



RECORD 109 FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN NFL CAMPS

The NFL's international flavor has extra spice this year.

A record 109 foreign-born players are on NFL training camp rosters this summer.

Included are eight players from the NFL's International Development Practice Squad Program who were selected for displaying outstanding potential and performance in the NFL Europe League this spring. They have earned positions for the entire season on the practice squad rosters of teams in the AFC North and NFC East Divisions.

The practice squad players are Pittsburgh WR **MARVIN ALLEN** (United Kingdom), Dallas LB **CARL-JOHAN BJORK** (Sweden), Washington LB **PHILIPPE GARDENT** (France), Baltimore T **SAMUEL GUTEKUNST** (Germany), Philadelphia DE **CHRISTIAN MOHR** (Germany), New York Giants S **CLAUDIUS OSEI** (Germany), Cincinnati DE **DANIEL WATTS** (United Kingdom) and Cleveland DE **ULRICH WINKLER** (Germany).

The 109 internationals all have interesting stories in their backgrounds. Here are several of them:

- Kansas City Chiefs rookie defensive end **TAMBA HALI** missed two practices on July 31 to take the test to become a U.S. citizen. He spent eight hours answering questions on American history, such as, "How many stars and stripes are on the flag?" It was well worth the effort.

A native of Liberia, Hali fled the country's civil war 12 years ago at the age of 10. He learned how to play football in high school and later accepted a scholarship to play for **JOE PATERNO** at Penn State. He plans to use his new status as a citizen to bring his mother, who he has not seen since leaving Africa, to America. It will be easier for him to do so now that he is a citizen.

"It feels great to be a citizen," Hali says. "I have equal rights and I can vote."

- New York Giants defensive ends **MATHIAS KIAWANUKA**, **MICHAEL STRAHAN** and **OSI UMENYIORA** have each been influenced by nations abroad.

Kiawanuka's grandfather Benedicto became the first prime minister of Uganda in 1961. He was assassinated 11 years later by Idi Amin's henchmen. When Mathias was a third-grader, his parents took the whole family to his homeland. They were treated like royalty.

"People kept telling me how much they respected my grandfather," Kiawanuka remembers. "They appreciated how honest and genuine he was. If you can change one person's life so dramatically that decades later they want to shake the hands of your grandchildren, that's something that can't be matched."

Strahan graduated from American High School in Mannheim, Germany, where his father, Gene, was stationed in the U.S. Army. He returned to Germany in late May of this year as part of an NFL contingent that visited injured American soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Umenyiora was born in London, where he lived for the first seven years of his life before moving to Nigeria until he was 14. His full first name (Ositadinama) means “From today, things will be good” in Igbo, a language of Nigeria.

- On the AFC side of New York, the Jets have an Australian punter in **BEN GRAHAM**, who enjoyed a 12-year career in the Australian Football League before coming to the NFL. Last year, Graham became the oldest rookie (31) to start an NFL season on an active roster, and averaged 43.7 yards per punt.
- Green Bay Packers running back **SAMKON GADO**, who led the team with 582 rushing yards and six touchdowns in ‘05, moved to the United States from Nigeria at the age of nine. He dreams of becoming a doctor and returning to his native land to help the sick when his playing days are over. In a step toward that dream, Gado spent this offseason working at a Wisconsin hospital.

“I really just wanted to blend in,” Gado said of his hospital experience. “I wasn’t doing it for show. I didn’t want people to say, ‘Oh, look at this Green Bay Packer working.’ I wanted the experience so that I can help people. I’m going to do it again next year.”

- San Diego Chargers defensive end **IGOR OLSHANSKEY** of the Ukraine became the first player born in the former Soviet Union to play in the NFL. Olshanskey started 12 of 14 games as a rookie last season, but he made his first impression in many NFL circles when he set a record at the 2005 NFL Combine, benching 225 pounds an amazing 41 times.
- Houston Texans linebacker **MORLON GREENWOOD** was born in Jamaica. His family moved to New York when he was 11. Last year Greenwood was sworn in as a U.S. citizen along with 1,200 others at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

“To call myself an American citizen is truly a great honor,” says Greenwood. “This country has done so much for me.”

FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL IN 2006

TEAM	PLAYER(S)
ARIZONA	DE Antón Palepoi, American Samoa; QB Rohan Davey, Jamaica; G Rolando Cantu, Mexico
ATLANTA	TE Klaus Alinen, Finland; WR Jerome Pathon, South Africa
BALTIMORE	T Samuel Gutekunst, Germany
BUFFALO	CB Ashton Youboty, Liberia
CAROLINA	DT Ma’ake Kemoeatu, Tonga
CHICAGO	TE Gabe Reid, American Samoa; CB Abraham Elimimian, Nigeria; DT Israel Idonije, Nigeria; DE Michael Haynes, Panama
CINCINNATI	DE Jonathan Fanene, American Samoa; DT Domata Peko, American Samoa; TE Tony Stewart, Germany; S Madiou Williams, Sierra Leone; DE Daniel Watts, England
CLEVELAND	DE Ulrich Winkler, Germany
DALLAS	C LP Ladouceur, Canada; K Shaun Suisham, Canada; ; K Mike Vanderjagt, Canada; P Mat McBriar, Australia; LB Carl-Johan Bjork, Sweden
DENVER	DE Patrice Majondo-Mwamba, Republic of Congo; CB Domonique Foxworth, England; DE Ebenezer Ekuban, Ghana; DE John Engelberger, Germany; LB Patrick Chukwurah, Nigeria; WR Domenik Hixon, Germany
DETROIT	G Frank Davis, Panama

GREEN BAY	RB Samkon Gado, Nigeria; LB Abdul Hodge, Virgin Islands; S Atari Bigby, Jamaica; LB Kurt Campbell, Jamaica; T Josh Bourke, Canada; DT Colin Cole, Canada; P Jon Ryan, Canada
HOUSTON	S Kevin Curtis, Germany; P Filip Filipovic, Serbia;
INDIANAPOLIS	DB Jason David, Canada
JACKSONVILLE	DE Rob Meier, Canada; C Brett Romberg, Canada; ; WR Reggie Williams, Germany
KANSAS CITY	DT Junior Siavii, American Samoa; T Will Svitek, Czech Republic; G Peter Heyer, Germany; K Lawrence Tynes, Scotland; DE Tamba Hali, Liberia; WR Scott McCread, England; DT Alex Guerro, Dominican Republic
MIAMI	TE Teyo Johnson, Canada; LB Mike Labinjo, Canada; T Damion McIntosh, Jamaica; K Ola Kimrin, Sweden; S Siddeeq Shabazz, Germany; G Emmanuel Akah, England; WR Eric Kimble, South Korea; DE Ben Ishola, Germany
MINNESOTA	RB Tony Richardson, Germany; DE Erasmus James, St. Kitts; G Anthony Herrera, Trinidad
NEW ENGLAND	K Martin Gramatica, Argentina; T Nick Kaczur Canada
NEW ORLEANS	P Mitch Berger, Canada; C Pascal Matla, Netherlands
NEW YORK GIANTS	DE Adrian Awasom, Cameroon; DE Osi Umenyiora, England; S Claudius Osei, Germany; DT John Ioane, American Samoa
NEW YORK JETS	P Ben Graham, Australia; G Steve Morley, Canada; CB Ray Mickens, Germany; DT Tui Alailefaleula, American Samoa
OAKLAND	T William Obeng, Ghana; DT Michael Quarshie, Germany; LB Isaiah Ekejiuba, Nigeria; K Sebastian Janikowski, Poland; TE O.J. Santiago, Canada
PHILADELPHIA	RB Thomas Tapeh, Liberia; DE Christian Mohr, Germany
PITTSBURGH	WR Hines Ward, South Korea; DE Shaun Nua, American Samoa; WR Marvin Allen, England;
ST. LOUIS	S Oshiomogho Atoogwe, Canada; CB Dwight Anderson, Jamaica
SAN DIEGO	T Roman Oben, Cameroon; RB Ray Perkins, Germany; S Bhawoh Jue, Liberia; DE Igor Olschansky, Ukraine; S Hank Milligan, Virgin Islands
SAN FRANCISCO	DT Isaac Sopoaga, American Samoa; QB Jesse Palmer, Canada; T Kwame Harris, Jamaica; CB B.J. Tucker, Sierra Leone; K Luis Berlanga, Mexico; K Andrew Jacas, Jamaica
SEATTLE	WR Nate Burleson, Canada; C JP Darche, Canada; LB DD Lewis, Germany
TAMPA BAY	G Toniui Fonoti, American Samoa; LB Jermaine Taylor, Jamaica
TENNESSEE	T Michael Roos, Estonia; C Eugene Amano, Phillipines; LB Ken Amato, Puerto Rico
WASHINGTON	DT Joe Salave'a, American Samoa; P David Lonie, Australia; RB Kerry Carter, Canada; RB Jesse Lumsden, Canada; LB Philippe Gardent, France

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