



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1/5/07

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**JETS HEAD COACH ERIC MANGINI,
SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON & EAGLES HEAD COACH ANDY REID
CANDIDATES FOR 2006 MOTOROLA NFL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Fans to Vote for Winner on NFL.com

Head coaches **ERIC MANGINI** of the New York Jets, **SEAN PAYTON** of the New Orleans Saints and **ANDY REID** of the Philadelphia Eagles are the nominees for the 2006 Motorola NFL Coach of the Year award, the NFL announced today.

Fans can vote on NFL.com for the head coach whose game planning played the greatest role in his team's success this season. Voting will take place from 12:00pm ET on Friday, January 5 through 6:00pm EST on Monday, January 15 to determine the 2006 Motorola NFL Coach of the Year. The winner will be announced at a press conference in South Florida during the week leading up to Super Bowl XLI.

A closer look at the 2006 Motorola NFL Coach of the Year nominees:

- **ERIC MANGINI** led the New York Jets to a 10-6 record and the fifth seed in the AFC playoffs a year after the team went 4-12. In his first season as an NFL head coach, Mangini brought energy and confidence to the Jets, directing the team to a 6-2 second-half playoff run. Quarterback Chad Pennington turned in a strong season, passing for 3,352 yards and 17 touchdowns. The Jets used a "running back by committee" approach, with Leon Washington, Cedric Houston and Kevan Barlow combining for 1,394 yards and 15 touchdowns. And the Jets defense was stingy all season, allowing an average of 18.4 points per game, sixth lowest in the NFL. Mangini will lead his Jets into New England for an AFC Wild Card matchup on Sunday with the division-rival Patriots, a team New York split the season series with in 2006.
- In 2006, **SEAN PAYTON** took over a New Orleans Saints team that was 3-13 in 2005. Stressing leadership and accountability, Payton led his Saints to a 10-6 record and the NFC South division title. Behind a league-leading 4,418 passing yards and 26 touchdown passes from quarterback Drew Brees, the Saints offense was the most explosive in the NFL. Rookie wide receiver Marques Colston caught 70 passes for 1,038 yards and eight touchdowns. Running back Deuce McAllister ran for 1,057 yards and 10 touchdowns. And rookie running back Reggie Bush accounted for more than 1,300 yards of offense and eight touchdowns. In addition to winning football games, Payton's Saints inspired the city of New Orleans during its ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina. Having clinched the second seed in the NFC, the Saints have a bye this weekend before hosting a NFC Divisional Playoff game.
- **ANDY REID** helped his Philadelphia Eagles overcome the Week 11 loss of star quarterback Donovan McNabb, as they rebounded to win the NFC East. With a record of 5-5 when McNabb was injured, Reid handed over control of his offense to quarterback Jeff Garcia. The Eagles finished 5-1, with Garcia throwing for 1,309 yards and 10 touchdowns. Running back Brian Westbrook ran for 1,217 yards and seven touchdowns and added 77 receptions for 699 yards and four touchdowns. The Eagles defense stepped up its play late in the season, finishing fourth in the NFC in pass defense and fifth in the NFC in scoring defense. Reid, who coached the Eagles to four consecutive NFC Championship Games (2001-2004) and an appearance in Super Bowl XXXIX, turned in one of his best coaching performances this season as the Eagles exceeded expectations with their late-season turnaround. Philadelphia will host the New York Giants on Sunday in a NFC Wild Card game.

Motorola's brand has become synonymous with NFL coaches, who wear Motorola headsets during every NFL game. Motorola believes NFL coaches are game-changing innovators whose creativity and expertise fuels the exciting brand of football enjoyed by millions of fans around the world.