



It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bears Care supports St. Thomas the Apostle School with \$300,000 grant
- Urlacher and Olsen win Piccolo Award
- Garza participates in "Take a Player to School"
- Rookies visit Bears Youth Football Camps

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JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge



Dusty Dvoracek and Garrett Wolfe joined Amy Fahey, President of Commercial Banking for Chase at the Finish line.

Defensive end **Dusty Dvoracek**, running back **Garrett Wolfe**, and Bears mascot **Staley** appeared at the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge on Thursday, May 22 in Grant Park. While they didn't participate in the 3.5 mile race through down-

town Chicago, they were more than happy to lend some support and encouragement to the 23,306 runners in attendance. 632 different companies were represented in the race, which raised over \$50,000 for Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears.

The Corporate Challenge began in 1977 with a race in New York that featured 200 participants from 50 companies. It has since grown to a worldwide series of races that promote fitness in the workplace and are open to employees from corporations, businesses and financial institutions. American cities hosting races this year include Boston, New York and Syracuse. International locations include Australia, England, Singapore and South Africa.

Dusty, Garrett and Staley took part in ceremonies at the event, while 20 of the Bears front office staff members participated in the race. Of the 20 Bears runners, the top male finishers were **Matt Black, Jake Jones and J.R. Rudgers**, and the top female finisher was **Dana Dressler**.



The Chicago Bears Team

i*mag*jen Charities Golf Outing

On Thursday, June 19 Bears Head Coach **Lovie Smith** and several members of his coaching staff joined current Bears players **Chris Williams, Josh Beekman, Dan Bazuin, Leonard Peters** and **Anthony Oakley** at the i*mag*jen Charities 14th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfort, IL. Bears alums Mark Green, Jim Morrissey, and James

Thornton were also on hand, and Dan Hampton and Glen Kozlowski served as masters of ceremonies.

Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, was once again a primary beneficiary of the event. Last year's Celebrity Golf Classic raised \$50,000 for Bears Care.



Lovie Smith and Chris Williams participated in the i*mag*jen Charities 14th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic.

Bears Care Makes \$300,000 Commitment



Bears Care presented a check for \$300,000 to the Big Shoulders Fund.

Bears linebacker **Lance Briggs** joined Chairman of the Board **Michael McCaskey** at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Chicago on Friday, June 6 for the school's end-of-the-year Awards Ceremony. After the ceremony, Briggs and McCaskey announced Bears Care's new three-year relationship with St. Thomas the Apostle School, via the Big Shoulders Fund's Patrons Program, and presented a check in the amount of \$300,000. Through the Big Shoulders Fund's innovative Patrons Program, Bears Care will serve as the Patron of St. Thomas the Apostle School for the 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Now in its sixth year of existence, the Big Shoulders Fund's Patrons Program has made substantial progress in positively affecting the quality of education available in Chicago's inner city. The funding from Bears Care will enable St. Tho-

mas the Apostle to focus more resources on essential academic areas, primarily science and math curriculum and programming. In addition, a newly-formed Patron Advisory Board will work with the school's leadership to create a three-year business strategy that identifies, prioritizes and addresses St. Thomas the Apostle's challenges, opportunities and road to success.

McCaskey has played an integral role in building the relationship between the Chicago Bears and St. Thomas the Apostle School. He worked very closely with the Big Shoulders Fund to form the Patron Advisory Board for the school, interviewing candidates and sitting on the Board himself. As the Bears and St. Thomas the Apostle continue to grow their relationship, McCaskey will remain very involved with the process, helping to determine ways the school can benefit most from the grant

from Bears Care.

In support of this partnership, the Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps will be hosting a youth football camp at St. Thomas the Apostle School and nearby Washington Park. This camp will run from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. during the week of July 28-August 1. The camp is available to kids ages 6-14 and will teach football skills, life skills, nutrition, sportsmanship and fun. More information can be obtained at www.BearsCamps.com.



Michael McCaskey posed for a photo with teachers and students at St. Thomas the Apostle School.



Bob Babich spoke at the USA Football Coaching School at Halas Hall.

USA Football Coaching School

The Chicago Bears welcomed 200 youth football coaches from all over the state of Illinois to Halas Hall, the Bears training facility, for the USA Football Coaching School on Saturday, June 17 in Lake Forest. This clinic was designed exclusively to provide youth football coaches with effective ways to develop and organize their team, teach the proper

fundamentals, implement drills and communicate with players, parents and other coaches.

Bears Defensive Coordinator **Bob Babich** served as the keynote speaking during the morning session. He provided invaluable insight about his coaching experiences, his path to the NFL, and the importance of teaching today's youth the fundamentals of football.

Each participating coach received a USA Football Coaches Handbook, USA Football t-shirt and hat, coach's gift bag, lunch and an official certificate of completion. For more information about USA Football Coaching Schools, please visit www.USAFootball.com.



Bears Reward Top Readers



The Bears hosted 50 top readers who completed the "Tales To Tackle" program,

Wide receiver **Mark Bradley**, running back **Garrett Wolfe**, and Bears mascot **Staley** joined over 50 middle school students from across Chicagoland on Saturday, March 29 at the Walter Payton Center in Lake Forest. These top students completed the Bears "Tales to Tackle" reading incentive program, which was conducted in their schools from October 2007—January 2008. The children took part in a football skills clinic, led by coaches from Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps and the Bears players, where they caught passes from the pros and sharpened their tech-

niques. All of the students were honored for their reading accomplishments during an awards ceremony following

the clinic. Each child received a medal and a certificate recognizing their completion of the "Tales to Tackle" program, along with a Bears goody bag, and an autograph from Mark and Garrett.

For the fourth consecutive year the Bears partnered with ComEd to present the "Tales to Tackle" reading incentive program in more than 30 Chicago-area schools to over 7,800 students. The main component of the "Tales to Tackle" program was a reading notebook which featured a list of suggested books, photos of Bears players and plenty of space for students to write book

reports. The notebook allowed students to keep track of the books they read during the program.

The goal of "Tales to Tackle," which is geared toward 6th, 7th and 8th graders, was for students to read three approved books per month for the duration of the three month program. Each child who reached that goal was entered into a random drawing, with the winners attending the special event at the Walter Payton Center.

For more information about the "Tales to Tackle" reading program for the 2008-2009 school year, please contact the Chicago Bears Community Relations Department at (847)739-5308.



Mark Bradley helped students through football drills.

Brian Piccolo Awards



Greg Olsen and Brian Urlacher were the 2007 Piccolo Award recipients.

Middle linebacker **Brian Urlacher** and tight end **Greg Olsen** were named the 2007 veteran and rookie

recipients of the Brian Piccolo Award during a press conference at Halas Hall on Thursday, April 24. Each year, Bears players vote on who they think best exemplifies the courage, loyalty, dedication, teamwork and sense of humor of the late Brian Piccolo. The award was first given to a Bears rookie in 1970, and was expanded in 1992 to include a veteran who possesses the same qualities. Urlacher became the fifth Bears player to win the award as a rookie and veteran. Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, Offensive Coordinator **Ron Turner**,

Defensive Coordinator **Bob Babich**, and Senior Director of Special Projects **Patrick McCaskey** were also on hand to present this prestigious award.

Proceeds from the Piccolo Fund benefit breast cancer research at Rush University Medical Center and the Clearbrook Center for the developmentally disabled. The fund has raised more than \$5 million since 1991, including the NFL's \$100,000 donation at the press conference, the final installment of a five-year, \$500,000 pledge.

Ed Block Courage Award



Tommy Harris was the Bears 2008 recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award.

Chicago Bears defensive tackle **Tommy Harris** was recognized as the Bears 2008 recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award during a luncheon at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines on Tuesday, April 8. Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, defensive coordinator **Bob Babich**, defensive end **Mark Anderson**, running back **Garrett Wolfe**, linebacker **Rod Wilson** and many Bears front office staff members were in attendance to show their support.

Tommy was selected by his teammates for this award for displaying commitment to the principles of courage and sportsmanship, while serving as an inspiration in the locker room.

The Ed Block Courage Award is given to one player on each of the 32 NFL teams and has become one of the most esteemed honors bestowed upon a player. The Courage Award is named in honor of Ed Block, the longtime trainer of the

Baltimore Colts who was a pioneer in his profession and a respected humanitarian. The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation has celebrated the courageous efforts of NFL players while raising awareness of the plight of abused children in NFL communities for over 28 years. Maryville Academy has served as the Chicago Courage House since 1992. Proceeds from the luncheon benefited the Ed McCaskey Scholarship Fund at Maryville.

Take a Player to School



Roberto Garza led 2nd graders through fitness activities.

Bears guard **Roberto Garza** visited Prairie Point Elementary School in Oswego on Friday, May 9 in support of the NFL's "Take a Player to School" program. After entering the sweepstakes www.NFLRUSH.com, lucky second grade student Patrick Hamrick won the opportunity to have Roberto visit his school.

The morning started out with

Roberto picking up Patrick at his house in a limo and taking him to school where they were greeted by hundreds of cheering Prairie Point students. They visited the principal's office, and then Patrick introduced Roberto during an assembly for over 200 children where he talked about the importance of education and health.

At the end of the visit, Roberto led the second graders in a fitness activity, in support of the NFL's "Play 60" fitness campaign. The goal of "Play 60" is to encourage youth to get at least 60 minutes of exercise every day.

Through the "Take a Player to School" program, the NFL also donated \$2,000 to Prairie Point Elementary and \$1,200 to the charity of Roberto's choice. In an effort to encour-

age children to stay in school and become involved in after-school programs, the "Take a Player to School" sweepstakes selected one winner in each of the 32 NFL markets, and two non-markets.

For information about the 2008 "Take a Player to School" sweepstakes, and to learn more about the "Play 60" fitness campaign, please visit www.NFLRUSH.com.



Patrick introduced Roberto during a school-wide assembly.

Get Out and Play!



Safety **Danieal Manning** and cornerback **Ricky Manning, Jr.** visited Funston Elementary School in Chicago on Tuesday, April 22 to participate in an assembly for over 300 students in support of the Bears "What Moves U" program. Danieal and Ricky demonstrated different fitness exercises, assisted with a nutrition trivia game, and talked to the students about the importance of being physically active. "What Moves U," which is

Danieal and Ricky participated in a What Moves U assembly

sponsored locally by Walgreens, is a national program that was created by the NFL and American Heart Association in response to the ever increasing rate of childhood obesity and the continuing

decline of physical education programs in many of America's schools. Unlike other physical fitness programs, "What Moves U" has been developed for teachers of various academic disciplines to help them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lesson plans.

Kids can visit the Bears Kid Zone site at www.ChicagoBears.com/KidZone to learn more about "What Moves U," different ways to

stay active, nutrition tips, and to hear about activities Bears players participate in to stay fit!

"What Moves U" is one component of the NFL's "Play 60" campaign, which encourages all children to get at least 60 minutes of exercise every day. To learn more about "Play 60," please visit www.NFLRUSH.com.



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13th Annual Bears Care Gala



Rashied Davis and Devin Hester posed for a photo with guests at the Bears Care Gala.

The 13th annual Bears Care Gala, "Brian's Song...So That Other's May Live to Sing," was held on May 10, 2008 at the United Club at Soldier Field. The black-tie event drew over 875 guests including Bears coaches, players, and front office staff who enjoyed dinner and danc-

ing, as well as live and silent auctions that included an array of exciting prizes. Jeff Joniak, play-by-play announcer for the Bears games on WBBM Radio, served as emcee.

Current players that attended included **Anthony Adams, Josh Beekman, Rashied Davis, Josh Gattis, Devin Hester, Israel Idonije, Brad Maynard, Brandon McGowan, Terrence Metcalf, Greg Olsen, Kyle Orton, Brandon Rideau, Jamar Williams, Rod Wilson and Garrett Wolfe.**

This year's Gala raised over \$650,000 for Bears Care and its support of breast and ovarian cancer research and treatment pro-

grams in Chicago. Its success was truly a collaborative effort, achieved through the generosity of all of the guests, donors and area businesses that participated, the Bears Care Gala Committee, and the Chicago Bears players, coaches and staff who gave their time to make it such a spectacular evening.



The 2008 Bears Care Gala raised over \$650,000 in support of breast and ovarian cancer research and treatment.

The support of the Bears coaching staff helped make the Gala a huge success in 2008!



Rookies Visit Bears Youth Camps

The 2008 Bears Rookie Class, including **Chris Williams, Matt Forte, Earl Bennett and Craig Steltz**, joined over 80 youth football players at a Chicago Bears Youth Football Camp session at the Latin School in Chicago on Friday, June 13. The rookies fielded various questions from curious campers before assisting the coaches with running the kids through numerous football drills and teaching them a variety of non-contact football skills and activities.

This event was one of four volunteer activities the Bears rookies will participate in as part of the "Rookie Rally" program, which was created by the Bears Community Relations department to involve the team's first-year players, as a group, in charitable activities throughout the season. The "Rookie Rally" program helps

the rookies learn more about their new community, serve several worthwhile charitable organizations in the area, and bond together as a group through volunteerism.

Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps are week-long, non-contact day camps that teach athletic skills, football skills, life skills and fun to both experienced youth football players and newcomers to the game. Kids, ages 6-14, learn to run, pass, catch, defend, form block, form tackle, and explode out of a stance with proper technique and improved skills. With a station based training format, every skill position is taught. Great off-the-field programs include Eat like a Pro, The Chief Scout Fantasy Draft, The Walter Payton Story, and Five Questions with a Bears Hero. The camps are led by professional educators,

college coaches, and Bears alumni players including **Jim Morrissey, Robin Earl, Kris Haines, Wendell Davis**, and more. The Camps are sponsored by Gatorade and they are available in over 30 different neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland during June and July. There is still availability at some camp locations, so please call (312) 226-7776 or log on to www.BearCamps.com for more information.



Chris Williams helped a youngster sharpen his skills.



Bears rookies offered campers encouragement after completing football drills.

Live United!

Bears players **Alex Brown, Rex Grossman, Brandon Rideau, Israel Idonije, Lance Briggs, Nathan Vasher, Ricky Manning, Jr., Danieal Manning, Desmond Clark, Brandon McGowan and Terrence Metcalf**, helped support United Way's "Live United" campaign by posing for pictures wearing a "Live United" t-shirt. For more information about the United Way of Lake County and how you can help, or to learn more about how you can "Live United," please visit www.UWLakeCo.org.



PRESENTING LIVE UNITED. AN INVITATION TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD THE UNITED WAY, BY FOCUSING ON THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A BETTER LIFE. EDUCATION, INCOME AND HEALTH.



HOW TO LIVE UNITED: JOIN HANDS. OPEN YOUR HEART. LEND YOUR VOICES. FIND YOUR VOICE. READY BUT A HAND TO ONE AND INFLUENCE THE CONDITION OF ALL. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. WALK IN YOUR COMMUNITY. CHAMPION THE CAUSE. CHANGE WHAT YOU SEE IN YOUR WORLD. LIVE UNITED.

