

April 21, 1999
Release: Upon Receipt

FURMAN'S RUFF SIGNS FREE AGENT CONTRACT WITH SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GREENVILLE — Furman University senior linebacker Orlando Ruff has signed a free agent contract with the National Football League's San Diego Chargers, it was announced today.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity -- it's definitely a dream come true," Ruff said Wednesday morning.

A three-time All-Southern Conference selection and 1998 AFCA All-America selection, Ruff was named South Carolina Player-of-the-Year by the Greenville Touchdown Club after totaling 97 tackles for the Paladins this past season. He participated in the annual Blue-Gray All-Star Classic and also in the Hula Bowl.

"Naturally we're very excited about Orlando signing with San Diego and having the chance to play professional football — he's earned that chance," said Furman head coach Bobby Johnson on Wednesday. "In addition to his athletic ability, we think Orlando has the intangibles that could allow him to play in the NFL, and we're confident those intangibles will emerge once he gets into their camp."

The Winnsboro, S.C., native played in 44 consecutive games and completed his career as Furman's fourth all-time leading tackler with 488 stops.

Ruff will travel to San Diego on Thursday to take part in the Chargers' three-day mini camp, which gets underway Friday.

(For More Information, Contact: Hunter Reid)

1999 FURMAN UNIVERSITY PALADINS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Series</u>
Sept. 4	ELON	GREENVILLE	7:00	2-0
Sept. 18	@ William & Mary	Williamsburg, Va.	TBA	6-7
Sept. 25	VMI *	GREENVILLE	7:00	19-8
Oct. 2	@ Western Carolina *	Cullowhee, N.C.	TBA	15-9-2
Oct. 9	APPALACHIAN STATE *	GREENVILLE	2:00	18-7-3
Oct. 16	@ The Citadel *	Charleston, S.C.	TBA	47-28-3
Oct. 23	EAST TENNESSEE STATE * (Homecoming)	GREENVILLE	2:00	19-6
Oct. 30	@ North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	TBA	0-4
Nov. 6	@ Georgia Southern *	Statesboro, Ga.	TBA	2-7
Nov. 13	WOFFORD *	GREENVILLE	2:00	42-23-7
Nov. 20	@ Chattanooga *	Chattanooga, Tenn.	TBA	15-13

* Southern Conference Game