



Jeff Joniak
Class of 1980
Radio Play-by-Play for Chicago Bears

Jeff Joniak just completed his 15th season behind the microphone as the play-by-play announcer for the Chicago Bears. His passion for the game and for the Bears is linked to a 30-year association with Chicago sports fans. In addition to hosting the Chicago Bears game day broadcasts since 1997, Jeff has also served as WBBM Newsradio 780 and 105.9 FM's Director of Sports Operations. Joniak and the Bears Radio staff earned the Peter Lisagor Award, presented for exemplary journalism six times including 2007, 2009, and 2011. He has also received multiple Associated Press "Best Sports Reporting" awards for his show "Joniak's Journal." Joniak also earned the Silver Dome Award for "Best Play-by-Play" in 2006, and in 2013 as "Best Sportscaster" as well as regional RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Awards in 2007, 2009, and 2013. Jeff has also done work in television, earning Chicago Midwest Emmy Awards in 2009 and 2012. Joniak also emcees events related to his work with the Bears, including the National Football Foundation Scholarship Awards, The Ed Block Courage Award, the Chicago Bears Care Gala, and the Lurie Children's Hospital annual fundraiser.

Before joining the Chicago Bears media crew, Jeff co-hosted the game day broadcasts for the Chicago Bulls during the championship years from 1991-1996. His first broadcasting job was at Sports Phone in Chicago, followed by stops at the Tribune Radio Network, Illinois News Network, CLTV, and Metro Networks where he started the sports department. It was at the old WMAQ Radio that Jeff became Sports Director, worked on Bulls broadcasts, anchored morning drive, and started with the Bears as the co-host of pre-game and post-game shows.

While at Hersey, Jeff was active in Baseball, Basketball, Intramurals, and the Varsity Club. Upon graduation he attended Iowa State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.