



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2008



### COLTS SIGN CAU'S JOHNSON AS A FREE AGENT

Atlanta, GA. – The Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League (NFL) have signed Clark Atlanta University Defensive End Curtis Johnson as a free agent. Johnson and the Colts came to terms on a three-year contract over the NFL Draft Weekend (April 25-27, 2008), and Johnson becomes the second CAU player under head coach Ted Bahhur to be signed by an NFL team (Jonathan Hamm signed with the New Orleans Saints last year).

Into the draft weekend it was widely rumored that Johnson would be selected in the late rounds of the draft. According to Johnson, “The free agency route was actually a better fit for me. A late draft selection would have meant possibly joining a team that already had roster players or higher draftees vying for the same position. Through free agency, I had the option of determining which teams I would consider joining and thereby increasing my chances of success.”

Before Johnson signed with the Colts, his services were sought by the New England Patriots, the Miami Dolphins, the Houston Texans, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Washington Redskins.

“I am truly grateful for the opportunity that CAU provided me to be able to play college football. Playing for Clark Atlanta gave me the chance to expose my talent to the NFL. I would have never been signed by the Colts if I had not gotten to play as a Panther,” said Johnson.

Johnson reports to the Indianapolis Colts Mini Camp on Thursday, May 1.

### **Curtis Johnson’s Background**

Curtis Johnson is a 2007 Daktronics All-America defensive end. The Lauderhill, Florida native finished first in the nation (NCAA Division II) in tackles for loss with a 2.5 average per game, and he also finished first (NCAA Division II) in pass sacks with a 1.2 sacks per game average. He was 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in solo tackles averaging 6.3 per game, and he was 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation in total tackles per game with a 10.2 average. He led the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) in both categories and finished second in total tackles with 112. Johnson was named SIAC Defensive Player of the Year and was selected to the First Team All-SIAC for the second consecutive season. During the year, he was voted SIAC Player of the Week four times. In 2006 he was crowned NCAA Statistical Champion in Forced Fumbles with a total of nine during the season.

As a participant in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual East-West Shrine Football Game this season, Johnson was the first player in the history of CAU Athletics to participate in this game, recognized as one of the premiere and most prestigious postseason college football events in the nation. In addition, Johnson was named to the Black College All-America Football Team by the Sheridan Broadcasting Network and was named SIAC Defensive Player of the Year, plus the Atlanta University Center Player of the Year by Atlanta’s 100% Wrong Club.

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