

### **Mega-lawsuit says NFL hid brain injury links**

A concussion-related lawsuit bringing together scores of cases has been filed in federal court, accusing the NFL of hiding information that linked football-related head trauma to permanent brain injuries.

Lawyers for former players say more than 80 pending lawsuits are consolidated in the “master complaint”, filed last week. Plaintiffs hope to hold the NFL responsible for the care of players suffering from dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and the other neurological conditions. Other former players remain asymptomatic, but worry about the future and want medical monitoring. The helmet-maker, Riddell, Inc. is named as a defendant.

The suit accuses the NFL of “mythologizing” and glorifying violence through the media, including its NFL Films division. The NFL, like the sport of boxing, was aware of the health risks associated with repetitive blows producing sub-concussive and concussive results and the fact that some members of the NFL player population were at significant risk of developing long-term brain damage and cognitive decline as a result, the complaint charges.

### **Patriots add veteran tight end Bo Scaife**

The New England Patriots signed tight end Bo Scaife recently. Scaife, 31, played six seasons with the Tennessee Titans after being selected in the 2005 sixth round out of the University of Texas.

The Denver native has played in 90 games with 62 starts, and has 251 receptions, 2,383 yards receiving and 12 touchdowns for his career. Last season, he had 36 receptions, 318 yards receiving, and four touchdowns as the Titans finished 9-7, in second place behind the Houston Texans in the AFC South.

Scaife’s best season came in 2008-09, when he had 561 yards receiving.

### **Forte wants to be recognized as one of the best!**

Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte would like to be recognized as one of the best running backs in the National Football League.

Forte, who said that he is not looking to become the highest-paid running back in the NFL, is frustrated by the business side of things and that came out during an appearance on NFL Network.

“I just want to be given a contract where I rank among some of the top running backs,” Forte said. “Not the top paid or anything like that. I just want to be recognized as one of the best.”

Under terms of the franchise tag, Forte would earn \$7.742 million this season. The Bears are conducting their final OTA's and Forte missed the entire voluntary offseason as he angles for a multi-year deal would guarantee him significantly more. After signing their draft class, the Bears had roughly \$3.81 million in remaining cap room meaning there is more than ample space to get a deal done. The Bears and Forte have until July 16th to reach an agreement on a long-term contract.

### **Pro Bowl will continue in Hawaii**

The NFL will hold the Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sunday, January 27, 2013, a week before the Super Bowl.

Commissioner Roger Goodell had made it clear that canceling the all-star game was a possibility after the uninspired play in this year's 59-41 AFC victory following discussions between the league and the players union; the NFL announced that Aloha Stadium would host the Pro Bowl for the third straight year.

Written by yolande Y. Lezine, Sports Editor  
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It will be the 33rd Pro Bowl in Hawaii. The players made it clear through the NFL Players Association that they would like the opportunity to continue to play the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

### **Patriots part ways with Ochocinco; Dolphins give him a chance**

The New England Patriots released receiver Chad Ochocinco last week, and the Miami Dolphins have picked him up to give him a chance to see if he still has enough to play in the National Football League.

Ochocinco, 34, is a six-time Pro Bowl selection after one season. He played in 15 games in his only season with the Patriots, starting three and catching 15 passes for 276 yards. The Miami Dolphins have given him another shot to see what he does.

### **George's home for auction**

The million-dollar home of former NFL running back Eddie George and his wife Tamara will be auctioned off next week, to the surprise of the Georges.

An accountant for the couple said the Georges have been trying to modify their loan for several months but that they find themselves in the same situation as many American homeowners - stuck with a house no longer worth what was paid for it.

Larry Goodman says he was shocked to learn the auction was set. For the past seven months he has been negotiating with IndyMac Mortgage Services to establish new terms for the Georges' mortgage.

### **NFL to start hiring possible replacement referees**

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The NFL will start hiring and training possible replacement officials according to the NFL Referees Association.

Talks between the league and the officials broke down after two mediation sessions fell through during negotiations. Both sides have said they expect a new collective bargaining during the upcoming season; however that optimism has disappeared.

“Our goal is to maintain the highest quality of officiating for our teams, players, and fans. The NFL’s search would target retired college officials and perhaps current ones who would like to work professional games.”

### **Mason retires as a Baltimore Raven**

NFL wide receiver Derrick Mason retired as a member of the Baltimore Ravens. Mason, who was joined by Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome and head coach John Harbaugh at a news conference on Monday afternoon, played 15 years in the National Football League.

Mason, 38, played six seasons with Baltimore, and he is the Ravens franchise leader in receptions (471) and yards receiving (5,777). He ranks second behind Todd Heap with 29 touchdown catches and set a single-season franchise record with 103 receptions in 2007. He was released by the Ravens before the 2012 season. He latched on with the New York Jets, and was released and finished up with the Houston Texans. He began his career with the Tennessee Titans in 1997 and played for them through 2004.