers of one cocktail.)

HAIL MARYS

2 parts ice-cold tomato juice
 1 part vodka
 Dash of Worcestershire sauce
 Pinch of black pepper

Mix well and serve over plenty of ice. At your discretion add celery salt, horseradish, Tabasco, or lemon juice. Garnish with a celery stick, dill pickle spear, Slim Jim, or skewer of olives, cocktail onions, and cheddar chunks.

Just grab some buddies and pork rinds and show your team spirit.
 May the best team win!

Make it easy. This is a party, not an "event." Let the game be the centerpiece. While you don't want to over-structure the day, do include a few optional activities to get everyone off their rumps.

- Before the game, hold a national anthem sing-off. Either a capella, accompanied by kazoos, or backed by a borrowed karaoke machine, give your guests a chance to show their talents before the professionals perform. Award prizes for the best, the most William Hung-like, or for being brave enough to participate.
- Encourage invitees to bring photographs of their childhood athletic attempts. Mix up the pics and try to identify who was the baby-faced T-ball batter and who was the cherubic cheerleader.
- Purchase suction-cup dart guns or small foam balls from the toy store. Launch them at the television for bad calls.
- Create a pool for less-than-diehard fans. Draw a 10-square-by-10-square grid and number each square. Have guests initial a few squares, and award prizes to whomever has the right score at the end of each quarter.
- Set up a drinking game based on exotic rules. Do you take a shot whenever a painted face appears on camera? For every red flag? Make it a little kooky — just not too frequent.
- Have a real pigskin available so folks can play a little catch on the lawn.

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