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COMMUNICATIONS

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17 NFL PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE IN NFL BOOT CAMP: SPORTS JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS MAY 14-17

Four-day program at Bowling Green State University Prepares Players for Transition into Post-NFL Careers

Seventeen current and former NFL players will take part in NFL Boot Camp: Sports Journalism and Communications, May 14-17 at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. This is the third year that the boot camp has been offered as one of several programs developed by NFL Player Engagement to prepare current and former players for post-NFL careers.

The four-day program will focus on improving each players' writing skills for newspapers, radio, and the expanding digital media industry. Industry professionals and Bowling Green faculty will lead players through panel discussions, breakout sessions, and writing labs covering everything from press conference prep to ethics in sports journalism.

Participants will put their skills to work by interviewing veteran NFL Referee **JOHN PARRY** in a press conference setting and writing a follow-up column. Players also will write for their individual blogs, which can be followed at www.nflpe.sportsblog.com.

Panelists and facilitators for the boot camp include NFL former player-turned-journalist **BUCKY BROOKS** of NFL.com, Director of National Sports Journalism Center & former NY Times writer **MALCOM MORAN**, and Senior Manager of Social Media at ESPN **JASON ROMANO**. Industry experts from ESPN, Westwood One and FoxSports.com also will participate in various sessions.

The boot camp is hosted by the BGSU School of Media and Communications and the Sport Management program and was developed with NFL Player Engagement, under the auspices of the Richard A. Maxwell Sport Media Project.

"Each year players come to BGSU eager to learn about journalism as part of their transition from player to practitioner. In addition to writing a column and recording a radio commentary, the players will also be writing a feature story this year based on an interview they'll do with an NFL referee. The faculty and I look forward to teaching them," said **DR. TERRY RENTNER**, professor and Director, BGSU School of Media and Communications.

"This boot camp provides players an opportunity to network and gain the tools to be successful in sports journalism and communications," said NFL Vice President of Player Engagement **CHARLES WAY**. "Sports journalism also presents an excellent opportunity for players to stay connected with the sport they played by giving fans an inside look at the game they love."

Following are the NFL players participating in Boot Camp: Sports Journalism and Communications:

NAME	TEAM
Eric Bakhtiari	Former (TEN, SF)
Ramses Barden	Former (NYG)
Bobby Carpenter	Former (DAL, MIA, DET, NE)
Je'Rod Cherry	Former (NO, PHI, NE)
Willie Colon	New York Jets
Na'il Diggs	Former (GB, CAR, STL, SD)
Ramon Foster	Pittsburgh Steelers
Jonathan Goodwin	Former (NYJ, NO, SF)
Walter Harris	Former (CHI, IND, WAS, SF)
Benjamin Hartsock	Former (IND, TEN, ATL, NYJ, CAR)
Derrick Mason	Former (TEN, BAL, NYJ, HOU)
Langston Moore	Former (CIN, ARI, DET)
Henoc Muamba	Indianapolis Colts
Chris Ogbonnaya	Free Agent
Marcus Price	Former (JAX, SD, NO, BUF, DAL)
Stanford Routt	Former (OAK, KC, HOU)
Darius Walker	Former (HOU)

About NFL Player Engagement

NFL Player Engagement assists players in reaching their highest potential on and off-the-field with guidance, support, and resources provided before, during, and after their NFL experiences. NFL Player Engagement works with three core audiences: Prep, Life, and Next. NFL Life (current players) and NFL Next (former players) reach more than 2,000 NFL players and spouses each year through a variety of programs and services focused on career development, financial and continuing education, as well as personal, psychological, and physical wellness. NFL Prep provides high-school and college student-athletes of all sports with tools to help them succeed in life, focused on awareness, prevention, and education. More information can be found at www.nflplayerengagement.com

About Bowling Green State University School of Media and Communications

The School of Media and Communication is home to approximately 700 students in the Departments of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations and Telecommunications, plus over 50 masters and doctoral students.

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