



Left: BB Oliver shops for Colts T-shirts at Greenwood's Dicks Sporting Goods store Monday. Oliver was asked to purchase 50 T-shirts as a surprise for fellow employees at Franklin's Promex Technologies. Right: Wanita and Bill Ayras of



Fairland stopped by the store to get Colts Super Bowl XLI shirts for themselves, their grandchildren and a relative in California. Below: A table is filled with Super Bowl championship shirts at Dick's.

Fans rush to grab gear

Colts apparel selling quickly after Super Bowl victory

STORY BY CANDACE BEATY ■ PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON

Holding a stack of shirts as high 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.



Really big-screen TV

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INDIANAPOLIS

If Jordan Robinson could have picked one location to watch Sunday night's Super Bowl, it wouldn't have taken him long to decide.

Robinson, a Fishers resident, is an Indianapolis Colts season-ticket holder and couldn't think of a better place to watch the big game than at the place where he watched 10 other Colts games this season: the RCA Dome.

NFL regulations prohibited the live airing of the Super Bowl during Sunday night's telecast at the dome, but Colts fans waiting to cheer on the team at Monday's Super Bowl championship rally were treated to a full replay of the game on the dome's two large video screens.

"This is how I wanted to do it originally," Robinson said. "But this is a nice consolation, especially because we're all here for the same reason."

Doors to the dome opened at 3 p.m. as fans waited patiently on the steps outside the stadium's main entrance.

A blue-and-white mass of people began to filter in the dome and expected the rally to begin at 5:30 p.m. Travel issues forced a late arrival by the Colts, but fans were entertained by the

game's replay, which was interrupted at times by "Let's go Colts!" chants.

Fans cheered as if they were watching the game for the first time.

After Indianapolis won a replay challenge in the third quarter on a Marvin Harrison catch along the sideline, a loud roar rang out from the roughly 40,000 fans in the dome.

The noise level got louder during Kelvin Hayden's third-quarter interception return that provided the final score in the Colts' 29-17 victory against Chicago.

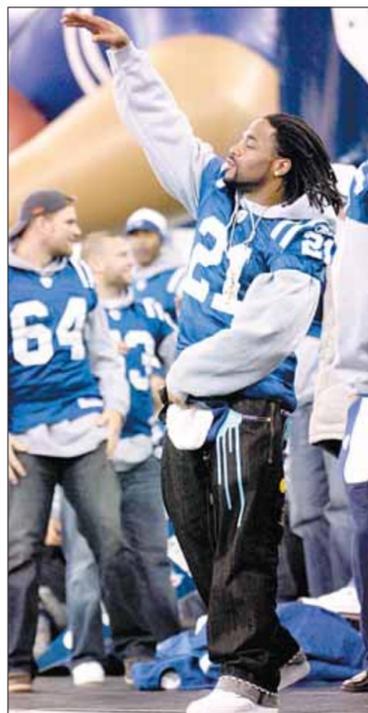
Anderson resident Todd Barron hosted a Super Bowl party at his house Sunday and also taped the game. He knew his hosting duties wouldn't allow him to watch the game in its entirety. Plus, he said he needed to listen to the commentary, even after the fact.

"This is a treat for me," Barron said. "I was going to watch the game again later tonight, but there's no sense in watching it three times, is there?"

"You know what? I just might watch it again."

Barron wasn't the only Colts fan who couldn't get enough of the team's victory.

Kyle Neal said he's already watched the game three times: once live, once an hour after the game because he couldn't fall asleep and another time Monday morning because he said he still couldn't believe the Colts had won.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON@roberson@thejournalnet.com
Colts safety Bob Sanders tries to get the crowd going during Monday's Super Bowl championship pep rally at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Who needs a game?

By SARAH LIPPS
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INDIANAPOLIS

Fans packed the nose-bleed section of the RCA Dome. They painted their faces. They waited in lines for \$4 soda. They did the wave.

No football teams were scheduled to square off in downtown Indianapolis on Monday, but about 40,000 people gathered to say "Job well done" to the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts.

They waited hours for Peyton, Cato, Marvin, Bob and Dwight to arrive.

"I can't believe they are going to tear this place down," said Indianapolis resident Renee Sweany as she stood outside of the RCA Dome, which will be replaced by Lucas Oil Stadium.

She took a quick picture of her friends with a disposable camera before the four of them ran into the RCA Dome.

The buddies hadn't been able to attend any games this season. But they considered themselves true Colts fans nonetheless, she said.

Endangered Species Chocolate, where they work, let them off early so they could cheer for the Colts.

For Indianapolis resident Kevin

Allison, the day was a lot like being at a game.

He brought his wife, daughter and two of his daughter's friends.

One southside resident said her family respects Tony Dungy and the leadership style of all of the Indianapolis Colts, and she wanted her children to be a part of the memories of the team's victory.

She came with her daughter and a niece who wore jerseys and Colts T-shirts along with blue wigs and makeup.

She wanted them to remember Dungy and the way he led the team, she said.

The same was true for Trudi Fenzel, who brought her four children, ages 2, 5, 10 and 12.

Her children were out of school for the day, so she came downtown at 2:45 p.m. so she would get to the dome in time for the rally.

"There were already lots of excited people in blue and white," she said.

The family watched the game together on TV, and she wanted to experience the excitement of the rally as a way to really remember the Super Bowl victory, she said.

Her family really respects Dungy's leadership, and she wanted her children to remember that, she said.