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**COWBOYS RB MARION BARBER, BROWNS WR BRAYLON EDWARDS,
CHARGERS LB SHAWNE MERRIMAN, BEARS QB KYLE ORTON
& BUCCANEERS RB CARNELL WILLIAMS
CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF WEEK HONORS**

Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com

Running back **MARION BARBER** of the Dallas Cowboys, wide receiver **BRAYLON EDWARDS** of the Cleveland Browns, linebacker **SHAWNE MERRIMAN** of the San Diego Chargers, quarterback **KYLE ORTON** of the Chicago Bears and running back **CARNELL WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on November 20-21, 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 **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK**. The **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** 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:

- **Dallas' Marion Barber** carried 15 times for 53 yards and two touchdowns in the Cowboys' 20-7 victory over the Detroit Lions. Barber opened the scoring with a six-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. He added a four-yard run in the third quarter to give him five touchdowns this season.
- **Cleveland's Braylon Edwards** caught six passes for 90 yards in the Browns' 22-0 victory over the Miami Dolphins. Edwards' six receptions were a career high, and he posted the second-most receiving yards of his career. He has 23 catches for 384 yards this season.
- **San Diego's Shawne Merriman** recorded four tackles and two sacks in the Chargers' 48-10 victory over the Buffalo Bills. Merriman recorded sacks of minus 4 and minus 8 yards and now leads the team with seven sacks this season. He ranks sixth on the team with 32 tackles.
- **Chicago's Kyle Orton** completed 15 of 26 passes for 136 yards and one touchdown in the Bears' 13-3 victory over the Carolina Panthers. Orton threw a three-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad to open the scoring in the first quarter. He improved to 7-3 as a starter with the win on Sunday.
- **Tampa Bay's Carnell Williams** rushed for 116 yards on 19 carries in the Buccaneers' 30-27 victory over the NFC South-rival Atlanta Falcons. Williams scored on a nine-yard touchdown run to tie the score at 27-27 late in the fourth quarter. This was his fourth 100-yard rushing game of the season.

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.