

Seven Wonders of the Week cover the Super Bowl and Britney Spears

Justin Mazzola
Columnist

My neighbors hate me. After having to listen to three guys shouting all night long in November (see my Rocky article in the Dec. 6 Pendulum), they had to endure it again Sunday night during the Super Bowl alongside good friends and good beer.

The Patriots won. The Patriots, the team my friends and I watched every Sunday during those frigid New Hampshire afternoons, are NFL champions. This is the best thing to happen to New England since "Good Will Hunting."

I mean, the last time a New England sports franchise won a championship was the 1986 Red Sox. Whoops, they choked and lost to the last team of destiny, the New York Mets. I meant to say the 1986 Celtics.

But now New England embraces its own team of destiny. Cinderella did not lose her glass slipper Sunday night in the Superdome.

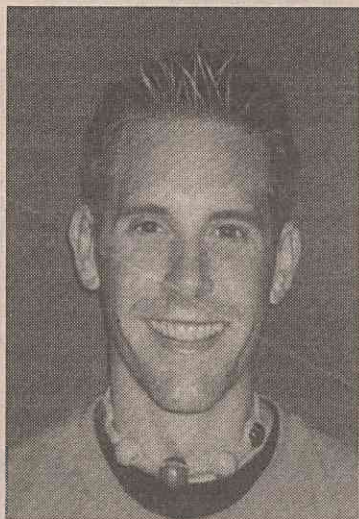
In fact, she walked all over the big bad Rams, who for 50 minutes looked more like goats. Maybe they were still in shock after watching the much-bally-hooded Pepsi commercial with Britney.

I'm sorry, but if you're an international cola company and you've got Britney Spears and two minutes of ad time during the Super Bowl, how does nudity *not* find its way into your commercial? Maybe I can get my hands on the director's cut.

Here are seven other Super Bowl observations.

1. Someone needs to tell Patriots head coach Bill Belichick he's allowed to wear Dockers for games.

The guy looks like an out-of-work aerobics instructor in those windpants he wears every week. But I like windpants, especially the noise they make when you walk. Wooosh, wooosh, wooosh,



wooosh ...

2. Kurt Warner wears a beard so people can tell the difference between him and his wife Brenda. Consider yourself lucky, Kurt. It's obvious you two have a very close relationship in which you share a lot. You both love football, you're both devout Christians and you both have the same haircut.

This couple gives new meaning to "Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Warner."

3. How old are Pat Summerall and John Madden? They look like they're wearing rubber masks a la "Mission Impossible."

Seriously, nothing was more evident of their age than the post-game eulogy - I mean monologue - Madden delivered in honor of his partner.

If you looked closely, you could see the men's hands at the bottom of the screen. E.T. had healthier looking hands than these two.

While we're on the subject of decrepit announcers, Madden and Summerall used the word "whale" more times than "Moby Dick." Every catch was a "whale of a catch," every tackle was a "whale of a tackle." High comedy indeed.

Also, did anyone hear their conversations during what they *thought* were commercial breaks? "Are you wearing perfume again, John?"

"I'll tell you what, Pat. I would

love to get into Belichick's windpants."

Cut to another Bud Light commercial!

4. Rams receiver/kick returner Yo Murphy's real name is Hello Murphy. Yo is just a nickname because he was tired of having a stupid first name. Oh, wait.

5. Aren't rams supposed to be rugged? The Patriots sucked the cream out of the St. Louis cupcakes.

No one epitomizes the Rams' pansy-like attitude more than Warner. The guy complains about a jammed thumb, which he may or may not have injured while sucking it. Drew Bledsoe, however, returned to a game in September despite suffering from hemorrhax after a jarring Mo Lewis hit.

Bledsoe lost more than two pints of blood from the internal bleeding, but not once did he complain. The guy went back into the game, for crying out loud!

This just in; Marshall Faulk will miss this weekend's Pro Bowl after cutting himself shaving.

6. I can't talk about the Super Bowl without mentioning this year's best commercials. The Bud Light ad with the guy and his beer-stealing hawk was classic, but I think the anti-smoking commercial was the best.

I'm talking about the one when all the kids are sitting around a table outside, discussing who-knows-what, when one boy says, "You guys want a cigarette?"

The reaction he gets from his friends is priceless.

He could've said, "I was the second gunman" or "I just pooped in my pants" and gotten the same response.

7. Did anyone see the "going to Disneyland" commercial at the end of the game?

"Tom Brady, you're the youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl in league history. What're you going to do now?"

"I'm going to Bourbon Street! Woooooooooooooh!"

Indoor track team opens with strong showing in Big South

Andi Petrini
Reporter

The Elon women's indoor track team is putting it all together for the spring season as they work on skills and gauge their position in the Big South Conference. The winter season is used as a building block for the upcoming outdoor track and field season.

At the Appalachian Indoor Track Meet on Jan. 19 and the Virginia Military Institute Invitation Feb. 2-3, no team scores were kept.

However, team members were able to compete against schools in the Big South Conference to discover what areas needed work on for future competitions.

Vast improvements from the inaugural 2001 season have been witnessed at both meets, Coach Jackie Sgambati said.

Sophomore Jessica Burgeson placed sixth out of 25 runners in the 55-meter hurdles. "Her placement was really big for us and for her," Sgambati said.

Personal bests were reached by senior Nia Douglas in the weight throw, Stephanie Wood in the shot put and sophomore Lillian Ciany, junior Krystal Jenks and freshman Jeanne Davis in the mile run.

Carla Madeo and Courtney Tomaini placed 10th and 11th respectively, out of 40 girls in the 4x400 relay.

"I'm really proud of how the team did," Burgeson said.

The team learned how it needs to contend against its Big South competitors, she added.

In the Appalachian meet, Burgeson finished eighth in the 55-meter hurdles.

Freshmen Jennifer Clark and Tomaini finished fifth and sixth in the 800 meter. Sophomore Kimberly Adams placed sixth in the high jump.

Douglas finished 10th in the weight throw. The Phoenix placed seventh in the distance medley with a time of 14:15. The team finished 11th in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:28.25.

Women's indoor track is in its second season. Last year the team was comprised strictly of walk-ons.

This season, there are several freshmen recruits.

The freshmen in addition to the seasoned team members, have a great deal to do with the improvement over last season, Sgambati said.

"I'm proud of the girls for their determination and hard work," Sgambati said. "It will show in the upcoming seasons."

Sgambati expects Burgeson to place in the top five in the hurdles at the Big South Championship meet on Feb. 16 in Blacksburg, Va.

"We will compete better and score more points," she said.

Sgambati and her team are looking forward to the outdoor season.

"The outdoor season is more fun and exciting to watch," Sgambati said.

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