

## VC R You Serious?

By Reg P. Wydeven  
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Last week it was so exciting to watch Kimberly's own A.J. Klein play in the Super Bowl. It made all us former Papermakers proud to see him performing on the sport's biggest stage. Even though he's a big time NFL star, he took time out of his busy schedule to visit my son's school and sign autographs at a Kimberly game.

A.J. made a huge impression on my son, who looks up to him for all he does on and off the field. It reminds me of my childhood hero, Matt Vanden Boom. I grew up down the street from Matt, who was an All-American safety for the Badgers in the early '80s and went on to be drafted by the Buffalo Bills.

Every few years my dad and I dig out his VCR tape of the 1981 Wisconsin-Michigan game. The Wolverines came into Camp Randall as the #1 ranked team in the country. The Badgers hadn't beaten Michigan since 1962 and hadn't even scored a point against them since 1976. But Wisconsin defeated Michigan 21-14, thanks to Matt's three interceptions, including the game-clincher with only two seconds left.

Almost 35 years old, the tape of that game is a cherished family heirloom. As it turns out, we aren't the only ones to keep old games on film.

When cleaning out his parents' attic, Troy Haupt, a 47-year-old man from North Carolina, came across a box of the only known recording of Super Bowl I. Haupt's father recorded the Green Bay Packers' victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on a Quadraplex machine.

To commemorate Super Bowl 50, NFL Network cobbled together Super Bowl I using footage from various sources. Their version included every play of the game but not all of the broadcast. That's why Haupt's tape is considered the Holy Grail of football, as his dad taped most of the game except for commercials, some plays immediately following commercial breaks, halftime and some of the third quarter. With Haupt's recording, presumably NFL Network could compile a better and more complete version of the first historic game.

Logically, such a find would be worth a gold mine. That's why Haupt approached the League and asked for \$1 million for the tapes. In classic NFL fashion, the NFL's counter proposal was \$30,000. Haupt politely declined and the NFL ended the negotiations. Adding injury to insult, league officials warned Haupt that if he tried to sell the tapes to anyone else they would sue him, as the League owns the copyright to the game.

As you know, the NFL takes its intellectual property rights seriously. Stores advertise sales for televisions to watch 'The Big Game,' because if they use the phrase 'Super Bowl' in marketing, the NFL will quickly sue them. Under the Copyright Act, the NFL owns all the rights to the broadcasts of its games.

So like the Wolverines in 1981, down 21-14 without the ball and only 2 seconds left, Haupt has no hope. "It's awesome to have the tapes, but it's frustrating that we can't do anything with them," he told *The New York Times*. "It's like you've won the golden ticket but you can't get into the chocolate factory."

And just so the NCAA, the Big Ten and UW know, my dad and I don't charge anyone to watch the Wisconsin-Michigan game and we have no plans on selling the tape.

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