



WELL-ROUNDED PLAYERS

NFL players choose to spend their free time in the offseason differently. This spring and summer, a number of them had extremely interesting offseason experiences that included everything from traveling to education to visiting our troops overseas.

Kansas City Chiefs Tight End **TONY GONZALEZ** spent a month in Mexico learning Spanish and about Hispanic culture. He lived in a small Mexican town, San Miguel de Allende, and for the first time in years was just an anonymous face on the streets. “The month put things into perspective,” Gonzalez says. “It humbled me. It was the highlight of my life.”

Many players worked internships to prepare for life after the NFL, many of which were arranged by the **NFL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**. Baltimore Ravens Center **MIKE SOWOLD** interned at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

“The Smithsonian is second to none in the world, as far as museums go,” says Sowold. “To be a part of that is exciting. Obviously my main focus is on football and the Ravens, but this internship encouraged my interests off the field.” Mike was not the only NFL player in Washington this off season. Denver Bronco Cornerback **SCOTT TURNER** was a Congressional Intern for Congressman **DUNCAN HUNTER** (R-CA).

Many players traveled outside the US. Philadelphia Eagles Defensive End **ND KALU** ran a football camp for children in Nigeria. The camp was a great success and Kalu hopes to continue it.

“I had their eyes and their ears on me with everything I said,” Kalu says. “They wanted to know what a quarterback does and what a running back does. I don’t know if I explained it the right way, but they listened and they loved it. That’s the thing. If I can get a few players over there every year, we’ll have a greater audience. We’ll advance their knowledge of the game every year.”

A list of interesting offseason pursuits this year:

PLAYER	OFFSEASON
SS Marques Anderson, Green Bay	Wrote a children’s book entitled <i>Mischievous Marques</i> .
CB Leigh Bodden, Cleveland	Received degree in business management from Duquesne.
QB Drew Brees, San Diego	Went on a Safari in Africa with his wife Brittany.
K Kris Brown, Houston	Interned in marketing department of Redstone Golf Management.
LB Donnie Edwards, San Diego	Traveled to Europe to commemorate the 60 th anniversary of D-Day.
K Jason Elam, Denver	Traveled to Israel to tour the Holy Land with his family.
LB Jay Foreman, Houston	Interned at ASCA Investment Group.
KR Dante Hall, Kansas City	Was inducted into Scottish Claymores Hall of Fame
TE Todd Heap, Baltimore	Visited servicemen in Germany
DB Michael Jameson, Cleveland	Received degree in agricultural development from Texas A&M
DE ND Kalu, Philadelphia	Ran a football camp for kids in Nigeria
CB Brian Kelly, Tampa Bay	Attended the Sun Dance Film Festival
T Bryant McKinnie, Minnesota	Spent time as a DJ in a New York club
TE Chad Mustard, Cleveland	Worked as high school coach at Mentor High School in Cleveland
S Tony Parrish, San Francisco	Attended Carnival in Brazil
RB Tony Richardson, Kansas City	Received his MBA from Webster University
G Marco Rivera, Green Bay Packers	Visited servicemen in Kuwait and Qatar
LB Derek Smith, San Francisco 49ers	Went bow hunting in Canada
LS Mike Sowold, Baltimore Ravens	Interned with the Smithsonian Institution
LB Ben Taylor, Cleveland Browns	Received degree in interdisciplinary studies from Virginia Tech
WR Amani Toomer, NY Giants	Visited Morocco with wife to aid in reconstructive surgery project.

