

SUPER BOWL CHAMPION COLTS: WHAT'S NEXT?

Before the Indianapolis Colts can defend their NFL championship, team president Bill Polian faces an offseason filled with ...

Difficult decisions

UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENTS

These Colts players are free to sign with another team, without any return compensation, if Indianapolis doesn't sign them or designate them as franchise players.



Mike Doss
Safety



Nick Harper
Cornerback



Dan Klecko
Defensive tackle



Cato June
Linebacker



Aaron Moorehead
Wide receiver



Dwight Freeney Defensive end



Rob Morris
Linebacker



James Mungro
Running back



Ricky Proehl
Wide receiver



Dominic Rhodes
Running back



Terrence Wilkins
Wide receiver/kick returner

RESTRICTED FREE AGENTS

These Colts players must be offered a one-year contract, or they become unrestricted free agents. They can sign an offer sheet with another team even if offered a contract by the Colts, and Indianapolis then would have seven days to either match the offer or allow the player to sign with the other team, with designated compensation.



Jason David
Cornerback



Bo Schobel
Defensive line



Gilbert Gardner
Linebacker



Jim Sorgi
Quarterback



Ryan Lilja
Guard



Josh Thomas
Defensive end



Jake Scott
Guard



Ben Utecht
Tight end

Colts' architect has shown knack for making right moves

MIAMI

As sweet as the moment still is for the Colts and their fans, it's nice to think that maybe it won't be their last.

It is, of course, a big maybe.

Even with no personnel shake-ups, defending a Super Bowl title, or even winning another within the next five

years, is a colossal challenge.

Doing it with a roster rife with soon-to-be restricted and unrestricted free agents, like the one the Colts have, makes it all the more difficult, not impossible, but exponentially more difficult.

That's why guys like Bill Polian make the big bucks.

With a total of 19 free agents, including eight Super Bowl starters, the decisions he makes this offseason will determine whether the Colts have a chance to repeat or will regress.

There really is no margin for error. The difference between a dynasty and doom can be the difference between Peyton Manning and Ryan Leaf.

Choices are tough, to say the least. With salary-cap restraints, chemistry nuance and star-driven egos, this is a tricky business.

Fortunately for the Colts, Polian, love him or loathe him, conducts it brilliantly.

In a perfect world, Polian and his pugnacious personality would never be displayed for public consumption. But the tradeoff is, this general manager knows what a Super Bowl roster looks like.

More importantly, he knows how to put one together. He did it four times in Buffalo, and now he's done it here.

Only this time, he found a winning combination. There's no reason to believe he can't to do it again.

Change might be striking at first, to the point where you can't help but say, "How can they win without that guy?"

You know, the same immediate reaction when Edgerrin James wasn't re-signed. And David Thornton. And Larry Triplett.

Through foresight, and, yes, a little luck, the Colts won a Super Bowl without them.

Make no mistake, there are a few pieces Indianapolis can't do without. Exhibit 1A is Peyton Manning. 1B is Tony Dungy.



Rick Morwick
COLTS BEAT

(SEE MOVES, PAGE B3)

Prep events postponed due to snow

Daily Journal staff report

Tuesday's games in area IHSAA girls basketball sectionals and the girls diving regional at Bloomington North were postponed because of snow.

In the Class 4A girls basketball sectional at Center Grove, Decatur Central and Greenwood will meet at 7 tonight.

Other first-round games will be Thursday, with Franklin Central facing the host Trojans at 6 p.m. and Franklin taking on Southport about 7:30 p.m.

The semifinals at Center Grove will be played at 10 a.m. and noon Saturday, with the championship game slated for 8 p.m. Saturday.

In the Class 3A sectional at Beech Grove, games scheduled for Tuesday will be played tonight, with Whiteland taking on Washington at 6 p.m. and Chatard facing the host Hornets about 7:30 p.m.

The remainder of the schedule at Beech Grove remains the same, with semifinals set for 6 and 7:30 p.m. Friday and the championship game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

In the 2A sectional at Speedway, Indian Creek's game against the host Sparkplugs was pushed back to 6 p.m. Thursday.

(SEE EVENTS, PAGE B2)

NASCAR: FORGOTTEN DRIVERS

Life can be difficult after racing career

By JENNA FRYER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAMPLICO, S.C.

In a world of million-dollar brown doublewide trailer speaks to his short-but-successful career in NASCAR. Trophies surround the fireplace and crowd its mantel. Plaques and pictures dot the living room walls.

What's not there speaks to Ard's life after NASCAR: the two championship rings and a handful of grandfather clocks from Martinsville Speedway that he sold because he was running short of cash.

Unlike veterans of other sports, Ard has no pension to fall back on. As the booming stockcar series built by men such as Ard heads

to Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway this week to kick off its 59th season, NASCAR remains the only major-league sport without a pension plan.

"You can drive for NASCAR, but when it's over, it's over. You get nothing," Ard said. "When you fall out of racing or something happens to you, it seems like NASCAR just forgets about you. It's your friends and the people around the racetrack who have to remember you and keep you going."

Other leagues have pensions. Today's 10-year veterans in baseball will receive a six-figure annual payout beginning at age 62. Even middle-of-the-road professional golfers can pile up millions under the PGA Tour's

deferred-compensation plan, which puts money away for players based on performance.

An NFL player with six seasons between 1998 and 2003 will get about \$2,500 a month beginning at age 55, and the NBA has a similar plan. The NHL contributes about \$45,000 per year to retirement accounts for veterans. The ATP and WTA tours make annual contributions averaging between \$7,500 and \$9,500 to retirement accounts for each tennis player.

NASCAR's policy always has been that its drivers are independent contractors who bear full responsibility for their finances, health care, retirement and life insurance.

(SEE CAREER, PAGE B4)



Former NASCAR Busch Series champion Sam Ard is struggling to make a living. NASCAR's racing series have no pension plan for former drivers.

Without pension plan, stockcar racers are urged to prepare for worst-case scenario

By CHRIS JENKINS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

In a world of million-dollar motorhomes, private jets and mansions on nearby Lake Norman, it's hard to argue NASCAR drivers are underpaid.

But the wealth can't hide this: No league takes a more hands-off approach toward its competitors' future than NASCAR.

"You really have to plan for things you don't think are going to happen," said veteran Jeff Burton, who cautions fellow drivers to spend, save and invest conservatively because a career-ending injury could lurk around the next turn.

"You have to paint a worst-case scenario," he said.

At a time when nearly every other major sport has some sort of pension program for athletes

past and present, NASCAR does nothing.

Drivers are beginning to wonder why.

"It doesn't mean that we need to be paid more in salary," said Tony Stewart, a two-time Cup champion. "But it'd be nice to see them take care of us after we race or take care of the ones that came up before."

In a sport that celebrates rugged individualism and per-

sonal responsibility, drivers are on their own to prepare for life after racing.

NASCAR vice president of communications Jim Hunter said that because NASCAR is not structured like other sports, it isn't fair to make a direct comparison on pension plans.

"We are not like other sports," Hunter said. "The drivers are

"It doesn't mean that we need to be paid more in salary. But it'd be nice to see them take care of us after we race or take care of the ones that came up before."

Tony Stewart
NASCAR driver
on lack of a pension plan

(SEE PENSION, PAGE B4)