



It Bears Mentioning...

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bears "Tales to Tackle" program kicks off.
- Bears honored by World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame.
- Help raise money for your favorite charity!
- Bears celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

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Lane Tech Field Dedication

Defensive end **Adewale Ogunleye** and linebacker **Brendon Ayanbadejo** appeared with Chicago Bears Chairman of the Board **Michael McCaskey** and Senior Director of Special Projects **Patrick McCaskey** at Lane Tech High School in Chicago on Friday, September 7 to help unveil the newly renovated football stadium on the school's campus during a special dedication ceremony. **Wale** and **Brendon** also visited with the Lane Tech football players to help them prepare for their first home game of the season; a thrilling 17-14 victory over Chicago Vocational. This project was the result of a \$200,000 matching grant from the NFL Grassroots Program to the Chicago Public Schools. Lane Tech's 65-year-old

grass playing field was replaced with a more durable synthetic surface, and new stadium lighting was installed, representing the



Adewale Ogunleye and Brendon Ayanbadejo spoke to Lane Tech football players

first two phases of a three phase total renovation project that will include a new running track, baseball stadium, and practice fields. In addition to the NFL,

LISC/Chicago, and the Chicago Bears, the Chicago Public Schools and Lane Tech's Century Foundation partnered in the field's renovation. Lane Tech, the largest public school in Chicago, is the fifth Chicago-based organization to receive a grant from the NFL Grassroots Program since its inception. The NFL Grassroots Program is a partnership between the National Football League (NFL), the NFL Players Association, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). On the national level, the NFL Grassroots Program has helped non-profit organizations bring the benefits of youth sports to more than 60,000 inner-city children through the development of nearly 150 community football fields and facilities in urban neighborhoods.

Goal Power

Defensive end **Adewale Ogunleye** has teamed up with the Chicago Urban League for the third consecutive year to continue his community outreach program "Goal Power: Alternative Careers in Sports." As part of the program, students involved with the Chicago Urban League will take a number of field trips to different sports-related venues throughout Chicago to

observe day-to-day activities and responsibilities that are associated with careers in sports. The first "Goal Power" field trip took place on Saturday, September 15 when students visited Halas Hall in Lake Forest to speak with executives from the Chicago Bears, including **Ann Quint**, Director of Human Resources; **Isaiah Harris**, Director of Player Development; **Jake**



Adewale Ogunleye started the Goal Power program in 2005.

Jones, Director of Finance; and **Rusty Jones**, Strength and Conditioning Coordinator.

Play Football Month



The Bears helped celebrate "Play Football Month" in August.

The Chicago Bears were proud to support three different youth football initiatives during the month of August as part of "Play Football Month." On Wednesday, August 8, kids were encouraged to wear their youth football jerseys to Bears Training Camp in Bourbonnais and stop by the "Play Football Day" booth to register for the chance to win cool prizes, such as autographed memorabilia, and tickets to a Bears pre-season game!

At the Bears first home pre-season game on Saturday, Au-

gust 25, teams from the Bill George and Tri-County Youth Football Leagues scrimmaged prior to the game before joining Bears players on the sidelines for the National Anthem. The evening's activities also included youth football demonstrations during halftime provided by the Chicago Park District's Inner City Flag and Junior Bear Tackle youth football leagues. "Play Football Month" festivities continued on Thursday, August 30 when the Bears hosted hundreds of youth football players and cheerleaders from more than

30 Chicago-area youth football organizations as the Bears took on the Cleveland Browns.

This was the fourth consecutive year the NFL and USA Football have teamed up to celebrate the start of football season with this great initiative. The purpose of "Play Football Month" is to honor and salute the millions of boys and girls who participate in youth football programs across the country and to also promote the sport and intrinsic values gained from participation.

Safety Day

Running back **Adrian Peterson** and guard **Josh Beekman** joined the Des Plaines Fire and Police Departments at North School in Des Plaines on Tuesday, September 11 in support of Safety Day. Over 300 students in 3rd—5th grades participated in several hands-on safety demonstra-

tions highlighting fire, personal and bike safety. 2007 marked the sixth consecutive year that the Chicago Bears have partnered with Chicago area fire and police departments and schools to educate children about the importance of public safety.



Adrian Peterson and Josh Beekman participated in Safety Day at North School in Des Plaines.

Bears School Outreach

Brendon Ayanbadejo kicked off the Bears School Outreach program for 2007.



The Bears School Outreach program kicked off on Tuesday, September 11 when **Brendon Ayanbadejo** and **John Tait** visited Jordan Community School in Chicago to speak to, motivate, and interact with students. Each Tuesday

during the football season, Bears players will visit different Chicago Public Schools to talk to kids about the importance of education, character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. Now entering its 11th season, the Bears School Outreach program reaches more than 7,000

students annually. To date, players who have participated in Bears School Outreach in 2007 include **Brendon Ayanbadejo**, **Bernard Berrian**, **Rashied Davis**, **Antonio Garay**, **Robbie Gould**, **Terrence Metcalf**, **Fred Miller**, and **John Tait**.

Home Team Hand-Off



Because of the generosity of nine Bears players and coaches, over 2,100 children will have the opportunity to experience a Bears game at Soldier Field in 2007. Through the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" ticket donation program, players and coaches have the opportunity

Brian Urlacher purchases tickets for **Special Olympics**.

to purchase a block of season tickets and donate them to the charity of their choice. The charity then distributes the tickets to deserving children.

The following Bears are participating in the "Home Team Hand-Off" program in 2007: **Mike Brown** presents "Brown's Bombers" in support of Off The Street Club; **Roberto Garza** presents "Roberto's Amigos" in support of Los Amigos de Roberto; **Rex Grossman** presents "Grossman's Gang" in support of Boys & Girls

Clubs of Lake County; **Tommie Harris** presents "Harris' Heroes" in support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago; **Muhsin Muhammad** presents "Moose's Herd" in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters; **Adewale Ogunleye** presents "Wale's Warriors" in support of the Chicago Urban League; **Lovie Smith** presents "The Smith Crew" in support of Chicago Public Schools; **Charles Tillman** presents "Peanut's Gallery" in support of LYDIA Home and Lawrence Hall; and **Brian Urlacher** presents "Urlacher's Backers" in support of Special Olympics Illinois, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, and Maryville Academy.

Bears Care Grants

During Training Camp in Bourbonnais, Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears, provided \$40,000 in grants to two Kankakee area not-for-profit agencies—the Compassionate Care Ministries' Center for Hope and South Pointe Youth for Christ. Sixty guests from both organiza-

tions visited Camp on Tuesday, August 14 and were treated to a special VIP experience. The Center for Hope is a client-choice food pantry which provides assistance to over 700 of the Kankakee area's neediest families each week. South Pointe Youth for Christ received a grant in support of its City Life

Center, which offers after-school programming for children in grades 4-12. The Center provides tutoring, enrichment and recreational activities to area students in a safe and secure environment.

Bears Care provided \$40,000 in grants to two Kankakee area non-profit organizations.

Hello to Our Heroes

Wide receiver Rashied Davis helped kick off the Bears "Hello to Our Heroes" program for 2007 when visited James Otis Elementary School in Chicago on Tuesday, September 25. Through this program, Rashied helped students write letters to men and women of the military who are currently stationed overseas. The "Hello to Our Heroes" program, which is brought to you by Staples, was

developed by the Chicago Bears in 2005 in an effort to boost the morale of American Soldiers. In support of this program, Bears players visit a different school each month during the football season to help a group of students write letters that will be distributed to troops by the USO. Staples provides letter writing kits to the students to assist them in writing letters to United States service men and women

abroad. In addition, Staples provides letter writing kits to the military men and women overseas who receive the students' letters. For more information on the "Hello to Our Heroes" program, log on to www.ChicagoBears.com/ community.



Rashied Davis participated in the "Hello to Our Heroes" program.

Tales to Tackle



Over 7,200 students are participating in "Tales to Tackle" in 2007.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Chicago Bears are administering an exciting reading incentive program called "Tales to Tackle," which will run from mid-October through mid-January. The goal of this program, geared towards 6th, 7th and 8th graders, is for students to read three teacher-approved books per month. The main component of the "Tales to Tackle" program is a reading notebook, which includes photos of Bears players. The notebook also

includes a list of suggested books and has plenty of space for students to write book reports, which allows the students to keep track of the books that they read during the program. There are over 7,200 students participating in "Tales to Tackle" in 2007, and every child who achieves the goal of reading three books per month for the three month period will be entered into a random drawing for the chance to win a special "Bears Experience" at Halas Hall in

Lake Forest. The "Tales to Tackle" program is sponsored by ComEd, and is component of the Chicago Bears Education initiative, which is presented by Chase. Please contact the Community Relations Department at (847) 739-5308 if you are a teacher interested in introducing the program to your students.

Designate a Driver

"Start Your Game Right, Designate a Driver." The Chicago Bears, Sportservice, and Miller Brewing Company are partnering again in 2007 to encourage fans to sign up to be Designated Drivers. If you are 21 years of age or older, pledge not to drink alcohol beverages at a Bears game, and will provide responsible transportation for all members of your group,

please stop by a Fan Services booth during home Bears games at Soldier Field to receive a Designated Driver wrist band and coupon for a complimentary soft drink. Participants will be asked to sign a pledge card and show identification to verify their age.

gram and stadium policies at Soldier Field, please log on to www.chicagobears.com/tickets/FanServices.asp.



For more information about the Designated Driver pro-



Greg Olsen attended the "Are You Man Enough" Breast Cancer Awareness rally with his mom, Susan.



Are You Man Enough?

Tight end Greg Olsen and his mom, Susan, a breast cancer survivor, helped kick off the "Are You Man Enough?" Breast Cancer Awareness Rally on Tuesday, September 18 at the John Hancock Center in

Chicago. As part of a national campaign led by City of Hope, men from all over Chicago were invited to join Greg and his mom in wearing pink, sharing personal stories and writing notes of hope in an oversized journal as a demonstration of their commitment to fighting breast cancer. The journal

was then marched down Michigan Avenue following the rally, collecting additional notes and demonstrating solidarity among men in fighting breast cancer.

World Sports Humanitarian Award



The Chicago Bears were honored during halftime of our home opener vs. Kansas City on Sunday, September 16 as the 2006 recipient of the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame Pro Team Community

The Bears were honored during an on-field presentation.

Award, which is presented annually to a professional sports organization "for extraordinary contributions to their respective community." Selected from a pool of applicants from organizations in the NFL, NBA, MLB, WNBA, MLS and NASCAR, the Bears organization was the 12th recipient of the award and just the second NFL team to be honored for community service.

The Bears implement and support programs in the areas of education, health and fitness, youth football and volunteerism and civic initiatives. The selection committee included professional athletes such as former Green Bay Packers offensive lineman Jerry Kramer and members of the media including Bob Costas, Jim Nantz, Rick Reilly and Mickey Herskowitz, while the honorary chairman is former president George H. W. Bush.

GoodSearch

The Chicago Bears and NFL have been presented with a wonderful opportunity to partner with GoodSearch.com to help raise money and bring awareness to the great community work that is being done by the Bears Family. GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue (about a penny per search) to user-designated charities. Good-

Search.com features NFL players and coaches and their foundations on its homepage in their "Who's Doing Good" and "Charity of the Day" sections. The following Bears players and coaches are featured on the site: **Lovie Smith**—LAMAS Foundation; **Ruben Brown**—The Ruben Brown Foundation; **Muhsin Muhammad**—The M2 Foundation; **Charles Tillman**—Charles

Tillman's Cornerstone Foundation; **Brian Griese**—Judi's House; **Tommie Harris**—The Tommie Harris Foundation; and **Bears Care**, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears. We hope you will use GoodSearch.com as your primary search engine and start helping raise money for your favorite charities! Happy searching!

Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, guard **Roberto Garza** visited the Rauner Family YMCA in Chicago on Tuesday, September 18 to speak with kids about the importance of education and fitness. Roberto also led over 30 of the club's youth in a football clinic on the facility's indoor field.

The Bears were proud to have over

75 children from the Rauner Family YMCA at Soldier Field on Sunday, September 23 as the Bears took on the Dallas Cowboys. Prior to the game, the kids were on the field to help present the American Flag during the signing of the National Anthem by Gloria Estefan. Later in the evening, the kids returned to the field and had the opportunity to dance along to the music of Ozo-

matl during their half-time performance.

The NFL celebrated Hispanic Heritage throughout the month of September in all 32 markets.



The Bears celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on September 23 at Soldier Field.

Coach of the Week



The Chicago Bears "Coach of the Week" program enters its 12th season this year. The program honors outstanding Illinois high school football coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character, leadership, discipline, and teamwork abilities. Other criteria include graduation rates, coaching techniques, school and community support, volunteerism, and, most importantly, contributions to players' long-term success on and off the field.

The program will run for nine weeks from August 27 through October 22. Coaches are nominated by a panel of local prep authorities and Bears staff, and the winning "Coach of the Week" is selected every Monday. For the first seven weeks of the program, the 2007 Bears "Coach of the Week" winners include Dave Mattio of Marian Catholic, Tom Shallenberger of Mahomet-Seymour, Paul Workman of Cerro Gordo/DeLand Waldon, Jim Stuglis of Crystal

Lake South, Bob Gliemli of Lincoln-Way Central, Derek Leonard of Rochester, and Tony Monken of Vernon Hills. The Bears will donate \$1,500 to the football program at each winning coach's school. In addition, each coach will be invited to the Bears-Giants game on December 2, 2007 and will be recognized in an on-field ceremony. Honorees will also receive a framed certificate and will attend a Bears practice and "chalk-talk" with Head Coach Lovie Smith.

Bears on Bikes

Twenty-five kids from the Bourbonnais/Kankakee area were the lucky recipients of new bicycles when they visited Bears Training Camp in on Friday, August 17. For the third consecutive year, Head Coach **Lovie Smith** encouraged his coaches to use bikes as opposed to motorized golf carts to get around the Olivet Nazarene University campus.

Following the last full practice session of Camp, each member of the coaching staff donated their bike to a deserving youngster. Head equipment manager **Tony Medlin** worked with the Bourbonnais Police Department, Kankakee County Sheriff's Department, Bradley Police Department and the Illinois State Police to identify 25 deserving children.



Linebackers coach Hardy Nickerson gave his bike to an excited youngster at the end of Training Camp.

Happy Campers!

Bernard Berrian signed autographs for fans following practice.



The Chicago Bears hosted over 400 kids from eight Chicago-area organizations during training camp in Bourbonnais in July and August. Each group had the chance to work on their own football skills at Ga-

torade Junior Training Camp, where they were put through drills and a football-based obstacle course before heading over to watch practice in their private seating area. At the conclusion of each practice, the kids had the opportunity to meet some of their favorite players. Groups who were

guests of the Bears included Rauner Family YMCA, Special Olympics Illinois, Prader-Willi Association of Illinois, Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle League, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois, the Compassionate Care Ministries' Center for Hope and South Pointe Youth for Christ.