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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to suggest that CTE be addressed in living players because there is technology being developed that will diagnose that condition if not now somewhere in the near future. The settlement only addresses CTE when a player dies and I think the court should have a clause in the settlement that will allow players to be compensated while they are still alive to take advantage of the benefits. It seems an injustice not to consider CTE in a living player because we cannot enjoy the benefits dead. I love my family and would like for them to be compensated if that condition is found but as a player I would rather my family and I could enjoy the benefits together while I'm still alive.

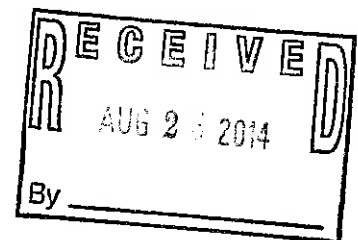
I also don't like the compensation grid to pay players top dollar in the early stages of life than the later stages because as we get older the money goes down instead of up. It seems like another case of delay, deny, and hope they die scenario the NFL has taken for years. The players who deserve to be compensated for the other conditions ALS, dementia, etc... are good right now. But players who develop these conditions as they get older will receive less money and that's not fair as far as I see it. What about players who suffer from depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, headaches, ringing of the ears, insomnia, and other related ailments associated with the brain that might not show in baseline assessments right now. How do they get benefits right away?

I would hope that the court would take all conditions into consideration especially CTE in a living player so that players suffering from any condition associated with the brain be compensated like players who suffer from ALS, dementia, etc. It is good the NFL has come to the table to help former players but it still falls way too short in compensation benefits as time goes on in the 65 years it says it will pay all claims. If all former players don't contract any of the diseases until later in life there will be nothing to pay out! Please consider my concerns as you move forward in trying to come to a settlement that will benefit all former players right now...not 65 years from now!

Respectfully,
Judson Flint

Judson Flint

Signed 8-21-2014



NFL Concussion Settlement

Our records show that you may be eligible to receive benefits from the NFL Concussion Settlement because you may be:

- A retired professional football player who played with the NFL, AFL, World League of American Football, NFL Europe League, or NFL Europa League, or
- An immediate family member of a retired football player or legal representative of an incapacitated, incompetent or deceased player.

The enclosed notice provides information about the Settlement. Please read the entire notice.

If the Settlement receives final Court approval, you will need to register in the future to receive benefits.

Below is your unique identification number, which is to be used by you or your representative when calling or mailing about the information in this notice.

Your identification number is:

100004911

This identification number is tied to the following address:

Judson R Flint
306 Federal St
Farrell PA 16121-1925

If this is no longer your address, please call 1-855-887-3485 to update your information.

This identification number does not mean that you are registered to receive benefits. You will have to register if the Settlement receives final Court approval. To sign up for additional information about the Settlement and updates on the registration process, please visit the website or call the toll-free number listed below.

For additional information about the Settlement:

Write: NFL Concussion Settlement

P.O. Box 25369

Richmond, VA 23260

Call: 1-855-997-3485

Visit: www.NFLConcussionSettlement.com

**PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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Tuesday, January 22, 2013

CTE found in living ex-NFL players

By Steve Fainaru and Mark Fainaru-Wada
ESPN.com

Brain scans performed on five former NFL players revealed images of the protein that causes football-related brain damage -- the first time researchers have identified signs of the crippling disease in living players.

Researchers who conducted the [pilot study at UCLA](#) described the findings as a significant step toward being able to diagnose the disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, in living patients.

"I've been saying that identifying CTE in a living person is the holy grail for this disease and for us to be able make advances in treatment," said Dr. Julian Bailes, co-director of NorthShore Neurological Institute in Evanston, Ill., and one of the study's co-authors. "It's not definitive, and there's a lot we still need to discover to help these people, but it's very compelling. It's a new discovery."

REPORTING PARTNERSHIP

ESPN reporters [Mark Fainaru-Wada](#) and [Steve Fainaru](#) are writing a book about football and brain injuries, scheduled to be published in 2013 by Crown Archetype, a division of Random House. PBS' "[Frontline](#)," in partnership with ESPN's "Outside the Lines," is producing a documentary based on the reporters' research. This article is a product of these partnerships.

PRIOR STORIES

- [NFL reports remain inconsistent »](#)
- [New cases of CTE in football players »](#)
- [Mixed messages on brain injuries »](#)
- [The Mike Webster disability case »](#)

"Outside the Lines" cross-platform series, "Football at a Crossroads," examines health issues surrounding football at all levels of the sport, from youth football, high school and college football, through semipro and professional football.

Dozens of former players -- including 34 who played in the NFL -- have been diagnosed posthumously with CTE, a neurodegenerative disease linked to dementia, memory loss and depression. The disease, which researchers say is triggered by repeated head trauma, can currently be confirmed only by examining the brain after death. [CTE was discovered earlier this month](#) in the brain of former Chargers linebacker Junior Seau, who

committed suicide in May by shooting himself in the chest.

The UCLA researchers last year used a patented brain-imaging tool to examine Fred McNeill, a 59-year-old former Vikings linebacker; Wayne Clark, a 64-year-old former backup quarterback; and three other unidentified players: a 73-year-old former guard; a 50-year-old former defensive lineman; and a 45-year-old former center. Each had sustained at least one concussion; the center sustained 10.

CTE is caused by a buildup of tau, an abnormal protein that strangles brain cells. The scan lit up for tau in all five former players, according to the study. The protein was concentrated in areas that control memory, emotions and other functions -- a pattern consistent with the distribution of tau in CTE brains that have been studied following autopsy, according to the researchers.

"The findings are preliminary -- we only had five players -- but if they hold up in future studies, this may be an opportunity to identify CTE before players have symptoms so we can develop preventative treatment," said Dr. Gary W. Small, the study's lead author and a professor of psychiatry and bibehavioral sciences at UCLA.

The findings were published Tuesday in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

The study could open up new areas for CTE research -- and provide additional fuel for the controversy surrounding it. The ability to diagnose CTE in living patients would raise thorny questions about the need for mandatory testing and whether players at all levels can be forced to find out if they are vulnerable to a devastating disease.

The study was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Brain Injury Research Institute, a nonprofit organization founded by Bailes; Dr. Bennet Omalu, a pathologist who in 2005 identified the first case of CTE in a former NFL player; and Bob Fitzsimmons, a Wheeling, W.Va., attorney who represented late Steelers center Mike Webster, the first NFL player to be diagnosed with CTE.

Omalu, now chief medical examiner for San Joaquin (Calif.) County, is a co-author on the study.

The NFL once attacked Bailes and Omalu's research and denied the link between football and CTE. The league later reversed its position and acknowledged a scientific connection between football and long-term brain damage.

Dr. Richard Ellenbogen, a Seattle neurosurgeon who serves as co-chair of the NFL's Head, Neck and Spine Committee, described the study as "promising work," adding the researchers were "honest about the limitations as well as being excited about the findings."

"This is the holy grail if it works. This is what we've been waiting for, but it looks like it's probably preliminary to say they've got it," said Dr. Robert Cantu, a senior adviser to the NFL's Head, Neck and Spine Committee and co-director of Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy. "But if they do have it, this is exactly what we need."

McNeill, a first-round draft pick in 1974, played 12 seasons in Minnesota and was the subject of a 2011 "Outside the Lines" story. McNeill had a successful post-football career as a lawyer before becoming afflicted by early-onset dementia. Now 60, McNeill no longer practices law and is primarily looked after by his family and professional caretakers.

Tia McNeill said Omalu contacted her a year and a half ago to see about her ex-husband, Fred, participating in the UCLA study. She said she was eager to have him included and even worked to recruit other former players.

"When Dr. Omalu first called, because you hear so many stories of people committing suicide and other things, I thought, 'Wow, if this test that can determine prior to someone's passing they have it, absolutely, I'm all in,' she said. "And I felt it would be important to tell as many people as I could."

Bailes, who once worked with the Pittsburgh Steelers, said the ability to make the diagnosis in living patients could provide several treatment options and help prevent the kind of suicides seen in cases like Seau and former Chicago Bears defensive back Dave Duerson. Duerson shot himself in the chest in February 2011, leaving behind a note that directed his brain be donated to research. It was later shown that Duerson suffered from CTE.

Active players who show signs of CTE could use the information to decide when to retire and thus prevent further injury, according to Bailes. He said additional research involving a much larger number of players is needed before that can happen.

Bailes and Small said they have applied for several grants, including one through the National Institutes of Health. In September, the NFL donated \$30 million to the NIH for brain injury research.

Clark was a backup quarterback with San Diego, Cincinnati and Kansas City who started five games during his five-year career. Clark's most active season was 1973, when he started four games for the Chargers while splitting time with Johnny Unitas and Dan Fouts.

Clark, now 65, said in an interview that he was exposed to limited contact and sustained only one major concussion during his career. During a 1972 game at Miami, he was holding on a field goal attempt that was blocked and was injured while trying to make the tackle.

Film of the play failed to show how the injury occurred, and Clark didn't remember. "It was a total blackout," he said.

Clark, who ran a Southern California video services business and officiated high school football games after his playing career ended, said he reacted with "interest, not alarm," after being told that he had signs of CTE.

"I don't feel like I'm suffering from any real symptoms at this point, and didn't have any sense of anything going on except normal age-related issues," he said. He decided to participate in the hope that "it could help other people and maybe help me."
