

Faces

BLANK CHECK

SUPER AGENT MAKES SURE HIS NFL CLIENTS SEE THE MONEY—AND CAN START THE GRILL.

The fast-paced world of sports management is increasingly more about Tinseltown than touchdowns, which is why Boston-based agent **Brad Blank** is a rare gem in any championship ring. The Back Bay resident and Hyannis native is Boston's own Jerry Maguire, representing 30 NFL players, including Patriots linebacker **Chris Slade**.

Though he admits that Boston is an odd address for an agent, Blank says it's given him a healthy outlook on the business. "New England has a better perspective on athletics than the rest of the country does," says Blank, 38, who was a protégé of the late legendary **Bob Woolf**. "In professional and college football right now some of the values have spun a little bit out of control."

Blank primarily works with such established players as Pro Bowl stars **Herman Moore** of the

Detroit Lions and **Tom Nalen** of the Denver Broncos. "I get players good contracts, get them financially secure, help them with their endorsements. There are very few elements of their life that I don't get involved in," Blank says. Of course, working with superstars has its disadvantages. "The scope of this job is much greater than what most people think. You know that site on the Internet—www.askjeeves.com? I feel like Jeeves. Somebody calls up and says, 'I can't start my grill. How do you fill one of these propane containers?'"

Blank has clients all across the country, but his strongest ties remain at home, where he has Patriots season tickets. "I'm a closet fan," Blank says. "At Patriots games I'll be the

only guy going crazy when the other team scores, 'cause it's my client. You're cheering when the Pats score and when the other team scores."

The Farrelly brothers, directors of *There's Something About Mary* and *Dumb & Dumber*, often join

Blank at Foxboro Stadium. Returning the favor, they gave Blank bit parts in both films. "Tom Arnold said to me, 'Let me get this straight—you've never made a movie that's grossed less than \$350 million?' He gave me his card and said, 'Would you like a part in my movie?'"

Blank's reply: "You're going to have to talk to my agent."
— Brian Stempeck

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SHOW ME THE MONEY: Boston's all-but-secret agent **Brad Blank**

