

JLL

Bert Jones (Former Baltimore Colts QB) joins Thyrl to chat about the Corrallin' the Colts reunion on Sunday March 6th (2011) at Martin's West

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KEY TERMS

1975 Baltimore Colts, Bert Jones, Corrallin' the Colts, Nestor Aparicio, Thyrl Nelson, WNST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Excerpts from an interview with former Baltimore Colts quarterback Bert Jones by Thyrl Nelson of WNST (Baltimore) on 2 February 2011.

I. INTRODUCTION

Jim Irsay, the late owner of the Indianapolis Colts and son of Robert Irsay, hosted dozens of alumni from the 1975 Baltimore Colts prior to an otherwise nondescript game against the Houston Texans in 2009.¹ This event was unusual since Baltimore Colts alumni rarely associated publicly with the Indianapolis Colts. Quarterback Bert Jones spoke about that visit to Indianapolis with Thyrl Nelson of WNST, Nestor Aparicio's radio station, prior to a reunion of the 1975 Colts at Martin's West called "Corrallin' the Colts." The interview took place on 2 February 2011.²

I neglected to make an audio copy of the interview, and I have not found anything to double-check the notes I made back in 2011. Given the importance of Bert Jones and the 1975 Colts to many of us fans, however, I have created a partial transcript that reproduces Bert's comments about that visit to Indiana with minimal edits including parenthetical clarifications and bullet

¹ Mike Chappell, "Irsay Has Special Feelings for '75 Colts," *Indianapolis Star*, 9 November 2009, B6.

² Bruce Laird, "Thanks to Baltimore Colts Fans for Supporting Charitable Causes," *Baltimore Sun* 12 March 2011, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/bs-xpm-2011-03-12-bs-ed-colts-laird-20110312-story.html>.

points to group Bert's comments into topics. I did not transcribe Thyrl's comments except for the one listed.

II. EXCERPTS

Bert Jones

You know when the Colts left Baltimore in '84 it kind of left our, the nucleus of our team (the 1975-77 American Football Conference Eastern Division champion Baltimore Colts) without a city that we could call home. As strange as it seems, you know, Baltimore suffered, but we as the players also had a kind of a conundrum, we didn't have a home. Baltimore has always been my second home. This is the first time that we're really all coming together as an old Baltimore Colts team and I hope the city will welcome us back because we all revere and love the city of Baltimore and we all feel like it's our home.

Thyrl Nelson

Have you ever been reached out to by Indianapolis, and it's gotta be kind of a weird thing because you have the laundry and the organization kind of in one place, and we have a rebirth of football here in Baltimore. Do you feel more tied to one or the other?

Bert Jones

- Yes (laughs). Jimmy Irsay brought back the 1975 team to Indy...at his expense. Jimmy did reach out, brought us back, made us feel like that we were of value. (But) We all felt like we all needed to come home, and Baltimore IS (emphasis added) our home and we're really looking forward to it. Now we have the Ravens and they're doing such a spectacular job for the city and (to) reestablish Baltimore as truly a premier NFL franchise city which they are. And that was one of the greatest things about the Baltimore fans. I guess over my fifteen years of playing major football I had seen just about every major venue across the country but there was, and is, not a more knowledgeable fan base in the country than Baltimore. They were knowledgeable, they knew what they were doing, and I loved it. Actually, I

haven't been back to a Ravens game and I hope they'll invite me someday to come up there and see the new stadium, to see all the fans I knew in the '70s and early '80s. It truly was an outdoor insane asylum. I can honestly say that I don't think I could have picked a better place in the world to play than Baltimore and I don't think there's a better fan in the world than the Baltimore fans.

- He (Robert Irsay) has a wonderful son in Jimmy, who is doing a spectacular job in Indianapolis with the old Colts franchise.
- I really do want to bring my children and show them where I played and where we lived and when they were young children.

End of excerpt

III. AFTERWORD

The Ravens celebrated their 30th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Baltimore Colts at a game against the Cleveland Browns in September 2025. Over a dozen Colts participated at a gameday ceremony including Joe Ehrmann, Dan Dickel, Ken Huff, Marshall Johnson, Derrel Luce, Tom MacLeod, Doug Nettles, Howard Stevens, Bob Van Dwyne, Stan White, Bruce Laird, Roger Carr, Rick Volk, Lydell Mitchell, John Dutton, George Kunz, and Bert Jones.³

END OF DOCUMENT

³ Babe Ruth Museum, "Baltimore Ravens Honor 1975 Colts Legends Pre-Game," 9 October 2025, <https://youtu.be/d6MdpMiiMh8?si=c5-3Ry4FyWG0yIB2>.