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**CHRIS DRAFT SELECTED AS THE RAMS' WALTER PAYTON
MAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT**

ST. LOUIS – The St. Louis Rams today announced Chris Draft has been selected as the Rams' Walter Payton Man of the Year recipient. Draft will now go on to compete with the other 31 team's representatives for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

The Walter Payton Man of the Year Award is a prestigious honor recognizing a player for his community service as well as his on-the-field performance. Each NFL team has the opportunity to nominate the player who they feel best exemplifies the philanthropic spirit of Chicago Bears' Hall of Fame running back, Walter Payton. The nominees from all 32 teams then compete against each other for the national award, which will be announced prior to the Super Bowl.

A commitment to community service has been the centerpiece of Draft's life throughout his professional career. In 2006, Draft, a Stanford University graduate, established the Chris Draft Family Foundation. The Foundation focuses on 7 primary initiatives with overarching themes that stress the importance of education, healthy lifestyles, character development, personal responsibility, self-discipline and physical fitness.

The Foundation seeks partnerships with local and national community health organizations, school districts and non-profits across the country, striving to empower and uplift communities by educating and equipping families to make healthier choices.

Throughout most of the year, the Foundation operates out of St. Louis, home of Chris Draft and the St. Louis Rams. While the Foundation's home office is located in Atlanta, GA, the Foundation is active all across the United States, working in communities across the country from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles, California and Minnesota to Texas. The Foundation maintains a strong community presence in Chris Draft's former NFL homes: Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, and Charlotte, his birthplace of Kansas as well as his hometown of Anaheim, in Southern California.

Chris Draft and the Chris Draft Family Foundation travel across the United States during the NFL season, recruiting for the Foundation's Asthma Team and Character Team. Throughout the year, additional events with youth and families are planned around all Foundation initiatives, including visits to military bases and hospitals, the Get Checked and Get Fit™ Draft Day® fitness camp for youth and families (traditionally held at the Super Bowl in February and in the current NFL home city in the off-season), film screenings, roundtable discussions, school visits, park clean-ups and gardening projects.

2008 marks Chris Draft's 11th year in the NFL, and his experience has shaped the Foundation's mission, goals and community work. As an active NFL player living with asthma, Chris works with national and local organizations to increase awareness of the disease with a range of PSAs and special-themed events using his personal experiences to inspire others. A health and fitness advocate, Chris designed his Draft Day® fitness camp that debuted in 2006 at the NFL YET/Atlanta aimed toward providing youth and parents with tools to make choices to live healthier lifestyles. The importance of family literacy and character education, with a focus on personal responsibility and self-discipline fuel the Foundation's major initiatives, all centered on uplifting communities and empowering families to live healthy lifestyles.

About the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award

The prestigious Walter Payton Man of the Year Award is unique among NFL honors. It is the only NFL award that recognizes a player for his community service activities as well as his excellence on the field.

Renamed in 1999 after the legendary Chicago Bears Pro Football Hall of Fame running back, the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award has been awarded annually since 1970.

Each year a winner is chosen from a list composed of one nominee from each team. The Man of the Year is selected by an elite panel of judges including NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Sports Illustrated writer Peter King, Connie Payton (wife of the late Walter Payton), and former players Frank Gifford, Jack Kemp, Anthony Munoz and the previous year's Award winner.

The NFL Man of the Year's designated charity receives a \$25,000 donation in his name. Charities selected by the other 31 team finalists each receive a \$1,000 donation.

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