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NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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COWBOYS LEAD NFL WITH 11 PLAYERS ON ALL-STAR SQUAD; 11 FIRST-TIME SELECTIONS ON NFC ROSTER

-- WASHINGTON'S SEAN TAYLOR VOTED IN AS STARTING FREE SAFETY --

The Dallas Cowboys placed a league-high 11 players on the National Football Conference All-Star team that will face the American Football Conference All-Stars in the 2008 Pro Bowl on Sunday, February 10 in Honolulu, Hawaii (FOX, 4:30 PM ET), the NFL announced today.

Among the players selected to the NFC squad was Washington Redskins safety **SEAN TAYLOR**, who died last month. Taylor received the most votes at his position and was chosen as the starting free safety for the NFC team. A replacement for Taylor will be announced at a later date.

Eleven NFC players will participate in their first Pro Bowl, including Minnesota Vikings rookie running back **ADRIAN PETERSON**, who leads the NFC in rushing yards with 1,278.

Five of the Cowboys' Pro Bowl players – running back **MARION BARBER**, guard **LEONARD DAVIS**, rookie kicker **NICK FOLK**, safety **KEN HAMLIN** and cornerback **TERENCE NEWMAN** – are also first-time All-Stars. They join tackle **FLOZELL ADAMS** (fourth Pro Bowl), center **ANDRE GURODE** (second), wide receiver **TERRELL OWENS** (sixth), quarterback **TONY ROMO** (second), linebacker **DE MARCUS WARE** (second) and tight end **JASON WITTEN** (fourth) to equal the largest Dallas Pro Bowl contingent ever. Dallas also had 11 players named to the All-Star team in 1993 and 1994.

The starting quarterback for the NFC is nine-time All-Star **BRETT FAVRE** of the Green Bay Packers. Favre, the leading vote-getter among fans, ties Pro Football Hall of Famers **JOHN ELWAY**, **DAN MARINO**, **WARREN MOON** and **NORM VAN BROCKLIN** for the second-most Pro Bowl selections by a quarterback behind **JOHNNY UNITAS** with 10. Joining Favre at QB are Dallas' Romo and Seattle's **MATT HASSELBECK**. Romo is the first Cowboys QB to be chosen for back-to-back Pro Bowls since Hall of Famer **TROY AIKMAN** (1992-97). Hasselbeck joins **DAVE KRIEG** as the only Seahawks quarterbacks to be named to three Pro Bowls.

Starting at running back for the NFC is Peterson, who seeks to become the first rookie to lead the NFC in rushing since Pro Football Hall of Famer **BARRY SANDERS** (1989). He is joined by Dallas' Barber and two-time Philadelphia Eagles All-Star **BRIAN WESTBROOK**, who has an NFL-best 1,896 scrimmage yards. Barber is the first Cowboys RB to be chosen since the 2000 Pro Bowl (**EMMITT SMITH**) and Westbrook is the sixth Eagles running back with multiple All-Star selections.

Filling out the backfield is Minnesota fullback **TONY RICHARDSON**, who makes his third Pro Bowl appearance (Kansas City, 2004-05) and first for the NFC.

Along with Dallas' Owens, now chosen as an All-Star with three teams (San Francisco, Philadelphia), the NFC's other starting wide receiver is Arizona's **LARRY FITZGERALD**, who played in the 2006 Pro Bowl. Rounding out the position are a pair of Pro Bowl veterans in seven-time All-Star **TORRY HOLT** of the St. Louis Rams and three-time All-Star **DONALD DRIVER** of Green Bay.

The starting tight end for the NFC is Witten, making his fourth consecutive appearance in Hawaii. He is joined by Washington's **CHRIS COOLEY**, who will make his Pro Bowl debut.

Minnesota's **STEVE HUTCHINSON** will make his fifth consecutive trip to the Pro Bowl and start at guard along with the Cowboys' Davis. Philadelphia's **SHAWN ANDREWS** was named an All-Star for the second year in a row and fills out the position.

Starting at center is Dallas' Gurode, joined by Minnesota's **MATT BIRK**, a six-time Pro Bowl selection.

The starting tackles are Seattle's **WALTER JONES**, an eight-time All-Star, and the Cowboys' Adams. Washington's **CHRIS SAMUELS**, making his fifth Pro Bowl appearance, is the NFC's third tackle.

A pair of two-time All-Stars will start at defensive end for the NFC in Green Bay's **AARON KAMPMAN** and Seattle's **PATRICK KERNEY**. New York Giants defensive end **OSI UMENYIORA**, making his second trip to Hawaii, also was chosen to represent the NFC.

Two Vikings will start on the interior defensive line in three-time All-Star **KEVIN WILLIAMS** and two-time Pro Bowl selection **PAT WILLIAMS**. Chicago's **TOMMIE HARRIS** was chosen for the third time in his career.

Seattle's **LOFA TATUPU** makes his third Pro Bowl trip and will start at inside linebacker. He will be joined at the position by rookie **PATRICK WILLIS** of the San Francisco 49ers, the No. 11 overall selection in the 2007 NFL Draft.

The outside linebackers are Chicago's **LANCE BRIGGS** (third Pro Bowl), Seattle's **JULIAN PETERSON** (fourth) and Dallas' Ware. Peterson and Ware were chosen as the starters.

All three cornerbacks on the NFC team are Pro Bowl newcomers. Green Bay's **AL HARRIS** and Seattle's **MARCUS TRUFANT** will start with Dallas' Newman coming off the bench.

At free safety, the late Taylor was selected as the starter. Dallas' Hamlin also was chosen at free safety and four-time All-Star **DARREN SHARPER** of the Minnesota Vikings will be the starting strong safety.

Two Bears are among the quartet of players who will handle special teams duties for the NFC. For the second consecutive year, Chicago's **DEVIN HESTER** will be the return specialist and **BRANDON AYANBADEJO** will be the coverage specialist. Dallas' rookie Folk is the kicker and San Francisco punter **ANDY LEE** was selected for the first time in his career.

The 42-man NFC squad is comprised of 21 offensive and 17 defensive players plus four specialists. A 43rd "need" player will be chosen by the NFC 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 84 million fan votes (a record 83.7 million) were cast on NFL.com and on wireless phones with Sprint service.

The American Conference defeated the National Conference 31-28 last season in the Pro Bowl. The AFC leads the all-time series 19-18. The 2008 NFC coaching staff will be from the NFC 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.

2008 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE ALL-STARS

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008, ALOHA STADIUM, HONOLULU, HAWAII

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

(* First-time Pro Bowl selection)

OFFENSE

WIDE RECEIVERS		TIGHT ENDS
Donald Driver, Green Bay		* Chris Cooley, Washington
<i>Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona</i>		<i>Jason Witten, Dallas</i>
Torry Holt, St. Louis		
<i>Terrell Owens, Dallas</i>		QUARTERBACKS
		<i>Brett Favre, Green Bay</i>
TACKLES		Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle
<i>Flozell Adams, Dallas</i>		Tony Romo, Dallas
<i>Walter Jones, Seattle</i>		
Chris Samuels, Washington		RUNNING BACKS
		* Marion Barber, Dallas
GUARDS		* <i>Adrian Peterson, Minnesota</i>
Shawn Andrews, Philadelphia		Brian Westbrook, Philadelphia
* <i>Leonard Davis, Dallas</i>		
<i>Steve Hutchinson, Minnesota</i>		FULLBACK
		<i>Tony Richardson, Minnesota</i>
CENTERS		
Matt Birk, Minnesota		
<i>Andre Gurode, Dallas</i>		

DEFENSE

ENDS		INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS
<i>Aaron Kampman, Green Bay</i>		<i>Lofa Tatupu, Seattle</i>
<i>Patrick Kerney, Seattle</i>		* Patrick Willis, San Francisco
Osi Umenyiora, NY Giants		
		CORNERBACKS
INTERIOR LINEMAN		* <i>Al Harris, Green Bay</i>
Tommie Harris, Chicago		* Terence Newman, Dallas
<i>Kevin Williams, Minnesota</i>		* <i>Marcus Trufant, Seattle</i>
<i>Pat Williams, Minnesota</i>		
		STRONG SAFETY
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		<i>Darren Sharper, Minnesota</i>
Lance Briggs, Chicago		
<i>Julian Peterson, Seattle</i>		FREE SAFETIES
<i>DeMarcus Ware, Dallas</i>		* Ken Hamlin, Dallas
		<i>Sean Taylor, Washington</i>

SPECIALISTS

PUNTER		KICK RETURN SPECIALIST
* Andy Lee, San Francisco		Devin Hester, Chicago
PLACEKICKER		SPECIAL TEAMER
* Nick Folk, Dallas		Brendon Ayanbadejo, Chicago