



Bills Release Tight End Everett, Allowing Him to Seek Benefits

By Michael Buteau

May 13 (Bloomberg) -- The Buffalo Bills released tight end **Kevin Everett**, who suffered a career-ending spinal injury last season, a move that allows him to seek long-term disability benefits from the National Football League.

By being placed on the team's waived/failed physical list, Everett can apply for an annual \$224,000 disability payment and a one-time payment of \$75,000 as part of the NFL's Player Health Reimbursement Plan. An injured player isn't eligible for medical benefits while on an active roster.

Because Everett received his base salary of \$435,000 last season, he was credited with three NFL seasons, qualifying him for a full NFL pension of \$1,410 a month. He was to earn a salary of \$460,000 this season. Everett also will receive five years of family medical and dental insurance coverage, according to the NFL Players Association.

``The Buffalo Bills continue to be moved by Kevin Everett's heart-warming story of his recovery," the Bills said in a statement. ``His progress is nothing short of a miracle. We had numerous discussions with the league in dealing with this process to assist him in the best way possible. Kevin will always remain a Buffalo Bill."

Everett, 26, dislocated his spine and sustained compression of his spinal cord while making a tackle during the team's Sept. 9 home opener last season against the Denver Broncos.

While doctors initially said he probably wouldn't walk again, Everett underwent surgery to repair severe dislocation of his third and fourth vertebra and is now walking on his own.

The Bills also released wide receiver Chris Denney, an undrafted rookie out of Nebraska-Omaha. Denney suffered a knee injury while playing in NFL Europa.

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