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The Curse of the Honey Bears

Posted by James at 12:03 AM ET

Twenty years ago this month the Chicago Bears won their only Super Bowl. Walter Payton, Jim McMahon, Mike Singletary, William "The Refrigerator" Perry and the rest of the Bears crushed the hapless New England Patriots 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.

So what off-season moves did the Bears make to ensure their continued success? They disbanded their cheerleading squad, the Honey Bears.



In the twenty seasons since the Honey Bears last danced on the sidelines in Chicago, the the Bears are 3-7 in the playoffs, have been to only one NFC Championship game and have never been back to the Super Bowl.

Coincidence or Curse? *The Chicago Sun-Times* [investigates](#):

Hell hath no fury like a Honey Bear scorned. Move over Billy Goat, there seems to be a new curse in town, and it wears white Go-Go boots. Part of the Bears' celebration in winning Super Bowl XX in New Orleans was disbanding the Honey Bears. The team hasn't returned to the Super Bowl since. Is it time to reverse the curse?

Cathy Core pleads not guilty. If there is a curse preventing the Bears from returning to the Super Bowl, it wasn't conjured up by Core. That's not to say Core wasn't doing a little cursing when her cheerleading Honey Bears were disbanded by the Bears after Super Bowl XX.

"I didn't start the curse, that's for sure," Core said. "I'd like to think [the Bears not returning to the Super Bowl] was all about [firing the Honey Bears], but that's just my ego talking. I think it's a riot."

The Bears aren't laughing. Team president Ted Phillips didn't respond to a request for an interview. And Core doesn't expect the organization to change its mind.



"At the time, they told me it was basically a change in philosophy," Core said. "The Bears wanted to be about blood-and-guts football -- and football only. As long as Mr. [George] Halas was alive, we knew we'd be OK. He saw the value. I think there are certain people in the [McCaskey] family who have dominated the negative part of the issue, and as long as those people are still around and still vocal, I don't think the Honey Bears will come back."

Core said there have been meetings with the organization that looked promising, but the idea kept being shot down at the top levels. She's considering a 20-year reunion for the Honey Bears. The Bears might want to consider hosting that party at Soldier Field.

