



IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

November 2005

A SEASON OF GIVING

Thousands of winter coats along with hats, scarves and gloves will be collected this year as part of the **17th Annual Chicago Bears/Dominick's "Coat Drive"** benefiting the Salvation Army and public schools in the Chicagoland area. The start of the Bears/Dominick's "Coat Drive" will be announced at a press conference at Halas Hall on Monday, November 14, and the drive will officially kick-off on Sunday, November 20 with a stadium collection at Soldier Field prior to the Bears vs. Panthers game.



Jerry Azumah and Charles Tillman were the official spokesmen for the 2004 Bears Coat Drive.

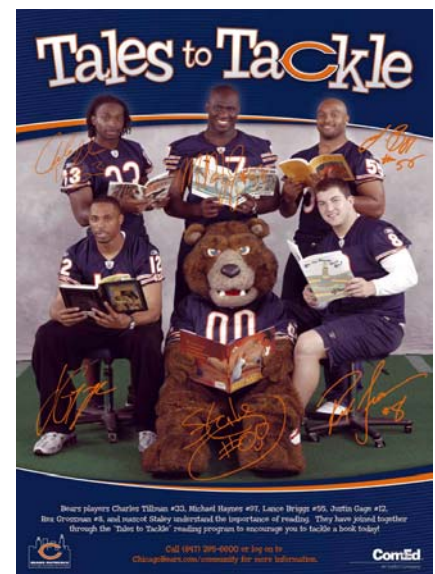
Volunteers from Wm. Meyers Movers will be stationed at entrance gates to collect coats from generous fans. Coats can also be dropped off at all Dominick's stores from November 20, 2005 - January 17, 2006. To find a Dominick's store near you, please log on to www.Dominicks.com/StoreLocator.asp or visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community.

STUDENTS TACKLE READING

The Chicago Bears "Tales to Tackle" reading incentive program officially kicked-off in 30 Chicago area schools on Monday, October 17. This program, which is sponsored by ComEd, an Exelon company, runs through mid-January. The central aspect of the program is a poster featuring Bears linebacker **Lance Briggs**, wide receiver **Justin Gage**, quarterback **Rex Grossman**, defensive end **Michael Haynes**, cornerback **Charles Tillman**, and mascot **Staley**. All are reading memorable childhood books. The goal of

the program is for students to read three approved books per month. Each child who reaches the goal of reading three books per month for the three month period will be entered in a random drawing for the chance to win a special "Bears Experience" at Halas Hall.

Over 7,300 students are participating in the program this year, and students who meet their reading goals will be able to track their progress on the Bears website at www.ChicagoBears.com/community. For more information on the "Tales to Tackle" program, please contact Jessica Kies at (847) 739-5308.





Chris Harris helps paint a classroom at Kids Hope United as part of the Bears/United Way Hometown Huddle.

HOMETOWN HUDDLE

Most of the 2005 Bears Rookie Class, including **Chris Harris, Cedric Benson, Rashied Davis, Robbie Gould, Daven Holly, Brandon McGowan, Airese Currie, and Rod Wilson**, participated in a volunteer project at Kids Hope United on Tuesday, October 18 as part of the Bears/United Way "Hometown Huddle" program. The rookies joined volunteers from Midwest Generation in Waukegan and students from Kids Hope United in painting a classroom that has recently been added to the Kids Hope United campus. Afterwards, the players signed autographs and ran an impromptu football clinic for the kids. The "Hometown Huddle" is a NFL-

wide day of service that provides NFL players and coaches from each team the opportunity to take part in a variety of community-service activities. This event was the third of four volunteer activities that the rookie class 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 events throughout the season.

NFL HIGH SCHOOL TUESDAY

Bears tight end **Gabe Reid** visited Lane Tech High School in Chicago on Tuesday, October 4th as part of the NFL High School Tuesdays program. Reid attended football practice at the school and ran drills with the Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity football teams. Lane Tech was awarded the visit in conjunction with NFL High School Tuesdays, a program in which a player from each NFL team visits a local high school.



Gabe Reid visits with football players at Lane Tech High School.



Rex Grossman speaks to students at North River School in Chicago.

NEVER TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL

Each Tuesday during the football season, Chicago Bears players visit Chicago Public Schools to speak to, motivate, and interact with students as part of the Bears School Outreach program. The theme for player visits is character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. Players who have participated in Bears School Outreach so far this year include **Bobby Wade, Ian Scott, Justin Gage, Todd Johnson, and Rex Grossman**. For the second consecutive year, Bobby Wade has

generously offered to speak at a different school each week. More than 7,000 students benefit annually from this program.

TRICKS AND TREATS

Bears offensive tackle **John Tait** and running back **Adrian Peterson** visited Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago on Tuesday, October 25 for an early Halloween party. John and Adrian decorated pumpkins with approximately 50 residents from the facility before heading outside to play some football. This is the second year in a row Bears players have participated in Halloween festivities at Misericordia.



John Tait helps a resident at Misericordia decorate a pumpkin at their Halloween Party.



Marcus Reese helps a student finish her homework at the Louis L. Valentine Boys & Girls Club.

November 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Robert Wood Boys & Girls Club in Little Village in Chicago.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB POWER HOUR

Bears players **John Gilmore** and **Marcus Reese** joined Bears staff members to help tutor students as part of the Touchdown Club Power Hour on Tuesday, October 18 at the Louis L. Valentine Boys & Girls Club in Chicago. The Bears partnered with Staples in creating this initiative, which is designed to encourage students to focus on academics after school and reward them for their achievements. The next session of this program will take place on Tuesday,

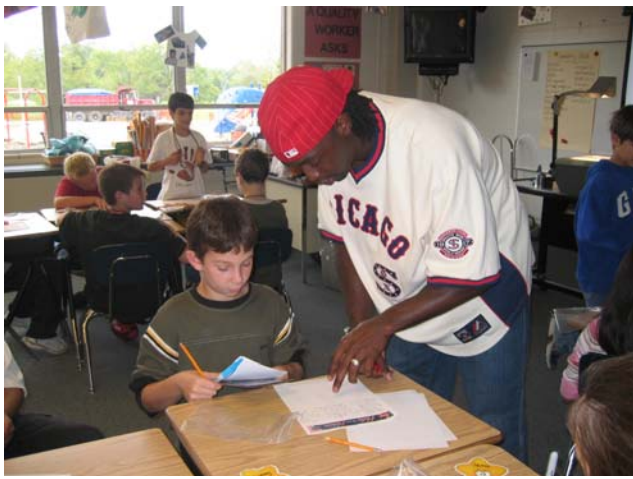


TAKE A BEAR TO SCHOOL!!!!

Bears defensive end **Adewale Ogunleye** appeared at Fairview South School in Skokie on Tuesday, October 25 as part of the NFL "Take a Player to School Day," presented by the JCPenney Afterschool Program. To encourage children ages 6-13 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. The lucky Chicago winner, 5th grader **Steven Cristi**, was picked up at his house by Adewale in a limousine and taken to school, where he was the envy of all of his classmates! Adewale visited the rest of the 5th grade students and spoke to them about the importance of in-school and after-school education and then offered some football instruction.



Steven Cristi sits with Adewale Ogunleye at Fairview South School at the visit he won through the "Take a Player to School" sweepstakes.



Charles Tillman helps a student write a letter to be sent to a member of the armed forces serving overseas.

HELLO TO OUR HEROES

Cornerback **Charles Tillman** visited Wescott School in Northbrook on Tuesday, October 11 for the "Hello to Our Heroes" program. As part of this program, Charles helped a 5th grade class write letters to men and women of the military who are currently serving overseas. Being the son of an army sergeant, Charles was able to speak first-hand about how much it means to soldiers serving in other countries to receive letters from home. As part of this program, which is sponsored by Staples, a Bears player

will visit a different school once a month during the football season to help students write letters. The letters will then be distributed by the USO to troops serving overseas. Staples will provide letter writing kits to the students, as well as to the service men and women who receive the students' letters.



YOUTH FOR LIFE

Nine different Bears players, including **Roberto Garza, Terrence Metcalf, Kurt Kittner, Leon Joe, Chris Harris, Rob Droege, Fred Miller, Ian Scott, and Mark Bradley**, participated in the "Youth For Life: Remembering Walter Payton" program at three area high schools during the month of October. The YFL program was founded in 2001 with the purpose of educating high school students about the importance of organ and tissue donation. The program, sponsored by Walgreens, was dedicated to Walter Payton, who died in 1999 while awaiting a liver transplant. The goal of YFL is to provide facts about organ and tissue donation to high school students preparing to apply for their driver's license, so they can make an informed choice about registering as a donor.



Mark Bradley, Rob Droege, Fred Miller, and Ian Scott pose for a photo with students at New Trier High School after a YFL assembly.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Congratulations to Neuqua Valley High School for earning the title of 2005 Chicago Bears Flag Football Champions!

The Bears annually host a 32-team flag football league for high schools in the Chicago area that offer flag football as an intramural sport. The semi-final and championship games were played in the Walter Payton Center at the Bears training facility in Lake Forest on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Neuqua Valley defeated St. Rita High School 6-0 to earn the title. The entire Neuqua Valley team will be guests of the Bears on Nov. 13 when we host the 49ers at Soldier Field. They will also be honored during a pre-game ceremony prior to the game.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Ian Scott....November 8, 1981
Lance Briggs....November 12, 1980
Rod Wilson....November 12, 1981
Kyle Orton....November 14, 1982
Airese Curry....November 16, 1982
Israel Idonije....November 17, 1980
Nathan Vasher....November 17, 1981

SUPER BOWL SWEEPS

Bears Care, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, in cooperation with the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, announced its 11th Annual "Super Bowl Sweeps" to be held on January 19, 2006. The holder of the winning ticket wins the following prize package: **Four tickets to Super Bowl XL on Feb. 5, 2006 at Ford Field in Detroit; Round-trip airfare from Chicago Midway Airport to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (Travel dates will be Feb. 2 and Feb. 6. Airline tickets donated by Southwest Airlines); Hotel accommodations of two rooms for four nights.** You may enter in the "Super Bowl Sweeps" by visiting www.BearsCareSuperBowlSweeps.com. A donation of \$30.00 to Bears Care is suggested. Good luck!

Live Responsibly™



DESIGNATE A DRIVER

"Start Your Game Right, Designate a Driver." The Chicago Bears, Sportservice, and Miller Brewing Company 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 the game to receive a Designated Driver wrist band and coupons for complimentary soft drinks. Participants will be asked to sign a pledge card and show identification to verify their age.

TOY DRIVE: DEC. 4!!!

The Chicago Bears will assist the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation with their annual Toy Drive by hosting a collection at Soldier Field on December 4 prior to the Bears vs. Packers game. Volunteers from the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation will be stationed at entrance gates to collect new toys from generous fans. Please bring a toy to help make the holidays a little brighter for children in the Chicago area!

PAYTON

by Connie, Jarrett, and Brittney Payton

Connie, Jarrett, and Brittney Payton, along with Matt Suhey, will be in attendance at the Bears vs. 49ers game on Nov. 13 for a book signing to promote the new book, **PAYTON**.

This book provides fans with personal stories and photos from those who viewed Walter Payton as father, son, and friend. With accounts from his family, best friend Matt Suhey, and other Monsters of the Midway, and from Walter himself— **PAYTON** is an emotional and inspirational touchdown.

The Payton family is scheduled to sign books for 2 hours prior to kickoff (10:00 a.m. – noon) and 1 hour after the game (~3:00-4:00 p.m.)



Adewale Ogunleye wrapped up his "Goal Power: Alternative Careers in Sports" program by giving each student who participated in all three sessions a brand new iPod Shuffle!



A group of adults who were evacuated from their homes in Louisiana because of Hurricane Katrina were guests of the Bears at a team practice on Friday, October 14. The group is currently staying at a temporary shelter in Tinley Park with over 100 other Hurricane Katrina evacuees.