



AFC PRO BOWL NEWS

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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COLTS POST AFC-HIGH SEVEN PLAYERS ON ALL-STAR SQUAD; SIX CHARGERS CHOSEN; 13 FIRST-TIME SELECTIONS

The Indianapolis Colts landed an American Football Conference-high seven players on the 2006 Pro Bowl squad – the club's most since claiming eight in 1971 – that will face the National Football Conference All-Stars, the NFL announced today. The 2006 Pro Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 12 in Honolulu, Hawaii (ESPN, 6:00 PM ET).

The Pro Bowl starting lineups will be announced during the NFL Wild Card playoff games on Saturday, January 7 on ABC-TV.

The San Diego Chargers will send six players to Hawaii. Represented by five players will be the Cincinnati Bengals and Kansas City Chiefs. Thirteen AFC players were selected for the first time in their careers, including two rookies.

Three NFL Europe League veterans are Pro Bowl-bound – Carolina quarterback **JAKE DELHOMME** (Amsterdam, 1998; Frankfurt, 1999), Buffalo punter **BRIAN MOORMAN** (Berlin, 2000-01), and Kansas City guard **BRIAN WATERS** (Berlin, 2000). This marks the second consecutive All-Star honor for Waters, who has helped the Chiefs claim the NFL's No. 2 offensive ranking. Delhomme is the third NFL Europe League veteran passer to be selected to the Pro Bowl, joining **KURT WARNER** and **BRAD JOHNSON**. Moorman owns the NFL's second best punting average (45.5 yards) in windy Buffalo and stands second in the AFC with a 38.8-yard net average.

Three quarterbacks are named to each Pro Bowl squad. Chosen for the AFC's 2006 team are New England's **TOM BRADY**, who earns his third Pro Bowl selection and has already passed for a career-best 3,888 yards; **PEYTON MANNING** of Indianapolis, who has led the Colts to the AFC's No. 1 playoff seed for the first time in club history and was the leading vote-getter of NFL fans with a record 1,184,142 votes in earning his sixth career Pro Bowl honor; and first-time All-Star **CARSON PALMER** of Cincinnati, who leads the NFL with a Bengals' franchise-record 30 TD passes.

The AFC's top two rushers and its leading rushing-touchdown scorer comprise part of the conference's running back stable. Indianapolis' **EDGERRIN JAMES** and his AFC-best 1,465 rushing yards join teammate Manning in the backfield with his fourth trip to Aloha Stadium, while **LARRY JOHNSON** of the Chiefs – No. 2 in AFC rushing with 1,418 yards -- earns his first Pro Bowl nod with a current streak of seven consecutive 100-yard rushing games – a franchise record – in only seven starts this season. Toting the ball in Hawaii for the third time and in back-to-back seasons is San Diego's **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who leads the AFC with 17 rushing TDs – one more than Kansas City's Johnson. Alongside Tomlinson will be teammate/fullback and personal bulldozer **LORENZO NEAL**, who earns his second AFC All-Star distinction and his first as a Charger (Cincinnati, 2003).

The AFC's eight offensive linemen hail from five teams with the Chiefs registering a conference-high three. Kansas City guard **WILL SHIELDS** is selected to play in his 11th Pro Bowl, which would tie **REGGIE WHITE**, **JUNIOR SEAU**, and **ROD WOODSON** for the second most played in league history. In addition to the Chiefs' Waters, tackle **WILLIE ROAF** completes the Kansas City trio, named to his 11th Pro Bowl in 13 years and his fourth consecutive as a Chief. Pittsburgh Steelers help solidify the middle of the AFC offense as guard **ALAN FANECA** and center **JEFF HARTINGS** take part in their fifth and second NFL All-Star Games, respectively. Center **JEFF SATURDAY** of Indianapolis receives his first Pro Bowl honor while Cincinnati tackle **WILLIE ANDERSON** earns his third consecutive place on the AFC squad. Baltimore tackle **JONATHAN OGDEN** completes the AFC offensive line. Ogden, an All-Star fixture, represents his conference for the ninth year in a row in his 10-year career.

For the second consecutive season, the AFC's tight ends are **ANTONIO GATES** from San Diego and Kansas City's **TONY GONZALEZ**. Gates stands second in the AFC and first among NFL tight ends with 82 receptions and nine TDs. He is the first Chargers tight end to be named to the All-Star squad in consecutive years since Pro Football Hall of Famer **KELLEN WINSLOW** (1981-84). This is the seventh consecutive selection for Gonzalez, who is only two receptions shy of his sixth 70-catch season in the past seven years. Gonzalez has four career Pro Bowl TD catches. Only two players have more in the game's history.

CHRIS CHAMBERS of Miami, Indianapolis' **MARVIN HARRISON**, **CHAD JOHNSON** of Cincinnati, and Denver's **ROD**

SMITH represent the AFC's wide receiving corps. Chambers, who is tied for third in the conference with nine touchdown receptions and is eight yards shy of his first 1,000-yard receiving season, is Honolulu-bound for the first time. Harrison, who tops the NFL with 12 TD catches, earns his seventh consecutive All-Star selection – his sixth paired with his QB Manning. Also joining his quarterback in Hawaii is Cincinnati's Johnson, who leads the AFC in receptions (84) and receiving yards (1,260). Johnson prepares for Aloha Stadium for the third consecutive season. Denver's Smith, whose 79 receptions and 1,003 receiving yards are a key reason for the Broncos' 11-3 record, chalks up his third All-Star distinction and his first since 2002.

Two members of the AFC's defensive line will line up for their conference for the first time: defensive end and NFL-sack leader (14.0) **DERRICK BURGESS** of Oakland and interior lineman **JAMAL WILLIAMS** of San Diego. Williams plays a significant role within the NFL's best defense against the run (74.9 yards).

Completing the conference's talent on the defensive side of the line are Indianapolis' **DWIGHT FREENEY** and **JASON TAYLOR** of Miami at the defensive end spots along with interior linemen **RICHARD SEYMOUR** of New England and Jacksonville's **MARCUS STROUD**. This marks the fourth career Pro Bowl selection for both Seymour and Taylor and signals the third consecutive All-Star honors for both Freeneey and Stroud.

The AFC's second layer of its front seven is decorated with five linebackers from different clubs. On the outside are a pair of first-time All-Stars in Indianapolis' **CATO JUNE**, who is one of two linebackers with five interceptions for the position's league lead in the category, and San Diego rookie **SHAWNE MERRIMAN**, who tops all NFL linebackers with 9.0 sacks. Merriman is the first San Diego rookie linebacker to earn a Pro Bowl selection. Pittsburgh's **JOEY PORTER** earned his third Pro Bowl selection in four seasons with 8.0 sacks and a team-best 49 yards lost to sacks.

Ten-year veteran **ZACH THOMAS** of Miami and seven-year pro **AL WILSON** of Denver solidify the AFC's middle linebacker position. The venerable Thomas, Miami's leading tackler, is recognized with his sixth All-Star selection. For Wilson, who maintains an integral role in the middle of Denver's No. 2-ranked defense against the run, this is his fourth Pro Bowl honor.

A pair of Broncos will be charged to patrol the AFC backfield as cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY** and free safety **JOHN LYNCH** make their sixth and seventh trips to Hawaii, respectively. This marks the sixth-consecutive honor for Bailey and signals back-to-back All-Star distinctions in each player's first two years with the Broncos.

With five interceptions in his first year with the New York Jets, cornerback **TY LAW** returns to the 50th State for the first time as a Jet and the fifth time overall. Cincinnati cornerback **DELTA O'NEAL**, who leads the league with a Bengals' franchise-record 10 interceptions, will represent the AFC North champs. O'Neal also played for the AFC team in 2002 as a member of the Broncos.

Pittsburgh strong safety **TROY POLAMALU** earns his second-consecutive AFC All-Star uniform and Colts' second-year free safety **BOB SANDERS** earned a spot on the AFC team for the first time.

The AFC special teams feature four first-time Pro Bowl honorees. Houston rookie kick return specialist **JEROME MATHIS** of Hampton will field kicks for the conference. Mathis leads the NFL with a 29.8-yard kick-return average and a league-best two kickoff returns for TDs. San Diego standout **HANIK MILLIGAN**, one of two special teams captains for the Chargers, leads his club with 21 special teams tackles. Handling kicking duties along with Buffalo punter Moorman is **SHAYNE GRAHAM** of Cincinnati, who leads the AFC with 119 points – four shy of surpassing his career best of 122 last season.

The 42-man AFC squad is comprised of 21 offensive and 17 defensive players plus four specialists. A 43rd "need" player will be chosen by the AFC head coach and must be a cornerback, defensive end, linebacker, or long snapper.

The NFL is the only professional sports league that combines voting by fans, coaches and players in determining its all-star teams. The consensus vote of each group counts one-third towards the total. Each team submits two ballots – those of the coach and the players with no one permitted to vote for a player on his own team.

This year, a record 70.5 million votes were cast on NFL.com, in stadiums and via Sprint wireless.

The American Conference defeated the National Conference 38-27 last season and leads the all-time series 18-17. The 2006 coaching staff will be from the AFC Championship Game runner-up team.

The selected players with the most votes at each position are the designated starters, and will be announced on January 7. Under terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, each player on the winning team receives \$40,000, while each player on the losing squad earns \$20,000.

2006 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE ALL-STARS

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006, ALOHA STADIUM, HONOLULU, HAWAII
(* First-time Pro Bowl selection)

(Note: Starters will be announced January 7 on Wild Card Saturday on ABC-TV)

OFFENSE

WIDE RECEIVERS		TIGHT ENDS
*Chris Chambers, Miami		Antonio Gates, San Diego
Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis		Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City
Chad Johnson, Cincinnati		
Rod Smith, Denver		QUARTERBACKS
		Tom Brady, New England
TACKLES		Peyton Manning, Indianapolis
Willie Anderson, Cincinnati		*Carson Palmer, Cincinnati
Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore		
Willie Roaf, Kansas City		RUNNING BACKS
		Edgerrin James, Indianapolis
GUARDS		*Larry Johnson, Kansas City
Alan Faneca, Pittsburgh		LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego
Will Shields, Kansas City		
Brian Waters, Kansas City		FULLBACK
		Lorenzo Neal, San Diego
CENTERS		
Jeff Hartings, Pittsburgh		
*Jeff Saturday, Indianapolis		

DEFENSE

ENDS		INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS
*Derrick Burgess, Oakland		Zach Thomas, Miami
Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis		Al Wilson, Denver
Jason Taylor, Miami		
		CORNERBACKS
INTERIOR LINEMAN		Champ Bailey, Denver
Richard Seymour, New England		Ty Law, New York Jets
Marcus Stroud, Jacksonville		Deltha O'Neal, Cincinnati
*Jamal Williams, San Diego		
		STRONG SAFETY
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh
*Cato June, Indianapolis		
*Shawne Merriman, San Diego		FREE SAFETIES
Joey Porter, Pittsburgh		John Lynch, Denver
		*Bob Sanders, Indianapolis

SPECIALISTS

PUNTER		KICK RETURN SPECIALIST
*Brian Moorman, Buffalo		*Jerome Mathis, Houston
PLACEKICKER		SPECIAL TEAMER
*Shayne Graham, Cincinnati		*Hanik Milligan, San Diego