



## AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED  
3/26/07

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,  
CONTACT: STEVE ALIC (212/450-2066)

## AFC SPRING ROUND-UP

**BALTIMORE:** Since becoming a full-time starter in 2005, All-Star linebacker **BART SCOTT** has never missed a game. He also never misses a chance to serve the Baltimore community. Scott regularly speaks to schoolchildren about fulfilling dreams and getting an education. "I have been that kid before, looking up to adults," says Scott. "Being an NFL player is great, but there is no better feeling than bringing a smile to a child's face.".....Head coach **BRIAN BILLICK**, who guided the Ravens (13-3) to an AFC North crown in 2006, was recently inked to a four-year contract extension.

**BUFFALO:** As the Bills bolster their roster this spring, the team already boasts exciting young talent. Four rookies from 2006 started a majority of the season for a team that won five of its final nine games – safeties **DONTE WHITNER** and **KO SIMPSON**, linebacker **KEITH ELLISON**, and defensive tackle **KYLE WILLIAMS**.....Showing the power of a big-play offense, since Week 9 last season, no team posted more touchdowns of 20 or more yards than Buffalo's 10.

**CINCINNATI:** Promoted to the team's starting lineup on the offensive line is second-year guard **ANDREW WHITWORTH**. "Last year (at the scouting combine) was my first opportunity to meet Andrew," says head coach **MARVIN LEWIS**. "I walked out of that room saying, 'Well, he could *coach* the offensive line.' What he has added to our football team is a very good young talent, a very mature young talent...and a guy who I think will be a fine player for a long time.".....Quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, this past Pro Bowl's "Player of the Game," became the first Bengals passer to surpass 4,000 yards (4,035) last season.

**CLEVELAND:** Among several free agents signed by the club was standout guard **ERIC STEINBACH**, a four-year pro who started 62 of 63 games-played at Cincinnati, helping the Bengals place in the league's top half in rushing touchdowns three years in a row.....In a coin flip conducted during the NFL Combine to determine who owns the third and fourth overall selections in April's draft, the Browns came up on top with "tails," meaning they will draft third. The teams were tied in overall record and strength of schedule.

**DENVER:** A leader on and off the field, quarterback **JAY CUTLER** recently established the Jay Cutler Foundation to improve the communities and lives of youngsters through educational and mentoring programs. Cutler recently read Dr. Seuss classics aloud to students at two Denver-area elementary schools and presented \$25,000 to the Mile High United Way. "You're a role model when you're in the situation we are," says Cutler. "We're on the news and admired by fans and children throughout the nation. I embrace that."

**HOUSTON:** Three Texans are among the 32 current and active NFL players who are participating in NFL Europa League internships. Representing Houston in the program is linebacker **DA SHON POLK** (coaching), linebacker **KAILEE WONG** (officiating), and defensive tackle **LIONAL DALTON** (game operations).

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Quarterback and Super Bowl XLI Most Valuable Player **PEYTON MANNING** will host NBC's *Saturday Night Live* on March 24, which also happened to be his 31st birthday. "I figured this was my one shot to be asked (to host the program)," said Manning. "I figured it ought to be fun.".....All-Star safety **BOB SANDERS** was recently honored at his high school alma mater, Erie (PA) Cathedral Prep, where he spoke with students and had his No. 20 Cathedral jersey retired. "My message to them," said Sanders, "was to know that there is always hope, never quit, and always believe in yourself."

**JACKSONVILLE:** Running back **ALVIN PEARMAN** and offensive tackle **STOCKAR MC DOUGLE** were part of a group of athletes making a 10-day trip to West Africa in mid-March to speak to youngsters and help conduct football clinics. The trip began in Togo and finished in Nigeria. Before departing for Africa, Pearman, who just completed an internship with Merrill Lynch in New York City, discussed the value of the journey: "This is a great opportunity for me to share my faith, see a part of the world and learn from another culture."

**KANSAS CITY:** Twelve-time All-Star guard **WILL SHIELDS** joined three other NFL players – Atlanta's **ALGE CRUMPLER**, **SHELTON QUARLES** of Tampa Bay, and New England's **BENJAMIN WATSON** – on an NFL-USO trip earlier this month to visit U.S. troops at military bases throughout the Persian Gulf. The NFL-USO partnership began in 1966 under the direction of former Commissioner **PETE ROZELLE**. "We owe such a debt of gratitude to these individuals

for not only protecting our country, but also a foreign land," says Shields. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime trip."

**MIAMI:** New head coach **CAM CAMERON** leads the Dolphins into 2007. As San Diego's offensive coordinator, Cameron guided the Chargers' offense to a top-five scoring rank in each of the past three seasons, including the No. 1 spot last season.....The Dolphins will host the New York Giants in the NFL's first regular season game outside of North America in London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday, October 28 on FOX-TV.....The Dolphins own the longest active streak in pro sports of seasons without consecutive sub-.500 years. Miami last endured such consecutive seasons in 1968-69.

**NEW ENGLAND:** All-Star offensive tackle **MATT LIGHT** is among the 116 players who have enrolled in the NFL Business Management and Entrepreneurial Program at the Harvard Business School, the Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University), the Stanford Graduate School of Business and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The program is part of an ongoing NFL-NFLPA initiative to assist players in preparing for their post-playing careers. Last year, 112 NFL players participated at the four business schools. In the program's first season (2005), 66 players participated at Harvard Business School and the Wharton School.

**NEW YORK:** Starting offensive tackle **D'BRICKASHAW FERGUSON** was one of six NFL players who recently visited U.S. soldiers at Alaska's Fort Wainwright where the group met a number of military personnel who had just returned from Iraq. "Some people went deeper than others about the war, but nobody really went into grave detail," says Ferguson. "I guess you have to leave that back there and separate it because these soldiers have families and children."

**OAKLAND:** Taking the Raiders' reins as head coach is 31-year-old **LANE KIFFIN**, making him the youngest head coach in the league and the youngest in team history. Kiffin helped lead USC to national championships in 2003 and 2004 and served the program as its offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator for the past two seasons. Kiffin is the son of respected Tampa Bay defensive coordinator **MONTE KIFFIN**.....Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRED BILETNIKOFF**, a Raiders fixture for 32 years, announced his retirement from coaching in February. Biletnikoff, an Oakland receiving standout from 1965-78 and Super Bowl XI MVP, will continue to serve the team in a new capacity.

**PITTSBURGH:** **MIKE TOMLIN** was named the third Steelers head coach in the past 39 years. Tomlin, 34, was the Minnesota Vikings' defensive coordinator in 2006 after spending the previous five seasons as Tampa Bay's defensive backs coach.....All-Star safety **TROY POLAMALU** is the 2007 Downtown Pittsburgh YMCA's Person of the Year. Polamalu was elected for his strength in spirit, mind and body and for his support of the YMCA's core values, which include caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.....The 2007 season marks the 75th in Steelers history.

**SAN DIEGO:** Guiding the team in defending its AFC West crown is new head coach **NORV TURNER**. Turner, a two-time Super Bowl champion as an offensive coordinator with the Dallas Cowboys, arrives from San Francisco where he tutored young quarterback **ALEX SMITH** and revitalized the team's rushing attack.....Also new for San Diego will be the team's uniforms. The Chargers will continue to wear their traditional colors: navy blue jerseys at home, white jerseys on the road, and powder blue jerseys for special occasions. The difference is in the three redesigned uniforms and new metallic-white helmets with gold bolts that were designed specifically to give a new look and identity to today's Chargers.

**TENNESSEE:** Joining the team as its general manager is **MIKE REINFELDT**, who was the vice president of football administration for Seattle and previous to that was Green Bay's chief financial officer. In his 14 years with Green Bay and Seattle, Reinfeldt's teams won a combined six division titles, made eight playoff appearances, four NFC Championship Game appearances, three Super Bowl appearances, won a Super Bowl (1996), and amassed 11 winning seasons and 131 regular-season wins. Reinfeldt was a safety for the Houston Oilers from 1976-83, earning Pro Bowl and All-Pro honors in 1979.

# # #