



# Tony Pashos – Leadership Corner

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*Jacksonville tackle Tony Pashos, 28, is a new Player Representative for the Jaguars. Pashos, in his sixth NFL season, grew up in a family that often talked fervently about politics and current events, and he has taken that passion into the locker room. "I don't take this responsibility lightly at all," he said. "I want to make the best decisions for the future players in the league."*



**ON SPEAKING OUT:** I've been outspoken throughout my career, so my teammates thought I would be a good union representative. I've always been interested in how things are managed on the player side, and I'm passionate about the interest and welfare of others. Whether it's a conversation about world affairs, politics, taxes, the economy or our rights as Americans, I often find myself speaking out about the topic. It runs in my family. My dad worked in the steel industry and would come home and let us know what he thought.

**ON GRIPING:** Gripping goes on in every industry. I see it going on in our negotiations now. It is used to divide instead of unify, and it usually comes from outside sources looking to split up the group.

**ON PLAYER RIGHTS AND BENEFITS:** I've talked to many of the players in the locker room about the rights and benefits that each of them has. As a Player Rep, I'd like to see more benefits extended to practice squad players. A practice squad player is working his tail off and may do so for two or three years and then have nothing to show for it.

**ON PURSUING A DREAM:** Now that the Super Bowl is over, it's time to start clean. I have a deep desire and goal to be a Super Bowl champion, to be the best in the world, like the Steelers are now. That's the one thing I chase after each and every year. So this is a time to get my mind and body right and do some things differently to give me an edge. I'm using a personal trainer, and I changed my diet to include more natural and organic foods and less—if any—fast foods.

**ON THE NEXT NFLPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** I'd want him to have a lot of what Gene had. He got things done. A lot of what we have today is because of what Gene did. The next executive director has to have that same passion. He's got to be a guy who won't back down or get pushed around when the going gets tough. I will vote in March for the best candidate for executive director. I could care less what his name is, what's important to me is who he is as a person.

**ON REPRESENTING HIS LOCKER ROOM:** I don't take this responsibility lightly at all. I want to make the best decisions for the future players in the league.