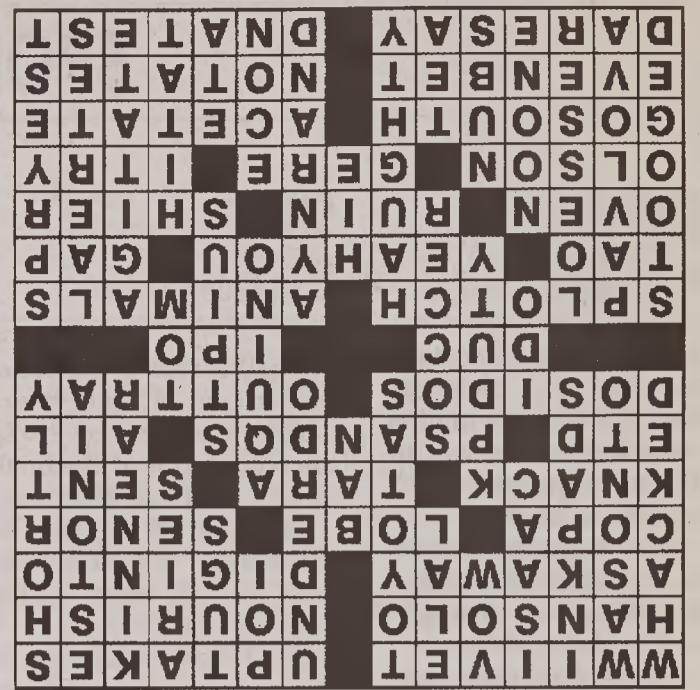


SPORTS

Times staff makes Super Bowl XLIV predictions

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Duke

ELIOT DUKE

PREDICTION: SAINTS 38, COLTS 31

COMMENT: THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE HARDEST SUPER BOWLS TO PICK EVER. NEITHER DEFENSE IMPRESSES ME, BUT I THINK THE SAINTS WILL MAKE ENOUGH PLAYS TO WIN. BOURBON STREET WILL BE ROCKING!



Kepley

ZACH KEPLEY

PREDICTION: COLTS 31, SAINTS 24

COMMENT: NOT MUCH DEFENSE IN THIS ONE WITH PEYTON MANNING GETTING THE BETTER OF DREW BREES. THERE WILL BE NO PARTY ON BOURBON STREET BABY!



Wall

LISA WALL

PREDICTION: COLTS 35, SAINTS 27

COMMENT: I EXPECT IT TO BE A HIGH-SCORING GAME, WITH AERIAL ASSAULTS FROM BOTH TEAMS. IN THE END, THE EXPERIENCE OF PEYTON MANNING AND THE COLTS WILL LEAVE THE SAINTS' DREAMS OF WINNING THE SUPER BOWL IN THE BREES.



Wiltgen

ERIN WILTGEN

PREDICTION: COLTS 38, SAINTS 27

COMMENT: WHILE BOTH HAD GOOD SEASONS, THE SAINTS RODE ON LUCK AS MUCH AS SKILL. PEYTON MANNING AND HIS OFFENSE WILL PULL AHEAD IN THE END.

WOES

From page B1

11 seconds later, Delaney picked up his fourth foul and went to the bench. He returned with 7:01 remaining after a media timeout.

"Malcolm was a load in the second half," Williams said. "He hit big 3s with ease that hurt us."

After that, UNC made seven consecutive free throws — two by Will Graves, four straight by Ed Davis and one by Deon Thompson — after shooting 52.9 percent in the first half (9-of-17) to cut the margin to 66-64 with 3:38 remaining.

Trailing by three with 2:12 left, UNC turned the ball over when the ball went out of bounds off Davis. John Henson, who had a career-high 14 points, was called for goaltending on the other end as the Hokies spread the lead to 69-64 with 1:50 left.

Davis hit 1 of 2 from the line, then Larry Drew II stole the ball and drove in for a layup to cut the margin to two with 1:09. But that would be the Tar Heels' only field goal during the drought until Drew's long 3-pointer at the buzzer.

That's not to say they didn't have opportunities. Marcus Ginyard had a 3-point attempt blocked with 31.1 seconds left, and Will Graves had another attempt from behind the arc that rattled in and out of the basket with 18.8 seconds remaining and the Tar Heels (13-9, 2-5) trailing 71-67.

"It would have been fun with Will's 3-point shot had stayed in," Williams said. "When things are going tough, they usually spin out like that."

Graves, who left the game with an ankle injury before returning, for his late 3-point attempt, agreed that the Tar Heels showed improvement after a sluggish start.

"[We're] tired of losing," Graves said as his ankle was wrapped in ice after the game. "We've got one step [toward improvement], competitiveness — next step will be winning."

UNC struggled out of the gate, leaving Dorenzo Hudson free for a 3-pointer just 10 seconds into the game. Hudson finished with 17 points, 12 in the first half.

After a pair of turnovers by the Tar Heels, Jeff Allen muscled his way inside to follow his own miss for a 5-0 lead by the Hokies.

Davis made 1 of 2 free throws — setting the tone for the Tar Heels in the first half — to get UNC on the board with 18:10 remaining, but Hudson responded with another 3-pointer for an 8-1 Virginia Tech lead.

The Tar Heels' first field goal came on an emphatic dunk by Davis at the 17:13 mark, the Hokies continued to pull away.

Ginyard, who came off the bench, left the game with 14:17 left in the first half after stepping on a Virginia Tech player and injuring his right ankle. He was examined on the bench, then returned to the game with 13:39 left.

Ginyard's made 1 of 2 from the free-throw line to stem a run that had the Hokies leading 18-6.

A 15-footer by Allen gave Virginia Tech a 22-10 lead, but that's when the tide shifted.

David Wear, who also had a career high with 12 points, hit a jumper from just inside the arc, then added a 3-pointer with 10:03 left to pull UNC to within 22-15.

From there, the Tar Heels went on a 14-2 run capped by a pair of free throws by Henson to tie the score at 24-24 with 7:20 left in the half.

Davis made 1 of 2 free throws at the 5:32 mark to give UNC its first lead at 27-26.

With Virginia Tech

leading 33-31, David Wear put in a follow shot to tie the score for the fourth time in the half.

UNC got the ball back on a turnover with 6.9 seconds left, and Larry Drew II drove the length of the floor and lofted in a floater for a 35-31 lead for the Tar Heels.

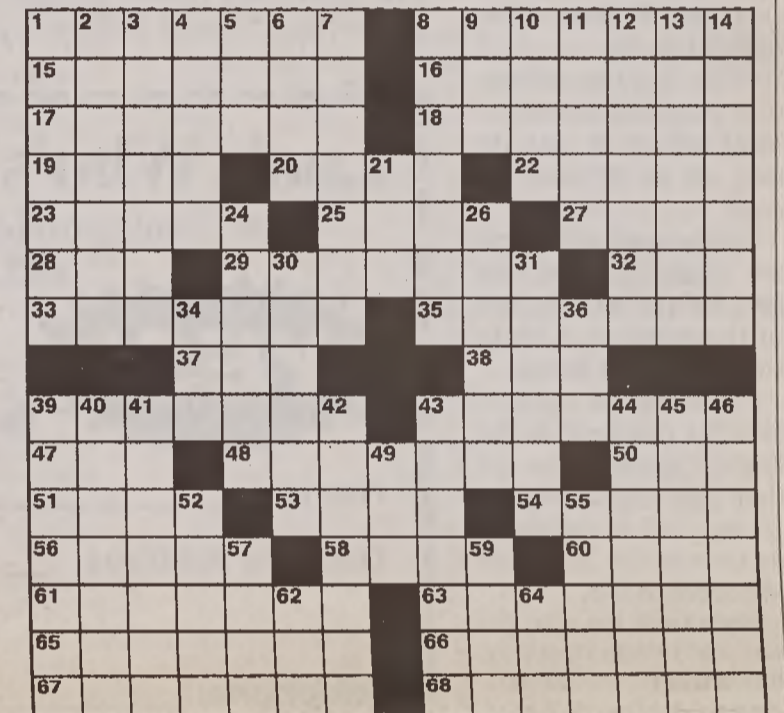
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 JFK or Nixon
 8 Apprehensions
 15 Smuggler-hero of sci-fi filmdom
 16 Feed
 17 "Shoot!"
 18 Investigate
 19 Club where Martin and Lewis debuted
 20 Anatomical extension
 22 Man from Toledo
 23 Facility
 25 ___ Road (Binky novel)
 27 Gone from one's
 35 Across
 28 Itinerary abbr.
 29 Behavior
 32 Cause trouble to
 33 Parts of some reels
 35 Desktop item
 37 *Un gentilhomme*
 38 Google event of '04
 39 Painting mishap
 43 Figurines, often
 47 Eastern ideal
 48 Defiant retort
 50 Break
 51 Furnace, essentially
 53 Total
 54 Mixing less
 56 *Sunset Boulevard* actress
 58 Earhart's hubby in a 2009 film
 60 Modest comment
 61 Take a turn for the worse

- 63 Drapery material
 65 Not-unlikely happening
 66 Adds extra info to
 67 Think likely
 68 Police procedure
- DOWN**
 1 Struck
 2 Had figured out
 3 Stamps' destinations
 4 Prophet of Islam
 5 Resolve
 6 Literally, "to the skies"
 7 Recalls of September '09
 8 Fall short with
 9 "Three-finger" food

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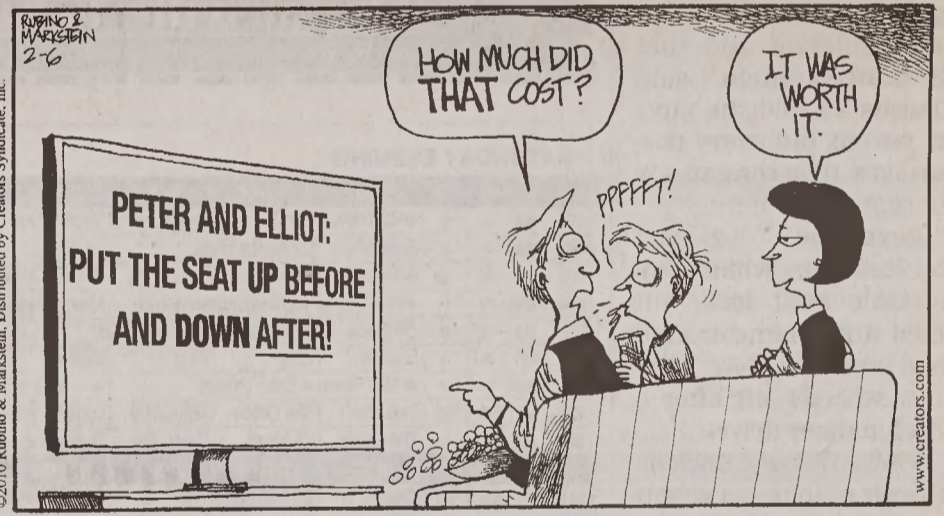
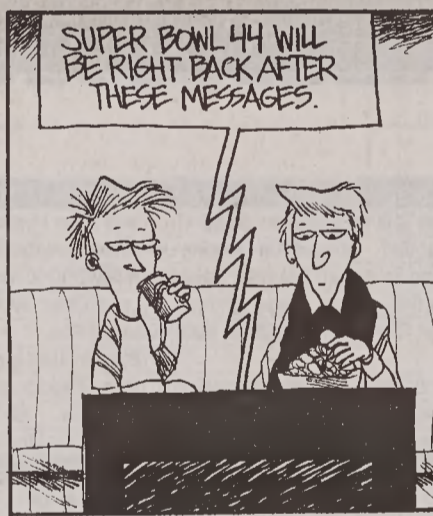
- 40 She founded her own company circa 1905
 41 *Guys and Dolls* guy
 42 Supercilious
 43 Her first book was about Pola Negri
 44 Disturb
 45 Hamlet's fencing opponent
 46 Energetic to the max
 49 Speed
 52 "Trust ___"
 55 Strike out against
 57 Tiny remnants
 59 Coll. major
 62 ___ party
 64 It resembles an "n"



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