NEW NUMBERS IN '07

…AND AN OLD NUMBER MEANS A NEW HOUSE,
THANKS TO TEXANS' GREEN & SIMMONS

He wanted a number. She got a house.

That's the outcome of a request by new Houston Texans running back **AHMAN GREEN** to teammate **JASON SIMMONS** this past March. When Green signed with Houston this spring, he asked Simmons if he would be willing to surrender his uniform number 30 that Green had worn since high school.

Simmons, said no problem, "but I'd like you to make a down payment on a home" for a deserving family in the community. Green responded, "I'm on board. Tell me who to write the check to."

Fast-forward to late July and there was single-mother **REGINA FOSTER** with her seven-year-old autistic son entering their new home. Green's check for $25,000, coupled with matching funds from Texans owner **ROBERT C. MC NAIR**, accounted for Foster's $50,000 down payment.

Green said it was hard to believe that a simple request of a teammate and their subsequent handshake on a deal had led to such happiness for one family. "I never realized how important this could be," said Green. "I thought it could be big, but I was nowhere in the ballpark of what it would mean to this one family."

But Ahman Green is not the only NFL player with a new/old number this season. Some others:

PLAYER	NEW NUMBER	EXPLANATION
RB Mike Bell, Denver	No. 30	Wore No. 20 as a rookie because No. 30 was taken by fellow running back **TRAVIS HENRY**. Bell grew up in Denver and idolized Broncos running back **TERRELL DAVIS**, who wore No. 30. Bell asked for permission from Davis about making the switch. "It means a lot," says Bell. "I think people place too much significance on it because a number is not going to make me play any better, but I did grow up watching Terrell, and its special to me."
DT Brodrick Bunkley, Phila.	No. 97	Switched from No. 78 "to represent a new start to the season."
CB Antonio Cromartie, SD	No. 31	Switched from the No. 25 of his rookie year to the reverse of the number he wore in college (No. 13) at Florida State. (NFL defensive backs are not allowed to wear numbers in the teens.)
CB Travis Daniels, Miami	No. 29	Swapped No. 21 with fellow cornerback **ANDRE' GOODMAN**. While growing up in Hollywood, FL, Daniels idolized former Dolphins cornerback **SAM MADISON**, who wore the number.
QB Jeff Garcia, Tampa Bay	No. 7	Switched with Bucs quarterback **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI** to get his favorite number. "Let's just say that Bruce can tell time a little better," says Garcia of his deal with Gradkowski.
LB Abdul Hodge, Green Bay	No. 52	Switched from No. 55 so he can wear the number he donned at Boyd Anderson H.S. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and the University of Iowa.
WR Dwayne Jarrett, Carolina	No. 80	Panthers' 2007 second-round draft choice from USC was assigned No. 82 in minicamp, but requested and received No. 80 – in honor of his idol, **JERRY RICE**. "The greatest receiver in the world was Jerry Rice," says Jarrett.
WR Brandon Stokely, Denver	No. 14	Switched from No. 83 with the Colts to No. 14 with the Broncos when he signed with them this offseason. Wore No. 14 at Louisiana-Lafayette. The university has since retired the number in his name.
WR Brandon Williams, SF	No. 81	Wanted a more traditional receiver number, so switched from No. 17.

NFL'S "THIRD-QUARTERBACK" RULE -- SOMETIMES MISUNDERSTOOD

Sixteen years ago (1991) the **third-quarterback rule** was instituted to enable teams to have an emergency quarterback available who was not on the 45-man game-day active roster, since many teams, for strategic purposes, only carried two quarterbacks on their game-day roster.

Everybody thinks they understand the NFL's **"third-quarterback"** rule. But do they?

The rule states that **if a third quarterback is inserted before the fourth quarter, a team's first two quarterbacks cannot be used in the game at any position**.

Another aspect of the rule is sometimes misunderstood. It is a **coach's decision** as to whether a third quarterback will be used. The active quarterbacks **do not have to be injured** for a team to use its third quarterback.