

Slice of Heaven or Slice of Hype?

A Review of Mootz Pizza

BY BECKETT BELLER

If you ever find yourself at 90th and Pacific, you will find a local pizza joint called Mootz Pizza. Mootz, which name stems from a family nickname, originally started off as food truck. After good business, the food truck expanded into the now renowned restaurant.

I set off to test the taste of the family business' pizza and when I arrived, I was greeted with an almost modern ambience. The line was relatively long compared to the small building. However, it went by quickly, and I got my food in no time. I ordered a variety of pizza, including cheese, pesto, meat lovers, margarita, buffalo, and Hawaiian.

Cheese: The first slice I sunk my teeth in was cheese. The standard type of pizza Mootz serves is a small slice with chewy, slightly burnt crust and hot, gooey cheese. The slice of cheese I was served had extra gooey cheese which proved to be quite delectable. 7.3

Buffalo: One common theme between the slices was the quality of the toppings. The buffalo slice was the prime example of this. The scrumptious slice tasted like I was biting into a spicy mouth-watering buffalo wing and a crispy pizza at the same time. 9.2

Hawaiian: For this slice I tried to hide my personal preference of keeping pineapple off pizza. Like I said before with the buffalo slice, the toppings were quality. With the personal preference out of the way, I thought the juicy ham and pineapple worked great together. 7.0

Meat Lovers: The meat lovers, which toppings included ground beef and pepperoni, proved to be my least favorite slice. For one, it lacked much cheese and sauce. There was an excess of ground beef which I thought was rather dry. The amount made me feel like I was eating straight ground beef and crust. It was also super floppy. One positive I have for this slice is that the pepperoni were very crunchy. 6.6

Pesto: The theme of quality toppings continues with the pesto slice. The creamy pesto and fresh vegetables meshed great to make a delectable slice. 8.7



(Top left) Margarita, (bottom left) Hawaiian, (top right) Buffalo, (bottom right) Meat Lovers

Margarita: This flavor of pizza is usually my favorite. However, this particular slice had an undercooked crust. Furthermore, the slice lacked much of the creamy cheese that made the cheese slice so delicious. 5.9.

Overall, the pizza had many negatives and positives. On one hand, I felt like there was a lack of consistency. Some slices were undercooked while others were excellent. Also, another big negative was the price. Each slice was \$4.37 which brought the total to \$26.22 (plus tax). Personally, I thought the price was immoderate for the portion given. Apart from that, the quality of toppings was great.

If you care for quality over quantity of the pizza and don't care about price, I recommend this restaurant. Overall, I give this pizza place a 7.5.

What Could Have Been a Touchdown Was Instead an Interception: “Madden 25”

BY J1 REPORTER DREW “DJ” JOHNSON

“Madden 25” is available on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, PC, PlayStation 4, and Xbox One. To briefly summarize the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One versions, they are the exact same as “Madden 24” for the same consoles except for roster changes.

Unless you are paying for the EA Play subscription service, you are paying \$70 for the exact same game as “Madden 24” and getting nothing that was advertised for the other versions. It is not worth your money.

As for the next generation versions, which are all the other versions, they have a much different presentation. The menus in “Madden 25” push for a simple, but exquisite design with a shade of orange mixed in there. It looks pleasing, and it is a lot better than “Madden 24's” presentation.

However, “Madden” is not all about presentation, it is about gameplay, simulation, and rebuilding or building franchises. The gameplay is what you expect from a football game. It is an average experience. The problem with the gameplay is that it is not realistic enough. I have seen many situations where the running back can escape tackles or get tackled, even though he would not in real life. This happens because the game is animation-based, meaning that the computer-controlled players need to be in a tackle animation before tackling.

My favorite part of “Madden” is Franchise. I have so much fun getting the Denver Broncos, my favorite team, to the Super Bowl or rebuilding a down-in-the-dumps franchise. However, Franchise mode is horrific. The actual gameplay of Franchise is fine but a little underwhelming. The simulation is horrible. The simulation rarely goes off by grades and instead just rolls the dice on who wins their game. I say this because I have seen some bad teams in

the current day like the Panthers in the Super Bowl. I have also had admirable players in real life with a good grade in “Madden” like Quinn Meinerz allowed twelve sacks. It is not realistic.

“Madden 25” is not just a horrendous game. It is a massive disappointment and an insult to football fans. The game is somehow worse in simulation and new features than “Madden 24.” The presentation is good, but that does not matter when the rest of the game is terrible. If you buy this game, you are burning \$70 away.

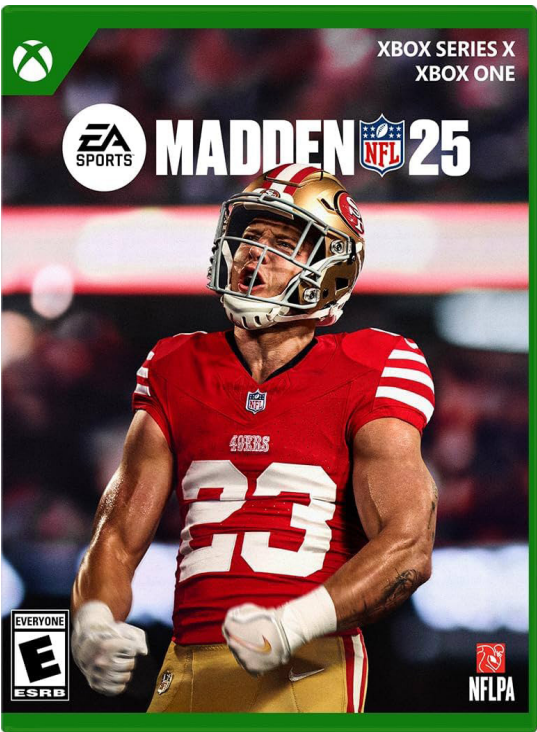


Photo courtesy of Electronic Arts

Study Hall Changes Shake Up Habits For Better or Worse

BY WILLIAM MCTAGGART



Study halls during the school day in years prior contain some of my favorite memories at The Mount. During study halls prior to this year, I did not spend very much time doing homework. Those memories of goofing off used to be the highlights of my week. This year, study halls have changed drastically with new rules set in place to create a

more productive studying atmosphere for all students.

The standard set up last year included being quiet, minding your own business, and asking questions during the five minute breaks every thirty minutes if needed. These were baseline rules that could be added depending on the study hall proctor. This year, a consensus was reached by the study hall proctors during a back-to-school meeting. This decision has explicitly set up rules that create a more effective studying atmosphere.

The decisions made for studying time are productive but lose the fun of communicating with classmates. Being able to collaborate with classmates about topics unrelated or even to get help with schoolwork is not only beneficial but refreshing during the study hall monotony. Besides talking during study halls we have lunch, but it is not enough time to talk to other students.

These new study hall stipulations have improved productivity and focus, but they lose the community aspect of bonding. I have been enjoying the silence and productivity of the new study halls, but the fun that I have experienced will be a memory that I will cherish forever.

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The Mount

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