



# IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

September 2005

## TOUCHDOWN CLUB POWER HOUR

**Jerry Azumah, Alex Brown and Bobby Wade** helped kick-off the "Touchdown Club Power Hour" program at Training Camp in Bourbonnais on Tuesday, August 16 by participating in a trivia contest with 50 children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago. The youngsters were divided into three teams, and each team was led by a Bears player. The ten minute trivia competition ended in a three-way tie, with each group answering 9 of the 10 trivia questions correctly.



Bobby Wade discusses a question with his team during the kick-off event for the "Touchdown Club Power Hour."

The Bears joined Staples and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago in supporting this initiative, which encourages students to focus on academics after school and rewards them for their academic achievements. As part of this program, Bears players, player wives, and staff members will visit different Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Chicago to help tutor students who are part of the Club's after school program. To track the progress of students, the program will feature a football scoring system that allocates points for different academic accomplishments. At the end of the season, the child with the most points will receive tickets to a Bears game at Soldier Field. The "Touchdown Club Power Hour" will take place on the third Tuesday of every month during the football season.

## BEARS GIVE BACK

20 kids from the Bourbonnais/Kankakee area had more than the Bears to cheer about when they visited Training Camp on Wednesday, August 17. That is because Head Coach **Lovie Smith** and his staff donated a bicycle to each child at the conclusion of camp that afternoon. The bikes had been used by the coaches throughout camp to get around the Olivet Nazarene University campus. Coach Smith had purchased a bicycle and donated it to a deserving youth at the conclusion of camp last summer and thought it would be a great idea to get his entire coaching staff involved in 2005. This year, Bears Senior Director of Business Development **Brian McCaskey** made arrangements for the bikes to be generously donated by Bike 'N Hike of Rock Island, IL. Head Equipment Manager **Tony Medlin** worked with the Bourbonnais Police Department and Kankakee County Sheriff's Department to identify 20 worthy youngsters to receive the bikes.



Coach Tim Spencer helps a youngster try out the new bike he received at the conclusion of practice on August 17.

# SPECIAL GUESTS AT TRAINING CAMP



Special Olympics Illinois athletes pause for a group photo with the wives of Bears coaches and players at Training Camp.

With the help of several enthusiastic wives of Bears players, coaches, and executives, over 25 athletes from Special Olympics Illinois had a great time at Training Camp when they were guests of the Bears on Wednesday, August 10. The group began their fun afternoon by viewing the Bears 2004 highlight video, and then braved the heat to participate in the Bears Junior Training Camp session. When the athletes were finished testing their own football skills, they headed over to the fields to watch the

Bears afternoon practice and cheer on their favorite players. The highlight of the day was a visit from several Bears players who stopped by to say hello and sign autographs at the conclusion of practice.

Other special guests of the Bears during Training Camp included a group of 120 youth football players from the Chicago Park District Junior Bear Tackle League on Wednesday, August 3. The youngsters were put through various drills by football players from Olivet Nazarene University at Junior Training Camp before enjoying lunch and watching the Bears afternoon practice from a VIP area. This is the fourth year in a row youth football players from the Junior Bear Tackle League have visited Training Camp, and the day proved to be a huge success once again!



Youth football players from the CPD Junior Bear Tackle League watch the Bears practice.

## GOAL POWER

**Adewale Ogunleye's** new community outreach program, "Goal Power: Alternative Careers in Sports," kicked-off on Saturday, August 27 with its first event at the Chicago Urban League headquarters in Chicago. Adewale partnered with the Chicago Urban League to develop this program with the purpose of introducing young people to the different career opportunities that exist in professional sports. One Saturday each month during the football season, executives from various Chicago sports teams will serve on a panel and talk about the different job opportunities that exist in professional sports outside of being an athlete. Adewale will facilitate at each event, and participants will have the opportunity to interact in a question and answer session with the panelists. The panel at the inaugural "Goal Power" event consisted of executives who work in media and communications, and included Chicago Bears Media Information Manager **Roger Hacker**, CBS 2 Sports Director **Mark Malone**, and several members of the Chicago Bulls front office staff.



Adewale Ogunleye speaks to a group from the Chicago Urban League during his "Goal Power: Alternative Careers in Sports" event.

# ARMED FORCES DAY

The Bears August 26 preseason game against the Bills was designated Armed Forces Benefit Game. In support of this initiative, the Chicago Bears donated over 1,500 complimentary tickets to men and women of the military and their families. In addition, the Honorary Captains for the game were Patrick DeGeorge, SPC "F" Company 202ADA of the Illinois National Guard, Glava, IL and Blake Poindexter, Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, Marine Air Control Group – 48. Both of these young men recently returned to the United States after serving in Iraq. The Bears also donated tickets to two Chicago area veterans hospitals, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.



The Honorary Captains for the Armed Forces Benefit Game line up for the coin toss.



Participants from the Junior Bear Tackle League scrimmage before a Bears preseason game in 2004.

## PLAY FOOTBALL MONTH

The Chicago Bears, NFL, NFL Players Association, and USA Football are teaming up to celebrate the start of the football season with "Play Football Month," which will take place across the country from August 25 through September 30. In support of this, the Chicago Bears will host "Play Football Day" on Thursday, September 1 as the Bears take on the Cleveland



Dream Big. Play Big.

Browns at Soldier Field. The Bears have donated over 3,200 complimentary tickets to 37 different youth football organizations throughout Chicagoland.

In addition, 55 youth football players from Chicagoland Pop Warner and Sheriff Sheahan's Neighborhood Football League will line up on the sidelines with the Bears for the National Anthem prior to kick-off, and 60 youth football players from the Chicago Park District Junior Bear Tackle and Inner City Flag Football Leagues will participate in a scrimmage at halftime.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Jerry Azumah.....September 1, 1977

Michael Haynes.....September 13, 1980

John Gilmore.....September 21, 1979

Todd McMillon.....September 26, 1974

## A SPECIAL EVENT!!!

The inaugural Athletes 'N Art celebration to benefit Special Olympics Chicago will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 4pm – 8pm in the Cadillac Club at Soldier Field. John Tait will serve as an Honorary Chairman for the event, along with Mayor Richard M. Daley. Tickets are \$75, which includes admission, parking, refreshments, and food. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.sochicago.org](http://www.sochicago.org).



B E A R S C A R E

A fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation

# SUPER BOWL SWEEPS XI

Bears Care, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, in cooperation with the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, announces its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Super Bowl Sweeps" to be held on January 19, 2006. The holder of the winning ticket in "Super Bowl Sweeps" wins the following prize package: **Four tickets to Super Bowl XL to be played on February 5, 2006 at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan; Round-trip airfare from Chicago Midway Airport (MDW) to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County**

**Airport (DTW) in Detroit, MI (Travel dates will be February 2, 2006 and February 6, 2006. Airline tickets donated by Southwest Airlines); Hotel accommodations of two rooms for four nights.** The number of tickets available for the drawing will be limited to only 2,500. A donation of \$30.00 to Bears Care, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, is suggested. Starting October 19<sup>th</sup>, you may enter in the "Super Bowl Sweeps" by visiting [www.RockfordHabitat.org](http://www.RockfordHabitat.org). Good luck!



## CONGRATULATIONS, COACH!

The Chicago Bears "Coach of Week" program entered its 10<sup>th</sup> season when it kicked off on Monday, August 29 by announcing Bill Mitz of Stevenson High School as the week one winner. Currently in his 24<sup>th</sup> season as Stevenson's Head Coach, Mitz has a 158-82 record and has led his team to the playoffs the last 16 years in a row. He has coached 10 players who have made it to the NFL including Matt O'Dwyer (Packers) and Brad Cieslak (Bills). The "Coach of the Week" program honors outstanding Illinois high school coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character, leadership, discipline, and teamwork abilities. The Bears will donate \$1,500 to each winning coach's high school football team. In addition, all honorees will receive a framed certificate signed by Head Coach Lovie Smith, and they will be recognized during a pre-game ceremony at mid-field at the Bears vs. Panthers game on November 20.



## FAMILY FUN & FITNESS FOR ALL



Bears mascot Staley congratulates participants as they cross the finish line at the Forest Grove 5K in 2004.

Join Forest Grove Athletic Club for their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Forest Grove Athletic Club Fitness 5K" Run and Family Walk on Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Bears Care, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, and the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation. This event raised over \$12,000 last year with more than 500 participants. Connie Payton, as well as current and former Chicago Bears, are scheduled to attend. Our own **Mike Green** will be at Forest Grove on the Tuesday prior to the race to help distribute race packets and wish the runners good luck. Bring your friends for a great morning of fun, fitness, and food! For more information, or to sign up, please visit [www.signmeup.com/50940](http://www.signmeup.com/50940) or call Robyn Kove at (847) 991-4646.

# HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF CAMPAIGN

Due to the recent devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama by Hurricane Katrina, the McCormick Tribune Foundation has established the Hurricane Katrina Relief Campaign as an effort between the McCormick Tribune Foundation and many of its Communities Program partners, including the Chicago Bears, to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The McCormick Tribune Foundation will match the first \$2,000,000 contributed to the campaign at 50 cents on the dollar. To make a donation, please visit [www.mccormicktribune.org/mtf/hurricanerelief.htm](http://www.mccormicktribune.org/mtf/hurricanerelief.htm).

## CHICAGO BEARS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 1, 2005	Play Football Day at Soldier Field
September 6, 2005	Forest Grove Athletic Club 5K Race Packet Pick-Up
September 10, 2005	Forest Grove Athletic Club Fitness 5K Run and Family Walk
September 17, 2005	Athletes 'N Art – Cadillac Club at Soldier Field
September 20, 2005	Touchdown Club Power Hour – Logan Square Boys & Girls Club
September 26, 2005	Lou Malnati's / Bears Wives 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Benefit
September 27, 2005	Hello to Our Heroes School Visit (tentative)
October 16, 2005	Hunt for Food and Shelter at Soldier Field (Bears vs. Vikings)

## CHECK IT OUT!!!

The Chicago Bears Community Relations Department and Comcast have worked together to create a new television program called the "Chicago Bears Community Huddle." This bi-weekly, 30-minute show, which will run for 16 weeks during the football season, highlights the community side of the Bears organization by focusing on our various outreach programs, initiatives, and events. It also applauds our generous players who do so much to support the community. The show will debut on Friday, September 2 at 7pm on Comcast. If you can't catch the first episode, you can watch it again on Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. or Friday, September 9 at 7 p.m. Regular features will include Bears and prep player profiles, Chicago Bears community involvement coverage, and recognition and prizes for young viewers. For all airing times, log on to [www.comcastnetwork.tv/schedule](http://www.comcastnetwork.tv/schedule).

## TRAINING CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



Brian Urlacher and Olin Kreutz pose for a D.A.R.E. promotional photo after practice.



Jerry Azumah participates in the "Touchdown Club Power Hour" kick-off.



Lloyd Lee and Wade Wilson pose with the kids who received their bikes at the conclusion of camp.