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For Second Consecutive Year, NEO Alums Start in Super Bowl

Miami, Okla. (Friday, February 5, 2010) -- Two alumni from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Jeremy Shockey and Remi Ayodele, will start for the New Orleans Saints during the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 7. This is the second consecutive year that an alum from NEO has started in the Super Bowl.

Shockey is a tight end who has played for the Saints since July of 2008. Originally from Ada, he has brought in 421 passes for 4,711 yards, with 27 touchdowns, according to the Saints' website. Shockey's reception total is ranked third among active tight ends, while his total yardage is fourth.

Shockey played for NEO's Golden Norsemen in 1999 as a tight end. Following his year with NEO, he was recruited by Miami University.

Ayodele has played defensive tackle for the Saints, who he signed with in September of 2008. His National Football League totals include 12 tackles and a forced-fumble in 13 games, according to the Saints' website.

Ayodele came to NEO in 2004 as a defensive tackle for the Golden Norse. He played for South Grand Prairie (Texas) High School under the guidance of head coach David Fisher, former

Picher High School coach. Following his years at NEO, Ayodele was recruited by the University of Oklahoma.

“Both of these two men are gifted athletes,” said Donnie Bigby, head coach for Golden Norse Football. “What sets them apart from other players is their competitive nature.”

This is the second consecutive year that an NEO alum has started in the Super Bowl. Last year, Antonio Smith started as defensive end for the Arizona Cardinals.

“NEO has been well-represented in most of the Super Bowls in NFL history,” said Bigby. “Among others, Matt Blair played in four; Scott Case played in two. That says, number one, that NEO has the right kind of players. Secondly, it is proof that NEO has played a key role in elevating those players to their professional positions.”

A total of 64 NEO alums have played in the NFL.