

Chargers release Neal, McCree and Olivea

by Kevin Acee

SAN DIEGO - As expected, the San Diego Chargers released fullback Lorenzo Neal and free safety Marlon McCree on Thursday.

In a somewhat surprising move, however, offensive tackle Shane Olivea was also released by the two-time defending AFC West champions.

Neal, a three-time Pro Bowler in his five seasons in San Diego, had been on the trading block for a week. There were no takers, and the 37-year-old was let go with three seasons remaining on his contract.

McCree, who will be replaced in the starting lineup by Eric Weddle, had been expected to be released for some time as well. He also was signed through 2010.

It was thought that Olivea, who lost his starting job at right tackle midseason and fell out of favor with the coaching staff over his work ethic and commitment, would be given another year to get back in the good standing and perhaps earn back his job.

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