



IT BEARS MENTIONING....

May 2004

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT FOR A VERY SPECIAL BEAR

When Brian Urlacher purchased 22 tickets to every Bears home game last year, he did it because he wanted to give some very special athletes a chance to enjoy a Bears game. Brian purchased these tickets through the Bears Home Team Hand-Off ticket donation program, and he donated them to Special Olympics Illinois. So each week, an excited group of Special Olympics athletes filled the 22 seats and cheered as loud as they could for their favorite Bear. Without Brian's generous donation, these youngsters probably would not have had the opportunity to attend a Bears game. To show their appreciation for Brian's kindness, they created an "Urlacher Fan Club" banner, which was signed by all of the athletes.



**HOME TEAM
HAND-OFF** 
A PLAYER TICKET DONATION PROGRAM

On Friday, April 30 they had the opportunity to personally present their thoughtful gift to Brian. Four Special Olympics athletes and their families visited Halas Hall and waited patiently for Brian to finish the morning practice. Their faces lit up as he walked off the field toward them, and he was all smiles when he saw his fan club waiting for him. Brian consistently contributes both time and monetary support to Special Olympics in Illinois and his home state of New Mexico.

A BIG NAME FOR SMALL PAWS!

The Chicago Bears have teamed up with Brookfield Zoo to help find a name for the zoo's newest 80-pound bundle of joy. The little guy in the photo to the right is a five-month-old male polar bear who is living the good life in Bear Grotto at Brookfield Zoo. The only thing that he is missing is a name...and that's where you can help. Once you think of the



perfect name for him, you can either submit your suggestion online at www.BrookfieldZoo.org/zoolink.asp?Name_This_Bear or visit the zoo in person to pick-up an official entry form. The contest ends on May 12, so don't delay! On May 22, Chicago Bears defensive end Michael Haynes and mascot, Staley, will be at Brookfield Zoo to announce the contest winner and the winning name that was chosen. The winner will receive the following amazing prizes: four tickets to a Chicago Bears game and the opportunity to be on the field during the pre-game warm-ups; an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo for four people that includes lunch with the bear keepers and zoo director; a Share the Care package from Brookfield Zoo; and of course bragging rights for naming the polar bear! Good luck!

HONORING WORTHY BEARS

Besides being outstanding football players, do you know what Dustin Lyman, Olin Kreutz, and Charles Tillman have in common? All three were honored with very deserving awards in April 2004. Dustin Lyman received the Ed Block Courage Award during a luncheon at Maryville City of Youth on April 6. This prestigious award is presented to players who are regarded as symbols of professionalism, strength, and dedication. The winner is considered to be a role model in his



community. Dustin certainly fits these criteria perfectly, and the Chicago Bears organization congratulates him on this tremendous honor.

Just two weeks later, two other deserving Bears - Olin Kreutz and Charles Tillman - proudly accepted the Brian Piccolo Award. This annual award has been given to a Bears rookie since 1970 and was expanded in 1992 to include a veteran winner. Teammates vote for the players who best exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication, and sense of humor of the late Brian Piccolo. Prior to the awards presentation, David Krichavsky of the NFL presented a check in the amount of \$100,000 to the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund. This was the first of five annual installments that

the NFL will donate to the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund, for a total donation of \$500,000. Proceeds from this fund, which was founded in 1970, benefit breast cancer research at Rush University Medical Center and the Clearbrook Center for the developmentally disabled.

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Chicago Bears on-field performance has always been well chronicled by the Chicagoland media throughout every football season and off-season. However, most people do not realize the tremendous

difference that the team and our players make off-the-field each

year. To that end, we recently produced the Chicago Bears 2004 Report to the Community titled *Tackling the Needs of Chicago*. This publication highlights the innumerable charitable programs, events, and initiatives that the Chicago Bears directed during 2003 and continue to lead on an annual basis. This year's community report also doubles as a monthly calendar to help you track the team's activities throughout the year. If you did not yet receive a copy of the 2004 Report to the Community, please contact the Chicago Bears Community Relations department at (847) 295-6600 or kater@bears.nfl.com, and we will be happy to send you a copy.

BEARS CARE RAFFLE

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for the Bears Care Gala raffle drawing on May 14, 2004. Among the fabulous prizes are \$5,000 cash, a trip to Super Bowl XXXIX, and a premium golf package at some of Chicago's finest courses. Tickets are \$50 each or 5 for \$200. Please call the Bears Care office at (847) 739-5325 to buy your tickets today!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Josh Warner.....May 15, 1979

Jason McKie.....May 22, 1980

Josh Minkins.....May 23, 1980

Brian Urlacher.....May 25, 1978

Gabe Reid.....May 28, 1977

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