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Tony Semple to be Lions' Alumni Honorary Captain for Lions-Vikings Game

December 3, 2008

ALLEN PARK, Mich. -- A long-time offensive lineman known for his passionate, never-say-die play has been chosen as Alumni Honorary Captain for the Detroit Lions-Minnesota Vikings game. **Tony Semple** will be the honorary captain at Ford Field, Sunday (December 7), during the Lions' 75th season in Detroit.

Semple was the Lions' fifth-round draft pick from Memphis in 1994 but sustained a season-ending knee injury just minutes into his first pro practice. His hard work and dedication to recovery got him back onto the field in 1995 and for eight seasons (1995-2002) he was a key contributor on the Lions' offensive line and special teams.

Semple played in 112 regular-season games during his Lions' career. He was the Lions' long snapper on punts and worked his way into the regular starting lineup at left guard his final four seasons in Detroit. He also played on the offensive line that helped future Pro Hall of Famer **Barry Sanders** rush for 2,053 yards in 1997.

Now that his football playing days are over, Semple has taken his passion for life and love of the outdoors to new heights. His **Tony Semple Foundation for Hope** provides hunting and fishing experiences at no cost to persons enduring life-altering conditions. For more information about his foundation, go online to www.tonysemplefoundation.org.

This year marks the eighth consecutive season that the Lions have honored former players at their home games. The captains are guests at the game, are introduced to the Ford Field crowd, and participate in the coin-toss ceremonies.

2008 Alumni Honorary Captains

- Green Bay - Herman Moore (WR, 1991-2001)
- Chicago - Eddie Murray (K, 1980-91)
- Washington - Wally Triplett (RB/RS, 1949-50)
- Tampa Bay - Lomas Brown (OT, 1985-95)
- Tennessee - Cory Schlesinger (FB, 1995-2006)
- Minnesota - Tony Semple (G, 1995-2002)

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