



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

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



MORWICK IN MIAMI

Connecting with the Colts

Getting to know team changes way fans watch games

By Sarah Lipps

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
slipps@thejournalnet.com

Holding the ball for the kicker is not a high-profile part of a football game.

And Linda Hillman hadn't thought all that much about it until she met punter Hunter Smith.

In September, the Colts player visited Community Church of Greenwood, where she is director of the women's ministry.

Smith and his wife, Jennifer, spoke. He also played worship songs with his band Connorsvine.

The connection he made to Hillman and others in the congregation has lasted.

Now that the team is headed to the Super Bowl, those who have met Colts players say they feel like they have even more at stake while watching the game.

Hillman said she has always been a football fan. She was on her college athletic board and has always watched the Colts on television.

She had lunch with the couple before they came to the church and listened to Jennifer Smith speak.

The Hunters are active in their church in Carmel and spoke separately to the men and women at the Greenwood church.

"They were so genuine, and I really enjoyed listening to (Jennifer Smith) speak. It seems like they have a wonderful marriage and family, and they are dedicated to their service and the opportunity they have to serve by the position he holds," Hillman said.

Now, when she watches football, she keeps an eye out for the man holding down the ball for place kicks and punting away from the opposition.

During the Super Bowl, she will track her favorite player, she said.

Riding the roller coaster

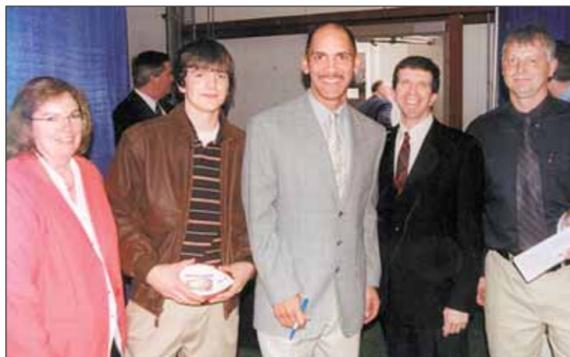
Associate pastor Thom Hord has met several Colts players who have spoken at the church.

"You have a connection to them when you hear their life story, when you hear what hurts them and what makes them happy, the emotional highs and lows, and you ride the emotional



Above: Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy played a board game with Tyler Genneken on Oct. 27 at Riley Hospital for Children. Genneken will be at the Super Bowl on Sunday. Below: Andrew Cummins, second

from right, has met several Colts players, including Dungy and Peyton Manning. From left are Genny Lucas, Kyle Lucas, Tony Dungy, Cummins and Mike Lucas after announcing the name of the Colts' new stadium.



roller coaster with them," Hord said.

Whether the players would remember him or not doesn't matter, he said. He can't help but watch them more closely on the field.

Spending time with coach

Center Grove fifth-grader Tyler Genneken is widely known for his love of football.

The 11-year-old's bedroom is a tribute to Trojan red and white.

His parents keep a journal on a Web site to track the treatment

for his battle with leukemia.

On the site are pictures of the day Colts coach Tony Dungy stopped by to see him at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

The two played board games and Genneken wished good luck to his favorite player, Marvin Harrison.

Genneken will be at the Super Bowl, thanks to a donation from Sam's Club.

As he watches the game, he will have a connection to the team.

"I think, hey, we played 'Operation' together," he said of coach Dungy.

Links to speedway

Franklin resident Andrew Cummins has met several Colts players.

He said it has made a difference in how he watches the games.

His uncle is Forrest Lucas of Lucas Oil, which sponsors a car at the Indianapolis 500.

At the 2004 race, he met Colts linemen Rick DeMulling (now with Detroit), Jeff Saturday and Ryan Diem.

Lucas later announced he would purchase the naming rights to the future home of the Colts.

Cummins has also met Peyton Manning and Coach Tony Dungy.

The players are all down to earth. Manning is funny and energetic, he said.

"When it comes down to it on Sunday, I will be ... cheering and knowing that he has the same respect for the game that the fans do," he said.

Day in reporter's life: Interviews, interviews, interviews and sun

MIAMI

Today, I'll spare you the weather update (even though it's sunny, cloudless and about 80 degrees in Miami Beach as noon approaches) and get to the point.

Folks are gearing up for a pretty big event down here, and it's only three days away.

It seems like a month.

The hype machine has been in overdrive since the Colts and Bears made the big show, and it's not slowing down a bit.

Today's routine is much the same: Player interviews, player interviews, and more player interviews.

Tomorrow's routine?

Player interviews, player interviews and more player interviews. Had enough?

Didn't think so.

Once the obvious story lines have been visited (and revisited and revisited and revisited), the best thing about the Super Bowl buildup is the revelation of interesting detail that otherwise might not surface during the course of the regular season.

For example, it's no secret Tony Dungy is a man of deep Christian faith. But so are many of his players, and several have spoken openly about that this week.

Here's what some have said:

• Offensive tackle Tarik Glenn: "(I want to) give Jesus all the credit of why I'm here. It is so important to me, because I feel that all of this is a platform to get out testimony to all of those who wonder what makes us tick and what makes us go."

"I thank the good Lord for giving me the talent and the ability to be able to do this, and more importantly, just to know that he's blessed me with the stewardship off all of these accolades."

"When you look at it, this is the 41st Super Bowl, and not too many people get to this point. We have to do something with it now that we're here, and that's just a blessing in itself."

• Tight end Dallas Clark: "You try to keep (your life and career) balanced. The Lord has definitely put you in the right place at the right time, and things happen for a reason. No matter how many failures that we thought were failures, it makes the reward that much greater."

"(Using the Super Bowl as a platform for faith) is great. It's so important, especially with the kids these days, with peer pressure and everything they have to put up with these days. It's tough to do your thing these days, or do something that's maybe not as popular, to do the right thing."

"It's great to be here and just understand that good guys can finish (first) and to realize the bigger picture at the end."

• Linebacker Gary Brackett: "(Faith's impact on his life) is huge. I think that faith plays a big role in my decision-making."

"Some of the things I might have done when I didn't have as much faith, I don't know. I know

what the circumstances (are) and know what I'm up against."

Peyton's commercials

On another note, ever wonder what teammates — and some of the Chicago Bears — think about Peyton Manning's quirky and oft-hilarious TV commercials?

Here's what some say:

• Colts center Jeff Saturday: "My favorite one would be the laser-rocket arm. That was my favorite one. I loved the wig and the 'stache. He did a pretty good job with it."

"The first time I saw it, it was a Monday night game. I sent him a text (message). He does a good job in all the commercials."

• Bears cornerback Charles Tillman: "Actually, I think they are funny. When he goes, 'They're not booing, they're saying, Mooovers,' that's my favorite one. I think Peyton has worked real hard for the success that he's had, and he's deserved everything he's gotten."

"If every time you turn on the TV and see his face in commercials, that just goes to show how hard he's worked, and it's paying off."

• Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher: "I'm a big fan of his commercials. I think he does a real good job with his acting. I like his stuff."

Irsay speaks

Another topic broached earlier during Super Bowl week was Colts owner Jim Irsay's past addiction to painkillers.

Irsay was open and spoke at length in his first in-depth public comments about beating his addiction. Here's what he said:

"When you go through something like that, it's a very personal journey, but I don't mind discussing it some. The main thing is that you have to admit that you have a problem, and you have to seek out the right help for it. And I think in our society, it gets stigmatized. If you have colon cancer or diabetes, it's viewed as kind of heroic. And (drug addiction) isn't really looked at as an illness and a disease."

"The important part is that people need not be ashamed. They have to address it very seriously, because it can be a fatal disease. It's not something you go around talking about all the time, because it's a lifelong thing. It's something you deal with every day for the rest of your life."

"But for me, it's been tremendous. Because when you overcome a potentially fatal disease, it gives you such gratitude. It gives you a lot of humility, and you root for others who have to go through it, because sometimes it's tough in the public eye to have to go through that sort of thing."

"A lot of times people won't seek help because they're worried that they'll be stigmatized their whole life and that it will be viewed as a weakness. People think it's a weakness, that it's not an illness."

"It's an illness, and it kills people, and I'm not stronger than someone else who didn't make it. That's the misconception, that you have to be strong in character to overcome it. And that's not the way it works."

"It's kind of a hard thing to completely communicate to someone unless you spend a little more time."

REPORTERS'

NOTEBOOKS

Daily Journal staff report

Entertaining Hoosiers

Jojo and Rodelo Carandang grew up in Greenwood, attending Our Lady of the Greenwood and Center Grove High School. The brothers independently made their ways to sunny South Beach in Miami.

Jojo Carandang has lived in Miami for 18 years, Rodelo Carandang for 10. The brothers return to see family regularly, mostly during the holidays.

With the Colts in the Super Bowl, Indiana has come to them.

Jojo Carandang is seeing more Hoosiers around the city in Colts gear as game day nears.

Both brothers will host family and friends heading for the game or at least to enjoy the festive atmosphere while the Colts play. Exact arrangements have not been finalized, but the brothers plan to host at least a half-dozen guests.

The Colts in the game is just another occasion for family to

drop in on the brothers, though Rodelo Carandang describes it as "the best possible excuse."

Few fail to be charmed by their coastal city.

"I loved Indiana, but I left as soon as I realized I didn't have to suffer through the winter," Rodelo Carandang said. "It's not so much the snow, it's that it takes two weeks to melt."

Both brothers have followed the Colts on and off over the years. Both were excited to see their childhood home team advance to the Super Bowl.

Football was flying

Colts hoopla and actual hula hoops were flying in the kindergarten classrooms of Aly Pinnick and Julie Dawson on Friday.

The Creekside Elementary School teachers had a football finale to finish the Colts-related lessons they have been doing with the students throughout the year.

The Franklin students played games that tied academics and football such as "1-2-3 write,"

which is meant to sound like what quarterbacks shout before the center hikes the ball.

In this game, children would race to the board to write words the class is working on with a consonant, vowel, and consonant sound such as hug, rug or mat.

The class also had just-for-fun games such as "Football Fumble" a game where students lined up and passed paper footballs by clothespins into a basket. The line with the most paper footballs in their basket at the end of the game won.

Reserve your barstool

Super Bowl viewers can reserve a spot for the game inside the 21-and-older section at southside Applebee's restaurants for a fee.

For \$5 for a bar stool and \$10 for a table, fans can have a spot held for them from 6 p.m. until closing at the Franklin restaurant on U.S. 31, the Greenwood restaurant at the Greenwood Park Mall and the Center Grove restaurant on State Road 135.

The bar stool reservation comes

with a 23-ounce domestic beer and 10-piece chicken wing order.

Tables for four come with a pitcher of domestic beer and a 20-piece chicken wing order.

Plenty of reservations were still available at the Franklin restaurant and limited bar and table seats were open at the Greenwood and Center Grove locations on Thursday.

City throws Colts party

Greenwood city government employees are throwing a tailgate party today in support of the Indianapolis Colts.

The public is invited to the event from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the fire station at 155 E. Main St.

The Greenwood Community High School pep band will perform, and city departments will compete for the best decorated booth. Mayor Charles Henderson will be the judge.

Refreshments will be served.

Web extra: For the complete text of notebook items visit thejournalnet.com.

DAILY JOURNAL READERS' GUIDE

MAIN PHONE NUMBER

736-7101

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

ADDRESS

2575 N. Morton St. (U.S. 31)
P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131

DELIVERY, BILLING QUESTIONS

736-2777; (888) 736-7101

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday,
7 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Subscribers should call if they have not received a newspaper by 7 a.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

736-2700; (888) 736-7101

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Fax: 736-2754

STORY IDEAS, NEWS TIPS

736-2712

After 5 p.m.: 736-2723
Fax: 736-2766
newstips@thejournalnet.com

SPORTS

Send sports scores, stories and suggestions to:
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

ADVERTISING

736-2786

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Fax: 736-2713

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699,
Franklin, IN 46131
Periodical Class Postage
Paid at Franklin, IN
Daily Journal (USPS 565-520)

VOLUME

Volume 44, No. 171

BACK ISSUES, DIGITAL PHOTOS

Copies of the Daily Journal are available for six months. Digital files of photos published in the newspaper are available on CDs. Please call 736-7101.

COPYRIGHT

© The Daily Journal, 2007
All rights reserved.

ABOUT THE DAILY JOURNAL

The Daily Journal is an award-winning newspaper published daily except Sundays and Christmas at 2575 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Founded in 1963, the Daily Journal is owned by Home News Enterprises L.L.C. and is one of Indiana's most widely recognized and honored community newspapers.

The Daily Journal is committed to responsible reporting, professional business practices and dedicated community service.

The newspaper is a member of the Associated Press, Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Certified Audit of Circulations.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscription rates are listed below. To subscribe, call 736-2777.

Single copy

Monday-Friday \$.50
Weekend issue \$ 1.00

Home delivery

Month \$ 10.40
Year \$ 118.80

Mail delivery

4 months \$ 49.00
8 months \$ 98.00
12 months \$ 147.00

Student

1 semester \$ 47.00
2 semesters \$ 96.00

Military

4 months \$ 42.00
8 months \$ 80.00
12 months \$ 113.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131
letters@thejournalnet.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Publisher
Jeffrey W. Owen 736-2744
jowen@thejournalnet.com

Editor

Scarlett Syse 736-2749
syse@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor
Michele Holtkamp-Frye 736-2774
mholtkamp@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor
Jennifer L. Gaskin 736-2721
jgaskin@thejournalnet.com

Circulation director
Mike Warren 736-2711
mwarren@thejournalnet.com

Delivery manager
Bruce Powell 736-2702
bpowell@thejournalnet.com

Advertising director

Christina Cosner 736-2750
ccosner@thejournalnet.com

Administrative manager

Linda Wirey 736-2751
lwirey@thejournalnet.com

Information technology manager

Kathy McDermott 736-2782
kmcdermott@thejournalnet.com

PAYMENTS

Payments can be made by cash, check, MasterCard or Visa. Readers also can sign up for E-Z Pay plan and have their monthly subscriptions deducted automatically from their checking accounts, Visa or MasterCard. Direct questions about payments to 736-7101.

WEB SITES

www.thejournalnet.com
www.djclassifieds.com