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**CHRIS DRAFT SELECTED AS JB AWARD WINNER AND FINALIST FOR BYRON
"WHIZZER" WHITE AWARD**

-Awards will be presented at NFL PLAYERS Gala in Washington D.C. on April 4, 2008-

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis Rams linebacker Chris Draft has been selected as a *JB Award* recipient, an annual honor bestowed upon 12 active NFL players in recognition of their off the field contributions. As a winner of a *JB Award*, Draft is also automatically a finalist for the *Byron "Whizzer" White Award*, an award named in honor of former NFL player and Supreme Court Justice Byron White. Both awards will be presented at the annual NFL PLAYERS Gala Washington D.C. on April 4, 2008.

The Gala, a partnership between the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), NFL PLAYERS and James Brown of CBS Sports, recognizes NFL players who exemplify leadership, dedication and commitment to their team and community. All proceeds from the event benefit the Special Olympics D.C.

Annually, each NFL team nominates one team member for their commitment to achieve excellence off the field through building better communities and stronger families. Brown then reviews the submissions of the 32 nominated players and personally selects 12 players to receive the award. Of those nominated by their respective teammates this season, Brown selected the following as *JB Award* winners: Marques Douglas (49ers), Warrick Dunn (Falcons), Braylon Edwards (Browns), Israel Idonije (Bears), Kassim Osgood (Chargers), Matt Stover (Ravens), Mack Strong (Seahawks), James Thrash (Redskins), Brian Waters (Chiefs), Kurt Warner (Cardinals) and Roy Williams (Cowboys).

One of those 12 *JB Award* recipients will also receive the *Byron "Whizzer" White Award*, the NFLPA's highest honor, on April 4. Following the announcement, the *Byron "Whizzer" White Award* winner will then be recognized with a permanent display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

"I am truly honored to be recognized as a *JB Award* winner and it is a great feeling to be identified with other players who work hard to better their community," said Draft. "It is a pleasure to be noticed for doing the right thing when so many are noticed for doing the wrong thing."

Chris Draft's 2007 community service endeavors included the launch of the Chris Draft Family Foundation's Character Team™ nationwide initiative promoting character education among youth, the St. Louis Rams Hydration Tour during August's heat-wave and a character-building neighborhood clean-up in September at park located in a 22nd Ward neighborhood reeling from the shooting of rookie police Officer Norvelle Brown. He has also been active in the St. Louis Public School District's Fresh Start Campaign, working to engage student leaders and athletes around the Foundation's Character Team™ initiative, most recently teaming up with the St. Louis Rams and SLPS to host 300 students from 15 St. Louis high schools at "A Discussion and A Movie" for a special screening of feature film *The Great Debaters*.

The Chris Draft Family Foundation actively works to empower families to live healthy lifestyles by educating them on the importance of physical fitness, nutrition, health maintenance and healthy living conditions. The Foundation's signature event, "Get Checked and Get Fit" Draft Day is a half-day "fitness camp with a twist" complete with special breakout sessions for youth and their parents. Draft and his Foundation will travel to Phoenix for Draft Day: Super Bowl Edition, to be held at the NFL YET Academy in Phoenix on Saturday, February 2. Draft Day: St. Louis is planned for May 2008.