



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

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



Tyler Genneken, center, and his father, Drew Genneken, hold a football signed by students at West Grove Elementary School in the Center Grove area. Genneken and his father are headed to Miami, Fla., to watch the Super Bowl. At left is Rusty Redenbacher, the lead singer of Mudkicks, a band that performed at the school.



MORWICK IN MIAMI

Big rewards, sunny weather make Miami worth it for players

MIAMI

Sorry, but after three days, it's still funny to hear Miamians complaining about a cold snap.

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

That's what one local called it on this morning's bus ride to another round of news conferences at the Colts' plush hotel in Fort Lauderdale.

Daily Journal sports editor Rick Morwick arrived in Miami on Monday. He'll bring you all the hoopla that is Super Bowl XLI.

Each player on the winning team pockets \$73,000 whether he takes the field or not. A \$5,000 ring is included in the prize package. The NFL buys 150 for the winning team.

The losing payout's not bad, either.

Those guys get \$38,000 per player and a piece of jewelry worth roughly half of what the winning rings cost. That should soothe the agony of defeat somewhat.

No doubt it's a rough life, but somebody's got to live it.

Circus over

Day 3 of the circus ended at noon.

In a scene considerably more compact but no less frenetic than Tuesday's mass media event at Dolphin Stadium, Wednesday's news conferences were conducted in a large tent-like shelter just outside the Colts' hotel (the Bears conducted theirs earlier in the morning at digs in Miami that, word on the street has it, are far less swanky than the Colts' accommodations).

Players were again scattered at various locales, with the most high-profile perched at podiums around the shelter.

The lesser-knowns simply sat at tables, looking bored, reading papers or chatting among themselves, waiting for someone, anyone, to interview them.

If you wanted an intimate one-on-one with Rocky Boiman or Tyjaun Hagler, this was your big chance (few took advantage).

An hour later, when Tuesday's redundant questions — and the ones from the day before and the ones from the day before that — were asked again, the session ended.

Players went back to paradise, and reporters were herded onto Greyhound buses and shipped back to the Miami Beach media center about an hour's drive away.

Trust me, it's not paradise. But I will bring up the weather again:

It beats where you are.

A fitting send-off

11-year-old treated to rally before heading to Super Bowl

By SARAH LIPPS  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
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His principal calls him a mini celebrity. "Tyler!" "Tyler!" "Tyler!"

His name echoed off the walls at the West Grove Elementary gym Wednesday.

Leukemia treatments prevent 11-year-old Tyler Genneken from being able to go to school.

Most of the children hadn't seen the fifth grader all year.

But on Wednesday, Tyler was able to see his friends at a special assembly.

The event was part Colts pep-rally and part send-off for Tyler, who is now the school's special representative headed to the Super Bowl.

Being with Tyler was good because the students got to see their friend in good spirits, Principal Debra Duncan said.

The afternoon was also good for Tyler, who wouldn't admit it, but liked the enthusiasm from his friends, his father said.

Sam's Club is sending the entire Genneken family to Miami.

Tyler and his father, Drew Genneken, will get to see the game from the third row of Dolphin stadium.

As Tyler prepares for his trip, he is finding that his family will be ambassadors for central Indiana.

"He's not a star and was looking forward to



Tyler Genneken, 11, was honored with a rally at West Grove Elementary School on Wednesday. Genneken is headed for Miami, Fla., with his father to watch the Indianapolis Colts vs. the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl.

one day being just one of the crowd," his father said.

Tyler's style is to be the quiet man, to do his job and stay out of the limelight, like his hero, Marvin Harrison.

But it tickles him that his friends care so much about him, Drew Genneken said.

"He will be grinning for the rest of the day," he said.

At the school, hundreds of students cheered for the Colts while they waved their arms to the team's theme song, "Go Blue" by Indianapolis band Mudkicks.

They also gave Tyler a football-shaped poster signed by all of the students.

"This is all of our good wishes to the Colts," Duncan told Tyler. "Please take it with you to Miami."

The poster is one of the items the family will take with them representing their neighbors and friends.

A medallion given to Tyler by a deputy mayor of the city of Indianapolis, hats, posters, Colts items and the good wishes of hundreds of others also are being sent with the family.

Tyler and the Gennekens are now representatives of West Grove, Center Grove and Indianapolis in Miami.

"We are glad to do it. We know how lucky we are to go," his father said.

They are even going to try to get the memorabilia they are toting signed by the team any way they can, his father said.

"Joyce gets to go to a players wives' luncheon. Maybe we can get some in that way," Drew Genneken said of his wife.

Tyler said he understands his responsibility as an ambassador. But he is sort of in shock by the reaction of all of his friends and everyone else.

"This is weird," he said with a shy smile.

Irsay pledges \$1M toward Indy's 2011 Super Bowl bid

By TOM DAVIES  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

More than a dozen construction cranes operated high overhead at the concrete shell of the Indianapolis Colts' new stadium Wednesday, while just blocks away city leaders announced their drive to bring in a Super Bowl.

City officials had talked for more than two years about perhaps bidding for the 2011 Super Bowl as plans progressed toward building the \$675 million retractable-roof stadium. The formal announcement let officials make their pitch amid the buzz surrounding the Colts trip to Miami for Sunday's NFL title game.

Organizers plan to showcase the city's experience with other large sporting events, from the Indianapolis 500 to the NCAA men's basketball Final Four, to

"I will make every effort I can. The organization will make every effort we can to deliver this for Indiana and Indianapolis."

Jim Irsay

Colts owner on how he will work to get Indianapolis chosen for the 2011 Super Bowl

offset being a snow-belt city.

"We know how to do this," Mayor Bart Peterson said. "We will do this right. We will have the best bid."

Colts owner Jim Irsay spoke by satellite hookup from Miami with those at the announcement ceremony, pledging \$1 million toward what city officials expect will be \$25 million needed to host the Super Bowl.

Irsay said he would work aggressively

with the city to win over NFL owners when they make their site selection this spring.

"I will make every effort I can," he said. "The organization will make every effort we can to deliver this for Indiana and Indianapolis."

Peterson and Irsay will be joined by Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner Tony George as co-chairmen of the bid committee. Indianapolis attorney Fred Glass, who led the city's negotiations on a new 30-year stadium lease with the Colts, will be the group's president.

Dallas-area officials launched an effort in November for the 2011 game, with previous Super Bowl hosts Phoenix and New Orleans mentioned as other possible bidders.

"I think it is really going to come down to us and Dallas, where, by the way, it's

snowing today," Glass said after Wednesday's announcement.

"We're not competing against San Diego. We're not competing against Miami. The NFL has shown it is willing to go to cold-weather cities when they have domes, particularly new domes. I think we stack up real well against Dallas."

The city, which lost out to Minneapolis for the 1992 game, has until April 2 to formally submit a bid. The process includes securing 27,000 hotel rooms, finding locations for dozens of events and outlining how to accommodate fans and media attending.

The 32 NFL team owners likely will choose the location for the 2011 game at their meeting May 21-23 in Nashville, Tenn. The Super Bowl has been in a northern city only three times in its 41-year history, and the next three are in Florida or Arizona.



Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, on screen, discusses the 2011 Super Bowl during a news conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, right, and Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, lower left, listen.

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