Some downright despise the Steelers

BY JENNIFER BAILY
For the Mirror

While many fans are jumping on the Steelers bandwagon, others are happy not to have a seat.

Anti-Steelers fans are out there. They couldn’t care less that the Men of Steel are playing in the Super Bowl.

David Salvia is always teased about being a Browns fan.

Salvia moved from Erie to State College to attend Penn State University. Erie lies equidistant to Cleveland and Pittsburgh, but Salvia became a Browns fan because that’s the team his father grew up with.

He said the Browns were the better team in the ’50s, but when he grew up in the ’70s, all of his friends were Steelers fans because they were winning.

Salvia decided it was his duty to spread his hatred of the Steelers.

After seeing AlexWarp’s Web site created by Alex Rosen, Salvia chose the Steeler he felt was most hateable — their “lovely coach,” Bill Cowher — and created a Web site about eight years ago called the Bill Cowher appearance improvement page at www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/a/d/adu02/warp.html.

You can click on an image of the Steelers head coach and distort his face.

As a matter of fact, it’s the first Web site that comes up when you Google Bill Cowher.

“People make fun of his spitting,” Salvia said of Cowher. “I thought it would be fun.”

Visitors to the site feel the same way. Salvia gets e-mails from Steelers fans and said that it’s all taken in good fun.

In the land of the Black and Gold, Salvia has few anti-Steelers comrades.

“It was bad enough in Erie, but at least I had some fellow Browns fans,” he said. “But here all you get are Eagles fans.”

Salvia hates the Steelers and encourages others to take their best shot at Cowher’s face, so his prediction for the game is surprising.

“I fully expect my neighbors to put Steelers flags in my yard when they win the game,” he said.

That’s right, he said “win the game.”

“I don’t think it’s going to be close,” Salvia said. “I think the Steelers will win easily. That’s not what I’m rooting for, but that’s what I think.”

In Altoona, Eagles fan Shawn Walters also will root for the Seahawks. He has had enough of the “Here We Go” song.

“There is an excess amount of paraphernalia on people,” he said.

Walters has been an Eagles fan since he was about 5 because he liked the color green.

Now, about 90 percent of his wardrobe is Eagles apparel.

Last year, when the Eagles lost the Super Bowl, he took a lot of heat. If the Steelers lose this year, he intends to give it back.

“I’m not one to knock someone either way, but I can’t stand when they do it to me,” Walters said.

This year, he will watch the game at the home of his best friend, a Steelers fan.

“I won’t openly root for Seattle in his house; that’s just disrespectful,” he said. “I won’t openly cheer either way. I’ll remain calm in his house.”

Salvia will watch the game at home with his wife and father-in-law.

So much for camaraderie: they are Eagles fans from Philadelphia.

Outwardly, he will be rooting for the Seahawks. Inwardly, he is waiting for the day that Bill Cowher sends an e-mail responding to his Web site.