



HERE COMES IGOR!

As football – America’s passion – continues to grow in popularity around the world, so too does the number of international people playing the game, including those doing so at the highest levels of the sport.

This season will mark the debut of several exciting young players with international appeal, including San Diego Chargers defensive tackle **IGOR OLSHANSKY**.

Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, Olshansky came to the United States with his family at age seven and became one of the highest foreign-born draft choices in NFL history, selected in the second round this year (No. 35 overall) by the Chargers. Olshansky first played organized football in his junior year at San Francisco’s St. Ignatius High School and developed into a versatile performer along the defensive line at Oregon.

“I’m excited about the opportunity I have in front of me with the Chargers,” said Olshansky, the first player born in the former Soviet Union to play in the NFL. “Defense wins championships, and hopefully I can come in and make a contribution in helping us move in that direction.”

Across the country in Buffalo, another foreign-born defensive lineman will try to achieve his NFL dream – Germany’s **CONSTANTIN RITZMANN**. Meanwhile in Green Bay, former Australian Rules Football standout **NATHAN CHAPMAN** will compete for the punting job, originally earning a tryout with the help of an impressive video resume from performances in two Ray Guy Kicking Camps in May of 2003.

A look at the foreign-born players who have earned the sport’s highest honor, induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio:

FROM OVERSEAS TO CANTON

Player	Country of Birth	Hall of Fame Induction
Tom Fears	Mexico	1970
Ted Hendricks	Guatemala	1990
Bronko Nagurski	Canada	1963
Leo Nomellini	Italy	1969
Ernie Stautner	Germany	1969
Jan Stenerud	Norway	1991
Steve Van Buren	Honduras	1965
Arnie Weinmeister	Canada	1984

FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL IN 2004

COUNTRY	PLAYER(S)
AMERICAN SAMOA	T Pita Elisara, Was; G Toniui Fonoti, SD; TE Gabe Reid, Chi; DT Joe Salave’a, Was; DT Junior Savii, KC; DT Issac Sopoaga, SF
ARGENTINA	K Bill Gramatica, NYG; K Martin Gramatica, TB
AUSTRALIA	P Darren Bennett, Min; P Nathan Chapman, GB; P Mat McBriar, Dal
BAHAMAS	WR Devard Darling, Bal
CAMEROON	T Roman Oben, SD
CANADA	P Mitch Berger, NO; RB Kerry Carter, Sea; C Jean-Philippe Darche, Sea; TE Deitan Dubuc, Car; DT Jermaine Haley, Was; DE Riall Johnson, Ariz; TE Teyo Johnson, Oak; LB Mike Labinjo, Phi; DE Nautyn McKay, Ind; G/T Steve Morley, GB; QB Jesse Palmer, NYG; C Brett Romberg, Jax; K Mike Vanderjagt, Ind
CUBA	T Joaquin Gonzalez, Clev
DENMARK	K Morten Andersen, KC
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	WR Carlos Perez, Phi
ENGLAND	K Rob Hart, NO; WR Scott McCready, Car; DE Osi Umenyiora, NYG; TE Visanthe Shiancoe, NYG
GHANA	DE Ebenezer Ekuban, Clev
GERMANY	DT Daniel Benetka, Atl; DT Willie Blade, NYG; DE John Engelberger, SF; WR Joerg Heckenbach, Clev; DT Rob Meier, Jax; CB Ray Mickens, NYJ; DE Kavika Pittman, Car; RB Tony Richardson, KC; DE Constantin Ritzmann, Buf; S Siddeeq Shabazz, Atl; TE Tony Stewart, Cin; T Patrick Venzke, Ind; WR Reggie Williams, Jax
GUAM	C Troy Andrew, SD
GUYANA	S Lance Shulters, Ten
HAITI	S Ricot Joseph, Cin
IVORY COAST	RB Amos Zereoue, Oak
JAMAICA	CB Dwight Anderson, StL; WR Yardon Brantley, Phi; QB Rohan Davey, NE; RB Dahrran Diedrick, GB; CB Nashville Dyer, Pit; RB Omar Easy, KC; LB Morlon Greenwood, Mia; T Kwame Harris, SF; LB Roger Knight, NO; T Damion McIntosh, Mia
KUWAIT	QB Gibran Hamdan, Was
LEBANON	C Marwan Hage, Jax
LIBERIA	S/CB Bhawoh Jue, GB; RB Thomas Tapheh, Phi
MEXICO	T Rolando Cantu, Ariz; G Victor Leyva, Cin; LB Antonio Rodriguez, Hou
NEW ZEALAND	G David Dixon, Min
NIGERIA	LB Patrick Chukwurah, Den; RB Adimchinobe Echemandu, Clev
POLAND	K Sebastian Janikowski, Oak
PHILIPPINES	C Eugene Amano, Ten; LB Fred Jones, KC;
SAMOA	DT Junior Ioane, Hou; RB Malaefou MacKenzie, NE
SIERRA LEONE	S Madiou Williams, Cin
SOUTH AFRICA	WR Jerome Pathon, NO
SPAIN	CB Jon Pendergrass, NYJ
TRINIDAD	G Anthony Herrera, Minn
TONGA	T Spencer Folau, NO; DT Maake Kemoeatu, Balt
UKRAINE	DE Igor Olshansky, SD
VIRGIN ISLANDS	S Hanik Milligan, SD