

Coaches a good alternative to downtown flash

By J.J. HARDER
Staff writer

If you like the feel of BW3, but not all the commercialization, maybe you just need a little coaching.

Coaches Sports Bar & Grill, 640 W. Prospector St., has the beer and the wings without the Tuesday night trendiness and national chain atmosphere.

Although Coaches opened nearly 10 months ago, its out-of-the-way location in the extreme southwest part of town makes it new to most Lincolniters. It took the place of the Prospector Steak House, a musty hometown dive that no one will miss.

Coaches keeps the same small town bar look alive, with brick walls and a high ceiling with wooden rafters. Its as clean as one can expect a bar to be, and surprisingly has less smoke than the average lounge. As for the tacky beer signs, they are thankfully kept to a minimum. This is one of those bars that really is more of a restaurant. Families are welcome and at home, but the beer is definitely readily available.

While the atmosphere may be friendly, the menu is mediocre at best. Sure, there are wings, nachos, burgers

and clubs, but it really lacks that special item that makes every bar menu unique. They offer three steaks and a couple of salads, but the closest to a house specialty is probably the Fiesta Chicken, basically a grilled breast with salsa.

The menu is weak, but the portions are definitely hearty. The wings rival those found at BW3 or The Watering Hole, if not in spice, at least in meatiness. The burgers and sandwiches are very large. And if you're looking for quantity, the Chicken Fried Steak took up most of the plate. The beer selection is moderate, with a 4-7 PM happy hour featuring \$1.25 wells and \$4.25 pitchers.

Coaches is average in all the major categories: menu, service, and cleanliness. It's not too expensive: \$5-\$15 for a meal with a drink. And the atmosphere is downhome and friendly. But the best part about Coaches is that it's not a flashy, downtown, popular hang-out.

So you can still watch ESPN or play the video trivia game while enjoying your meal, but won't hear alterna-pop blaring in your ears. But if you want the college meat market, head downtown. If not, try Coaches.

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