

Player Participation Newsletter – 2010

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

First and foremost, we want to thank everyone for a great season. This year was our best yet, with many teams improving as the season went along and other teams greatly improving from previous years. Another season is almost complete and we appreciate all the time everyone has contributed to player participation. The long hours, the night games, and having to sit through the preseason games were appreciated – especially since we know you have other jobs. The Bills-Colts game the last week of the season in Buffalo was a particularly impressive job given the heavy snow and the fact that they only made one mistake, even though one could hardly see through the snow during parts of the game. There were many other games this season in which the camera operators had to tough it out so to speak, including the freezing temperatures at the Meadowlands during the Jets-Bengals game the last week of the season, the sheets of rain during the Redskins-Steelers preseason game, and the October snow storm in New England against the Titans. To prove your hard work and energy paid off our accuracy rate improved to 99.91% beating out last year's rate of 99.90% while identifying 911,602 players. We continue to improve every year because of your contributions.

Recognition

We were very pleased with all the crews this year, and completely understand the difficulties of braving the elements and making it to every game. This season we are giving out awards to the most accurate crew, the most improved crew, and the top 20 identifiers based on players identified per mistake. The most accurate crew will receive an NFL Fossil watch; the most improved crew will receive a Tiffany football paperweight; and the top 20 identifiers will receive an NFL Pigskin picture frame, all pictured below:



We would have liked to include more photographers in the individual prizes, but it is tough to objectively figure out who to reward. If any of you have ideas about any of this, your feedback would be much appreciated.

Winners

This year, both the most improved and most accurate crew was one and the same, with the Raiders ranking 32nd in 2008 and 1st this past season. Amazing turnaround by them! The second most improved crew was nearly as impressive and will receive the Tiffany football paperweight. This was the Arizona Cardinals crew, and they improved from a 2008 season in which they were ranked 31st to this season when they ranked 4th overall. The top 20 identifiers, along with their club and the number of players identified per mistake were the following:

Top 20 Identifiers for 2009

Rank	Name	Club	Players Identified Per Mistake
1	Peter Wynn	Jacksonville	7,685.0
2	Adam Sanda	Oakland	6,885.5
3	Kevin Jenkins	Arizona	5,283.0
4	John Paler	Buffalo	5,014.5
5	Tom Fleming	Tampa Bay	3,808.0
6	Bill Busacker	NY Giants	3,755.8
7	Kelly Guzik	Detroit	3,696.3
8	Spencer Ayres	Oakland	3,657.3
9	Keely Boren	Detroit	3,619.4
10	Peter Linton	Buffalo	3,378.0
11	David Leshner	Arizona	3,228.4
12	Scott Dietz	New England	2,970.5
13	Kevin Strada	Atlanta	2,858.2
14	Becky Lamal	Green Bay	2,495.3
15	Chuck Pollington	Cincinnati	2,408.1
16	Kevin Stine	Tampa Bay	2,393.0
17	Tommy Cooper	New Orleans	2,312.0
18	Vic DeNardi	NY Jets	2,297.6
19	Marc Sands	Chicago	2,272.3
20	Joe Fry	Tampa Bay	2,256.3

Oakland Raiders

We'd like to specifically congratulate the Raider crew for going from last place to first place in one season. After changing some members of the crew, Oakland had the biggest turnaround in Player Participation history. A year removed from never having a game with less than four mistakes, the Raiders crew finished with four mistakes for the entire year. Thank you Oakland!



Next Season

Next season we will send out new Canon T1i camera bodies to all crews. We got a head start and sent them to this year's playoff teams. The feedback we have received on the new cameras has been

extremely positive. Each camera will come with 5 – 4GB SDHC memory cards so you should never have a problem fitting all of the photos of a quarter on a single card. We're also increasing the shutter speed to 1/250th to help eliminate motion blur. The photo quality should be noticeably better which should make your job easier.

If you have any questions, comments, or recommendations on how anything can be improved, please feel free to contact us. We hope everyone has a great offseason.

Best of luck to the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints in this year's Super Bowl.

Kindest Regards,

Player Participation Project Team (John Cave, Nikiforos Stamatakis, Taylor Watson, Reese Roche, and Jeff Geiser)