

## 2012 Super Bowl Village

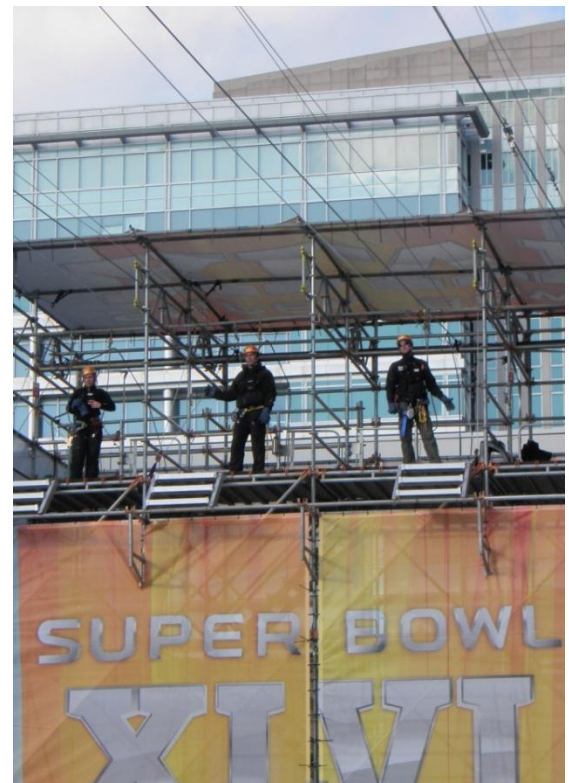
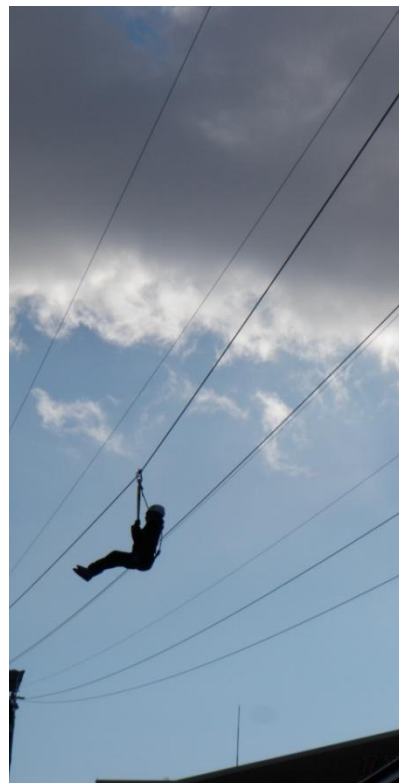
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While I don't follow sports and know very little about football, it seemed a shame to not take in some of the Super Bowl events. Fortunately Rolls-Royce is moving downtown and we were allowed to park in the garage free of charge. The new facility is located about 2 blocks from Lucas Oil Stadium. Our first photo-op was the White Castle. I don't think that I've ever seen a fast food restaurant closed due to a wedding event.



We continued up the street and went through Pan Am Plaza and saw the ESPN broadcast studio and a band setting up to play.

We stopped in a very windy spot to make our plan. We decided to go to the Zip Line end of the Super Bowl Village first. The people on the Zip Line were having a good time and had many different techniques. While most people just hung there, one person was "planking" and another went upside down. We saw why there is a minimum weight limit. One smaller person stopped outside of the retriever range. A worker had to harness up and pull himself out to the stranded person to hook a rope onto him so he could be pulled in. After watching for awhile, I wanted to check the wait and give it a try. On the way to the ticket counter, we passed a ruthless game of Simon says. The leader was very entertaining as he eliminated people. Unfortunately, the zip line tickets were sold out. Later, I heard on the news that people had waited in a 3 block long line and the tickets were sold out at 11:00 am. We didn't get downtown until 4 pm. There was a section of Astroturf with the yard markers and Super Bowl logo. Julie demonstrated her ability to march in 22.5 inch steps (8 steps to 10 yards) like she did in the marching band a very long time ago.



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We walked through Super Bowl Village which closed Georgia Street from the Field house to the convention center. There was a wide variety of food being offered, overhead heaters, and some hand warming stations. They had two human sized 'hamster wheels' with Astroturf in them and lights to show the progress people made as they tried to run 100 yards in them. Of the people we watched, none were very successful. It was a free event, but had a 45 minute wait.

We continued to the Circle to see the big roman numerals. On South Meridian Street adjacent to the numerals, they also had Indy cars painted with the football team logos. Next we went to the Huddle which was in the former Nordstrom's building. The second floor was set up as a store selling memorabilia and the first floor was a place to warm up. Channel 8 periodically broadcasts from the first floor. There was also a bar and buffet line to get something to eat.



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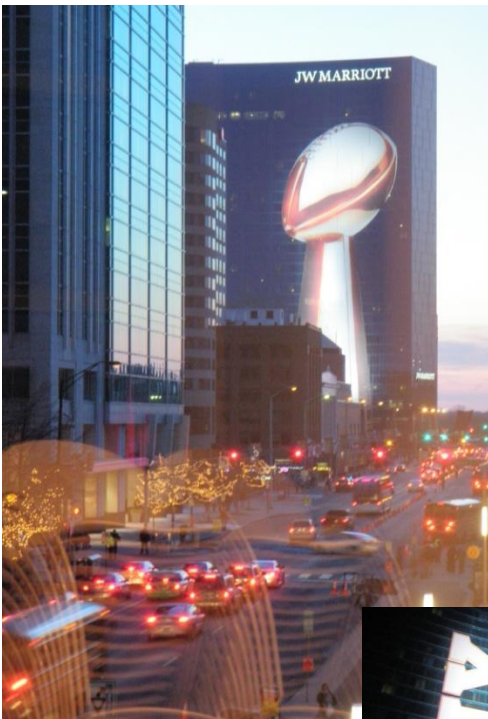


We went back to Super Bowl Village and sat on the heated benches and looked at the ice sculpture. We wandered down to watch the zip line some more and to finalize our plan. We decided to stay until after dark so we could see the lights. Once again we walked the length of the Village to see who was performing on one of the stages. Along the way we saw some very tall jugglers and a more successful runner in the 100 yard dash wheel. We listened to the Children's choir on the main stage before going to the food court for dinner.

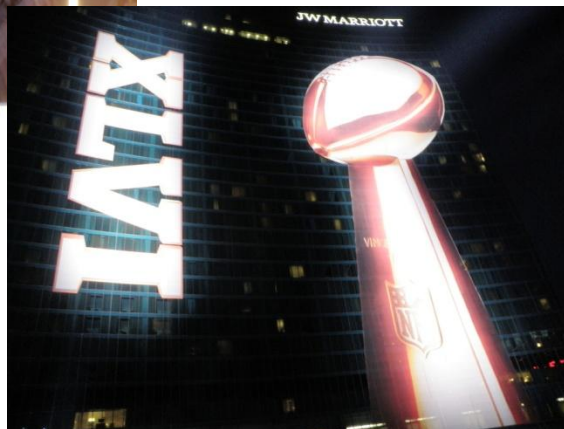


The mall restroom security force takes their job very seriously. There were a couple of guys outside the restroom. It looked like they were just standing there rather than actually in line for the restroom. I started to go in and the security guard stopped me and told me there was a line. I asked if there was one for the urinals and he said he would check. He came out and announced that there were two openings. I was allowed in. Then he started to announce what was available as people came and went – a little weird.

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We had dinner in the food court. The food was priced normally and we didn't have to wait in line. We killed some time by walking in the enclosed walkways all the way to the JW Marriott. The Hyatt was very quiet – actually a little eerie to be by ourselves in the huge atrium. The convention center was also pretty quiet. We finally got to the JW to see the big decals on the side of the building. We turned around and retraced our steps back to the mall and up to the circle.



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The light show on the big numerals was just ending, so we walked around the circle until the show started again. There were some protesters, but I'm not sure what they were protesting. A couple of people from the crowd went over to talk to them. One group seemed to support them and the other opposed them. A cop went over and asked them to move to the side. They seemed pleased to have been shoed away. One guy who went to talk to them seem a bit disgusted, and said something about them being unemployed so they had time to protest. We watched part of the show, but it was kind of hard to watch the video that was being projected on the "XLVI" so we went back to the car. On the way we watched a street performer juggling fire.



It was a fun afternoon, taking about four hours to wander around and around to see the "free stuff". I think I now have my fill of Super Bowl activities.