

# JSC scores big during 'Super' February

By Joanne Hale and Debbie Nguyen

## The Capital One College Football All-Star Challenge brings Super Bowl spirit to JSC

Super Bowl fever reached the Gilruth Center Jan. 30 for the 2004 Capital One College Football All-Star Challenge, which aired on Super Bowl Sunday on Fox Television.

JSC Center Director Lt. Gen. Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., kicked off the affair with his famous welcome, "It's great to be alive and in Houston!"

This annual event, held in the midst of the Super Bowl frenzy, summoned several of college football's biggest and brightest stars to challenge their skills against each other in a variety of tests. The players are paired up in teams – each team contains a quarterback and a running back or a wide receiver. Alumni of the College Football All-Star Challenge include Donovan McNabb, Daunte Culpepper and Patrick Ramsey. This year's lineup featured a roster full of future NFL draft candidates:

**Casey Clausen** (University of Tennessee, Quarterback)

**Roy Williams** (University of Texas, Wide Receiver)

**Jeff Smoker** (Michigan State, Quarterback)

**Chris Perry** (Michigan, Running Back)

**Jared Lorenzen** (University of Kentucky, Quarterback)

**Reggie Williams** (University of Washington, Wide Receiver)

**Rod Rutherford** (University of Pittsburgh, Quarterback)

**Julius Jones** (Notre Dame, Running Back)

There were several other special guests who participated in the showdown: Marine Astronauts **Lt. Col. Charlie Hobaugh**, **Lt. Col. George Zamka** and **Maj. Doug Hurley** did a quick run-through of the four events to illustrate how each was to be completed; cheerleaders from Super Bowl teams Carolina Panthers and New England Patriots made an appearance; and Cocky, the University of South Carolina's mascot, offered some comic relief between takes.



Roy Williams (above), University of Texas wide receiver shows off his agility at the All-Star Challenge.

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Cocky, the University of South Carolina's mascot, offered some comic relief between takes.

jsc2004e01560 Photos by Bill Stafford and David DeHoyos

**E**ach team went through four challenges that tested accuracy, agility, speed and teamwork. The results were as follows:

**Aerial Assault** Smoker won this event with 110 points by hitting moving targets whose worth was determined by how far they were.

**Marines Obstacle Rush** Perry claimed this event by making his way through different blockades in 23.77 seconds.

**Mitsubishi Throw Down** Because Rutherford was the only one to land both throws in the designated landing zone within the allotted 45 seconds, he was crowned king of the Throw Down.

**Direct Connect Challenge** Rutherford was able to complete all four passes to Jones in the fastest time, making them this year's champions.



## Aerosmith visits JSC

The band Aerosmith – Steven Tyler, Joe Perry, Brad Whitford, Tom Hamilton and Joey Kramer – came to JSC to film a tribute video to NASA and the crew of *Columbia* that was performed during the pre-game show of Super Bowl XXXVIII.

jsc2004e01318 Photo by David DeHoyos

## The NFL Experience

NASA excitement ran high during the NFL Experience at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which ran from Jan. 23 - 25 and Jan. 29 - Feb. 1. The NASA exhibit included the new Shuttle Launch Experience, which allowed visitors to experience the thrill of a launch through high-definition television and surround sound. In addition, the exhibit included an interactive International Space Station kiosk and a photo-opportunity spacesuit, as well as vibrant new exhibit panels depicting the Shuttle launch excitement. Numerous astronauts were also on hand throughout the event to sign autographs alongside professional football players. During the eight-day event, 208,000 people attended. Johnson Space Center employees and contractors staffed the exhibit.



Astronauts Nicole Stott and Takao Doi sign autographs during the pre-Super Bowl event.

jsc2004e01357 Photo by James Blair