



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NFL-60 9/15/05

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

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

NFL.COM VOTERS SELECT BUCCANEERS RB CARNELL WILLIAMS AS WEEK 1 DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Voters on NFL.com have made their choice. Running back **CARNELL WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers is the **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** for games played on September 8-12, the NFL announced today.

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.

More than 41,520 fans voted this week on NFL.com. Williams was selected from among five finalists. The other finalists were running back **RONNIE BROWN** of the Miami Dolphins, linebacker **DERRICK JOHNSON** of the Kansas City Chiefs, wide receiver **MATT JONES** of the Jacksonville Jaguars and linebacker **ODELL THURMAN** of the Cincinnati Bengals.

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.

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.

2005 DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Wk 1 RB Carnell Williams (Auburn)

#