



Questions, questions, questions. Super Bowls bring out the really stupid.

Kerry Schmidt 02-04-2007

I have covered seven Super Bowls. For the first three, I went for most of the week. I wanted to be involved in everything. I was really excited.

Until I discovered what a circus media day was. Over 2,000 credentials are issued for the game, including many who are from other countries. Suffice it to say they don't know a football from a bowling ball.

Thus, for my last four, I simply showed up the night before and covered the game.

In a minute, I will give you proof of the idiotic questions asked of players and coaches.

But first I feel like venting a bit of my spleen on tonight's Colt/Bears game.

About 30 seconds after the Colts completed their 18-point comeback - largest in Championship history, the press, instead of screaming about "The Drive" (Pardon to Denver and John Elway), they informed us that this would be the first time two African American coaches had opposed each other in the SB.

Yes, this is big, it is important, it is appropriate and past due, but it is NOT the big story of the game.

And of course first thing Monday morning, both Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton called press conferences to talk long and hard about "the long suffering injustices" to black coaches.

Gimme a freakin break. Yes, I am happy for both of them, but they are not here because they are black. They are here simply because they are damn good coaches who have built damn good teams. Topic over!

The other story that has been beaten to death is the "Can Manning finally win the big one?"

Dan Marino never did, and he is considered by many as the best. Dan Fouts never won it and he too is a Hall-of-Famer.

Manning is roughly half way through his illustrious career. True, it will be a small scar on his Hall-of-Fame trophy, but he may own all the records when he retires. They say you are judged by how many big games you won.

Not true, I say. You may be the greatest QB ever, but if you don't have a total team around you, forget it.

I certainly wish Peyton sheds his monkey tonight, but if not, he is still great and I am sick of hearing negative stuff about one of the classiest, squeaky-clean players of all time.

Now the opposite of squeaky-clean, classy guy.

Tank Johnson, the Bears' defensive tackle is in Miami playing in the game.

Here is a guy who has been arrested three times within the last two months, on weapons charges - seems he had numerous guns and ammunition in his home. After being arrested on same, two nights later he went out to a questionable night club and his body guard was shot and killed.

A judge, pending trial, put him on probation and placed him under house arrest.



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In his house, he lived with a man named Willie B. Posey, whom Tank called Uncle Poe and said he was “like a brother, a nanny, to me.” Poe also had been arrested on felony drug charges.

The police had been called to Tank’s house on “over 30” occasions, mainly on complaints of firearms being discharged and his numerous pit bulls.

Two days after the last police visit, Uncle Poe was murdered.

The Bears suspended him for one meaningless game and the house arrest began.

But, lo and behold, when the Bears made the Super Bowl, in a shocking surprise, a local judge temporarily cancelled the house arrest and let him go to Miami.

If Tank were anything but a valuable commodity to Chicago, he would be home watching the game under house arrest. But he is not like you and I. He is a privileged criminal.

OK, how big is the Super Bowl? It is the only sporting event where as many people watch the commercials as much as they watch the game.

Millions of viewers will email a set site and vote on the best and the worst.

Note: For the very first game, 42 years ago, the cost of a 30-second commercial was \$42,000. Tomorrow, each sponsor will shell out \$2.6 million for their half-minute message.

There are some things scheduled that I sure can do without. “Prince” is the main half-time performer. Who the hell picked this little plick to be center stage on the biggest single game in the world?

Also, CBS plans on having their new, and lowest ratings anchor, Katie Couric do a pre-game tidbit. Anything to try to get someone to watch her.

And, talk about old stuff. She will do a bit on Pittsburg Steelers’ Hines Ward and his Korean heritage. That was a big side story before last years game, so???

That’s OK. I guess next year they will have her do a pre-game bit on having two African-American coaches in the title game for the first time. No wonder no one watches her news show.

Questions, questions, questions.

Of the over 2,000 credentialed media, perhaps only about 200-250 are true NFL writers, TV, etc. The rest come from places like two losers from American Idol who are sent there to sing to the players.

Some dude decked out in a helmet and aviator sunglasses asked Peyton Manning why he was so handsome.

If you watched enough TV, you could have heard an unknown “reporter” asking Colts’ Coach Tony Dungy, “When did you receive the phone call telling you that your team was in the Super Bowl, and what was your reaction?”

A scantily clad reporter, Inez Gomez, from TV Azteca in Mexico City, saw Bears’ corner back Ricky Manning from a distance. She only saw his back and the name Manning on his jersey. This Manning is black, but that did not faze Gomez. She rushed up from behind and gave him a big hug, said “Hola, Peyton Manning, you are so tall and handsome.”

Hey, anyone can mistake a 5’9” black man for a 6’6” white dude, right?

I haven’t gotten the complete list of stupid questions from this year’s game yet, but I have a few along with some of the all-time dummies.



Someone asked Peyton Manning if she could have his pants.

Another asked a Bears' lineman, "What size panties would you wear?"

That question was a real "drag."

A few years ago, Emmitt Smith, "What are you going to wear on Sunday?"

Colts rookie running back Joseph Adai was asked if he wanted the AFC to win the game.

Brian Urlacher was asked if he thought his team could win.

A person from Argentina asked Bears Coach Lovie Smith if he thought his team would make the playoffs.

Colts' safety Bob Sanders has long, well groomed braided locks that fall nearly over his name on the back of his jersey. Some curious female who got into media day asked him what kind of shampoo he used to wash his hair.

Speaking of washing up, a couple of years ago one reporter asked Rams' offensive tackle Orlando Pace, "when you go into the showers after the game, what brand of soap do you use? Man, that sure is important stuff.

Three SB's ago, Titans DT Joe Salave'a was asked, "What is your relationship with the football." While many of the media laughed or smirked, Salave'a, straight faced, replied, "I'd say it is strictly platonic."

A Bears player was wearing a silver and diamond necklace of a cross.

A media genius asked him what the meaning of the cross was. I'm guessing if he stays for the Sunday game, he will not worry about missing church.

Some huge offensive lineman from the Bears was asked "If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?"

Another unidentified player was asked if he had a dog. When he said no, he was then asked, "Well if you did, would you have it shot if it would mean you would win the Super Bowl." I doubt he was representing the cruelty to animals group.

When the Ravens were in the SB a few years ago, you may remember that All-Pro linebacker Ray Lewis had just been acquitted on a murder charge. Some death-wish wise guy asked him, "How long have you been surrounded by thugs?"

He should have gotten right on him and asked how it felt to get away with murder, or, better yet, ask him if he had talked to O.J. Simpson much.

Urlacher was asked if he was going to listen to Prince at halftime.

Over 20 years ago, Raiders' QB Jim Plunkett was asked by a sensitive reporter, "Is it your mother who's blind, and your father who's deaf, or the other way around?"

Perhaps this next question is the most infamous, but some say it was not exactly the way it came out in the papers.

Redskins' QB, Doug Williams, the first black QB to start a SB, was asked, "How long have you been a black QB?"

Not to be outdone, his teammate, offensive lineman Mark May was asked, "How does it feel to block for the first black QB in the SB?"

Rams QB Kurt Warner was asked "Do you believe in voodoo and can I have a lock of your hair?" Shortly after that, Warner's teammate, Jay Williams, was asked, "Is Ram a noun or a verb." Showing that he actually had some brain matter, Williams answered, "Both."



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Joe Montana, before the first SB against Cincinnati, was asked “Why do they call you Boomer? If you don’t know the stupidity of that one, then you should be a member of these media idiots.

There are hundreds of others, I simply tried to find some of the worst of the worst.

I cannot imagine how so many of these creatures are given credentials. I mean, when I was going, especially right after 9/11, it took nearly an act of God to get them.

My only real question to all of you is, “How many
GOOOOOOOOOAAAAAALLLLLLLS” will each team score.

I’ve been on a bit of a roll with the betting so far, so I am going with the Colts. They will stop the Bears’ running game, then it becomes a contest between Rex Grossman and Manning. Who would you go with there?

Colts 34, Bears 21. And of those 21 points by the Bears, most of them will be scored by the defense or Kevin Hester on special teams.

Drink heavily during the game.