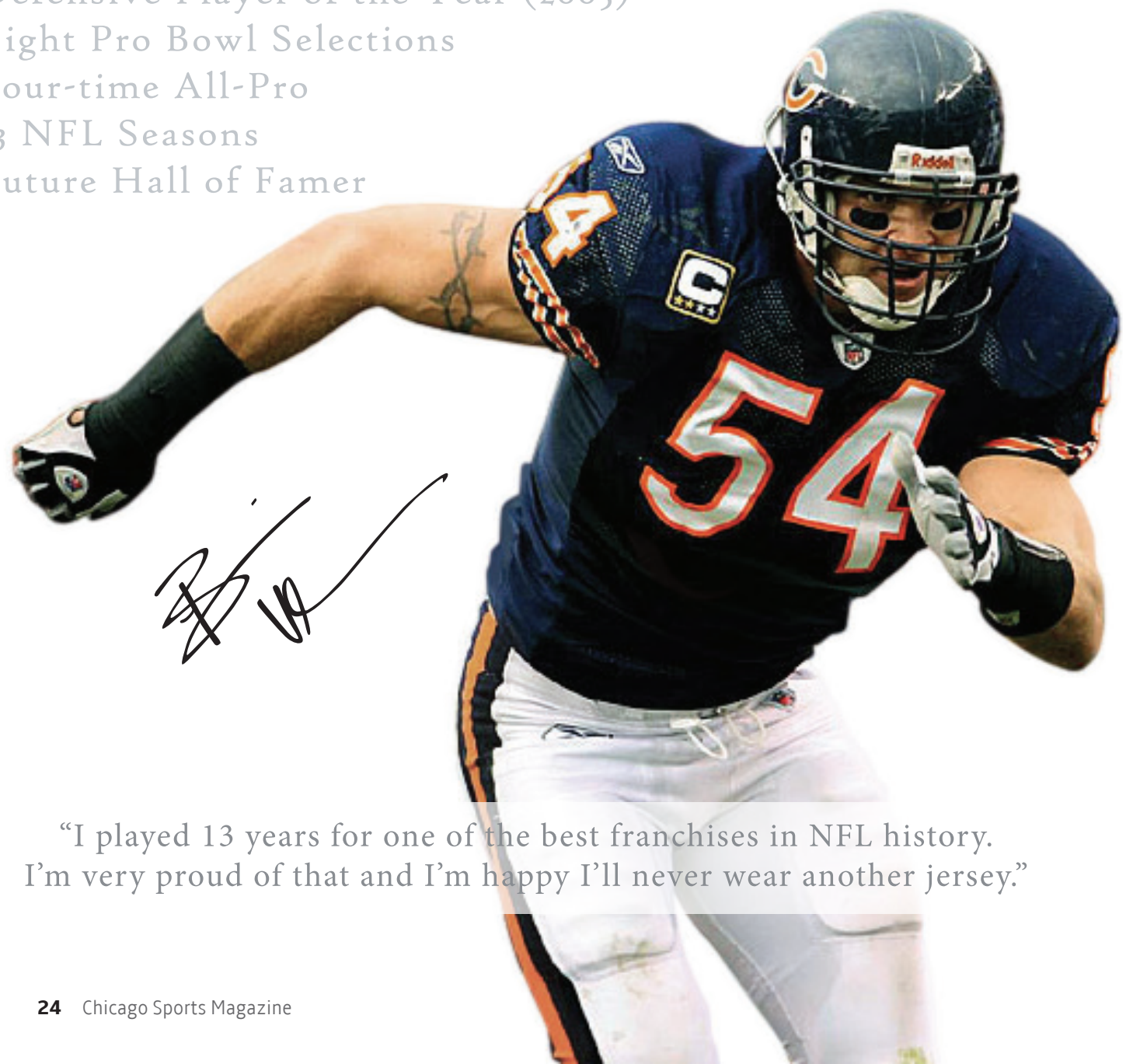




BRIAN URLACHER CHAMPION IN CHICAGO

After an illustrious 13-year NFL career spent entirely with the Bears, star middle linebacker Brian Urlacher on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, announced his retirement from the National Football League.

- Rookie of the Year (2000)
- Defensive Player of the Year (2005)
- Eight Pro Bowl Selections
- Four-time All-Pro
- 13 NFL Seasons
- Future Hall of Famer



“I played 13 years for one of the best franchises in NFL history. I’m very proud of that and I’m happy I’ll never wear another jersey.”

When Brian Urlacher first joined the Bears in 2000, he never dreamed he'd have an illustrious 13-year career that likely will culminate in his induction in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Reflecting on his great career, Urlacher will never forget hoisting the NFC championship trophy—which is named for Bears founder George Halas—over his head following the team's 39-14 win over the New Orleans Saints Jan. 21, 2007 at Soldier Field.



(Top) Sept. 17, 2000: Brian Urlacher makes his first career start at middle linebacker in Week 3 of his rookie season after Barry Minter was injured. Urlacher, who played on the strong side in the first two weeks, had 13 tackles and a sack versus the Giants at Soldier Field.
(Right) Jan. 21, 2007: With snow falling at Soldier Field, Urlacher lifted the NFC championship trophy above his head following the Bears' 39-14 whipping of the Saints. He had a career-high four pass deflections in the game, interfering with Drew Brees' intermediate passing game and leading the club to Super Bowl XLII.



“Back then I was just happy to be on the team and happy to be in Chicago, just trying to find my way on the field somehow,” Urlacher told ChicagoBears.com. “Obviously it worked out OK, but I never imagined it would last this long or turn out the way it did.”

Brian Urlacher lifts the George Halas Trophy after the Bears beat the Saints to advance to Super Bowl XLII. The ninth overall pick in the 2000 draft, Urlacher retired from the NFL Wednesday. But not before he chiseled out the fourth spot on the Bears' Mount Rushmore of legendary middle linebackers, joining Hall of Famers Bill George, Dick Butkus and Mike Singletary.

Fueled by an extremely rare combination of size and speed, Urlacher was voted to eight Pro Bowls and named NFL Rookie of the Year in 2000 and NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2005. He was a four-time All-Pro who helped the Bears reach the Super Bowl in 2006.

“The NFC Championship Game the year we went to the Super Bowl was one of my favorite memories,” Urlacher said. “We were on the podium with the trophy and the snow was coming down. Mrs. McCaskey was up there. Coach [Lovie] Smith was up there, Rex [Grossman] and me.”

Urlacher started 180 of 182 games played with the Bears, recording a franchise-record 1,779 tackles, 41.5 sacks, 22 interceptions, 16 fumble recoveries and 11 forced fumbles. The only players who've started more games for the franchise are Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton (184) and center Olin Kreutz (183).

NFL COACHES AND PLAYERS REMEMBERING BRIAN URLACHER

FORMER BEARS HEAD COACH LOVIE SMITH:



“Hard to put into words what Brian Urlacher meant to me and our team. We all had the privilege to watch him put together a Hall of Fame career on the field. The way he took over the 2006 Monday night game in Arizona is among the greatest defensive performances ever. And I have so many memories of other outstanding games. But his physical play is just a small part of what made Brian great. People knew he called our defense, but his intelligence was never given its just due. His understanding of the game is among the best who have ever played it. Off the field he set the tone for our team. He was the example everyone looked to. He worked hard and wanted to be coached. And when we brought in a new player, Brian was the first person to greet him and welcome him to the Bears. The NFL has had many superstars in its history, but I couldn't have asked to work with a better one than Brian Urlacher. I believe he belongs in the discussion as the greatest who have ever worn a Bears uniform.”

DENVER BRONCOS QUARTERBACK PEYTON MANNING:



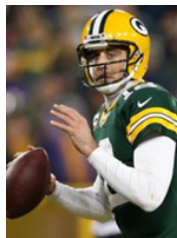
“It's a no-brainer when it comes to Brian having a Hall of Fame career. He was the anchor of that Chicago Bears defense. Dick Butkus, Mike Singletary, Brian Urlacher... Brian carried that torch well, and I know the players of the past were proud having him carry that torch. He gave them great continuity at middle linebacker. I really enjoyed getting to know Brian over the years, we played in a number of Pro Bowls and met at offseason banquets and events. I had great respect for the way he played the game. I am sad to see him not playing. Any time you played the Chicago Bears, you thought about Brian Urlacher. It's a sad day, but at the same time, it's a celebration of his career. After watching some highlights, it's easy to see why he was such a great player. I sent him a text message just saying, 'It's been an honor and a privilege to have competed against you in the NFL.' It really has. I wish him all the best with all his post playing days.”

FORMER BEARS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR ROD MARINELLI:



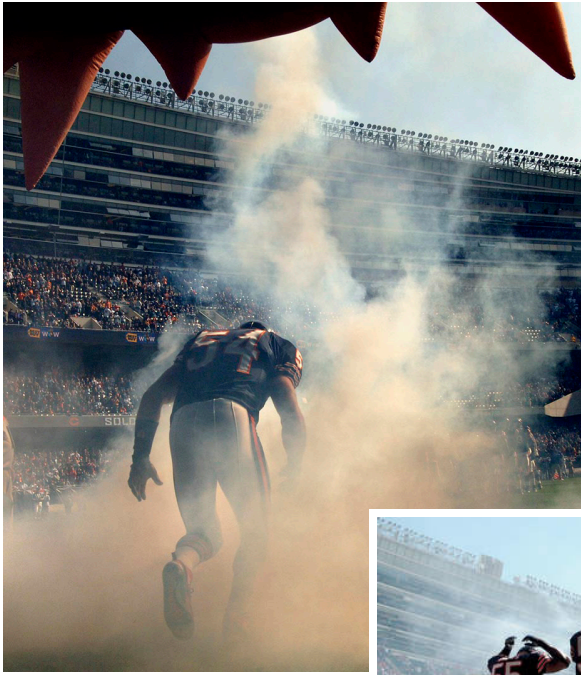
“Brian Urlacher was a special player. He was a hard worker, intelligent and he knew what to do. But his leadership was off the charts. He is a winner and he made other guys around him believe and winners too. Day-in and day-out, he led the way and when time came in a game for a play to be made, he always made it. He was a great practice player as well. Everything you want in a Hall of Fame player, he has. He is a Hall of Fame player, no doubt about it.”

GREEN BAY PACKERS QUARTERBACK AARON RODGERS:

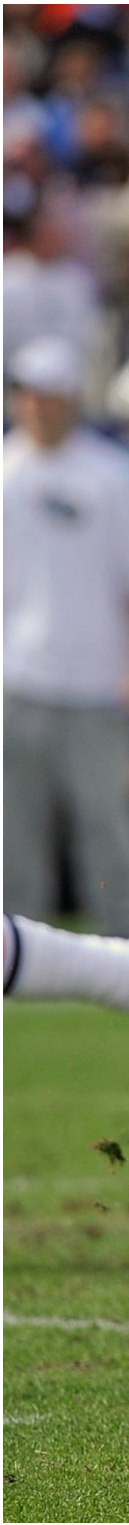


“I want to congratulate Brian on a tremendous career. We have had our share of battles amid what is in my opinion the league's greatest rivalry, but I'll always have the utmost respect for his professionalism and the way he played the game. He was a complete player on the field and a really good guy off of it. And while I won't miss him making plays against us, I will miss the interaction with him during games and the challenges he presented to us in our preparation that forced us to raise our level of play. You think about the lineage of players who have played that position for that team: Butkus, Singletary, Urlacher. It's an incredible list and is truly beyond any comparison. Brian was the ultimate competitor, leader, and a no-doubt Hall of Famer, and I want to wish him the absolute best in whatever he chooses to go on and do.”

“We have had our share of battles amid what is my opinion the league's greatest rivalry, but I'll always have the utmost respect for his professionalism and the way he played the game.”



(Top and Right) Brian Urlacher during pre-game introductions and festivities at Soldier Field.





Nov. 04, 2012: Brian Urlacher intercepts Matt Hasselbeck's pass and runs it back 46 yards for a Chicago Bears defensive touchdown.

A NEW COACHING ERA IN CHICAGO



Trestman and the Bears are not giving away a lot of secrets regarding their offensive schemes.

"We've got to play smart and we've got to play unselfishly," Trestman said during his hour-long press conference. "We've got to

play tough, physical, disciplined football because in this league you've got great coaches and great players in 31 other cities.

"Our coaches have to be great at teaching the science of the game because we've always got to be at our best. Our players have to totally understand special situation football, and finally and most importantly, we have to understand that the quarterback must play at an efficient level.

"We will have a locker room where there are two core values: You've got to really love football and you've got to be hard working. From talking to Phil and others I can say really confidently that I'm walking into that kind of locker room, and I feel grateful to start in that situation."

The Bears' three-day voluntary mini-camp this week was not only an introduction to Marc Trestman's offense for onlooking reporters, but it was also an introduction for the players.

"We think that the game is played fast and that you have to put pressure on yourself in practice so you need to practice fast," Kromer said.

But no matter the style and tempo, Trestman's offense ultimately rides on the arm of Jay Cutler.

Cutler expressed both excitement and frustration Tuesday when he spoke about learning his fourth system in five years, but the new coaching staff is confident the quarterback will pick up the terminology fast. Cutler will be just fine.

"I think we got a lot better acquainted with how we do business, both in meetings and on the field," Trestman said.

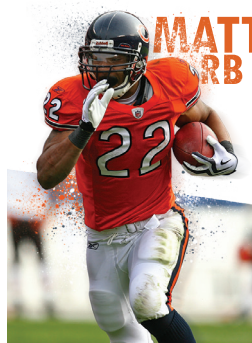
It was just three days, but the players were very engaged this week and learning quickly, a sign that they've bought in.

Count that as Trestman's first victory with the Bears.

Coach Trestman's Resume:

- ▶ Quarterbacks coach for the 49ers, Lions, Cardinals, and Raiders.
- ▶ Offensive coordinator for the 49ers, Cardinals, and Raiders.
- ▶ Spent the last five seasons in the Canadian Football League as head coach of the Montreal Alouettes. As head coach, his team compiled a record of 59-31.
- ▶ Won back-to-back Grey Cup championships in 2009 and 2010.
- ▶ CFL coach of the year in 2009.
- ▶ Under Trestman's guidance, Alouettes QB Anthony Calvillo won back-to-back MVP awards in 2009 and 2010.

KEY PLAYERS



MATT FORTE RB

While learning a new offense has almost become an annual ritual for Matt Forte, the Bears running back is excited about the system that's being installed by first-year head coach Marc Trestman.

After averaging 56 receptions and 496 yards while catching eight touchdown passes over his first four seasons, Forte wasn't utilized as much as a receiver last year, compiling a career-low 44 catches for 340 yards and 1 TD.

Forte thinks that his role as a receiver will expand again this year. He's certainly aware that Raiders running back Charlie Garner had over 90 catches-91 for 941 yards to be exact-in 2002 when Trestman was Oakland's offensive coordinator.

"I like this offense," Forte stated "I'm pretty excited."



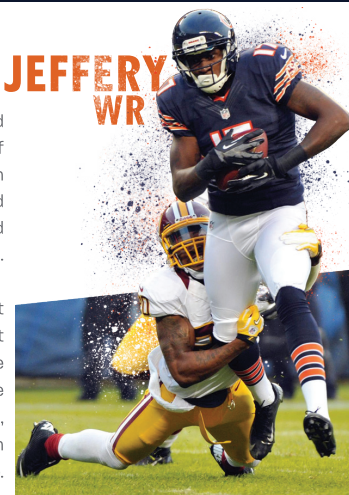
HENRY MELTON DT

Melton, 26, was voted to his first career Pro Bowl in 2012 after registering 33 tackles with six sacks, five tackles-for-loss, a team-high 24 quarterback pressures and two forced fumbles.

"Henry has been a good player for us and we are using the franchise tag so his development continues as a Bear," Emery said. "We will

continue our conversations with Henry and work toward a multi-year agreement."

For the 2013 season, with the departure of Brian Urlacher, Henry and the Bears will need to find a way to come together as a productive unit without the leadership of Urlacher. Henry and the other veterans will need to step up together to lead this great group of defenders to be



ALSHON JEFFERY WR

The Bears traded up in the second round of the 2012 draft in hopes of finding a complement for Brandon Marshall. Alshon Jeffery showed flashes of being that, but he offered little consistency.

The Bears didn't add a deep threat in the offseason, so it looks like it will be Jeffery's job to fill that role again. Hopefully after getting the kinks out from his rookie season, Alshon will become an elite veteran receiver for years to come.

the elite defense they were a year ago.

"Everything you're looking for in a defensive linema, I'm talking about quickness, speed, strength. He's gotten his weight up. He's a good pass rusher inside. I just think he has everything that you're looking for."

2012 STATS

2012 RECORD: 10-6-0 | 3RD NFC NORTH

Total First Downs	292	PTS:	YDS:	PASS YDS:	RUSH YDS:
1st Downs (Rush-Pass-By Penalty)	99 - 163 - 30	23.4	310.6	187.4	123.1
3rd Down Conversions	80/219				
4th Down Conversions	5/13				
Total Offensive Yds	4969				
Total Rushing Yds	1970				
Rushing (Plays-Avg Yards)	470 - 4.2				
Total Passing Yds	2999				
Passing (Comp-Att-Int-Avg)	287 - 485 - 16 - 6.8				
Sacks	41				
Field Goals	27/33				
Touchdowns	42				
Turnover Ratio	+20				



JAY CUTLER QB QBRATING: 81.3



Att	Comp	Yds	Comp %	Yds/Att	TD	TD %	INT
434	255	3033	58.8	7.0	19	4.4	14

Asked what improvements are needed on offense, Cutler said: "We've got to be more consistent with our run game. We've got to be able to attack the middle of the field in the passing game without moving 'B Marsh' around."

KEY ADDITIONS

PLAYER	2012 TEAM
Melton, Henry DT	Chicago Bears (Franchise Tag)
Bowman, Zack CB	Chicago Bears (Re-signed)
Bennett, Martellus TE	New York Giants
Bushrod, Jermon LT	New Orleans Saints
Williams, D.J. LB	Denver Broncos
Anderson, James LB	Carolina Panthers
Zbikowski, Tom S	Indianapolis Colts

DRAFT 2013

PICK	PLAYER
Rd 1, Pick 20 (20)	Long, Kyle OG
Rd 2, Pick 18 (50)	Bostic, Jon ILB
Rd 4, Pick 20 (117)	Greene, Khaseem OLB
Rd 5, Pick 30 (163)	Mills, Jordan OT
Rd 6, Pick 20 (188)	Washington, Cornelius OLB
Rd 7, Pick 30 (236)	Wilson, Marquess WR

CHICAGO BEARS 2013 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

WK	DATE	TIME (EST)	NETWORK	OPPONENT	ANALYSIS
01	SEP 08	12:00PM			The Bears will kick off the Marc Trestman era with back-to-back Sunday home games, hosting the Bengals Sept. 8 and the Vikings Sept. 15 at Soldier Field.
02	SEP 15	12:00PM	FOX		
03	SEP 22	7:30PM	NBC	@	This year's schedule also includes four prime time game match-ups against the Steelers, Giants, Packers, and Cowboys.
04	SEP 29	12:00PM	FOX	@	The Bears started off last season with an impressive record of 7-1 but finished with a record of 10-6, missing the playoffs. This year's schedule hosts only five playoff teams, including divisional opponents the Packers and the Lions. With the bye week at mid-season, the team should finish with a great record and perhaps a potential spot in the postseason. A question that comes to mind in terms of the defense is how will they fare without star middle linebacker, Brian Urlacher?
05	OCT 06	12:00PM	FOX		
06	OCT 10	7:25PM			
07	OCT 20	12:00PM	FOX	@	
08	B Y E	W E E K			GAMES TO WATCH FOR:
09	NOV 04	7:40PM	ESPN	@	Week 01 vs Bengals: This home opener will show fans what the new look offense will look to do for the season. Cutler should show improvement in his game with new offensive weapons such as tight end Martellus Bennett and tackle Jermon Bushrod to help him stay upright in an improved offensive line scheme.
10	NOV 10	12:00PM	FOX		
11	NOV 17	12:00PM			
12	NOV 24	12:00PM	FOX	@	Week 04 at Lions: If the Bears want to secure a spot in the playoffs they need to get wins early in the year, especially against division opponents. Playing on the road against the Lions will be a test of their strength within the NFC North.
13	DEC 01	12:00PM	FOX	@	
14	DEC 09	7:40PM	ESPN		Week 17 vs Packers: This game can be a deciding factor on which team will win the NFC North but it is also a game that could potentially keep one of these teams out of the playoffs. If this game comes down to that playoff scenario, this will refuel the oldest rivalry in the National Football League, which will make for an exciting game to watch.
15	DEC 15	12:00PM	FOX	@	
16	DEC 22	12:00PM	FOX	@	
17	DEC 29	12:00PM	FOX		