

Super Bowl legacy is pain for some , promise for others

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More than two months after **Super Bowl XL**, I was beginning to wonder: With the daffodils in bloom and winter's last blasts over, what had that blowout in Ford Field really wrought?

I spoke to the subjects of three previous **Super Bowl** -related columns to see if that week had left an enduring impact -- and how.

For the family of Kyle Smith, the young woman killed on **Super Bowl** weekend by an unknown shooter outside a Woodward Avenue bar, the **Super Bowl** 's imprint was unexpected and irrevocable. These two months since Kyle's sudden death have been tearful and difficult.

"I will miss her on Easter Sunday," Kyle's mother, Vicky Cupp, says, in a voice laden with emotion. "She always came home then to be with the family."

But since I last wrote about Kyle's life and death a month ago, the Detroit Police Department has shown renewed interest in the case, and in the family, according to Cupp. Investigators have kept in better touch with the family.

While a department representative would say only that the investigation **is** continuing, Cupp said new witnesses have been interviewed. Still, she sighs, "I wish they would arrest somebody."

Game meant little to **some**

Michelle Hawkins could look out her Lafayette Park town house and see the **Super Bowl XL** banner atop the RenCen. The game was meaningless to her, she said then, because she was preoccupied with her own survival: In a few short months, she'd lost her job working with AIDS survivors and had been diagnosed with cancer.

A couple of weeks after the **Super Bowl** , her 2000 Chevy Tahoe was repossessed. Her health insurance will end this month -- although she has five chemotherapy treatments remaining. How will she pay **for** them?

"I'll figure it out," she says.

For Hawkins, who **is** plummeting from "middle class to nothing class," a big football game nearby was a nonevent. "What's sad **is** that many others are going through what I am," she says.

Despite her hardships, she insists she's OK: "I try to do things that cost nothing and give me joy."

Respectability continues

The **Super Bowl** fueled restoration efforts at the 100-year-old Milner Hotel, tucked a block from Ford Field.

The game provided the hotel with a surge of never-before-seen business, with its \$105-a-night rooms going **for** \$450 a night on **Super Bowl** weekend. The boost to morale and the bottom line have continued.

The hotel, once derided as a "fleabag" on Web sites, has been hailed as "charming," since owner Ronald Milner invested \$500,000 in a pre- **Super Bowl** fix-up.

Lisa Woodward, the manager, booked 25 rooms **for** a June wedding -- a sure sign of newly acquired respectability, as the hotel strives **for** boutique status. Occupancy **is** up and "we're renovating the hallways now."

"We're definitely on our way," Woodward says.

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