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**COWBOYS RB MARION BARBER, TEXANS WR-KR JEROME MATHIS,
CHARGERS LB SHAWNE MERRIMAN, STEELERS TE HEATH MILLER
& BEARS QB KYLE ORTON,
CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS**

Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com

Running back **MARION BARBER** of the Dallas Cowboys, wide receiver-kick returner **JEROME MATHIS** of the Houston Texans, linebacker **SHAWNE MERRIMAN** of the San Diego Chargers, tight end **HEATH MILLER** of the Pittsburgh Steelers and quarterback **KYLE ORTON** of the Chicago Bears are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on October 30-31, 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** ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries in the Cowboys' 34-13 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Barber scored on a 28-yard run to give the Cowboys a 7-3 lead in the first quarter. He added a 10-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and caught two passes for 15 yards.
- **Houston's Jerome Mathis** caught a 34-yard touchdown pass from David Carr on the first drive of the game to help the Texans to a 19-16 victory over the Cleveland Browns. In addition to his one reception, Mathis returned five kickoffs for a total of 177 yards, putting the Texans in good starting field position most of the game.
- **San Diego's Shawne Merriman** recorded four tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble in the Chargers' 28-20 victory over the AFC West-rival Kansas City Chiefs. Merriman sacked Trent Green for a four-yard loss early in the third quarter and later forced Green to fumble after a nine-yard sack. The ball was recovered by the Chargers.
- **Pittsburgh's Heath Miller** caught three passes for 18 yards and two touchdowns in the Steelers' 20-19 victory over the AFC North-rival Baltimore Ravens. Miller scored the game's first touchdown on a four-yard catch and put Pittsburgh ahead 17-10 in the third quarter with an eight-yard score. He has six touchdown catches this season.
- **Chicago's Kyle Orton** completed 17 of 31 passes for 230 yards and one touchdown in the Bears' 19-13 overtime victory over the NFC North-rival Detroit Lions. Orton threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Muhsin Muhammad while recording his fourth NFL victory and helping move the Bears into first place in the division.

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.