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INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS CONTINUE TO DEVELOP; EIGHT EARN PLACE ON NFL PRACTICE SQUADS FOR 2006

Eight of the best international football players from around the world will have an opportunity to make an increased impact in the NFL this season as part of the NFL International Development Practice Squad Program.

The eight players from five countries – all veterans of the NFL Europe League – have earned positions on practice squad rosters for the upcoming season and are participating in training camps with their NFL teams in the AFC North and NFC East divisions.

The players selected for the program, now in its third year, have all displayed outstanding potential and performance in NFL Europe, including French linebacker **PHILIPPE GARDENT**. He joins the Washington Redskins practice squad after a record-setting season with the Cologne Centurions in which he became the first international player to earn a Most Valuable Player award. He captured co-Defensive MVP honors after leading the league with 70 tackles.

Two players – **CLAUDIUS OSEI** of the NY Giants and **CHRISTIAN MOHR** of the Philadelphia Eagles – are participating in the program for the second time.

One graduate of the initial class in 2004, Mexican guard **ROLANDO CANTU**, has already made his NFL debut, seeing action in the Cardinals season-ending 17-13 loss to the Indianapolis Colts last season. Cantu was on the field for kicker **NEIL RACKERS'** NFL record-setting 40th field goal of 2005, the most ever in a single season, which came against the Colts.

"The practice squad program was an excellent experience for me," Cantu says. "The exposure to the NFL environment and having an entire year with a team really pushes you to perform at a high level."

A look at the 2006 participants in the NFL International Development Practice Squad Program followed by additional background on each:

Player	Country	Position	NFL Team	NFL Europe Team
Marvin Allen	United Kingdom	WR	Pittsburgh Steelers	Rhein Fire
Carl-Johan Bjork	Sweden	LB	Dallas Cowboys	Amsterdam Admirals
Philippe Gardent	France	LB	Washington Redskins	Cologne Centurions
Samuel Gutekunst	Germany	T	Baltimore Ravens	Frankfurt Galaxy
Christian Mohr	Germany	DE	Philadelphia Eagles	Berlin Thunder
Claudius Osei	Germany	S	NY Giants	Hamburg Sea Devils
Daniel Watts	United Kingdom	DE	Cincinnati Bengals	Berlin Thunder
Ulrich Winkler	Germany	DE	Cleveland Browns	Frankfurt Galaxy

Marvin Allen, WR, Rhein Fire (United Kingdom) – Pittsburgh Steelers

Allen posted six catches for 79 yards this spring in his second NFL Europe League season.

Carl-Johan Bjork, LB, Amsterdam Admirals (Sweden) – Dallas Cowboys

Bjork started all 10 games for the Admirals, helping the club to a 7-3 record and a berth in World Bowl XIV. Finished second on the club with 52 tackles.

Philippe Gardent, LB, Cologne Centurions (France) – Washington Redskins

In his second season with the Centurions, Gardent posted a league-leading 70 tackles en route to earning NFL Europe League co-Defensive Most Valuable Player honors. Gardent, a starter in all 10 games for Cologne, was the first international player to capture a league MVP award.

Samuel Gutekunst, T, Frankfurt Galaxy (Germany) – Baltimore Ravens

Gutekunst played in seven games at tackle for the World Bowl-champion Galaxy, starting one, and helping running back Roger Robinson rush for 1,087 yards – the most in NFL Europe League history.

Christian Mohr, DE, Berlin Thunder (Germany) – Philadelphia Eagles

One of the defensive standouts for Berlin this season, Mohr started all 10 games at defensive end, posting a team-leading 4.5 sacks – tied for fifth-most in NFL Europe. In his third season with Berlin, Mohr totaled 27 tackles and added two passes defensed and one forced fumble.

Claudius Osei, S, Hamburg Sea Devils (Germany) – NY Giants

A starter in all 10 games at safety for Hamburg, Osei totaled 33 tackles. He was also a key contributor on special teams, posting seven special teams tackles on the year.

Daniel Watts, DE, Berlin Thunder (United Kingdom) – Cincinnati Bengals

Watts completed his second season with the Thunder in 2006, playing in 10 games with four starts for Berlin, posting 15 tackles and one sack.

Ulrich Winkler, DE, Frankfurt Galaxy (Germany) – Cleveland Browns

Winkler played in every game for Frankfurt, totaling 12 tackles and 1.0 sack. The defensive end was also extremely active in World Bowl XIV, posting a sack and helping the Galaxy hold the Admirals to their lowest point total of the season in a 22-7 victory.