

*MAY 2008

CUBS (Baseball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 9	Arizona	1:20
May 10	Arizona	12:05
May 11	Arizona	1:20
May 12	San Diego	7:05
May 13	San Diego	7:05
May 14	San Diego	7:05
May 15	San Diego	1:20
May 16	Pittsburgh	1:20
May 17	Pittsburgh	12:05
May 18	Pittsburgh	1:20

WHITE SOX (Baseball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 6	Minnesota	7:11
May 7	Minnesota	7:11
May 8	Minnesota	1:05
May 20	Cleveland	7:11
May 21	Cleveland	7:11
May 22	Cleveland	7:11
May 23	Los Angeles	7:11
May 24	Los Angeles	2:55
May 25	Los Angeles	7:05

COUGARS (Baseball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 2	Clinton	6:30
May 3	Clinton	5:00
May 4	Clinton	1:00
May 12	Cedar Rapids	6:00
May 13	Cedar Rapids	6:00
May 14	Cedar Rapids	6:00
May 15	Cedar Rapids	6:00
May 23	Quad City	6:30
May 24	Quad City	6:00
May 25	Quad City	6:00

JACKHAMMERS (Baseball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 23	Winnipeg	Noon
May 23	Winnipeg	7:05
May 24	Winnipeg	7:05
May 25	Winnipeg	5:05
May 26	Winnipeg	2:05
May 27	Schaumburg	6:05
May 28	Schaumburg	7:05

FLYERS (Baseball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 15	Fargo-Moorhead	6:20
May 16	Fargo-Moorhead	6:45
May 17	Fargo-Moorhead	6:05
May 18	Fargo-Moorhead	1:20
May 19	Joliet	6:20
May 20	Joliet	6:20

FIRE (Soccer) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 17	Houston	7:30
June 7	Washington, D.C.	7:30

SKY (Basketball) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 22	Sacramento	7:00
May 29	Minnesota	7:00
June 1	Connecticut	4:00

RUSH (Arena football) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 19	Los Angeles	7:00
May 31	Kansas City	7:00

SLAUGHTER (Arena football) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 3	Rock River	7:30
May 17	Fort Wayne	7:30
May 31	Muskegon	7:30

MACHINE (Lacrosse) Home games only

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PM)
May 18	San Francisco	3:30
June 1	Washington	3:30

After the 2008 NFL Draft, Chicago Bears General Manager Jerry Angelo said, "We feel we came out of this draft with five potential starters." It's a monumental statement by the Bears' big boss.

It's significant for a few reasons. One, a team that has the need to draft for five starters is a team in a major rebuilding project. Two, after the miserable 2007-08 season ended, Head Coach Lovie Smith told fans that this team "is close." Close to what, I'm not sure. He couldn't really mean close to returning to the Super Bowl, a trip this very team took just a year prior to his bold comment. The team had too many questions up and down its roster going into the off-season to seriously consider turning the franchise around in one single draft. It's not all that common to draft one or two impact players that can move a team into Super Bowl contention, let alone four or five. It just doesn't happen. The Bears have serious needs. Three, it is impossible to determine the quality of a draft class in a group's first year of NFL action.

Most NFL experts say the best way to judge a GM's draft class is to look back to the group of college athletes that were selected three years ago and examine their impact on the organization.

THE BEARS' 2005 DRAFT

Cedric Benson — There are rumors beginning to float that Benson's NFL career may be over. His leg injury is far more severe than first believed. Aside from the injury though, the questions that have surrounded Benson have revolved around his "heart" and effort to compete. Angelo even stated that Benson is not the guy the Bears thought he would be. That would explain the second-round pick of Tulane running back Matt Forte. Benson did, however, contribute during the Super Bowl season. He was the featured back the second half of that season even though he wasn't the starter. Had the Bears won the big game, one could look back on Benson's time as a Bear and call it a success — he played that well. Unfortunately, a better Indianapolis team sealed Benson's fate as an unfulfilled talent and more importantly, a bust as the fourth pick overall. **Grade: F**

Mark Bradley — His time as a Bear can be summed up very easily: great potential, but injured. The Bears are still counting on Bradley to be the big

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The Score



play wide receiver he was drafted to be. He had six receptions last year for Chicago. Looking at the Bears' current roster, he must step up in the 2008-09 season. **Grade: Incomplete**

Kyle Orton — He has developed into a nice NFL quarterback. Orton still needs to mature more mentally to take the next step in his career. He has the physical tools to be a starter in the league. The Bears told us that Orton will get a fair chance to compete this summer for the starting job against Rex Grossman. **Grade: B**

Airese Currie — Currie spent all of his rookie season on Injured Reserve and most of his second year, too. He played in one NFL game and was released in May 2007. **Grade: F**

Chris Harris — He was named a starter during his rookie year after safety Mike Green was deemed bad by the coaching staff. He wasn't a great safety, but he did earn a starting role. Last year during training camp — actually, in the middle of a practice — he was traded to the Carolina Panthers for a draft pick. **Grade: C+**

Rod Wilson — He has contributed mostly on special teams during his time with the Bears. The season ended for Wilson last year during the preseason with a knee injury. **Grade: Insignificant**
BEARS' OVERALL GRADE: D

I wanted to give Angelo an F for this draft class, but the play of Orton and the fact that I always liked Harris jumped it up to a D. Let's hope that the 2008 class grades better in 2011.

There are four players in the 2008 draft that have to contribute from Day One. They are:

Chris Williams — The 6'6", 315-pounder is athletic and quick. He plays with great balance. Williams is widely considered the best tackle Vanderbilt ever produced. More importantly, he is very intelligent and will be able to understand the playbook quickly. The

Bears spent a lot of time with Williams leading up to the draft. He must be at left tackle for Game One of the 2008 season if the Bears are going to compete for a championship.

Matt Forte — The 6'2", 222-lb. running back from Tulane has great speed and size. In watching video of his ability, I saw he had something the Bears haven't had in the position for a long time — the ability to run away from defenders. Forte has nice hands and can catch the ball out of the backfield. He played all four years in college. Last year, Forte rushed for over 2,200 yards and 23 touchdowns. He'll be the starting running back for the Bears this year.

Earl Bennett — The 6'0", 200-lb. wide receiver from Vanderbilt is the Southeastern Conference's all-time leading receiver despite playing just three seasons. He was the only receiver in conference history to have multiple seasons with at least 75 receptions. He has great hands, can run after the catch and runs superb routes. The Bears love Bennett because of his flawless character. He has an opportunity to be the number one receiver here. I'm not sure if that's a compliment of his ability or a signal of the lack of depth on the Bears' roster.

Craig Steitz — The 6'1", 210-lb. safety out of LSU is an aggressive player that works hard on the field. He could emerge as a fan favorite because of his work ethic and high motor. I can already hear the chants from the Bears' faithful. He was sidelined late in the season and missed the Senior Bowl because of a shoulder injury. He, too, can earn a starting spot.

We won't know the impact of the Bears' 2008 draft class until they get on the field. As executive producer of the Boers and Bernstein Show on The Score 670 AM, I have the fortune of having Angelo on the show the day after the draft. This year was no different. I have always liked Angelo on a personal level. He is a gentleman and a class character. When he joined the show this year, he began by telling my hosts that he was glad they were still on the air. After the laughter ended, he added he has a better chance of getting the axe before we do. It was very funny and very typical of Angelo. Unfortunately, he wasn't too far from the truth.



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