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NFL STARS TAKE CENTER STAGE AS 2012 PRO BOWL KICKS OFF SUPER BOWL WEEK

The NFL's best will be in the spotlight on Sunday, January 29 (7:00 PM ET, NBC) as the 2012 Pro Bowl kicks off Super Bowl Week.

The NFL All-Star Game will take place once again at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii and will be the signature event to start the week leading up to Super Bowl XLVI between the New England Patriots and New York Giants in Indianapolis (Sunday, February 5, NBC).

"Being selected to represent the NFC team in the Pro Bowl is a tremendous honor," says New Orleans Saints tight end **JIMMY GRAHAM**. "I think any guy who gets named to the Pro Bowl realizes that it's a heck of a compliment and I am grateful and humbled by it."

For the third consecutive year, the Pro Bowl will be played the week before the Super Bowl. The 2011 Pro Bowl on FOX was watched by an average of 13.4 million viewers, the most for a Pro Bowl since 1997 (13.5 million viewers), making it the most-watched All-Star game of any sport since 2009.

Last year, the NFC tied a single-game Pro Bowl scoring record by defeating the AFC 55-41 (the NFC also scored 55 points in 2004). Washington Redskins cornerback **DE ANGELO HALL** was named the MVP of the 2011 Pro Bowl, notching an interception, returning a fumble 34 yards for a touchdown and posting six solo tackles. The 2012 game is the 42nd between the AFC and NFC All-Stars with the NFC holding a slight edge in the all-time series, 21-20.

The 43-man teams are comprised of 21 offensive and 17 defensive players plus five specialists, including a long snapper. The AFC All-Star team will be led by **GARY KUBIAK** and the coaches from the Houston Texans while **MIKE MC CARTHY** and the Green Bay Packers' coaching staff will guide the NFC Pro Bowl squad.

The San Francisco 49ers lead the NFL with nine players selected to the 2012 Pro Bowl – kicker **DAVID AKERS**, safety **DASHON GOLDSON**, running back **FRANK GORE**, punter **ANDY LEE**, long snapper **BRIAN JENNINGS**, cornerback **CARLOS ROGERS**, defensive end **JUSTIN SMITH**, tackle **JOE STALEY** and linebacker **PATRICK WILLIS**.

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, over 100 million fan votes were cast on NFL.com and mobile devices.

Under terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, each player on the winning Pro Bowl team receives \$50,000, while each player on the losing squad earns \$25,000.

The Pro Bowl was held consecutively from 1980 to 2009 at Honolulu's Aloha Stadium, moved to Sun Life Stadium in South Florida in 2010 and then returned to Hawaii in 2011.

Fans can purchase tickets to the 2012 Pro Bowl at www.NFL.com/probowl or www.ticketmaster.com.

2012 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE ALL-STARS

(Starters listed in **Bold**)

(Non-participating players listed in *Italics*)

(* Replacing non-participating player)

(+ Need player selected by head coach)

OFFENSE

WIDE RECEIVERS		TIGHT ENDS
A.J. Green, Cincinnati		Antonio Gates, San Diego
* Vincent Jackson, San Diego		* Jermaine Gresham, Cincinnati
Brandon Marshall, Miami		<i>Rob Gronkowski, New England</i>
Mike Wallace, Pittsburgh		
<i>Wes Welker, New England</i>		QUARTERBACKS
		<i>Tom Brady, New England</i>
TACKLES		* Andy Dalton, Cincinnati
* Ryan Clady, Denver		Philip Rivers, San Diego
D'Brickshaw Ferguson, New York Jets		Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh
<i>Jake Long, Miami</i>		
Joe Thomas, Cleveland		RUNNING BACKS
		<i>Arian Foster, Houston</i>
GUARDS		Maurice Jones-Drew, Jacksonville
* Ben Grubbs, Baltimore		* Ryan Mathews, San Diego
<i>Logan Mankins, New England</i>		* Willis McGahee, Denver
* Brandon Moore, New York Jets		<i>Ray Rice, Baltimore</i>
<i>Brian Waters, New England</i>		
Marshal Yanda, Baltimore		FULLBACK
		Vonta Leach, Baltimore
CENTERS		
Nick Mangold, New York Jets		
* Chris Myers, Houston		
<i>Maurkice Pouncey, Pittsburgh</i>		

DEFENSE

ENDS		INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS
<i>Andre Carter, New England</i>		Ray Lewis, Baltimore
Elvis Dumervil, Denver		Derrick Johnson, Kansas City
Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis		
* Antonio Smith, Houston		CORNERBACKS
		Champ Bailey, Denver
INTERIOR LINEMAN		Johnathan Joseph, Houston
* Geno Atkins, Cincinnati		Darrelle Revis, New York Jets
Haloti Ngata, Baltimore		
Richard Seymour, Oakland		STRONG SAFETY
<i>Vince Wilfork, New England</i>		* Brian Dawkins, Denver
		<i>Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh</i>
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		
Tamba Hali, Kansas City		FREE SAFETIES
James Harrison, Pittsburgh		Ed Reed, Baltimore
Von Miller, Denver		Eric Weddle, San Diego
<i>Terrell Suggs, Baltimore</i>		

SPECIALISTS

PUNTER		KICK RETURN SPECIALIST
Shane Lechler, Oakland		Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh
PLACEKICKER		SPECIAL TEAMER
Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland		* Montell Owens, Jacksonville
		<i>Matthew Slater, New England</i>
LONG SNAPPER		
+ Jon Condo, Oakland		

2012 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE ALL-STARS(Starters listed in **Bold**)(Non-participating players listed in *Italics*)

(* Replacing non-participating player)

(+ Need player selected by head coach)

OFFENSE

	WIDE RECEIVERS			TIGHT ENDS
	Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona			Tony Gonzalez, Atlanta
	Greg Jennings, Green Bay			Jimmy Graham, New Orleans
	<i>Calvin Johnson, Detroit</i>			
	Steve Smith, Carolina			QUARTERBACKS
*	Roddy White, Atlanta			Drew Brees, New Orleans
				<i>Eli Manning, New York Giants</i>
	TACKLES		*	Cam Newton, Carolina
	Jermon Bushrod, New Orleans			Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay
	Jason Peters, Philadelphia			
	Joe Staley, San Francisco			RUNNING BACKS
				Matt Forté, Chicago
	GUARDS			Frank Gore, San Francisco
	Jahri Evans, New Orleans			LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia
	Davin Joseph, Tampa Bay			
	Carl Nicks, New Orleans			FULLBACK
				<i>John Kuhn, Green Bay</i>
	CENTERS		*	Michael Robinson, Seattle
	Ryan Kalil, Carolina			
	Scott Wells, Green Bay			

DEFENSE

	DEFENSIVE ENDS			INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS
	Jared Allen, Minnesota		*	London Fletcher, Washington
	Jason Babin, Philadelphia			<i>Brian Urlacher, Chicago</i>
	<i>Jason Pierre-Paul, New York Giants</i>			Patrick Willis, San Francisco
*	Julius Peppers, Chicago			
				CORNERBACKS
	INTERIOR LINEMEN		*	Brandon Browner, Seattle
	B.J. Raji, Green Bay			<i>Carlos Rogers, San Francisco</i>
	Jay Ratliff, Dallas			Charles Tillman, Chicago
	Justin Smith, San Francisco			Charles Woodson, Green Bay
	OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS			STRONG SAFETY
	<i>Lance Briggs, Chicago</i>			Adrian Wilson, Arizona
*	Chad Greenway, Minnesota			
	Clay Matthews, Green Bay			FREE SAFTIES
	DeMarcus Ware, Dallas		*	Kam Chancellor, Seattle
				<i>Dashon Goldson, San Francisco</i>
				Earl Thomas, Seattle

SPECIALISTS

	PUNTER			KICK RETURN SPECIALIST
	Andy Lee, San Francisco			Patrick Peterson, Arizona
	PLACEKICKER			SPECIAL TEAMER
	David Akers, San Francisco			Corey Graham, Chicago
	LONG SNAPPER			
+	Brian Jennings, San Francisco			