



IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

August 2005

HAPPY CAMPERS

Over 45 kids and parents from Arden Shore Child and Family Services were guests of the Bears for Hispanic Day at Training Camp on Sunday, July 31. The day started off with a pizza party in a private tent, which was immediately followed by the afternoon practice session. The highlight of the day was a visit from new Bears guard Roberto Garza, tight end Gabe Reid, and defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, who stopped by to sign autographs and meet the kids at the end of practice. Afterwards, the kids took full advantage of day's other festivities, which included the Lay's Kids Interactive Zone, a live broadcast with La Ley radio station, and other special events for Hispanic Day. A great time was had by all! Arden Shore has been committed to rebuilding children's lives in a



Roberto Garza and Gabe Reid visited with a group from Arden Shore Child and Family Services at Hispanic Day at Training Camp on July 31.

caring community for 105 years. The Vernon Hills-based organization assists over 400 children and families on an annual basis. Arden Shore provides group home, foster care, counseling and family preservation services in a bilingual milieu throughout Lake County, Illinois.

ATHLETES 'N ART 2005

John Tait will serve as an Honorary Chairman for the inaugural Athletes 'N Art celebration in the Cadillac Club at Soldier Field on Saturday, September 17 from 4pm-8pm. The event is hosted by Special Children's Charities, and funds raised will benefit Special Olympics Chicago programs enjoyed by nearly 5,000 athletes. In addition to live music, artwork submitted by Special Olympics Chicago athletes will be displayed along with pieces of art produced by retired NFL players. Mayor Richard M. Daley is slated to also serve as an Honorary Chairman for the event, and Honorary Co-Chairs include former Bears players **Dick Butkus**, **Emery Moorehead**, and **Jerry Simmons**. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$75, which includes admission, parking, refreshments, and food. For more information, contact Special Children's Charities: Phone - 312-527-3743, email: athletesandart@aol.com or www.sochicago.org.



John and Jeneva Tait pose for a photo at Misericordia earlier this year.

PLAYING IT SMART



Justin Gage speaks with Play It Smart students at an event recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at DuSable Museum.

The National Football Foundation's Play It Smart program was introduced in Chicago in 2001 at Hubbard High School. The Chicago Bears have supported this program over the years through many different avenues, including monetary donations, player appearances, and various volunteer opportunities. Since its inception, Play It Smart has grown to include eight schools within the Chicago Public Schools system, making Play It Smart - Chicago the largest in the nation. As part of this education program, a trained academic coach works with student athletes for an entire school year and focuses on positive personal development, decision making, responsibility, maturity issues, and leadership skills. The results of this fantastic program are clear: graduation rates of participants are 11% greater and college matriculation rates are 40% higher than school averages. 85%

of seniors take the SAT/ACT, a higher rate than their peers, and 97% of Play It Smart participants graduate from high school compared to the national rate of 86%.

Due to extraordinary circumstances, this program needs our help. In 2004, the Department of Education allocated \$10.7 million for Play It Smart nationwide. This year, the funds previously earmarked for the program have been diverted to the Defense Department. What does this mean for Play It Smart - Chicago? The number of schools in 2005 will be reduced from eight schools to two, and the number of student athletes in the program will be reduced from 600 to 150. Although it is expected that the DOE will continue their funding next year, the program desperately needs our help for the 2005/2006 school year.

If you are interested in helping, checks can be made payable to "National Football Foundation," and donations can be sent to: **Play It Smart - Chicago, Stephen Wilkins, Department of Sports Administration, Chicago Public Schools, 125 S. Clark Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603.** To learn more about the Play It Smart program, please stop by the Community Relations Department or contact Caroline Guip at (847) 739-5364.



PLAY IT SMART



GOING ONLINE...

The Chicago Bears are asked to support thousands of charities and worthy organizations every year. In an effort to update and streamline the process of managing these numerous requests, we have modified our donation policy. Effective August 1, 2005, all organizations are now required to submit donation requests online by using our new Donation Request Form at http://www.chicagobears.com/community/donations_policy.jsp.

Requests submitted via U.S. mail,

facsimile, phone, or e-mail will no longer be accepted after August 1, 2005. In order for this transition to be as straightforward and successful as possible, we cannot make exceptions to this new policy for any charity or not-for-profit organization. Therefore, we are asking for the assistance and cooperation of everyone in the Chicagoland area. For more information regarding our new donation policy, log on to http://www.chicagobears.com/community/donations_policy.jsp. Thank you for your assistance in helping make this a smooth transition!

Contact the Bears
Community Relations
Department at
(847) 295-6600 with
questions regarding
our donation policy.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

The end of summer can only mean one thing - the start of football season! As the Bears gear up for the 2005 season at Training Camp, youth football leagues and programs across Chicagoland are getting ready to kick-off their own seasons.

CHICAGO BEARS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMPS: These week-long, non-contact day camps officially wrapped up on Friday, July 29 in Crystal Lake. In the first three years, over 2,100 kids have participated in the Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps, presented by Gatorade, in 17 different neighborhoods throughout Chicagoland. Highlights from this year's camps included several visits by Bears mascot Staley, a visit by the entire Bears 2005 Rookie Class at the Chicago location, and hundreds of happy campers across Chicagoland! For information about the camps in 2006, please call (312) 226-7776 or visit www.ProSportsExperience.com/bears.



The Bears 2005 Rookie Class poses with campers and coaches at a Bears Youth Football Camp.



NFL Flag Regional Tournament 2004

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL: Whether you want to play NFL FLAG Football or start a league in your area, this is your chance. Log on to www.NFLyouthfootball.com to find out how to become part of the National Football League's premiere youth football program. NFL FLAG Football offers all the action and excitement of the game in your community. It is a non-contact football program for boys and girls ages 6-14 that promotes physical fitness and teaches youngsters valuable football lessons about teamwork and fair play.

PUNT, PASS & KICK:

Established in 1961, the PP&K program is the oldest NFL Youth Football program. Girls and boys in

four separate age divisions (8-9, 10-11, 12-13, and 14-15) compete against each other in punting, passing and place kicking. The PP&K program is free - both to organizers who host a local competition and to every youngster who wants to participate. This competition is offered at Chicago schools, through the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, several Chicagoland park districts, and school physical education classes. For more information, please log on to www.NFLyouthfootball.com.



A Punt, Pass & Kick participant competes during pre-game of a Bears home game in 2004.



Dream Big. Play Big.

PLAY FOOTBALL MONTH: The NFL and USA Football are teaming up for a second time to celebrate the start of football season with Play Football Month, which will take place across the country from August 25 through September 30. The theme for this month-long campaign is "Be Part of the Football Family." In support of Play Football Month, the Chicago Bears will host Youth Football Day at Soldier Field on

September 1 as the Bears take on the Cleveland Browns. The Bears will donate complimentary tickets to youth football and cheer organizations throughout Chicagoland for this game. To learn more about youth football programs that the Bears support, please visit www.ChicagoBears.com/community.

GENEROUS BEARS GIVING BACK

Nine Bears players and coaches will have their very own cheering sections at each Bears home game during the 2005 season. That is because they are participating in the Bears "Home Team Hand-Off" program. This ticket donation program gives players and coaches the opportunity to purchase a block of season tickets to all home games and donate them to a charitable organization of their choice. The charity then distributes the tickets to those less fortunate so they have the opportunity to experience a Bears game at Soldier Field. The Chicago Bears provide the players with the following: field wrap that is displayed in the stadium featuring the coaches' and players' names, one large block of seating for their entire group, orange and blue pom poms for all members of their charity group, and assistance in selecting a worthy charity, if needed. The following is a list of Bears who are participating in the "Home Team Hand-Off" program for the 2005 season:

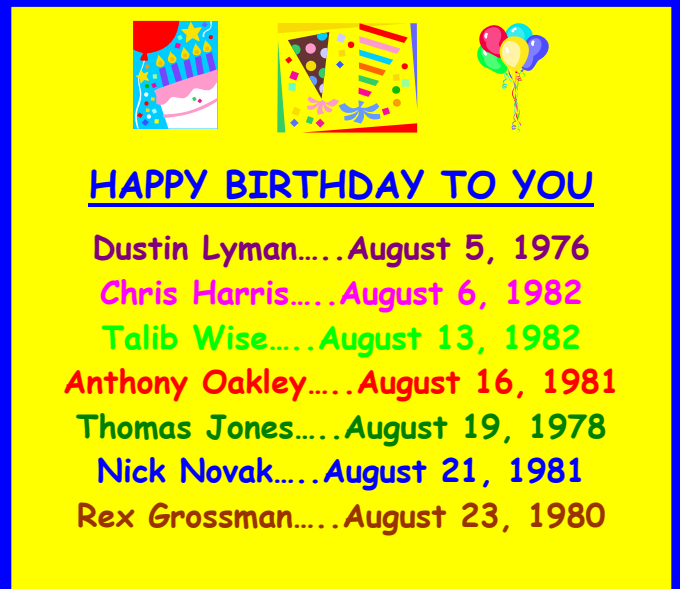


Some of "Urlacher's Backers" cheer on the Bears during a home game in 2004.

- Jerry Azumah presents **AZUMAH'S ARMY**
- Mike Brown presents **BROWN'S BOMBERS**
- Marc Colombo presents **COLOMBO'S CROWD**
- Roberto Garza presents **ROBERTO'S AMIGOS**
- Adewale Ogunleye presents **WALE'S WARRIORS**
- Lovie Smith presents **THE SMITH CREW**
- John Tait presents **TAIT'S TOTS**
- Charles Tillman presents **PEANUT'S GALLERY**
- Brian Urlacher presents **URLACHER'S BACKERS**

BRING THE FAMILY!!!

The Chicago Bears will host a ticketed family event at Soldier Field on Thursday, August 4th, to give fans the opportunity to see the stadium, watch the 2005 Chicago Bears practice, and enjoy fireworks. The festivities will kick-off at 4 p.m. outside of Soldier Field at the stadium green area. Fans can enjoy the Miller Lite Beer Garden, live music, interactive games for kids, and much more! Fans will also have the opportunity to meet Bears alumni Chris Zorich, Thomas Sanders, Steve McMichael, Jim Morrissey, Ronnie Bull and Wendell Davis from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. inside the stadium. Gates open at 6 p.m., with practice beginning at 7 p.m. Each fan who enters will receive a scratch-off ticket for the chance to win an autographed practice jersey from a selected number of players. General admission seating is \$5 and available for purchase at www.ticketmaster.com. Walk-up tickets will also be available for Family Night from Gate 10 and Gate 47. Walk-up tickets cost \$5.00 and must be purchased with cash. We hope to see you there!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- Dustin Lyman....August 5, 1976
- Chris Harris....August 6, 1982
- Talib Wise....August 13, 1982
- Anthony Oakley....August 16, 1981
- Thomas Jones....August 19, 1978
- Nick Novak....August 21, 1981
- Rex Grossman....August 23, 1980

FAMILY FUN & FITNESS FOR ALL

Join Forest Grove Athletic Club for their 3rd annual "Forest Grove Athletic Club Fitness 5K" Run and Family Walk on Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation and Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. This event raised over \$12,000 last year with more than 500 participants. Connie Payton, as well as current and former Chicago Bears, are scheduled to attend. Bring your friends for a great morning of fun, fitness and food! For more information, or to sign up, please visit www.signmeup.com/50940 or call Robyn Kove at (847) 991-4646.



Jerry Azumah visits with participants at the 2004 Forest Grove Athletic Club Fitness 5K Run and Family Walk.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SPECIAL GROUPS



Friday, August 26 is the Armed Forces Benefit Game at Soldier Field! Men and women from the military will be invited to attend the game as guests of the Bears to see the team take on the Buffalo Bills. The Bears are working with the USO to ensure that all branches of the military have the opportunity to take advantage of these complimentary tickets.

Thursday, September 1 is Youth Football Day at Soldier Field. Boys and girls involved in a variety of different youth football and cheer organizations and leagues throughout Chicagoland will be on hand to cheer the Bears to victory when we host the Cleveland Browns. Youth Football Day is part of Play Football Month, in association with the NFL and USA Football. Play Football Month is designed to promote the sport and the intrinsic values gained from participation in youth football.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 10, 2005	Special Olympics at Training Camp
August 16, 2005	Boys and Girls Club event at Training Camp
August 26, 2005	Armed Forces Benefit Game
September 1, 2005	Youth Football Day at Soldier Field
September 10, 2005	Forest Grove Athletic Club Fitness 5K Run and Family Walk
September 26, 2005	Lou Malnati's / Bears Wives 35 th Annual Cancer Benefit
October 16, 2005	Hunt for Food and Shelter at Soldier Field (Bears vs. Vikings)