



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/18/06

CONTACT: MATT HILL, NFL, 212-450-2080 <u>Hillm@NFL.com</u>

DAVE MELLIN, Sprint, 720-840-4788 <a href="mailto:dave.mellin@sprint.com">dave.mellin@sprint.com</a>

# NEARLY 70 MILLION ALL-STAR VOTES CAST ON NFL.COM & SPRINT AND NEXTEL WIRELESS; MANNING, TOMLINSON & BREES TOP VOTE-GETTERS

## RECORD 2.35 MILLION MOBILE VOTES CAST VIA SPRINT AND NEXTEL WIRELESS

Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** received 1,183,468 votes to lead NFL All-Stars in fan balloting for the 2007 Pro Bowl, the NFL announced today. Presented by Sprint, 2007 Pro Bowl voting on NFL.com, in stadiums and via Sprint and Nextel wireless service ended on December 15.

There were **69.8 million votes** cast on NFL.com and via the Sprint and Nextel wireless service. Included in the tally was a **record 2.35 million mobile votes via Sprint and Nextel wireless** – **400,000 more** mobile votes cast than last year.

The AFC and NFC All-Star squads are made up of the consensus votes of fans, players and coaches. Each group's vote counts one-third towards determining the 43-man rosters that represent the American Football Conference and National Football Conference in the Pro Bowl. The NFL is the only sports league that combines voting by fans, coaches and players to determine its all-star teams. It was the first professional sports league to offer online all-star voting in 1995.

San Diego Chargers running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** (1,111,684 votes) ranked second overall while New Orleans Saints quarterback **DREW BREES** (907,656), New York Giants running back **TIKI BARBER** (882,594) and Kansas City Chiefs running back **LARRY JOHNSON** (772,732) rounded out the top five.

The teams will be announced at 4 p.m. (ET) Tuesday, Dec. 19 on NFL Network's *NFL Total Access* 2007 *Pro Bowl Selection Show*. The Pro Bowl will be played at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, February 10 and televised by CBS.

In addition to casting ballots on NFL.com and in stadiums, fans cast their Pro Bowl ballot by sending the text message "PRO" to 7777 from a phone with Sprint or Nextel wireless service and voting for their favorite players at select positions.

Fans who voted for their Pro Bowl players were able to enter for a chance to win a Pro Bowl trip in the 2007 NFL Pro Bowl Sweepstakes presented by Sprint. The grand prize includes an all-expense paid 5-day, 4-night trip for the winner and three friends to the Pro Bowl in Honolulu. In addition to air

transportation, ground transportation, hotel accommodations and four game tickets, the winner and guests will experience an insider tour of the sidelines and locker room at Aloha Stadium.

Listed below are the top 10 offensive and defensive vote-getters, the top 10 wireless vote-getters, the top five rookie vote-getters, and the players with the most votes at each position:

#### NFL ALL-STAR TOP 10 OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE VOTE-GETTERS

TOP TEN OFFENSIVE			
Pos.	Name, Team	Votes	
QB	Peyton Manning, Colts	1,183,468	
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers	1,111,684	
QB	Drew Brees, Saints	907,684	
RB	Tiki Barber, Giants	882,594	
RB	Larry Johnson, Chiefs	772,732	
WR	Marvin Harrison, Colts	748,991	
TE	Antonio Gates, Chargers	730,239	
TE	Alge Crumpler, Falcons	683,061	
WR	Chad Johnson, Bengals	665,005	
QB	Tom Brady, Patriots	650,662	

	TOP TEN DEFENSIVE		
Pos.	Name, Team	Votes	
ILB	Brian Urlacher, Bears	529,328	
CB	Champ Bailey, Broncos	450,836	
DE	Julius Peppers, Panthers	410,301	
DE	Jason Taylor, Dolphins	324,843	
CB	Ronde Barber, Buccaneers	322,277	
SS	Roy Williams, Cowboys	305,611	
CB	Rashean Mathis, Jacksonville	299,558	
CB	DeAngelo Hall, Falcons	285,931	
SS	Troy Polamalu, Steelers	273,162	
DE	Aaron Kampman, Packers	267,329	

#### **NFL ALL-STAR TOP FIVE ROOKIE VOTE-GETTERS**

Pos.	Name, Team	Votes
KR	Devin Hester, Bears	412,207
WR	Marques Colston, Saints	392,374
RB	Reggie Bush, Saints	235,480
OLB	A.J. Hawk, Packers	188,082
RB	Joseph Addai, Colts	168,997

## **AFC LEADING VOTE-GETTERS**

Pos.	Name, Team	Votes	Pos.	Name, Team	Votes
QB	Peyton Manning, Colts	1,183,468	DE	Jason Taylor, Dolphins	324,843
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers	1,111,684	IL	Warren Sapp, Raiders	164,422
FB	Lorenzo Neal, Chargers	570,235	OLB	Shawne Merriman, Chargers	225,359
WR	Marvin Harrison, Colts	748,991	ILB	Zach Thomas, Dolphins	246,934
TE	Antonio Gates, Chargers	730,239	CB	Champ Bailey, Broncos	450,836
Т	Jonathan Ogden, Ravens	188,329	SS	Troy Polamalu, Steelers	273,162
G	Alan Faneca, Steelers	204,034	FS	Ed Reed, Ravens	161, 732
С	Jeff Saturday, Colts	186,489	Р	Shane Lechler, Raiders	246,687
K	Nate Kaeding, Chargers	442,582	ST	Larry Izzo, Patriots	93,087
KR	Justin Miller, Jets	146,132			

# **NFC LEADING VOTE-GETTERS**

Pos.	Name, Team	Votes	Pos.	Name, Team	Votes
QB	Drew Brees, Saints	907,684	DE	Julius Peppers, Panthers	410,301
RB	Tiki Barber, Giants	882,594	IL	Tommie Harris, Bears	248,782
FB	Mack Strong, Seahawks	415,150	OLB	Lance Briggs, Bears	253,060
WR	Steve Smith, Panthers	579,535	ILB	Brian Urlacher, Bears	529,328
TE	Alge Crumpler, Falcons	683,061	CB	Ronde Barber, Buccaneers	322,277
Т	John Tait, Chicago	127,241	SS	Roy Williams, Cowboys	305,611
G	Steve Hutchinson, Vikings	180,947	FS	Brian Dawkins, Eagles	152,073
С	Olin Kreutz, Bears	281,959	Р	Mat McBriar, Cowboys	397,120
K	Robbie Gould, Bears	561,416	ST	Brendon Ayanbadejo, Bears	168,138
KR	Devin Hester, Bears	412,201			

# **TOP 10 SPRINT WIRELESS VOTE-GETTERS**

Pos.	Name, Team
QB	Peyton Manning, Colts
RB	Tiki Barber, Giants
QB	Michael Vick, Falcons
QB	Drew Brees, Saints
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers
QB	Rex Grossman, Bears
QB	Donovan McNabb, Eagles
QB	Tom Brady, Patriots
RB	Reggie Bush, Saints
QB	Eli Manning, Giants

# # #