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AFC PRO BOWL NEWS

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CHARGERS POST AFC-HIGH NINE PLAYERS ON ALL-STAR SQUAD; NINE FIRST-TIME SELECTIONS ON AFC ROSTER

The San Diego Chargers will power the American Football Conference's 2007 Pro Bowl squad with a conference-high nine players – the most in franchise history – when the AFC faces the National Football Conference All-Stars, the NFL announced today. The game will be played on Saturday, February 10, in Honolulu, Hawaii (CBS, 6:00 PM ET).

Nine members of the AFC roster are first-time All-Stars, including Chargers quarterback **PHILIP RIVERS**, in his first year as a starter, and three of his San Diego teammates. The Chargers own the conference's best record at 12-2.

Helping Rivers at the AFC's quarterback position will be Indianapolis' **PEYTON MANNING** and **CARSON PALMER** of Cincinnati. Manning leads the NFL in touchdowns (26) and passer rating (99.0) and will start for the AFC in his seventh trip to Aloha Stadium. The Colts' QB led all NFL players in Pro Bowl fan balloting with 1,183,468 votes. Palmer earned his second consecutive All-Star selection, standing No. 2 in the AFC to Manning in both TD passes (24) and passing yards (3,575).

A pair of Chargers will start in the AFC's backfield: running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** and fullback **LORENZO NEAL**. Named to his fourth Pro Bowl, Tomlinson already has scored an NFL-record 31 touchdowns on the season. Playing in his third Pro Bowl and his second as a Charger, Neal has helped open holes for Tomlinson, who leads the NFL with 1,626 rushing yards. Neal boasts the NFL's best mark of seven-for-seven on third-and-one rushes for first downs.

Adding to the AFC's backfield's punch will be Kansas City's **LARRY JOHNSON** and **WILLIE PARKER** of Pittsburgh. This is the second consecutive Pro Bowl trip for Johnson, who ranks second in the league with 1,516 yards rushing. Parker ties for third in the NFL with 11 rushing TDs and will wear the AFC Pro Bowl uniform for the first time in his three-year career.

QB Manning will have familiar faces to throw to as **MARVIN HARRISON** and **REGGIE WAYNE** suit up for their eighth and first Pro Bowls, respectively. The Indianapolis receiving duo marks the first time that two Colts receivers have been All-Star selections. Harrison has five Pro Bowl TDs, tied for the game's career record. Starting at the team's wideout positions will be a "Johnson & Johnson" combination – **ANDRE JOHNSON** of Houston, who leads the NFL with 97 receptions, and Cincinnati's **CHAD JOHNSON**, whose 1,247 receiving yards top the league. The '07 game is the Texans' Johnson's second Pro Bowl while the Bengals' Johnson makes his fourth trip.

Representing the AFC at tight end will be eight-time all-star **TONY GONZALEZ** of the Chiefs and the Chargers' **ANTONIO GATES**, who will play in his third consecutive Pro Bowl and get the start.

Equaling a Pro Bowl record for games played will be guard **WILL SHIELDS**, who will wear his Chiefs helmet under the Hawaii sun for the 12th time, tying **RANDALL MC DANIEL** (12) for the game's career service record. Joining Shields at the other starting guard position is Pittsburgh's **ALAN FANCA**, making his sixth consecutive AFC squad. Shields' KC teammate **BRIAN WATERS** was tabbed for his third straight Pro Bowl for the American Conference. This is the first time in history that a team has had the same two guards selected for three consecutive Pro Bowls.

AFC starting center **JEFF SATURDAY** will snap to Manning for the second consecutive Pro Bowl as he has for the past eight years in Indy. First-time AFC All-Star **NICK HARDWICK** of San Diego is the conference's center of choice behind Saturday.

Charged with keeping NFC defensive ends at bay are a pair of AFC North tackle mainstays: **JONATHAN OGDEN** of Baltimore, playing in his 10th consecutive Pro Bowl in his 11 NFL seasons, and Cincinnati's **WILLIE ANDERSON**, who will travel to Hawaii for the fourth consecutive year. Fans, players, and coaches also voted in **TARIK GLENN** of Indianapolis for his third Pro Bowl in a row.

Starting defensive interior linemen **RICHARD SEYMOUR** of New England and San Diego's **JAMAL WILLIAMS** are the core of the AFC defensive unit. Seymour, the lone Patriot on the squad, faces the NFC's best for the fifth time. Williams

will play in Hawaii for a second time. **CASEY HAMPTON**, one of four Steelers in the game, fortifies this AFC DL position in his third Pro Bowl.

A trio of double-digit sack artists will aim to hurry NFC passers: Buffalo's **AARON SCHOBEL** (13.5), **JASON TAYLOR** (12.5) of Miami, and Oakland's **DERRICK BURGESS** (11.0). Schobel, a former college teammate of Tomlinson's at TCU, joins him on the AFC sideline in his first Pro Bowl selection. Starting opposite Schobel is five-time All-Star Taylor. Burgess represents the Raiders in Hawaii for the second consecutive year.

Outside linebacker **ADALIUS THOMAS**, who has added to his sack total of 10.5 in eight of the past 10 games, is one of four Ravens on defense. Playing in his second Pro Bowl, Thomas is joined by fellow outside linebacker **TERRELL SUGGS**, free safety **ED REED** and cornerback **CHRIS MC ALISTER**. Thomas and Reed, in his third NFL All-Star Game, have starting assignments. This marks McAlister's third Pro Bowl and Suggs' second.

Joining Thomas and Suggs at outside linebacker and starting is San Diego's **SHAWNE MERRIMAN**, participating in the game for the second time in his two-year career.

Patrolling the middle of the AFC defense will be middle linebackers **AL WILSON** of Denver and Miami's **ZACH THOMAS**. Wilson gets the start in his third Pro Bowl while Thomas represents the Dolphins a seventh time – the most All-Star distinctions by any defender in team history.

A total of 15 interceptions are shared between starting cornerbacks **CHAMP BAILEY** (eight) of Denver and Jacksonville's **RASHEAN MATHIS** (seven). This marks Bailey's seventh consecutive Pro Bowl and his third in a Denver uniform. Mathis makes his All-Star debut and is the first corner in Jaguars history selected to the AFC roster.

Along with the Ravens' Reed in the defense's deep center is free safety **JOHN LYNCH** of Denver and starting strong safety **TROY POLAMALU** of Pittsburgh. This will be Polamalu's third consecutive Pro Bowl trip and the eighth such honor for Lynch, his third consecutive as a Bronco.

The AFC special teams feature three first-time Pro Bowl honorees. New York kick returner **JUSTIN MILLER** tops the NFL with a 28.7-yard average and is the only player in the AFC this season to return two kickoffs for touchdowns. San Diego wide receiver **KASSIM OSGOOD**, who will serve as the AFC's special teamer, makes his Hawaii debut as will teammate **NATE KAEDING**, who has split the uprights on 22 of 25 field-goal attempts (88.0 percent) on the year. The All-Star veteran of the group is Buffalo punter **BRIAN MOORMAN**, who earned his second consecutive honor. Moorman tops the AFC with a 39.5 net average and has placed 29 of his 83 punts inside his opponents' 20-yard line.

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, nearly 70 million fan votes (69.8 million) were cast on NFL.com, in stadiums and via Sprint or Nextel wireless.

The National Conference defeated the American Conference 23-17 last season in the Pro Bowl. The all-time series is tied 18-18. The 2007 AFC coaching staff will be from the AFC Championship Game runner-up team.

Under terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, each player on the winning Pro Bowl team receives \$40,000, while each player on the losing squad earns \$20,000.

2007 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE ALL-STARS

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2007, ALOHA STADIUM, HONOLULU, HAWAII

(Starters listed in ***Bold/Italics***)

(* First-time Pro Bowl selection)

OFFENSE

WIDE RECEIVERS		TIGHT ENDS
Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis		<i>Antonio Gates, San Diego</i>
<i>Andre Johnson, Houston</i>		Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City
<i>Chad Johnson, Cincinnati</i>		
* Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis		QUARTERBACKS
		<i>Peyton Manning, Indianapolis</i>
TACKLES		Carson Palmer, Cincinnati
<i>Willie Anderson, Cincinnati</i>		* Philip Rivers, San Diego
Tarik Glenn, Indianapolis		
<i>Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore</i>		RUNNING BACKS
		Larry Johnson, Kansas City
GUARDS		* Willie Parker, Pittsburgh
<i>Alan Faneca, Pittsburgh</i>		<i>LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego</i>
<i>Will Shields, Kansas City</i>		
Brian Waters, Kansas City		FULLBACK
		<i>Lorenzo Neal, San Diego</i>
CENTERS		
* Nick Hardwick, San Diego		
<i>Jeff Saturday, Indianapolis</i>		

DEFENSE

ENDS		INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS
Derrick Burgess, Oakland		Zach Thomas, Miami
* <i>Aaron Schobel, Buffalo</i>		<i>Al Wilson, Denver</i>
<i>Jason Taylor, Miami</i>		
		CORNERBACKS
INTERIOR LINEMAN		<i>Champ Bailey, Denver</i>
Casey Hampton, Pittsburgh		* <i>Rashean Mathis, Jacksonville</i>
<i>Richard Seymour, New England</i>		Chris McAlister, Baltimore
<i>Jamal Williams, San Diego</i>		
		FREE SAFETIES
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		John Lynch, Denver
<i>Shawne Merriman, San Diego</i>		<i>Ed Reed, Baltimore</i>
Terrell Suggs, Baltimore		
<i>Adalius Thomas, Baltimore</i>		STRONG SAFETY
		<i>Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh</i>

SPECIALISTS

PUNTER		KICK RETURN SPECIALIST
Brian Moorman, Buffalo		* Justin Miller, New York
PLACEKICKER		SPECIAL TEAMER
* Nate Kaeding, San Diego		* Kassim Osgood, San Diego