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CONTACT: MATT HILL, NFL, 212-450-2080 Hillm@nfl.com

DAVE DECECCO, PEPSI-COLA, 914-253-2655 David.DeCecco@Pepsi.com

## DOLPHINS RB RONNIE BROWN, CHIEFS LB DERRICK JOHNSON, JAGUARS WR MATT JONES, BENGALS LB ODELL THURMAN & BUCCANEERS RB CARNELL WILLIAMS CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF WEEK HONORS

## Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com

Running back **RONNIE BROWN** of the Miami Dolphins, linebacker **DERRICK JOHNSON** of the Kansas City Chiefs, wide receiver **MATT JONES** of the Jacksonville Jaguars, linebacker **ODELL THURMAN** of the Cincinnati Bengals and running back **CARNELL WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE**<u>WEEK</u> honors for games played on September 8-12, the NFL announced today.

Fans can vote for one of these five players on NFL.com beginning Tuesday morning and ending on Thursday to determine the <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u>. The <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> will be announced Thursday afternoon on NFL.com.

After the regular season, five players will be nominated for Diet Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Year honors. Fans can vote for the winner on NFL.com throughout the month of January. The winner will be announced at a press conference at Super Bowl XL in Detroit.

## A closer look at the finalists:

- **Miami's Ronnie Brown** carried 27 times for 57 yards in the Dolphins' 34-10 victory over the Denver Broncos. In his first NFL game, Brown was the team's primary ball carrier and also caught one pass for four yards.
- Kansas City's Derrick Johnson recorded a team-high eight tackles and one sack in the Chiefs' 27-7 victory over the New York Jets. Johnson's sack in the second quarter caused a fumble that was eventually recovered by the Jets.
- **Jacksonville's Matt Jones** completed one pass for six yards, carried the ball twice for 28 yards, and caught two passes for 22 yards in the Jaguars' 26-14 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. A former college quarterback, Jones' versatility was evident during his first NFL game.
- Cincinnati's Odell Thurman recorded six tackles and one interception in the Bengals' 27-13 victory over the AFC North-rival Cleveland Browns. Thurman's six tackles tied him for the team lead and his 14-yard interception return set up a Bengals field goal.
- Tampa Bay's Carnell Williams ran for 148 yards and one touchdown on 27 carries in the Buccaneers' 24-13 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Williams sealed the win with a 71-yard touchdown run with 1:23 left in the game.

This is Pepsi's fourth year as the official soft drink sponsor of the NFL and the first year that Diet Pepsi will present the NFL Rookie of the Week and NFL Rookie of the Year awards.