



**MARSHALL FAULK SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF PRO-FOOTBALL D-LEAGUE**  
*Says Supplemental Player Development Long Overdue*

(San Diego, CA - February 16, 2016) NFL Hall of Fame running back Marshall Faulk believes there is a need for a developmental league for players aspiring to make the NFL. He cited the difficult transition from the college spread system to the pro-set and the lack of an alternative for young players to improve their skills to earn another chance.

"There really is nowhere a player can go today to continue developing his football skills in hopes of making an NFL roster," Faulk said. "Time and again, throughout my NFL career, I witnessed players who were very capable of making a roster who, had there been another outlet for them to get more reps in the pro system, could have made a team. As it is now, if the guys don't adapt quickly to the pro-set, they are out and that is a shame."

The college players drafted and signed as free agents each year have only four to six weeks during training camp to demonstrate their skills to their new teams.

"During my years as a player and after my retirement in 2006, a common topic of discussion among coaches, front offices, players and the sports media has been the need for a D-League. Supplemental player development for the NFL is long overdue and desperately needed," emphasized Faulk. "Yes, there have been various attempts at leagues over the years, but none have endured. It's time to figure this out and make it happen."

Enter the new United States Football League (USFL), an emerging pro football spring developmental league led by Jim Bailey, who previously served as Executive Vice President of the Cleveland Browns and Baltimore Ravens NFL franchises for 21 years.

"The USFL is guided by an exceptional board with high level executive experience from NFL front offices, nine different NFL teams, player representation, media and marketing all committed to making this League a reality," said Bailey. "We have meticulously studied mistakes made in the past with other leagues and what became very apparent to us were two things: insufficient capitalization and poor league structure. We have put together a strong financing plan as well as a league structure that eliminates all the pitfalls and includes only the aspects that will allow us to be successful."

The USFL will operate as a single entity, owning 100% of all the teams. The eight teams will play a fourteen game schedule during the spring/summer and will conclude with a four team playoff and championship game prior to the start of NFL training camps. Players will be free to move to the NFL at any time, even during the USFL playing season.

Faulk had the opportunity to meet with Bailey and his team. "I admire their efforts and I like their vision. I think they have a very good chance of succeeding once they have their second round of capital in place. A league such as this would be a win-win for players, coaches and the NFL."

###