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# Giants fans hope for Super Sunday

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Sunday, February 3, 2008

By CHUCK DARROW  
Courier-Post Staff

So, did you put a few bucks on the New England Patriots to win today's Super Bowl and cap a perfect 19-0 season?

If you did, says John Hollfelder, you can kiss your dead presidents goodbye.

"I think the Giants are gonna win it," predicts the 46-year-old mechanical engineer from Burlington Township.

"I see a big difference from the 2000 team (that lost Super Bowl XXXV to the Baltimore Ravens). Back then, we were just happy to go. This team realizes the job's not finished until they win it."

Hollfelder isn't the only South Jersey resident whose heart is with the Giants. Here in Eagles country, plenty

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CHUCK DARROW/Courier-Post file  
John Graff (from left), Larry Weiss and Bob Hoffman watch the AFC championship game at Landmark Americana in Glassboro. Graff plans to be back there today for Super Bowl XLII.

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of folks -- most of them apparently North Jersey and New York transplants -- bleed blue for their beloved "Jints."

Among them is Moorestown's Michael Vanaria, 47, who cheerfully admits the Giants' championship run has recently had him behaving in rather off-beat ways.



"The months of December and January have revolved around the Giants," says Vanaria, who has a Woodbury dental practice. "My son (Mikey, 9) and I have worn the same exact clothes for every game the past seven weeks: same underwear, same socks, same jeans . . ."



The Wayne native's Giants-mania has even invaded his workplace. On Friday, he insisted his staffers wear "scrubs" with the names of different Giants players taped on the backs.

Tonight, father and son will watch Super Bowl XLII by themselves at home.

"I scream, I get up and run around the room . . ." he explains. "And my son's the same way. We're idiots."

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Cherry Hill's Merrill Morrison has been wearing his heart on his dark blue sleeve for decades. The 65-year-old Bronx-born seller of sports-related merchandise has been a Giants season-ticket holder since 1960.

"I think the Giants are gonna win, 31-7, that's my gut feeling," insists Morrison. "I think they're gonna be peaking at the right time. And the pressure is on the Patriots."

For Morrison and his fellow Giants-lovers, the 2007 season has been nothing less than a gift from the football gods.

"I'm pinching myself. I thought we were gonna go 8-8," he offers.

"I would have been very happy with 8-8."

Hollfelder and Morrison are among the dozens of Giants fans expected to watch tonight's clash in the Arizona desert



CHUCK DARROW/Courier-Post  
 John Graff, 41, of Sewell, Larry Weiss, 51, of Mullica Hill, and Pitman's Bob Hoffman, 57, take in last Sunday's AFC Championship game at the Landmark Americana. Graff will be back at the bar today to watch the Super Bowl.

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at the Pic-A-Lilli Inn on Route 206 in Shamong.

For the past two years, the rustic tavern, known for its chicken wings, has been the communal home of the South Jersey Wrecking Crew, a loose-knit, if rabid, collection of local Giants boosters who spend every NFL season Sunday watching their team on the "Pic's" giant TV. And, perhaps, nobody will be more pumped for kickoff than Colin Cumming, the 48-year-old former Shamong mayor who founded the group.

"I've not slept a night (since the Giants won the NFC championship game two weeks ago). And I might even have been doing a little celebrating," admits Cumming, a computer technician originally from Elizabeth.

"Obviously, it's been the ride of a lifetime, especially being as involved as I am in the South Jersey Wrecking Crew."

Like other true-(Big) Blue believers, Cumming expects Giants quarterback Eli Manning to be the one in the next "I'm going to Disney World!" commercial. "Giants win, 27-20," he proclaims with confidence.

According to another Wrecking Crew member, Giants Fever is even spreading to those presumed to be immune.

"I know some Eagles fans and some Cowboys fans who are diehards, but now that their teams are out of it, they have to have someone to root for," says Tony DeStasio, a 56-year-old educational program monitor from Hammonton.

As for his team's chances, DeStasio is, not surprisingly, optimistic. The Jersey City native acknowledges a lot of experts expect the Patriots to put the cap on their perfect season but, "My attitude is, we didn't have a shot against Dallas, and we didn't have a shot against Green Bay" in the playoffs.

As a lifelong self-described Giants nut, Debbie Adamo, 52, of Browns Mills, clearly hopes for a win tonight, but for more than the obvious reason.

Her son, Paul, explains Adamo, a waitress, is stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, "and his commander is a rabid Patriots fan. They have to win for my son over there!"

But what if the Giants don't follow the Wrecking Crew script and -- gasp! -- Tom Brady and the Patriots collect another Vince Lombardi Trophy late this evening? Will the sun still rise Monday morning?

"As much as I love sports, and have a passion for sports, it's just a distraction from the things real life presents us," says fan club chief Cumming.

"There are much more important things -- like my 22 years on the (Giants') season-ticket waiting list!"

Reach Chuck Darrow at (856) 486-2442 or [cdarrow@courierpostonline.com](mailto:cdarrow@courierpostonline.com)

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HOW BOUT THEM GIANTS !

Posted by: **Johndel** on Sun Feb 03, 2008 10:38 pm

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I take offense to that John. I'm a rabid eagles fan as you know and i'm rooting for the Giants. Two reasons:

1. They whooped up on the Cowboys and made TO cry.
2. THEY MADE TO CRY!! I can't stress this enough.

So go Giants! I also made 9 pounds of pulled pork. I'll bring some in tomorrow.

Posted by: **DrunkenMick** on Sun Feb 03, 2008 11:39 am

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Dream on.... They have a shot... Whoever shows up on Sunday.. You must be an Eagles fan : )

Posted by: **Johndel** on Sun Feb 03, 2008 10:18 am

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Dream on boys.

Posted by: **roy** on Sun Feb 03, 2008 7:57 am

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