

Andrew Luck – A Sad Ending for both the Colt's Superstar, and His Team's Legacy of Great Matinee Quarterbacks

During the course of the relatively brief, but brilliant career of the Indianapolis quarterback, Andrew Luck, my son and I would cringe each time he chose to assume the role of a running back, crossing the opposition's defensive line in an effort to gain more yardage. More often than not, his 6'4" frame appeared to take a beating from the defense. We believed he was doing significant damage to his longevity in the NFL and more so, to his athlete's body. It is not surprising that his physical injuries and mental state had finally taken their toll. While a high degree of sadness comes with his shocking retirement, I was pleased to learn of his decision. He is an intelligent young man who knows full well that his health must be the primary consideration. The 29-year-old married his longtime girlfriend, Nicole Pechanec, during the off season and on June 14th, the newlyweds announced they will be having their first child. There will be much greater accomplishments and more special memories the affable Mr. Luck will come to cherish beyond his stellar career.

With the premature retirement of the franchise superstar, also comes the closure of another great legacy. Dating back to the 1950s, whether the home field was in Baltimore and later Indianapolis, the Colts have always showcased the NFL's great matinee quarterbacks. First there was the legendary Johnny Unitas, followed by the promise of a healthy Bert Jones (remember him?), then the magnificent Peyton Manning, and finally Mr. Luck. Who then will be passed the baton? There is no heir apparent on the horizon. With that duly noted, the premier quarterback dynasty of the Colts has abruptly come to an end.

John Esposito

New Providence