



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

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



• Ticket

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

the jealous looks of co-workers and friends.

The trip hasn't been easy for all of them.

A Greenwood couple didn't think they would be able to go until their granddaughters arranged for a ride and a place to stay for free. One fan didn't get his ticket until Monday.

But all have said the stress of planning the trip and whatever money they're spending is worth it.

After all, how often does your team make it to the Super Bowl?

A baker's dozen

Breakdown of cost
Game tickets: \$600 to \$3,600
Flight: \$500 each
Room: Free

Planning a last-minute trip to Miami is difficult enough, but planning for 13 people was a team effort.

The morning after the Colts beat the Patriots, Phil and Nancy Powell of Greenwood made a slew of phone calls to airlines, tailgating friends, and a friend in Fort Lauderdale to see how many people could fit into his house.

Within three days, they were set. The Powells and 11 friends they have tailgated for years are going to the Super Bowl.

"Where there's a will, there's a way. Any arrangements can be made if you want to go as much as we did," Phil Powell said.

The friends had talked about going for more than five years. Last year, they were already planning the trip to Detroit, but the Colts didn't make it to the big game.

This time, they weren't missing the opportunity.

"We said if they go to the Super Bowl, we're going," said John Auld, a Franklin insurance agent and season ticket holder for 23 years.

Their flight leaves Friday. They are staying at a friend's house in Fort Lauderdale. The house has beds and couches for 12, but they'll figure out where to put that last person, they said.

Most importantly, everyone has a ticket. Some paid face value. A few others paid as much as \$3,600, Powell said.

The last member got his ticket Monday.

"I said, 'Gosh, I can't believe I'm paying \$600 for a football game,' but then I see what other people are paying, and this is a deal," Auld said.

The trip meant spending thousands of dollars, calling off work and rearranging schedules.

But the expense is worth it, considering the game might be a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"In 23 more years, who knows where I'll be or what I'll be doing," said John Chiarotti, Franklin, who's had season tickets since 1984.

Plus, he was happy with the money he wouldn't have to spend, as much as \$1,000 a night for a hotel room and thousands more for tickets, if his name hadn't been drawn in the lottery.

But he can't say he wasn't tempted by an offer or two for the tickets he bought for \$600 apiece. One man offered him \$5,500 in cash for the pair.

"The guy showed me the cash,

and that made me think," he said.

But he wouldn't miss the opportunity.

"It's fun to watch them on TV, but there's nothing like being there for the thrill and excitement. You don't get there very often," he said.

Special gift

Breakdown of cost
Game tickets: \$1,200
Room: free
Gas, food and T-shirts: \$500 or more

Eighteen hours in the car with two 20-somethings will make for an interesting trip.

Betty and Bill Dawson are headed to Miami, thanks to an offer by their granddaughters to chauffeur them.

The Dawsons were happily surprised when they got a letter telling them they could buy Super Bowl tickets for \$600 each.

Betty Dawson wondered how they would afford a hotel and a flight. And she worried about maneuvering traffic and finding a parking space that would allow her and her husband, both in their 80s, to easily get to the stadium.

She considered not going and selling the tickets.

But her granddaughters weren't going to let that happen.

"I told her, 'This is your one opportunity.' They've been Colts fans forever," said Natasha Dawson, the Dawsons' granddaughter.

She and a cousin offered to drive the couple to Miami, found a place for them to stay for free and will drop them off at the game and pick them up.

Now, Betty Dawson said she is ready to go whenever her granddaughters call.

She is scrapping plans to reupholster two couches in their home, which would cost about the same as the tickets. And she has offered to let the girls drive their van and will pay for gas, food and a few T-shirts for family back home.

Staying with her granddaughters, who she knows are mostly interested in going to the beach, at the home of Natasha Dawson's boyfriend is going to be interesting, she said.

"This is just going to be a most interesting trip. It's once in a lifetime," Betty Dawson said.

Forever young

Breakdown of costs
Tickets: \$1,200
Flight: \$1,100
Room: Free

Betty Hite is nervous about the crowds, wonders how far from the stadium she will have to park and isn't looking forward to a night with little sleep.

At 70, Hite and her husband, Richard, of Whiteland, don't move as fast as they used to.

They arrive at Colts home games two hours early to be sure they can get a handicapped parking space. They don't take the stairs anymore.

Going to the Super Bowl would have been easier 20 years ago, but that's not stopping the Hites, Betty Hite said.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing to go to, and we've waited 23 years. It's like getting married," she said.

The Colts are the Hites' team. She decorated her home and herself in Colts regalia, even painting her fingernails blue.

They tell friends and family not to count on them showing up to any event on a Sunday during football season.

Her brother half-jokingly tells her she'd miss his funeral if it fell on a Colts game day.

After spending more than \$2,000 on plane tickets, a car rental and tickets to the game, a woman at church told her she was insane.

Hite doesn't care; she is ready for her once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It's not just something you read about or watched on TV, you get to go. It's a lot different if you're there," she said.

One lesson she's learned is that you can't wait until the last minute.

When the Colts beat the Patriots, Hite was too tired to start making calls for a trip to Miami.

Now, she regrets that decision. She ended up spending more than \$1,100 on plane tickets alone. The tickets were as much as \$200 cheaper the night before.

But the one thing she didn't do late was get her tickets. She's had season tickets since 1984 and remembers when they used to be a lot cheaper than the \$75 per game she pays now.

When she went and picked up her tickets downtown last week, she saw the scalpers outside and laughed.

"If you just jump on the bandwagon late, you don't have much of a chance," she said.

Living in luxury

Breakdown of costs
Tickets: Free
Hotel: \$450 per night
Flight: \$271 each

A Franklin man and his mother will have some of the best seats in the house when the Colts take on the Bears.

Andrew Cummins, of Franklin, and his mother, Carol Cummins, will sit in the Irsay family suite, hobnobbing with business owners and the man whose company name will be emblazoned on the new Colts stadium.

But hanging out with Forrest Lucas is nothing new for the Cummins family. Lucas is Carol Cummins' brother.

He got them the spots in the suite. And he helped them make their arrangements.

Lucas has introduced them to Colts players, including Peyton Manning, and Colts owner Jim Irsay in the past.

Carol Cummins feels star-struck and is a little nervous about watching the game in the suite. Andrew Cummins is on Cloud Nine.

"It's better than Christmas. It's like all of the holidays wrapped in one," he said.

He said he offered to pay for the tickets, but Lucas said no.

"He said, 'Andy, you can't afford these tickets,'" he said.

Lucas called Carol Cummins and offered her the tickets last week while she was shopping in Indianapolis.

"I went crazy and started making arrangements right there in the mall," she said.

The trip will be a family event. The two will be joined by father and husband, Larry Cummins, but he won't be going to the game. He offered the ticket to his son, instead.

Decked out and ready

Breakdown of costs
Ticket: \$600
Room: Free
Gas, food, beer: No clue

After hours of searching Web sites, a Franklin man was ready to

give up on his Super Bowl hopes.

Jared Cheema was trying to find a ticket at a reasonable price.

"I was wanting to spend \$1,500 for one, and I couldn't even find that," he said.

Instead, he found tickets for \$2,000, \$3,000 and more.

He started out confident he could get to the game in Miami. He hasn't missed a home game in five years and didn't even have season tickets. He was always able to get one from a friend or relative.

Tuesday night, Cheema got the call he'd been dreaming about. A friend's sister works in sales for the Colts and was able to get two tickets at face value.

He barely slept that night and started setting out his traditional Colts garb.

His outfit consists of a leisure suit he bought for \$5, oversized sunglasses, a large metal chain, rings and the newest addition, blue gator shoes.

Now, he just needs more money.

He's put some money down on his game ticket and is staying at a friend's house. He and three friends are driving to Miami.

He has no idea how much he'll spend on food, gas and beer. He considered getting a credit card, and now he's trying to get a loan.

"I don't care how long it takes me to pay it off," he said.

On the road

Breakdown of costs
Tickets: \$1,200
Parking: No problem
Post-game party: Priceless

As the temperature in Indianapolis reached into the 20s Wednesday, a Trafalgar couple were making their way into warm weather.

By 3 p.m., Barbara and Dennis Brownfield were in Tennessee, with temperatures in the 40s. By that evening, they could shed their coats and prepare for sunny skies.

The couple made a quick change in vacation plans this week, dropping a May vacation for a trip to the Super Bowl.

"This is our first winter vacation," Barbara Brownfield said.

Their son Skip, who is director of ticket sales for the Colts, got the couple tickets to Sunday's game for \$600 apiece. They couldn't pass up the opportunity, she said.

"We just felt like this was something we wanted to do," she said.

So, instead of going to Hilton Head Island, S.C., in May, they changed their vacation plans to a trip to Miami this week. They'll take the time to visit friends and go to the game with their son.

Their son is also making the game a little easier, another reason the two decided to go.

They will ride in one of 45 buses to the stadium, along with other friends and family members of the Colts and Colts staff, and be dropped off at the door. No traffic to maneuver, no parking fees that some have said are \$100 or more.

The couple also are invited to what they hope will be a victory party after the game on the beach.

After the game, they'll spend a few days in Florida, visiting friends and seeing the sights. Their first winter vacation is turning into one of their best.

"It's going to be great," Barbara Brownfield said.

REPORTERS'

NOTEBOOKS

Daily Journal staff report

A promise is a promise

When the Colts beat the Patriots, 7-year-old Sam Wilde bounded up the stairs announcing to his mom, "I get my horseshoe!"

A couple of months ago, Sam Wilde saw someone who had a Colts horseshoe shaved in his hair. His father made a deal with him: If the Colts made it to the Super Bowl, he could get one.

B. Expressive Salon hairstylist Tammy Mosson shaved the shape in the hair of the Clark Elementary School first-grader last week.

Sam Wilde's friends at school liked the horseshoe so much that one got one too, he said.

An avid Colts fan, Sam Wilde's bedroom is even decorated in Colts items.



Emma's owners dressed the dog in Colts gear for the Super Bowl.

The fuzziest little Colt

Emma could be the Colts' fuzziest fan.

The little dog was dressed in a Colts handkerchief and posed with a Peyton Manning jersey, pom-pom and other Colts gear in November for a beauty contest.

The dog belongs Joann Gantz's daughter, but the Center Grove Middle School English teacher took a photo to enter in an animal beauty contest at school to raise money for charity.

Gantz and her daughter took 50 to 60 photos of Emma before they settled on the perfect image, she said. Sadly, Emma did not win, she said.

A seat for the Colts

When friends joked to San Diego resident and Colts fan Susan Wian that the Colts horseshoe looks like a toilet seat, she decided to prove them right.

The former Nineveh resident decided to play a trick on a friend after the Chargers lost to the Patriots.

Wian swapped her friend's toilet seat for a homemade version painted blue and cut into a horseshoe shape.

She kept her prank quiet so her friend didn't discover his bathroom had been invaded by a Colts fan until he went to use it, she said.

— For the complete text of notebook items visit thejournalnet.com.



Biscuit and Quimby's owners help the dogs show their Colts spirit.

Doggy celebration

In one Greenwood house, two dogs can't help but be Colts fans.

Biscuit, a Pekingese, sports a Colts jersey, and Quimby, a Boston terrier, wore a Colts helmet Sunday for their first Colts photo shoot.

The dogs' owner, Mike Alexander, dressed the dogs in the Colts just for fun, Missy Alexander, his wife, said.

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• Boosters

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

drive to Miami.

But she isn't going for the game.

She's doing a favor for her grandparents.

Dawson's grandparents, Bill and Betty Dawson of Greenwood, are going to the Super Bowl. But they almost skipped the trip because of concerns of how they would get there and where they would stay.

Natasha Dawson knew what to do.

She called her boyfriend in Miami and asked for a favor. She recruited her cousin from LaFontaine. She talked to her professors at IUPUI about missing a few classes.

Now, she's headed to Florida with her grandparents to guarantee they won't miss the once-in-a-lifetime chance to cheer on their team at the Super Bowl.

"I'd love to go to the game; but at the same time, I am so happy they get to go," she said.

She and her cousin will take turns driving their grandparents' van on the trip. They will stay in her boyfriend's apartment for free.

She's making sure her grandparents, who are both in their 80s, can easily get around at the stadium. She doesn't want them to walk too far and she wants them to be able to take an elevator, and not the stairs.

"I would worry about my 80-year-old grandparents alone in downtown Miami," she said.

Her trip isn't completely selfless. She does get some extra time with her boyfriend of three years, whom she met online.

And she's definitely packing her bathing suit.

Not missing out

Larry Cummins likes to watch football on television.

He can see all the players, and he doesn't have to deal with crowds and traffic.

So, when his family got two tickets to the Super Bowl, he was glad to offer up his seat to his son.

"I'm not really missing out, I'll still be watching. I'll be there in spirit," Cummins said.

He's still making the trip to Miami with his wife and son, staying in a hotel and planning to attend as many Colts events as possible.

His brother-in-law, Forrest Lucas, who offered the family two

seats in the Irsay family suite, also will be taking them to events around town during the weekend.

On game day, Cummins said he will be happy to lounge around in his hotel room watching the game.

Cummins' wife, Carol, said it's no different than race days in Indianapolis.

Carol and her son Andrew go to Indianapolis, fight the traffic and crowds, and Larry stays home.

He's been to big sporting events, such as the World Series in the 1970s, and said it was something he will always remember. He wants his son to be able to say that to his children.

"I've been to some of those big things before, and I wanted to give him the opportunity. Those things only happen every so often," Cummins said.

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