



# IT BEARS MENTIONING....

June 2004

## AND THE WINNER IS...

Bears fans and polar bear fans have spoken! After a three-week polar bear naming contest and over 6,500 entries from all 50 states, a name for Brookfield Zoo's newest bundle of joy has been selected. Ladies and gentlemen...meet "Payton" the polar bear!

Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Bears teamed up to sponsor the contest to help find a name for the 80-pound male polar bear born to the zoo last November. The winner of the naming contest, Angie Buratto of Mokena, Illinois, selected "Payton" to honor Chicago Bears legend Walter Payton. Of the 6,500 suggestions received, over 500

of them made reference to Walter Payton. But it was Angie's reason for selecting the name that made her a winner: "Naming the bear cub for Walter Payton would be an honor on many levels. 'Payton' signifies strength, determination and cherished memories. What better name for a 'Chicago Bear'?"

What better name, indeed. Walter Payton played for the Chicago Bears from 1975-1987. During his 13 seasons with the Bears, he missed only one game while setting 10 NFL records including career rushing yards (16,726) and single-game rushing yards (275). He was selected to nine Pro Bowls and inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on July 31, 1993. And Walter showed just as much dedication off-the-field by providing unwavering support to numerous charities and worthy causes. He was a true hero to millions of fans throughout the world.



Chicago Bears defensive end Michael Haynes and mascot Staley had the honor of making the grand announcement and introducing "Payton's" name to the public. Hundreds of fans gathered in front of Brookfield Zoo's Bear Grottos on Saturday, May 22 to hear the winning name and cheer for little "Payton." After the naming announcement, Michael signed autographs for the fans who had gathered to see both bears!

Angie, a lifelong Bears fan, will receive four tickets to a Chicago Bears game and the opportunity to be on the field during pre-game warm-ups. She will also receive an exclusive

behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo for four people, including lunch with the bear keepers and zoo director Dr. Stuart Strahl, and a Share the Care package for "Payton."

# TALES TO TACKLE

The Chicago Bears Community Relations department put a new spin on the beloved story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This version could have been called Staley and the Five Bears. Five promising young Bears players and Bears mascot, Staley, gathered in the Walter Payton Center in early May to pose for a reading poster to promote literacy. The stars of this poster include cornerback Charles Tillman, defensive end Michael Haynes, linebacker Lance Briggs, wide receiver Justin Gage, mascot Staley, and quarterback Rex Grossman. All of the bears were shown reading a favorite childhood book. The poster, which will be titled

"Tales To Tackle," will debut for the 2004/2005 school year and will be distributed to Chicagoland schools and libraries to help encourage children to read. This project is part of the Bears community relations education initiative, which is sponsored by Boeing.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Alex Brown.....June 4, 1979

Mark Anelli.....June 5, 1979

Dan Rumishek.....June 6, 1980

Olin Kreutz.....June 9, 1977

Marcus Reese.....June 15, 1981

Robert Johnson.....June 20, 1980

Bryan Robinson.....June 22, 1974

Clark and Rob Komosa. In separate incidents, both of these young men suffered tragic spinal cord injuries while playing high school football. Despite the severity of their injuries, Rocky and Rob have continually exhibited unwavering drive, determination, and spirit. Their positive attitudes and upbeat personalities have captured the hearts of the Chicago Bears and our players.

## ROCKY AND ROB

Two former high school football players who have become particularly special to the Chicago Bears are Rasul "Rocky"



The Bears were honored to have Rocky and Rob visit Halas Hall during our final mini-camp at the end of May. The young men arrived early in the morning...ready for a fun-filled day with the Bears. They took a short break from watching practice to enjoy a BBQ lunch in the player lounge. After lunch, it was right back out to the sidelines to catch the end of the Bears morning work-out. Although the Bears players were tired and sore from a tough practice, their faces noticeably brightened as they saw Rocky and Rob waiting for them. More than 25 players stopped by to visit with the young men and talk football. Honorary scouts Rocky and Rob said that the guys looked great out on the field, and they are very optimistic about the

2004 season. The Bears have continually supported Rocky and Rob over the years through monetary donations, player appearances, ticket donations and fundraising efforts.





# LET THE BIDDING BEGIN...

Imagine yourself enrolling in the highly acclaimed Dave Pelz Scoring Game Clinic for golf lessons and then hitting the links with linebacker Brian Urlacher; spending the evening on a fully staffed 52' Bertram yacht along Chicago's shoreline talking football with Bears Head Coach Lovie Smith and General Manager Jerry Angelo; or spending seven nights at one of Exclusive Resorts' premier residences...possibly a beach villa in Los Cabos, Mexico or a park view suite at the Trump International Hotel & Tower in New York City. These were just a few of the fabulous prizes that guests were able to bid on during the live auction at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bears Care Gala.



Over 500 guests turned out at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago on May 14 in support of Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. Bears Care has a long-standing tradition of supporting a number of charities and assisting those in need. The black tie event focused on raising funds for researchers working to find a cure for breast and ovarian cancer. Over the past nine years, through the proceeds from the Gala and the 50% match provided by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Bears Care has raised close to \$5 million.



The 2004 Gala proved to be a record setting night thanks to the overwhelming generosity of guests and other supporters who purchased raffle tickets. Thousands of raffle tickets were purchased for the chance to win one of the "Super Prizes" in the raffle. Some "Super Prizes" included a trip for two to Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville; two tickets anywhere in the world United Airlines flies; and \$5000 cash!

This year's Gala was a first for Bears new

Head Coach Lovie Smith and his coaching staff. The newest additions to the Bears family and their wives were joined by many former and current Bears players.

The guests were enthused and excited to support the cause and meet the new staff. Bears alumni great Tom Waddle acted as emcee for the evening and helped build excitement for the cause and for the upcoming 2004 football season. Players and coaches mingled and enjoyed dinner before testing their athleticism on the dance floor. And to top off the night, starting quarterback Rex Grossman scored the first touchdown of the season at the



Gala when he announced his engagement to his new fiancée, Alison Miska!



The Gala, "Brian's Song...So That Others May Live to Sing," is named in memory of Brian Piccolo, a legendary Bear who lost his life to cancer. In honor of Brian, Bears Care supports focused research aimed at preventing and screening these devastating diseases and improving current methods of treatment. For additional information regarding Bears Care, please contact the Bears Care office at (847) 739-5325.

CONTACT THE CHICAGO BEARS COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT (847) 295-6600