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N.F.L. Suspends 2 Players for Personal Conduct

By JUDY BATTISTA

<u>Tennessee Titans</u> cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was suspended today for the entire 2007 football season and <u>Cincinnati Bengals</u> receiver Chris Henry was suspended for the first eight games as the National Football League began to crack down on players who repeatedly violate its personal conduct policy.

"Your conduct has brought embarrassment and ridicule upon yourself, your club, and the N.F.L., and has damaged the reputation of players throughout the league," Commissioner Roger Goodell wrote in a letter to each of the players. "You have engaged in conduct detrimental to the N.F.L. and failed to live up to the standards expected of N.F.L. players."

Since he was drafted in 2005, Jones has been arrested five times and questioned by the police in 10 incidents. He could face a felony charge for his role in a melee that led to a triple shooting in a Las Vegas strip club that left one person paralyzed.

Henry was arrested four times from December 2005 to June 2006 and has already served a two-game suspension that Goodell issued last season.

Both players were told that if they fail to comply with a long list of conditions — including avoiding other incidents — they could face further discipline, including possible banishment from the N.F.L..

Jones and Henry will have to apply for reinstatement. Jones's status will be reviewed after the Titans 10th regular-season game. The suspension of Jones could be reduced then, but only if no charges are brought against him in Las Vegas and he is cleared of a felony charge of obstructing the police in Georgia. That charge stems from an incident in February 2006 in which Jones is accused of biting a police officer between his thumb and index finger. Jones violated the league's previous personal conduct policy by not telling the Titans about two 2006 arrests in Georgia.

Jones may not participate in practices or organized workouts during the suspension. Beginning in June, he must meet once a week with the Titans's player development director, who will develop a program of community service for Jones, which must be approved by the league. Jones will be allowed to spend one day a week at the team facility for conditioning and film study.

The Titans's owner, Bud Adams, said in a statement that there was no guarantee Jones would be welcomed back to the team when his suspension is over.

"We will need assurances from the player on a number of issues before we are comfortable having him return to the team," Adams said. "Until we see a change in behavior through his actions and until he shows the ability to avoid controversy off the field, we will move forward with the possibility that he may not return to this team."

Jones and Henry met separately with Goodell last week for about 90 minutes each, during which the players had a chance to explain their actions. The suspensions were determined under the N.F.L.'s old personal conduct policy. The league also announced a new, tougher policy today that gives Goodell sweeping powers to discipline teams, perhaps by issuing fines, that have repeat offenders.

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