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RAVENS WR MARK CLAYTON, DOLPHINS LB CHANNING CROWDER, 49ERS RB FRANK GORE, COWBOYS LB DE MARCUS WARE & BUCCANEERS RB CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS

Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com

Wide receiver **MARK CLAYTON** of the Baltimore Ravens, linebacker **CHANNING CROWDER** of the Miami Dolphins, running back **FRANK GORE** of the San Francisco 49ers, linebacker **DE MARCUS WARE** of the Dallas Cowboys and running back **CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, are the finalists for <u>DIET PEPSI NFL</u> <u>ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> honors for games played on December 24-26, 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:

- Baltimore's Mark Clayton caught five passes for 90 yards and one touchdown in the Ravens' 30-23 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Clayton hauled in a 47-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Boller to tie the game at 17-17 in the third quarter. He has 41 catches for 460 yards and two touchdowns this season.
- **Miami's Channing Crowder** recorded a team-high seven individual tackles in the Dolphins' 24-10 victory over the Tennessee Titans. Crowder, who totaled eight tackles in the game, ranks second on the team with 84 total tackles this season.
- San Francisco's Frank Gore carried 10 times for 68 yards and two touchdowns in the 49ers' 24-20 victory over the NFC West-rival St. Louis Rams. Gore scored on a 10-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and then provided the game-winning score on a 30-yard touchdown run with 4:05 left in the game.
- **Dallas' DeMarcus Ware** recorded seven tackles, three sacks and three forced fumbles in the Cowboys' 24-20 victory over the Carolina Panthers. Each of Ware's sacks, for losses of six, eight and nine yards, forced fumbles, one of which was recovered by the Cowboys. The rookie linebacker ranks second on the team with seven sacks.
- **Tampa Bay's Carnell "Cadillac" Williams** ran for 150 yards and one touchdown on 31 carries in the Buccaneers' 27-24 overtime victory over the NFC South-rival Atlanta Falcons. Williams, who has 1,097 rushing yards and six touchdowns this season, scored on a six-yard, fourth-quarter run to send the game to overtime.

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.