

## BY THE NUMBERS

**XLI**

The 2007 Super Bowl between the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts

**1**

The place the Varsity Pom Squad received in the Large Varsity Hip Hop category at their first competition, which qualified them for State

**250,000,000**

Amount of money soccer star David Beckham will be paid over a five-year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy

**0**

Number of African-American coaches to lead their team to a Super Bowl prior to 2007. Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy will be the first in NFL history.



# 2007 Super Bowl Showdown!

JAKE GONZALES  
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After a disappointing loss to the Chicago Bears, Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green screamed, "The Bears are who we thought they were! Now if you want to crown them, then crown their @\$%!"

It seems like from that moment on, people could see the flaw of the Chicago Bears. Despite their great record of 13 wins and three losses, critics kept after quarterback Rex Grossman. In his first full season, Grossman was trying to keep up with a Super Bowl caliber defense, and he felt pressure from around the nation to perform. National media asked every week if we would see "good-Rex or bad-Rex." While Grossman struggled, one quarterback shined above the rest.

Mainly due to Peyton Manning's perfection as quarterback, the Indianapolis Colts seemed like the most superior team in the league. As Manning's performance excelled, the defense crumbled against any mediocre run-based offense. According to ESPN

the Colts' defense gave up 173.3 yards per game, the worst in the league by 30 yards. While their front seven struggled against the run, they were undervalued against the pass, only giving up about 160 yards per game through the air. After their first defeat to the Dallas Cowboys, the Colts lost three of their last five games. Manning always played a stellar role in the success of one of the best teams in football.

Grossman continued with inconsistency, but managed to win four of their last six games. In two of these games he posted two touchdown passes, and also had a quarterback rating over 100. As his success came, so did his failures. He recorded a quarterback rating lower than 30 with nine interceptions. Would Grossman's struggles carry over into the post season?

In the playoffs, the Colts faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs and the Baltimore Ravens, but they won with a new tactic: defense. The Colts defense held each team to an average of 73.3 rushing yards per game. At the time Manning was struggling, throwing only

one touchdown and five interceptions.

The Bears squared off against the Seattle Seahawks in their first playoff game, and for the entire game it was neck and neck. It came up to their kicker to seal a win. Chicago kicker Robbie Gould tied his career long of 49 yards with the game-winning field goal. Even a very convincing victory and home field advantage, the Bears were still the underdogs against the New Orleans Saints, according to ESPN.

New England was 3-0 against the Colts in the playoffs prior to this match-up. The Colts were favorites, but had to come back from a 21-6 deficit. In the fourth quarter, Manning drove 80 yards down field. The drive ended with a three-yard touchdown run by Joseph Addai. Manning got over his curse against the Patriots and is heading to Miami.

The National Football Conference Championship was the game the whole city of Chicago was waiting for, Bears vs. Saints. At the end of the first half, Chicago held a 16-7 lead. Reggie Bush then had an 88-yard touchdown catch, in which he turned and pointed down a

chasing Brian Urlacher.

According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, defensive-end Adewale Ogunleye said after the game, "I told [Bush] it was unprofessional of him to do that." He also said, "For [Bush] to look back and point - he had no class." This only sparked the Bears to break the game open. The Bears went on to defeat the Saints 39-14. The Chicago defense held the most potent offense in the league to 56 yards rushing and five for 13 on third down. Grossman has stepped up in the playoffs, with only one turnover.

This upcoming Super Bowl is shaped to be a great battle, but only one can come out ahead. No other team can compete with the adversities that the Chicago Bears had to overcome. The Colts were doubted all the way 'til now. From their defense struggling to the curse against the Patriots, the Colts have come out of the American Football Conference as champions. Which team will win? Who knows if analysts can predict this battle we have ahead of us. Only February 4 will tell who has the right to be crowned Super Bowl Champions.

"Bears are going to win 160 to -6. Who's driving the bus? DA BEARS!"

-Mike Matasar '08

"I think the Bears are going to win in a 21-14 game because they've been vastly improving on their skills."

-Samuel Estelle '10

"Bears will win 28-24 because they are the underdogs and they will prove themselves at the Super Bowl!"

-Kenisha Webb '07

"I think the Bears will win 28-21. The Colts have no run defense, and if the Bears keep pounding the ball, they're going to win."

-Kuris Duggan '09

"Colts win 32-24 because of superior quarterbacking."

-Matt Burke '07

"Peyton and my boys in blue and white are going to win 37-17. The Colts' offense is too good, and their defense is stepping up. Go Colts!"

-Tristion McDowell '08

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