



Associated Press 2008 NFL All-Pro Team

Mawae named First Team All-Pro; Dielman, Faneca and Ngata named to Second Team

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- In a changing of the guard -- and tackles and running backs and wide receivers -- 15 first-timers made The Associated Press 2008 NFL All-Pro team, which was announced Friday.

While such standbys as three-time NFL Most Valuable Player Peyton Manning and six-time All-Pro Ray Lewis made the squad, there was plenty of room for newcomers. Ten of the 14 offensive players and five of the 13 on defense had never been All-Pros.

And there was room for one unanimous selection by a nationwide panel of 50 sportswriters and broadcasters who cover the NFL: safety Ed Reed, Lewis' teammate in Baltimore.

"He has a tremendous feel for the game," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said of Reed, who made his third All-Pro squad. "Very, very intelligent player, studies it as well or better than anybody. And he's a highly disciplined player. He plays his position as well as anybody I've ever seen."

Reed certainly did that this season with nine interceptions, and he had two, including one returned for a touchdown, in a wild-card victory over the Miami Dolphins last weekend.

Reed was joined in the secondary by Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu, making his second All-Pro squad, and two of the newcomers: cornerbacks Cortland Finnegan of the Tennessee Titans and Nnamdi Asomugha of the Oakland Raiders.

"Wow. I don't know if you can put that into words," said Finnegan, a seventh-round draft pick in 2006. "That's a goal guys want to obtain in their years of playing football. That's the best of the best. That's humbling to ever think you could be voted on for that. I didn't look at that as a goal this year."

Asomugha becomes a free agent after the season and will be able to write All-Pro on his resume.

2008 All-Pro team

First-Team Offense

Quarterback: Peyton Manning, Indianapolis.
Running backs: Adrian Peterson, Minnesota; Michael Turner, Atlanta.
Fullback: Le'Ron McClain, Baltimore.
Tight end: Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City.
Wide receivers: Andre Johnson, Houston; Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona.
Tackles: Jordan Gross, Carolina; Michael Roos, Tennessee.
Guards: Steve Hutchinson, Minnesota; Chris Snee, N.Y. Giants.
Center: Kevin Mawae, Tennessee.
Placekicker: Stephen Gostkowski, New England.
Kick returner: Leon Washington, N.Y. Jets.

First-Team Defense

Ends: Justin Tuck, N.Y. Giants; Jared Allen, Minnesota.
Tackles: Albert Haynesworth, Tennessee; Kevin Williams, Minnesota.
Outside linebackers: DeMarcus Ware, Dallas; James Harrison, Pittsburgh.
Inside linebackers: Ray Lewis, Baltimore; Jon Beason, Carolina.
Cornerbacks: Nnamdi Asomugha, Oakland; Cortland Finnegan, Tennessee.
Safeties: Ed Reed, Baltimore; Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh.
Punter: Shane Lechler, Oakland.

Second-Team Offense

Quarterback: Drew Brees, New Orleans.
Running backs: DeAngelo Williams, Carolina; Clinton Portis, Washington.
Fullback: Madison Hedgecock, N.Y. Giants.
Tight end: Jason Witten, Dallas.
Wide receivers: Steve Smith, Carolina; Wes Welker, New England.
Tackles: Ryan Clady, Denver; (tie) David Stewart, Tennessee; Walter Jones, Seattle; Jason Peters, Buffalo; David Diehl, N.Y. Giants; Joe Thomas, Cleveland.
Guards: Kris Dielman, San Diego; Alan Faneca, N.Y. Jets.
Center: Shaun O'Hara, N.Y. Giants.
Placekicker: John Carney, N.Y. Giants.
Kick returner: Clifton Smith, Tampa Bay.

Second-Team Defense

Ends: Julius Peppers, Carolina; John Abraham, Atlanta.
Tackles: Kris Jenkins, N.Y. Jets; Haloti Ngata, Baltimore.
Outside linebackers: Joey Porter, Miami; Terrell Suggs, Baltimore.
Inside linebackers: Patrick Willis, San Francisco; James Farrior, Pittsburgh.
Cornerbacks: Charles Woodson, Green Bay; Antoine Winfield, Minnesota.
Safeties: Adrian Wilson, Arizona; (tie) Quintin Mikell, Philadelphia; Nick Collins, Green Bay
Punter: Donnie Jones, St. Louis.

"The timing is good," he said. "I think it's always good to have certain things in your back pocket as far as leverage and negotiating. It was my fourth year the first time I made All-Pro."

Other first-timers on defense were Steelers outside linebacker James Harrison, the AP Defensive Player of the Year; end Justin Tuck of the New York Giants; and inside linebacker Jon Beason of the Carolina Panthers.

"To get the whole swath in one year, that's great," Harrison said.

The slew of new All-Pros on offense included running backs Michael Turner of Atlanta and Adrian Peterson of Minnesota; fullback Le'Ron McClain of Baltimore; wideouts Larry Fitzgerald of Arizona and Andre Johnson of Houston; tackles Michael Roos of Tennessee and Jordan Gross of Carolina; guard Chris Snee of the Giants; placekicker Stephen Gostkowski of New England; and kick returner Leon Washington of the New York Jets.

"When you think about the Pro Bowl, it's the coaches, players and fans voting and recognizing you to represent your conference," said Washington, who averaged 25.6 yards per kickoff runback, with one touchdown, and 10.4 on punt returns. "But with the AP All-Pro team, you're representing the whole league. That's a pretty sweet deal."

Also getting a sweet deal were six repeaters from last year's team: Reed, Dallas linebacker DeMarcus Ware; defensive tackles Albert Haynesworth of Tennessee and Kevin Williams of Minnesota; defensive end Jared Allen of Minnesota, who was with Kansas City in 2007; and Vikings guard Steve Hutchinson.

Kansas City tight end Tony Gonzalez made his fifth All-Pro team. Gonzalez ended his 12th season owning the triple crown of NFL career tight end records: receptions (916), receiving yards (10,940) and touchdowns (76).

"I wanted to show everybody that I could still play at a high level, that I could still be a leader," said Gonzalez, who certainly did that with 96 catches for 1,058 yards and 10 TDs for a 2-14 team.

Tennessee center Kevin Mawae was chosen for the third time. Punter Shane Lechler of Oakland made his fourth team.

"It's a very big honor because it combines both AFC and NFC," said Snee, one of the anchors on the NFL's most impressive offensive lines. "There is so much talent at every position, but speaking of guards there is a lot of talent out there. I'm honored."

In all, 16 AFC players and 11 from the NFC were honored this season. Tennessee and Minnesota led with four players each, and Baltimore had three.

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