



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bears to host Coaching School
- Bears Youth Camps receive national recognition

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It Bears Mentioning...

APRIL, 2007

Grossman Honored by Teammates

Chicago Bears quarterback **Rex Grossman** was recognized as the Bears 2006 recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award during a luncheon at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines on Tuesday, April 3. Head Coach **Lovie Smith**, offensive coordinator **Ron Turner**, safety **Chris Harris**, linebacker **Hunter Hillenmeyer**, fullback **Jason McKie** and many Bears front office staff members were in attendance to show their support.

Rex 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. Named the NFC Offensive Player of the Month for September, Rex helped the Bears reach the Super

Bowl for the first time in 21 years and also became the first Bears quarterback since 1995 to start all 16 games in a season. Off the field, Rex has consis-



Rex Grossman was the 2006 Bears recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award.

tently supported the community throughout his four years in Chicago and has particularly focused his efforts on education initiatives.

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.

Bears to Host Coaching School

The Chicago Bears will be hosting the USA Football Coaching School at Halas Hall, the Chicago Bears training facility, in Lake Forest on Saturday, June 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The coaching clinic is designed exclusively for youth football coaches. Coaches will learn effective ways to develop and organize their team, teach the proper funda-

mentals, implement drills and communicate with players, parents and other coaches. Each participating coach will receive 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 or to register, log on to www.usafootball.com or call the

USA Football Coaching School at (877) 5-FOOTBALL. Reservations may not be made through the Bears office.



Bears Camps Win Top Honor



**Sports Illustrated
for Kids has
recognized
Chicago Bears
Youth Football
Camps as the Best
Summer Camp in
the state of
Illinois!**

The Chicago Bears are proud to announce that Sports Illustrated for Kids has recognized Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps as the Best Summer Camp in the state of Illinois! This honor reflects the hard work and dedication of all the coaches and staff that worked tirelessly throughout the year to create such a wonderful experience for the 1,100+ children who participate in the camps each summer. Check out the Sports Illustrated for Kids guide to the best summer sports camps by visiting www.sikids.com/camps/.

Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps, the official youth camps of the Chicago Bears,

provide age appropriate skill lessons through station-based training for kids between the ages of 6 and 14. The camps challenge experienced athletes to reach new goals, while building a solid foundation for newcomers to the game. Kids will learn to run, throw, catch, defend, form block, form tackle and explode out of a stance with proper technique and improved speed. With patience and encouragement, kids gain confidence...and that's what it's all about. These week-long camps feature safe, non-contact football instruction and athletic development, as well as instruction about good nutrition, proper hydration and rest and recov-

ery. Camps are led by professional educators with high school, college or professional coaching experience. Bears Heroes, men who earned their living wearing the Bears uniform, provide supporting instruction at all Camp locations.

Chicago Bears Youth Camps will take place in 26 locations throughout the Chicagoland area during the summer of 2007. Be a part of our program! Call (312) 226-7776 for more information or to register, or visit www.BearsCamps.com for a complete listing of 2007 locations and dates.

Community at the Convention

The Chicago Bears 10th Annual Fan Convention kicked off on Friday, March 30 when thousands of fans from all over the country flocked to the Hilton Chicago to catch a glimpse of their favorite Bears and relive the excitement of the 2006 season. This year's

convention featured a kids interactive area with inflatable games; seminars with Bears coaches, front office staff, and current and former players; and the opportunity to purchase authentic Chicago Bears equipment.



Exclusive memorabilia helped raise funds for several Bears charities.

The Chicago Bears community endeavors were also well represented, with booths set up to help raise awareness for Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps, the Walter & Connie Payton Foundation, the Great Moments in Football Halftime book project, and Bears Care, the charitable beneficiary of the Chicago Bears.

Connie Jarrett, and Brittney Payton held a signing to promote the book *Payton*, which provides fans with personal stories and photos from those who knew Walter Payton best. Proceeds from the book sale benefited the Walter & Connie Payton Foundation. In an

effort to raise funds for Bears Care, fans had the opportunity to bid on exclusive Bears memorabilia, including an autographed photo of Devin Hester's record breaking kick-off return at Super Bowl XLI. Sales from the *Great Moments in Football Halftime* book benefited Rocky Clark and Rob Komosa, two former football players who were paralyzed while playing high school football. The book contains stories, anecdotes, and interviews from nearly 50 accomplished football coaches from NFL and college teams, and is also available for purchase at www.RockyClark.org or www.RobKomosa.org.