

Unbearable Situation: Still cheering for cheerleaders

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DeMaurice Smith, the National Football League Players Association executive director, was in town last week to meet with the NFLPA Retired Players-Chicago Chapter at Ditka's restaurant.

Serious journalists were there to ask Smith about labor negotiations on the contract that runs out after the 2010 season.

Quick Hits was there, too.

In a candid one-on-one conversation, yours truly did his best to see to it that somehow, some way, some day the Honey Bears will return to their rightful place on the sidelines of Bears home games.

Ever since after the 1985 season when the Bears won the Super Bowl, the team has not had them.

"I didn't know that," Smith said of the Honey Bears.

What do we have to do to put into the next collective-bargaining agreement a clause that every team must have cheerleaders? For the sake of uniformity (skimpy and otherwise), wouldn't it behoove the league to make sure all teams have cheerleaders?

Smith chuckled.

"No comment," he said.

Quick Hits will take that as a maybe, if not a resounding yes.

For a longer version of this story (and one that actually includes Smith's view about a possible lockout), go to Quick Hits online at suntimes.com/sports.



Saints alive: The New Orleans Saints cheerleaders will have another chance to perform Sunday against the visiting Minnesota Vikings in the NFC title game.



There's a theme developing here: Indianapolis Colts cheerleaders will perform in Sunday's AFC title game against the visiting New York Jets.



A reminder the Bears once had cheerleaders: The Colts cheerleaders are in fine form before Saturday's victory against the Baltimore Ravens in Indianapolis.