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BROWNS QB CHARLIE FRYE, SEAHAWKS LB LOFA TATUPU, BENGALS LB ODELL THURMAN, GIANTS DE JUSTIN TUCK & BUCCANEERS RB CARNELL WILLIAMS CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS

Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com

Quarterback **CHARLIE FRYE** of the Cleveland Browns, linebacker **LOFA TATUPU** of the Seattle Seahawks, linebacker **ODELL THURMAN** of the Cincinnati Bengals, defensive end **JUSTIN TUCK** of the New York Giants and running back **CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on December 4-5, 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:

- Cleveland's Charlie Frye completed 13 of 20 passes for 226 yards, two touchdowns and a passer rating of 136.7 in the Browns' 20-14 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars. Making his first career start, Frye completed touchdown passes of 17 and 34 yards to wide receiver, and fellow rookie, Braylon Edwards.
- Seattle's Lofa Tatupu recorded a team-high nine tackles and intercepted a pass which he returned 38 yards for a touchdown in the Seahawks' 42-0 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles. Tatupu's second-career NFL interception came in the second guarter, and his return put Seattle in front 21-0.
- **Cincinnati's Odell Thurman** recorded nine tackles, one interception and one forced fumble in the Bengals' 38-31 victory over the AFC North-rival Pittsburgh Steelers. Thurman's fourth-quarter interception gave Cincinnati possession in Pittsburgh territory and led to the Bengals' decisive touchdown.
- The New York Giants' Justin Tuck recorded four tackles, one sack and one forced fumble in the Giants' 17-10 victory over the NFC East-rival Dallas Cowboys. Tuck sacked Cowboys quarterback Drew Bledsoe early in the second guarter, forcing a fumble that the Giants recovered.
- Tampa Bay's Carnell "Cadillac" Williams carried 22 times for 96 yards in the Buccaneers' 10-3 victory over the NFC South-rival New Orleans Saints. Williams, who leads all rookies with 812 rushing yards this season, has rushed for more than 80 yards in six games.

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.