

## **NFL PLAYS IN LONDON: THAT OL' LEICESTER PANTHERS QB SEAN PAYTON KNOWS ALL ABOUT FOOTBALL IN GREAT BRITAIN**

If the Miami Dolphins and New York Giants want to know what might be in store when they play in London this October, they should speak to New Orleans Saints head coach **SEAN PAYTON**, who quarterbacked the Leicester Panthers in England in 1987.

Payton was offered free housing, a free car and a modest signing bonus by the Panthers.

"It was a great experience, a unique experience," he says. "Our team consisted of about six Americans and the rest were British. They would work during the day at their normal jobs, we would practice at night and play on the weekend. The guys were passionate about playing and you could tell that football in the states would be accepted in England."

It was while playing quarterback for the Panthers that Payton realized coaching was the best way to stay involved with his passion.

Last season, Payton led the Saints to their first NFC Championship game. For that, he was named NFL coach of the year by the Associated Press.

One Giants player in particular is looking forward to making the trip to London for the October 28 game – the first NFL regular-season overseas game ever. "I think it's going to be a great experience, especially for me since I was born there," says defensive end **OSI UMENYIORA**. Umenyiora lived in London for the first seven years of his life, then moved to Nigeria for seven years before settling in Auburn, Alabama where he first played football in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Umenyiora is just one of the foreign-born players who are making an impact around the NFL.

Australian-born All-Star punter **MATT MC BRIAR** of the Dallas Cowboys, for instance, led the NFL in 2006 in average (48.2). He was the second Australian to play in the Pro Bowl after former San Diego and Minnesota punter **DARREN BENNETT** made three such appearances.

McBriar's is somewhat surprising, considering the fact that he began kicking in the United States only seven years ago after playing football in Australia prior to college.

He's not the only Aussie making an impact at the spot.

New York Jets punter **BEN GRAHAM** and Philadelphia Eagles punter **SAV ROCCA** are former Australian Rules Football stars. Graham and Rocca were mentored by fellow countryman Bennett. Before signing with the Eagles in January, Rocca trained with him for a week.

"He really helped me learn the basics and the technique of what it takes to punt in the NFL," says Rocca. "I've always had the power to kick through the ball, but the technique is what gets you far in this league and he was very helpful with that."

### **FOREIGN-BORN PLAYERS IN THE NFL IN 2007**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PLAYER(S)</b>
<b>AMERICAN SAMOA</b>	DE Jonathan Fanene, Cin; G Toniau Fonoti, Atl; DE Shaun Nua, Pit; DE Anton Palepoi, NO; DT Domata Peko, Cin; DT Joe Salave'a, Was; DT Isaac Sopoaga, SF; DT Matt Toaina, Cin
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	K Martin Gramatica, Dal
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	P Ben Graham, NYJ; P David Lonie, GB; P Mat McBriar, Dal; P Sav Rocca, Phi; G Cameron Stephenson, Pit
<b>BAHAMAS</b>	WR Devard Darling, Bal; P Brian Monroe, SD
<b>CAMEROON</b>	DE Adrian Awasom, NYG; T Roman Oben, SD
<b>CANADA</b>	S Oshiomogho Atogwe, Stl; WR Nate Burleson, Sea; DT Colin Cole, GB; C JP Darche, KC; DB Jason David, NO; WR Eric Deslauriers, Pit; TE Teyo Johnson, Den; T Nick Kaczur, NE; C LP Ladouceur, Dal; DE Corey Mace, Buf; DE Rob Meier, Jac; C Brett Romberg, Stl; P Jon Ryan, GB; K Shaun Suisham, Was
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	T Will Svitek, KC
<b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b>	DT Alex Guererro, Min
<b>ENGLAND</b>	RB Jermaine Allen, Chi; WR Marvin Allen, Chi; CB Domonique Foxworth, Den; DE Osi Umenyiora, NYG; DE Daniel Watts, Buf
<b>ESTONIA</b>	T Michael Roos, Ten
<b>FINLAND</b>	T Seppo Ewvaraye, Min; WR Liro Luoto, NYJ
<b>FRANCE</b>	LB Philippe Gardent, Car
<b>GERMANY</b>	DE John Engelberger, Den; WR Dereck Faulkner, Phi; T Samuel Gutekunst, Jac; WR Domenik Hixon, Den; DE Ben Ishola, Ind; LB D.D. Lewis, Den; G Jamar Newsbit, NO; RB Ray Perkins, Mia; RB Tony Richardson, Min; TE Tony Stewart, Oak; WR Reggie Williams, Jac; DE Ulrich Winkler, Ten
<b>GHANA</b>	DE Ebenezer Ekuban, Den
<b>JAMAICA</b>	S Atari Bigby, GB; LB Kurt Campbell, Oak; T Kwame Harris, SF; DT Jovan Haye, TB; Ryan McBean, Pit; T Damion McIntosh, KC
<b>JAPAN</b>	WR Noriaki Kinoshita, Atl; DT Marcus Thomas, Den