

29



17

## GAME AT A GLANCE

### Top players



**Dominic Rhodes**  
Colts' running back

Had a team-high 113 yards rushing and a go-ahead touchdown.



**Adam Vinatieri**  
Colts' kicker

Kicked three field goals and set a career mark of field goals in Super Bowl games.



**Peyton Manning**  
Colts' quarterback

Super Bowl MVP was 25 of 38 for 247 yards and one touchdown.



**Joseph Addai**  
Colts' running back

Rushed for 77 yards and had a game-high 10 receptions for 66 yards.



**Gary Brackett**  
Colts' linebacker

Had a team-high 8 tackles, including 6 solo tackles.

### History lesson

Super Bowl scores:

<b>2007</b>	Indianapolis (AFC) 29, Chicago (NFC) 17
<b>2006</b>	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Seattle (NFC) 10
<b>2005</b>	New England (AFC) 24, Philadelphia (NFC) 21
<b>2004</b>	New England (AFC) 32, Carolina (NFC) 29
<b>2003</b>	Tampa Bay (NFC) 48, Oakland (AFC) 21
<b>2002</b>	New England (AFC) 20, St. Louis (NFC) 17
<b>2001</b>	Baltimore Ravens (AFC) 34, N.Y. Giants (NFC) 7
<b>2000</b>	St. Louis (NFC) 23, Tennessee (AFC) 16
<b>1999</b>	Denver (AFC) 34, Atlanta (NFC) 19
<b>1998</b>	Denver (AFC) 31, Green Bay (NFC) 24
<b>1997</b>	Green Bay (NFC) 35, New England (AFC) 21
<b>1996</b>	Dallas (NFC) 27, Pittsburgh (AFC) 17
<b>1995</b>	San Francisco (NFC) 49, San Diego (AFC) 26
<b>1994</b>	Dallas (NFC) 30, Buffalo (AFC) 13
<b>1993</b>	Dallas (NFC) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17
<b>1992</b>	Washington (NFC) 37, Buffalo (AFC) 24
<b>1991</b>	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 20, Buffalo (AFC) 19
<b>1990</b>	San Francisco (NFC) 55, Denver (AFC) 10
<b>1989</b>	San Francisco (NFC) 20, Cincinnati (AFC) 16
<b>1988</b>	Washington (NFC) 42, Denver (AFC) 10
<b>1987</b>	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 39, Denver (AFC) 20
<b>1986</b>	Chicago (NFC) 46, New England (AFC) 10
<b>1985</b>	San Francisco (NFC) 38, Miami (AFC) 16
<b>1984</b>	L.A. Raiders (AFC) 38, Washington (NFC) 9
<b>1983</b>	Washington (NFC) 27, Miami (AFC) 17
<b>1982</b>	San Francisco (NFC) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21
<b>1981</b>	Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFC) 10
<b>1980</b>	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, L.A. Rams (NFC) 19
<b>1979</b>	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35, Dallas (NFC) 31
<b>1978</b>	Dallas (NFC) 27, Denver (AFC) 10
<b>1977</b>	Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFC) 14
<b>1976</b>	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFC) 17
<b>1975</b>	Pittsburgh (AFC) 16, Minnesota (NFC) 6
<b>1974</b>	Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFC) 7
<b>1973</b>	Miami (AFC) 14, Washington (NFC) 7
<b>1972</b>	Dallas (NFC) 24, Miami (AFC) 3
<b>1971</b>	Baltimore Colts (AFC) 16, Dallas (NFC) 13
<b>1970</b>	Kansas City (AFL) 23, Minnesota (NFL) 7
<b>1969</b>	N.Y. Jets (AFL) 16, Baltimore Colts (NFL) 7
<b>1968</b>	Green Bay (NFL) 33, Oakland (AFL) 14
<b>1967</b>	Green Bay (NFL) 35, Kansas City (AFL) 10



AP PHOTOS

Quarterback Peyton Manning celebrates after the Colts defeated the Chicago Bears 29-17 in Super Bowl XLII at Dolphin Stadium in Miami on Sunday. Manning, who proved he can win the biggest game there, was named most valuable player.

# Coaches value faith, family over football wins

## Colts' Dungy makes history, then bests protégé Smith

By STEVEN WINE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MIAMI** Merely by stepping on the field Sunday, Tony Dungy made history. A few hours later, he won the Super Bowl, too.

Not bad for a day's work. Long saddled with a reputation as a coach who couldn't win the big one, Dungy shook that label when his Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears 29-17.

The biggest win of Dungy's career came against his close friend and protégé, Bears coach Lovie Smith. They were the first black head coaches in the 41-year history of the Super Bowl.

When the game ended, Dungy was hoisted onto the shoulders of his team. He switched his blue Colts cap for a white one that read "NFL champions" and walked to midfield, where he and Smith exchanged words and a hug.

Dungy held on for an extra second. He won because he had the better quarterback. Like his coach, Peyton Manning filled a void in his impressive résumé by winning a ring. Steady rain made for a sloppy game that included eight turnovers, but Manning threw for 247 yards, including a 53-yard touchdown pass.

Smith's erratic young quarterback, Rex Grossman, made the same kind of mistakes that had Bears fans lobbying for his benching all season. He threw two interceptions, with one returned for a touchdown, and he fumbled twice, losing one.

Smith stayed with his quarterback, and the underdog Bears found themselves gradually overpowered by the Colts.

## Bears QB Grossman proves critics correct

The Associated Press

### MIAMI

This was the Rex Grossman that the Chicago Bears and their fans feared.

When the Bears needed a clutch throw to catch up in the fourth quarter, their quarterback couldn't connect.

Instead, Grossman threw a pair of interceptions, one that Kelvin Hayden returned for a touchdown, all but ending Chicago's chance to win the Super

Bowl at rainy Dolphin Stadium.

Criticized all season for his erratic play and questioned all week before the biggest game about his up-and-down season, Grossman did little to quiet his detractors Sunday night in a 29-17 loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

Two fumbled snaps — one he lost, one he didn't — and then the two underthrown fourth-quarter picks. Two throws that were pretty gross.

Grossman's stats weren't bad: 20 of 28 for 165 yards. But

the Bears had trouble manufacturing drives against Indy's tough defense. Grossman did have a 4-yard TD pass to Muhammad in the first half, set up by Thomas Jones' 52-yard run.

But other than Devin Hester's TD return on the opening kickoff, there was not enough offense, especially in the second half.

This is how it went for Grossman: In the third quarter after he'd completed a pair of

passes to move the Bears to a second-and-1 at the Colts' 45, he dropped back to pass, slipped on the set grass and was sacked for an 11-yard loss.

Facing third down, it got worse. He fumbled the snap but was able to pick the ball up before he was tackled.

But another 11-yard loss put the Bears in a fourth-and-23. In two plays they went backward 22 yards, and a promising drive was over, as were the Bears' chances at a win.

## • Reign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

It was a game of firsts: the first rainy Super Bowl and the first time an opening kickoff was run back for a touchdown when sensational Bears rookie Devin Hester sped downfield for 92 yards.

And not since the Buffalo Bills self-destructed with nine turnovers in losing to Dallas 14 years ago had there been so much messiness. The first half was marred by six turnovers, three for each team. Even football's most clutch kicker, Adam Vinatieri, missed a chip-shot field goal, and an extra-point attempt was botched, too.

The second half wasn't quite so ugly, but when much-maligned Bears quarterback Rex Grossman's wobbler was picked off

and returned 56 yards for a touchdown by Kelvin Hayden with 11:44 remaining, it was over: "I'm so proud of our guys," Dungy said. "We took the hit early with Devin Hester. We talked about it; it's going to be a storm. Sometimes you have to work for it. Our guys played so hard, and I can't tell you how proud I am of our group, our organization and our city."

Chicago (15-4), which led the league in takeaways this season, finished with five turnovers, including two interceptions by Grossman.

The Colts (16-4) will take it. It's their first title since the 1970 season, when they played in Baltimore.

It was confirmation of Manning's brilliance, even if he didn't need to be dynamic. The son of a quarterback who never got to the playoffs, Manning has been a star throughout his college career at Tennessee and his

nine pro seasons with the Colts. Now he is a champion.

It also was a validation of Dungy's leadership. He helped build Tampa Bay, one of the NFL's worst franchises, into a contender before being fired after the 2001 season. The next year, the Bucs won the Super Bowl under Jon Gruden.

The Colts hoisted their coach on their shoulders, and he switched his blue Colts cap for a white one that read "NFL champions." Dungy was carried from the sideline, then was lowered so he could share a long embrace and a handshake with Smith.

"I'm proud to be representing the African-American coaches and the first African-American coach to win this," Dungy said.

Then he waded through the mob to find his quarterback, giving him a big hug.

The Colts reached the pinnacle by winning four postseason games with a defense that

made a complete turnaround in the playoffs.

And with a running game that perfectly complemented Manning, thanks to Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes, who combined for 190 yards — 113 on 21 carries by Rhodes and 77 on 10 carries by Addai, who also had 66 yards receiving.

Chicago was denied its first Super Bowl title since the powerhouse 1985 team. These Bears could have used Da Coach, Sweetness and their buddies.

It rained from start to finish; there was even "Purple Rain" during halftime when Prince sang some of his signature songs. And though Vinatieri twice was a victim of the sloop, he kicked three field goals.

Hester's spectacular return provided a stunning beginning and a severe jolt to the Colts. The local product and only rookie All-Pro this season pumped his arms to excite the

# Manning finally wins the big one

## Elusive ring comes with MVP award

By MICHAEL MAROT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MIAMI

Peyton Manning answered the final question.

Yes, he can win the big one, and yes, he can do it in a big way, too.

His career-long quest for a championship finally ended Sunday in Miami with an efficient performance against the Chicago Bears that added a Super Bowl MVP award to his long list of achievements.

The two-time NFL MVP was 25 of 38 for 247 yards and a touchdown pass, keeping the Bears on their heels with his play calling at the line of scrimmage as he rallied the Colts to a 29-17 victory.

"That's been our theme all year — we've won as a team," Manning said. "No panic. We stayed calm throughout the entire game."

For more than a decade, Manning heard critics follow their acknowledgments of his greatness with this: He could only be remembered along with John Elway, Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw if he won a Super Bowl.

Now, Manning can always remind them by flashing his championship ring.

"I don't think there's anything you can say now, other than this guy is a Hall of Fame player and one of the greatest players to ever play the game," Colts coach Tony Dungy said.

The doubts started when Manning was in college at Tennessee. He never beat rival Florida, and the year after he left, the Volunteers won a national championship.

In Indianapolis, the questions continued. When he started 0-3 in the postseason, people wondered if he'd ever win a playoff game. When he finally did that, people said he couldn't beat New England. When he did that, the critics contended he still couldn't win the biggest game of all.

He did that, too. "Everybody did their part. We worked together," Manning said after hoisting the Lombardi Trophy with one hand.

After taking about a quarter to figure out the Bears' defense, Manning dissected it like a surgeon: carefully and aggressively. He methodically moved Indianapolis by masterfully finding open receivers, calling runs and converting third downs.

"I thought Peyton did a real good job of staying patient, and our run game in the second half gave us a big lift," Dungy said.

Manning threw a 53-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne with a Chicago defender draped around his waist. And even an early glitch on kickoff coverage that led to Devin Hester's 92-yard return for a touchdown to open the game couldn't derail the Colts.

Manning wouldn't let it.

He led them on a drive to a field goal, then gave them the lead when Dominic Rhodes scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. And Manning put the game away by setting up Adam Vinatieri for two second-half field goals. The defense took care of the rest with Kelvin Hayden's interception return for a touchdown.

But it was Manning who showed the world he could excel on the grandest stage in sports.

crowd before the kickoff, then lifted the fans from their seats with an electrifying run on which he never was touched.

He barely touched the ball again as Indy went to squibbing kickoffs.

Leading 16-14 at halftime, the Colts spent half the third quarter with a march to Vinatieri's 24-yard field goal. Twice on the drive, Manning fell to the ground while throwing. But he completed them.

Grossman had it even worse on Chicago's initial possession of the second half, twice in a row slipping and getting sacked. Maybe he would have done better on ice.

Thomas Jones, forced to carry the Bears' entire rushing load when Cedric Benson was hurt in the first half, was Chicago's best player. But with Grossman ineffective, all the Bears managed in the second half was Robbie Gould's 44-yard field goal late in the third period.