

SUPER TIMES: Metroplex comes out OK

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Despite the piles of snow, slick layers of ice and Canada-like temperatures, Texas will play host to the NFL's Super Bowl this weekend - the third time the state has hosted the mega-event. And even with the weather-related obstacles hampering North Texas all week, the run-up to Super Bowl XLV at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington has been a success.

You won't find an event organizer or a football fan who doesn't agree that this whole week would have been better off if the Texas weather had been more normal for this time of year, but there certainly hasn't been a lot of complaining from the NFL or from fans. D/FW has done this party right.

The biggest obstacle related to the weather has been the efforting of fans to simply reach the Metroplex. Friday was expected to be the busiest travel day of the week for fans coming from Pittsburgh, Green Bay and across the country. However, the snowfall that hit the area Thursday night/Friday morning played havoc with air travel. Inconvenient? Very much so. Too much to overcome? No way. Not for a Super Bowl.

This was a showcase week for the Metroplex. Houston had been home to the previous two Super Bowls played in Texas (VIII and XXXVIII), but this week was different. Those previous Super Bowls didn't hold a candle to the intense eyes watching Dallas, from social media to electronic media to traditional media — and everything in-between. Super Bowl organizers promised to put on a show that included almost the entire Metroplex and they have, despite the harsh conditions.

When Lamar Hunt, the son of Texas oil magnate H.L. Hunt, and the founder of the American Football League (and owner of the Dallas Texans, now Kansas City Chiefs), dubbed the new championship game between the AFL and the NFL the "Super Bowl," he probably never envisioned what a super-sized event it would become. We think he would be awful proud of both the Super Bowl and the Metroplex.