

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS: SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

Welcome home, champs

By Candace Beaty

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With hands as red as tomatoes, Jennifer Lowry didn't seem to mind the freezing weather too much Monday evening: One of those hands gave Dallas Clark a high five.

Lowry, of Westfield, along with thousands of other Colts fans, waited in downtown Indianapolis to see the Colts take a victory lap through the city.

Fans started gathering as much as three hours before the parade's scheduled start time of 4 p.m.

As an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer drove around Monument Circle announcing a delay in the parade, some fans scattered to find warmer spots to wait. As soon as word came the parade was coming, people poured out of cafes and lobbies to find a spot along the route. Most fans got more than they expected.

Early announcements about the parade said the players would be on buses.

When the parade rolled through town, players stood on floats and the Super Bowl trophy was hoisted in the air by coach Tony Dungy and team owner Jim Irsay.

Fans ran up to the floats giving high fives to players.

Players stood on the floats grinning, some even dancing. Bob Sanders stood on a giant blue horseshoe on the back of one float doing a little dance.

Fans yelled, screamed and some even risked frozen fingers, taking off their gloves to clap for the team.

As the float loaded with the



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL MCADOW

Indianapolis Colts players stand atop a float during a parade for them in downtown Indianapolis on Monday.

The Colts won the Super Bowl on Sunday, beating the Chicago Bears 29-17.

Colts' defensive line rolled by Monument Circle, fans and players chanted "Defense! Defense!"

The parade started more than two hours later than planned, but fans didn't give up.

The jumping around to stay warm turned into jumping up and down in excitement.

Ty Miller of Muncie went downtown Monday to be a part of history, he said. Super Bowl champion cities always have parades. With this being Indianapolis' first, he didn't want to miss it.

While waiting to catch a glimpse of the players, he decided to try to keep his friend entertained by playing a little game.

"Say something warm," he demanded to Heather Pattyn

and Amos Haffner.

They three started listed off warm things to distract themselves from the cold: candles, bonfires, fireplaces.

When the "warm list" didn't help, Miller relied on keeping his feet moving instead.

As fans waited for the parade to start, rumors circulated first that there wasn't going to be a delay at all, despite what police officers were announcing.

Others heard the parade was canceled. Some said the players were going to the RCA Dome for the rally first, then the parade would start.

Sally Gardner of Indianapolis was ready to call it quits after she heard the parade was questionable.

If the parade isn't going to happen, they should just say it, she said. Waiting inside Au Bon Pain, a cafe on Monument Circle, her worries were lifted as a local news station announced the parade would go on. Gardner's excitement returned and she decided to go ahead and wait it out.

"This doesn't happen very often," she said.

Angele Lovett waited for a glimpse of the team with her life-size Peyton Manning cutout. She took the Manning stand-up to a Super Bowl party the night before and figured he should come along for the parade.

Standing with her personal Manning, Lovett said: "It's cold, but (the team) deserves it."



MORWICK IN MIAMI

All-nighter, TV part of Colts' celebration

MIAMI BEACH

Forgive Peyton Manning for staying up all night.

After leading the Indianapolis Colts to the Super Bowl championship, then celebrating with family, friends and teammates until the wee hours of Monday morning,

he earned the right to unwind by watching a little TV.

OK, a lot of TV.

"Going on zero sleep right now. We gave it a good run last night and this morning until about 4:30," the Colts quarterback said barely four hours later during a news conference at the Miami Beach Convention Center. "(I) got back to the room and then, of course, I had to pop on the highlights and pop on the NFL Network and see all what happened during the game."

"Kind of reliving that game, watching the highlights was pretty special this morning."

Not just for him.

Coach Tony Dungy was still savoring the moment, too, less than 12 hours after the conclusion of Super Bowl XLI.

"I, like Peyton, am operating on zero sleep as well," Dungy said.

"We had a great party last night, and just to be around our families and supporters and staff, it was just awesome to be able to share that moment with them."

Manning and Dungy looked forward to sharing the moment with fans back home later in the day.

After slugging it out on a rain-swept field in front of a visibly and audibly partial Chicago Bears crowd, the Colts actually relished the opportunity to celebrate with fans on Monument Circle despite sub-zero wind chill.

"It's been a great 24 hours," Dungy said.

"And again, we're looking forward to the rest of this day and finishing up with our folks back in Indy."

The Super Bowl MVP agreed. "We look forward to going back to Indy and having that

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Daily Journal sports editor Rick Morwick spent the past week in Miami to bring you all the hoopla that was Super Bowl XLI.



DUNGY



MANNING

parade and enjoying the rest of the day," Manning said moments after accepting the Pete Rozelle Trophy from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Manning also was given a new Cadillac sports car as further reward for the MVP honor.

The end of labels?

You name it, and Colts have been called it: "a soft team," "a dome team," "a finesse team," "a can't-win-in-the-playoffs team."

Now, only one label fits: Super Bowl champion.

And the best part for Dungy is that the Colts earned it just about every way skeptics said they couldn't.

They ran. They passed. They defended. They out-hustled, out-hit and out-blue-collared the NFL's poster child blue-collar team — on the road, in the rain, when it counted most.

"It was very satisfying, because we've been labeled a lot of things," Dungy said.

"We've been labeled a team that could do well in the regular season but couldn't finish in the playoffs. We've been labeled a finesse team, a passing offense. We've been labeled a soft defense. We've been labeled a dome team."

"A lot of those things we don't have to dissect and discuss, but I think it's great for the country to see that we could win a lot of different ways. ... Last night was a night you had to do that with the weather conditions. We outplayed them at their game, and I just think that shows what type of team we have, one that's very, very flexible, and one that can do a lot more than people think."

Here's what center Jeff Saturday thought of labels.

"I don't care what they call us as long as we win the Super Bowl," he said.

"We are world champs, and that's all that matters." Can't argue with that.

Unexpected turns can change life's course

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy has said it over and over again: Life takes you in unexpected directions.

If you know Dungy, you understand that he wasn't necessarily talking about fumbles and interceptions. About a year ago, his 18-year-old son took his own life.

A Super Bowl win certainly makes you feel good and happy. By all means, go ahead and celebrate, scream and dance and put your troubles behind you for a while. Go crazy. Get carried away. But football's not the most important thing in the world, Dungy often reminds everyone. Not by a long shot.

Those words resonated with us as we put the paper together on Sunday.

We had our pretty little front page all mapped out. A big headline, maybe CHAMPS! or WE DID IT! A giant photo, maybe one of Peyton Manning holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Newspapers rarely get to do those kinds of pages. We very much wanted to execute one of the unique layouts.



Scarlett Syse

Editor's blog

As you know, that didn't happen. Something horrible happened in our back yard, in our community. Two little boys died. A family was grieving. So was a community.

The story of two brothers, both Center Grove students, who were killed as the result of a tragic accident warranted our time and attention and most of our front page even on Super Bowl day.

We are the community paper. This tragedy happened in our community.

Who else would tell the story? Who else would ask if the intersection is too dangerous? Who else would go door-to-door talking to neighbors about traffic at the rail-



road crossing? Who else would contact teachers and family members to tell the story of what great boys Jacob Findley, 12, and Travis Findley, 9, were?

We would. Reporter Annie Goeller wouldn't

cover the Super Bowl hoopla as we had planned. She'd work solely on the story of a horrific train-vehicle fatality in the Center Grove area.

The decision to devote most of our front page to the story of two boys who died doesn't seem like a difficult one. We still had excellent coverage of the big game in Miami.

But when the whole world seems to be telling you that this football game is the be all and end all, you sometimes pause if you are not always in sync with that, when you decide to take a different path, go another way.

The juxtaposition continued Monday.

As we sent reporters and photographers to downtown Indianapolis to cover what promised to be a fantastic Super Bowl celebration, one of our reporters sat down with the parents of Jacob and Travis Findley and talked to them about their sons and their unimaginable loss. This is what we do.

We report on the triumphs and tragedies of our community. Right now, they are happening at the same time. That's the stuff of life.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/roberson@thejournalnet.com

BB Oliver shops for Colts T-shirts at Dick's Sporting Goods store in Greenwood on Monday. Oliver was asked to purchase 50 T-shirts as a surprise for fellow employees at Franklin's Promex Technologies. For more photos visit thejournalnet.com.

Crowds of early shoppers head out to buy Colts gear

By Candace Beaty
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Holding a stack of shirts as tall as her head, BB Oliver was at Dick's Sporting Goods Monday morning on what she called a secret mission.

Her boss at Promex Technologies in Franklin sent her to buy 50 Super Bowl Championship T-shirts, one for each employee.

Across central Indiana and in Johnson County, fans took advantage of a day off work or a delayed start to school to be among the first to get T-shirts and other gear that proclaimed the Colts as Super Bowl champions.

With a two-hour delay for Clark-Pleasant schools, Chris Osborne took his 8-year-old son, Connor, to Dick's in Greenwood on Monday to buy a championship T-shirt before school started.

The third-grader planned to change into the shirt before he went to school.

Connor ogled the big-screen television in the store Monday as sportscasters recapped some of the best plays from the Sunday night game.

If you put your Super Bowl shopping off until Monday, you missed the late-night screaming and masses of shoppers who pressed toward the doors at Dick's Sporting Goods late Sunday.

After the game, hundreds of fans gathered outside the store at Greenwood Park Mall, chanting "Super Bowl champions," giving each other directions to the airport terminal where the Colts would arrive the next day and huddling together for warmth.

Motorists laid on vehicle horns and hung out their windows.

The thrill of the victory had taken over.

Workers at Dick's tried to keep the

crowd manageable, allowing a limited number of people inside the store at a time. But each time the doors opened, the crowd pressed forward.

Eventually, everyone got in and sorted through tables of shirts looking for the right sizes. The shirts were identical to the ones Colts players were still wearing at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Then came another wait, this time to pay.

Children played on exercise equipment, and shoppers yapped on cell phones while they stood in lines that snaked around the store and through nearly every department.

Shortly after 12:30 a.m. Monday, weary store clerks began to see the end of the lines.

Other stores at the mall opened to sell Colts gear, and many advertised more gear available Monday morning.

Dressed in a Peyton Manning jersey,

Kenneth Kisamore of Indianapolis was out Monday morning buying a hat and shirt for himself and a shirt for his wife.

He barely got a couple of hours of sleep before going to work at 4 a.m. Monday, he said. He was too hyped up to sleep much anyway, he said.

He had just gotten off work and stopped in to buy the shirts, he said.

Christie and Darrell Browning were on their way home Monday morning from a night at the Omni hotel in Indianapolis to watch the game.

The hotel stay was free after Omni made a bet with its Chicago counterpart. The winning city would get free stays for everyone, paid for by the hotel in the losing city.

The Brownings were on their way home to Greenwood and decided to stop in and buy some championship gear, Christie Browning said.

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