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MATT BIRK, PHILIP RIVERS, CHARLES TILLMAN
NAMED FINALISTS FOR WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED AT NFL HONORS BEFORE SUPER BOWL XLVI

Three community-minded NFL players will be recognized during Super Bowl week as finalists for the **WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**, it was announced today. **MATT BIRK** of the Baltimore Ravens, **PHILIP RIVERS** of the San Diego Chargers and **CHARLES TILLMAN** of the Chicago Bears are the top candidates for this year's award, named for the legendary Bears running back who died in 1999.

The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award is the only league award that recognizes a player's off-the-field community service as well as his playing excellence.

The winner of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award will be announced in Indianapolis, the site of Super Bowl XLVI, during NFL Honors, a two-hour primetime awards special to air nationally on February 4 from 9-11 p.m. EST on NBC.

Recent winners of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award include **MADIEU WILLIAMS**, then of the Minnesota Vikings (2010), **BRIAN WATERS**, then of the Kansas City Chiefs (2009), and former Arizona Cardinals quarterback **KURT WARNER** (2008). (*Complete lists of players nominated for this year's award and previous winners are below*).

The three finalists were chosen from among the 32 team nominees for the award, all of whom receive a \$1,000 donation from NFL Charities to the charity of their choice. The three finalists will receive an additional \$5,000 donation in their name. The selection panel is comprised of NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**, former NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE**, **CONNIE PAYTON**, Pro Football Hall of Fame members **FRANK GIFFORD** and **ANTHONY MUÑOZ**, Giants great and Executive Director of the NFL Alumni Association **GEORGE MARTIN**, 2010 winner **MADIEU WILLIAMS**, and Sports Illustrated football writer **PETER KING**.

The winner of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award will receive the Gladiator statue, an original art creation by the noted sculptor, **DANIEL SCHWARTZ**. In addition, the player's favorite charity will receive an additional \$20,000 donation in his name.

MATT BIRK (Baltimore Ravens)

Birk, in his 14th NFL season, is the anchor of the Ravens offensive line and an undisputed leader on and off the field. The perennial Pro Bowl center has started 96 consecutive games, the NFL's second-longest active streak among centers. In 2011, Birk helped pave the way for Ravens running back Ray Rice to score a

franchise-record 15 total touchdowns and rush for a career-high 1,364 yards, also leading the league with 2,068 yards from scrimmage. A family man and father of six with a passion for emphasizing the importance of education, Birk has focused a great deal of his energy on promoting literacy among the youth around him. The Harvard graduate's "Ready, Set, Read!" program, an initiative of his H.I.K.E. Foundation (hope, inspiration, knowledge and education), reaches close to 100,000 children in the Baltimore area and motivates students to read at home through an incentive-based system. Birk's work carries well past the many initiatives and successes of his own foundation. He is committed to bettering himself, his team, his community and the world. Birk has agreed to donate his brain and spinal cord tissue to the Center for Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University's School of Medicine to help assist in researching the effects of repeated head traumas. Birk is an eight-time Man of the Year (seven with the Vikings, one with the Ravens), and was a finalist for the national award in 2008.

PHILIP RIVERS (San Diego Chargers)

One of the most accomplished players in the NFL, Philip Rivers' contributions on the field are equaled by his contributions to the San Diego community. Rivers and his wife Tiffany, parents of six children, launched The Rivers of Hope Foundation in 2010, with the focus of helping abandoned and orphaned children find loving homes and their own sense of self-worth. Their philosophy is "Adopt. Be The Hope." To raise awareness of the plight of foster children, Rivers has officially partnered with San Diego County Adoptions and the Heart Gallery, and has taped public service announcements that air on San Diego's CBS affiliate station. In less than two years, The Rivers of Hope Foundation has raised more than \$650,000. Rivers contributes all of his off-the-field revenue to the Foundation, and raises additional funds through football camps and a 5K Fun Run. Last year, Rivers contributed to the creation of a football field for San Pasqual Academy, a first-in-the-nation residential education campus designed for foster teens. On the field, Rivers earned his fourth Pro Bowl honor following the 2011 season. He threw for more than 4,500 yards and became the fifth quarterback in NFL history to record back-to-back 4,500-yard seasons. He also threw 27 touchdown passes to become only the sixth quarterback in league history to log 25 or more scoring throws for at least four straight seasons. Rivers completed a team-record 366 passes in 2011 while helping the Chargers score 406 points to extend their NFL-record streak of 400-point seasons to eight.

CHARLES TILLMAN (Chicago Bears)

Since being drafted by the Bears in 2003, Charles Tillman has an NFL-high 28 forced fumbles among defensive backs, is among the NFL's top ten in interceptions and interception return yards, and was selected to his first Pro Bowl in 2011, a year in which he established a Bears franchise record for career interception return touchdowns. Since the inception of the Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation in 2005, his efforts have impacted more than 1 million Chicago area children and raised more than \$1.2 million. In 2008, Tillman's 3-month old daughter was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy. She received a heart transplant and is now healthy and active. Consequently, the Cornerstone Foundation changed their mission to focus on improving the lives of critically and chronically ill children by providing support and life changing experiences. Tillman appeared before Congress to lobby for FDA approval of the Berlin Heart, a device which helped save his daughter's life, which has since been approved. In addition, Tillman and his wife, Jackie, contribute their time and resources organizations across the country that support the military, education, organ donation and underprivileged children. Tillman participated in a USO Tour in 2010 and hosts youth football camps and visits hospitals on military bases in Illinois, Texas and California. Illinois Governor Quinn declared June 19, 2010 and July 24, 2011 "Charles Tillman Family Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Day." In 2011, Bleacher Report named him one of the Most Charitable Players in the NFL and selected him for their Top 5 Good Guys list.

2011 WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR TEAM NOMINEES

TEAM	WINNER
Arizona Cardinals	Calais Campbell
Atlanta Falcons	Corey Peters

Baltimore Ravens	Matt Birk
Buffalo Bills	George Wilson
Carolina Panthers	Jason Baker
Chicago Bears	Charles Tillman
Cincinnati Bengals	Andrew Whitworth
Cleveland Browns	Joshua Cribbs
Dallas Cowboys	Bradie James
Denver Broncos	Wesley Woodyard
Detroit Lions	Drew Stanton
Green Bay Packers	Mason Crosby
Houston Texans	DeMeco Ryans
Indianapolis Colts	Reggie Wayne
Jacksonville Jaguars	Josh Scobee
Kansas City Chiefs	Casey Wiegmann
Miami Dolphins	Davone Bess
Minnesota Vikings	Chad Greenway
New England Patriots	Jerod Mayo
New Orleans Saints	Malcolm Jenkins
New York Giants	Eli Manning
New York Jets	Dustin Keller
Oakland Raiders	Rock Cartwright
Philadelphia Eagles	Nnamdi Asomugha
Pittsburgh Steelers	Brett Keisel
San Diego Chargers	Philip Rivers
San Francisco 49ers	Justin Smith
Seattle Seahawks	John Carlson
St. Louis Rams	James Laurinaitis
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Davin Joseph
Tennessee Titans	Cortland Finnegan
Washington Redskins	Lorenzo Alexander

WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR WINNERS

YEAR	PLAYER, POSITION	TEAM
2010	Madieu Williams, Safety	Minnesota Vikings
2009	Brian Waters, Guard	Kansas City Chiefs
2008	Kurt Warner, Quarterback	Arizona Cardinals
2007	Jason Taylor, Defensive End	Miami Dolphins
2006	Drew Brees, QB (N.O.) and LaDainian Tomlinson, RB (S.D.)	
2005	Peyton Manning, Quarterback	Indianapolis Colts
2004	Warrick Dunn, Running Back	Atlanta Falcons
2003	Will Shields, Guard	Kansas City Chiefs
2002	Troy Vincent, Defensive Back	Philadelphia Eagles
2001	Jerome Bettis, Running Back	Pittsburgh Steelers
2000	Derrick Brooks (Tampa) and Jim Flanigan (Chicago)	
1999	Cris Carter, Wide Receiver	Minnesota Vikings
1998	Dan Marino, Quarterback	Miami Dolphins

1997	Troy Aikman, Quarterback	Dallas Cowboys
1996	Darrell Green, Cornerback	Washington Redskins
1995	Boomer Esiason, Quarterback	New York Jets
1994	Junior Seau, Linebacker	San Diego Chargers
1993	Derrick Thomas, Linebacker	Kansas City Chiefs
1992	John Elway, Quarterback	Denver Broncos
1991	Anthony Munoz, Tackle	Cincinnati Bengals
1990	Mike Singletary, Linebacker	Chicago Bears
1989	Warren Moon, Quarterback	Houston Oilers
1988	Steve Largent, Wide Receiver	Seattle Seahawks
1987	Dave Duerson, Safety	Chicago Bears
1986	Reggie Williams, Linebacker	Cincinnati Bengals
1985	Dwight Stephenson, Center	Miami Dolphins
1984	Marty Lyons, Tackle	New York Jets
1983	Rolf Benirschke, Kicker	San Diego Chargers
1982	Joe Theismann, Quarterback	Washington Redskins
1981	Lynn Swann, Wide Receiver	Pittsburgh Steelers
1980	Harold Carmichael, Wide Receiver	Philadelphia Eagles
1979	Joe Greene, Defensive Lineman	Pittsburgh Steelers
1978	Roger Staubach, Quarterback	Dallas Cowboys
1977	Walter Payton, Running Back	Chicago Bears
1976	Franco Harris, Running Back	Pittsburgh Steelers
1975	Ken Anderson, Quarterback	Cincinnati Bengals
1974	George Blanda, Quarterback	Oakland Raiders
1973	Len Dawson, Quarterback	Kansas City Chiefs
1972	Willie Lanier, Linebacker	Kansas City Chiefs
1971	John Hadl, Quarterback	San Diego Chargers
1970	Johnny Unitas, Quarterback	Baltimore Colts

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