



FRANCHISE PLAYERS NAMED

Franchise players for the 2007 NFL free agency signing period that begins on March 2 were announced today.

A club can designate one "franchise" player or one "transition" player among its veteran free agents. No transition players were named for 2007.

The salary offer by a player's club determines what type of franchise player he is.

An "exclusive" franchise player -- not free to sign with another club -- is offered a minimum of the average of the top five salaries at the player's position as of April 20, or 120 percent of the player's previous year's salary, whichever is greater.

Indianapolis defensive end **DWIGHT FREENEY** was designated by the Colts this year as an exclusive franchise player.

If the player is offered a minimum of the average of the top five salaries of last season at his position, or 120 percent of the player's previous year's salary, he becomes a "non-exclusive" franchise player and can negotiate with other clubs. His club can match a new club's offer, or receive two first-round draft choices if it decides not to match. The signing period for non-exclusive franchise players to sign with new clubs is March 2 through the 10th week of the season (November 13).

A transition player receives a minimum offer of the average of the top 10 salaries of last season at the player's position or 120 percent of the player's previous year's salary, whichever is greater.

A transition player designation gives the club a first-refusal right to match within seven days an offer sheet given to the player by another club after his contract expires. If the club matches, it retains the player. If it does not match, it receives no compensation.

Franchise players for 2007:

2007 FRANCHISE PLAYERS

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>CLUB</u>
Lance Briggs	LB	Chicago
Josh Brown	K	Seattle
Dwight Freeney *	DE	Indianapolis
Charles Grant	DE	New Orleans
Cory Redding	DT	Detroit
Asante Samuel	CB	New England
Justin Smith	DE	Cincinnati

* Exclusive franchise player

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