

ROAD TO THE SUPER BOWL



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

Time: 6 p.m. Sunday TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBO-94.7 FM



Look who's talking

Colts' quiet Harrison speaks about first trip to Super Bowl

By RICK MORWICK
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR
morwick@thejournalnet.com

MIAMI

Marvin Harrison insists he doesn't mind interviews, even though he rarely grants them.

He picks and chooses his moments carefully. And he figures the Super Bowl is as good a time as any to break his virtual season-long silence.

"I don't mind doing interviews, especially when there's something good to talk about," said Harrison, notoriously mum when reporters are around. "I think this week is definitely worth the while to talk about."

And Tuesday, he had plenty to say. Winding down his 11th season, Harrison's career is not unlike quarterback Peyton Manning's: complete in every way except for a Super Bowl championship.

A sure-fire Hall of Famer, the Indianapolis Colts wide receiver is among the greatest at his position in NFL history. He ranks fourth on the all-time receptions list (1,022), third in career touchdown receptions (122) and sixth in receiving yards (13,697).

His 143 catches in 2002 are an NFL single-season record. He's easily the leading receiver in Colts history, and he's going to his eighth straight Pro Bowl.

But none of the above gets him talking like the Super Bowl, which until now was an elusive destination for a player whose sole objective is winning.

"It's definitely something that I've always wanted to accomplish in my career," Harrison said.

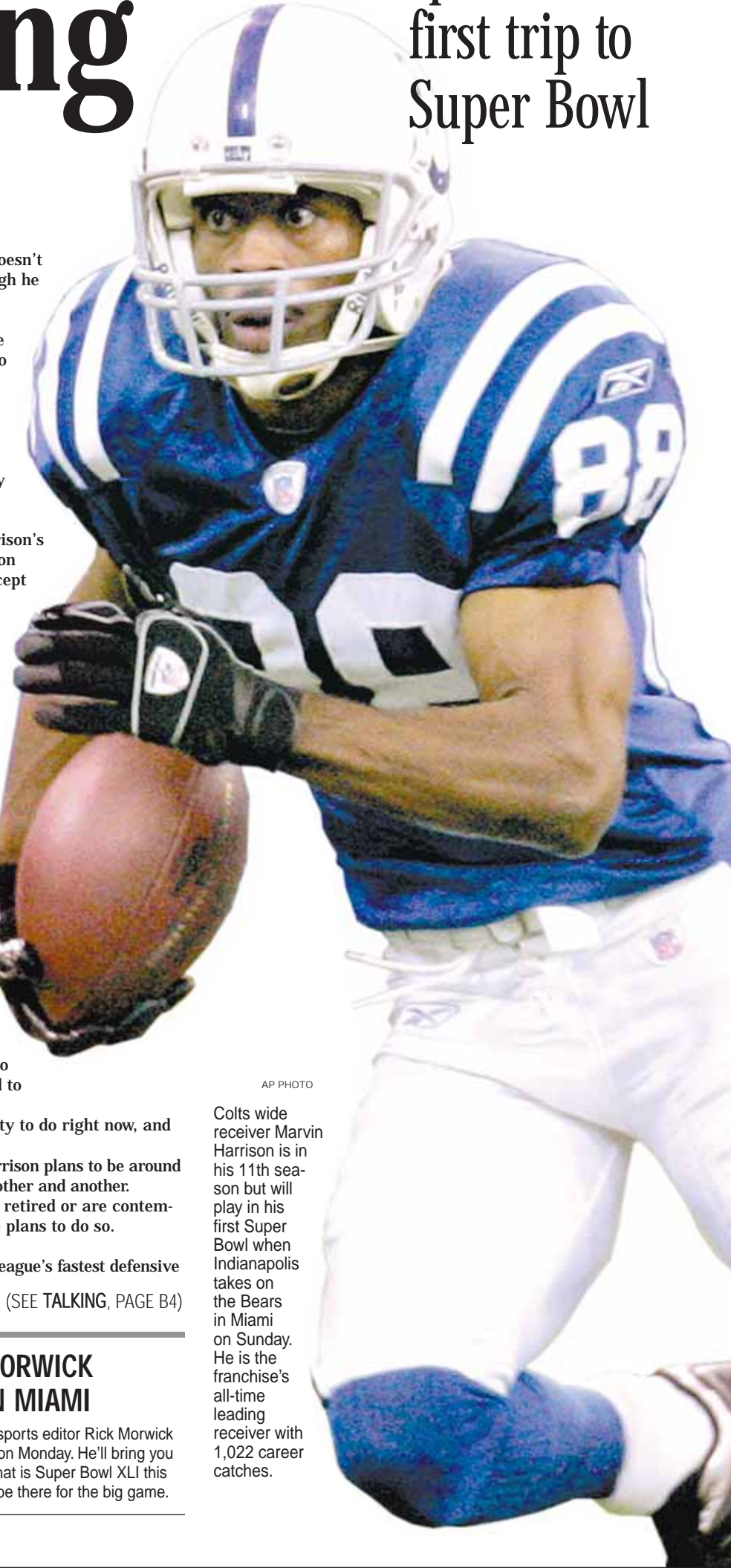
"Going out and winning football games is always something I've wanted to do, and when I first came here to Indianapolis 11 years ago, I've wanted to get to the Super Bowl and win it.

"That's what we have the opportunity to do right now, and there's no better time to do it."

Should the Colts fail in their bid, Harrison plans to be around for another try — and another, and another and another.

Although most players his age have retired or are contemplating it, Harrison has no immediate plans to do so. Why should he?

At 34, he still outprints most of the league's fastest defensive



AP PHOTO

Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison is in his 11th season but will play in his first Super Bowl when Indianapolis takes on the Bears in Miami on Sunday. He is the franchise's all-time leading receiver with 1,022 career catches.

(SEE TALKING, PAGE B4)

MORWICK IN MIAMI

Daily Journal sports editor Rick Morwick arrived in Miami on Monday. He'll bring you all the hoopla that is Super Bowl XLI this week and will be there for the big game.

COLTS QUARTERBACKS



AP PHOTOS
Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, right, and coach Tony Dungy prepare to pose for photos during media day in Miami on Tuesday.

Little left to prove

Win or lose, Peyton has secured legacy

By BOB SMIZIK
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.

The Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning is nothing less than the greatest quarterback of the 21st century. He is the player almost anyone with more than a thimble full of football knowledge would take first if starting a new franchise.

Although only 30, his numbers are stunning in the story they tell of his excellence.

Already no one in NFL history has had more seasons of throwing for more than 4,000 yards, nor does anyone have as many consecutive seasons of 25 or more touchdown passes. His first nine seasons — he was a rookie in 1998 — are significantly more impressive than those of Dan Marino, Brett Favre, Johnny Unitas or anyone.

He's durable, having started every game of his nine-year career.

He's humble, invariably deflecting praise and turning it toward his teammates.

He's a winner, having been a primary reason the Colts have won 60 games in the past five years and advanced to the playoffs in all of those seasons.

He's resourceful, constantly befuddling opposing defenses by changing plays at the line of scrimmage or pretending to change them.

He's naturally gifted, being the son of a successful quarterback and blessed with a marvelous throwing arm.

There is every reason to believe by the time he retires he will own every passing record worth owning and not be just the greatest quarterback of the 21st century but the greatest quarterback ever.

Despite such a résumé, there are people who maintain his career is incomplete. There are people who insist that the Colts must beat the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl for Manning to pass the true test of greatness.

That is the height of nonsense. If Manning loses Sunday, his greatness is assured.

If he loses Sunday and retires Monday, his greatness is assured. Winning a big game is not necessarily a sign of greatness, just

Sorgi's job not so easy

Backup QB must stay ready in case Manning is hurt

By RICK MORWICK
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR
morwick@thejournalnet.com

INDIANAPOLIS

So you think Jim Sorgi has it easy?

Most of the time, he would agree.

But there are times when being Peyton Manning's backup quarterback isn't a breeze, like when Manning gets hurt in the biggest game in Indianapolis Colts history and maybe can't finish.

It almost happened. Against New England. At the most critical juncture.

"It's the greatest job in the world, right?" said Sorgi, repeating a mantra he's heard many times during his three seasons with the Colts, the longest tenure of any backup since Manning's arrival in 1998.

A sixth-round pick from the University of Wisconsin in 2004, Sorgi is fine with his role but reminds it's not as cushy as it sounds.

"It's the greatest job in the world until Peyton comes off the field and you think his thumb might be broken, and there's three minutes left in the AFC Championship Game, and you're down three to New England, and you haven't taken a snap all year," Sorgi said. "You think, 'Man, this could either go really good or really bad.'"

Sorgi never got a chance to find out. Manning led the Colts to a dramatic comeback, and Sorgi didn't factor in it.

He hasn't all season. But if he has to, Sorgi insists he's ready to perform in the Super Bowl, even though he hasn't thrown a regular-season pass all year.

And if the opportunity doesn't present itself, Sorgi will contribute the same way he did during the regular season and through three games of the playoffs.

He'll offer insight to Manning and the Colts' wide receivers, Marvin Harrison, in particular, from his sideline vantage point.

"When you're out there playing, sometimes you don't get the greatest view of everything, especially early in the game," said Sorgi, who hasn't played since last season. "Peyton does a really good job later in the game seeing things and getting us in the right plays."

"But early in the game, sometimes it's hard to see adjustments and the way defenses are playing you. The advantage to being on

(SEE BACKUP, PAGE B4)



Colts backup quarterback Jim Sorgi hugs kicker Adam Vinatieri, front, before a team photo is taken at Dolphin Stadium in Miami on Tuesday.

Players try to balance business, pleasure

By STEVEN WINE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

The Indianapolis Colts had just arrived for Super Bowl week, and safety Bob Sanders was dressed for a night on the town, looking resplendent in a brown suit, kerchief to match his tie and shades.

South Beach-bound, Bob? "We may get there (Monday night) and (Tuesday)," Sanders said. "But after that, it's all business."

Super Bowl preparations involve more than mere practice, and the Colts had some catching up to do. They arrived Monday night, more

than 24 hours after the Chicago Bears landed.

The Bears took advantage of their head start Sunday night.

"We hung out a little bit," defensive end Adewale Ogunleye said. "I can't say too much."

"It was the only night I'm going to be able to do that. We had most of the guys on the team there; most of the single guys. I don't want to get the married guys in trouble. But the single guys hung out."

Details may be sketchy, but it's easy to imagine how much fun a group of millionaire athletes can find, especially in south Florida, the kind of place where a 7-foot NBA All-Star center

can be seen chasing down a hit-and-run driver at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Both teams know they should be in bed at that hour.

"If you want a ring," Bears receiver Bernard Berrian said, "you're going to avoid the distractions."

Few players on either roster have much experience with the Super Bowl scene. The Colts are in the game for the first time in 36 years, and the Bears made it for the first time in 21 years.

But Colts coach Tony Dungy said he was confident his team would avoid trouble.

(SEE BALANCE, PAGE B4)

"This is a week that you're not going to get to experience all the time. ... We've got to look at this as our time to do it now."

Tony Dungy
Colts coach on expecting his players to stay out of trouble this week

(SEE PROVE, PAGE B4)

Middle line-backer Brian Urlacher, an All-Pro performer, will direct the Bears' defense as it tries to stop the Colts and their no-huddle offense during Super Bowl XLI in Miami on Sunday.



AP PHOTO

Bears say they are ready for up-tempo no-huddle pace

By BARRY WILNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI

There's no hiding from the no-huddle at the Super Bowl.

And there's no fear of the no-huddle for the Chicago Bears.

They understand what they will face on Sunday. They know Peyton Manning will bring the Indianapolis Colts to the line of scrimmage almost immediately after

the previous play concludes, survey the scenery and choose a play that befuddles the defense.

Except the Bears won't panic, won't have their heads spinning and won't be gasping for air. They swear.

"I mean, it's just you don't get a chance to huddle up," cornerback Nathan Vasher said. "We have signals, other ways of getting different defenses. We don't have to just stay in the same defense when

they go no-huddle. I think that's a luxury we have as a defense, and we practice on that."

"This won't be the first no-huddle team we played this season, and I think we'll adjust to it well, just to go out and make plays."

The Bears will need to make those plays at times without being able to substitute. They'll have to adjust to the quick tempo Manning and his teammates covet. And, perhaps most daunting, they might

have to out-think Manning.

"He puts in the work, and it shows on the field," added the other starter at cornerback, Charles Tillman. "He knows what you're going to do before you actually do it. So you just have to try to disguise as much as you can and see if you can surprise him a couple of times."

The element of surprise often is eliminated by the element of

(SEE PACE, PAGE B4)