

ROAD TO THE SUPER BOWL



Super Bowl XLI: Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears
 Time: 6 p.m. Sunday TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM



MORWICK IN MIAMI

Coping with blue Monday

Businesses, schools anticipate slow day following big game

By Sarah Lipps

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You might go hoarse. You might get overexcited. You might end up really, really tired.

But you'll still probably have to go to school or work the next day.

Several private schools are canceling class and one Indianapolis business has called off work for the day after Sunday's Super Bowl between the Indianapolis Colts and the Chicago Bears.

But not all employers and educators can shut down because of the game. The keys to keeping things going are to make lessons lively and give students and employees a chance to talk about the game, experts said.

The kickoff for the game is 6:25 p.m. Post-game TV shows likely won't end until about 11 p.m.

"Employers should expect a case of the Mondays amplified," said Dawn Lively, an account manager at Tilson HR, which specializes in employee issues such as payroll and benefits.

People will be tired and sluggish. At the same time, employees who have access to e-mail will be sending messages to family, friends and co-workers about the game, she said.

Productivity will suffer.

One study by Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. says that Indianapolis workers are expected

to cost their employers \$2.5 million for every 10 minutes of lost productivity in planning parties and discussing the Super Bowl beforehand.

When it comes to the morning after, coffee and doughnuts will help, Lively said.

"Having an 8:30 to 9 a.m. 'get-together to talk about it' session might cut down on the idle chatter," she said.

Another suggestion is for a company to consider having a later start time on Monday to let employees recover.

But many companies, such as factories and other industrial plants, can't shut down or adjust shifts.

Also, people who operate heavy machinery need enough sleep to be safe around the equipment, Lively said. In that case, employees need to make sure they exercise good judgment.

"There is still the responsibility of the employee to come to the job in a condition they can work in," she said.

This would be a good time for employers to review their call-in and attendance procedures, Lively said.

Employers should be ready to operate with minimum staffing. Employees should remember that everyone is in the same boat and on the same team.

"I would hope they wouldn't say, 'I hope Jimmy and Johnny and

Janey can just handle it without me,'" she said.

At Monarch Beverage Co. in Indianapolis, company officials were concerned about the number of people who had requested half-days and full days off for Monday.

Rather than have to deal with discipline issues if employees called in or worry how they were going to fill orders for the day, company officials just closed the operation altogether.

All employees will have a paid holiday. The company has never given its workers an unplanned holiday before.

"We have received thank-you notes and e-mails and all kinds of genuine thanks from people," said Natalie Roberts, vice president of human resources.

The company decided to use the day as a way to say thank-you for all of the extra orders that have had to be filled in recent weeks due to the playoff games and the Super Bowl, Roberts said.

More than 21,300 students at Catholic schools in the Indianapolis archdiocese will have the day off from school on Monday.

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein canceled class for the central and southern Indiana schools so children could spend family time cheering on the local team, said Rob Rash, an associate director with the archdiocese.

Public schools in Johnson County will deal with sleepy students by making lessons as hands-on and Colts-related as possible, several principals said.

"We have seen that several times during the playoffs. Students come in wearing their jerseys and excited about the game, but they are tired," said Custer Baker Middle School principal Pam Millikan.

At Clark-Pleasant Middle School, math teacher Teresa Campbell has a Super Bowl-themed lesson to get the students involved.

Her students each made predictions about who will win the game and what the final score will be. While they watch the game, they have a scavenger hunt of items to watch for.

Each student must pay attention to what the score was at the end of each quarter, which quarterback had the most passing yards and which running back had the most rushing yards.

They will record any statistics flashed on the screen about the game and use a clock to track the number of actual minutes the halftime lasts.

Points are also given for tracking which player has the shortest and longest name, who is the tallest, smallest, oldest, youngest, heaviest, lightest and highest jersey number.

Players take center ring during media circus; Yankees enjoy weather

MIAMI

The circus is over. Or at least Tuesday's part of it.

By 1:30 p.m., the Bears and Colts had answered every conceivable question, relevant, irrelevant and everything in between, that could be asked about the Super Bowl.

Players left nothing on the podium, so to speak. In solid one-hour sessions, they gave it everything they had.

But here's guessing it wasn't enough.

In fact, I know it wasn't, which is why the scene, in slightly different forms, will be repeated the next day, and the next and the next, right up to Super Bowl Sunday.

Who says this game is over-hyped? Maybe it is. But, hey, that's part of its charm.

It's not the "Big Bowl." It's not the "Large Bowl." It's not the "Extra Large Bowl" or even the "Really, Really Big Bowl."

It's got the best name you can possibly get for a football game. It's Super Bowl.

It's worthy of super coverage. And that's exactly what it gets.

For proof, consider: When Tuesday's media sessions ended, it took well more than a dozen full-size Greyhound buses to shuttle reporters back from Dolphin Stadium to the media center.

That's a lot of press. And no doubt the Colts and Bears were relieved to see it split so they could tend to a tiny detail: practice for Sunday's game.

Be patient. It's only five days away.

Five more days to read, watch and hear everything about the Super Bowl you ever wanted to know about the Super Bowl but were afraid to ask.

That's what we, the media horde, are here for.

We're not afraid of anything, except missing a deadline or an angle.

Heat wave to a Hoosier

The locals call it a "cold front." I call it a heat wave.

Temperatures peaked in the mid-60s on Monday afternoon, which compelled area residents to break out winter coats, hooded sweat shirts, gloves and long sleeves.

Though sunny and largely

cloudless, temperatures are expected to reach no higher than 70 in the next few days.

A shuttle driver explained it this way: "A cold front moved in this week, and it's supposed stay like this all week."

Driving by palm trees and massive cruise ships lined up in a harbor, my internal reply was, "Bring it on!"

If this constitutes a cold front, who needs the tropics?

It's all what you're used to, I know.

Security at Super Bowl

Tuesday was the first day the Colts and Bears arrived at Dolphin Stadium, site of Super Bowl XLI.

A great many of the 3,500 media contingent were packed into buses early in the morning and shipped off to the stadium, which is roughly a 30-minute trip from the Miami Beach Convention Center, which serves as media headquarters.

It is here, at the stadium, where the term "media circus" isn't cliché. It's reality.

It starts when you step off the bus.

Reporters, camera crews and everyone with a bag and media badge are herded through a security procedure that almost makes the airport seem easy.

No one is exempt.

All bags and equipment are dropped off in a collective pile to be searched and scanned. Police with substance-sniffing dogs roam the area while reporters, placing all personal metal objects into containers, walk through an airport-type metal detector.

A few minutes later, you get your bag back, and you're on your way.

Next stop is inside the stadium, where the Bears and Colts conduct interviews throughout the morning.

This is the real circus part. No less than 1,000 media types descend on the field, where players perched on elevated podiums answer no less than a thousand questions (and probably a lot more) for nearly an hour.

The warming sun casts a bright glow on the 75,540 orange seats that circle the field, which are empty now but will be overflowing Sunday.

And if you're one of the lucky ones who will be here, bring money — lots of it, if you plan to buy concessions.

Bottle and draft beer in the stadium go for \$10. Carved deli sandwiches are \$14.

Cheeseburgers appear to be the best bargain at \$8.

Stadium

In April 2006, it was renamed Dolphin Stadium following a renovation that included expanded parking lots, the addition of luxury suites and installation of two of the world's largest HDTV video screens in both end zones. The screens are 50 feet high and 140 feet wide.

Colts Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday might have summed it best when he walked on the field Tuesday afternoon.

"It's a great stadium," he said. "It's a great place to have a Super Bowl."

According to dolphinstadium.com.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOKS

Daily Journal staff report

School's out, thank heaven

More than 600 Johnson County students who attend Catholic schools will not have to attend class the day after the Super Bowl.

Children at Roncalli, Our Lady of the Greenwood, St. Rose of Lima, and SS. Francis and Clare can stay up with their families to watch the end of the Colts-Bears game, said Rob Rash, an associate director for the archdiocese.

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein has canceled school for the 62 elementary schools and 10 high schools in central and southern Indiana on Monday.

Students are still required by state law to attend 180 days. Each school will decide which day will make up for Blue Monday.

Ben gets spirited makeover

Armed with two gallons of paint, three brushes and a ladder, Franklin College staff members gave the campus's Ben Franklin statue a Colts makeover Tuesday.

While students paint the statue at Monroe Street and Branigan Boulevard several times a year, said director of public relations Deidra Baumgardner, never before have staff members taken part in the tra-



STAFF PHOTO BY KELLY BOGGS

Ryan Withem, left, and Glendal Jones, right, paint the statue of Ben Franklin at Franklin College on Tuesday.

dition, at least not to her knowledge.

And yes, they did receive special permission from college President Jay Moseley to paint the school's namesake blue and white.

Admissions counselor Ryan Withem drew up a diagram of how they could transform the statue into a Colts player. Blue halfway up the legs, then white up to the waist, a white helmet and blue base. He was helped by fellow painters Tiffany Powell, assistant director of admissions, and Glendal Jones, director of marketing.

Second-story story

When the Colts beat the New England Patriots on Jan. 21, Franklin resident Steve Brown was ready to celebrate.

He decided the best way to do that would be to go "stair diving."

Brown was watching the game at a friend's house. When spirit was low in the first half, he decided to watch the game upstairs with the kids, he said.

As the Colts started to win, his friends didn't want to jinx the team's good fortune, so they told Brown to stay upstairs.

When the Colts won, Brown wanted to celebrate with his friends; so he decided to go down the stairs on his belly, he said.

"I wasn't thinking. I just reacted," he said.

Brown thumped down the stairs head first, standing up at the bottom to join the celebration.

While Brown just wanted to do something crazy to celebrate the win, he said he's going to stay downstairs for the Super Bowl.

Restaurant trims hours

Giant T-bones, ribs and porterhouse steaks are on the menu at Texas Roadhouse restaurants.

But big-screen televisions are not what the country steakhouses are

known for. That may be why the restaurants saw scant crowds the night of the AFC championship.

Managers of the restaurants in Center Grove and Southport said they will close their restaurants before kickoff on Super Bowl Sunday.

"We were extremely dead when the Colts played the Patriots. It was a waste of labor," Southport manager Willy Roegner said.

The Center Grove restaurant will close at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Southport location will close at 5 p.m.

A sweet-style wager

Gov. Mitch Daniels hopes to be snacking on Chicago-style pizza, cheesecake and candy from Illinois if the Colts win the Super Bowl.

Daniels and Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich made a wager on whose home-state team would win the game on Sunday.

The losing governor will send a basket of tasty treats from his state. Daniels is offering candy, popcorn, bottled water, salsa, soup mixes and shrimp cocktail from Indiana businesses.

If the Colts win, Daniels is expecting a pizza, a chocolate bear, cheesecake, taffy apples and English toffee from Blagojevich.

— For the complete text of notebook items, visit the journalnet.com.

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Known to other fans as "Tuba Man," Bridges is going to have to cheer on the team at the Super Bowl in other ways.

"We'll be loud and proud with our voices," he said.

Taking a tuba on the airplane would be too much trouble, and security for the game won't allow a tuba in, Diane Bridges said.

Ray Bridges did have a last hurrah with his tuba for this season

Monday morning.

He played his tuba for the CBS "Early Show" pep rally in downtown Indianapolis.

After someone from the show interviewed Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Bridges was cued to play a round of "Charge" for the television segment, he said.

Season-ticket holders since the early '90s, the couple may feel like they're at home Sunday, even without the tuba. During the season, their seats are right by the tunnel where the Colts enter the field.

For the Super Bowl, they got tickets in the lower level right by

one of the tunnels, which they believe is the Colts' tunnel, Diane Bridges said.

"That would be awesome," she said.

The Bridgeses aren't disappointed they won't greet the team with the tuba tooting "Charge." The team may still know they are there.

"We have big enough voices," Diane Bridges said. "I think we will be just fine."

When the couple head to the game Sunday, they will wear their usual attire: Colts jerseys and blue capes, she said.

After they pick up their rental car in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., two

new AFC Championship flags will fly proudly from it, she said.

The couple, who own a dog and cat kennel in Indianapolis, will use their love for animals to cheer on the team, as well.

Diane Bridges will take a photo of their dog Manny (not named after Manning), who was diagnosed with cancer in December.

Since then, Bridge has taken a photo of her dog to the games and held on to it. The Colts keep winning, so taking the picture has become part of their routine, she said.

People sitting around the couple at the game even started rubbing the picture for luck, she said.

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