



# IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

September 2004

## A WHOLE BUNCH OF HAPPY CAMPERS!

The Chicago Bears were pleased to host over 200 children from different Chicagoland organizations at Training Camp this year. Youngsters from Arden Shore Child and Family Services, the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle Football League, and Special Olympics Illinois all came down to Training Camp in August to join in the festivities and cheer on their favorite team!



**Sunday, August 2:** Sixty kids and their families from Arden Shore Child and Family Services were guests of the Bears and Lays at Training Camp on August 1 for Hispanic Day. The kids met Bears' players Aaron Boone and Gabe Reid before rushing over to participate in the Lays' Kids Zone for the afternoon. They refueled during a pizza party in their own private area where they watched practice and cheered for their favorite players! Lays generously provided the pizza for the group, along with bus transportation to and from camp. They also

gave goody bags to the kids that included t-shirts and all the Lays potato chips they could eat!

**Monday, August 3:** 100 players and coaches from the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle Football League made the trek to Bourbonnais on August 2 for an afternoon full of football. Their skills were put to the test at Junior Training Camp where they participated in drills run by players from Olivet Nazarene University. After a tough workout, the kids and coaches had



lunch and enjoyed the Bears afternoon practice from their own VIP area.

**Monday, August 9** - Over 50 athletes from Special Olympics Illinois were guests of the Bears on August 9 at Training Camp. After having lunch and watching the Bears 2003 Highlights video, the athletes were ready to show off their skills at Junior Training Camp. After participating in their own practice, they watched the Bears in action

from their private cheering section. The athletes' faces lit up when several players and coaches came over to talk football, take pictures and sign autographs at the end of the afternoon session.



# CHICAGO BEARS... TACKLING THE NEEDS OF CHICAGO

The Chicago Bears 2004 game tickets feature photos of Bears players and coaches serving the community. The following story describes the event or initiative that is depicted in the photo for the September 12 regular season home opener. The stories pertaining to photos for upcoming games will be featured in future issues of "It Bears Mentioning..." Through charitable outreach efforts, cause-related marketing initiatives, and grass roots programs in the areas of Education, Underprivileged Children and Families, Health and Wellness, Youth Football, and Volunteerism, the Chicago Bears continue to make a difference.



## Lovie Smith Talks Football with Special Olympians Detroit Lions vs. Chicago Bears September 12, 2004



The Chicago Bears have a long-standing relationship with Special Olympics Illinois that is highlighted by several events each year. Over the last two years alone, the Bears have supported over 20,000 Special Olympics Illinois athletes through financial contributions, player appearances, ticket donations, training camp programs, and other awareness events. This past spring, four Special Olympics athletes and their families were invited to Halas

Hall to watch practice and have lunch. After the conclusion of the morning session the athletes had the opportunity to meet and talk with several of the players and coaches, including Head Coach Lovie Smith. The athletes impressed Coach Smith with their knowledge of the Bears and optimism for the 2004 season.



Special Olympics Illinois operates in 18 regions statewide, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with mental retardation or closely related developmental disabilities. SOI began 35 years ago in 1968 when the First International Special Olympic Games were held at Soldier Field.



## Nominate Your Organization's Community Quarterback Today!

Attention all charitable organizations...the Chicago Bears want your help in recognizing and honoring outstanding volunteers in the Chicagoland area. Through our annual Community Quarterback Award: *Remembering Walter Payton*, the Bears will donate a total of

\$20,000 to worthy charities who have dedicated volunteers. Individuals can nominate themselves or others who are working hard to make a difference in the community. All nominees must be 13 years or older and volunteer with an official non-profit (501(c)(3) or 509) organization. Seven finalists will each receive \$1,000 donated in their name to their respective organizations, and two runners-up will each receive \$1,500 for their organizations. One person will be named the 2004 Bears

Community Quarterback winner and will receive \$10,000 for their organization. Organizations have the opportunity to nominate their outstanding volunteers by submitting forms online at [www.jointheteam.com](http://www.jointheteam.com) through October 15. A nomination form can also be requested by calling the Chicago Bears Community Relations Department at (847) 739-5308. Nominate your Community Quarterback today!



# THANKS COACH!

Coach Lovie Smith and his staff are not the only coaches near and dear to the Chicago Bears organization. We recently kicked-off the ninth season of the Bears "Coach of the Week" program, so our focus is also on Illinois high school coaches who are making a difference. And this year, Bears fans can take part in the program! If you are aware of an excellent high school football coach, you can nominate him for the Bears "Coach of the Week" program. The program recognizes Illinois



high school coaches statewide who develop player football skills, knowledge, character, discipline, and teamwork abilities, and who promote volunteerism and provide leadership both on and off the field. The Bears will donate \$1,500 to each winning coach's high school football program and all "Coach of the Week" winners will receive a framed certificate. In addition, all winning coaches will be invited to attend a Bears practice and "chalk talk" with Head Coach Lovie Smith and will be recognized during an on-field ceremony at the Bears vs. Texans game on December 19. The "Coach of the Week" program will continue for nine weeks through October 25. To nominate a coach or to find out more about the Bears "Coach of the

Week" program, please log on to [www.chicagobears.com/community](http://www.chicagobears.com/community) or call the Bears Community Relations Department at (847) 739-5308.

## PRE-GAME SHOWDOWN

While the Bears players were in the locker room discussing their pre-game strategy, players from the Chicago Park District's Junior Bear Tackle and Inner City Flag football leagues scrimmaged on the field prior to kickoff of the Bears vs. Saints

game on August 27. Players from these two leagues showed their skills to the thousands of fans in attendance at the game. After the youth football demonstration, the young participants had the opportunity to remain on the field and stand along the Bears sidelines to honor America during the singing of the National

Anthem. Two of the youth football players were also chosen to serve as



Honorary Captains during the coin toss. These activities were scheduled to recognize Youth Football Day at Soldier Field. In addition, hundreds of young players from youth football leagues throughout Chicagoland had the chance to watch the Bears take on the Saints that evening. The Chicago Bears provided over 1,400 complimentary tickets to various youth football programs to help kick off Play Football Week, a league-wide initiative to salute children involved in youth football programs across the country.

**PLAY FOOTBALL**

**WEEK**

**USA Football**

Presented by the Chicago Bears

### LACE UP THOSE RUNNING SHOES!

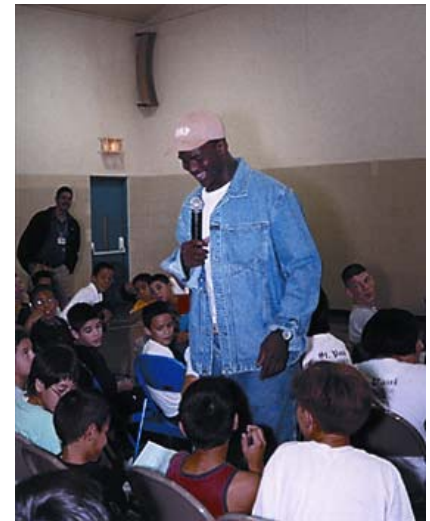
All Bears fans have probably heard the tales of Walter Payton's exhaustive workouts, tough training regimen and especially his famous running hill. In honor of Walter Payton's passion, Forest Grove Athletic Club is hosting their second annual Fitness 5K. Proceeds from the race will benefit the **Walter and Connie Payton Foundation**. The mission of the Payton Foundation is to provide assistance to children and young adults in need, and help them realize that they can raise the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them. The Fitness 5K will take place on Saturday, September 18, 2004 at the Forest Grove Athletic Club in Palatine. For more information, please call (847) 991-4646.



# CHICAGO BEARS SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Chicago Bears education initiative, presented by Bank One, includes programs geared toward giving children the vision and drive to become the best students and citizens they can possibly be. An educated child equates to a brighter future for the communities that comprise Chicago. Our education programs involve teaching children the importance

of good attendance and starting school on time, encouraging the joy of reading, educating students about public safety, and motivating students by having Bears players and executives visit schools throughout the football season. One program included in the education initiative is the



Chicago Bears School Outreach program. Each Tuesday during the football season, Chicago Bears players visit Chicago Public Schools to speak to, motivate, and interact with students. The theme for player visits is character development, goal setting, and commitment to excellence. More than 7,000 students benefit annually from this program.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- Jerry Azumah.....September 1, 1977
- Michael Haynes.....September 13, 1980
- John Gilmore.....September 21, 1979
- Todd McMillon.....September 26, 1974
- Aaron Gibson.....September 27, 1977

## Chicago Bears NFL Flag Football Regional Tournament

The Chicago Bears will host a 2004 NFL FLAG Football Regional Tournament at Grant Park on Saturday, October 23. Check-in will begin promptly at 7 a.m. This Regional Tournament is a round robin, day-long FREE event. Participants must be registered in a 2004 NFL FLAG league, and teams must be comprised of 8-10 players.

All NFL FLAG leagues are encouraged to send multiple teams.

Winners from each Regional Tournament age bracket will have the opportunity to participate in the NFL FLAG National Tournament of Champions at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex on November 19 and 20, 2004. For more information or to register, log on to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com). Reserve your space today as registration will close when tournament capacity has been reached! Entry



is FREE for all officially registered 2004 NFL FLAG leagues. For more information about all of the youth football programs and leagues supported by the Chicago Bears, please log on to [ChicagoBears.com/community](http://ChicagoBears.com/community) and select the "Youth Football" option.



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