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NFL.COM VOTERS SELECT COWBOYS LB DE MARCUS WARE AS WEEK 16 DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Voters on NFL.com have made their choice. Linebacker **DE MARCUS WARE** of the Dallas Cowboys is the **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** for games played on December 24-26, the NFL announced today.

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.

More than 29,090 fans voted this week on NFL.com. Ware was selected from among five finalists. The other finalists were wide receiver **MARK CLAYTON** of the Baltimore Ravens, linebacker **CHANNING CROWDER** of the Miami Dolphins, running back **FRANK GORE** of the San Francisco 49ers and running back **CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

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)
Wk 2	RB Carnell Williams (Auburn)
Wk 3	RB Carnell Williams (Auburn)
Wk 4	CB Domonique Foxworth (Maryland)
Wk 5	RB Tyson Thompson (San Jose State)
Wk 6	LB Odell Thurman (Georgia)
Wk 7	QB Kyle Orton (Purdue)
Wk 8	TE Heath Miller (Virginia)
Wk 9	WR Reggie Brown (Georgia)
Wk 10	RB Samkon Gado (Liberty)
Wk 11	LB Shawne Merriman (Maryland)
Wk 12	QB Ryan Fitzpatrick (Harvard)
Wk 13	QB Charlie Frye (Akron)
Wk 14	RB Samkon Gado (Liberty)
Wk 15	QB Charlie Frye (Akron)
Wk 16	LB DeMarcus Ware (Troy)