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**CHASE**

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# It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER/MARCH 2009

## National Football Foundation Awards



**Ted Phillips posed for a photo with the six student-athlete honorees.**

The Chicago Bears were proud to host the awards ceremony for the Metro Chicago Chapter of the National Football Foundation (NFF) at Halas Hall on Monday, February 23. Bears President and CEO **Ted Phillips** served as the keynote speaker for the event, and Bears radio play-by-play announcer **Jeff Joniak** was the Master of Ceremonies. Leaders in the college football world were honored at the ceremony, including Northwestern coach **Pat Fitzgerald**, who was recognized for his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame; recently retired Purdue coach **Joe Tiller**, who received the NFF Distinguished American Award; and Northern Illinois coach **Jerry Kill**, who was presented with the NFF Courage Award. Other notable guests in attendance included Bears quarterback **Kyle Orton**; Bears alumni players **Gary Fencik**, **Jim Covert**, **Emery Moorehead**, **Brian Baschnagel**, **Glen Kozlowski**, and **Bobby Douglass**; former Notre Dame safety **Tom Zbikowski**, who just completed his rookie season with the Baltimore Ravens; former Purdue receiver **Taylor Stubblefield**; and 1953 Heisman Trophy winner **Johnny Lattner**.

The NFF Metro Chicago Chapter and Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, jointly provided \$20,000 in college scholarships to Chicago area high school seniors who have excelled on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The six student-athletes honored during the awards ceremony were **Jacob Cooke** (Bradley-Bourbonnais), **Damone Flowers** (South Shore), **Martin Hopkins** (St. Rita), **Mark Kachmer** (St. Francis), **Matthew Purdom** (Immaculate Conception), and **Bryan Whitson** (Mundelein).

## Maynard, Peterson Deliver Pizzas 4 Patriots

Punter **Brad Maynard** and running back **Adrian Peterson** helped load 2,000 Lou Malnati's pizzas into trucks on Friday, January 23 at the Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in Northbrook. The pizzas were sent to military bases in Afghanistan and Iraq through the *Pizzas 4 Patriots* organization. The troops enjoyed the meal during Super Bowl XLIII on Sunday, February 1.

*Pizzas 4 Patriots* is a non-profit organization with the mission of making a positive difference in the lives of service men and women. Their goal is to provide our Armed Forces with gifts from home through financial donations and product and service donations from organizations. *Pizzas 4 Patriots* strives to make the soldiers feel they are remembered and appreciated by the country and residents who enjoy the freedoms that they provide for us. For more information about *Pizzas 4 Patriots*, please visit [www.Pizzas4Patriots.com](http://www.Pizzas4Patriots.com).



**Pizzas that Brad Maynard and Adrian Peterson helped ship arrived in Afghanistan and Iraq in time for the Super Bowl.**

# Bears Celebrate Black History Month



Josh Beekman supported the seminar in recognition of Black History Month.

On February 13, guard **Josh Beekman** joined 50 local high school football players from four Chicago Public Schools for an educational seminar in honor of Black History Month. The students watched a live broadcast from the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame, which featured speeches from Hall of Famer **Ken Houston** and former Super Bowl MVP **Doug Williams**. Hundreds of high school students participated in the live audience at the Hall of Fame, and schools from across the country, including the four CPS schools, viewed the seminar via videoconferencing. Following the seminar, Josh delivered a heartfelt message to the CPS students about the importance of setting and achieving goals, living life in a responsible manner, overcoming challenges, and making the most out of every opportunity.

The students who participated in the event in Chicago are part of the *Play It Smart* program. *Play It Smart* is an educational program targeted at high school football players from economically disadvantaged environments in which family support and community support are often lacking. The program, designed to transform student-athletes' passion for sport and intense dedication to their team into a force for greater good in their lives, is remarkably successful. *Play It Smart* participants graduate from high school and go on to college at rates well above those of their peers.

## Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps

This summer, the Chicago Bears will once again offer non-contact youth football camps for children ages 6 to 14 years old. The summer schedule includes 33 week-long camps in 29 different Chicagoland communities. Each camp runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Through comprehensive, non-contact football instruction, camp participants learn to run, throw, catch, defend and perform other football fundamentals. Teamwork, sportsmanship, self-esteem and nutrition are also important components of the Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps curriculum.

The Camps are led by professional educators, with supplemental instruction provided by Bears Heroes such as **Bobby Douglass, Robin Earl, Allan Ellis, Kris Haines, Jim Morrissey, Revie Sorey** and others. Participants are grouped according to age and skill level, so the camps are ideal for both experienced players and newcomers to the game.



By bringing the camps to local communities, the Bears are making safe, high quality football instruction available to children throughout Chicagoland. Registration is now open and "early bird" discounts are available. For more information or to register, please visit [www.BearsCamps.com](http://www.BearsCamps.com) or call (312) 226-7776.



Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps will be held in 29 different neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland in 2009.



Lovie Smith posed for a photo with the three winners of the 2009 Butkus Award.

## The Butkus Award

Chicago Bears Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, President and CEO **Ted Phillips**, and other Bears executives and alumni players attended the annual Butkus Award® ceremony in Chicago on January 23. Established in 1985, The Butkus Award® honors the nation's top linebackers in professional, college and high school football. By expanding the award to the college and high school levels, the Butkus Foundation is hoping to draw attention to their newest initiative—*I Play Clean*. The *I Play Clean* program is a grass-roots effort that asks student-athletes, parents and coaches to choose the path of training hard, eating well, and playing with attitude over the use of steroids. Approximately 10,000 schools across the nation received their first *I Play Clean* education kit in the fall of 2008, which will reach over 12 million students. The Chicago Bears are proud to be one of the "51 Founders" of the Butkus Foundation and to support the *I Play Clean* program. For more information, please visit [www.IPlayClean.org](http://www.IPlayClean.org).



**Dusty Dvoracek played catch with a new Bears fan during the football clinic.**

bonfire, and authentic Jamaican cuisine.

The players and fans enjoyed learning about the Jamaican culture and speaking with the locals, but were especially thrilled when they had a chance to spend time with several kids from the new Pediatric Clinic in Negril. Although it has only been open a short time, the clinic has already seen over 30 children who are in need of orthopedic care. American football is a sport that is quickly growing in popularity in Jamaica, so the kids had a great time playing catch, running routes, and learning all about this exciting game from the Bears players. A great time was had by all!

For more information about Apple Vacations and the "Getaway with Da' Bears," please visit [www.applevacations.com](http://www.applevacations.com).

# Getaway with Da' Bears

For the third consecutive year, the Chicago Bears worked with Apple Vacations, a corporate partner of the team, to arrange a "Getaway with Da' Bears," where fans had the opportunity to purchase a week-long vacation, and spend it with their favorite team—the Bears! This year's trip, from March 2 - March 9, was to the RIU Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The four players in attendance included defensive tackle **Dusty Dvoracek**, wide receiver **Devin Hester**, fullback **Jason McKie**, and running back **Adrian Peterson**. As part of the trip, fans had the opportunity to participate in various activities with the Bears players, including a sunset welcome party, football clinic, Q & A session, Beach Olympics, and a farewell beach party that featured a reggae band,



**Devin Hester visited with volunteers from the Pediatric Clinic in Negril.**

## UNITED WAY - "RECESSION SURVIVAL GUIDE"

The United Way of Lake County understands that many families in this community are facing difficult times. They are constantly compiling resources to help residents plan ahead, sign up for services they may need, and connect with providers in the area.

One of the resources they are currently offering, the "Recession Survival Guide," can be downloaded from their web site: [www.UWLakeCo.org](http://www.UWLakeCo.org). This comprehensive guide features information about how to file for unemployment, how to make a financial action plan, where to find housing and food assistance, and it also offers employment resources such as resume assistance, interviewing tips and job skills. The Chicago Bears have a long-standing relationship with the United Way of Lake County and the United Way of Metro Chicago, and we are proud to recognize them as the Bears "Charity of the Month" on [www.ChicagoBears.com/community](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/community).



**The Chicago Bears and USA Football hosted the youth football Chicagoland Leadership Forum at Halas Hall.**

## USA Football Leadership Forum

Over a dozen local youth football leaders attended USA Football's Chicagoland Leadership Forum on Saturday, March 7 at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. This marks the third consecutive year that the Chicago Bears partnered with USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, to hold the forum. The attendees consisted of youth football league presidents, commissioners and board members, and came from leagues large and small across the greater Chicago area.

The forum featured discussions on topics such as marketing your league to players and parents, recruiting officials and coaches, sportsmanship and code of conduct, and the rulebook and playing standards of youth football. These topics and others are central

to USA Football's State Leadership Forums, and there are 36 scheduled forums to take place around the country in 2009. More than 800 youth football commissioners are personally invited to these events annually by USA Football regional managers, each of whom is experienced as a current or former coach, player or football administrator.

Geoff Meyer, President of the Chicagoland Youth Football League, was selected as the Chicagoland forum's delegate and will attend the NFL Youth Football Summit in Canton, OH from July 29-30. The event will assemble approximately 200 youth and high school coaches from all 50 states and the District of Columbia to discuss topics that include character development, the ATLAS and ATHENA Anti-Steroid Education Program, player hydration, fitness and role-playing demonstrations regarding coach-player-parent relationships. For more information about USA Football, please visit [www.USAFootball.com](http://www.USAFootball.com).



## Tales to Tackle

Quarterback **Caleb Hanie** and guard **Josh Beekman** joined middle school students from across Chicagoland on Saturday, March 28 at the Walter Payton Center in Lake Forest. The students successfully completed the Bears "Tales to Tackle" reading incentive program which was conducted in their schools from October 2008 through January 2009. As a reward for their achievement, the children were invited to take part in a football skills clinic led by Caleb, Josh, and coaches from the Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps. The students were also honored for their reading accomplishments during an awards ceremony following the clinic.

**Students throughout Chicagoland were honored for successfully completing the "Tales to Tackle" reading program.**

For the fifth consecutive year, the Bears partnered with ComEd to offer the "Tales to Tackle" reading incentive program, and more than 13,000 students from 125 different Chicago-area middle schools participated this year. Each student received a "Tales to Tackle" reading notebook, which featured a list of suggested books, photos of Bears

players, and space for students to write book reports. The notebook also allowed students to keep track of the books they read during the program. The "Tales to Tackle" program was geared towards 6th, 7th and 8th graders, and its goal was for students to read three teacher-approved books each month during the three-month program. All children who achieved this goal were entered into a random drawing, and the winners were offered the opportunity to attend the special Bears event at the Walter Payton Center.

If you are a teacher interested in getting your students involved in the "Tales to Tackle" reading program in 2009, please call Jessica Kies in the Bears Community Relations Department at (847) 739-5308.

## Chicago Bears Kid Zone

Hey Kids! Don't forget to check out the Chicago Bears "Kid Zone" on ChicagoBears.com. This site features lots of cool stuff for kids, including fun facts about Bears players you can't find anywhere else, tips on how to stay active and healthy, games, youth football information, and contests where you can win Bears prizes! Check out the Kid Zone at [www.ChicagoBears.com/kidzone](http://www.ChicagoBears.com/kidzone).

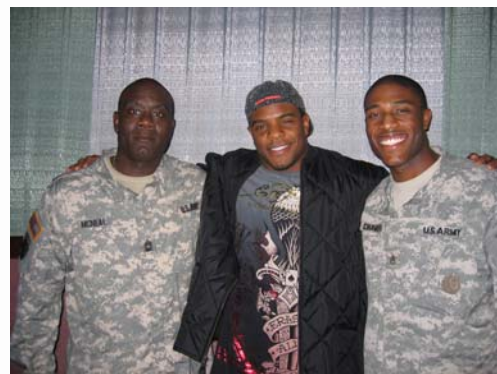
## Touchdowns Around Town

The Chicago Bears 2009 Report to the Community is now available. This publication highlights the numerous community outreach programs, initiatives and events that the Bears organization and Bears Care directed and supported this past year to make a positive impact throughout Chicagoland. If you have not received a copy of this publication, please contact Kate Rackow at (847) 739-5343 or [KateR@bears.nfl.com](mailto:KateR@bears.nfl.com).

## Jason McKie's CELEBOWL

Fullback **Jason McKie** will host his 2nd annual CELEBOWL on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at Brunswick Zone in Vernon Hills. CELEBOWL is a time for guests to visit and bowl with various players and celebrities in a relaxed atmosphere. The event will also feature a silent auction where fans will have the opportunity to bid on unique items and experiences. Jason will be joined by many of his Bears teammates for a night of games, food, drinks and fun!

Proceeds from CELEBOWL will benefit the Jason McKie Foundation of the Institute for Science and Health, which focuses on programs in the areas of education and wellness with an emphasis on making an impact in the lives of families of soldiers. The Foundation provides educational scholarships to military dependents affected by a loss or severely injured parent or spouse. Jason will be hosting military members at CELEBOWL as a way to say thank you for their continued service.



**The Jason McKie Foundation hosts activities year-round to benefit members of the military and their families.**

If you are interested in purchasing tickets to CELEBOWL, please visit [www.jasonmckie.org](http://www.jasonmckie.org).

