



It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 13th Annual Bears Care Gala
- 2008 Chicago Bears Report to the Community
- Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps
- Tommie Harris travels to Afghanistan
- Go Green Initiatives
- Earth Hour
- Ogunleye, Idonije travel to Nigeria

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Staples Dream Park Challenge

Bears Chairman of the Board **Michael McCaskey**, cornerback **Charles Tillman**, and running back **Garrett Wolfe** participated in a ceremony at the Club Lounge at Soldier Field on Monday, January 28 to announce LaFollette Park as the winner of the Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears." Tillman, who served as spokesman for the program, and McCaskey joined Staples Regional Vice President Bob Wolfe in presenting a check in the amount of \$25,000 to Tim Mitchell, Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District, and representatives from LaFollette Park.

The Bears helped facilitate the partnership between the Chicago Park District and Staples, a Bears Hall of Fame Partner, for the

Staples "Dream Park Challenge with the Bears." Through this program, Staples donated over \$50,000 to help beautify the



Charles Tillman signed autographs for football players from LaFollette Park.

fourteen parks that host the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle Football program. Garrett Wolfe, a Chicago native, played in the Junior Bear pro-

gram at LaFollette Park as a youngster.

From October 23 through December 31, 2007, over 319,000 people logged on to www.StaplesDreamPark.com to vote for their favorite park and enter a drawing to meet Charles Tillman. LaFollette received over 92,000 votes to claim the top prize. Second-place Dunham Park received \$10,000 and third-place winner Ada Park received \$5,000 for park improvements. The remaining 11 parks—Garfield Park, Hamlin Park, Jackson Park, Kelyvn Park, Kennicott Park, Lindblom Park, Ogden Park, Rainbow Beach Park, Trumbull Park, Washington Park and Welles Park—each received \$1,000.

Davis Celebrates MLK Jr. Day at RIC

Wide receiver **Rashied Davis** visited the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) on Monday, January 21 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Rashied spoke to over 50 RIC staff members, patients and their families during the hospital's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, which also included a performance by a local church choir. The work and legacy of Dr. King

have direct correlations to RIC's vision. He strove to make a difference in the world to people of color, so that all people could live in harmony regardless of their differences. Similarly, RIC strives to make a difference in the world for people with disabilities, often working for equal opportunities and quality of life comparable to those living without disabilities.



Rashied Davis visited with patients at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Bears Youth Football Camps



Bears Youth Camps will be held in 28 locations throughout Chicagoland during the summer of 2008.

As the snow begins to melt, you can't help but start to think about summer and getting outside! This year, be sure to check out Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps, the official youth camps of the Chicago Bears. Named the top youth summer camp in Illinois by "Sports Illustrated for Kids," Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps provide age appropriate skill lessons through station-based training for kids between the ages of 6 and 14. Participants learn to

run, throw, catch, defend, form block, form tackle and explode out of a stance with proper technique and improved speed. These week-long camps feature safe, non-contact football instruction and athletic development, as well as instruction about good nutrition, proper hydration, and rest and recovery. Camps are led by professional educators with high school, college or professional coaching experience. Bears Heroes, men who earned their living wearing the Bears uni-

form, provide supporting instruction at all Camp locations.

Chicago Bears Youth Camps will take place in 28 different locations throughout the Chicagoland area during the summer of 2008. Be a part of our program! Call (312) 226-7776 for more information. If you wish to register online, please visit www.BearsCamps.com for a complete listing of 2008 locations and dates.

USA FOOTBALL COACHING SCHOOL

The Bears will be hosting the USA Football Coaching School at Halas Hall in Lake Forest on Saturday, May 17 from 8:30am—5:30pm. The clinic is designed exclusively for youth and middle school football coaches. For more information, please visit www.usafootball.com or call (877) 5-FOOTBALL.

TOUCHDOWNS AROUND TOWN

The Bears 2008 Report to the Community is here...highlighting the wonderful programs the Bears organization supported this past year to make a difference in the Chicagoland community. If you would like to receive a copy of this publication, please contact Kate Rackow at (847) 739-5343 or KateR@bears.nfl.com.

Earth Hour

ComEd, a business partner of the Chicago Bears, is teaming up with the City of Chicago on a global energy conservation campaign called *Earth Hour*. As part of this initiative, Chicagoans are being asked to turn off their lights and unplug electrical devices for 60 minutes between 8:00pm—9:00pm on Saturday, March 29.

Chicago officials have been working with city building managers to encourage their participation. In downtown build-

ings, all nonessential internal lighting and external ornamental lighting will be shut off for one full hour. Streetlights and traffic lights will remain on. ComEd has been promoting the program regionally by including information about *Earth Hour* in their bills.

The World Wildlife Federation is organizing *Earth Hour* globally. Other cities that will be participating include Copenhagen, Denmark; Manila, the Philippines; Tel Aviv, Israel, and

ComEd

Toronto. Think that one hour of cutting the lights can't make a difference? Think again. Sidney, Australia held the first *Earth Hour* last year and cut their energy consumption by a reported 10%!

Please help support *Earth Hour* by turning off your lights and electrical devices for one hour on March 29 between 8-9pm. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org.

Orton Encourages Kids to “Go Green”



Kyle Orton spoke to students about conservation.

He also participated in assemblies at each school for several hundred students, where he spoke about his experiences and why he

has taken a personal interest in the environment.

Quarterback **Kyle Orton** visited four different Chicago public Schools in February and March to speak to students about ways that they can be more environmentally friendly.

At each school, Kyle met with students in the C3 Club, whose primary focus is on environmental

These visits were arranged in conjunction with the Chicago Conservation Corps. At each visit Kyle handed out “Take Five for the Environment” pamphlets that included tips on how students can take simple steps to conserve energy and resources, as well as websites and local organizations that teach Chi-

cago residents environmentally-friendly strategies for the home, work and landscape.

Kyle partnered with the Chicago Conservation Corps during the 2007 football season and visited different Chicago schools each Tuesday to speak about the importance of conservation. He has additional visits scheduled for April. Kyle also has a segment on the Bears new Kid Zone called “Kyle’s Go Green Tip of the Week,” to help educate young fans about how they can be more environmentally friendly. To read “Kyle’s Go Green Tip of the Week,” log on to www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone.

Bears Support Initiatives Overseas

Many of our players take time in off-season to travel and visit places they have never been. In March, three Bears players took time to give back to people all over the world.

Defensive tackle **Tommie Harris** traveled to Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan to visit with U.S. military troops as part of a week-long NFL-USO Tour. Tommie was joined by Carolina Panthers defensive end **Mike Rucker**, San Diego Chargers defensive end **Luis Castillo**, Sports Illustrated/NBC journalist **Peter King**, and NFL Director of Community Affairs **David Krichavsky**. The group visited different military bases each day and spent the majority of their time talking with soldiers, listening to their stories, and learning about the dangers they face each and every day. The players were happy to serve as a distraction and provide some light-

hearted moments, as well. Tommie, who is known for his hard-hitting play on the field, will now be remembered by the men and women serving at the Manas Air Force Base in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for his karaoke skills. After a meet-and-greet at Pete’s Tavern, Tommie treated the group to several tunes, including the Johnny Gill song, “My, My, My.” The trip was an experience that the players and troops won’t soon forget.



Tommie Harris was one of three NFL players to participate in the 2008 NFL-USO Tour.

Bears defensive end **Adewale Ogunleye** and defensive tackle **Israel Idonije** joined several NFL players, including Houston Texans defensive tackle **Amobi Aokoye**, running back **Ahman Green**, and New York Giants defensive end **Osi Umenyiora** on a week-long trip to Nigeria. The trip was organized by Okoye, and Ogunleye and Idonije both jumped at the opportunity to give back to the place where they were born. During their trip, the group outfitted a Nigerian youth soccer team with clothes and equipment, gave 20 full scholarships to students preparing to attend Nigerian universities, funded and oversaw the completion of water wells in a village in need of clean water, and delivered HIV test kits to teaching hospitals. They plan to return to Nigeria next year.

The NFL continued its legacy of more than 40 years of sending players overseas to visit with U.S. military troops.