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Has the Curse been lifted?

Posted by Sasha at 2:22 PM ET



The Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX on January 26, 1986. Two seconds later, the team's cheerleaders, the Honey Bears, were shown the door. I'm not sure how much of a stir this caused at the time because it was a busy year. Americans had a lot on their minds in 1986: Chernobyl, the Challenger disaster, AIDS, Iran Contra, Molly Ringwald getting her man at the end of *Pretty In Pink*, etc. On the list of our collective national priorities, the Honey Bears probably fell somewhere south of Jolt Cola and the return of Halley's Comet.

After winning the championship, the Bears descended to a level of "okay-ness" unacceptable to a team known for a major motion picture, national commercials, the Super Bowl Shuffle, *Da Bears* on SNL, and William "the refrigerator" Perry. Where is the fame? Where is the glory? Where are the championship wins?

The fans blamed it on the Honey Bears, or rather, the lack thereof. No one knows why Virginia McCaskey was dead set on booting the Honey Bears out of the organization, but

the Bears haven't made it to the Super Bowl since. And that is how the "Curse of the Honey Bears" was born. According to the curse, the Chicago Bears will never win another NFL championship unless the Honey Bears are restored to their rightful place on the sidelines.



So here we are, two decades later. The Bears are finally going back to the big show, and they are going back *without* the Honey Bears. If they win, they will prove the prophecy false, which means the McCaskeys are more likely to get hit with a flaming meteor than change Bears' position on the Honey Bears. But if the Bears DO win... who knows? It could be the start of something. The Celtics have a dance team. The Jets have cheerleaders (even though they won't admit it.) Methinks the winds of change are a' blowing.

In any case, the Colts Cheerleaders are going to be all over the place in these next couple of weeks. It's too bad the Bears won't be similarly represented. They've got a drum line and some guys with flags, but it's just not the same thing. Come on Bears, live a little.

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