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MEDIA ALERT: TELEVISION SHOW SPORTS PLUS LAUNCHES IN LOCKPORT, IL

The production team behind the innovative and successful Sports Plus with Drew Pearson in Dallas launches a new program in Chicago region: Sports Plus Chicago.

CHICAGO, IL (September 1st, 2015) -- On September 12th, 2015, a new sports and entertainment television show, Sports Plus Chicago, will launch in Lockport, IL at the newly renovated three story building that is home to Embers Tap House. Hosted by former ABC Sports Anchor, Jeff Blanzky and Chicago Bears Alex Brown, who are joining forces to kick-off the season with Actress/Model Mayra Leal producing entertainment segments, the show centers around notable sports franchises in the Chicago market, film, music, automobiles, food, and more.

The format was tested out with the innovative Sports Plus with Drew Pearson on FOX Sports Southwest for two and a half seasons and was revamped to fit the other two markets as part of a national rollout by LOUD Entertainment. LOUD CEO Tom Stokes explains, ***“When we started this format with Drew, people weren’t sure it was going to work, but it’s a very simple concept: while viewers love sports shows, they do have other interests and, in fact, really enjoy seeing them merged together. We cover everything! There are no rules and we like it that way.”***

Besides the exclusive interviews, Postgame Grades and Analysis with NFL stars, fans have enjoyed interviews from the entertainment industry, guests such as Jared Leto, Matthew McConaughey, Justin Timberlake, Nicolas Cage, Jamie Foxx, Metallica, Kevin Hart, Mark Burnett, Rob Zombie, Chazz Palmenteri, Hugh Jackman and more! The Sports Plus Entertainment Production Team just wrapped several new segments and they are excited about the latest interviews for the upcoming season.

Rounding out the lineup is Mayra Leal ([@MayraJLeal](https://www.instagram.com/MayraJLeal)), a prolific Los Angeles model and actress -- you may have seen her work in in major movies, TV, magazines, and portraits in notable corporate advertising campaigns. Mayra noticed the unique flow of the show worked very well last season. She says, ***“You may or may not be surprised to know that a lot of celebrities enjoy talking about sports and a lot of athletes like talking about the arts. You get a very unique perspective about your favorite personalities here that you won’t find anywhere else.”***

Mayra brings new segments titled “Viva Las Vegas” where fans get to see Vegas beyond the famous strip with interviews from restaurant icon and one of the most eligible bachelors in the world, Nico Santucci. ([@NicoSantucci](https://www.instagram.com/NicoSantucci)) We also catch up with the owner of one of the most successful independent record labels nationwide, Brian Perera ([@CleopatraRecord](https://www.instagram.com/CleopatraRecord)) at Mel’s Drive-In off the Sunset Strip in Hollywood.

Another notable aspect of the show’s uniqueness is the food segments produced, on location at Embers Tap House ([@EmbersTapHouse](https://www.instagram.com/EmbersTapHouse)) with multi-talented Chef Mike Hernandez. Embers has a rich, cool and classy ambiance that carefully forges your favorite ingredients to create one of a kind dishes coupled with over 40 craft beers -- we promise they will send your palate into overtime! Italian / Puerto Rican Chef Mike Hernandez brings his mother’s secret Italian recipes and raises the bar with his specialty tacos, super breakfast cheese burgers, pulled pork mac and cheese, cornbread casserole and his now famous Brussel sprouts... Yes we said “Brussel sprouts”!

About Jeff Blanzly: Jeff Blanzly ([@BlanzlyJeff](#)) joins SportsPlusChicago as host after a 27 year career as sports anchor in local television. Jeff began his on-air run in Lima, Ohio before jumping to the sports desk in Toledo, Ohio. He then made the transition to Chicago and ABC, where he teamed with the #1 news show in town (WLS-TV). He was inducted into the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts Hall of Fame in 1999. Jeff is originally from Dearborn, Michigan and played Div. I basketball at Niagara University where he graduated with a degree in Communications. For the past 4 years Jeff has been part of the DePaul University basketball game radio broadcasts where he serves as color analyst. Jeff has 2 children Paige 17 and Blake 16 and resides in the Chicago area

About Alex James Brown: Alex ([@AlexBrown96](#)) played college football for the University of Florida, where he terrorized QB's and still holds the single season and all-time sack records. He studied Business Management and Recreational Programming and was inducted into UF's HOF in 2012 and was a two-time First Team All-American. The Chicago Bears picked Brown in the fourth round of the 2002 NFL Draft and he went on to play for 9 seasons (1 with the New Orleans Saints) and never missed a game. He finished his career as the 4th leading sack artist in franchise history, behind only Dent, McMichael and Hampton. Alex has worked with NBC, CBS as well as Co-Hosting of The Dez Clark/Alex Brown Show and currently works for 120 Sports in Chicago. He also currently runs a youth training facility with Former teammates Jason McKie and Adrian Peterson at All Pro Sports Performance. He enjoys family time with his wife-Karimar and 3 kids Tony, Kaylen and Kennedy. He enjoys using his Bear Fame to help others through charity work.

About Sports Plus: ([@SportsPlusShow](#)) From the Producers and Writers of WAR OF ROCK starring Mark Slaughter, Rockin' The Red Carpet with Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe, The Drew Pearson Show on FOX and A Bronx Tale with Chazz Palmenteri, comes the only Sports + Entertainment Show filmed before a live audience in Lockport, IL, Dallas, TX and New Orleans, LA and broadcast during New Orleans Saints, Chicago Bears, and Dallas Cowboys football season. Each month the show is complimented with a Sports Plus Magazine and appears on www.SportsPlusMagazine.com, where we upload the SPORTS+PLUS Music, Movies, Food, Cars and highlight charities after the show airs. This formula has gained us national attention from NBC Sunday Night Football when they highlighted us during the game boosting or following online and helping us keep very loyal fans. **From Sports to Entertainment - "We've Got You Covered" Sports Plus Starts... RIGHT NOW!!**

About Sports Plus Chicago: ([@SPlusChicago](#)) Join Host Jeff Blanzly (ABC Sports) and Alex Brown (Chicago Bears) each week as they break down Bears football games and go beyond the Xs and Os with Mayra Leal (Actress/Model) for the latest in entertainment with exclusive one on one interviews. Get on board in Chicago now for the Bears 30th Anniversary Shows being filmed all year round in and around the Chicago Region. The show kicks off with Dan Hampton and crew on September 12th, 2015 at Embers Tap House in Lockport, IL. Entering our second season, we are proudly brought to you by Bettenhausen Auto ([@OnePriceDodge](#)), the highest rated dealership in Illinois! Bettenhausen is a family owned and operated business where their motto is "zero hassles, zero haggles, zero sales people, and ALWAYS one low price!" Michael and Troy, and their friendly staff are always available to help you find exactly what you need...

About LOUD Entertainment: Founded by Tom Stokes, [LOUD Entertainment](#) is a full-service promotional, entertainment event and publicity agency that has represented a wide variety of restaurants, hotels, auto dealerships, celebrities and athletes. For the last 25 years, Stokes has kicked down doors at every opportunity, with a take-no-prisoners attitude and a single minded determination to learn every facet of any business he is involved in, making him an invaluable commodity in any setting. With services ranging from web design to brand development to television, movies and Broadway plays to red carpet and live music production -- there is no company that works harder when it comes to out-of-the-box ideas for its clients!

Please check local listing times for specific broadcast information. Additional information, full episodes and more assets can be found at www.SportsPlusChicago.com / www.SportsPlusDallas.com or contact Sarah Roberts with LOUD Entertainment Sarah.Roberts@LOUDEntertainmentGroup.com 214-454-2035.

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