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Merril Hoge, ESPN Analyst & Former Pittsburgh Steelers Running Back, To Host Monday Night Football Viewing Party at Empire City Casino's Dan Rooney's Sports Bar on September 12th

Yonkers, New York - Dan Rooney's Sports Bar at Empire City Casino is an "Official Pittsburgh Steelers Bar." So, who better to kick off the opening Monday night game of the NFL season featuring the **Steelers vs. Washington Red Skins** on **September 12** than ESPN football analyst and former Pittsburgh running back **Merril Hoge**.

A veteran of eight seasons in the NFL and longtime football commentator, **Hoge** will meet and greet fans at the popular sports bar. **Hoge** will pose for photographs with fans and sign autographs outside Dan Rooney's from **6:15 to 7:00 pm** prior to the game, and be on hand to watch the action until **8:45 pm**.

Inspired by the original Dan Rooney's Cafe & Bar built and operated in the early 1900s in Pittsburgh by the family of Tim Rooney, the president and CEO of Empire City Casino, this version of Dan Rooney's is warm, inviting and casual, featuring a Steelers theme, 40 large screen TVs to view the big games at every angle, dual flame rotisseries, private "snugs" for intimate seating, and two fireplaces.

About Merrill Hoge: Former NFL running back Merrill Hoge is an analyst for a variety of ESPN programs, including NFL Live, NFL Matchup, NFL PrimeTime and SportsCenter. He also contributes insight and analysis to ESPN's annual Super Bowl and NFL Draft coverage and appears on multiple platforms, including ESPN Radio and ESPN.com. Hoge, who joined ESPN in 1996 as a game analyst and sideline reporter for ESPN2's college football coverage, also called Arena Football League telecasts in 2007 and in the late 1990s. An eight-year NFL veteran, Hoge spent 1987-93 with the Pittsburgh Steelers and was the team's starting running back for six of those seasons. He set the team record for most receptions by a running back, totaling 50 in 1988 and was one of only two Steelers to rush for more than 100 yards in back-to-back playoff games. He concluded his career in 1995 with the Chicago Bears after suffering a series of concussions. At the time of his retirement, Hoge had played in 122 consecutive games, the longest streak in the NFL at that time. A 1987 graduate of Idaho State University with a degree in education and minor in health and fitness, Hoge set 11 school records, including both single-season and career marks for rushing attempts, rushing yards, and all-purpose yards. He also scored 44 touchdowns, a Big Sky Conference record.

About Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway:

Empire City Casino is one of the largest entertainment and gaming destinations in the northeast. Featuring 5,300 of the hottest slots, electronic craps, roulette, baccarat and sic bo, Empire City Casino also offers guests year-round harness racing and International simulcasting, live entertainment including the best party, tribute and Latin bands, comedy, New York's hottest DJ's, and more. A plethora of dining options will satisfy even the most discerning palate with Italian cuisine at Nonno's Trattoria; Dan Rooney's, a high-energy sports bar; Alley 810, a craft cocktail lounge with retro bowling lanes; and convenient delicious options at the International Food Court or Lil' Cocina. Visit Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (off I-87 at Central Avenue) Yonkers, NY, Westchester County, open seven days a week from 10:00am to 6:00am. Visit www.empirecitycasino.com or call 914.968.4200 for information.

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