



IT BEARS MENTIONING.....

March 2005

BOWLING WITH BEARS

People often wonder what Bears players do after games. Well, would you believe that they go bowling? With the help of Bears guard **Ruben Brown**, that is exactly what many of our players did after the Bears vs. Packers game on January 2, 2005. Ruben Brown's Celebrity Bowl took place at Fat Man Bowl in Green Oaks, and it was a huge success.

Registration for the tournament was open to the public, and all proceeds benefited Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. Bears players joined teams competing against each other for the grand prize, which was an exclusive visit to Bears Training Camp in Bourbonnais in 2005. The evening's festivities also included a raffle and a performance by Marc Colombo and his band after the conclusion of the tournament. We extend congratulations to Ruben for spearheading the efforts and a special thanks to everyone who attended...a great time was had by all!



AND THE WINNER IS...

The 11th Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards were held at the Chicago Hilton on February 3, and Bears President and CEO **Ted Phillips** served as Chairman for this prestigious event. Ted was joined by over 1,200 leaders in the fields of finance, government, real estate, architecture, and community development, including Mayor Richard M. Daley. This event is considered the "Oscars" of community development, and it honors designers, architects, and developers who are responsible for the most outstanding work in Chicago's neighborhoods. Both

non-profit and for-profit developers are recognized for their efforts in working together to build healthier neighborhoods in the Chicago metropolitan area.



Craig Krenzel visited with children at a party for the Leukemia Research Foundation on January 16.



Mike Brown and **Darrell Campbell** appeared at the Latoff YMCA in Des Plaines on February 19 for the opening of the facility's new indoor sports arena.



HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Fifty local high school football players from Dunbar, Hubbard, Hyde Park, Harlan Academy and Chicago Vocational Academy joined wide receiver **David Terrell**, defensive lineman **Darrell Campbell**, and cornerback **Alfonso Marshall** at the DuSable Museum of African American History on Friday, January 14 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The players and students watched a short documentary about the life of Dr. King and then had

their newfound knowledge put to the test as they participated in a scavenger hunt around the museum to find answers to historical questions that were presented in the video. This was the second year for the event, and, once again, it was a great success!

WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE...

Several young boys at Allendale Association were surprised by a very special guest at their annual Career Day on Wednesday, February 23. Bears tackle **John Tait** spent the morning talking about the road to becoming a professional football player, the challenges and hurdles he faced along the way, and the responsibilities he has as a professional athlete. John stressed the importance of continuing an education beyond high school and making the right choices. With six NFL seasons under his belt, he was able to answer all of the questions the students threw at him. He was even able to give the boys some pointers on protecting the quarterback. One lucky student got a one-on-one lesson in blocking and the correct three point stance of an offensive lineman. This unique addition to Allendale's Career Day gave the boys the opportunity to spend time with an ultimate role model and professional.

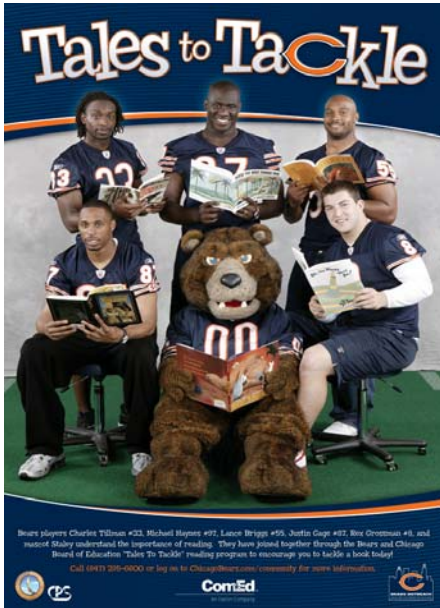


I'D LIKE TO BUY A VOWEL

Bears quarterback **Rex Grossman** made his television debut on Wheel of Fortune on January 7, 2005 as part of "NFL Players Week." Fourteen other top NFL players appeared as well to try to raise funds for their charity of choice. Rex played for Bears Care, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. He did extremely well...making it all the way to the final round and raising over \$11,000 for Bears Care. Since its inception nine years ago, "NFL Players Week" has raised nearly \$2 million for various charities that the players support. Congratulations Rex!



TALES TO TACKLE



The first year of the Chicago Bears “Tales to Tackle” reading program officially concluded on February 15, and the winning students from each grade at each school were guests of the Bears for a very special field trip on February 24. The children were picked up at their schools by a Coach bus and taken to the Walter Payton exhibit at the Lake County Discovery Museum in Wauconda. The students watched a short film on the life of Walter Payton, walked through the entire exhibit, and even had the chance to try on authentic NFL gear worn by current Bears players. After an hour of learning, the kids were then taken to Halas Hall for a pizza party with defensive lineman **Michael Haynes** and Bears mascot **Staley**. The students talked school and football with Michael, and they also participated in an awards ceremony where they received certificates acknowledging their accomplishment. Each student who completed the program received a certificate, and the winners received “Tales to Tackle” posters signed by Michael, Rex Grossman, and Charles Tillman. The “Tales to Tackle” program,

sponsored by ComEd, was introduced in 18 Chicago Public Schools in 2004, and all students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes were given the opportunity to participate.

MASCOT MELEE

The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers weren't the only teams playing at Soldier Field on Sunday, January 2. Bears mascot Staley and the fighting War Hawks from Sheriff Sheahan's Neighborhood Football League took on a group of mascots from different sports teams throughout the country

during halftime

of the Bears game. It was quite a battle, but after 10 minutes of very competitive play, and with a little help from the crowd, the youngsters pulled out a 12-6 victory over the mascots. Highlights from the game were featured nationally on Good Morning America, and ESPN voted the winning touchdown as one of their “Top Ten Plays of the Week.” Looks like this has all the makings of another great NFL rivalry!



TAKE THE POLAR PLUNGE!!!

Grab your friends for the 5th Annual Chicago Polar Plunge on Sunday, March 6 at North Avenue Beach! Help support Special Olympics Chicago programs by taking a quick dip in Lake Michigan at this unique and fun event. Afterwards, don't miss the Melt Down Party at the North Beach Club at 1551 N. Sheffield Avenue - a festive celebration whether you jumped in the lake or not! Register, purchase tickets, or make a donation at www.chicagopolarplunge.org. See you at the beach!





WHAT A SMART PROGRAM!

Almost any athlete will tell you that their on-field success starts off the field and in the weight room. On Wednesday, March 9, Bears Assistant Athletic Trainer Reggie Barnes will speak to high school football players from Hyde Park Academy in Chicago about the importance of off-season conditioning and the benefits of a lifting program. These athletes all participate in the Play It Smart program in association with



National Football Foundation. In this program, a trained adult academic coach works with the student athletes for an entire school year and focuses on positive personal development, decision making, responsibility, maturity issues, and leadership skills.

PLAY IT SMART

Miriam Merrill is the academic coach at both Hyde Park and Harlan Community Academy and is responsible for organizing this visit. Merrill is constantly looking for activities and programs that will get her students involved and excited about school. It is this dedication that earned her recognition as Play It Smart Academic Coach of the Month for January from more than 120 academic coaches nationwide. When asked about what Merrill's work has meant to him, one of her student athletes responded, "She's taken a bunch of individuals and made us into a team. She's stressed that we're students first, athletes second, and that's gone a long way in making a difference."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- Zack Abron.....February 3, 1980
- Brad Maynard....February 9, 1974
- Mike Brown.....February 13, 1978
- Ruben Brown.....February 13, 1972
- Chad Hutchinson.....February 21, 1977
- Charles Tillman....February 23, 1981
- Bobby Wade.....February 25, 1981
- Darnell Sanders.....March 16, 1979
- A.J. Ricker.....March 29, 1980
- Bryan Anderson.....March 30, 1980

DON'T MISS IT!!

The 8th Annual Chicago Bears Fan Convention is March 18-20 at the Chicago Hilton!

Join the world's largest gathering of Bears fans! Tickets are still available at Ticketmaster.com or by calling (312) 559-1212.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to John Tait for being the Bears 2004 Nominee for the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

This is the only League award that recognizes a player's off-the-field community service as well as his playing excellence.

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