

SUPER BOWL XLII ■ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW YORK GIANTS ■ 6:17 P.M. ■ FOX

SUPER GAME PLAN



Betty E. Cauler The Morning Call

NEW JERSEY TRANSPLANTS and diehard Giants fans (from left) John Sangirardi, Terry McDevitt, Bob Guthmuller, Hank Errico, Ed Brace, Tom McDonagh and Joe Sealey show how they will cheer for their team on Sunday.

Big on camaraderie

A group of transplanted Giants fans finds a blue pocket in this green Valley.

By Steve Esack
Of The Morning Call

Their names are Robert, John and Ed. They came for a new life in a land across the river that they did not know or understand. For it was a land, they were told, where Eagles soared and Giants were abhorred.

They soon found happiness there — despite hostile green natives — and people like they who worship Eli and bleed blue.

"We're all Giants fans," said Robert Guthmuller, 61, who lives among compatriots at Highlands of Glen-

moor, an adult community in Palmer Township.

This is not another tale of Super Bowl party revelry. It is about the power of sports to forge friendships and loyalty. It is about a chance for some imported Giants votarists to mock the Patriots.

When the big game begins, Guthmuller, Ed Brace, 60, and John Sangirardi, 60, will be together, cheering for the underdog Giants to beat the undefeated Patriots and continue a magical ride no one saw coming in this up-and-down season.

"Final score, 28-25 New York," predicted Brace, a retired communications specialist with the New Jersey State Police who lived two miles from Giants Stadium before moving across the Delaware River.

The men are helping to host a BYOB Super Bowl party tonight at

their 251-unit development, which has become a haven for retirees escaping high taxes in New York and New Jersey. Most of the residents in the gated community are from the other side of the Delaware River, and their love of the Giants has helped turn strangers into neighbors.

"I was a little apprehensive moving from New York to Pennsylvania," said Sangirardi, a former Con Edison electric company manager from Queens. "I was not sure how people were going to be. Are they going to accept you as an outsider? Then I found out the whole block was outsiders."

Between 1995 and 2000, census data shows 24,000 people from New Jersey and New York moved into

HOW TO BEAT THE PATRIOTS

NFL teams have failed to contain the Patriots' explosive offense in 18 straight games. If you were calling the plays, what would you do to slow New England down? The Morning Call posed that question to area college and high school head coaches.



Scot Dapp,
Moravian College

"The first thing I would do is make sure that [quarterback Tom] Brady has a walking boot on both feet during the game, or I'd try to introduce him to Jessica Simpson because I think that would help."



Frank Tavani,
Lafayette College

"The first thing you need to do is make sure none of them make it to the game. Corral some of the guys and contain them in a holding area. Shutting them down, now if somebody does that then they'd be a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize."



Denny Douds,
East Stroudsburg U.

"It will take 12 guys, if the NFL would do that. You have to resort to other things. You'd have to give them a different look every down, bluff what you're doing, look like you're doing one thing and end up doing another."



Mike Donnelly,
Muhlenberg College

"Run the 3-4 [defensive scheme]. In order to do this you have to break down the offensive line, which is very smart, very well-schooled. The 3-4 allows you to move, or stunt, your basic four-man pass rush in so many different ways that it is a continuous challenge for the five or six blockers to keep great body position between the defender and the quarterback."

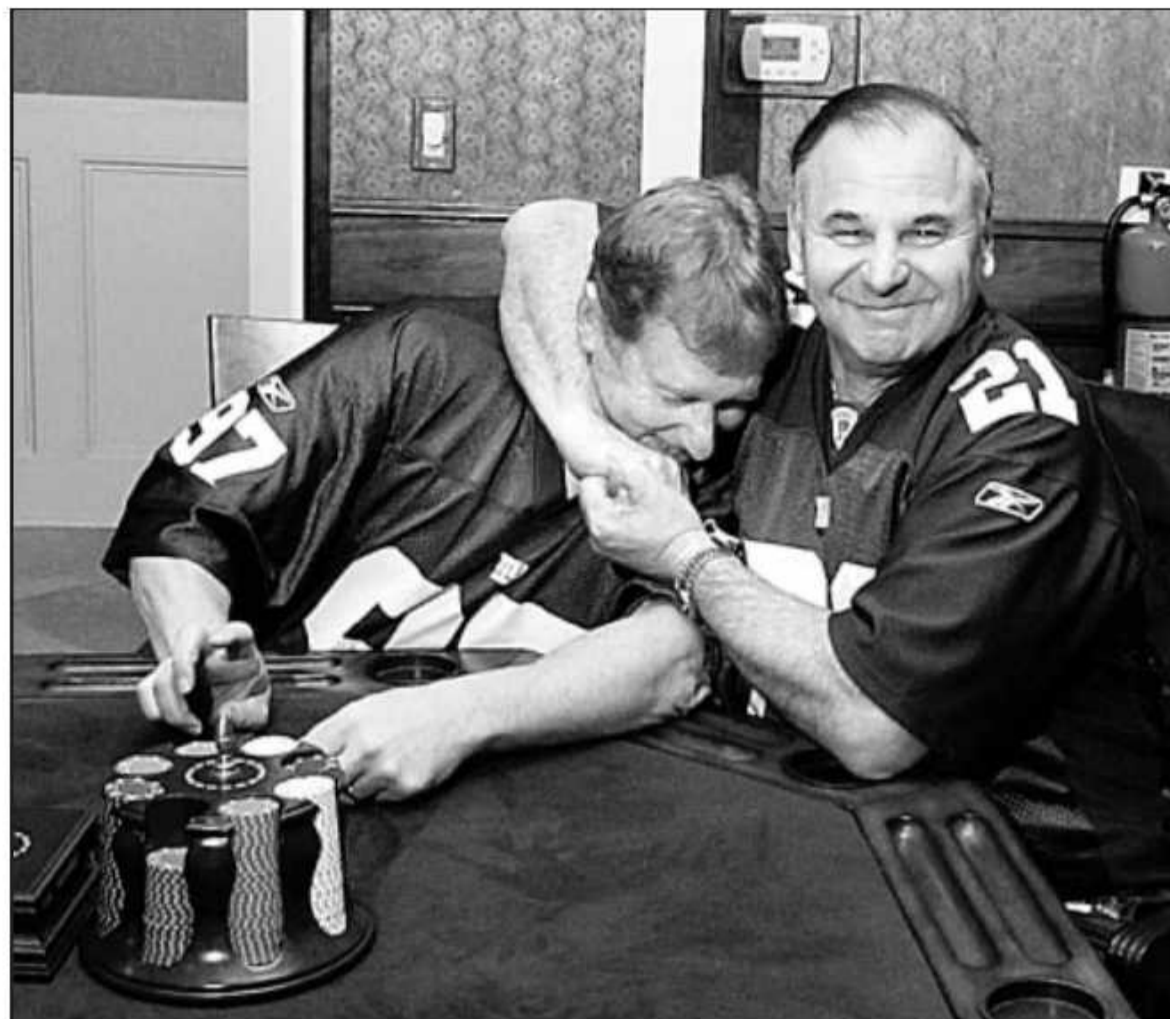


Jim Morgans,
Parkland High School

"Brady seems to have more problems with a pressure man defense, but you are playing Russian roulette, because they have all those great receivers. So it's pick your poison. Do you want to get hurt fast or slow? I would take my chances with the pressure."

ROBERT GUTHMULLER (left) and John Sangirardi clown around in the game room at the Highlands of Glenmore in Palmer Township. 'I was a little apprehensive moving from New York to Pennsylvania. I was not sure how people were going to be. Are they going to accept you as an outsider? Then I found out the whole block was outsiders,' Sangirardi says.

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FANS
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Psychologist says sports fans feel connected

Lehigh and Northampton counties. That migration has continued as evidenced by the Highlands demographics and the lack of Eagle green there.

"A far as I know there's only a few Eagles fans in the whole community," said Guthmuller, a retired Federal Reserve bank examiner from Clinton, Hunterdon County.

"Oh, they're here," Sangirardi replied. "They're just quiet now."

Daniel L. Wann, a sports psychologist at Murray State University in Kentucky, said sports offer one of the best forums for people to feel connected, especially if they have moved away from their home team. Wann said the advent of the Internet and cable television have allowed fans to stay connected to their home teams.

"Over the last 10 to 15 years I've been working on research that looks at the physical well-being and fan



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GIANTS FAN JOE SEALEY talks about his favorite team in the game room at the Highlands of Glenmore in Palmer Township. To Sealey's left is Ed Brace.

identification, how much a fan feels connected to a certain team," Wann said. "What we've found in numerous studies is ... the more an individual identifies with a local team, the better their social and physical health and the lower their levels of loneliness."

Some, like Guthmuller, Brace and Sangirardi, seek out fans like themselves. Others, like Sangirardi's son, switch their allegiances to the new home team.

TUNE IN

Today's Morning Call Sports Wave radio show, hosted by Keith Groller and Roger Pence from 10 a.m. to noon on ESPN radio (1230, 1320 AM), will take Super Bowl picks and give out Super Bowl T-shirts for trivia prizes. Call 1-877-ESPN-NOW to participate.

Sangirardi has never understood how his son Michael, who lives in Quakertown,

could become an Eagles fan while going to school at Arcadia University in Glenside, Montgomery County.

"Unfortunately, my son went over to the dark side and he couldn't tell me himself," Sangirardi said. "He gave his kid an Eagles hat, that's how I found out."

Giants' loyalty is fervent at the Highlands. So each week when nearly 100 Highlands residents eat, sit, stand, cheer, scream, curse and pace before flat-screen and projector televisions in the clubhouse, they don't miss their old neighborhoods. They have built another neighborhood and a new base of friends.

"I feel blessed," Brace said. "I always say, 'What are the chances of everyone moving into the same community and everybody gets along?'"

It's in their blue blood.

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