



## FIRST NFL PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** in conjunction with the NFL Players Association has established the first **NFL PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL**.

The six members of the council were selected by the NFLPA to advise the commissioner on a regular basis on a wide range of issues that affect players.

The council is comprised of safety **DONOVIN DARIUS** of the Oakland Raiders, fullback **TONY RICHARDSON** of the Minnesota Vikings, center **JEFF SATURDAY** of the Indianapolis Colts, linebacker **TAKEO SPIKES** of the Philadelphia Eagles, wide receiver **JAMES THRASH** of the Washington Redskins, and free-agent safety **TROY VINCENT**, who is president of the NFLPA.

The Player Advisory Council meets regularly throughout the year with Commissioner Goodell and NFLPA Executive Director **GENE UPSHAW** to discuss competition on the field, player safety, medical and health issues, player conduct, retired player issues, and other matters.

"It is important that we know the perspective of players on issues that impact our game and our league," said Goodell. "We all share the same goal of improving the NFL in every way we can. Veteran leadership is critically important for our teams in many areas. These outstanding veterans can help the entire league just as they help their teams."

Upshaw agreed.

"This is the first time in NFL history that a commissioner has used a group of current players in an advisory capacity," he said. "The players are a great resource for our game and this is a direct way of getting their input. This is a good example of how the new commissioner is leading through strong communication. We appreciate what he is doing."



## NFL CLUBS TO RECOGNIZE TEAM CAPTAINS IN '07

The idea came from players during a meeting of NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**'s new Player Advisory Council.

The result will be renewed emphasis by NFL clubs this year on the role of season-long NFL team captains on offense, defense and special teams through a team captain leadership initiative.

Captains traditionally serve as a link between players, coaches and management to help foster cohesion within teams.

The initiative has been strongly endorsed by NFL head coaches and by the six-member NFL Player Advisory Council that was established in April by Commissioner Goodell in conjunction with the NFL Players Association.

"Team captains are a key element in building team leadership and enhancing communication between players, coaches and management," says **RAY ANDERSON**, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations who will oversee the program. A perfect example of the benefit of this kind of communication is that the players themselves suggested the concept of re-emphasizing the team captains."

NFL clubs have appointed team captains throughout the history of the league.

Notable past NFL team captains include Pro Football Hall of Famers such as **WILLIE BROWN, DAN DIERDORF, JOE GREENE, BOB GRIESE, KEN HOUSTON, JACK LAMBERT, STEVE LARGENT, LARRY LITTLE, ROGER STAUBACH, CHARLEY TAYLOR, GENE UPSHAW** and **JACK YOUNGBLOOD**.