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Yet even that could work to Emanuel's advantage. He conceded watching only "snippets" of past NFL drafts and listened with interest to the story of how Donovan McNabb, coincidentally a Chicago native, was booed long and mercilessly by a busload of Philly fans at the 1999 draft when the Eagles took him with their first-round pick.

"If that's the experience," Emanuel said finally, breaking into a wide grin, "it's a natural for an elected official."

AP NFL website: www.pro32.ap.org and www.twitter.com/AP_NFL



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The screenshot shows the official website of the Green Bay Packers. At the top, there are several promotional banners: a Bridgestone offer for tires, a 'DIRECT FROM THE TEAM' banner for a jersey, and a 'SHOP NOW!' banner for the Packers Pro Shop. Below these is the main navigation menu with links for TEAM, NEWS & EVENTS, HISTORY, FAN ZONE, MEDIA CENTER, GAMEDAY, COMMUNITY, and TICKETS. A secondary menu includes LAMBEAU FIELD, FAIR, PROMOTIONS, PROSPECT PRIMER, CHESNEY/DEAN CONCERT, SIGN UP FOR EMAIL, and LIVE WEBCASTS. A search bar is located on the right side of the page.

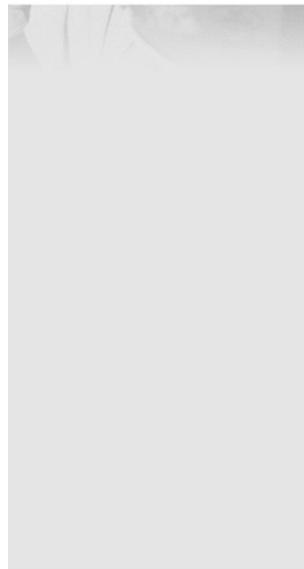
The main content area features a 'BLOG' section with the following article:

Aaron Rodgers joins 'Da Bears' fans in new commercial

Posted by Duke Bobber on September 6, 2013 - 12:11 pm

QB Aaron Rodgers latest State Farm commercial features some interesting comparisons — the superfans of 'Da Bears.'

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Da Bears! An Oral History

Fifteen years ago, Sweetness, Samurai, Iron Mike, the Fridge, and a comic book's worth of superheroes roared out of Chicago, taking the NFL by storm. By the time the season was over, they had shuffled their way to the Super Bowl. Andrew Santella retraces their glorious season—and finds out why they never built a dynasty.

BY ANDREW SANTELLA
October 2000



Everything about the 1985 Chicago Bears was oversized. Start with the Bears' first-round draft pick that year: a 330-pound defensive tackle-turned-fullback-turned-pop sensation named William "the Refrigerator" Perry. *Essentially*

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AROUND THE WEB



The Only 5 Exercises You'll Ever Need

William "the Refrigerator" Perry. Equally enormous were the blowouts the Bears registered: a 44-0 rout of the Cowboys, back-to-back playoff shutouts of the Giants and Rams, a record-setting laughter in the Super Bowl against the Patriots. Then there was the Bears' ample collective ego, made manifest in the "Super Bowl Shuffle," the seminal sports-to-music crossover that has inspired so many imitations. But biggest of all may be the lingering disappointment, the sense of missed opportunity, many of the Bears still harbor: With all that talent, they wonder, how in the world did we manage just one championship?

Gary Fenwick: (safety) Mike Ditka was the first head coach I had ever had in the NFL that had stated the goals of the organization. (When he took over in 1982), he said our goal is not only to win the NFC Central Division; our goal is not only to win the NFC; our goal is not only to get to the Super Bowl; but it's to win the Super Bowl. And then he said, "Half of you won't be there when we get there."

Mike Ditka: (head coach) I tried to convince them that we weren't just capable of winning a Super Bowl, we were worthy of winning a Super Bowl.

Dave Duerson: (safety) The making of the '85 team all took place in '84. We got in a nasty fight with the Raiders that year and that kind of set the tone. We won the game and we also won the fight. And, you know, we took on a different attitude.

Dan Hampton: (defensive end) We were probably more reckless and aggressive in '84 than we were in '85.

Matt Suhey: (running back) Then we walk on the field in San Francisco (in the NFC championship game) and, my God, the pressure was just, wow.

Jay Hilgenberg: (center) They spanked us good that game.

Duerson: They beat us 23-0, they kicked our butts and embarrassed us. They played at a level we'd never seen before. We were completely caught off guard at the speed at which the playoffs were played.

Ditka: They put a lineman (Guy McIntire) in the backfield against us to block at the end of the game. I forgive very easily, I just don't forget. But I knew after that game that I made a commitment personally and they made a commitment personally that we were gonna kick their ass next time we played them, period. That's what I explained to them and that's the way it had to be.

Steve Fuller: (backup quarterback) That game was the impetus for an offseason program unlike any I'd seen. Everybody had a poor taste in their mouth about how we played. Guys that you never saw working out in March or in late February were in the gym every day.

Already possessing the league's best defense, the Bears used their first-round pick in the 1985 draft on defensive tackle William Perry of Clemson. Defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan, who



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thought the team needed another cornerback, called Perry "a wasted draft choice."

Buddy Ryan: (defensive coordinator) He was a good kid, but he wasn't a very good football player. He could have gone in the fourth round.

Ditka: I thought he was a good football player in every sense. I thought he was one of the better athletes I'd seen and at the time he was an exceptionally big man. He had great quickness, great explosion. He could dunk a basketball.

Ryan: He could dunk the basketball, but he couldn't run down the court twice.

William "Refrigerator" Perry: (defensive tackle) Buddy just didn't care for no rookies.

Hampton: The thing about it was the hype of the Refrigerator. We got the No. 1 defense in the league and we draft this guy and the media wants to build it up like he's the savior. Save what? We're No. 1. Whatcha gonna do? Anyone that's 350 pounds isn't gonna overwhelm you with work ethic. But the thing was, Fridge had an amazing amount of natural ability, he was a good guy, he took the ribbing and obviously we accommodated him and grew to really, really love the guy.

Hilgenberg: I was happy he was on the Bears so I wouldn't have to play against him in games.

In the third game of the season, a Thursday night game, the injured Jim McMahon replaced Steve Fuller at quarterback in the third quarter and rallied the Bears to a 33-24 victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

Jim McMahon: I was in the hospital Monday and Tuesday (with a back injury) and got out Wednesday. I went to practice Wednesday and just kind of sat in the stands with the guys from ABC because Joe Namath was there. And Ditka got (bleeped) off because he thought I wasn't watching practice, I guess. So he told me I wasn't gonna play.

Ditka: He just could not throw the ball during the week.

McMahon: I wasn't planning on playing, but I went out and did my usual pregame stuff and all of a sudden I started feeling pretty good. I don't know if it was adrenaline or what. Sometimes a lot of pain goes away on game day. But during the warmups I was throwing the ball real well and I went up to Ditka and I said, "If you need me tonight, I'm ready."

Ditka: We thought we could play the other way, but we didn't do very well. Of course, he was begging to get in the game the whole game and driving me nuts.

McMahon: I could see it was slipping away. They were doing everything right and we couldn't do anything. I'm convinced to this day that he only put me in the game because he got tired of me chewing his ass out.



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Bill Swerski's Superfans

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"That's right. Da question is. Now, did God create Da Bears, and make them superior to all teams? Or is he simply a huge fan, and Ditka made them superior to all other teams?"
— Bob Swerski (George Wendt)

Bill Swerski's Superfans is a *Saturday Night Live* sketch. It first appeared on January 12, 1991, starring Joe Mantegna as Bill Swerski along with Chris Farley as Todd O'Connor, Mike Myers as Pat Arnold and Robert Smigel as Carl Wolinski. Subsequent sketches starred George Wendt as Bob Swerski with occasional appearances by Beth Cahill as his daughter, Denise Swerski.

The inspiration for the characters were radio hosts in Chicago during the 1970s and 1980s. The name "Bill Swerski" was likely derived from Bill Jauss, the moderator of the WGN radio panel show "The Sportswriters" (1975-1993), and from WGN radio and WGN-TV sportscaster Chuck Swirsky.

The characters were typically shown in a sports bar, drinking large amounts of beer and gorging themselves on ribs, sausages, and similar foods. All of the characters wore dark sunglasses and thick mustaches to resemble Mike Ditka, the popular coach of the Chicago Bears at the time. Ditka was the idol of all the Superfans, so much so that Chris Farley's character, Todd, would have a heart attack in every sketch because Ditka had suffered one himself (in the Thanksgiving special, the Superfans thought Todd was having a heart attack but Todd garbly shouted, "I'm choking! Choking!" causing Carl to give Todd the Heimlich Maneuver, causing Todd to cough up what he was choking on: a full porkchop). The group would discuss upcoming sporting events and inevitably predict a victory for the Chicago team using an exaggerated Chicago accent, normally culminating in a uniform toast to "Da Bears" and "Da Bulls".

Their predictions were likewise exaggerated and their topics of conversation often ludicrous. Typical debates concerned Mike Ditka versus a hurricane (in this particular debate, the Superfans believed that Ditka could defeat the hurricane, until it was revealed that the name of the hurricane was Hurricane Ditka), who would win in a competition for World Domination, "Da Bears" or "Da Bulls", Mike Ditka winning the Indianapolis 500 driving the Bears team bus, or how many points Michael Jordan could score if he played an entire game by himself.

Maesters starring Bob Swerski as host and the other Superfans as contestants. All the questions dealt with the Chicago Bears, Chicago, or Mike Ditka.

The characters appeared in nine episodes in two years. With Ditka's departure from the Bears in 1993, the sketch and characters all but disappeared. The final appearance of the Superfans was on October 25, 1997 in an episode hosted by Farley. This sketch featured the first (and only) appearance by their idol Mike Ditka, although he was at the time coaching the New Orleans Saints, much to the chagrin of the Superfans. Farley's death two months later ended the possibility of future Superfan sketches.

Wendell's historic class ended the possibility of future Superfan sketches.

The Superfans made a special appearance at the celebration of the Chicago Bulls' 1991-1993 "Three-peat" championship victory. The NBC television network interrupted daytime television to broadcast the short speeches made by the Superfans.

In 2003, Bart Swerski (Bob's nephew, played by Horatio Sanz) was introduced on a Weekend Update segment with his uncle discussing the recent playoff failure of the Chicago Cubs. Instead of referring to the team as "Da Cubs," Bart said "De Cubs," but it was learned that this was due to a speech impediment.

In 2006, George Wendt returned in Superfan garb alongside Dinka for a sketch prior to Super Bowl XL.

In 2014, State Farm began releasing SNL-themed advertisements (mainly drawing from early '90s sketches). Several of these included George Wendt and Robert Smigel reprising their roles as Bob Swerski and Carl Wolanski, respectively. In these ads, however, Bob never referred to Chicago, the Bulls, or the Bulls' loss to

the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Gallery Edit



Todd (Chris Farley) chomping on a pork chop



Todd (Chris Farley) having "shudder heart attack"



From left: Todd O'Connor (Chris Farley), Carl Wolanski (Robert Smigel), and Pat Arnold (Mike Myers) at Dinka's

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