



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

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REPORTERS
NOTEBOOKS

Making his own Colts shirt

Finding a 3x-sized Colts shirt didn't seem like it would be too hard for Greenwood resident Ken Backmeyer. After all, that's the size Colts player Jeff Saturday wears.



Greenwood resident Ken Backmeyer had this shirt created.

After scouring several stores, even a Big and Tall store, Backmeyer couldn't find anything that fit. So Backmeyer came up with another idea: Why not have one made with his own design?

He went to West Coast Airbrush in Greenwood Park Mall, which had 3x shirts. Now he has a Colts shirt for the Super Bowl unlike any other.

The air-brushed sweat shirt shows a blue-and-white colt kicking a brown bear in the behind, leaving horseshoe prints on the bear.

Backmeyer even requested the artist put the bear "in the woods," he said.

Buying the air they breathe

Anything that says Colts or Manning is a hot commodity in the days leading up to the Super Bowl.

Even a jar of air from the RCA Dome is worth something.

A Greenwood resident is auctioning a jar of air from the RCA Dome on eBay.com. Bids started at \$5.25 Friday and reached \$12.50 by Monday.

The seller's Web site exclaims: "I am selling a ONE OF A KIND jar of air. ... THE SAME air that the Indianapolis Colts, Champions of the AFC 2006, breathe!!!"

Colts and Bears items are numerous on the online selling place, but Bears items outnumber the Colts.

A search of "Indianapolis Colts" on eBay brought up 7,091 items Monday. "Chicago Bears" fans could choose from 15,404 items.

Peyton Manning beats Bears quarterback Rex Grossman by a long shot, though.

Colts fans could browse through 8,840 Manning goods Monday, while only 1,667 items popped up with a "Rex Grossman" search.

Supporting the Colts

Sunday the Colts are going to flush the Bears: At least that's what employees at Plumbers Supply Co. in Franklin hope.

They even set up a display by the entrance with a stuffed toy bear sticking out of a toilet, show-room consultant Julie Pinson said.

Using the store's products, employees decorated and posted signs to support the team.

One sign in the store says: "Cook Bear stew in your new kitchen."

Friday the store will host a Colts tailgating party 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., complete with "bear burgers," "bear hot dogs" and "bear chili," Pinson said.

Impressing the president

Though he might not be saying which team he's rooting for, President Bush said he was impressed with the Colts' play and that this might be their year.

The president spoke fondly of the Colts, their quarterback and coach at Camp David last week.

During a Republican retreat in Maryland on Friday, the president was greeted by a group of blue-and-white jerseys. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence's wife sneaked the clothing into the formal event and divided them out to the couple's three children.

In his blog Friday, Pence, who represents Blue River, Hensley and Nineveh townships in Johnson County, said the president was delighted with the jerseys and support for the Colts.

"OK, Pence, all right, the Colts. It might be their year," Bush told Pence.

— Stories by Candace Beaty and Annie Geoller; Submitted photo



Risha DeLawter shows her support for the Indianapolis Colts during a sendoff rally for the football team in downtown Indianapolis on Monday. The Colts arrived in Miami on Monday night and will take on the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI on Sunday.



MORWICK IN MIAMI

Sights, sounds of Super Bowl greet visitor

MIAMI

Oh, the miracle of modern travel.

One minute you're freezing, the next you're cranking up the AC.

When I got up this morning at the cruel hour of 4:30 a.m. to get ready for my 7:20 a.m. flight, central Indiana was like central Antarctica. It was dark, windy and intolerably cold.

For that reason, I didn't want to forego a coat; then again, I didn't want to lug it around when I got off the plane.

So I compromised with a light denim jacket.

It was a wise choice. When I boarded the plane bound for south Florida around 7 a.m., it was still dark and bitter cold.

I sat at the front, where the door was left open through the entire boarding process. At that point I regretted the light denim. The flight attendant didn't look any warmer in her considerably heavier winter coat.

But roughly 20 minutes later, we were airborne, staring down at misty, frost-covered fields and dozens of ice-covered ponds and lakes.

Here's where the miracle of modern travel really hits home.

Within another half-hour, my denim light jacket felt heat-insulated. About an hour later, it was time to lose it altogether.

After gliding in over the warm Atlantic and tops of palm trees, we were on the ground in sunny Miami.

The weather wasn't exactly tropical, but you wouldn't know it by how the airport workers were bundled up: heavy coats, mufflers, winter gloves. It gave me quite a scare.

Yes, 60 degrees is a cold spell in these parts.

For me, it was a blast of warm relief. And when I saw all the billboards, posters and placards in and around Miami International, it reminded me why I'm here.

There's a rather big game in town Sunday, and the Indianapolis Colts are at the heart of it. You don't have to travel far to see evidence of that.

Driving south (with the AC on, albeit on low) on Interstate 95 into downtown Miami, the Super Bowl XLI logo is everywhere. It's even emblazoned on the credit card-looking thing that's actually my hotel room key. The message is the same: Welcome Colts and Bears.

And welcome fans. I don't know how many are here yet, but I'm sure I'll see evidence soon enough. Stay tuned.

It's going to be quite the party at South Beach, and it's only just begun.

It takes a whole city to prepare for game

Miami will host 3,500 media personal for Super Bowl

By RICK MORWICK
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MIAMI

Did you know there are four convention centers in Miami?

No wonder the NFL has an affinity for the city beyond the temperate climate.

It takes a lot of space to host the Super Bowl, and Miami, which already has hosted nine of the big games, has plenty of it, for the media as well as fans.

About 3,500 media personnel from around the globe have swooped in for Super Bowl XLI. Most are in town for the entire week leading up to Sunday's game.

And all are headquartered at the Miami Beach Convention Center, where the NFL has requisitioned a sizable chunk of the sprawling facility as a workplace for the thousands of print, radio and TV journalists who are staying at eight designated media hotels in and around Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

On the surface, the numbers seem like overkill. But with a global audience of about 1 billion, the Super Bowl, according to the NFL, is the most-watched single-day sporting event in the world.

It can't be over hyped. Or if it can, the week-long amount of resources and energy expended on the build-up doesn't reflect it.

For proof, one can look no further than the main entrance of media headquarters.

An area at least the size of a football field is designated "Radio Row." But it's more like "Radio Corral."

Scores of broadcast tables for radio sta-



Workers move tables as they prepare for the onslaught of journalists covering the Super Bowl inside the media center at the Miami Beach Convention Center on Sunday in Miami Beach, Fla. This convention center is one of four in Miami making room to host the Super Bowl.

tions from across the country and around the world dot the expanse.

English-speaking and foreign-language journalists broadcast throughout the day, providing a steady stream of updates or analysis or a combination of both to listeners around the world.

But "Radio Row" isn't the only hub of activity.

In other large rooms adjacent to the radio

area, print journalists continue to type away on deadline.

Television crews film live and taped feeds, all in a simultaneous frenzy of information assimilation for a game that, in light of the size and scope of its audience, is truly worthy of the name "Super Bowl."

It seems like it takes a super global effort to cover it and certainly takes a lot of space.



Web extra: Visit our Colts section at thejournalnet.com for photos, stories and blogs.

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